

角きりの歴史 History of Antler-Cutting Ceremony

「鹿の角きり」は、発情期をむかえた雄鹿の角により、町民が危害を受けたり、鹿がお互いに突き合って死傷することを防ぐため、江戸時代初期の1672年(寛文12年)当時鹿の管理者であった興福寺が奈良町奉行の要請を受けて始めたと伝えられています。当時の角きりは、町の所々で行われ、店先や人家の格子の中、屋根の上などから見物していたようです。明治時代の中頃には、春日大社の参道の所々で角きりが行われていました。1929年(昭和4年)より現在の角きり場を設け現在の姿となりました。明治・昭和の戦乱期の一時中断を除き、現在まで継承されている古都奈良ならではの勇壮な伝統行事となっています。

This vigorous event, held in autumn here in the old capital, Nara, has been continued since 1672 in Edo era. It is said that Kofukuji Temple started cutting antlers by request from Nara magistrate to avoid injury of people and deer by antlers of male deer in mating season. Cutting antlers was conducted in towns of Nara until the beginning of Meiji Era and people were watching it on the roadside or from windows and roofs. In the middle of the Meiji era, at the end of 19th century, it was held at the entrance path to the Kasuga Taisha shrine. In 1928, this Tsunokiri stadium was built and has been used for cutting antlers ever since.

角きり行事とは About this ceremony

勢子たちが「赤旗」を持ち、角きり場内に立派な角を持つ雄鹿を追い込みます。「十字」を持った勢子が鹿の角に縄をかけます。鹿はゴザの上に寝かされ、神官役が興奮した鹿の口に水差しで水を含ませ気を静めた後、ノコギリで角を切り落とします。鹿は神様のお使いの「神鹿」とされてきたことから、神官役が角を切り、神前に供えます。

The ceremony is performed by men who each fill the seko role or the shinkan role. First, the men in the seko role, who are wearing headbands called hachimaki, and happi, which are old Japanese traditional clothes on special occasions, use bamboo rods with red flags to chase deer with large antlers into the cutting area where more seko stand along the bars in line. They make deer run inside one by one and use catching device called juji, which is made up of crossed bamboos with rope. One seko throws the rope aiming at the antlers of the running deer. Once the rope is caught on the antlers, seko rush to hold down the deer. Then, the role of shinkan begins. The shinkan is wearing eboshi, an old Japanese hat and hitatare, an old Japanese cloth. He pours water to the captured deer's mouth to calm it down and then carefully saws the antlers. These antlers are then offered on the altar. After that, the deer are released into Nara Park.



角きり行事の流れ Timetable

安全祈願祭 ※安全祈願祭は各日1回目のみ Shinto ritual starts at 11:45 a.m.

- ① 3 頭の雄鹿を角きり場に追い込みます。 Sekos chase deer into the cutting area.
- 捕獲具の「十字」を使い雄鹿の角に縄をかけます。
 - They throw the rope aiming at the antlers of the runing deer.
- 鹿の体を傷つけないよう慎重に縄を たぐり寄せて捕まえます。
 - Once the rope is caught on the antlers, they rush to hold down the deer.
- 角きり1頭目(場内右側) ②、③を繰り返し、行事を行います。 The antlers of the 1st deer are cut in the right
- 角きり2頭目(場内左側)
 The antlers of the 2nd deer are cut in the left side of the area.
- 角きり3頭目(場内中央)
 The antlers of the 3rd deer are cut in

行事は1日4回実施。1回約30分

the center of the area.

side of the area.

This ceremony will be performed 4 times per day. It takes about 30 minutes for one ceremony.

【ACCESS】 ●JR·近鉄奈良駅より奈良交通バス 市内循環外回り春日大社表参道下車東へ徒歩約7分

表参道バス停

Kasugataisha Omotesando

天理方面

猿沢池

Gangoji Temple

JR 奈良駅 JR Nara Station

P=有料駐車場

Sarusawa-ike Pond

• From JR Nara Station or Kintetsu Nara Station(Nara Line), take a bus for Shinai Junkan Sotomawari(City Loop Bus Outer Circle), get off at "Kasuga taisha Omotesando", and walk about 7 minutes.

鹿苑角きり場