

歴史・平和を
町民と継承。

西原町の祭り&

Passing down history and peace with local residents. Festivals &

伝統芸能

traditional performing arts in Nishihara



Traditional performing arts (伝統芸能)

In Nishihara Town, there are many traditional performing arts that have been passed down for a long time. These arts are an important part of people's daily lives. They tell us about the town's history and culture, and many people find them fascinating.



Tug of war (綱引き)

This traditional tug of war is a sacred Okinawan ritual held to pray for a good harvest and good health. Each village has its own style, but most events take place in the 6th month of the lunar calendar. It's one of the biggest annual events, bringing the community together with strong spirit and tradition.

Hatagashira (旗頭)

The *hatagashira* is an essential part of the tug of war, known for its bold and powerful presence. Each banner is beautifully decorated to reflect the history and culture of its local area. During the Nishihara Festival, *hatagashira* from all over town come together for a thrilling group performance called "Gaa-ee", a dramatic show of strength and unity.



Bo-jutsu (棒術)

Bo-jutsu is a traditional Okinawan martial art using long sticks. It began during the Ryukyu Kingdom era, practiced by officials and warriors, and later spread to the general public. The main weapons include the six-foot staff (*rokushaku-bō*) and three-foot staff (*sanshaku-bō*), as well as traditional arms like the spear, *naginata*, *sai*, oar, shield, and more, all part of Okinawan *kobudō* (traditional Okinawan martial arts).



Shishimai (獅子舞)

This traditional performing art is offered during festivals such as the Obon and Hōnensai (Harvest Festival) in Nishihara Town. A performer known as the "Wakuya" manipulates the lion and performs unique movements—playing with a stick, and playing with balls. It's performed to ward off evil spirits and to pray for a good harvest and the prosperity of the local community.



Nishihara Festival (西原まつり)

The festival is held twice a year to celebrate Okinawan culture and promote regional revitalization. Enjoy performances by the world-champion Nishihara High School Marching Band, energetic Eisa dancing, and live shows by special guest artists. The highlight is a dramatic reenactment of Ryukyuan history themed on King Sho En, led by the Nishihara Town Cultural Association. At night, synchronized flag dancing and fireworks light up the sky, creating a festive and unforgettable atmosphere.

