

Annals of the Chinese Quarter (Dragon Dance)



Dragon Dance (Detail from “Scroll of the Chinese Quarter”) by Keiga Kawahara, late Edo period (19th Century) (Scroll: Color painting on paper, 22.8 x 36.0cm).

Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture

The dragon dance was performed at the *Tojin-Yashiki* (Chinese quarter) on the 15th day of the first lunar month; the Chinese Lantern Festival. This spectacular festival was held to welcome in good fortune for the New Year. Countless lanterns lit up the night, and courtesans in their gorgeous attire visited the shrines. The dragon dance, which was performed in front of the *Dojindo* shrine within the *Tojin-Yashiki*, is still performed today as a highlight of the Nagasaki Kunchi Festival.