



## 1 Article : The Royal Express Embarks on a Luxury Journey Across the Seto Inland Sea

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

On January 26, Tokyu Corporation and JR Shikoku joined forces to host a grand departure ceremony for The Royal Express, a luxury sightseeing train departing from Takamatsu Station. Available for a limited time only, this train will [traverse](#) the scenic landscapes of the Shikoku and Seto Inland Sea [regions](#), stopping at enchanting destinations like Kotohira, Matsuyama, and the picturesque Shimanami Expressway. Committed to delivering a travel experience with added value, the expedition seeks to illuminate the allure of Shikoku.

Having embarked from Okayama, The Royal Express gracefully pulled into Takamatsu Station. Then, with the stationmaster's signal, it [set off](#) towards Ehime. On the platform were special guests, including Governor Toyohito Ikeda of Kagawa Prefecture, and railway enthusiasts who had gathered to see the train off.

The interior of The Royal Express is adorned with traditional Japanese craftsmanship. It [features](#) intricate inlay work (yosegi), lattice patterns (kumiko), and stained glass. Passengers on board can enjoy live violin performances and savor course meals prepared from locally sourced [ingredients](#).

During a press conference on the same day, President Masahiro Horie of Tokyu stated, "We want to showcase the wonders of Shikoku and the Seto Inland Sea to many people."

The train will embark on a total of six trips until March, each lasting three nights. Tours for two-person rooms start from ¥960,000 JPY (\$6,500 USD) per person, but tickets are already sold out.



## 2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

**1. traverse** (場所を) 横断する、横切る、(山などを) 越える

The explorer **traversed** the desert on a camel.

**2. region** 地域、地帯、地方、(行政上の) 区

The **region** is rich in natural resources and cultural diversity.

**3. set off** 出発する、始動する、~し始める

They **set off** early in the morning to avoid the traffic.

**4. feature** 特徴として持つ、特色となる、(イベントや記事で) 呼び物にする、特集する

The hotel **features** a spa and a gym for the guests.

**5. ingredient** (料理の) 材料、成分、原料

The chef uses fresh and local **ingredients** for his dishes.

## 3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What was the event that Tokyu Corporation and JR Shikoku hosted on January 26?
2. What kind of experience does the expedition of The Royal Express aim to deliver?
3. What are some of the features of the interior of The Royal Express?
4. Would you like to go on a luxurious trip like The Royal Express? Why or why not?
5. What kind of traditional Japanese craftsmanship do you admire or enjoy?

## 4

**日本語関連記事：  
瀬戸内巡る豪華列車「ザ・ロイヤルエクスプレス」出発 東急とJR、共同運行**

東急とJR四国は1月26日、期間限定で共同運行する豪華観光列車「ザ・ロイヤルエクスプレス」の出発セレモニーを高松駅で開いた。琴平や松山、しまなみ海道など四国・瀬戸内地域を周遊する。付加価値の高い旅行を提案し、四国の魅力もPRする。

正午ごろ、岡山を出発した車両が高松駅に到着。駅長の合図で、来賓として参加した香川県の池田豊人知事や鉄道ファンらに見送られながら愛媛方面へと向かった。

車内は細かい寄せ木や組子といった伝統工芸、ステンドグラスで装飾。バイオリンの生演奏や地域の食材を使ったコース料理を楽しめる。

東急の堀江正博社長は同日の記者会見で「多くの人に四国・瀬戸内の素晴らしさを知ってほしい」と話した。列車は3月までの計6回、3泊4日で各地を巡る。ツアーは2人1室利用で1人当たり96万円から。既に完売している。