

Japan hiring ninjas for the first time in centuries (and they earn more than you think)



The new ninjas will be paid to entertain tourists with their martial arts skills

For the first time in centuries, Japan has announced it is hiring ninjas.

But those hoping the new job opportunity will involve spying and assassination are in for a shock.

These newly hired ninjas will have to enjoy being in the spotlight rather than creeping in the shadows and not be averse to posing with tourists.

They are being sought by Central Japan's Aichi prefecture to promote tourism in the area, which is known for historic Nagoya castle.

Newly hired ninjas will receive a one-year contract with monthly pay of 180,000 yen (£1,100) plus bonuses, said Satoshi Adachi of the prefectural government's tourism promotion unit.

They will also perform acrobatics, demonstrate the use of their trademark "shuriken", ninja star, weapons and pose for photographs with tourists.

According to a poster advertising the job, the ideal candidates are ones who "enjoy being under the spotlight even though he or she is a secretive ninja".

Japanese speaking ability is preferable, but non-Japanese individuals passionate about history and tourism are welcome as the troupe will sometimes perform in English, Mr Adachi said.

"Our ninjas also have to be good at talking to promote tourism, although ninjas are basically required to be secretive."

They also "have to be able to do backward handsprings and some dance moves", he added.

Ninjas were 15th Century Japanese mercenaries specialising in espionage, assassination, sabotage and other forms of irregular warfare.

Such trickery was considered beneath the samurai, or military nobility, who had to observe strict rules on fighting honourably. They were previously confined to legend and the history books, but Japan is increasingly using them to boost tourism in the run up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.