Meiji Jingu

Welcome to Meiji Jingu!
Meiji Jingu is a Shinto shrine. Shinto is called Japan's ancient original religion, and it is deeply rooted in the way of Japanese life. Shinto has no founder, no holy book, and not even the concept of religious conversion, but Shinto values for example harmony with nature and virtues such as “Magokoro (sincere heart)”. In Shinto, some divinity is found as Kami (divine spirit), or it may be said that there is an unlimited number of Kami. You can see Kami in mythology, in nature, and in human beings. From ancient times, Japanese people have felt awe and gratitude towards such Kami and dedicated shrines to many of them.

This shrine is dedicated to the divine souls of Emperor Meiji and his consort Empress Shoken (their tombs are in Kyoto). Emperor Meiji passed away in 1912 and Empress Shoken in 1914. After their demise, people wished to commemorate their virtues and to venerate them forever. So they donated 100,000 trees from all over Japan and from overseas, and they worked voluntarily to create this forest. Thus, thanks to the sincere heart of the people, this shrine was established on November 1, 1920.

Facts about Meiji Jingu:
Enshrined deities: souls of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken
Foundation: November 1, 1920
Area: 700,000 m² (inner precinct)
Main shrine building

The main shrine buildings
In 1945, the original shrine buildings (except for Shukueisha and Minami-Shinmon) were burnt down in the air raids of the war. The present shrine buildings date from November 1958. They consist of the main shrine building Honden (the main shrine building proper, the inner most Sanctuary of the shrine), built in the Nagerezukuri style, together with Noritoden (where Shinto liturgy is recited), Naihaiden (the inner shrine hall), Gehaiden (the outer shrine hall), Shinko (the treasure house), Shinsenjo (the consecrated kitchen for the preparation of the food offerings) and some buildings. The materials are mainly plain Japanese cypress with copper plates for the roofs.
About Meiji Jingu

Kaguraden

(Kaguraden, front entrance)

Kaguraden (Hall of Shinto Music and Dance)
The construction of Kaguraden was started in 1990 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Meiji Jingu. Supported by many donations, it was completed in October 1993. It follows a traditional architectural style, Irimoya-Nagarezukuri. It is a three-storey building, but only one floor is above the ground; the other two floors are below ground level. The front entrance with the reception and registration area is slightly below ground level. One flight of stairs leads down, and another flight of stairs leads up to the waiting area and the hall for ceremonies. This ground floor hall of 160 Tatami can seat 800. Upon request, prayer ceremonies are given here, offering Kagura (sacred music and dance) to the deities. Such a ceremony is called Kigansai.
Details about Kigansai can be found in the section “Your shrine visit”: Kigansai
Please do not enter Kaguraden unless to register for or take part in a ceremony.
**Suieikai**

"Worshippers' Association"

The *Meiji Jingu Suieikai* (The "Worshippers' Association") was organized in June 1946 by people who were worried about the social and spiritual confusion after the war and about the future of the nation. Since then, the *Suieikai* has worked throughout the country promoting social stability and offering spiritual guidance based on revering the virtues of the enshrined deities. Presently, the *Suieikai* has about 150,000 members who follow its basic precepts: to live with reverence for the deities and one's ancestors; to respect the Imperial Family and to pray for the peace of the world. The *Suieikai* is highly appreciated for its Shinto educational activities. Members receive the periodical, *Yoyogi*, invitations to the Spring and Autumn Grand Festivals, to the opening tournament of the professional baseball matches, and to the *Sumo* championship match, as well as free tickets for *Homotsuden* (the Treasure Museum), *Kaigakan* (the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery at *Gaien*), and *Gyoen* (the "Imperial Gardens" at Meiji Jingu, including the Iris Garden).

Information (in Japanese):
The Meiji Jingu Suieikai c/o Meiji Jingu
Address: 1-1 Yoyogi-Kamizono-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-8557, Japan
Tel.: 03-3320-5700 (Japanese)
About Meiji Jingu

Enshrined deities

The deities enshrined at Meiji Jingu are the souls of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken.

Emperor Meiji (The 122nd Emperor of Japan)
Emperor Meiji (1852 - 1912) is the 122nd emperor of Japan, the great-grandfather of the current Emperor. He ascended to the throne in 1867. When Japan was facing unprecedented conditions such as the opening of the country to the world after its long isolation and the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate, Emperor Meiji took the initiative to promote friendship with other countries, and to introduce Western civilization and developed technology from overseas while preserving Japanese identity, and thus laid the foundations of modern Japan.

Empress Shoken (The consort of Emperor Meiji)
Empress Shoken (1850 - 1914) not only supported the Emperor behind the scenes but also devoted herself to promoting national welfare and women’s education. She was also concerned about world affairs, and she donated a fund, named after her, to the International Red Cross, which has been used for international welfare activities until today.

The sincere heart of the Emperor and Empress towards the people can be seen directly in the Waka poetry they composed throughout their lives. Waka poetry by Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken can be found on the pages about divine virtues: Waka poetry
Divine Virtues
The divine virtues of the enshrined deities include their achievements and texts they issued such as edicts and poems. They include:
- The Imperial Rescript on Education
- The Charter Oath in Five Articles
- Waka poetry

The Imperial Rescript on Education:
Emperor Meiji was deeply concerned about the establishment of a national education system and the promotion of morality in order to build modern Japan. Thus, the "Imperial Rescript on Education" was issued to illustrate the moral principles that each citizen should follow.

(English Translation of the Imperial Rescript on Education:)
Know ye, Our subjects: Our Imperial Ancestors have founded Our Empire on a basis broad and everlasting and have deeply and firmly implanted virtue; Our subjects ever united in loyalty and filial piety have from generation to generation illustrated the beauty thereof. This is the glory of the fundamental character of Our Empire, and herein also lies the source of Our education. Ye, Our subjects, be filial to your parents, affectionate to your brothers and sisters; as husbands and wives be harmonious, as friends true; bear yourselves in modesty and moderation; extend your benevolence to all; pursue learning and cultivate arts, and thereby develop intellectual faculties and perfect moral powers; furthermore advance public good and promote common interests; always respect the Constitution and observe the laws; should emergency arise, offer yourselves courageously to the State; and thus guard and maintain the prosperity of Our Imperial Throne coeval with heaven and earth. So shall ye not only be Our good and faithful subjects, but render illustrious the best traditions of your forefathers. The Way here set forth is indeed the teaching bequeathed by Our Imperial Ancestors, to be observed alike by Their Descendants and the subjects, infallible for all ages and true in all places. It is Our wish to lay it to heart in all reverence, in common with you, Our subjects, that we may thus attain to the same virtue. The 30th day of the 10th month of the 23rd year of Meiji.
(Imperial Sign Manual. Imperial Seal.)
Your shrine visit

Etiquette

How to pay respect at Meiji Jingu:
These actions express respect and are independent of religious beliefs.

At a Torii (shrine archway):

1. Bow once when entering.
2. Bow once when leaving.

Bow

At Temizuya (font):

1. Rinse your left hand.
2. Rinse your right hand.
3. Pour water into your left hand.
4. Rinse your mouth.
5. Rinse your left hand again.
6. Rinse the dipper (allow the remaining water to run down the handle of the dipper).

Please do not touch the dipper directly with your lips, and please do not throw coins into the water.

Rinse hands and mouth

At the main shrine buildings:

1. You may put some coins into the offertory box.
2. Bow twice.
3. Clap your hands twice.
4. You may make a wish if you like.
5. Bow once again.

Please do not take photos or videos close to the main shrine buildings.

Paying respect

Please preserve the dignity of this place.
Eating, drinking, or smoking in designated areas only.

Please do not take photos or videos from inside the halls (i.e. no photographing or filming when there is a roof above your head).
Photos from outside are permitted.
Your shrine visit

Ema, Kiganbun

Ema
An Ema is a wooden tablet onto which wishes may be written. Such tablets can be obtained at the Juyosho (amulet offices). There are two main types of Ema: Kigan-Ema, which bear the crest of the shrine on their front and the word Kigan on their back, and Eto-Ema, which are depicting this year’s Eto (zodiac).

![Photo: Camphor tree and Ema](image)

People either take such tablets home or hang them at one of the hooks provided (usually you will find them at around the camphor tree on the Eastern side in front of the main shrine building, but around New Year, there are hooks in various places).

Close to those hooks, you will find tables and pens to write wishes or thanks onto the tablets. You may write in any language.

Kiganbun
A Kiganbun is a letter to the deities. It may contain wishes or words of gratitude, and it may be written in any language.

![Photo: Writing a Kiganbun](image)

Usually, the letter is put into an envelope together with a monetary offering of any amount, and the envelope put into the offertory box provided. Paper, pens, and envelopes can be found in the vicinity of that offertory box (usually close to the big camphor tree on the Eastern side in front of the main shrine building, but around New Year, there are several locations for writing such letters).
**Omamori and Ouda**

**Omamori**

An Omamori is a lucky charm, talisman, or amulet. They can be obtained at the Juyoshō (amulet office).

There are charms for all kinds of occasions and purposes, e.g. for traffic safety, for health, for successful studies, etc.

Such amulets can be kept in or attached to one’s bag, pocket, or purse. They are usually kept until their purpose is fulfilled.

The ones that look like a little bag are not supposed to be opened. Inside is a small emblem of the shrine (a small Ouda).

(PHOTO: Omamori)

**Ouda**

An Ouda is an emblem, distributed by a shrine. It bears the name of the shrine or the enshrined deities.

Ouda may be made of paper, wood, or other materials.

Large Ouda are usually put up at home on a Kamidama.

The drawing shows how many wooden Ouda generally look like (circles indicate where inscriptions are placed): A wooden board, inscribed with the shrine’s name, and bearing the shrine’s red seal, is partly wrapped into white paper, which is held together by gold and silver Mizuhiki (paper strings), tied in a bow. The paper may be inscribed with a wish (e.g. “worldwide peace”)

(PICTURE: Drawing of a wooden Ouda)
Stamps and seals

There are various stamps and seals to remind you of your visit to Meiji Jingu.

Goshuin

You can have a Goshuin (Meiji Jingu Memorial Seal) stamped and hand-painted at Kaguraden.

Round stamp

You can can stamp a large round stamp (of Meiji Jingu) yourself for free at Nagadono or Shukueisha.

All stamps and seals contain the date of your visit.
# Omikuji

*(Photo: English Omikuji drawn at Meiji Jingu)*

Meiji Jingu has chosen ten *Waka* each from the works of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken in order to provide visitors at Meiji Jingu with the divine grace of the Imperial couple in the form of *Omikuji*. These *Omikuji* are available in Japanese as well as in English. For example, there is a box with English *Omikuji* at Gehaiden, right in front of the main shrine building.

Further information about the *Waka* poetry by Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken can be found on the pages in the section "About Meiji Jingu" on the pages about "Divine virtues":

*Waka poetry*
**Your shrine visit**

- Etiquette
- *Ema*, Kiganbun
- Omamori, O-fuda
- Stamps and seals
- Omikuji
- Kigansa
- Wedding ceremonies
- Meiji Jingu publications

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**Kigansa**

*Kigansa* is a special ceremony held at *Kaguraden* upon request. As part of the ceremony, *Kagura* (sacred dance) is performed.

*(Photo: Kigansa: Yamato-Mai)*

- *Kigan* (Wishes)
- *Kigan-Uketsuke* (Registration for Kigansa)
- *Shikishidai* (Order of the ceremony)
- *Kagura: Yamato-Mai* (The sacred dance Yamato-Mai)

- *Kigan* (Wishes)

*(Photo: The hall inside Kaguraden)*

*Kigan* usually refers to wishes, but it can also include all kinds of prayers, reports, or expressions of gratitude. There are various ways of delivering such *Kigan* (of making wishes or reports etc.). For example, *Kigan* can be written onto *Ema* or *Kiganbun*, or they can be delivered silently when paying respect at *Honden* (the main shrine building). Upon request, a *Kigansa* (a *Kigan*-ceremony) is held, in which the *Kigan* are included the *Norito* (liturgy or prayer). Some frequent types of *Kigan* are:

- *Hatsumiya-Mode* (The first shrine visit paid by a newborn baby)
  A prayer for a new born baby's healthy growth. This takes place around one month after birth.

- *Yakuharai* (Warding off evil)
  For a happy and prosperous life, Yakuharai prayers are offered at certain ages, mainly for men at the age of 25 or 42 and for women at the ages of 19 or 33.

Prayer for Safety on the Road (including the purification of vehicles)

- Prayers for safety on the road are offered as well as the purification of vehicles.

Besides these prayers, various kinds of prayers such as for the health of the family, the
safety of a house, for the success and long prosperity of a business, for success in examinations, for a safe journey, for worldwide peace, and for three, five or seven year-old children are offered upon request.

- **Kigan-Uketsuke (Registration for Kigansai)**

![Photo: Front entrance of Kaguraden](image)

If you wish to participate in such a ceremony, please come to **Kaguraden** between 9 am and 4 pm, fill in a request form in Japanese, and hand over a monetary offering (ceremonies are offered from 5000 Yen).

- **Shikishidai (Order of the ceremony)**

![Photo: Suzu: Bells used during Kigansai](image)

The order of the ceremony is as follows:
- **Temizu**: Please rinse your hands and mouth before entering the inner sacred area or before entering the Tatami room of Kaguraden (there is a font on the left-hand side in front of the room).
- Take off your shoes and enter the hall (in decent outfit, suits, socks). Priests will show you where to sit down.
- The drum is played.
- Purification rite: purification words are recited, and a purification wand is weaved three times (left, right, left) above your head. Please keep you head bowed during the weaving (if you can please sit on your knees during this procedure).
- A shrine maiden brings in **Ofuda** (the emblems with the names and wishes of all participants) and places them onto the table at the front.
- A senior priest recites a **Norito** (Shinto liturgy) including prayers for the personal requests of all participants. Please lower your head during the prayer (if you can, please sit on your knees).
- The sacred dance is performed by shrine maidens. (You may sit crossed-legged during the dance).
- Shrine maiden(s) pass with bells, distributing divine grace to the participants. (Please lower your head.)
- A shrine maiden takes the **Ofuda** (emblems) down.
- Everybody joins a priest to bow twice, clap hands twice, bow once again (please sit on your knees).
- The drum is beaten.
- Everyone proceeds to **Naorai** (drinking a sip of sacred rice wine; if you cannot drink it or do not want to drink it, please receive the cup, lift it to your lips symbolically, and put it down again).
Kagura: Yamato-Mai (The sacred dance Yamato-Mai)
As part of Kigansai, Kagura (traditional ritual dance and music) are performed.

Yamato-Mai
This sacred dance is based on a poem by Emperor Meiji saying that we owe our existence to the deities, so we should not forget paying respect to them.

(Photo: Yamato-Mai)
Your shrine visit

Wedding ceremonies

Wedding ceremonies
When you visit Meiji jingu, you may witness the solemn procession of a Shinto wedding. This procession is part of the Shinto wedding ceremony. A typical procession is led by two priests and two shrine maidens, followed by the couple under a red umbrella, and finally family and friends. During the ceremony, the couple shares three cups of sacred rice wine (taking turns drinking). A priest recites Shinto liturgy, and a shrine maiden performs a sacred dance. The ceremony ends with another solemn procession.
(When a procession passes, please clear the way and please help maintain the dignity of the moment. So, if you take pictures, please don’t take close-ups and don’t step into the way of the procession.)

If you would like to get married in a Shinto ceremony at Meiji Jingu, please contact the person in charge at Bunkakan or Kinenkan (in Japanese): Getting married at Meiji Jingu
Meiji Jingu publications

"Magokoro-Sincere Heart"

*Magokoro* (sincere heart), is the title of a quarterly leaflet published by Meiji Jingu, containing general information about the shrine, as well as seasonal information about ceremonies, events, exhibitions etc.

Available at: each entrance, each *Temizuya, Gehaiden* and south *Juyosho* (amulet offices).
Editor and distribution: Meiji Jingu
Price: 0 Yen

"Waka Poetry of The Emperor Meiji"

30 *Waka* (traditional Japanese poems of 31 syllables), selected and translated into English from the about 100,000 *Waka* which Emperor Meiji composed during his lifetime. (More information about *Waka: Waka poetry*)

Available at: *Juyosho* (the amulet offices).
Editor and distribution: Meiji Jingu
Price: 1,000 Yen

"Waka Poetry of The Empress Shoken"

30 *Waka* (traditional Japanese poems of 31 syllables), selected and translated into English from the about 30,000 *Waka* which Empress Shoken composed during her lifetime. (More information about *Waka: Waka poetry*)

Available at: *Juyosho* (the amulet offices).
Editor and distribution: Meiji Jingu
Price: 1,000 Yen
"Meiji Jingu"
A pamphlet containing summarized information about the history of Meiji Jingu, the enshrined deities, their virtues and achievements, the shrine's architecture and buildings, ceremonies etc.

Available at: Juyosho (the amulet offices).
Editor and distribution: Meiji Jingu
Price: 100 Yen

"The Tradition of Japan—Budo: Path of Spiritual Refinement"
This is a book of Meiji Jingu Budojo Shiseikan (Budo training hall on the shrine grounds), transmitting the spirit of Budo in Japanese and English with plenty of photographs and a DVD with English subtitles.

Available at: the souvenir shop at Bunkakan or any bookstore
Editor: Meiji Jingu
Distribution: World Table Tennis Co. Ltd.
Price: 1,714 Yen + VAT
ISBN: 978-4-901638-29-6
Ceremonies and events

Daily, monthly, annual ceremonies

The following gives and overview of the main ceremonies at Meiji Jingu. *Honden* refers to the main shrine building. *Haraesha* refers to the purification hut opposite the South Temizuya (font).

**2014 SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ceremony</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td><strong>Nikkusai</strong></td>
<td>Sacred food offering and prayers for worldwide peace and everybody's prosperity</td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st and 15th of each month</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td><strong>Tsukinamisai</strong></td>
<td>Sacred food offering and prayers for worldwide peace and everybody's prosperity</td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>7 am</td>
<td><strong>Saitansai</strong></td>
<td>New Year's Day ritual</td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 5-30</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td><strong>Shodoten</strong></td>
<td>Exhibition of winners' works in the calligraphy competition for elementary and junior high school students</td>
<td>Courtyard in front of <strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 8</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Dezuiri</strong></td>
<td>Sumo grand champion &quot;ring entering&quot; ceremony</td>
<td>Courtyard in front of <strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 7</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td><strong>Musashino-Goryo-Yohaishiki</strong></td>
<td>Emperor Showa Memorial Day rite</td>
<td><strong>Haraesha</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Kigensai</strong></td>
<td>National Foundation Day festival</td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
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(Photo: New Year at Meiji Jingu)
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Kinensai</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>10:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Hinamatsuri</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td><strong>Koreiden-Yohaishiki</strong></td>
<td><strong>Haraesha</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(vernal equinox)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 3</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td><strong>Unebiyama-Yohaishiki</strong></td>
<td><strong>Haraesha</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 11</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Shoken-Kotaigo-Hyakunensai</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Haru-no-Taisai</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td><strong>Haru-no-Taisai</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Haru-no-Taisai</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>11 am</td>
<td><strong>Kodomo-no-Matsuri</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td><strong>Onzosai</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Rikka, first day of summer)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ceremony of the changing of the divine robes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td><strong>Oharae</strong></td>
<td><strong>Haraesha</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Tanabata-Matsuri</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Meiji-Tenno-Sai</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Chojukken-Kigansai/Keirosai</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Koreiden-Yohaishiki</strong></td>
<td><strong>Haraesha</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(autumn equinox)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Dezuiri</strong></td>
<td><strong>Courtyard in front of Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Ningyo-Kanshasai</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td><strong>Jingu-Yohaishiki</strong></td>
<td><strong>Haraesha</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Keneihikoshiki</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Chinzakinensai</strong></td>
<td><strong>Honden</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Ceremony</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>Aki-no-Taisai</td>
<td>Honden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 2</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Aki-no-Taisai</td>
<td>Honden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Reisai</td>
<td>Honden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td>Onzosai</td>
<td>Honden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td>Onzosai</td>
<td>Honden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Niinamesai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 23</td>
<td>10 am</td>
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<td>Honden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 31</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
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<td>Haraesa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 31</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>Joyasai</td>
<td>Honden</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There are several more events held at Meiji Jingu. During Spring Grand Festival (April 29 to May 3), Bugaku (traditional ceremonial dance and music), Noh (traditional theatre), Sankyoku and Hogaku (traditional popular music), Hobu (traditional popular dance), and Kyudo (archery) are performed. During Autumn Grand Festival, Yabuseame (horseback archery), and Budo (martial arts) are performed in honour of the deities.

For details see [Performances in honour of the deities](http://www.meijijingu.or.jp/english/ceremonies/1.html).

**Details of some of the above ceremonies:**

- **Nikkusai**
  (Daily 8 am and 2 pm)
  Sacred food and prayers for worldwide peace and everybody's prosperity. The ceremony takes about 10 minutes.

- **Tsukinaminai**
  (1st and 15th of each month, 9 am)
  Sacred food offerings and prayers for worldwide peace and everybody's prosperity. This ceremony takes about 50 minutes.

- **Saitansai: New Year's Day ritual**
  (January 1st, 7 am)
  This is the first ceremony in the new year, and it is also the earliest ceremony (the only ceremony carried out at 7 am). It is hardly visible from outside, but the big drum is audible. Many Japanese go on Hatsumode (a "first shrine visit of the year") during the New Year season. More than 98 million people pay a visit to shrines or temples across Japan during the first three days of the new year (according to the National Police Agency). Among them, Meiji Jingu has been attracting the most visitors, more than 3 million. Everyone is welcome to come for a New Year shrine visit. At the Juyosho (the amulet offices), there are not only the usual Ofuda (emblems) and Omanori (lucky charms), but also special items for the new year, e.g. bells and Ema (votive tablets) featuring this year's Eto (zodiac animal).
**Kigensai:** National Foundation Day festival
(February 11th, 10 am)
*Kigensai* is a ritual ceremony commemorating the foundation of Japan. It is said that Emperor Jinmu, the first Emperor of Japan, was enthroned at *Kashihara-no-miya* in Nara prefecture on this day more than 2600 years ago. During *Kigensai*, Shinto priests in festive attire offer food and recite prayers, and shrine maidens perform a sacred dance. There will also be a parade of many *Mikoshi* (portable shrines) on Omotesando towards Meiji Jingu, and the brass band of the "Association of Celebrating the Establishment of Japan" will play in honour of the deities.

**Kinensai:** Prayer ceremony for agricultural fertility
(February 17th, 10 am)
This ceremony forms a set with *Niinamesai* (the Harvest Festival) in autumn. *Kinensai* contains prayers for a good harvest, and *Niinamesai* expresses the gratitude for a bountiful harvest.

**Shoken-Kotaigo-Hyakunensai:** Empress Shoken 100th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony
(to remember the virtues of Empress Shoken)
(April 11th, 10 am)
April 11, 2014, marks the one hundredth anniversary of the passing of Empress Shoken (empress consort to Emperor Meiji). Meiji Jingu is dedicated to the divine souls of Emperor Meiji and his consort Empress Shoken. Empress Shoken (28 May 1850-11 April 1914) not only supported Emperor Meiji behind the scenes but also devoted herself to promoting national welfare and women’s education. She was also concerned about social welfare in the world. Therefore, she not only continued to offer tremendous support to the Japanese Red Cross Society, but also donated one hundred thousand yen to the International Federation of the Red Cross in Geneva, expressing her wish for the Red Cross to be active in relief work during peace time. To commemorate the Empress's magnanimous heart the fund was named the Empress Shoken Fund and has been used for international welfare activities, funding about 10 projects (almost 400,000 USD) per year. The allocation of the grants is customarily announced on April 11th each year. April 11th is the day that Empress Shoken passed away, and we will hold a ceremony in her honour. The ceremony will be carried out according to ancient Shinto rites: there will be a recital of Shinto liturgy, food offerings (including vegetables grown in the forest of Meiji Jingu), and the sacred dance *Kuretake-no-Mai*, which is based on a poem by Empress Shoken.

*Kuretake-no-Mai*
We pray that people / Be just unassuming / Like the bamboo, //
Which grows without pretension / Or unsightly gnarls.

(People do not have to be distinguished in the world; they need only to stand straight like the bamboo and remain *sunao*, or open, unblemished and honest.)

**Haru-no-Taisai:** Spring Grand Festival
(May 2nd, 10 am and 2 pm; and May 3rd, 10 am)
It is the season of the Meiji Jingu Spring Grand Festival. From April 29th to May 3rd, Meiji Jingu will hold several solemn Shinto ceremonies including one of the largest rituals of the year at Meiji Jingu. These rituals are scheduled for 10 am and 2 pm on May 2nd, and the largest one for 10 am on May 3rd. Members of the Suikekai, an organization which was established in 1946 for paying respect to the enshrined Kami and for supporting Meiji Jingu, attend those rituals in the inner courtyard of the main shrine buildings. Shrine maidens will perform "Urayasu-no-Mai", a *Kagura* (sacred dance) based on a poem which Emperor Showa, the last Emperor before the current Emperor, wrote praying for worldwide peace and wishing that nothing disturb the world’s tranquility:

**Urayasu-no-Mai**
To all deities / Of heaven and earth I pray / For a tranquil world //
Without disturbances / -- like the sea in the morning.

On the occasion of this festival, various Japanese traditional performing arts are performed in honour of the deities on the stage in front of the main shrine building. Everyone is welcome to observe these performances such as *Bugaku* (ancient imperial court music), *Hogaku* and *Hobu* (classical Japanese dance), *Noh* and *Kyogen* (classical Japanese theatre), *Sankyoku* (traditional Japanese music), and *Satsuma biwa* (Japanese
lute). For details see [Performances in honour of the deities](#).

- **Oharae: Great purification (to cast out sins and impurities)**
  (June 30 and December 31, 2 pm, at Haraesa)
  Twice a year, on the last day of June and on the last day of December, a great purification ceremony is held in at Haraesa, the purification hall at the main approach (right opposite the South Temizuya, the font to rinse hands and mouth before entering the inner shrine area).
  Anybody is welcome to take part in this ceremony (registration is not necessary). Participants bow their heads while the grand purification words are recited, and they bow again when a purification wand (a branch of the Sakaki-tree) is waved three times and when small pieces of white paper are sprinkled three times for purification.

- **Meiji-Tenno-Sai: Emperor Meiji Memorial Ceremony**
  (to remember the virtues of Emperor Meiji on his memorial day)
  (July 30th, 9am)
  The 30th of July is the memorial day of Emperor Meiji, whose soul is enshrined at Meiji Jingu. There will be a Shinto Ceremony in his memory from 9 am at the main shrine building. During this ceremony, the sacred dance **Meiji-Jingu-Yamato-Mai** is performed by a Shinto priest. This sacred dance is based on the following poem by Emperor Meiji:

  **Meiji-Jingu-Yamato-Mai**
  The spacious sky / Spans serene and clear / So blue above, //
  Oh, that our soul could grow / And become so open!

  (Like the blue sky that stretches onward over us, we ourselves should like to have a heart so large and open.)

  When Japan was facing unprecedented difficult times, Emperor Meiji made a great effort to build modern Japan, including the establishment of the constitution and the opening of the Diet.
  When Emperor Meiji passed away in 1912, condolences were offered from all over the world. Emperor Meiji was buried at the Imperial tomb of Fushimimonoyama in Kyoto, but following the strong wish of the population, Meiji Jingu was founded in 1920 to enshrine his soul.

  On the Emperor Meiji Memorial Day, the 30th of July, **Homotsuden** (the Treasure Museum) and the exhibition at **Homotsu-Tenjishitsu** (the "Treasure Museum Annex" at Bunkakan) are free of charge.

- **Keneihikoshiki: Ceremonial recital of poems**
  (October 19th, 10 am)
  The "Ceremonial recital of poems" is part of the celebrations of Meiji Jingu Autumn Grand Festival. **Waka** (traditional Japanese poems of 31 syllables with the pattern 5-7-5-7) are granted by members of the Imperial Family and submitted by the general public, not only from inside Japan but also from abroad, amounting to a total of about 4,000 poems.
  Among them, the **Waka** chosen by the judges of the "Meiji Memorial Joint Poetry Committee", which is composed of poets excelling in their poetry circle or poetry association, are recited in a dignified manner before the deities according to the ceremonial way of reciting the "Ceremony of **Utaikai Hajime**" (Imperial New Year’s Poetry Reading) at the Imperial Palace: For each poem, the **Dokujii** (master of ceremonies) presents the paper with the poem, the **Koji** (reader) reads it out aloud, the **Hasei** (lead singer) recites the poem in a chanting melody, and the **Kosho** (accompanying singers) join into this melodic recital from the second line of the poem. During the ceremonial recital itself, the chief priest of Meiji Jingu (assuming the role of the **Dokujii** and the reciters of the **Utaikai Hajime** of the Imperial Palace sit in a circle, recite in a sonorous way the **Waka** chosen from the many poems submitted, and finally recite twice the **Waka** granted by the Imperial Family. Emperor Meiji composed about 100,000 **Waka** during his lifetime, and Empress Shoken has left us with a collection of nearly 30,000 of her own poems. The writing of **Waka** has been traditionally called "Shikishima-no-Michi", or the "Way of Shikishima" (Shikishima being a poetic name for Japan). If you happen to be at Meiji Jingu at this time, please enjoy this ancient ritual of Japan’s traditional culture!
**Chinzakinsai:** Meiji Jingu Enshrinement Anniversary Ceremony  
(November 1, 10 am)  
The souls of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken were enshrined at Meiji Jingu on the 1st of November 1920. This ceremony is celebrating the anniversary of this enshrinement. During the ceremony, the sacred dance Yoyogi-no-Mai is performed by shrine maidens. This dance is based on a poem by Emperor Meiji.

**Aki-no-Taisai:** Autumn Grand Festival  
(Several days around the beginning of November, mainly November 1st to 3rd)  
On the occasion of the celebrations of the anniversary of Emperor Meiji’s birthday and Meiji Jingu’s enshrinement anniversary, various ceremonies are held (including Chinzakinsai and Reisai). Also, arts are performed in honour of the deities (see Performances in honour of the deities).

**Reisai:** Grand Shinto Ceremony commemorating the Anniversary of Emperor Meiji’s Birthday  
(November 3, 10 am)  
A grand solemn Shinto ceremony is held to commemorate the anniversary of Emperor Meiji’s birthday. During the ceremony, Yoyogi-no-Mai is performed.

_Yoyogi-no-Mai_  
_Inspire into what befalls/Through ancient history._  
_And render clear the many doubts/That puzzle men Today!_  
_(That means developing new ideas based on study of the part.)_

**Niinamesai:** Harvest Ceremony  
(November 23, 10 am)  
In gratitude for a bountiful harvest, vegetables and fruit are piled up in the shape of boats in front of the main shrine building, and a Shinto ceremony is held. During the ceremony, the sacred dance Yoyogi-no-Mai is performed. (See Reisai above for details about this sacred dance.)

**Tenchosai:** Celebration of the current Emperor’s birthday  
(December 23, 10 am)  
There is a solemn Shinto ceremony at the main shrine building.

**Joya:** Year-end ritual  
(December 31, 4 pm)  
This is the last ceremony of the year, and it is also the latest (the only ceremony carried out at 4 pm). It is hardly visible from outside, but the big drum at the beginning and at the end of the ceremony is clearly audible, even from far away. On this day, Meiji Jingu does not close but stays open all night.
### Performances in honour of the deities & other events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Tue, 29</td>
<td>Apr</td>
<td><strong>Bugaku</strong> at the main shrine building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45</td>
<td>Fri, 2</td>
<td>May</td>
<td><strong>Noh, Kyogen</strong> at the main shrine building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:45</td>
<td>Fri, 2</td>
<td>May</td>
<td><strong>Sankyoku</strong> at the main shrine building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Sat, 3</td>
<td>May</td>
<td><strong>Kyudo (Japanese archery competition)</strong> at Shiseikan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Martial Arts Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Sat, 3</td>
<td>May</td>
<td><strong>Hogaku, Hobu</strong> at the main shrine building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Sat, 3</td>
<td>May</td>
<td><strong>Satsuma biwa</strong> at the main shrine building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Tue, 6</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Ceremonial recital of poems at <strong>Sansyuden</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Photograph: **Bugaku)**
Meiji Jingu Ceremonies and events

**Meiji Jingu Autumun Grand Festival October 27 - November 3, 2013**
The 161st Anniversary of Emperor Meiji’s Birthday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td><strong>Bugaku</strong> at the main shrine building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Noh, Kyogen</strong> at the main shrine building</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Sankyoku</strong> at the main shrine building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Hogaku, Hobu</strong> at the main shrine building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Japanese archery competition at Budojo</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Aikido</strong> at the west approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Kobudo</strong> at the west approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Momote-shiki</strong> at Tresure Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Yabusame</strong> at the west approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:45</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Satsuma biwa</strong> at the main shrine building</td>
</tr>
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<td>Fri, 25 Oct.-Sat, 23 Nov.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Kikkaten</strong>（Chrysanthemum Exhibition）at the main approach</td>
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</table>
Ceremonies and events

- Daily, monthly, annual ceremonies
- Performances in honour of the deities & other events
- This year's anniversaries

This year's anniversaries

- Meiji Jingu Spring Grand Festival 2014

It is the season of the Meiji Jingu Spring Grand Festival. From April 29th to May 3rd, Meiji Jingu will hold several solemn Shinto ceremonies including one of the largest rituals of the year at Meiji Jingu. These rituals are scheduled for 10 am and 2 pm on May 2nd, and the largest one for 10 am on May 3rd. Members of the Sukokai, an organization which was established in 1946 for paying respect to the enshrined Kami and for supporting Meiji Jingu, attend those rituals in the inner courtyard of the main shrine buildings. Shrine maidens will perform “Urayasu-no-Mai”, a Kagura(sacred dance) based on a poem which Emperor Showa, the last Emperor before the current Emperor, wrote praying for world-wide peace and wishing that nothing disturb the world’s tranquility:

To all deities
Of heaven and earth I pray
For a tranquil world
Without disturbances
-Like the sea in the morning.

On the occasion of this festival, various Japanese traditional performing arts are performed in honour of the deities on the stage in front of the main shrine building. Everyone is welcome to observe these performances such as Bugaku(ancient imperial court music), Hogaku and Hobu (classical Japanese dance), Noh and Kyogen(classical Japanese theatre), Sankyoku(traditional Japanese music), and Satsuma biwa(Japanese lute).

April 29, Tuesday
11:00 ~  Bugaku [ancient imperial court music]

May 2, Friday
10:00 ~  Morning Ceremony
11:45 ~  Noh, Kyogen [classical Japanese dance]
14:00 ~  Afternoon Ceremony
15:45 ~  Sankyoku [traditional Japanese music]

May 3, Saturday
10:00 ~  Grand Ceremony
12:00 ~  Hogaku, Hobu [classical Japanese theatre]
13:30 ~  Satsuma biwa [Japanese lute]
Empress Shoken 100th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony

The year 2014 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the passing of Empress Shoken, the empress consort of Emperor Meiji and an enshrined deity of Meiji Jingu. At Meiji Jingu, various commemorative events will take place to pay respect to the outstanding virtue of Empress Shoken.

Learn more

Kigensai
February 11th is the day of the foundation of Japan, and ceremonies called "Kigensai" are held at the sanctuaries of the Imperial Palace and at Shinto shrines throughout the country.

The government made the day of Emperor Jinmu’s enshronement as the first Emperor of Japan at Kashihara-no-miya in Unebi (the present Kashihara Jingū in Nara prefecture represents the remains of that place), which is recorded in the "Nihon Shoki" ("The Chronicles of Japan"), the starting point of time-reckoning and established it in 1873 as Japan’s National Foundation Day.

Together with New Year and "Tencho-setsu" (the Emperor’s birthday), "Kigen-setsu" was made one of the "three grand national holidays" (from 1927 "four grand national holidays" including Emperor Meiji’s birthday "Meiji-setsu"), and memorial ceremonies were held at primary schools and all sorts of organizations nationwide.

In 1948 after the war (Japan was under occupation) it was extinct by the enactment of the “Act on National Holidays”, but since the restoration of independence in 1952 voices demanding the revival of "Kigen-setsu" condensed into a national movement, and in 1966 the day was added to the national holidays as “National Foundation Day”.

Let us celebrate the country's birthday today.

- Kinensai

On February 17th, ceremonies called “Kinensai” are held at the sanctuaries of the Imperial Palace and at Shinto shrines throughout the country. Kinensai is a ceremony of praying for a bountiful harvest, for the prosperity of the Imperial Family, and for the stability of the nation. This ceremony forms a set with Niinamesai (the Harvest Festival), a ceremony of giving thanks for the harvest on November 23rd.

According to the episode "Tensonkorin" in ancient Japanese mythology, when Ninigi-no-Mikoto (the grandson of the sun deity Amaterasu Omikami) descended from Takama-no-Hara (the realm where Amaterasu Omikami resides) to Takachiho (in present-day Kyushu), he received from Amaterasu Omikami the Three Sacred Treasures (the Imperial regalia of Japan) and an ear of rice. It can be said that the rice cultivation, which goes back to mythological times, is the base of Japan’s nation building and of Japan's culture. In spring, the Emperor sows rice seeds on the rice fields at the Imperial Palace, in early summer he plants the rice seedlings, and in autumn he harvests the rice ears, and offers the harvested rice at the Kannamesai (Ise Jingū’s largest harvest festival held on October 17th) and at the Niinamesai at the Imperial Palace. These facts make us aware of the importance of rice cultivation and ceremonies. Given this background, today's ceremony provides an opportunity to remind us of the value of rice cultivation and agriculture as well as of the characteristics of Japan, which have continued since mythological times.

The Kagura (sacred dance) “Urayasu-no-Mai”, which is performed during the ceremony, was composed and choreographed in 1940, commemorating the 2600th anniversary of the foundation of Japan. It is based on a poem which Emperor Showa, the last Emperor before the current Emperor, wrote praying for world-wide peace and wishing that nothing disturb the
world’s tranquility:
To all deities
Of heaven and earth I pray
For a tranquil world
Without disturbances
—Like the sea in the morning.

Meiji Jingu Autumn Grand Festival October 27 - November 3, 2013
The 161st Anniversary of Emperor Meiji’s Birthday

On November 3rd, the birthday of Emperor Meiji, the present Emperor sends an Imperial Messenger with his offerings to Meiji Jingu’s solemn Shinto ceremony. In the course of the celebration, Japanese traditional performing arts such as Bugaku, Noh, Kyogen, and ancient Japanese martial arts will be presented in honour of the deities.

[Schedule of the Ritual Ceremonies]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>Enshrinement Anniversary Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>Afternoon Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Nov.</td>
<td>Morning Ceremony</td>
</tr>
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[Meiji Jingu Autumn Grand Festival Performance in honor the deities]

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<td>Nov.</td>
<td>Sankyoku at the main shrine building</td>
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<td>Hogaku, Hobu at the main shrine building</td>
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<td>9:00</td>
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<td>Satsuma biwa at the main shrine building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 25 Oct.-Sat, 23 Nov.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kikkaten (Chrysanthemum Exhibition) at the main approach</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Kyogen

Sankyoku

Hogaku, Hobu

Japanese archery competition

Aikido

Kobudo

Momote-shiki

Kikkaten
The forest
Meiji Jingu's forest was created in honour of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken, for their souls to dwell in and with every tree sincerely planted by hand. This forest was carefully planned as an eternal forest that recreates itself. Now after about 90 years it cannot be distinguished from a natural forest, inhabited by many endangered plants and animals.
Nature at Meiji Jingu

Seasonal plants and animals

Please enjoy the nature at Meiji Jingu throughout the year. There are many seasonal plants and animals, so the ones below are only a small selection. Some of them are endangered, and all of them are part of this holy forest. Therefore, please do not take any plants (or parts of them) or animals home with you. Thank you very much.

[Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec ]

January

Ardisia japonica

![Ardisia japonica](image)

Ice on the water

![Ice on the water](image)

Gnaphalium affine D. Don

Jersey Cudweed

![Gnaphalium affine](image)

Capsella bursa-pastoris

Shepherd's-purse

![Capsella bursa-pastoris](image)
Meiji Jingu Gyoen (Meiji Jingu Gardens or Imperial Gardens)

Meiji Jingu Gyoen (Meiji Jingu Gardens) is the only part of Naien (the Inner Precinct) that had existed long before the establishment of Meiji Jingu. In fact Emperor Meiji designed the iris garden, small paths, and fishing spot specifically for Empress Shoken in order to give her fresh energy. Fresh verdure in spring, various kinds of flowers in summer, autumn leaves, and snow in winter give inexhaustible charms to the garden all the year round.

The four seasons at Meiji Jingu Gardens (Gyoen)

Spring

In spring, colourful azalea blossoms appear among the new green leaves. Their vivid beauty evokes a warm spring feeling. At Gyoen, there are globular trimmed azaleas in front of Kakuuntei (a tea house); and arching mountain azaleas at the "Azalea Garden". The azalea blossoms reach their peak in April.

Summer

At the beginning of June the irises start to blossom, they are in full bloom from mid-June to the end of June. There are about 1500 iris plants of 150 different kinds of irises in the "Iris Garden". Their blossoms are counted every day by the staff. The splendour of the iris flowers in full bloom has become well known both in Japan and abroad.
Autumn

Japanese autumn leaves are famous for their bright colours and their delicate beauty seen for example in the fine dissected leaves of Japanese maple. Towards the end of November you can see the leaves changing colours at Gyoen as if you were in the mountains. Please enjoy the beautiful scenery of the garden.

(Photograph: Japanese maple)

Winter

A Yukitsuri covers one of the black pine trees in Gyoen during winter in order to prevent its branches from breaking under the weight of heavy snow. Please enjoy the beautiful winter landscape in the garden.

(Photograph: Yukitsuri at the fishing spot)

Meiji Jingu Gyoen opens every day throughout the year. Opening hours are usually from 9 am to 4 pm, but they may vary slightly according to the season.

**Opening hours (Gyoen):**
Open daily throughout the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months:</th>
<th>Hours:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March to October</td>
<td>9 am to 4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November to February</td>
<td>9 am to 4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>8 am to 5 pm (to 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contribution for maintenance**

500 yen
Oenanthe
Water dropworts

Camellia
Homotsuden (Treasure Museum)

Homotsuden and Homotsu-Tenjishitsu
- Treasure Museum of Meiji Jingu was designated Important Cultural Property

Treasure Museum of Meiji Jingu was designated Important Cultural Property in June 2011. Please visit this magnificent building created by the passionate devotion of the people towards the Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken.

Closed on Monday from July 9 to September 25. (On September 19 (Mon) the museum is open, closed on the following day)

At Meiji Jingu Naien, there are two main facilities belonging to Homotsuden and dedicated to exhibitions open to the public:
- Homotsuden Honkan (also called Homotsuden or "Treasure Museum" and is located next to the Budojo Shiseikan in the northern part of Meiji Jingu Naien)
- Homotsu-Tenjishitsu (also called Tenjishitsu or "Treasure Museum Annex" or exhibition hall and is located inside Bunkakan in the southern part of Meiji Jingu Naien)

(Photo: Map illustrating the different locations, for a more detailed map see: Map)
**Homotsuden Honkan (also called Homotsuden or "Treasure Museum")**

![Image of Homotsuden Honkan main building]

The main building of Homotsuden (the Treasure Museum) is a ferro-concrete building built in 1921. Its style, however, is a copy of the Oyukazukuri (high floor style) of Azekurazukuri Shosoin (the Japanese National Treasure House in Nara). In the building, various items used by Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken or closely related to them are exhibited.

[Link to the current exhibition](http://www.meijijingu.or.jp/english/homotsuden/1.html)

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**Homotsu-Tenjishitsu ("Treasure Museum Annex") at Bunkakan**

![Image of Homotsu-Tenjishitsu entrance]

In addition to Homotsuden Honkan (the "Treasure Museum") in the north of Naien (inner precinct), there is an exhibition hall called Homotsu-Tenjishitsu (or short Tenjishitsu or "Treasure Museum Annex") at Bunkakan in the south of Naien (inner precinct). Note that although it is called "annex", the building is not physically connected with Homotsuden Honkan, but they are about 15 to 20 minutes walk apart.

Bunkakan is a circular building housing not only Homotsu-Tenjishitsu, but also the restaurant "Yoyogi", a snack bar, a souvenir shop, a wedding ceremony planning division, toilets, trash boxes,
vending machines, and a smoking area.

Link to the current exhibition
Commemorating the Empress Shoken Centennial Memorial  
「The Empress of the Meiji Period — Empress Shoken’s Life with Emperor Meiji」

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>March 29 (Sat.) to May 28 (Wed.) (Closed only on April 17 and 18)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>9 am to 4:30 pm (last admission 4 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution</td>
<td>500 yen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Diorama Set of the Imperial Funeral Cortege for Emperor Meiji

This diorama set is displayed at the Treasure Museum (Homotsuden).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>From February 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>9 am to 4 pm (last admission 3:30 pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contribution for maintenance**

- 500 yen

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**Current exhibition at Homotsuden Honkan**
(also called Homotsuden or “Treasure Museum”)

The museum's current exhibition includes the magnificent horse carriage used by Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken about 120 years ago on the day of the promulgation of the Constitution of the Empire of Japan, as well as items he used on a daily basis.

(Photo: The horse carriage used by Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken on their way to the parade held to celebrate the promulgation of the Constitution of the Empire of Japan on the 11th of February 1889)

This is displayed in the above Exhibition at the Tresure Museum Annex (Bunkakan) From February 17, it will be displayed at Homotsuden Honkan (also called Homotsuden or “Treasure Museum”)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Open only on weekends and national holidays. Opening days and hours of Treasure Museum and Treasure Museum Annex are subject to change without notice.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>Nov. to Feb.: 9 am to 4 pm(last admission 3:30 pm) Mar. to Oct.: 9 am to 4:30 pm(last admission 4 pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contribution for maintenance**

- 500 yen

N.B.: The ticket is also valid for Homotsu-Tenjishitsu (“Treasure Museum Annex”).
Director’s Greeting

The Meiji Jingu Intercultural Research Institute was established in January 2008. In addition to spreading the virtues of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken and the cultivation of Shinto sensibilities, which had up to that point been the domain of another study group, the Institute’s goal is to pursue academic exchanges, centering on research into Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken’s virtues and Meiji Jingu history, as well as to enhance inter-religious dialogue and international exchanges between different cultures.

Shinto is ingrained in the living practices of the Japanese people, as can be seen in the first shrine visit of the New Year and the "Shichigosan" (Festival for children attaining 7・5・3 years of age), and it serves as a framework for strong traditions and culture. Meiji Jingu as the grove of a village shrine provides a place where Japanese people validate their own origins, but it also provides a precious place where large numbers of foreigners visiting the shrine can obtain a deep understanding of Japanese culture.

There is a poem by Emperor Meiji that says "Let us reveal to the world the beauty that is interwoven in Japan." The Institute aims to take a fresh look-in the context of the current era—at the "Japan" that our ancestors have been creating since the time of distant legends, and consider what role Japan should fulfill within the globalized world. Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken, who accomplished the modernization of Japan by way of opening up the country and the Meiji Restoration, are enshrined as deities at Meiji Jingu, which was built around 100 years ago through the devotion of our people. It is from this shrine that we carry out our mission.

- Brief biography of the Director
  Born in Tokyo in 1941. Spent three years of elementary school in France, and spent his high-school years in the United States. After graduating from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tokyo, joined the Bank of Tokyo (now the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ) and served as Deputy Director of the Paris branch and Director of the Brussels branch. Officially appointed as Chamberlain of His Majesty the Emperor at the Imperial Household in 1995, and officially appointed as His Vice-Grand Chamberlain in 2008. Drawing on his abundant foreign experience, accompanied the Imperial Couple on official visits to 19 countries. Retired from that office in June 2012 and took up his present position in September of that year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Masahiro Sato</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td>Tsutomu Kurita</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- International Affairs Division/Research Advancement Division Historical/Document Editing Division

The International Affairs Division carries out activities aimed at informing people about Meiji Jingu and Shinto through interdisciplinary and international exchanges.

The Research Advancement Division has three researchers, and undertakes research on areas such as the divine virtues of the enshrined deities, the history of Meiji Jingu, and Shinto and Budo (the martial arts).

The Document Editing Division is aiming to publish the "Hundred Year Record of Meiji Jingu" in 2020, the 100th year of the enshrinement. It studies and collates documents owned by Meiji Jingu.
Meiji Jingu Outer Precinct

_Gaien_ (The Outer Precinct) was constructed with donation collected by "Meiji Jingu Hosankai", an organization of individual supporters formed to remember the virtues of the Imperial couple all through the ages. Completed on October 22, 1926, it was donated to Meiji Jingu.

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**Kaigakan (Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery)**

The _Kaigakan_ (the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery) is the centre of the precinct. It contains 80 wall paintings (3m x 2.7m) depicting the lives of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken.

- **Days:** open daily throughout the year
- **Hours:** 9 am to 5 pm (last admission 4:30 pm)
- **Admission:**
  - 500 yen,
  - senior high school and university students 300 yen,
  - junior high and primary school students 200 yen

Further facilities:

_Gaien_ (The outer precinct) covers an area of 330,000 square meters with _Kaigakan_ at its centre. Nearby are many sports facilities, such as the Jingu Baseball Stadium, the Second Baseball Stadium, the Golf Driving Range, the Softball Grounds, the Indoor Stadium for Ball Games, the Tennis Club, Ice Skating Rink. In the neighboring areas, there are the National Stadium, which was the main stadium for the Tokyo Olympics, the Chichibunomiya Football Stadium and the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. In addition to providing these sports facilities, _Gaien_ serves as a park, providing the public with excellent recreation opportunities. In autumn, a Gingko Festival is held at _Gaien._

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_Address:_

1-1 Kasumigaoka, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
Tel: 03-3401-0312 (Japanese)
Nearest stations: Shinanomachi and Sendagaya on the JR line, Gaienmae, Kokuritsu-kyogijomae and Aoyama 1-chome subway stations

URL: http://www.meijijinguqaien.jp/english/
Kinenkan (Meiji Memorial Hall)

Meiji Memorial Hall

(Photo: Kinenkan, view of the central lawn)

Meiji Kinenkan (The Meiji Memorial Hall)

Meiji Kinenkan is the building in which the Constitution of the Empire of Japan was drafted. Later, it was donated to Meiji Jingu. Today, it contains a hall for Shinto weddings, restaurants, and other facilities.

Genuine Grace

Well designed ceremonial halls and high-tech facilities give grace to various kinds of ceremonies, banquets, concerts, fairs, seminars, meetings, and dining.

Address: 2-23 Moto-Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Tel: 03-3403-1171 (Japanese)
Nearest stations: Shinanomachi station on the JR line,
Aoyama-itchome on the Ginza, Hanzomon, Oedo subway line.

Glossary

Note: The explanations in this glossary are neither comprehensive nor official definitions. They are only attempted translations and rough descriptions of the meanings in the context of the internet pages of Meiji Jingu. These words may have different meanings in other contexts.

Budo: "the martial way", expression referring to traditional Japanese martial art(s)

Budojo: Training hall for traditional Japanese martial arts

Bunkakan: "culture house", circular building on the grounds of Meiji Jingu

Dojo: Training hall for a traditional Japanese art (a "way")

Ema: Wooden tablet(s), onto which wishes may be written

Gagaku: ancient Japanese Imperial court music

Gaien: Outer precinct (as opposed to "inner precinct" naien)

Gehaiden: Outer hall in front of the main shrine building

Goshuin: Memorial seal (stamp and calligraphy) of a Shinto shrine.

Gyoen: Imperial Garden

Gyosei: a poem composed by an emperor

Guji: chief priest (of a shrine)

Harai: purification

Harae: "purification hut" (at Meiji Jingu: opposite the South Temizuya)

Higashi-Shinmon: Eastern gate to the courtyard in front of the main shrine building.

Homotsuden: Treasure Museum

Homotsutenjishitsu: Exhibition hall belonging to the Treasure Museum (however, this exhibition hall is located at Bunkakan)

Inner precinct: The area containing the sacred forest and shrine buildings (as opposed to the outer precinct containing additional facilities)

Jingu: Shinto shrine. ("Jingu" is one of several terms referring to Shinto shrines.)

Jingu Kaikan: Assembly hall of the shrine

Juyosho: Amulet office(s). An Amulet office is a place where amulets, emblems, and other items are distributed.

Kagura: sacred Shinto dance

Kaguraden: Hall for sacred music and dance

Kakuunrei: name of the tea house inside Gyoen

Kamidana: Shinto house altar

Kannushi: Shinto priest

Kiganbun: Letter to the deities.

Kigansai: Ceremony including personal wishes, conducted at Kaguraden.

Kitasando: Northern approach. This expression refers to the main approach to the main shrine buildings from the North. It is also the name of the closest station to this approach (Fukutoshin line).

Koto: Japanese zither

Kyudo: "the way of the bow", Japanese archery, a discipline of Japanese Budo

Magokoro: sincere heart (This is also the name of a quarterly leaflet in English which is distributed at Meiji Jingu.)

Main shrine building: The central building of the shrine containing chambers for the enshrined deities.

Meiji: The posthumous name of Emperor Mutsuhito, and also the name of the era of his reign.

Meiji Jingu: Meiji Shrine.

Miko: shrine maiden

Minamisando: Southern approach. The main approach to the main shrine buildings from the South.

Minami-Shinmon: The Southern gate to the courtyard in front of the main shrine buildings. It is also called Romon.

Miuta: a poem composed by an emperor

Nagadono: This is the name of the long Juyosho opposite Kaguraden.

Naien: Inner precinct (as opposed to "outer precinct" gaien)

Naihaiden: Inner hall in front of the main shrine building.

Nikkusai: ceremony at 8 am and 2 pm every day, offering sacred food and prayers

Nishi-Entrance gate: the West entrance of Meiji Jingu

Nishi-Shinmon: Western gate to the courtyard in front of the main shrine building.

Ofuda: Emblem (of a shrine).

Omamori: Lucky charm.

Omikuji: Lot(s) drawn for good fortune
Omotesando: name of the main street approaching Meiji Jingu
Outer precinct: Outer area of the shrine, containing additional facilities
Purification wand: A long object used for purification. It is swayed three times (left, right, left) above the persons or items to be purified. Often, a branch of the Sakaki tree is used as a purification wand, or a stick with lots of white paper streamers.
Saikan: building where priests and shrine maidens change into their robes (no access)
Sakaki: Clelyera japonica. This is a Japanese tree that is sacred in Shinto and is therefore often used as a Purification wand or as a Tamagushi.
Sake: Japanese rice wine
Sangubashi: name of the station in the West of Meiji Jingu
Sanpai: visiting a shrine, paying respect at a shrine
Sanshuden: meeting hall on the shrine grounds
Satsuma-Biwa: a special type of Biwa
Seishiki-Sanpai: formal greeting ceremony at a shrine
Shamusho: Shrine office
Shiseikan: the name of Meiji Jingu's Budojo
Shoken: The name of Emperor Meiji's wife.
Shubatsu: purification rite
Shukueisha: This is the name of the building opposite the South Juyosho at Meiji Jingu.
Tatami: rice straw mat (standard size approximately 90 cm x 180 cm). Please take off your shoes and wear socks when you step onto Tatami. Thank you.
Temizu: action of rinsing hands and mouth for purification before entering a sacred area or participating in a ceremony
Temizuza: Font at the entrance to the inner area of a shrine, containing water and dippers (ladies) to rinse hands and mouth.
Torii: Shrine gate
Tsukinamisa: Regular monthly ceremonies (in the case of Meiji Jingu on the 1st and 15th of every month)
Urasando: name of the street connecting Naien and Gaien
Waka: traditional Japanese poem of 31 syllables (5-7-5-7-7 syllables)
Map, contact, opening hours

Map  (This map is clickable)

Please find some maps below to help you find your way around the shrine grounds. Clicking onto the various places and buildings on this first map will lead you directly to related web pages.

1. Torii (Shrine Gate)
2. Temizuya (Font)
3. Main Shrine Building
4. Nagakino Juyorho (Amulet Office)
5. Entrance to Meiji Jingu Gardens (Gyoen)
6. Iris Garden
7. Treasure Museum
8. Bunkakan (Exhibition at Treasure Museum Annex)
9. Kaguraden (Hall of Sacred Music and Dance)
10. Shiseikan Dojo (Martial Arts Training Hall)
11. Café/Restaurant
12. Shukueisha

(1) = Toilet
(2) = Parking Space

(Photo: Map of Naien)

http://www.meijijingu.or.jp/english/map/1.html (1 of 2) [6/19/2014 8:47:26 PM]
This is a Shinto shrine. You are entering a sacred area, so please observe the following:

- No smoking
- No food/drink
- No jogging
- No pets
- Stay on paths
- Don't enter forest
- Don't collect plants/animals

Exceptions:

- Food/drink ok
- No photos
- Be quiet
- Food/drink ok
- Shops
- Smoking area
- Food/drink ok
- Main approach Pedestrians only
- Drive way

(Please: Extended map of Naien)

Parking space for bicycles is provided at each of the three entrances to the shrine. Please do not cycle on the shrine grounds.

Wheelchairs can be borrowed at Bunkakan.
This month's highlights

This month

- Iris Special Feature

Photo: Irises in full bloom (June 12, 2013)  OOZORA

[Iris garden] The Irises in this garden were planted by the order of Emperor Meiji for Empress Shoken in 1893. There are 150 species/1,500 roots with flowers blooming in its season. The specialty of the Irises at Meiji Jingu is that they are surrounded by a deep forest and they make you forget that you are in the megacity. The elegant scenery including small winding paths and gazebo with a thatched roof has been loved by many artists.

As the flowers are associated with the enshrined deities, Meiji Jingu is taking special care of them, and you can also see there the iris “Sho-ou flower” produced by the famous flower artist in Edo period, Sadatomo Matsudaira or so-called Sho-ou.

[Opening Hours] All throughout the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March to October</td>
<td>9 am to 4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November to February</td>
<td>9 am to 4 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>8 am to 5 pm (to 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contribution for maintenance

- 500 yen

Access

Five-minute walk from Harajuku Station (JR Yamanote line) or
Meiji-jingumae (harajuku) Station (Tokyo Metro Chiyoda line, Fukutoshin line)

Ten-minute walk from Yoyogi Station (Toei Oedo line),
Sangubashi Station (Odakyu line), or
Kita-sando Station (Tokyo Metro Fukutoshin line)

- 「Emperor Meiji—In remembrance of His era—」 at Treasure Museum Annex (Bunkakan)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>June 9 to September 21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
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<td>Contribution for maintenance</td>
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