

Welcome to

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: 700,000m² (inner precinct)

Meiji Jingu!

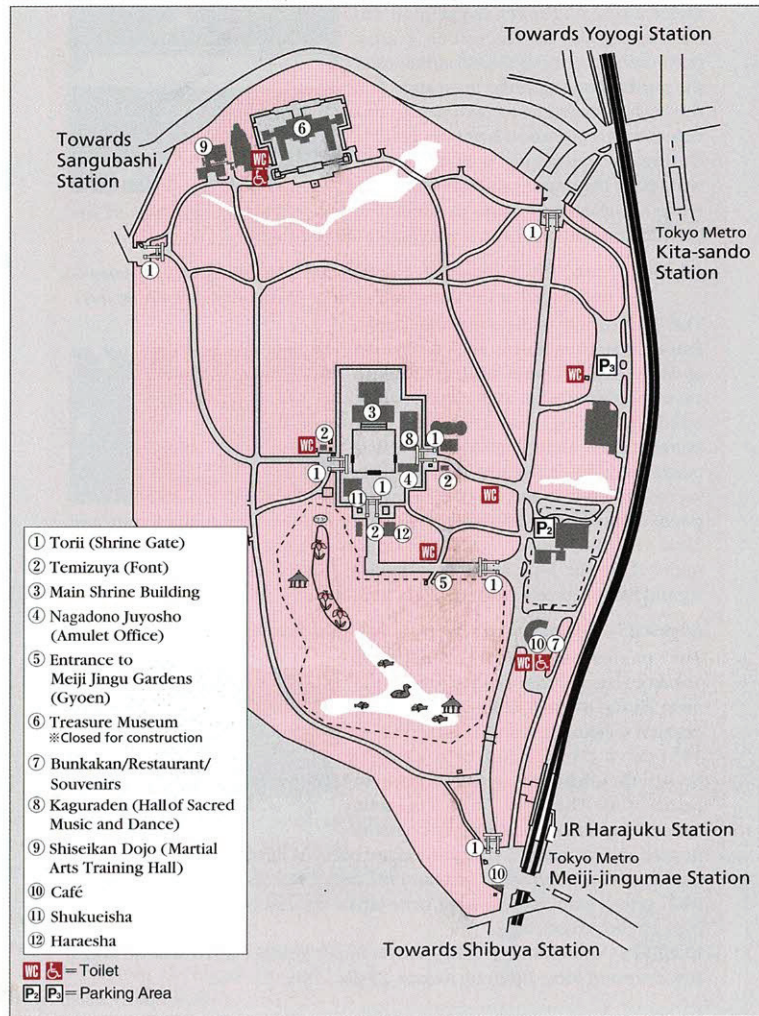
Emperor Meiji (1852–1912) is the 122nd emperor of Japan, the great-grandfather of the current Emperor. He ascended to the throne in 1867. When Japan was facing unprecedented conditions such as the opening of the country to the world after its long isolation and the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate, Emperor 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 (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.

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

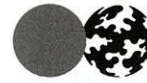
Meiji Jingu Map



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<http://www.meijijingu.or.jp/english/>



大百鎮神明
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 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF
 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEIJI JINGU

English

Magokoro

まごころ

~Sincere Heart~



Yosakoi dance dedicated to Meiji Jingu

MEIJI JINGU
 明治神宮

June - August 2018, published quarterly

Ceremonies and Events — June to August 2018 —

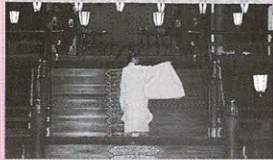
June 30 2 pm *O-harae*: Great purification (casting out impurities) (map¹²)

Twice a year, on the last day of June and on the last day of December, a great purification ceremony is held at Haraesha, the purification site at the main approach. Anybody is welcome to take part in this ceremony (registration is not necessary). During the ceremony, a Shinto priest will recite the grand purification words, wave a purification wand (a branch of the Sakaki-tree) in front of the participants, and so forth. It takes about 30 minutes.



**July 30 9 am *Meiji-Tenno-Sai*: Emperor Meiji Memorial Ceremony (map³)
(to remember the virtue of Emperor Meiji on his memorial day)**

The 30th of July is the memorial day of Emperor Meiji, whose soul is enshrined at Meiji Jingu. There will be a Shinto ceremony 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 composed by Emperor Meiji: 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.)



August 25 – 26 Harajuku Omotesando Genki Festival Super Yosakoi 2018

The picture on the front cover is Yosakoi Dance dedicated in front of the main shrine of Meiji Jingu.

Yosakoi began in Kochi Prefecture in 1954 as a civil festival held to help revive the main shopping arcade in Kochi City. The free and energetic dances captivated the hearts of many people and have since spread to many parts of Japan.

Dancers have percussion instruments called Naruko in both hands, and each group gathered from all over Japan wears colorful costumes and dances enthusiastically.

Harajuku Omotesando Genki Festival Super Yosakoi 2018 will be taken place around Meiji Jingu on August 25-26.



Space for a Meiji Jingu Memorial Seal (stamp and calligraphy)

To remind you of your visit to Meiji Jingu, you can have a Meiji Jingu Memorial Seal (Goshuin) stamped and hand-painted on this page at Kaguraden (map⁸) for 500 yen.

Or you can stamp a round stamp by yourself for free at Nagadono and Shukueisha (map⁴, ¹¹)



⑧



④, ⑪



i. You may put some coins into the offertory box.



ii. Bow twice.



iii. Clap your hands twice.



iv. Bow once again.

Please do not take photos or videos at the main shrine building.

Waka Poetry by Emperor Meiji

*True sincerity
Even though not expressed
Adequately in words,
Appears most naturally
In a person's countenance.*

言の葉に
あまる誠は
おのづから
人のおもわに
あらはれにけり

Although it may be difficult to express adequately in words, true sincerity of heart, even though unspoken, does appear most naturally in a person's face.

Waka Poetry by Empress Shoken

*Merely one line
May be all that remains
From a person's brush;
Yet this alone would reveal
The heart of the writer.*

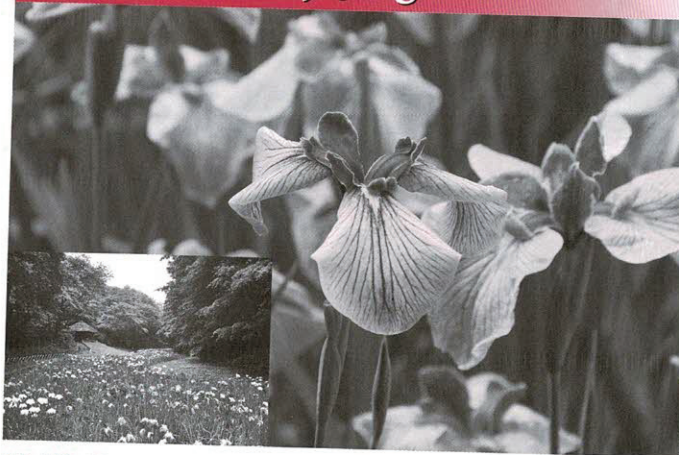
ひとくだけり
かきたる筆の
あとにさへ
みゆるは人の
こころなりけり

Even if merely one line of a person's handwriting remains, it alone is an expression of the writer's heart.

Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken excelled in writing waka (traditional Japanese poems of 31 syllables). The Emperor composed about 100,000 waka and the Empress about 30,000, expressing from their hearts their feelings towards the world, country and the people, as well as ethical thoughts, etc.

Visitors can draw a poem from 20 selected poems (English translation and explanation) from the "Omikuji" box in front of Nagadono Juyosho. [map](#)④ (100 yen)

Nature at Meiji Jingu



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 100 years it cannot be distinguished from a natural forest, inhabited by many endangered plants and animals.

The Inner Garden (Gyoen) is the only part 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.

At the beginning of June the irises start to blossom, they are in full bloom around the mid-June. There are about 150 species/1,500 roots with flowers. Their blossoms are counted everyday by the staff. The splendour of the iris flowers in full bloom has become well known both in Japan and abroad.

Hours June: 8 am to 5 pm (Sat. / Sun. until 6 pm), July / August: 9 am to 4:30 pm
(Last admissions are 30 minutes prior to closing time.)

Contribution for maintenance 500 yen ([map](#)⑤)

How to pay respect at Meiji Jingu



These actions express respect and are independent of religious beliefs.



i. Rinse your left hand, rinse your right hand.



ii. Pour water into your left hand and rinse your mouth.



iii. Rinse your left hand, and rinse the dipper.