



大百鎮神明
祭年座宮治
平成32年 | 2020
Chikamasa Chikamasa no
The Shrine of Meiji Jingu

Magokoro まどころ

~Sincere Heart~



*Sacred dance "Kuretake-no-mai"
(Empress Shoken Memorial Ceremony)*

MEIJI JINGU
明治神宮

March - May 2019, published quarterly

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.

Waka Poetry by Emperor Meiji

*For the times to come
And for meeting what must be met
All of our people
Must be taught to walk along
The path of sincerity.*

People must be taught that we can face any situation if we have makoto, or true sincerity, in our hearts. This is the foundation of education.

いかならむ
時にあふとも
人はみな
まことの道を
ふめとをしへよ

Waka Poetry by Empress Shoken

*In the beginning
People, like all of our plants,
Sprang from one root;
And the flowers of language
Bloom forth by the thousands!*

Like the many species of plants that bloom in similar way, we same human beings speak a variety of languages throughout the world.

もとはみな
おなじねざしの
人ぐさも
ことばの花や
ちちにさくらむ

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. 100 yen (map④)

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.

Spring has come around once again and the trees that shed their foliage in winter are now unfurling new leaves, turning the woods surrounding Meiji Jingu into many shades of green. Colorful flowers, including cherry blossoms, azaleas and dandelions have begun to bloom, adding to the feeling of spring in the air. We hope you will enjoy springtime in the grounds of Meiji Jingu, a place of calm in the heart of Tokyo.

Hours 9 am to 4:30 pm (last admission 4 pm)
Contribution for maintenance 500 yen (map⑤)

How to pay respect at Meiji Jingu



At Temizuya (font)

map
②



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.

These actions express respect and are independent of religious beliefs.

Ceremonies and Events – March to May 2019 –

Ceremonies at the main shrine building (*Honden*) (map③)

Apr. 11	10 am	Empress Shoken Memorial Ceremony (to remember the virtues of Empress Shoken)
May 2	10 am	Spring Grand Festival (morning ceremony)
	2 pm	Spring Grand Festival (afternoon ceremony)
May 3	10 am	Spring Grand Festival (grand ceremony)

Performances in honour of the deities during Spring Grand Festival: (map⑬)

Apr. 27	11 am	<i>Bugaku</i> (ancient imperial court dance)
May 2	11:45 am	<i>Noh, Kyogen</i> (classical Japanese theater)
	3:45 pm	<i>Hogaku, Hobu</i> (classical Japanese dance and music)
May 3	12 noon	<i>Sankyoku</i> (traditional Japanese music)
	2:30 pm	<i>Satsuma biwa</i> (Japanese lute)



Bugaku



Sankyoku

Request for donation to Meiji Jingu 100th anniversary project map⑫

We are renovating the shrine buildings in order to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Meiji Jingu in 2020. For that reason, the divine spirits are now enshrined in the newly constructed but temporary building located in front of the original main shrine. Everything will be restored to its original state in the summer of 2019.

We kindly ask you for your thoughtful and generous contribution so that Meiji Jingu may remain a pure place of calmness and peace, now and always, forevermore.



Reroofing



Temporary Shrine Building

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

At main shrine building

map③

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



ii. Bow twice.



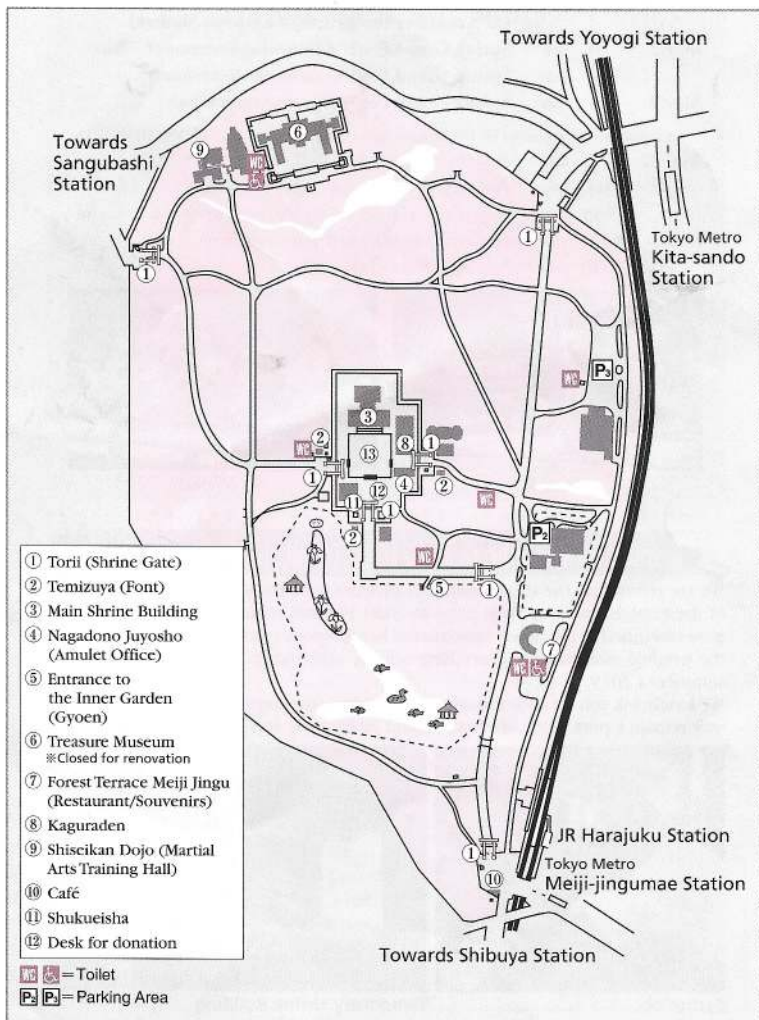
iii. Clap your hands twice.



iv. Bow once again.

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

Meiji Jingu Map



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