

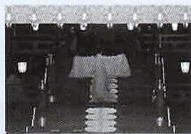
CEREMONIES & EVENTS June to August 2024

June 30 2 pm *O-harae*: Great purification (casting out impurities) [map¹⁴]

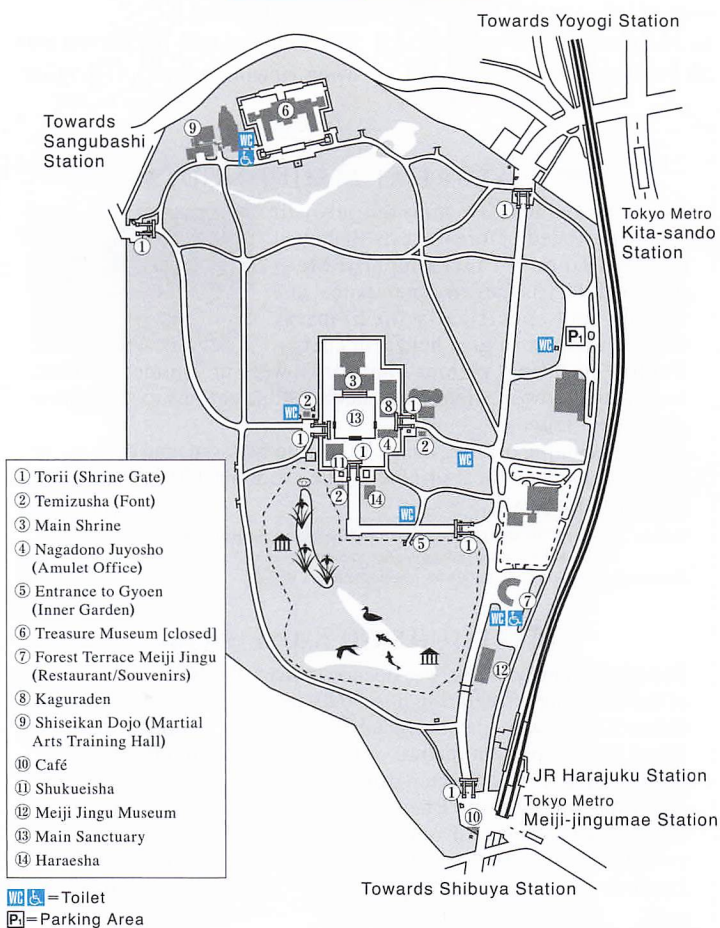
"Great purification" is held twice a year in June and December. During the ceremony, a Shinto priest recites the great purification liturgy and waves a purification wand (a branch of the Sakaki-tree) in front of the participants.

**July 30 9 am *Meiji-Tenno-Sai*: Emperor Meiji Memorial Ceremony** [map³]

In this Shinto ritual ceremony, the sacred dance Meiji-Jingu-Yamato-Mai is performed by a Shinto priest. This dance is based on the following "waka" poem composed by Emperor Meiji: "The spacious sky/ spans so serene and clear/ so blue above./ Oh, that our soul could grow/ to become as open"



MEIJI JINGU MAP



1-1 Yoyogi-Kamizono-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-8557, Japan

Telephone: 03-3379-5511 (Japanese)

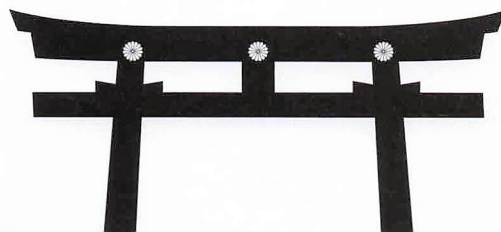
<https://www.meijijingu.or.jp/en/>

MEIJI JINGU

 真 心 敬 慕
 SINCERE HEART
 MAGOKORO


明治神宮

June - August 2024



WELCOME TO MEIJI JINGU!



Meiji Jingu is a Shinto shrine. Shinto is called Japan's ancient and 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. Meiji Jingu 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. Thanks to the sincere heart of the people, this shrine with the forest was established on November 1, 1920.

To create this forest, about 100,000 trees were donated from all over Japan, and planted by young volunteers. This forest was carefully planned to make 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.

Emperor Meiji (1852-1912) is the 122nd emperor of Japan, enthroned in 1867. (The current Emperor is the 126th.)

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 adopt Western culture and technology 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 fund, named after her "Empress Shoken Fund", to the International Red Cross, which is being used for international welfare activities until today.

Traditional manners at a shrine
(How to pay respect) ▶



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

WAKA POETRY

composed by Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken

They excelled in writing waka (traditional Japanese poems of 31 syllables). Their feelings towards the world, the country and the people, as well as ethical thoughts were expressed in their poems. Visitors can draw a poem from 30 selected poems with English translation from the "Omikuji" box near the main shrine building. [map④]

波風は
しづまりはて
よもの海に
てりこそわたれ
天つ日のかげ

*The wind and waves
have at last become serene
over all the seas;
so blaze across the oceans
oh brilliant shining sun!*

[Emperor Meiji]

すゑおきし
鏡わすれて
わがかげを
たれかとおもふ
時もありけり

*Having forgotten
our mirror had been placed there,
it happened that
we wondered who the person was
when viewing our own reflection.*

[Empress Shoken]

NATURE AT MEIJI JINGU

The Inner Garden (Gyoen) is the only part that had existed 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.



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, and they are in full bloom around the mid-June. There are about 150 species/1,500 roots with flowers. [map⑤]

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

Admission: ¥500 (as contribution for maintenance)

MEIJI JINGU MUSEUM

The Meiji Jingu Museum was opened to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of Meiji Jingu in 2020. It was designed by architect Kuma Kengo, who also designed Tokyo's New National Stadium. Wood is an important feature of Kuma's design, and this museum is no exception. The museum displays articles used by or associated with Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken in 3,200 square meters of display space spread over two floors. The museum holds exhibitions that aim to deepen understanding of Meiji Jingu and Japanese culture. [map⑫]

Hours: 10 am to 4:30 pm (last admission 4 pm)

Closed: Thursdays (open on Thursdays that fall on national holidays)

During exhibition installation

Admission: Adults: ¥1000/ High school students or younger: ¥900/ Groups of 20 or more: ¥900/ Preschool children: free