



## Enshrined Deity “Hachiman Kami”

Hachiman Kami is regarded as the protection deity of the warriors class, and refers to Emperor Ojin, Hime-gami, and Empress Jingu. Kami is the Japanese word for Shinto deities.

## History

Tsurugaoka Hachimangu was originally founded in 1063 by Minamoto no Yoriyoshi (988-1075), commander-in-chief of defence of the north, to offer thanks for success in suppressing a rebellion in the northwest of Japan.

The current shrine was built by Yoriyoshi's descendant, Minamoto no Yoritomo (1147-1199), head of the Minamoto clan, in 1191.

After the Minamoto won a decisive victory in their final battle against their arch-rival, the Taira clan in 1185, Yoritomo was appointed shogun in 1192, and established the Kamakura shogunate (1192-1333). This shifted the centre of Japanese politics from Kyoto to Kamakura and was the first samurai regime in Japanese history. He developed Kamakura as the capital city, and set Tsurugaoka Hachimangu in the centre of the city. Since then, the shrine played an important role not only as a religious authority where the shogunate held many majestic rituals, but also served as the political centre of the realm.

Today, Tsurugaoka Hachimangu is designated as a national historic site, attracting the respect and the faith of so many.

## Precinct Guide

1. Hongu [Main Shrine] 1828 \*
2. Wakamiya Shrine [Secondary Shrine] 1624 \*
5. Maiden/Shimohaiden [Lower Worship Hall] 1193
6. Shirahata-Jinja Shrine 1888
8. Hata-age Benzaiten Shrine
10. The Great Ginkgo's Stump and its Sapling
16. Yabusame Horse Track 1187
- 17.18. Genpei-Ike Pond 1182
20. Dankazura [Approachway] 1182
22. Shrine Museum
30. Peony Garden (Jan.-Feb., and Apr.-May) 1980
31. Tsurugaoka Museum, Kamakura 1951 \*
- 34.35.36.37. Cafeteria

\*Important Cultural Property

※These numbers correspond to numbers on the leaflet.

# *Goshuin* (Sacred Stamp)

## What is *Goshuin*?

*Goshuin* is a sacred seal that visitors receive as proof of their visit to a Shinto shrine or Buddhist temple.

Its origin is unclear, but the most widely accepted theory is that it came from pilgrims traveling to famous shrines and temples all over Japan in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. They received the seals when they dedicated a copy of a sutra. Originated in such a religious practice, *Goshuin* is different from commemorative stamps.

## How to Collect *Goshuin*?

We recommend to prepare *Goshuincho*, a special album book used to collect only *Goshuin*. Tsurugaoka Hachimangu offers 4 different design of *Goshuincho* or a separate sheets of paper.

Please refrain from using a regular notebook or scrap paper.

## How to Read *Goshuin*?

*Goshuin* is made up a combination of red stamps and Japanese calligraphy. Here is the design of *Goshuin* at Tsurugaoka Hachimangu.

