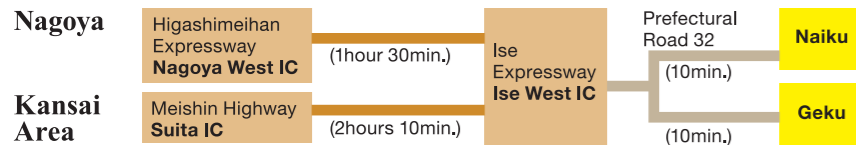


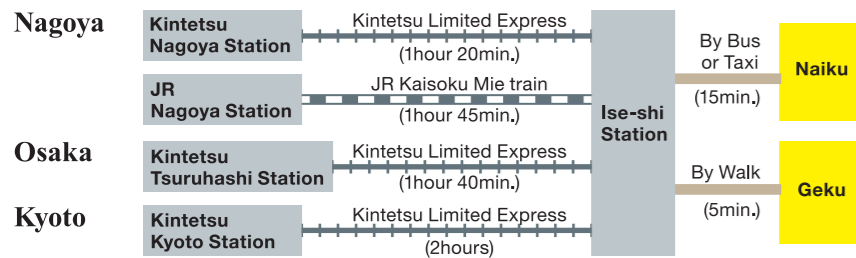
ACCESS TO JINGU



By Car



By Train



OPEN HOURS
 05:00 to 18:00 (January, February, March, April, and September)
 05:00 to 19:00 (May, June, July, and August)
 05:00 to 17:00 (October, November, and December)

Jingu-shicho (Jingu Administration Office)

1 Uji-tachi-cho, Ise-city, Mie pref.
 JAPAN 516-0023
 +81(0)596-24-1111

<http://www.isejingu.or.jp/>



JINGU

Ise Jingu, officially 'Jingu', includes 125 jinja (shinto shrine), centered around Kotaijingu (Naiku), dedicated to Amaterasu-omikami, and Toyo'uke-daijingu (Geku), dedicated to Toyo'uke-no-omikami. Its area is roughly the same size as Paris. More than 1,500 rituals are conducted here yearly to pray for the prosperity of the Imperial family, the peace of the world, and the huge harvest.

MAIN SANCTUARY



Kotaijingu(Naiku)



Aramatsuri-no-miya



Taka-no-miya



Tsukiyomi-no-miya



Toyo'uke-daijingu(Geku)



Amaterasu-omikami was originally worshipped in the Imperial Palace by successive Emperors of Japan. However, during the reign of the 10th Emperor Sujin, the Holy Mirror (the symbol of Amaterasu-omikami) was moved from the Imperial Palace. Then, during the reign of the 11th Emperor Suinin, the Emperor ordered his princess, Yamatohime-no-mikoto, to seek the most appropriate place to permanently enshrine and worship Amaterasu-omikami. After searching in many regions, finally the princess received a revelation that Amaterasu-omikami should be enshrined and worshipped eternally in Ise. It is approximately 2,000 years ago. In the era of the 21st Emperor Yuryaku, about 1,500 years ago, Toyo'uke-no-omikami was, in accordance with another revelation from Amaterasu-omikami, summoned from the north of Kyoto prefecture and enshrined in Ise.



HISTORY

RITUALS AT JINGU

Rituals and ceremonies of Jingu to pray for the prosperity of the Imperial family, the peace of the world, and the huge harvest, are performed by the priesthood of Jingu under the direction of Amaterasu-omikami's direct descendent, the Emperor. Thus these rituals and ceremonies conducted at Jingu can be referred to as the Imperial rituals.

These rituals are roughly divided into three groups. The first includes regularly conducted daily and annual rituals. The second are exceptional rituals, which are conducted on special occasions for the benefit of the Imperial Family, the nation, or Jingu. The third are rituals for Shikinen Sengu conducted every twenty years. For certain important rituals among these groups, the Emperor sends the Imperial Envoy to Jingu to dedicate textiles called heihaku.

Annual rituals are based on the cycle of rice cultivation. The most important ceremony of the year is Kanname-sai, during which Jingu priests offer the first rice of the year harvested in Jingu and dedicate a prayer of gratitude to Amaterasu-omikami for presenting the first rice to the terrestrial world through her grandson. At Kanname-sai, an ear of new rice grown by the Emperor is also dedicated to Amaterasu-omikami.

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ANNUAL RITUALS AT JINGU

Jan.1 Saitan-sai
Jan.3 Genshi-sai
Feb.11 Kenkoku-kinensai
Feb.17 Kinen-sai
May14 Kazahinomi-sai
May14 Kammiso-sai
Jun.15—Jun.25 Tsukinami-sai
Aug.4 Kazahinomi-sai
Oct.14 Kammiso-sai
Oct.15—Oct.25 Kanname-sai



Nov.23—Nov.29 Niiname-sai
Dec.15—Dec.25 Tsukinami-sai
Dec.23 Tencho-sai

Everyday Higoto-asa-yu-omike-sai



SHIKINEN SENGU

Every twenty years, a new divine palace with the same dimensions as the current one is constructed at an alternate site which is adjacent to the main sanctuary. The sacred apparel, furnishings and divine treasures to be placed inside the sacred palace are also remade. Once they are prepared, the Holy Mirror (a symbol of Amaterasu-omikami) is moved to the new sanctuary by the Jingu priests. This ritual is called Shikinen Sengu. It takes about eight years to conduct all rituals and events for Shikinen Sengu. It is carried out at Geku and other jinja of Jingu as well.

The first Shikinen Sengu of Naiku was conducted in 690, in the era of the 41st Emperor Jito. The latest Shikinen Sengu conducted in 2013 was sixty-second.



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