

Temples and Shrines in Yamanashi



永泰寺 Eitai-ji Temple

Wooden Buddha Statue

Enshrined at Eitai-ji Temple in Furuseki, Kofu City, this wooden statue is notable for the beauty of its figure and the elegant lines of its clothing.

This prefecture designated cultural asset is only available for public viewing once a year — during the annual "Flower Festival" on April 8.

In Yamanashi, there are a number of historical and picturesque Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, including beautiful traditional monasteries and gardens with flowers blooming from season to season. Why not visit Shinto shrines and temples that can be called the spiritual home of the Japanese people.



金櫻神社

Kanazakura-jinja Shrine

Ukon-no-Sakura, the golden cherry blossom tree

The golden cherry blossom tree at Kanazakura-jinja Shrine near Yamanashi's major scenic spot, Shosenkyo, produces gold-tinged flowers. It is said that you will be blessed with luck and money throughout your life if you pray while this tree is in bloom.

Cover photo

甲斐善光寺 Kai-Zenko-ji Temple

This is the Sanmon temple gate. Zenkoji Temple in Kofu City is a large building that was moved from Nagano to Yamanashi by Takeda Shingen, the great commander of the Sengoku Period, to avoid it being damaged by the war. The large, vermilion lacquered Sanmon gate and Kondo, the inner temple, are majestic.

The Legend of the Lake: Was the Kofu Basin a Lake?

Yamanashi is surrounded on all sides by high mountains, including Mt. Fuji and Mt. Yatsugatake. The Kofu Basin is said to have been flooded in ancient times. Inazumi Jizo, a bodhisattva, suggested to his God: "If the water is drained off, fertile land should appear." So, Anagiri Myojin, a Shinto God, made a hole in the mountain, Kesaku Myojin kicked out rocks, and Sedachi Fudo, the Wisdom King Acala, created a river to channel the water away. This was how the water from the Kofu Basin was drained so that the people could live in prosperity.

The "Legend of the Lake" has several variations; so two Shinto Gods and two Buddhist figures are worshipped at Anagiri-jinja Shrine and Saku-jinja Shrine in Kofu City. also Kaina-jinja Shrine in Kofu City holds a document concerning drainage works undertaken in Kai Province, today's Yamanashi.

穴切大神社 Anagiri-Daijinja Shrine



佐久神社 Saku-jinja Shrine



甲斐奈神社 Kaina-jinja Shrine



円光院 Enko-in Temple

Enko-in Temple in Spring
Enko-in Temple stands on a hill overlooking Kofu City. Takeda Shingen's legal wife, Sanjo, is buried here and the spot is a prefecture designated historical site.



円楽寺 Enraku-ji Temple

Statue of En no Ozunu

An outstanding statue enshrined at Enraku-ji Temple in Ubaguchi-cho, Kofu City. Previously enshrined at the second station of Mt. Fuji, it is an ancient statue deeply connected to worship of the mountain and is a prefecture designated cultural property. It is rare to see an En no Ozunu statue with a bent leg. Reservations are necessary for viewing.



Daijingu Festival

On Setsubun, the day before the beginning of spring, on February 3, the Daijingu Festival is held at Yokokinju Daijingu Shrine and Yanagimachi Daijingu Shrine. Since olden times, it has been called "Daijin-san" as a coming-of-spring festival. Many stalls are set out, and a bean-scattering ceremony to hit ogres is performed. The venue is thronged by people who come to pray for business prosperity, peace and household prosperity, from early evening until well into the night.

柳町大神宮 Yanagimachi Daijingu Shrine



横近習大神宮 Yokokinju Daijingu Shrine



山梨岡神社

Yamanashi Oka-jinja Shrine

Wisteria

At the beginning of May, wisteria flowers bloom and cover the premises. You can get to Yamanashi Oka-jinja shrine, a Fuefuki City designated natural monument, via 20-minute Isawa-Onsen Station, which is famous for Isawa Onsen Hot Spring in Fuefuki City.



Origin of the Prefecture Name and the Mysterious Image of a Deity

Yamanashi Oka-jinja Shrine was established on the Mimuroyama mountainside by imperial order more than 2,000 years ago, when the area was hit by a plague and frequent disasters. Later, it was moved to the foot of the mountain after removing the Yamanashi, or mountain pear trees; hence, the name Yamanashi Oka-jinja Shrine. It is said that the name of the prefecture is derived from that shrine (there are numerous stories about the origin of Yamanashi Prefecture). A strange image of a deity, Kinokami, is enshrined at this shrine, which is the only place in Japan where this deity's likeness can be found. It has a cow-like body, with no horns, is colored green and has one leg. It is said that Kinokami possesses the power to protect people against being struck by lightning and to ward off evil spirits.



"Yamanashi-gun Yamanashi Oka-jinja Shrine Kinokami no Zu" Yamanashi Prefectural Museum

慈雲寺 Jiun-ji Temple

Itozakura, weeping cherry tree

The temple of flowers, Jiun-ji Temple's Itozakura, is said to be 300 years old, and it is a natural monument of Yamanashi. Jiun-ji Temple was established around 1340 and there used to be a school in the premises.



放光寺 Hoko-ji Temple

Seated statue of Aizen Myoo

Important cultural property held in the treasury. This statue was created in the Heian Period and is considered to be the oldest of all Aizen Myoo statues in Japan. Aizen Myoo is a Buddha who delivers love and good fortune to people using a bow and arrow and it is said that it possesses the divine power to help requite love.



菅田天神社 Kandaten-jinja Shrine

Zuishinmon Gate

Although it is located in the city area of Enzan, Koshu-City, Kandaten-jinja Shrine has a tranquil atmosphere. It stores the treasures of the family of the military commander, Takeda Shingen, including the "Tatenashi Armor."

宝鏡寺 Hokyo-ji Temple

Hylomecon

From the end of April through early May, colonies of "forest poppy" flourish simultaneously in the broad area of the mountain behind the precincts. You can climb the mountain from the right-hand side of the temple's main hall.



保福寺 Hofuku-ji Temple

Main Hall

The main hall was newly constructed in 2011. A group of huge buildings like this is unique in the prefecture.



In ancient times, Mt. Fuji was an active volcano which emitted large volumes of smoke. The inhabitants of the area at that time believed that an eruption of Mt. Fuji represented the anger of a god, and they built a shrine to calm the deity's heart. The goddess, Konohanasakuya Hime, who appears in Japanese

myths, became pregnant to her husband, Ninigi-no-Mikoto on their wedding night. Hime became angry with Ninigi-no-Mikoto, who was suspicious as to the identity of the baby's father. He entered the delivery room, which had no exit, and



Savage Grace, The Goddess of Mt. Fuji, Princess, Konohanasakuya Hime

started a fire saying, "The babies should be born safely, if their father is a god," and delivered three children amid the flames. Later, Konohanasakuya Hime became the deity of Mt. Fuji, the beautiful Goddess of Fire.

北口本宮富士浅間神社

Kitaguchihongu Fujisengen-jinja Shrine

Honden, Main Shrine

The Honden main shrine, glowing with bright colors, was repaired in 2009. The enshrined deity is Konohanasakuya Hime-no-Mikoto. The original shrine was built here 1,900 years ago. The "Yoshida Fire Festival," which takes place on August 26-27 each year is a big event. It is a National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property.



根古屋神社

Negoya-jinja Shrine

Large Zelkova Tree

The shrine was established to protect the castle built by an ancestor of Takeda Shingen. In the precincts are two huge zelkova trees named "Tagi" and "Hatagi," which are said to be one thousand and several hundred years old. In olden times, the local people guessed how rich or poor the harvest would be for the year by how early these trees budded in spring. If "Tagi" budded first, there would be good rice harvest; if "Hatagi" was earlier, there would be good field-crop harvest. The two trees have been designated as a National Natural Monument.





実相寺 Jisso-ji Temple

Jindai Zakura
Jisso-ji Temple in Mukawa-cho Hokuto City, has a 640-year history. The “Yamataka Jindai Zakura” in the precincts is a cherry blossom tree said to be more than 2,000 years old, and it is a national designated natural monument. Many people visit to enjoy the blossom in Spring.

妙法寺

Myoho-ji Temple

Hydrangea in the Precincts

Approximately 20,000 hydrangeas planted around the precincts bloom in June, when the annual "Hydrangea Festival" is held.



氷室神社

Himuro-jinja Shrine

Stone Stairway Approach to the Shrine

Himuro-jinja Shrine is located on the southern side of Mt. Kushigata. It is said to have been founded 1,200 years ago, and the Takeda clan worshipped here from generation to generation. The 575 stone steps continue endlessly from the Torii gate at the entrance.



方外院 Hogai-in Temple

Senbiki Ema, Votive Tablet of a Thousand Horses

Hogai-in Temple was built in 1362 on the shore of Lake Motosuko and later moved. At the entrance to the main temple hangs “Senbiki Ema,” the votive tablet of a thousand horses, 2 m high and 20 m wide. An old man who was grieving over the bad rice harvest prayed to the Kannon of the temple and then had a dream telling him “The spirits of horses eat rice. Each person should dedicate a horse.” Therefore, this votive tablet was dedicated, and the locals had good harvests from the very next year.



明王寺 Myoo-ji Temple

Saito Goma Prayer (sacred bonfire with brushwood)

Myou-ou-ji Temple in Fujikawa Town was established in 770. The ritual of Saito Goma (sacred bonfire with brushwood) and firewalking took place during the 1,230th Founding Anniversary Festival, which was held in 2000. The next one is scheduled for 2020, at the 1,250th Founding Anniversary Festival.



Saint Nichiren thinking about his parents

Go to the mountaintop via the Minobusan Ropeway from Kuon-ji Temple. Okuno-in Shishinkaku Temple is a sacred spot where Saint Nichiren used to think about his parents who were living far away. Saint Nichiren was born in 1222 in what is now Kamogawa City, Chiba. He became a priest at 12 years of age; however, it was revealed to him that the essence of Buddhism was Hokke-kyo, the Lotus Sutra, after which he changed his name to Nichiren and began propagating the Lotus Sutra.

However, since his preaching was not accepted by the Kamakura Shogunate, he went to Mt. Minobu after repeated persecutions, and devoted himself to the education of his disciples. Nichiren lived in Minobu for nine years. During that time, it is said that he used to leave his thatched hut thinking about his hometown and climb to the mountaintop, where he would cherish the memory of his parents while looking in the direction of their faraway home. (See back cover.)

■ National and Prefecture Designated Cultural Property ■ Fees, Other
● Numbers are for the map on Page 26.

- Cover**
- 1 Kai-Zenko-ji Temple** 3-36-1 Zenkoji, Kofu-shi
☎055(233)7570
■ 5 Important Cultural Properties, 4 Prefecture Designated Cultural Properties
■ For the inner temple and the treasure hall 500 yen
 - 2 Eitai-ji Temple** 1555 Furusekimachi, Kofu-shi
☎0555(88)2205
■ 1 Prefecture Designated Cultural Properties ■ Contribution
 - 3 Kanazakura-jinja Shrine** 2347 Mitake-cho, Kofu-shi
☎055(287)2011
■ 4 Prefecture Designated Cultural Properties ■ Contribution
 - 4 Anagiri-Daijinja Shrine** 2-8-5 Takara, Kofu-shi
☎055(222)3852
■ 1 Important Cultural Properties ■ Contribution
 - 5 Kaina-jinja Shrine** 3-7-11 Chuo, Kofu-shi
☎055(233)4742
■ Contribution
 - 6 Saku-jinja Shrine** 892 Shimomukoyama-cho, Kofu-shi
■ Contribution
 - 7 Enko-in Temple** 500-1 Iwakubo-cho, Kofu-shi
☎055(253)8144
■ 1 Prefecture Designated Historic Site ■ Contribution
 - 8 Enraku-ji Temple** 4104 Ubaguchi-cho, Kofu-shi
☎055(266)4018
■ 1 Prefecture Designated Cultural Properties ■ Contribution
 - 9 Yanagimachi Daijingu Shrine, Yokokinju Daijingu Shrine** 4-5-28 Chuo, Kofu-shi
2-chome Chuo, Kofu-shi
■ Contribution, no parking lot
 - 10 Yamanashi Oka-jinja Shrine** 1696 Shizume, Kasugai-cho, Fuefuki-shi
■ 1 Important Cultural Properties ■ Contribution
 - 11 Jiun-ji Temple** 352 Nakahagiwara, Enzan, Koshu-shi
☎0553(33)9039
■ 1 Prefecture Designated Natural Monument ■ Contribution

Tourist Attraction

Shosenkyo Gorge
(Kofu City)

Shosenkyo Gorge features numerous impressively-shaped rocks and is one of the major tourist spots in Yamanashi. Please enjoy the beauty of the gorge at Sengataki Falls.



Yamanashi Arts Park
(Kofu City)

Park consists of The art museum features the works of Millet of the Barbizon School.



Yamanashi Local Industry Center Kaiterasu
(Kofu City)

Yamanashi's traditional handicrafts, such as jewelry and food concoctions are exhibited and sold here. Admission is free.



Fuefukigawa Fruit Park (Yamanashi City)



The Kudamono Hiroba (fruit square) under a glass dome is also used for events and concerts. In the Kudamono-kan in the basement, fruits from Yamanashi are on display. It has been nominated as one of Japan's Best Night Views.

- 12 Hoko-ji Temple** 2438 Fujiki, Enzan, Koshu-shi
☎0553(32)3340
■ 4 Important Cultural Properties, 2 Prefecture Designated Cultural Properties
■ Contribution
- 13 Kandaten-jinja Shrine** 1054 Kamiozo, Enzan, Koshu-shi
☎0553(33)4006
■ 1 National Treasure, 1 Prefecture Designated Natural Monument
■ Contribution, no parking lot
- 14 Hokyō-ji Temple** 1047 Katsura-machi, Tsuru-shi
☎0554(43)4459
■ Contribution
- 15 Hofuku-ji Temple** 3400 Uenohara, Uenohara-shi
☎0554(63)0620
■ 1 Prefecture Designated Cultural Property ■ Contribution
- 16 Kitaguchihongu Fujisengen-jinja Shrine** 5558 Kamiyoshida, Fujiyoshida-shi
☎0555(22)0221
■ 4 Important Cultural Properties, 7 Prefecture Designated Cultural Properties,
1 Prefecture Designated Natural Monument ■ Contribution
- 17 Negoya-jinja Shrine** 5336 Egusa, Sutama-cho, Hokuto-shi
■ 1 National Natural Monument ■ Contribution
- 18 Jisso-ji Temple** 2763 Yamataka, Mukawa-cho, Hokuto-shi
☎0551(26)2740
■ 1 National Natural Monument ■ Contribution
- 19 Myoho-ji Temple** 3063 Komuro, Fujikawa-cho, Minamikoma-gun
☎0556(22)0034
■ 1 Prefecture Designated Cultural Property ■ Contribution
- 20 Himuro-jinja Shrine** 3334 Hirabayashi, Fujikawa-cho, Minamikoma-gun
■ 1 Prefecture Designated Natural Monument ■ Contribution
- 21 Hogai-in Temple** 135 Seto, Minobu-cho, Minamikoma-gun
☎0556(38)0040
■ 1 Prefecture Designated Cultural Property ■ Contribution
- 22 Myoo-ji Temple** 2 Tsukiyone, Fujikawa-cho, Minamikoma-gun
☎0556(22)1283
■ 2 Important Cultural Properties, 1 Prefecture Designated Cultural Property ■ Contribution
- 23 Minobusan Kuon-ji Temple** 3567 Minobu, Minobu-cho, Minamikoma-gun
☎0556(62)1011
■ 1 National Treasure, 3 Important Cultural Properties, 8 Prefecture Designated Cultural Properties, 1 Prefecture Designated Historic Site, 2 Prefecture Designated Natural Monuments ■ Treasure Hall General 300 yen

Tourist Attraction

Nishizawa Gorge
(Yamanashi City)

Featuring a series of stunning waterfalls and valleys, including the "Nanatsugama-Godano-Taki," which roughly translates into "Seven-pot and five-step waterfalls. You can do a round-trip on a walking path in about four hours.



One of Japan's 3 Unique Bridges, Saruhashi, Monkey Bridge
(Otsuki City)

A bridge with a very rare structure supported by four layers of square logs called "hanegi" instead of girders. One of Japan's Three Unique Bridges and also a National Site of Scenic Beauty.



Oshino Hakkai, Springs of Mt. Fuji
(Oshino Village)

Melted snow from Mt. Fuji takes several decades to emerge from eight springs. The transparent water is beautiful.



Heidi's Village
(Hokuto City)

Roses and tulips bloom beautifully under the longest daylight hours in Japan, Bloom in profusion. There are also some excellent restaurants.



Shimobe Onsen Hot Spring (Minobu Town)

This is hot-spring village in the mountains. This is the hot spring which Takeda Shingen, the legendary warlord, and samurai warriors visited in order to heal their battle wounds.



Please read:

*The contents of this brochure include events and stories based on myths.

*The information is up-to-date as of December 2015. Some information, such as entrance fees, may change, and some facilities may be unavailable due to temporary closure, etc. Please check in advance.

*There are Buddhist or Shinto statues or sections of buildings that are not usually open to the public. Please check beforehand.

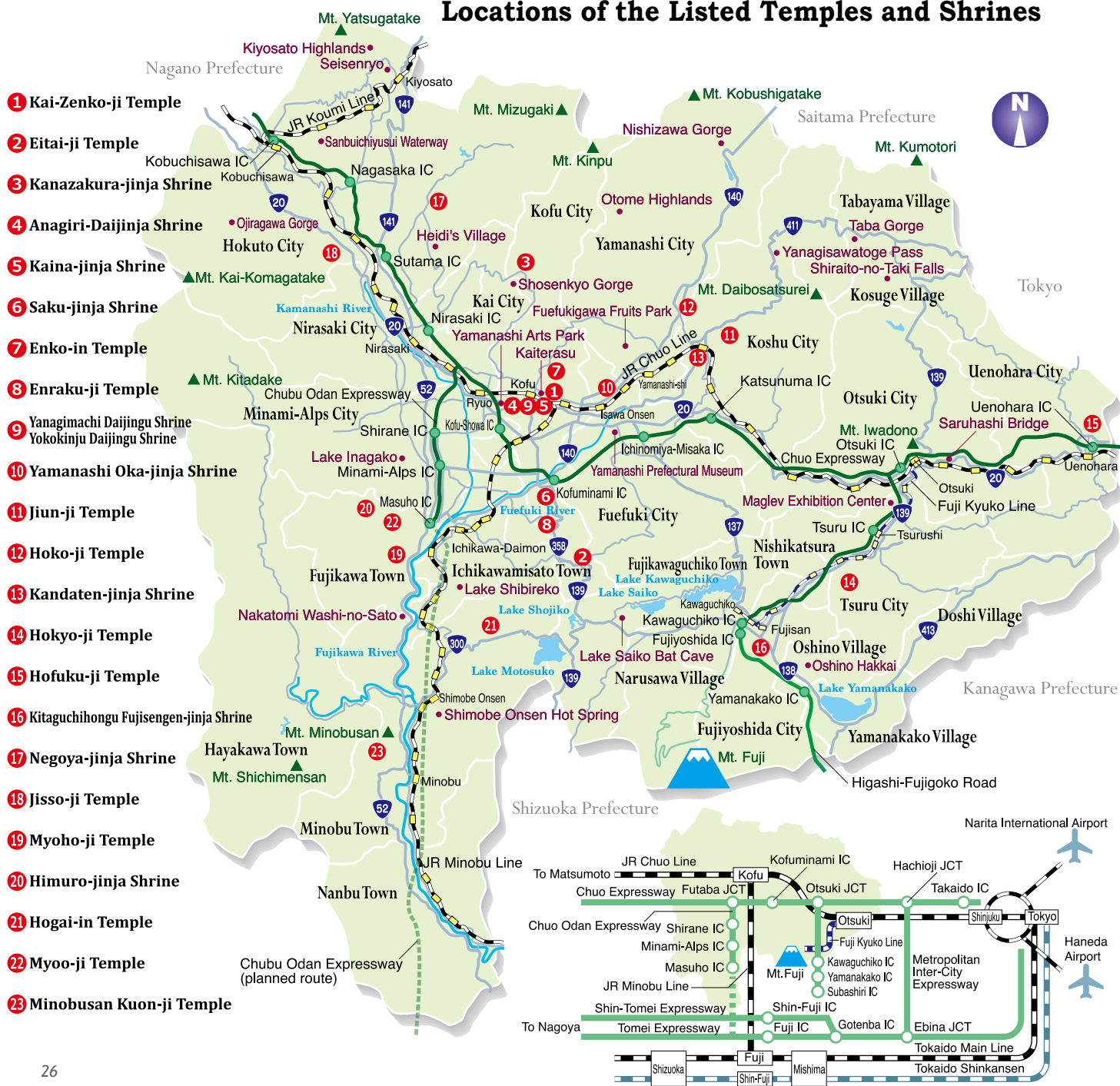
*The precincts of temples and shrines are sacred domains, not sightseeing facilities. Please be respectful while visiting them.

*The photos posted here may look different from the actual

spots. Also, some of the sceneries described in articles or shown in photos may not be available to see due to weather conditions, etc.

*Please be aware, in advance, that the Yamanashi Tourism Organization will not accept liability for any problems or harm that might arise out of the contents of this brochure.

Locations of the Listed Temples and Shrines



Visiting the Shrines and Temples

The precincts of temples and shrines are sacred, and not sightseeing facilities. When entering temples and shrines, please show respect by observing the custom of bowing at the Sanmon or the Torii gate.

There are some exceptions; however, the following activities are prohibited in most temples and shrines.

● **Smoking** ● **Drinking** ● **Shouting in loud voices**

Please visit quietly and feel the eternity.

● **Taking photographs in prohibited areas.**

Please pay attention to the posted signs and do not take photographs in prohibited areas. Some areas prohibit using a flash. In addition, do not swing a selfie-stick around – you might hurt someone.

● **Entering buildings without permission**

You may not enter buildings without permission unless otherwise posted.

● **Touching historic remains and exhibits**

A number of the buildings and treasures are more than 1,000 years old. Please refrain from touching in order to avoid damaging them.

● **Keeping reservations**

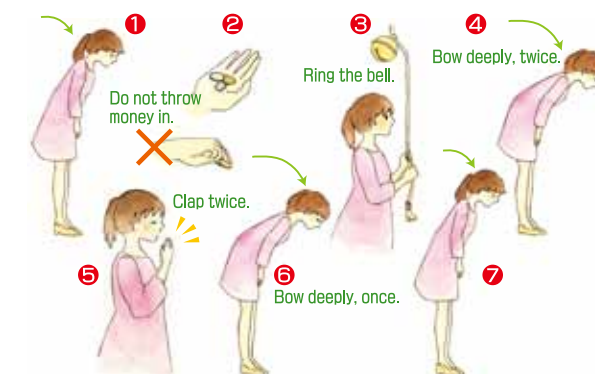
If you have made a reservation to visit, please arrive on time.

<Visiting Jinja shrines>

● **Customs at Chozuya (purification font usually consisting of a stone water basin)**



● **It is customary to bow twice, clap twice, and bow once**



<Visiting temples>

① Bow at the Sanmon gate, rinse your hands and mouth at the Temizuya to purify. (same as for shrines)

② As you enter the main temple, make a money offering, bang the gong, bow, and pray with both hands together in front of your chest. When you have said your prayer, bow again. Joining your palms together means becoming one with Buddha. In shrines, you do not clap your hands.

Customs may differ by temple or shrine.

Illustrated by Yui Fujimoto



身延山久遠寺

Minobusan Kuon-ji Temple

Five-Storyed Pagoda

Minobusan Kuon-ji Temple is the head temple of the Nichiren sect of Buddhism, one of the major Buddhist sects of Japan. A number of structures, including the Sanmon gate, the Five-storyed Pagoda and the Buddhist Sanctum, are located around the vast precincts, and there is the Treasure Hall in the basement of Hondo, the main temple. You can reach the peak by the ropeway.

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