



Musashi-Mitake-jinja Shrine Website

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# Musashi-Mitake-jinja Shrine

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Sanctuaire Musashi-Mitake-jinja  
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Kuil Musashi-Mitake-jinja  
Đền Musashi-Mitake-jinja  
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ศาลเจ้ามุซาซิมิตาเกจินจา

## 武蔵御嶽神社

English

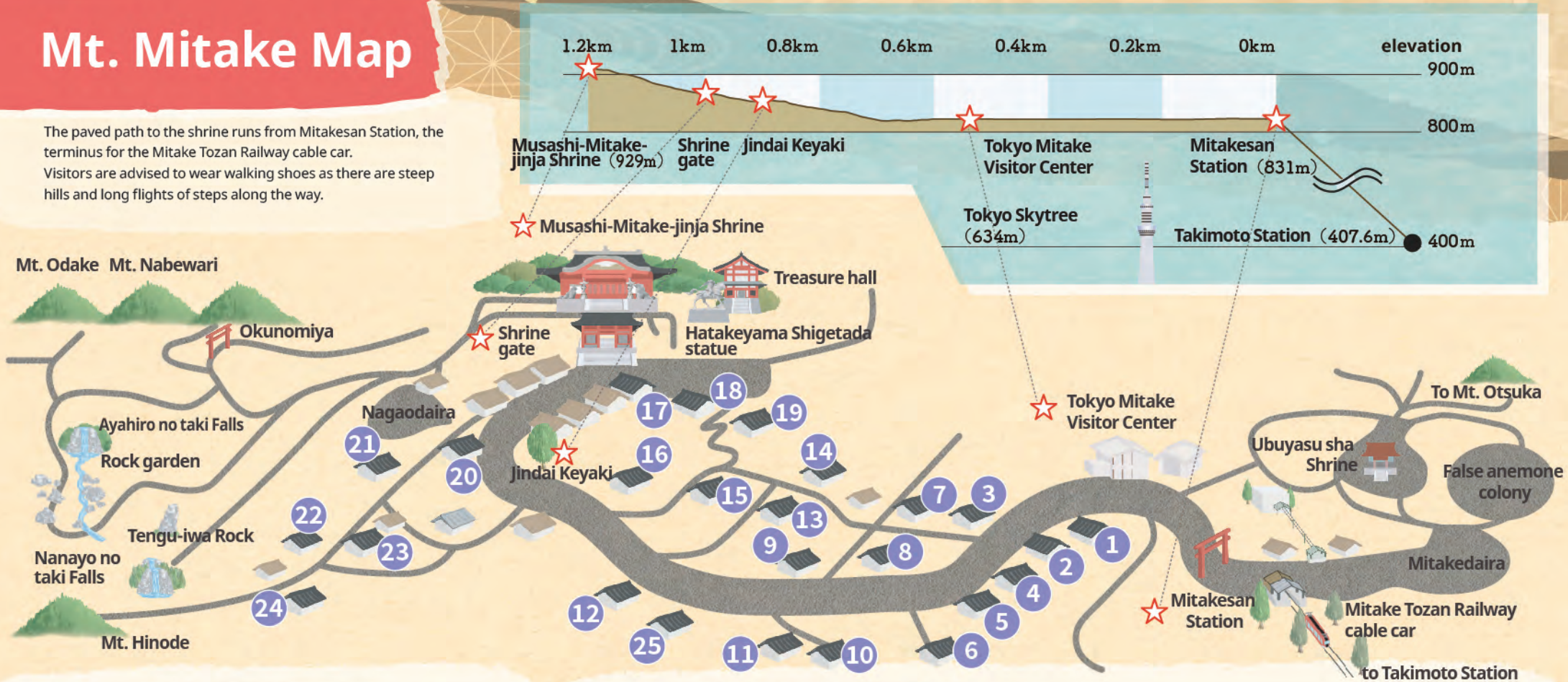


## A shrine in the sky that has watched over Musashi Province since ancient times

Musashi-Mitake-jinja Shrine is found at the top of Mt. Mitake. Mt. Mitake offers panoramic views of Musashi Province and has been worshiped since ancient times as a sacred mountain. A central location for the mountain-worshiping Shugen sect, it attracted powerful samurai believers from Kamakura to Edo. The mountain also had many followers among the common folk, who worshiped it as a god that offered bountiful harvests and protection from various disasters. Oguchimagami, a deified Japanese wolf, is known widely as Oinusama, and today it also attracts many dog-loving worshippers. The path leading up to the shrine retains its appearance from days gone by, and visitors can have their hearts cleansed by immersing themselves in the wealth of nature.

# Mt. Mitake Map

The paved path to the shrine runs from Mitakesan Station, the terminus for the Mitake Tozan Railway cable car. Visitors are advised to wear walking shoes as there are steep hills and long flights of steps along the way.



## Guesthouses

- |                 |                 |                   |                                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Seizan-zo     | 10 Akiyama-so   | 19 Yamanaka-so    | <b>[Guesthouses in Takimoto]</b> |
| 2 Usuboya-so    | 11 Fujimoto-so  | 20 Machikubota    |                                  |
| 3 Maruyama-so   | 12 Nobori       | 21 Komadorisan-so |                                  |
| 4 Katayanagi-so | 13 Ikoisan-so   | 22 Hojukaku       |                                  |
| 5 Tonari-so     | 14 Usuboya      | 23 Nanzan-so      |                                  |
| 6 Takana-so     | 15 Mitakesan-so | 24 Sanraku-so     |                                  |
| 7 Higashibaba   | 16 Sanko-so     | 25 Hayashi-ke     | 1 Kodaka-ke                      |
| 8 Reiun-so      | 17 Kuraya       |                   | 2 Kitajima-ke (Nishi-kitajima)   |
| 9 Harashima-so  | 18 Machiya      |                   | 3 Kitajima-ke (Niya)             |
|                 |                 |                   | 4 Aoki-ke                        |
|                 |                 |                   | 5 Amano-ke                       |
|                 |                 |                   | 6 Shimoda-ke                     |

## Access to Musashi-Mitake-jinja Shrine

### [By public transport]

JR Ome Line: JR Tachikawa Station → JR Ome Station → Get off at JR Mitake Station → Nishi Tokyo Bus: JR Mitake Station → Get off at Cable-shita → Mitake Tozan Railway cable car: Takimoto Station → Get off at Mitakesan Station → Around 25 minutes on foot

### [By car]

- Exit No. 2 of Hachioji Interchange on Chuo Expressway - Drive toward Ome on National Highway 411 → Around 50 minutes  
- Drive toward Okutama on Ome Kaido from Ome Interchange on Ken-O Expressway → Around 40 minutes  
There is a car park near Takimoto Station, which serves the Mitake Tozan Railway cable car.



Musashi-Mitake-jinja Shrine

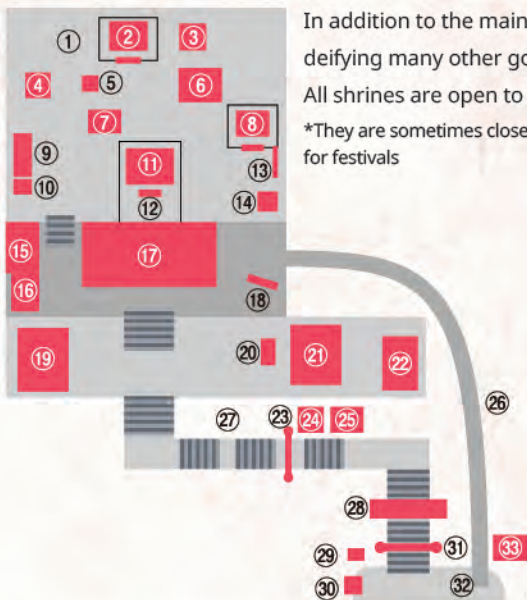
# Grounds of Musashi-Mitake-jinja Shrine

- 1 Okumiya Yohaijo
- 2 Ohokuchimagamisha Shrine
- 3 Futomani Saijo
- 4 Kitanosha Shrine
- 5 Kofukusha Shrine
- 6 Tokihakakihasha Shrine (former main shrine)
- 7 Shinmeisha Shrine
- 8 Sumemimano-mikotosha Shrine
- 9 Yahashirasha Shrine
- 10 Futahashirasha Shrine
- 11 Main shrine
- 12 Chumon Gate and Ishinoma
- 13 Shinzan Reidokahi Monument
- 14 Toshosha Shrine
- 15 Kaguraden Hall
- 16 Shinpu juyosho
- 17 Hall of offerings and hall of worship
- 18 Monument with list of donors
- 19 Shrine office
- 20 Hatakeyama Shigetada statue
- 21 Treasure hall
- 22 Former treasure hall
- 23 Kane-no Torii Gate
- 24 Mihashirasha Shrine
- 25 Inarisha Shrine
- 26 Onnazaka Hill
- 27 Kiri-no Misaka
- 28 Shrine gate
- 29 Hososha Shrine
- 30 Chozuya
- 31 Otorii Gate
- 32 Torii-mae Plaza
- 33 Restrooms

In addition to the main shrine and hall of worship, there are shrines deifying many other gods within the grounds.

All shrines are open to visitors from 9 A.M. until 4 P.M.

\*They are sometimes closed for festivals



## 11 Main shrine

The main shrine, which is thought to display the oldest architectural style, was built in 1878.



## 2 Ohokuchimagamisha Shrine

Known as Oinusama, the shrine wards off evil and bad luck.



## 6 Tokihakakihasha Shrine (former main shrine)

This is the former main shrine, reconstructed by Okubo Iwaminokamio Nagayasu, who was assigned to the Construction Bureau by Tokugawa Ieyasu in 1606. It was renovated in 1700 by the fifth shogun, Tsunayoshi. Two-and-a-half centuries later, in November 1952, it was designated a tangible cultural property by the Tokyo government.

## 8 Sumemimano-mikotosha Shrine

This was originally a Toshi-sha Shrine deifying Tokugawa Ieyasu, so it is decorated with many crests of *mitsuba-aoi* (three leaves of hollyhock).



## 14 Toshosha Shrine

Lord Tokugawa Ieyasu is the enshrined deity here. The door is decorated with his family crest of *mitsuba-aoi* (three leaves of hollyhock).



## 5 Kofukusha Shrine

It is believed that taking home soil from the grounds of this shrine and sprinkling it over a field will protect it from noxious insects. Soil is available from the *shinpu juyosho*, a place on the premises where good luck charms are handed out.



## 13 Shinzan Reidokahi Monument

This monument bears an inscription stating that "the spiritual power of the soil from this sacred mountain will protect crops from insects."



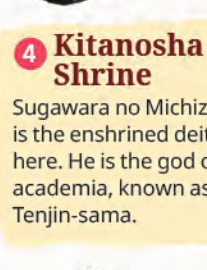
## 28 Shrine gate

The shrine gate has been coated with bright lacquer. This was a Buddhist Nio-mon gate, until the separation of Shinto from Buddhism in 1868, which led to the separation of god from Buddha and the separation of shrines from temples.



## 17 Hall of offerings and hall of worship

The lacquered hall of worship has a gabled, hipped roof, with a *karabisashi* pent roof above the stairs. In 1606, Tokugawa Ieyasu is said to have ordered the reconstruction of this hall of worship so that it would face eastward and thus provide protection from evil on the western side of Edo. It continues to watch over Tokyo to this day.



## 4 Kitanosha Shrine

Sugawara no Michizane is the enshrined deity here. He is the god of academia, known as Tenjin-sama.



## 7 Shinmeisha Shrine

This shrine deifies a divine spirit of Ise known as Shinmei-sama.



## 9 Yahashirasha Shrine

There are eight shrines here, including Kasugasha Shrine, Hachimansha Shrine, Kokahisha Shrine, Yagumosha Shrine, Igazurisha Shrine, Tsukinoshita Shrine, Kuninomiya-kosha Shrine and Hasshinsha Shrine.



## 10 Futahashirasha Shrine

Deified here are the first husband and wife gods of Japanese mythology, who are worshipped as ancestors of life.



## 25 Inarisha Shrine

# The history of Musashi-Mitake-jinja Shrine



This shrine is said to have been founded during Emperor Sujin's reign. The sacred mountain has been worshiped since ancient times.

It came to be known widely as the center of Zao faith in the eastern provinces after a statue of Zao Gongen was enshrined here in 736 to provide protection and stability to the nation.

Many military commanders have been believers since the Kamakura period. As a result, a large number of votive offerings of armor, saddles and swords have been deposited here across the years.

Legend has it that Oguchimagami was enshrined at Musashi-Mitake-jinja Shrine as a god who

protects the mountain after a white wolf guided Yamato Takeru to safety when he had lost his way. Since then, the wolf has been known as Oinusama and is worshiped as a divinity who protects farmers and wards off disasters.

During the Edo period, low-ranking priests went around handing out good luck charms with pictures of Oinusama, thus spreading the Mitake faith throughout the Kanto area.

\*In 1874, the name was changed from Mitake Zao Gongen to Mitake-jinja Shrine. In 1952, it was renamed Musashi-Mitake-jinja Shrine, the name it bears today.



# Festivals and events at Musashi-Mitake-jinja Shrine

Visitors may attend or take part in some of the festivals and events that take place here.  
Check with the shrine office for more details.

Gantan-sai Festival (January 1)

Futomani-sai Festival (not open to the public) (January 3)

Setsubun-sai Festival (day of Setsubun in February)

Shunki Taisai Festivals (March 8)

Hono-kendo (April 29)

Hinode-sai Festival (May 7 and 8)

Daidaikagura Dance (June - November)

E.g., the 4th Sunday of every month:  
Performance of the Daidaikagura Dance,  
open to the general public (eight times a year).

Nagoshi-no Oharae (June 30)

Yabusame-shiriji (September 29)

Shuki Taisai Festivals (November 8)



## Gantan-sai Festival

January 1

New Year's Day festival to pray for health and happiness over the coming year, including household safety, prosperity in business and protection from misfortune.

## Setsubun-sai Festival

day of Setsubun in February

Beans are scattered from the hall of worship to expel evil spirits and pray for good health over the year.

## Futomani-sai Festival

January 3(not open to the public)

This is a Shinto ritual in which the shoulder blade of a doe is roasted. The cracks that appear in it are used to forecast how successful the harvest will be that year.

## Shunki Shuki Taisai Festivals

March 8 / November 8

Traditional rituals are held with performances of Kagura Dances and three-flute-three-drum Japanese court music.



## Hinode-sai Festival

May 7 and 8

This is the shrine's most elegant festival. A procession of Shinyotogyo, armored samurai and children walk along the path to the shrine.

## Hono-kendo

April 29

A grand kendo tournament held in the Otorii-mae Plaza in front of the shrine, associated with Kaizan Nakazato's novel *Daibosatsu-toge*.

## Daidaikagura Dance

June - November

Kagura is a dance offered to god, and it is the most formal way of worshipping god. The history of this dance extends back over 200 years.



## Nagoshi-no Oharae

June 30

A reed hoop big enough for people to walk through is set up. Those who pass through it are said to be purified by the ritual.

## Yabusame-shinji

September 29

This is not the same as the normal Yabusame, but is rather a Shinto ritual carried out by lighting a pair of bonfires in the evening.