

Birthplace of Shrine Temple A Strolling Map of Usa Jingu Shrine and Surrounding Area

Sotoshu sect.
A seated statue of Yakushi Nyorai in the Zendo hall has been designated a national important cultural property. This statue was moved from the main hall of Mirokuji Temple at Usa Jingu Shrine when Shinto and Buddhism were separated during the Meiji period (1868-1912). The temple also enshrines statues of the Nikko and Gekko bodhisattvas and others.



Daizenji Temple

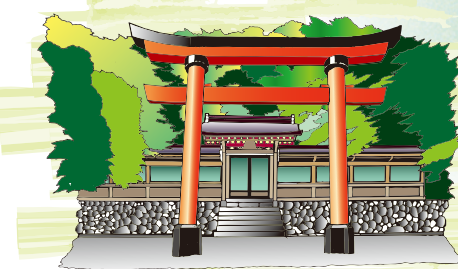
Kure Bridge

This gorgeous bridge features a Karaha-style roof covered with cypress bark, similar to the one on the main sanctuary at Usa Jingu Shrine. It has been designated by Oita Prefecture as a tangible cultural property. The bridge was originally built to lead to the Nio-mon Gate of Mirokuji Temple. The bridge's gate opens once every 10 years for the festival of Imperial envoy.



Usa Jingu Shrine

Usa Jingu Shrine is the head shrine of all Hachiman shrines in Japan. It is famous for being the origin of the Mikoshi, a form of portable shrine, and the syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism. The latter is evident in the Hojoe ritual, which was first performed to commemorate the suppression of the Hayato People's uprising of and the building of Mirokuji temple on the shrine grounds. Ninmon-Bosatsu, who is said to have been an incarnation of the Hachiman Deity, built many temples and spread Buddhist culture throughout the Kunisaki Peninsula. Let's take a relaxing stroll around these spiritual places and feel the history of Usa City.

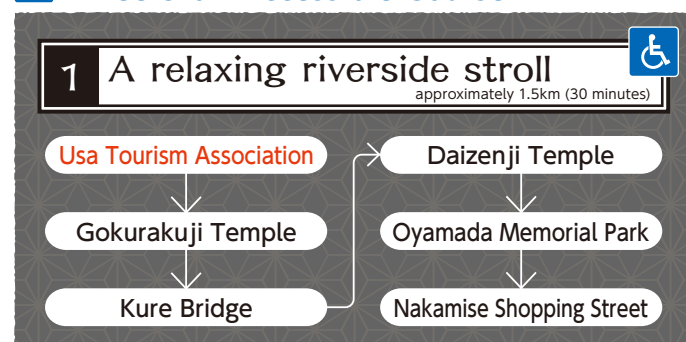


Go-O Jinja Shrine

Enshrined Deity: Wakenokiyomaro

Go-O Jinja Shrine is dedicated to Wakenokiyomaro who resolved a national crisis by receiving a divine message from the Hachiman deity when the Buddhist monk Dokyo attempted a palace coup.

Wheelchair Accessible Course



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Jodoshinshu Honganji sect.
The temple was moved from the Usa Jingu Shrine grounds to its present location during a major renovation project carried out from 1937-41. Two statues were also relocated from the Shrine grounds to this location. An approximately 5-meter-tall sitting statue of Miroku Great Buddha was moved from the Lecture Hall and a standing statue of Amida Nyorai from Dainido Hall.

Keshoido Well
A series of 3 wells with a stone monument in the center. Water from these wells is said to have been used to purify marionettes brought from Hachiman Kohyo Jinja Shrine (Yoshitomi Town, Fukuoka) and Koyo Jinja Shrine (Nakatsu City, Oita) which were used in the Hojoe Ritual to appease the Hayato spirits after the suppression of their uprising.

Kyoshuzuka Tumulus
This tomb is said to be the place where the Hachiman deity buried a hundred heads of the Hayato people to memorialize them after suppressing their uprising. It was designated a historical site by Oita Prefecture in 1971.

Hyakutaisha Shrine

This shrine is dedicated to the spirits of the Hayato people of Osumi and Hyuga in southern Kyushu. It was built in order to appease spirits of the Hayato after the Hachiman deity suppress an uprising of the Hayato in 720.

Oyamada Memorial Park Small Shrines to Oganohigi

According to historical documents on Omiwa shrine, Oganohigi-no-mikoto was born into a family of Shinto priests at Ohmiwa Jinja Shrine, the top shrine in what was then Yamato province that was dedicated to worshipping Miwa Myojin. He was the first to witness the appearance of the Hachiman deity in Usa. He received an imperial order in 568 that sent him to Usa. After ritually abstaining from the five grains and performing other devotions, the Hachiman deity appeared as a 3-year-old child on a bamboo leaf. The child then transformed into a golden hawk and flew to eastern shore of the Yakkan River, which runs through Usa, stopping at the top of a pine tree. Oganohigi built Takai Shrine and enshrined Hachiman deity there with the shaman, Karashimasugurinootome. The Hachiman deity was later transferred to Oyamada Shrine and then to Mt. Ogura, the site of the current Usa Jingu Shrine, and was enshrined in the shrine's first main sanctuary in 725. The Hachiman deity has been worshipped as a deity representing the synthesis of Shinto and Buddhism, which has formed the basis of faith for the Japanese people. Usa Jingu Shrine now is considered second only to Ise Jingu in prestige. A monument was erected in honor of Oganohigi-no-mikoto's hope to spread peace all over the world and bring happiness to all people.

Koyasan-Shingonshu sect.
Itozu, a chief priest of Usa Jingu Shrine, built this as his family temple and as a temple erected by decree of Emperor Godaigo in 1333. Seven statues, including one of Miroku Buddha, two attendants and the four devas are enshrined in the main hall. All of them have been designated as nationally important cultural properties.



Dairakuji Temple

Entsuji Temple



This temple was built during Kamakura era, making it the oldest Rinzaishu temple in Oita prefecture. Due to efforts by its founder, Jinssi-Eison, to rebuild Mirokuji Temple at Usa Jingu Shrine, the temple has been regarded as an Usa Jingu Shrine temple. The approach to this temple is an extension of main approach of Usa Jingu Shrine, which highlights the close relationship between them and the importance of this temple.

Upon returning from the consecration ceremony for the Great Buddha in Nara, the Hachiman deity received the inspiration to reside in Oo-O Jinja Shrine for the next 15 years. This is the sacred site where Wakenokiyomaro was sent as an imperial messenger and received a divine message from the Hachiman deity during the incident involving Dokyo.