

October 1, 2019

Welcome to Tsukiji Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

**Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple is located in the middle of Tokyo.
It is near the Ginza shopping area, and next to the Tsukiji fish market.**

◆ The history of Tsukiji Hongwanji

Tsukiji Hongwanji is a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist temple. The Jodo Shinshu tradition was established by a priest called Shinran in the 13th century. The original temple of Tsukiji Hongwanji was built in 1617 in Asakusa, Tokyo. It was destroyed by fire in 1657 and a new temple was rebuilt at the present site. At that time, however, Tsukiji was still a part of the sea. A group of people, many of whom were Jodo Shinshu followers, worked to reclaim the land, and a new temple was built and completed on it in 1679 facing southwest, in the direction of the present Tsukiji Market. The temple was again destroyed during the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923. A famous architect Ito Chuta, designed the present Tsukiji Hongwanji, rearranging the direction of the new temple by 90 degrees to face northwest, in the direction of Ginza. In 2014, many of the temple structures: main hall, gates (central, north and south), and stone walls were designated as Important Cultural Assets by the Japanese government. The temple name, "Tsukiji" consists of two Chinese characters: 築 and 地, which means "build" and "land" respectively. Since being land reclaimed from the sea, the name "Tsukiji" was given.

◆ Architectural uniqueness

The appearance of the temple is influenced by ancient Indian Buddhist architecture and was designed by architect Ito Chuta. Ito was known for his liking of peculiar and bizarre creatures. Reflecting his taste, the hall contains many sculptures of animals, such as a winged lion, ox, horse, elephant, peacock, monkey, phoenix and an imaginary creature called "grotesque". He also decorated the hall with four Chinese legendary animals: blue dragon, red phoenix, white tiger and black tortoise.

The roundish roof of the temple is designed in the form of a bodhi tree leaf and has an embossed carving of a lotus flower in its center. A huge pipe organ and stained-glass windows above the exit are other remarkable features of the hall.



◆ Etiquette in the temple

As this is a place of worship, please observe the following:

1. Eating and drinking are prohibited within the temple hall.
2. Please refrain from talking loudly.
3. Please feel free to offer incense.

◆ How to offer incense



1. Proceed to the table and bow.
2. Take a pinch of granular incense and put it into the incense burner.
3. Place your palms together and recite *Namo Amida Butsu*, which means "I entrust myself to Amida Buddha."
4. Keeping hands together, make a deep bow.
5. Take one step back and slightly bow once again.

We do not have *Goshuin*, thank you for your understanding.
Instead, please feel free to use the commemorative stamps.

◆ Souvenir · Coffee shop · Bookstore · Restaurant

At the
Information
Center

Souvenirs



At the
First *Dendo-
Kaikan*

Shisui
Restaurant



Tsumugi
Coffee shop



Bookstore



◆ Pipe organ concert (Admission is free)

A pipe organ concert is conducted in the temple hall on the last Friday of every month from 12:20 to 12:50. Preceding the concert, a Dharma talk is given from 12:10. Classical music and Buddhist songs are played by professional organists.



◆ Activities calendar

Hoonko - The anniversary of Shinran Shonin's death November 11th -16th

Hoonko, the annual memorial for the founder Shinran, is considered the most important service in the Jodo Shinshu tradition. It provides the participants with a great opportunity to encounter Buddhism and appreciate the preciousness of life.

At Tsukiji Hongwanji, in addition to Buddhist services, there are also a variety of activities, such as consultation with Buddhist priests on your concerns, tea ceremony, vegetarian luncheon, and Japanese traditional court music concert during that period. Please feel free to participate in these events.



New Year's Eve December 31th

On New Year's Eve, Tsukiji Hongwanji offers a variety of attractions, such as bell tolling and a concert consisting of Japanese traditional court music and pipe organ. Over 3,000 visitors attend this annual event. 350 tickets are prepared for bell tolling and people wait for their turn patiently in a long line. The first calligraphy of the year is written by the temple's Director General. This activity allows us to reflect on the past year with feelings of modesty and gratitude. Please feel free to join us in welcoming the new year.



◆ English service (Admission is free)

A monthly English service followed by Dharma talk is conducted in the Information Center or Mombo Hall. It is open to the public and anyone may attend. The service consists of sutra chanting, Buddhist gatha singing, and Dharma talk that is given in English. At the end of the service, participants are encouraged to offer incense in front of the altar. Incense used in Buddhist service is often described as the fragrance of the Pure Land, and therefore its scent allows people to relax.

In May and November, there are special services: *Gotane* (Founder Shinran's birthday celebration) and *Hoonko* (Annual memorial for Shinran). Meals are provided on both occasions.

Web site <https://tsukijihongwanji.jp/lecture/saturday-english-service>

◆ English service schedule (October 2019 ~ March 2020)

Date	Speaker	Topic
2019		
26 Oct	Rev. MURAISHI Esho Resident Minister, Korinji Temple	How to Survive in the Chaotic World Today?
30 Nov	Rev. Dr. Kenneth TANAKA Prof. Emeritus, Musashino University	The Meaning of Other Power: Its Difference from the Grace of God in Christianity
21 Dec	Rev. HASEO Daien Resident Minister, Touzenji Temple	What for do we attain birth in the Pure Land in Jodo Shinshu?
2020		
25 Jan	Rev. Gene SEKIYA Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, foreign language specialist	Nembutsu, my foundation for life
29 Feb	Rev. NANJO Osamu Vice Resident Minister, Kyogakuji Temple	Working of Amida Buddha
28 Mar	Rev. KAKIHARA Kojo Resident Minister, Eishoji Temple	Buddha's Mind, "You are good just as you are"

◆ Other information

Visiting times April to September 6:00 to 17:30, October to March 6:00 to 17:00

Address 3-15-1 Tsukiji, Chuo-ku, 104-8435 Tokyo JAPAN

Official Website <https://tsukijihongwanji.jp/>

YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1XC0drEKT1QzJ_hYf5DKaQ?view_as=subscriber

Contact Us

Internationalization Project of Tsukiji Hongwanji

Tel: 03-3541-1131 FAX: 03-3541-7071 E-mail : int@tsukijihongwanji.jp