

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 temple of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition which was established by a priest called Shinran in the 13th century. The original temple was built in 1617 in Asakusa and was known as the *Asakusa Gobo*. 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 (*tsuki*) and 地 (*ji*), which mean “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 and Asian Buddhist architecture and was designed by architect Ito Chuta. Ito was known for his liking of peculiar and bizarre creatures. Reflecting his taste, the stairway contains many sculptures of animals, such as winged lions, oxen, horses, elephants, peacocks, monkeys, phoenixes and an imaginary creature called “grotesque”. Some pillars in the Main Hall are also decorated with the four Chinese legendary animals: Blue Dragon, Red Peacock, 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.

◆ Pipe organ concert (Free Admission/Prior registration required)

A pipe organ concert is conducted in the temple hall on the last Thursday of every month from 6:00pm. Preceding the concert, a Dharma talk is given from. Classical music and Buddhist hymns are played by professional organists.



◆ Activities calendar

Hana-matsuri - Birth of Sakyamuni Buddha April 8 (Celebrated on April 11 2021)

April 8 is the birthday of Sakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Tsukiji Hongwanji holds a Hana-matsuri service to celebrate Sakyamuni Buddha's birth on a Sunday near April 8. There is a procession of children dressed in *chigo* costumes pulling a float in the shape of a white elephant, symbolising the dream the Buddha's mother had.

*Please note that celebrations have been scaled down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Gotan-e – Birth of Founder Shinran Shonin May 21

May 21 is the date of the birth of Shinran, the founder of Shin Buddhism. Normally, a service is held to celebrate his birth, and as part of the celebration, a presentation of tea (*kencha-shiki*) ceremony conducted in the main worship hall (pictured right), and traditional *gagaku* music is performed. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, only a service will be held.

*Please note that celebrations have been scaled down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Bon-odori – Japan's most delicious Bon festival August 4 ~ 7, 2021

As a summer tradition at Tsukiji Hongwanji, a huge tower called a *yagura* is erected on the grounds of Tsukiji Hongwanji and large numbers of people come to dance around it.

During the festival, some of Tsukiji's most well-known restaurants and food companies set up food stands, and it is also known as "the most delicious Bon Dance in Japan." This year, *Bon-odori* will be held from August 4 to 7.

*Please note that there may be changes in schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Please note that services and events may be cancelled or postponed due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Please check the website (<https://tsukijihongwanji.jp/>) for updates.

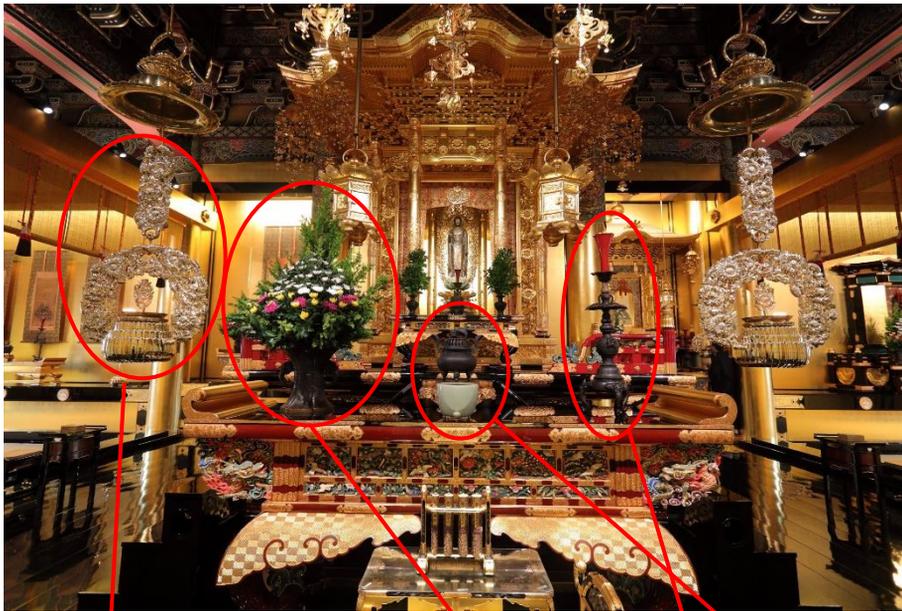
◆ Tsukiji Hongwanji souvenir card

Every month, Tsukiji Hongwanji prepares a free commemorative card as a souvenir for visitors to bring back. The card is called a *keha*, which is in the shape of a lotus petal and is used during Buddhist ceremonies. Printed on the card are Buddhist verses or drawings, with explanations provided in both Japanese and English.

Please feel free to take one back when you visit the temple. A special souvenir is given to those who collect twelve different designs.



◆ Shin Buddhist temple adornments



From this issue, we would like to introduce a brief significance behind the various types of adornments used in the Main Hall at Tsukiji Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

In this issue, we will first introduce the three main articles used on the altar table – incense burner, candle stand and flower vase, known collectively as *mitsu-guzoku*, as well as the *kiku-rin-to* which is hung on both sides of the table.

Incense burner (top)

The practice of burning incense is a symbolic act of spiritual “cleansing” and preparation for us to hear the teachings of the Buddha.

Pictured are two types of incense burners, the top is made of brass and is used to offer powdered incense during special services, while the one below is made of earthenware and is used to offer incense sticks.



Kiku rin-to (Light)

The lamp above is known as *kiku rin-to* (chrysanthemum-circular-lamps), and in Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha it is decorated in the shape of chrysanthemums.

Two lamps adorn each side of the main shrine dedicated to Amida Buddha, and at the side altar dedicated to the Founder Shinran Shonin.



Flower vase

Flowers are offered at the altar to remind us all of the impermanence of existence. The flowers offered should be kept fresh at all times. Artificial flowers, flowers that have thorns, and poisonous flowers should be refrained from being offered.



Candle stand (bottom)

Light represents the Wisdom of the Buddha which expels the darkness of greed, hatred and ignorance and shines on everyone without discrimination.

Pictured is a wooden candle used during normal times, during services a lit candle is offered.

◆ English Dharma Service (Admission is free)


A monthly English Dharma talk service is conducted in the Information Center. It is open to the public and anyone may attend. The service consists of sutra chanting, Buddhist *gatha* singing, and a Dharma talk that is given in English. After the service, a fellowship is held where participants can talk and know each other or ask the speaker questions over tea and snacks.

In May and November, there are special services: *Gotan-e* (Founder Shinran's birthday celebration) and *Ho-onko* (Annual memorial for Shinran). Meals are provided on both occasions. Website <https://tsukijihongwanji.jp/lecture/saturday-english-service>

◆ Service Schedule (April 2021 ~ September 2021)

Date	Speaker	Topic
2021		
24 Apr	Rev. NANJO Osamu Vice Resident Minister, Kyogakuji Temple, Shizuoka	Amida Buddha's Calling
28 May (Gotan-e Service)	Rev. Dr. Kenneth TANAKA Prof. Emeritus, Musashino University, Tokyo	Shinran's Authentic Individuality Embraced in Wisdom and Compassion: Its Meaning in the Lives of Ordinary People
26 Jun	Rev. FUJII Tomofumi Former Kaikyoshi Minister, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada	Nembutsu resonates throughout the World
31 Jul	Rev. YAMAMOTO Koshin Resident Minister, Myoenji Temple, Kanagawa	The Dynamics of Amida's Primal Vow – Tailor-made but One-size Fits All
28 Aug	Rev. KUMAHARA Kana Minister, Shozenji Temple, Saitama	Little did I know I wasn't alone
25 Sep	Rev. MURAIISHI Esho Resident Minister, Korinji Temple, Kanagawa	Take refuge in Namo 'mitabhaya, Namo-Amidabutsu, the ultimate shelter, as we live in the Last Dharma Age

Please note that physical services may be cancelled or postponed due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In-lieu, online streaming of the Dharma talk will be available at the website (<https://tsukijihongwanji.jp/lecture/saturday-english-service>). Please check the website for updates.

◆ Other information
Visiting hours

Main Hall - 6:00 to 4:00pm (the doors will be closed after the end of the evening service)

Temple Grounds – 6:00am to 9:00pm

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

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

English Website <https://tsukijihongwanji.jp/global/guide>

English YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVBY1rzHwzjnpCR-0lGdYnA>


Contact Us

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