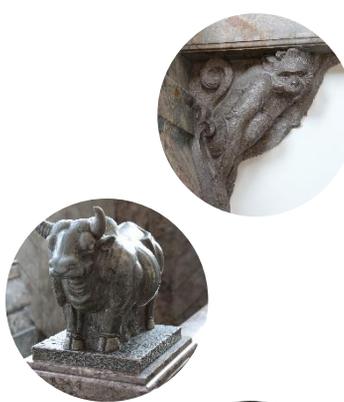


Welcome to Tsukiji Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

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)

A pipe organ concert is conducted in the temple hall on the last Friday of every month from 12:00pm with a Dharma talk given preceding the concert. Classical pieces and Buddhist hymns are played by professional organists.



◆ Activities calendar

Hana-matsuri - Birth of Sakyamuni Buddha April 8 (Celebrated on April 10, 2022)

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.



Gotan-e – Birth of Founder Shinran Shonin May 21

May 21 is the date of the birth of Shinran, the founder of Shin Buddhism. A service is held to celebrate his birth, and as part of the celebration, a presentation of tea (*kencha-shiki*) ceremony conducted by the Headmaster of the *Yabuno-uchi* school is held in the main worship hall (pictured right), and traditional *gagaku* music is performed.



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

Bon-odori – Japan's most delicious Bon festival August 3 ~ 6, 2022

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 3 to 6.

*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. Special souvenirs are given to those who collect twelve different designs.



◆ Uniqueness of Tsukiji Hongwanji's Main Hall



From the exterior, the main hall of Tsukiji Hongwanji does not resemble any other traditional temple in Japan, as it was built with influence of ancient Indian and Asian Buddhist architecture. However, the interior is designed in the style of a traditional Jodo Shin Buddhist temple. Enshrined in the center is Amida Buddha – the Buddha of Infinite Light and Infinite Life, who vowed to liberate all beings who recite the Name – *Namo Amida Butsu*, which literally means “I take refuge in Amida Buddha”. The interior of the *naijin* or inner sanctum is based on the description of the Pure Land of Amida Buddha, a realm of Enlightenment.

A unique feature of Jodo Shin Buddhist temples is that the *gejin* or outer seating area, is much larger than the *naijin*, as Jodo Shin Buddhism is based on hearing the teachings of the Buddha and Masters, rather than on austere practices. The *naijin* is raised to symbolize that it is a realm symbolizing the Buddha's Enlightenment. When Tsukiji Hongwanji was rebuilt in 1934, chairs were installed instead of traditional tatami mats to show Buddhism's inclusiveness, and the historical fact that the area near Tsukiji was Tokyo's first foreign settlement area.

Another unique feature of Tsukiji Hongwanji is the huge pipe organ installed at the entrance of the main hall. The organ was donated in 1952 by the *Dendo Bukkyo Kyokai* to promote the singing of Buddhist hymns. Other than the monthly pipe organ concerts held on the last Friday of each month (see pg. 2), it is also used during weddings and other occasions.



◆ English Dharma Service (Admission is free)



A monthly English Dharma talk service is conducted in the *Kodo Hall*. 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 2022 ~ September 2022)

Date	Speaker	Topic
2022		
30 Apr	Rev. YAMAMOTO Koshin Resident Minister, Myoenji Temple, Kanagawa	Living is coincidental; Death is inevitable, - Living and Dying embraced by Amitabha -
28 May (Gotan-e Service)	Rev. Dr. Kenneth TANAKA Prof. Emeritus, Musashino University, Tokyo	The Strength to suffer in the face of difficulties: Comprehension Power, Acceptance Power, and the Power of the Original Vow
25 Jun	Rev. MURAISHI Esho Resident Minister, Korinji Temple, Kanagawa	Live towards Light of Truth beyond ignorance, greed and anger!
30 Jul	Rev. SHAKU Satoshi Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai	Nembutsu in Daily Life
Aug	No Service	
24 Sep	Rev. Marvin HARADA Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America	Practical Buddhism and Truth Level Buddhism

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 4:30pm (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

Internationalization Project of Tsukiji Hongwanji

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