



三神合祭殿 *Sanjin Gosaiden*

Sanjin Gosaiden was most recently rebuilt in 1818 due to numerous fires. It is built on the site of the original shrine established by Prince Hachiko. At the end of your ascent of the *Ishi-Dan*, the vivid red shrine stands a proud 28.2 meters high, calmly reflected in the *Kagami-Ike*. The shrine has a thatched roof 2.1 meters thick and is one of the largest wooden buildings with such a roof in Japan.

Climbing the large steps to the entrance of *Sanjin Gosaiden* reveals the interior of the shrine. Here, you will encounter the deities of all three mountains standing magnificently tall within the silence of the hall. You may enter the shrine and pay your respects to the deities for free, or as worshippers have done for centuries,

offer a five yen coin, which is considered the luckiest.

Historically, the *Dewa Sanzan* shrine was a highly venerated site of ascetic pilgrimage. Making pilgrimage to both Ise Grand Shrine (the most sacred site in Japan) and *Dewa Sanzan* was considered most auspicious. People regarded Ise Grand Shrine as the brilliant sun above, and *Dewa Sanzan* as its attendant “shadow” and counterpart. According to the hallowed ancient custom, one was to offer prayers at these two shrines spanning the West and the East at least once in a lifetime.

If you do enter the shrine, please respect the following rules:

Please take off your shoes.

Please be quiet.

Please do not take pictures.

Please do not eat or drink.