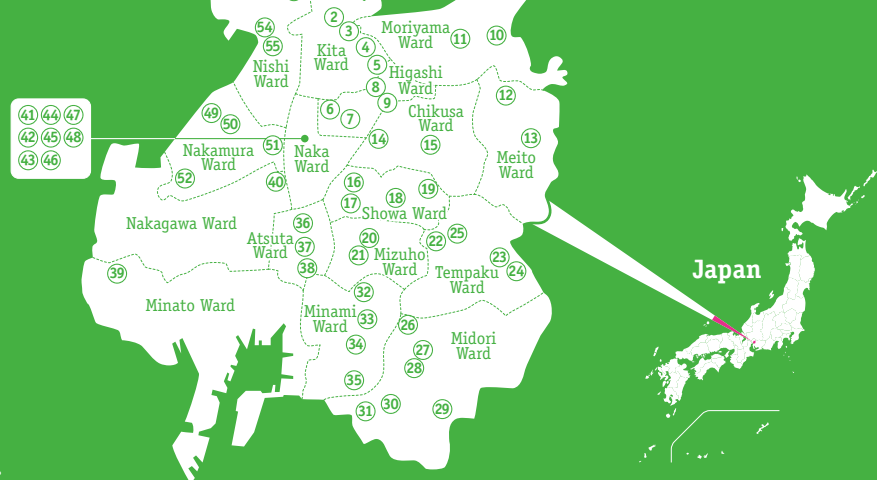


Travel Around to Nagoya's Shrines

NAGOYA MAP



MAP No.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
| ① Ooi Shrine | ①⑤ Shiroyama Hachimangu Shrine | ②⑨ Tachibana Shrine | ④④ Sakura Tenjin-sha Shrine |
| ② Ofuku Inari-sha Shrine | ①⑥ Biyo Shrine | ③⑩ Hikamianego Shrine | ④⑤ Wakamiya Hachiman Shrine |
| ③ Wakeoe Shrine | ①⑦ Gokiso Hachimangu Shrine and Hakuryu-sha Shrine | ③① Itsukiyama Inari-sha Shrine | ④⑥ Miwa Shrine |
| ④ Hitsuji Shrine | ①⑧ Kawahara Shrine | ③② Tobe Shrine | ④⑦ Susaki Shrine |
| ⑤ Yamada Tenmangu Shrine and Kogane Shrine | ①⑨ Ikatsu Hachimangu Shrine | ③③ Nanasho Shrine | ④⑧ Kuragarinomori Hachiman Shrine |
| ⑥ Nanao Tenjin-sha Shrine | ②① Ichino Gozen-sha Shrine | ③④ Hoshimiya-sha Shrine | ④⑨ Toyokuni Shrine |
| ⑦ Matsuyama Shrine | ②② Goshu-gu Shrine | ③⑤ Yobitsugi Shrine | ⑤⑩ Susanoo Shrine |
| ⑧ Katayama Hachiman Shrine | ②③ Shimada Shrine | ③⑥ Takakura-musubi-miko Shrine | ⑤① Hakuryu Shrine |
| ⑨ Rokusho Shrine | ②④ Harina Shrine | ③⑦ Atsuta Jingu (Atsuta Shrine) | ⑤② Hichisho-sha Shrine |
| ⑩ Yatsurugi Shrine | ②⑤ Yagoto Shioyama Shrine | ③⑧ Rei-no-mimae-sha Shrine | ⑤③ Hira Rokusho Shrine |
| ⑪ Ikutama Inari Shrine | ②⑥ Konarumi Hachiman-sha Shrine | ③⑨ Atsuta-sha Shrine | ⑤④ Hoshi Shrine |
| ⑫ Inokoishi Shinmei-sha Shrine, Ryuji-sha Shrine and Jizuka Shrine | ②⑦ Toyofujinari Shrine | ④① Sukunahikona Shrine | ⑤⑤ Inu Shrine and Tamanushi Inari Shrine |
| ⑬ Kifune-sha Shrine | ②⑧ Narumi Shrine | ④② Nagoya Toshogu Shrine | |
| ⑭ Takamu Shrine | | ④③ Nagoya Shrine | |

Cover photo: Three *keiki kaeru* frog amulets believed to bring business recovery, or livelihood stability. *Keiki* means business or economy, and *kaeru* is the word for frog, symbolically representing a return or restoration. These *omamori* charms are available at Tobe Shrine, southern Nagoya City, where the powerful deity *Dadokuke no kami*, the god of venomous snakes, is enshrined.

Japanese families have traditionally had a *kamidana*, or household Shinto altar, in their homes. Although changes in lifestyles, such as the trend toward living in apartments, have led to the disappearance of these altars from many homes, when venturing outside you may eventually find many such shrines.

We hope that you, coming from various parts of the world, will encounter deities in Nagoya, who always watch over us, in the belief that such an opportunity will bring you joy.

Nagoya Convention & Visitors Bureau

For further information regarding tourism in Nagoya, please visit:

<https://www.nagoya-info.jp/en/>



Travel Around to Nagoya's Shrines



Travel Around to Nagoya’s Shrines

Japanese people have long lived side by side with nature through farming and fishing lifestyles.

Nature brings us blessings, but sometimes rages in all its fury. People in this country have long accepted that both aspects are brought about by a great power, and have revered this invisible power in the form of deities. Shrines are places that provide them with comfort.

This brochure invites you to explore shrines in Nagoya, a city boasting a large number of shrines.

First, let’s learn the basics of worshipping at shrines.



Torii gate

The procedure of worshipping at a shrine begins with walking through a *torii* gate. Since beyond the gate lies the realm of the deity, visitor usually bow before entering the gate.

Kifune-sha Shrine MAP⑬



Shinkyō sacred bridge

In the grounds of large shrines, you will sometimes find ponds or streams crossed by bridges. These bridges, as with *torii* gates, serve as boundaries between the human world and the sacred area where the deity resides. While traversing them, worshippers prepare themselves mentally to meet the deities.

Gokiso Hachimangu Shrine MAP⑪



Banpei wooden screen

Unique to the Nagoya area, *Banpei* wooden screens serve to block the deity from any outsiders’ direct view.

Hira Rokusho Shrine MAP⑤③



Temizuya purification font

Before worshipping at a shrine, our ancestors washed and purified their bodies by bathing in a river or the sea. As a vestige of these earlier times, shrines today have a place for washing hands to purify the body and soul.

Etiquette Hold the ladle in your right hand, pour some water over your left hand to rinse it, and then rinse your right hand. Pour water from the ladle into your cupped left hand to rinse your mouth. (Spat out the water from your mouth outside the font.) Lastly raise the ladle vertically, with the ladle cup upward, to rinse the ladle handle with the remaining water.

Matsuyama Shrine MAP⑦



Shimenawa Shinto sacred ropes

Shimenawa refers to a large sacred rope twisted to the left, hanging in front of the shrine’s main hall. It tells us that the area ahead is a sanctuary that we may not approach casually. This magnificent *shimenawa* belongs to Hichisho-sha Shrine.

Hichisho-sha Shrine MAP⑤②



Suzu Shinto bell

A cord with a bell attached is draped over the entrance to a hall of worship. The bell produces a sound when agitated three times. This time-honored custom originates from the belief that vibrating air summons a deity. The sound of the bell bestowed with divine power, rather than the bell itself, expels evil spirits.

Toyofujiinari Shrine MAP②⑦



Saisen coin offering

People offer money into the coin box in front of the hall of worship. This is a ceremony of ritual purification whereby anxiety and suffering in daily life are brought to the deity along with the offering. The offering amount is left to the visitor’s discretion.

Etiquette of worshipping a deity

- Bow twice to the deity (greeting)
 - Clap hands twice (to ward off evil spirits)
 - Pray silently, then bow again
- The above comprise the most common prayer procedure. It is not, however, a hard rule, as number of bows and claps may differ depending on the shrine.

Yagoto Shiogama Shrine MAP②⑤



Komainu lion-dog guardian statues

Introduced into Japan from India or Persia, these creatures keep evil at bay. Usually in pairs, the one with open mouth is a *shishi* lion, and the closed-mouth one opposite is a *komainu* dog, with such asymmetry being a trait unique to Japan. Photos: The centuries-old Ikatsu Hachimangu Shrine *komainu*, appointed important cultural properties.

Ikatsu Hachimangu Shrine MAP①⑨

Now that you have performed the basic etiquette and impurities are removed, the deity’s voice is sure to reach you. Time to make a wish and take a fortune-telling *omikui*.

Kuragarinomori Hachiman Shrine MAP④⑧

Ooi Shrine MAP ①

Nagoya Shrine MAP④③

Harina Shrine MAP②④

Biyo Shrine MAP①⑥

Omamori amulets

The most common form of *omamori* amulet is a bag tied with the traditional Japanese cross knot *kano musubi*, deemed an auspicious knot since “*kano*” means wishes will come true. *Omamori* obtained at shrines are handled with much care, and usually are returned to the same shrine after protecting the wearer through the year.

Emma votive picture tablets

Emma originates from the belief that deities travel to the human realm riding sacred horses. After being inscribed with thanksgiving or wishing words, the *emma* tablets are hung at their exclusive place, the *emaden*. However, since deities can understand any language penned on an *emma*, as well as receive the *emma* messages wherever its location, you may also take yours home.

Bottom photo above: Biyo Shrine, where Tokugawa Clan shoguns who were lords of Nagoya Castle are enshrined, is adorned with this sacred horse statue.

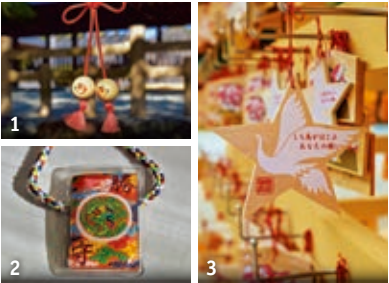


Bowing to a deity and then raising your head, you will face a divine mirror in the hall of worship. What do you see reflected in it? When you see flowers in bloom on the approach from the shrine gate, the sun shining in through a window, an animal relaxing, or other things after worshipping the deity, you may notice that such small instances of happiness have always graced your everyday life. Why not make a tour of shrines in Nagoya to feel such happiness?

Visit Atsuta Jingu, the best place to start your tour of shrines in Nagoya



A vast sanctuary spanning nearly 200,000 square meters
Peaceful and pure, allowing you to forget your daily life



Omamori amulets and Ema votive picture tablets

1. **Etodama**: A pair of pretty wooden spheres bearing the Chinese zodiac sign of the year. 2. **Kachimori**: An amulet made with patterns of a victory dance costume. As for the braid that comes with the amulet, you may wish to loop it around your wrist or carry it with you. 3. **Star-shaped ema**: The votive tablets are connected to a romantic legend, which has it that Yamatotakeru-no-Mikoto (Prince Yamatotakeru) turned into a swan upon his death and returned to Princess Atsuta.

Atsuta Jingu is also known as “Horai Island.” Horai refers to a paradise of perennial youth and immortality that human beings earnestly wish for. Revered as a special sanctuary, the shrine has been visited by many worshippers praying for peace in Japan and a healthy long life.

Established in 113, boasting a long history, Atsuta Jingu (Atsuta Shrine) is dedicated to the Kusanagi-no-tsurugi sword, one of the sacred treasures that have been handed down in the Imperial household of Japan for generations.

Yamatotakeru-no-Mikoto, was an Imperial prince of ancient Japan. The young Imperial prince and a princess of Owari Province (today’s Nagoya) were meant for each other and got married. Of no mean military prowess, the prince subjugated the tumultuous country and went down in history as the greatest hero of ancient Japan.

After his death, his Kusanagi-no-tsurugi sword was enshrined by the Princess, and this is how the history of Atsuta Jingu began. Because of its association with the sword, the shrine has come to house a large number of treasured swords. To unveil them to the wider public, both the Kusanagi-kan exhibition space, a treasure trove of swords, and the Kusanagi Hiroba space opened in 2021.

Atsuta Jingu [MAP](#) 37



Exploring the shrine

1. **Annex shrine Bekku Hakkengu**: Dedicated to the same deity as the Main Shrine Hongu, where the Kusanagi-no-tsurugi sword is enshrined, Bekku is the next highest class after the main hall. 2. **Minami-shingu-sha**: This shrine is dedicated to a deity for warding off plagues and other disasters, and is the only vermilion-lacquered sanctuary building in the precincts of Atsuta Jingu. 3. **Shimizu-sha**: Located on the *Kokoro-no-komichi* footpath that leads to the back of Hongu, this shrine has a sacred spring flowing out from behind the building. It is said that by washing your skin with the spring water, you will become more beautiful. In the center of the spring is a rock believed to be a part of the tomb of Princess Yang Guifei, known as one of the greatest beauties in ancient China. 4. A hanging lantern bathes the precincts in faint light at dawn. It bears the noble beauty of a black opal. 5. Standing near Shimizu-sha, this huge camphor tree has outlived many human lives. 6. Known as *Narazu-no-ume*, meaning an *ume* Japanese apricot tree that has never borne fruit, albeit producing flowers, even now this 400-year-old tree blooms every year.



Some of the shrines connected to Atsuta Jingu are located outside its precincts. Stretch your legs and visit those shrines to add more pleasure to your visit to Nagoya.



1. **Hikamianego Shrine**: Closely associated with Atsuta Jingu, it enshrines Miyasuhime-no-Mikoto, wife of Prince Yamatotakeru-no-Mikoto. This site is said to have been that of the Princess’s parental house. [MAP](#) 30 2. **Takakura-musubi-miko Shrine**: Enshrining the ancestral deity of the Owari clan (the Nagoya area today), this shrine is worshipped as a deity of child-rearing. [MAP](#) 36 3. **Rei-no-mimae-sha Shrine**: Enshrining the deity of entertainment. It is said that there was once a custom of purifying oneself at this shrine before going on to worship at Atsuta Jingu. [MAP](#) 38

Power of the Spirits

Now that you have visited Atsuta Jingu, where the Kusanagi-no-tsuringi sword is enshrined, next we will guide you to the city center area. Having been deified, the princes and princesses of legend watch over us and bestow many divine blessings upon us.

Dragon Power

Hakuryu Shrine In ancient times a fever ailed the locals, and thus, at the base of a willow tree, a shrine was erected to the spirit of a deity, following its divine revelation, and causing the epidemic to subside. Later, the deity was moved to a ginkgo tree and kept being venerated by people, under the affectionate moniker of “Hakuryu san.” **MAP 51**



Kuragarinomori Hachiman Shrine

When lightning struck this area, a married black dragon deity couple landed to dwell in this camphor tree. They are said to have brought business prosperity, good luck in relationships, and other blessings to local worshippers. **MAP 48**

Storytelling



Ryuji-sha Shrine

This shrine enshrines a snake with ears as a deity, whose life was spared after being caught. This event happened over a hundred years ago and appeared in a newspaper at that time. The deity has the divine power to cure ear disorders. **MAP 12**



Rokusho Shrine

Legend has it that, hearing a baby cry in a forest, a villager went to investigate and found a young couple with a baby. Shortly afterward, the couple vanished, leading to rumors that they may have been deities. This is how an annual festival started to be held for safe child delivery on February 26, the date of their disappearance. Festival visitors are attracted by the colorful candies that represent umbilical cords. **MAP 9**

Cosmic Power

Yobitsugi Shrine

This shrine enshrines a meteorite, or “star stone,” that fell from space on this area. A picture depicting a scene of people surrounding the meteorite is preserved in an ancient document in Nagoya. **MAP 35**



Hoshimiya-sha Shrine

This shrine was founded according to a divine oracle received at a time that seven stars (presumed to be the Big Dipper) fell from the sky. (There are various theories about its origin.) **MAP 34**



Legend of the Prince

Atsuta-sha Shrine

At this shrine, Yamatotakeru-no-Mikoto is worshipped as a deity. A large torii gate towers above the surrounding fields and paddies. Its pure white sanctuary building is reminiscent of a swan in exuberant spirits. **MAP 39**



Itsukiyama-inari-sha Shrine

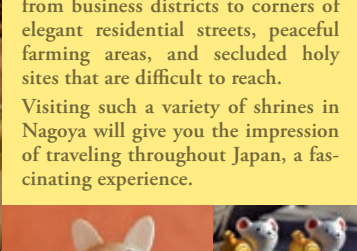
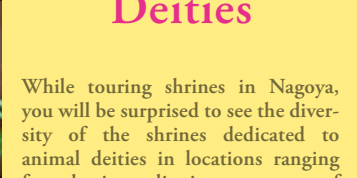
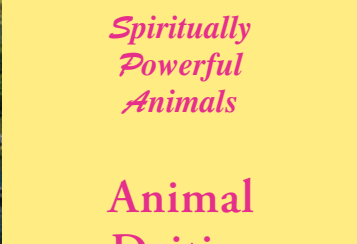


The place where Yamatotakeru-no-Mikoto and his wife were joined in marriage. Since this place faced the sea at that time, they woke to the sound of waves on the morning after their nuptial night. Today, the place is still

called Mezame-no-sato (Village of Awakening). **MAP 31**

Tachibana Shrine

This shrine concerns a happening before Yamatotakeru-no-Mikoto met Miyasuhime-no-Mikoto. En route to conquer the east, he was caught in a sea storm. Ototachibana-hime, who was his wife at that time and accompanying him, sacrificed herself to the sea to quell the anger of the sea god. This shrine is sacred in her honor. **MAP 29**



Spiritually Powerful Animals

Animal Deities

While touring shrines in Nagoya, you will be surprised to see the diversity of the shrines dedicated to animal deities in locations ranging from business districts to corners of elegant residential streets, peaceful farming areas, and secluded holy sites that are difficult to reach. Visiting such a variety of shrines in Nagoya will give you the impression of traveling throughout Japan, a fascinating experience.

- 1. Ooi Shrine:** A prolific dog deity believed to bestow divine blessings for fertility and easy child delivery. **MAP 1** **2. Sukunahikona Shrine:** Dedicated to a deity of medicine symbolized by a rabbit. **MAP 41** **3. Hitsuj Shrine:** A shrine dedicated to the deity of fire. The sculpture of sheep and lamb offers divine blessings for family protection. Cute sheep also adorn the *Temizuya* font and *ema* tablets. **MAP 4** **4. Miwa Shrine:** Rabbit deity sculptures welcome the visitors. Searching around for them is part of the fun at this shrine. *Omomori* and *ema* tablets feature the rabbit deity design. **MAP 46** **5. Tobe Shrine:** Frog-shaped *omikuji*. The frog is an auspicious animal for safe journeys, as *kaeru*, the word for frog, is phonetically the same of that for “return.” **MAP 32** **6. Shimada Shrine:** Called an *uso* (bullfinch), this bird deity turns people’s mistakes and faults into lies, as implied by the name (“*uso*” also means lie.) **MAP 23** **7. Kogane Shrine (within Yamada Tenmangu Shrine):** These Kogane mice, wielding a small golden mallet, are believed to bring financial fortune as the deity’s messengers. Kogane mouse *omikuji* are available at the shrine. **MAP 5** **8. Susanoo Shrine:** This shrine’s deities ward off epidemics and sunder evil relationships. Visitors gently stroke the cow deity statue, as stroking such *nade-ushi* cows is an action believed to cause prayers to be answered. **MAP 50** **9. Inu Shrine:** Dedicated to the Dog King, who protected the village against floods. Trying the *omikuji* is recommended. **MAP 55** **10. Takamu Shrine:** A shrine for fulfilling love, home to an owl deity that wards off troubles and hardships. **MAP 14** **11. Ikutama Inari Shrine:** This good-luck fox cuddling a little fox with an affectionate gaze is well worth a visit. **MAP 11** **12. Kawahara Shrine:** Turtles living in the pond at this shrine are considered deities, who sometimes stray into nearby houses. They should then be entertained with sake, so that they can become happily inebriated before returning to the pond, according to a folktale handed down from olden times. The cute turtle in the photo is an amulet. **MAP 18**



Shinsui/Jinzui Deity Water Offering



1. **Shiogama Shrine:** Pour *shinsui/jinzui* water (water offered to the deities, usually supplied constantly by a fountain) three times on the *sara* dish located atop the *kappa* creature's head to have your prayers answered. **MAP 40** 2. **Sakura Tenjin-sha Shrine:** Pouring water over the cow deity as many times as your age will grant you your wishes. **MAP 44** 3. **Kogane Shrine (inside Yamada Tenmangu Shrine):** Pour water over the Ebisu and Daikokuten statues, three times each (those are two of the famous Seven Lucky Gods). Next, catch the water that flowed out from under their feet and sprinkle it over your money, and your money luck will improve! **MAP 5** 4. **Nanao Tenjin-sha Shrine:** Place a piece of paper inscribed with your prayers on the back of the seven-tail turtle (*nanao* means seven tails), and pour water over it. The paper dissolving in the water is a sign that the deity heard your prayers. **MAP 6** 5. **Shiroyama Hachimangu Shrine:** Rose quartz is believed to soothe the soul. Lay your *koi-mikuji* love fortune in the water-filled basin arranged with rose quartz, and characters will appear, telling your love luck. *Omikuji* related to matters other than love are also available. **MAP 15**

Actions to Attract Good Fortune: A Complete Guide

Orientating

Yamada Tenmangu Shrine: Turn the cow's face in the direction of the place related to the wish that you hope will be granted, and then hang a wish bell around the neck of the deity on the cow. The papier-mâché deity must be returned to the shrine after your wish has come true. **MAP 5**



Offering



Katayama Hachiman Shrine: Visitors may make offerings before the altar, allowing for a more fervent worshipping of the deity. The *hatsuho-ryo* (money offer) can be in any amount deemed appropriate as a token of gratitude. **MAP 8**

Looking



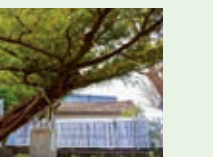
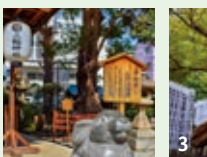
1. **Takakura-musubi-miko Shrine:** According to legend, children will stop being mischievous after they look into the well where Ryujin-sama, the dragon deity, lives. **MAP 36** 2. **Gokiso Hachimangu Shrine:** After praying to find a good partner and looking through the hole in the *mitooshi-no-ishi* "outlook stone," you will then be able to foresee your future. **MAP 17**

Walking



1. **Tako Hachiman-sha Shrine:** These two trees support each other, and hence are called *wago-no-ki*, meaning "trees in harmony." Walk around them seven-and-a-half times to be blessed with children. **MAP 21** 2. **Shiroyama Hachimangu Shrine:** Make a wish while touching the blue stone and walk toward the red stone with your eyes closed. If you reach it in a single try, your dearest wish will come true. Reaching it after several trials suggests that fulfillment may require persistent effort. If someone gives you a hand to reach it, the wish may require someone else's help to come true. **MAP 15**

Patting/Stroking

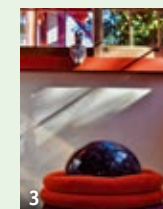


1. **Gosha-gu Shrine:** A natural *nade-ishi*, or "stroking stone," is located in front of the hall of worship. Touch the stone to boost prayers for financial fortune or safe child delivery. **MAP 22** 2. **Wakeoe Shrine:** Stroke head, belly and legs of the Ebisu deity statue, then lift it up for good fortune blessings. **MAP 3** 3. **Ichino Gozen-sha Shrine:** Look for the sacred tree where the Black Dragon King *Kokuryu Ou* and White Dragon Princess *Hakuryu Hime* dwell. Touch the tree, and then the affected area of your body in succession. It is a procedure believed to help with illnesses. **MAP 20** 4. **Miwa Shrine:** The cute *nade-usagi* stroking rabbit helps with ailment recovery. **MAP 46**

Lifting

Omokaru-ishi (literally, "heavy or light stone"), often found in the Nagoya area

1. **Hakuryu-sha Shrine (inside Gokiso Hachimangu Shrine):** The purple *omokaru-ishi* is said to not only aid the granting of your wish but also to reduce your pain when stroked. **MAP 17** 2. **Ofuku Inari-sha Shrine:** A rare stone in the shape of a *mani hoju* (wish-fulfilling jewel) **MAP 2** 3. **Tamanushi Inari Shrine (inside Inu Shrine):** A shrine dedicated to a prosperity deity. **MAP 55**



Etiquette of handling the omokaru-ishi stone

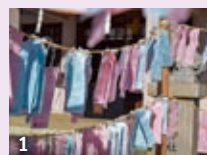
First, lift the stone with a clear mind, then lift it again while making a wish. If it feels heavier, you will have a long way to go before your wish comes true; if it feels lighter, your wish will be granted.

Knocking



Wakeoe Shrine: Lightly knock the wooden board with the mallet to bring good luck. The sound produced will draw the attention of the deity, who will then listen to your prayers. **MAP 3**

Tying



1. **Biyo Shrine:** This shrine is dedicated to the lords of Nagoya Castle, the symbol of Nagoya City. The ceremony is held in the New Year (in January), involving tying paper wish slips onto the hemp rope. The beautiful view created by pink and light blue wish slips swaying in the wind is a worthy sight. **MAP 16** 2. **Wakamiya Hachiman Shrine:** According to legend, tying pink and light blue wish ribbons called *negai-no-o* to a dedicated place means your prayers will be answered. **MAP 45** 3. **Ikutama Inari Shrine:** At the shrine office, buy a *goen-suzu* "relationship bell," which brings good luck in relationships, and tie it to the *musubi kitsune* statue depicting a couple of foxes known as relationship-formers. You may take home the five-yen coin that comes with the bell as *omamori* amulet. (The term for "five yen" in Japanese is *goen*, which has the same sound as the word for "relationship.") **MAP 11**

Ringin



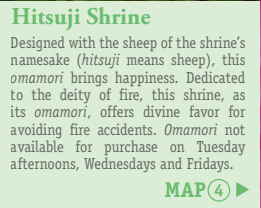
Susaki Shrine: Wave the *haraegushi* purification wand left, right, and left again, pass through the small torii gate, and ring the bell. Proceed to the *Ishigami* stone deity, located sideways to the approach. Hang a dedicated loop with your paper wish slip attached around the pole to which a five-color cloth is tied, and ring the other bell. The resonating sounds of the two bells will help with good relationships. **MAP 47**

Acquiring an *omamori* amulet is not quite like a fashion choice. Intuition, as well as the bond felt towards it, play a larger role than its appearance or the divine favor it represents. The *hatsuho-ryo* fee is paid as an offer to the deity.



Katayama Hachiman Shrine
A beautiful *sachi-mamori* (happiness amulet) with an embroidered crane in gold thread on a pure white background. It attracts happiness through the power of the character *sachi* (happiness) embroidered on it.

◀ MAP ⑧



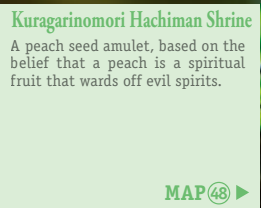
Hitsuji Shrine
Designed with the sheep of the shrine's namesake (*hitsuji* means sheep), this *omamori* brings happiness. Dedicated to the deity of fire, this shrine, as its *omamori*, offers divine favor for avoiding fire accidents. *Omamori* not available for purchase on Tuesday afternoons, Wednesdays and Fridays.

MAP ④ ▶



Susaki Shrine
From left to right: Traditional bell amulet consisting of five multicolored ginkgo nutshells that bestows divine blessings for warding off plagues; a white snake amulet granting family prosperity and luck with money; and an amulet for societal and family ties.

◀ MAP ④⑦



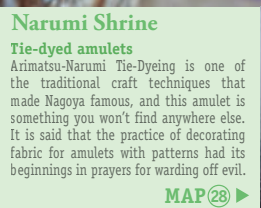
Kuragarinomori Hachiman Shrine
A peach seed amulet, based on the belief that a peach is a spiritual fruit that wards off evil spirits.

MAP ④⑧ ▶



Takamu Shrine
This cute, transparent pink heart amulet brings good luck in relationships and romance. Also available in turquoise blue allowing couples to wear matching *omamori*.

◀ MAP ⑭



Narumi Shrine
Tie-dyed amulets
Arimatsu-Narumi Tie-Dyeing is one of the traditional craft techniques that made Nagoya famous, and this amulet is something you won't find anywhere else. It is said that the practice of decorating fabric for amulets with patterns had its beginnings in prayers for warding off evil.

MAP ②⑧ ▶



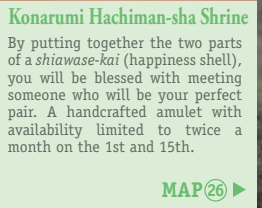
Nagoya Toshogu Shrine
In Japan, the most auspicious *hatsuyume* (the first dream of the New Year) anyone can have is of Mt. Fuji, followed by dreams of hawks and eggplants. A famed shogun, enshrined here as deity, indeed cherished such auspicious items. These *hatsuyume* bell amulets are available at the shrine and can also be preordered.

◀ MAP ④②



Nanao Tenjin-sha Shrine
Bullfinch wooden amulets
Carved wood bullfinch amulets, believed to be the guardian deity of academics, and also to turn mistakes and faults into lies (bullfinch is *uso* in Japanese, sounding the same as the word for "lie"). Buyers have a one in ten chance to get a golden-colored amulet.

◀ MAP ⑥



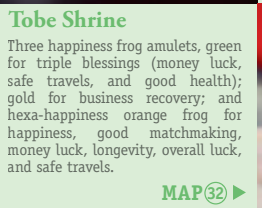
Konarumi Hachiman-sha Shrine
By putting together the two parts of a *shiawase-kai* (happiness shell), you will be blessed with meeting someone who will be your perfect pair. A handcrafted amulet with availability limited to twice a month on the 1st and 15th.

MAP ②⑥ ▶



Wakamiya Hachiman Shrine
Clockwise from the left: Genuine stone amulets for good luck in relationships; *omitaji* fortunes in the shape of the deity Fukurokuju of happiness, prosperity, and longevity; and an amulet imbued with *Tokowaka* prayers, a concept unique to Japan that preaches always being fresh and youthful while living in the present, not being bound by either past or future.

◀ MAP ④⑤



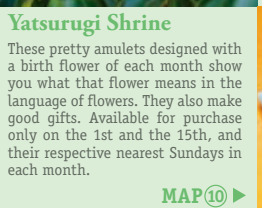
Tobe Shrine
Three happiness frog amulets, green for triple blessings (money luck, safe travels, and good health); gold for business recovery; and hexa-happiness orange frog for happiness, good matchmaking, money luck, longevity, overall luck, and safe travels.

MAP ③② ▶



Shiroyama Hachimangu Shrine
Citrus tachibana trees adorn this shrine's premises, and the fruit they give is inspiration for this Tachibana orange *omamori* that grants healthy longevity. Behind it, another kind of amulet which contains elegantly fragrant potpourri made from the same trees, to ward off evil spirits.

◀ MAP ⑮



Yatsurugi Shrine
These pretty amulets designed with a birth flower of each month show you what that flower means in the language of flowers. They also make good gifts. Available for purchase only on the 1st and the 15th, and their respective nearest Sundays in each month.

MAP ⑩ ▶



Inokoishi Shinmei-sha Shrine
Happiness amulets engraved with a wild boar, this shrine's patron animal. Behind, a *migawari-suzu* bell, literally "substitute bell," commonly placed at the house entrance as protection against evil. A happenstance where it ends up breaking means that it took a calamity directed at its owner, as surrogate.

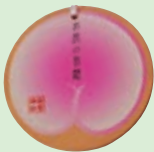
◀ MAP ⑮



▲ Gosha-gu Shrine
A god of wealth holding a treasure sack and a dragon, to improve your fortune.
MAP ②②



▲ Nagoya Toshogu Shrine
A limited-edition golden *goshuin* stamp that makes you feel the weight of history.
MAP ④②



▲ Jizuka Shrine
(inside Inokoishi Shinmei-sha Shrine)
A shrine offering blessings for lower body health (below the waist). The *ema* humorously features a peach design resembling a bottom.
MAP ⑮②

Toyokuni Shrine ▶
A famed general believed to have been born at this shrine's site was particularly fond of *hyotan* gourds. As such, they are depicted in these *ema*, for luck in competition, and forming good relationships.---
MAP ④⑨

Shiogama Shrine ▶
This anime-style *kappa*, a beloved creature of folklore, is attention-grabbing.
MAP ④⑩

*: Goshuin are red stamps with calligraphy sold by the shrine as commemorative visit tokens.



▲ Miwa Shrine
Cute and popular rabbits! Birthday visitors are entitled to a special design commemorative *goshuin*.
MAP ④⑥



◀ Yatsurugi Shrine
The *Amabie*, one of the *yokai* creatures of Japanese folklore believed to have the power to ward off plagues, embodies a prayer for eliminating disease.
MAP ⑩⑩

Artistic Goshuin Stamps & Ema Votive Tablets



▲ Katayama Hachiman Shrine
These *ema* feature the Citrus tachibana tree pictured in the shrine's crest. Available in seven different colors, huge numbers are hung at the *emaden* votive tablet hall, creating stunning sights.
MAP ⑧



▲ Gosha-gu Shrine
This *ema* is hand-painted with a picture of Mt. Fuji, a popular symbol all over the world.
MAP ②②



▲ Susaki Shrine
This *ema* is hand-painted with *Saru hiki no uma*, a legendary monkey with power to protect horses from plagues, guiding a white horse.
MAP ④⑦



▲ Hoshi Shrine
On this *ema*, the loving couple Orihime and Hikoboshi, who were separated across the Milky Way in the Tanabata legend, are tied together with a red thread.
MAP ⑤④



◀ Hakuryu Shrine
A dashing rising dragon *ema*.
MAP ⑤①

Using a *Omamori*

Also called *bada-mamori* (*bada* meaning skin and *mamori*, protection or defense), *omamori* were originally intended to be worn and kept in permanent contact with the wearer, until the fulfillment of its purpose. However, there are no rules against using them attached to other personal belongings, such as bags, etc., or even as decoration items for home, car or workplace. Also, although it is customary to return them to the shrine of purchase after a year of use, hoarding them indefinitely is not believed to incur any negative effect.