

This gate is the most important of the three gates that open onto the main shrine complex, and is the main entrance. The importance of this entrance is reflected in the gate's being a two-story building, whereas the other two gates are single story. The gate was built in 1920 when Meiji Jingu was dedicated, and is one of the few structures to have survived the air raids of World War II. The gate is made from Japanese *hinoki* cypress, roofed with copper.

If you look closely, you will see small heart-shaped patterns carved into the ornamental metal fittings and woodwork. This is a design feature with ancient roots known as *inome* in Japanese. Today, the Chinese characters for the word might be read as 'eye of the wild boar', but it also has the nuance of warding off fire. This was of particular importance when most structures in Tokyo were still made of wood.

When passing through the gate, be sure to step over the wooden beam, not on it. It is considered respectful to bow your head while passing through.