

Shrine Highlights

Okuni Jinja and its surrounding areas offer a glimpse into how our ancestors coexisted with nature. The natural environment around the shrine has been carefully preserved for hundreds of years, and logging is forbidden within the sacred grounds. Enormous and ancient trees lining the entrance to the main shrine instill a sense of quiet grandeur when entering the realm of the kami.

Respect for nature is expressed in the sustainable construction of the shrine buildings, where bark harvested from local trees is used as roofing material. The harvesting process does not harm the tree, and subsequent bark from the same tree can be used for future construction. Sustainability has been important in this area for generations to ensure that supplies of precious natural resources do not run out.

Many Shinto rituals celebrate the changing seasons, and this is reflected in the flora at Okuni Jinja, with delicate pink and white cherry blossoms in spring, deep forest greens in summer, rich red leaves in autumn, and mountain wildflowers in winter. Visiting the shrine and its surroundings promotes an understanding of the connection between traditional Japanese spirituality, nature preservation, and worship. The elegant wooden shrine buildings are set in a dense cypress forest nestled at the base of Mt. Hongu. The fiery red and gold leaves of autumn are particularly admired.