

**Shrine Three: Asazawa-sha**

Asazawa-sha is the third stop in the Hattatsu Mairi. It is located on what was once a large, marshy pond—Asazawa means “shallow marsh.” The shrine is dedicated to the water goddess Ichikishimahime no Mikoto. This guardian deity of beauty and performing arts is especially popular with female actors, dancers, musicians, and other performing artists seeking greater success.

Every May, rabbit-ear irises bloom in the pond that surrounds the shrine. The purple flowers have attracted visitors since ancient times; they are described in the eighth-century *Man'yōshū*, the oldest extant collection of Japanese poetry. The flowers were commonly used to make dye.

Asazawa-sha is open to Hattatsu Mairi practitioners from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The offering for the rite is included in the offering made at Ōtoshi-sha.