

## **Ōmiya Bridge, Ninomiya Bridge, and Hashirii Bridge**

The Ōmiya River marks the southern border between Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine and the outside world. The three historic bridges that span the river—Ōmiya Bridge, Ninomiya Bridge, and Hashirii Bridge—mark the entrances to the sacred area.

All three were originally made of wood, but they were replaced with granite structures in 1669. The granite replacements faithfully replicate the original wooden bridges. All three bridges were collectively designated Important Cultural Properties in 1917.

### **Ōmiya Bridge**

15.3 meters long, 6.7 meters wide

This is the largest and most elaborate of the three bridges at Hiyoshi Taisha. It stands on the approach to Nishi Hongū (Western Main Shrine), formerly called Ōmiya Shrine. It is used in many of Hiyoshi Taisha's festivals.

### **Ninomiya Bridge**

15.3 meters long, 5.7 meters wide

This bridge stands on the main approach to Higashi Hongū (Eastern Main Shrine), formerly called Ninomiya Shrine. It is now used only during the Sannō Festival in April.

### **Hashirii Bridge**

14.5 meters long, 4.6 meters wide

Unlike the other two, this simple bridge has neither railings nor decorative elements. It runs parallel to Ōmiya Bridge, only a few meters away, and is used by those who require purification before entering the shrine grounds, especially during important shrine rituals and events. It takes its name from Hashirii spring, which is located near the northern foot of the bridge. Purification rites are held in the river near the bridge at the beginning of the Sannō Festival.