

The Giant Maple Tree at Tenkosha Shrine

This maple tree is located on the grounds of Tenkosha Shrine, in the foothills below Torii Pass.

This large tree in the family *Aceraceae* is about 14 m high, its branches spread about 10 m, and at eye height, the circumference of its trunk is 2.45 m.

Tenkosha Shrine, where the giant maple stands, is also the starting point for the Kamishishi Yatai Parade in the Yabuhara Shrine Annual Festival (Yabuhara Festival), and is also known as **Daijingu-sama (The Great Shrine)** because of its deep connection with the two major shrines at Ise.

The forest around this shrine has been called **Daijingu-no-Mori (The Great Shrine Forest)** since ancient times, and is said to have become renowned because of the old maple trees lining the roadway.

While it is said there are few giant maple trees in Nagano Prefecture, the sacred rope around the trunk gives this tree an even more solemn appearance, and in fall the autumn leaves are spectacular.

Source: Kiso-mura no Bunkazai Meguri ("A Tour of Cultural Properties in Kiso Village")

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