

Yoshida Shinmeigu Shrine

Yoshida Shinmeigu Shrine stands amid shrine woods of Japanese and sawara cypress trees, at the foot of the mountain, about 150 meters to the north of the Jizo-do Hall. After climbing the steep mossy stone stairs, the main hall stands at the top of another set of stone stairs leading up from behind the Maidono Hall (hall for ritual dance).

The construction is in the style of *Sangensha Shinmei-zukuri* and enshrines the deities of Amaterasu Omikami at center, Hachiman Daijin at right, and Hakusan Taishin at left.

According to the Yabuhara Shrine record book, the deity enshrined at Hachiman Shrine is Homutawake-no-Mikoto, but the foundation date is unknown.

The shrine grounds are about 100 m² in area and intended for congregations of 31 of the faithful. The main hall was rebuilt in 1893 and the master carpenters for this superb work were local craftsmen Nakamura Sozaemon, Kaito Kanematsu, Matsubara Sakujiro, and Soma master carpenter Matsubara Buemon.

Although its foundation date is unclear, there is a wooden ridge plaque showing that the roof construction was done in 1861 and the stone lanterns on either side in front of the main hall are inscribed with the date "Auspicious Day, September 1785", suggesting the shrine was founded around that time.

About five meters to the left of the main hall (facing it) stands a row of small shrines enshrining Kompira Gongen, Inari Daimyoin, Yasaka Daijin, Mitsumine Daijin, Ukemochi-no-Okami, and Okuninushi-no-Mikoto.

In olden times the regular festival was held three times a year, in the spring, summer, and fall, but is now held on a Sunday on or near September 10th.

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

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