

RELIGION OF JAPAN



Shintoism and Buddhism

Shinto		Buddhist	
No. Shrine:	81,336	No. of Temple:	77,392
No. of Priest:	81,016	No. of Monk:	377,898
No. of Believers	84.7 MII	No. of Believers	87.7 MII

Religions of Japanese people

Result of questionnaire survey to Japanese people (2018)

	Shintoism	Buddhism	Christianity	Others	No religion	No answer
Portion (%)	3%	31%	1%	1%	62%	2%

Resources: ISSP(International Social Survey Programme)

Result of questionnaire to religious facility (2016)

	Shintoism	Buddhism	Christianity	Others	Total	Whole population
Number (mil)	84.7	87.7	1.9	7.9	182.3	127.9
Portion to whole population(%)	66.2%	68.6%	1.4%	6.2%	142.5%	100%

Resources: Religious Statistics Survey, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Shinto Shrine

Buddhist Temple

Gate



Buildings



Object of worship



No. Shrine: 81,336
No. of Priest: 81,016

No. of Temple: 77,392
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Worship method

Two bows, two claps, pray and one bow

A bow, pray with juzu (Buddhist rosary) and chant Buddhist sutra

Two religions in Japan

Buddhism

Shintoism

History

Introduced Mahayana Buddhism in 6th century (538 or 552) through China from North India. Prince Shotoku became the first Buddhist statesman to reorder Japan with a 17-article constitution (604)

Relation of the Sun Goddess and the Emperor was described in the oldest myth "Kojiki" (712) create Jingi worship and combined with other nature worship (mountain worship, etc.)

Object of worship

Along with Buddha, Bodhisattva, Wisdom kings and Deities in heaven are also worshiped

Mythical god, Member of Imperial family, Historical hero, Sacred mountain, tree, rock and any other natural and artificial matters like mirror or sword

Schools

Pure Land, Zen, Nichiren, Shingon, Tendai

Syncretism

The fusion of Buddhism with the local kami worship started as soon as the first arrived in Japan. The first efforts to reconcile Shinto and Buddhism was made in the 8th century founding so-called "jingū-ji" (shrine-temples) comprising both a shrine and a temple.

Then buildings of temples at open-air shrine produced shrine-temple complexes. After the great buddha at Tōdai-ji in Nara built with Hachiman shrine, temples in the entire country adopted tutelary kami.

Manifestation theory, or honji suijaku, states that some kami are local manifestations "trace" of Buddhist deities "original ground".

Torii gate of Shinto shrine



Shinmei Torii

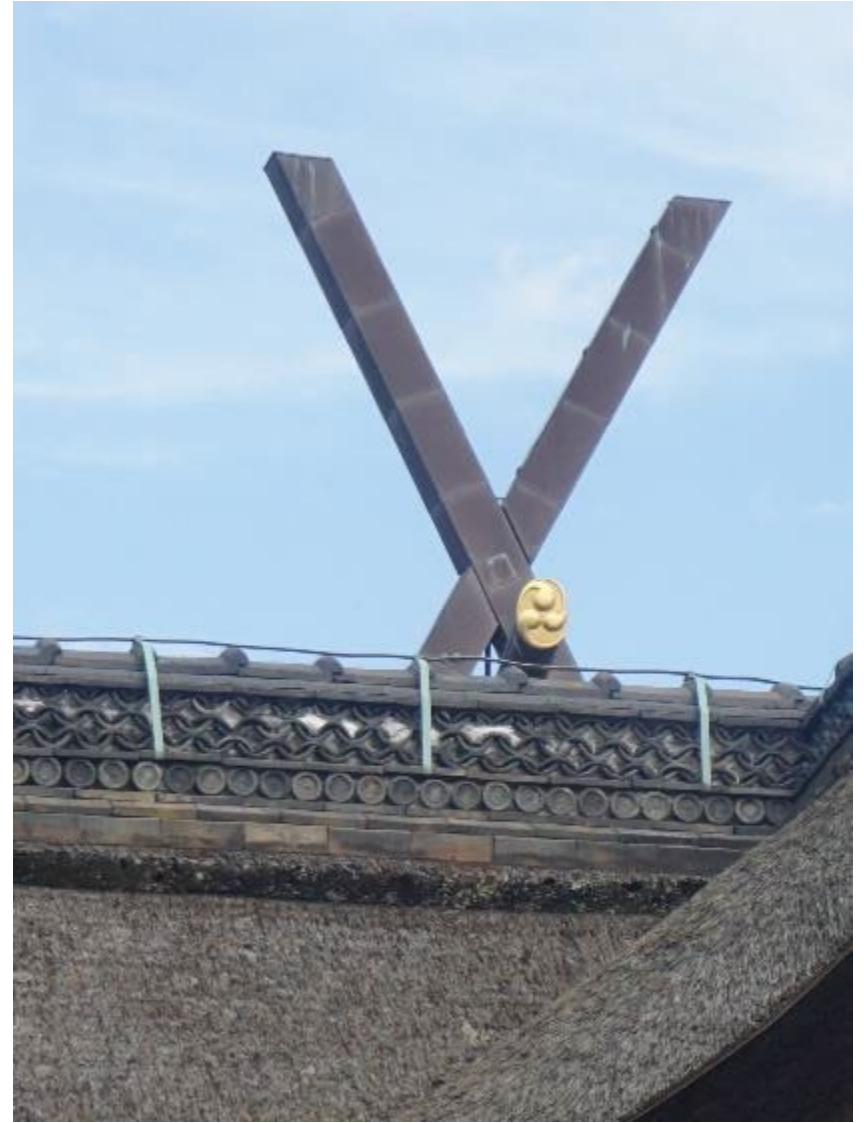


Myojin Torii

Roof structure of Shrine



Male Deity



Female Deity

Three schools of Buddhism

Mahayana Buddhism (The Great Vehicle)

Making compassion and wisdom its central doctrines. Puts on emphasis more on the perfection of wisdom and the mastery of knowledge as tools for achieving awakenings and less emphasis on attaining nirvana. Compassion is very important, therefore, Bodhisattvas choose to stay in the cycle of samsara to help others to achieve enlightenment as well as themselves.





Theravada Buddhism (The School of the Elders)

Theravada tends self-centered and to be conservative in matters of doctrine (pariyatti) and monastic discipline. Nirvana is the ultimate goal. Nirvana refers to awakening: the ultimate liberation of the mind and freedom from samsara, the cycle of suffering, death, and rebirth.

Vajrayana Buddhism (The Way of the Diamond)

Vajrayana marks the transition from Mahayana speculative thought to the enactment of Buddhist ideas in individual life. The term vajra (or “diamond”) is used to signify the absolutely real and indestructible in a human being, as opposed to the fictions an individual entertains about himself and his nature.

Classification of Buddha

Name in Buddhism	image		Manifestation theory in Shintoism
Buddha Sakyamuni (Gautama)		Buddha Sakyamuni lived in Ancient India (c. 5th to 4th century BCE).the founder of of Buddhism	Ninigi-no-Mikoto (grandson of Amaterasu)
Bhaisajyaguru, Yakushi, Medicine (Lapis Lazul Land)		The Buddha of healing and medicine, guardian of the East.	Kasuga gongen Tosyo-daigongen (Tokugawa Ieysu)
Amitabha (Pure Land)		Amitābha is the principal buddha in Pure Land known for his longevity attribute, magnetising pure perception and purification of the aggregates	Hachiman (Emperor Oujin) Kumanogongen
Vairocana; Rusyana, Mahavairocana ; Dinichi		The Buddha who symbolizes the entirety of the phenomenological world	Amaterasu (the Sun Goddess)

Classification of Buddhist statue

Name in
Buddhism

image

Buddha,
(Butsu, Nyorai)



Buddha Sakyamuni lived in Ancient India (c. 5th to 4th century BCE). the founder of Buddhism. There are many Buddha including the Five Great Buddha

Bodhisattva,
Enlightenment being
(Bosatsu)



Bodhisattva is a person who is on the path towards bodhi or Buddhahood. In Mahayana Buddhism, a bodhisattva refers to anyone who has generated bodhicitta, a spontaneous wish and compassionate mind to attain Buddhahood for the benefit of all sentient beings. Mahayana bodhisattvas are spiritually heroic persons that work to attain awakening and are driven by a great compassion.

Wisdom King
(Vidyārāja,
Myō-ō)



A Wisdom King is a type of wrathful deity in East Asian Buddhism. Wisdom King, as their name suggests, are originally conceived of as the guardians and personifications of esoteric wisdom, namely mantras and dharanis. They were seen as embodying the mystic power contained in these sacred utterances. These divinities became objects of veneration in their own right.

Deity (deva,
ten)



A Deva, or deity in Buddhism is a type of celestial beings or gods who share the god-like characteristics of being more powerful, longer-lived, and, in general, much happier than humans.



Amitabha, Buddha of Pure Land



Aryâvalokitesvara, Kannon Bodhisattva, goddess of mercy



Acala, wrathful deity protector of the Dharma



Sarasvatī, Goddess of Knowledge, Music, Art, Speech

Popular places of first visit in New year



Name of Shrine or Temple	Number of New year's visitor (Mil)
Meiji Shrine (Tokyo)	3.2
Kawasaki daishi Temple (Kawasaki)	3.1
Narita shinsyoji Temple (Narita)	3.0
Sensoji Temple(Tokyo)	2.8
Fushimi inari shrine(Kyoto)	2.7
Sumiyoshi shrine (Osaka)	2.6
Tsuruoka Hachiman shrine(Kamakura)	2.5
Atsuta shrine (Nagoya)	2.3
Saitama Hikawa shrine (Omiya)	2.1
Dazaihu shrine (Fukuoka)	2.0



**Wedding
ceremony in
Shinto style**

**Wedding
ceremony in
Christian
style**





Funeral service in Buddhist style

Differences in gravestones by religion



Buddhist style



Christian style



Shinto style

Imperial mausoleum

