

MY FAVORITE SPOTS and EVENTS

日本在住の外国人の方から日本国内で訪れて印象に残った観光地や、感動した事柄などについて寄稿いただきましたので、ご紹介します。

今回は、会員の古橋みかりさんのご紹介で、インドご出身で日本在住 24 年の Ms. Manisha Kundu Nagata (マニシャ永田) さんです。ご協力ありがとうございました。

皆様のお知り合いの外国人の方にも、日本で見つけた素敵な場所・行事や日本の文化・習慣などをご紹介していただくよう、お願いしてもらえませんか？ ご連絡をお待ちしております

Inu Shrine (伊奴神社)

I am living in the city of Ichinomiya for four years now, and love visiting unique sightseeing spots. One of my favorite places is Inu Shrine located in Nishi ward of Nagoya. It is an interesting place to visit especially during the New Year holidays. My husband often offers his services as a priest at this shrine and I have volunteered in selling charms during the busy holiday time.

Legend has it that Emperor Tenmu visited and harvested rice in the area surrounding the shrine in the year 673, and this Shinto shrine came into existence around that time. Although Inu Shrine is dedicated to three deities I will only mention one of the deities named Inuhime-no-kami who is associated with safe delivery during childbirth and also for good health of children. So this shrine is very popular with expecting women. Another interesting point is that since the name of the shrine is 'Inu', it is a beloved spot amongst people having dogs as pets. This is because the Japanese word for dog is 'Inu'. However, it is just the phonetic pronunciation of 'Inu' that is similar, and actually the Japanese character for dog is different than that of the shrine. About three decades back, the shrine management used this play of homophonic words to popularize the shrine, which has worked out very well. Many people from in and around Aichi area visit this shrine throughout the year and visitors can buy cute dog shaped lucky charms.

I often get confused with the correct way of offering prayers at Japanese shrines and temples. This inevitably leads to me praying in Indian way. Sometimes it is a bit embarrassing as I am a Shinto priest's wife but I hope to improve with time.

Inu Shrine is a quiet and peaceful spot and definitely worth a visit.

- * 場所: 愛知県名古屋市西区稲生町 2-12 (TEL: 052-521-8800)
- * アクセス: 地下鉄鶴舞線「庄内通」駅下車 徒歩約 10 分
(1 番出口を出て右手(北)に進む。用水路の遊歩道に沿って東へ 7 分程)
- * 参考HP : <https://inu-jinja.or.jp>

