



笠間稲荷神社

Kasama Inari-jinja





# 神道と神社

日本では大自然のすべてに神が宿ると信じられています。太陽、月、海や川、山や谷、火、水、風、岩、木ほか森羅万象が神であり、神の体现であるわけです。

これらの神々（八百万の神）が、人に命を分け与え、さまざまなかたちに姿を変えて人を守り、正しい道に導き、四季の恵みを与えてくれる—それが、はるか1万年以上の昔から信じられてきた日本の民衆の信仰であり、神道の姿です。

神社は、これらの神が<sup>ましま</sup>坐す場所や、ご神体（鏡、岩、木ほか、神が降臨される依り代）をお祀りする聖域で、各神社は八百万の神々、就中<sup>なかんずく</sup>それぞれの地域社会や氏族の祖をご祭神としてお祀りしています。

## Shinto and Jinja (Shinto Shrines)

In Japan, it is believed that all of nature is inhabited by *kami* (deities). Sun, moon, sea and river, mountains and valleys, fire, water, wind, rock and trees—all things are *kami* or the embodied form of *kami*.

Often called *yaoyorozu no kami* (the "eighty myriads of *kami*"), these deities provide humans with life, protection in manifold forms, and direction in the ways of right, not to mention providing the bounty of the four seasons—this is the essence of Shinto, the simple natural faith followed in Japan since more than ten-thousand years ago.

*Jinja* (shrines) are the sacred places where the *kami* are enshrined, and where their symbols (mirrors, craggy rocks, trees and other epiphanies or dwellings of the *kami*) are worshiped. Each shrine is devoted to various of the "80 myriads of *kami*," particularly those which are considered the ancestral deities of the local community or clan.



## 稲荷大神と笠間稲荷神社

稲荷大神は本来のご神名を宇迦之御魂神うかのみたまのかみと称し、日本の古い神話を集めた『古事記』によると、素盞鳴すさのおの大神おおかみと神大市比売神かむおいちひめのかみの間の御子とされています。神名の「うか」は食物を意味し、「稲に宿る神秘的な精霊」を現わします。宇迦之御魂神は五穀・食物を司る神であり、生命の根源を司る命の根の神です。

笠間稲荷神社はこの宇迦之御魂神をご祭神とする神社で、日本三大稲荷のひとつとして、正一位という最高の位をもつ神さます。社伝によれば、当社の創建は第36代・孝徳天皇の御代の白雉2年（651）とされ、1340余年の歴史を誇っています。特に、江戸時代には歴代笠間藩主の篤い尊崇を受けて関東はもとより広く全国的に信仰され、今日では年間350万余人もの人が霊験あらたかなご神徳を慕って参拝に訪れています。





拝殿内部  
Interior of Hall of worship

拝殿  
*Haiden*(Hall of worship)



## The Great *Kami* Inari and the Kasama Inari Jinja

The great *kami* known as Inari was originally known by the name Ukanomitama no kami; according to the oldest collection of Japanese mythology, the *Kojiki* ("Records of Ancient Matters"), Ukanomitama no kami was the child of Susanô no ôkami and Kamuôichihime no kami. The "Uka" in the name means food-stuffs, indicating the "mysterious spirit dwelling in the grain." In short, Ukanomitama no kami is known as the *kami* with jurisdiction over the five grains and foodstuffs, the life-root *kami* having mastery over the sources of life itself.

Devoted to this same Ukanomitama no kami, the Kasama Inari Shrine is one of the three largest Inari shrines in Japan, having been awarded the ancient court rank of Senior First Grade. According to the shrine's legendary history, Kasama Inari was founded in 651 during the reign of Japan's 36th emperor, Kôtoke, thus boasting of a history extending over some thirteen centuries. Particularly during the Tokugawa period, the Kasama Inari Shrine received the devoted patronage of the feudal lord of the Kasama Domain, and spread its influence not only through the Kantô region but throughout all of Japan. At present, the shrine is visited by more than 3.5 million pilgrims each year.

## ご神徳

### ご祭神 宇迦之御魂神

ご祭神・宇迦之御魂神は、食物を司る神、生命の根源を司る神として、農業、工業、商業、水産業、養蚕などあらゆる殖産興業の守護神として人々の生活すべてに開運招福のご神徳を授けておられる神様です。

## Divine Properties

### Name of Enshrined *Kami*: Ukanomitama no Kami

The *kami* (deity) Ukanomitama no kami is known as the *kami* having control over foodstuffs and the root of life. As tutelary *kami* of agriculture, industry, business, fishing, sericulture, and other kinds of work dealing with production, he dispenses his divine virtues for good fortune in all areas of human life.





笠間藩主牧野貞直公揮毫の額  
Inscription in the hand of Makino Sadanao,  
Lord of Kasama Domain

### 主なご神徳

家内安全  
商売繁盛  
殖産興業  
蘇生（よみがえり）  
生成発展  
産霊（むすび）  
火除け（ひよけ）  
交通安全  
旅行安全  
合格祈願  
良縁成就（縁むすび）  
酒造繁栄  
厄除  
その他

### Major Virtues

Family safety  
Business Prosperity  
Production  
Revitalization  
Growth and Maturation  
Vital Creativity  
Protection from Fire  
Traffic Safety  
Safety during Travel  
Success in School Examinations  
Matchmaking  
Prosperity of Rice Wine(*sake*) Breweries  
Protection during Bad Luck Years  
Etc.

# 笠間稲荷神社の祭礼

## Annual Ceremonies at the Kasama Inari Jinja

### 元旦祭



元旦の午前零時より数十万の参詣者とともに、新年を祝い、皇室の弥栄と国家の安泰、世界平和を祈念し、あわせて氏子崇敬者の人々の除災招福と繁栄を祈願するお祭りです。境内は大晦日の夜から多数の参拝者がつめかけて元朝を迎え、正月中は、茨城県内の神社仏閣では最高の人出になります。

### New Year's Festival

From the stroke of midnight on New Year's eve, hundreds of thousands of visitors fill the precincts of the Kasama Inari shrine, celebrating the new year and praying for the longevity of the imperial house, the safety of the nation, and for world peace, not to mention the good fortune and prosperity of each individual parishioner and worshiper during the coming year. The shrine precincts are filled with large numbers of visitors from New Year's eve into the next day, and the number of pilgrims to Kasama Inari during the month of January alone is the largest of any Shinto shrine or Buddhist temple in Ibaraki Prefecture.



### 初午祭

2月の最初の午の日に行なわれるお祭りです。この時期は、冬から春へと季節が移りかわり、草木をはじめすべてのものの活動が活発になる時期で、一陽来復とすべてのものの甦りと事始めを願うお祭りです。

笠間稲荷神社では、この年の五穀の豊穰と諸産業の繁栄を大神様に祈願し、世界の平和と国家の安泰を祈ります。

### Hatsuuma Matsuri

#### (First Day of the Horse)

This festival is held on the first day of the horse (according to the old astrological calendar) in the month of February. This seasonal period signals the transition from winter to spring, coinciding with the reemergence and renewed activity of plants and other forms of life. The festival thus celebrates the new year's revival of life and the renewed beginnings of all things.

At Kasama Inari Jinja, this festival offers prayers to the deity for successful maturation of the year's harvest and prosperity for industry, while also beseeching world peace and national safety.

### 節分祭追儺式

毎年2月3日、立春の前日に悪疫退散、招福を祈る神事です。当社では、拝殿での祭典終了後、境内に特設した撒豆台で古式に<sup>のつと</sup>削り、桃の弓・葦の矢・桃の杖で追儺式が行なわれ、袴に木綿たすき姿に身を整えた300余名の撒豆行事司の手で、宮司家伝統の秘法により調製された金銀福豆、福銭などがまかれます。また、当日は、身代り守として信仰の篤い金幣御符が授与されます。

### Setsubun Tsuina-sai

February 3 or the day before the spring equinox is considered the last day of winter, and on this day, a festival is held to drive out noxious spirits and invoke good fortune. At Kasama Inari, following completion of the official ritual at the Hall of Worship, a specially constructed platform in the shrine precincts is the site for the performance of an ancient ritual of driving out evil (*tsuinashiki*) using peachwood bows, rush arrows, and peachwood staves. Some 300 officiants dressed in traditional formal attire throw out good-luck beans and cash specially prepared according to secret techniques passed down through the family of the shrine's chief priest.

Also on that day, special gold emblems are distributed as talismans for personal safety.



## 祈年祭

農業文化を基底にもつ日本では、春に五穀の豊穡を神に祈り、秋に豊作を感謝する祭りがあります。祈年祭は「トシゴイノマツリ」とも言い、「トシ」とは穀物を意味します。年のはじめにあたり、穀物の豊穡を神に祈り、国家の安泰を祈願するお祭り、それが祈年祭です。今日では、人々が充実した1年を過ごせるよう、家内安全や商売繁盛、合格祈願など具体的な願いを神に祈り、それを実現するために努力することを誓うお祭りともなっています。

### *Kinensai (Toshigoi Matsuri)*

Japan's deepest cultural roots originate in agriculture, and within the ritual calendar, two of the most important observances are the prayers for a good harvest in spring, and the festival of harvest thanks in autumn. The *kinensai* is also called *toshigoi no matsuri*, where *toshi* refers to the harvest of grains (*goi* or *koi* means "entreaty"); it is observed near the beginning of each year, raising prayers to the *kami* for a good harvest, and for the safety of the nation.

Today, the festival's significance has broadened to include more general prayers for a full and satisfying life during the year, and for home safety, business prosperity, success in school examinations and other more concrete mundane desires; in turn, supplicants also offer their vows to give their own full efforts to assure the successful fruition of their entreaties.



節分祭 Setsubun Tsuina-sai

## 例大祭

大神様が笠間の地にお鎮まりになった日で、1年に1度行なわれるもっとも重要なお祭りとして、古くから4月9日に執り行なわれます。

当日、拝殿においては香道志野流蜂谷宗匠および茶道江戸千家川上宗匠により献香・献茶の儀が行なわれ、茨城県下70数軒の酒造りの蔵元の銘酒奉納による献酒祭も執行されます。

また、境内においては、池坊、古流、草月、小原流などの献華の展示、江戸千家、表・裏千家など各流派の野点が行なわれます。



## Major Annual Festival

Kasama Inari's major annual festival is held on April 9, the shrine's legendary founding day. On that day, ritual offerings of incense ceremony and tea ceremony are made at the Hall of Worship, together with offerings of famous rice wines (*sake*) from more than seventy breweries located in Ibaraki Prefecture.

Within the shrine precincts, exhibitions of flower arranging (*ikebana*) are presented by various schools, including Ikenobô, Koryû, Sôgetsu, and Oharayû, while outdoor tea ceremonies are performed by members of the Edo Senke, Omote Senke and Ura Senke schools of tea.



## 御田植祭



御田植祭は、笠間稲荷神社の御神饌田の御田植えにあたり、御神田に祭場を設けて稲荷大神をお祀りし、稲の実りを祈願するお祭りです。神事に続いて舞殿では『稲荷舞』と『<sup>いなりまい</sup>迎陵<sup>かりようびん</sup>頻』が奏され、御田植歌が奉唱されるなか、奉耕者と早乙女により古式に則って玉苗が植えられます。

## Rice Transplanting Festival (*Taue*)

The festival of rice transplanting or *taue* is observed at a special site prepared at the shrine's sacred rice fields at the time of the spring transplanting of the new rice seedlings. At that time, special prayers are offered to the deity Inari ōkami for successful maturation of the grain. In conjunction with the divine rites, the special divine dances *Inarimai* and *Karyōbin* are exhibited at the Hall of Sacred Dance, and to the accompaniment of traditional rice transplanting songs, the seedlings are transplanted in accordance with ancient custom by parishioners and selected young women.



## 菊祭

明治23年（1890）に始められた、日本でもっとも古い菊花会です。明治41年（1908）、人々の心を和ませ、大地に親しむことを奨励して農園部を開園し、菊花を境内に展示して以来、菊祭は年々発展しました。昭和23年（1948）からは菊人形展も開かれ、いまや日本を代表する花の祭典として、全国から60万余人の参拝者が訪れています。

## Chrysanthemum Festival

Begun in 1890, Kasama Inari's Chrysanthemum Festival is Japan's oldest. In 1908, shrine gardens were established as a place for the exhibition of chrysanthemum flowers, thereby providing parishioners with a calming atmosphere, and stimulating their sense of closeness to the earth; since that time, the shrine's Chrysanthemum Festival has grown larger each year. In 1948, an exhibition of "chrysanthemum mannequins"—human figures formed from chrysanthemum blooms—was added; the festival is now known as one of Japan's representative flower celebrations, drawing some 600,000 visitors from throughout the nation.



# 笠間稲荷神社の祭礼

## Annual Ceremonies at the Kasama Inari Jinja



### 新嘗祭・献穀献繭祭

毎年11月23日、秋を迎えて五穀の豊作と諸産業の躍進を神に感謝するお祭りで、神嘗の由貴の大御饌を神に捧げます。また、この日には献穀・献繭祭が併せ行なわれ、お初穂の奉納と、養蚕業の発展を祈る繭の奉納が行なわれます。

### *Niinamesai* and Offering of Firstfruits

Each November 23, thanks are given in this festival for the abundant harvest and success in other productive endeavors. Specially consecrated offerings are presented to the *kami* at this time, together with first fruits of harvest and sericulture, and prayers are offered for future blessings.



### 神事流鏑馬



稲荷の大神様に縁の深い農業の豊凶を占う神事です。毎年11月3日、小笠原流宗家の奉仕により特設馬場において古式ゆかしく執り行なわれ、鶴岡八幡宮、日光東照宮とならぶ関東三大流鏑馬として知られています。

なお、秋分の日（9月23日）には、小笠原流奉納による三三九手<sup>さんさんくではさんしき</sup>が執り行なわれています。

### *Yabusame* (Mounted Archery)

This ceremonial form of equine archery is observed as a form of divination for the year's harvest—a subject with strong associations to the deity Inari. Each November 3, members of the Ogasawara school of mounted archery perform the rite at a special archery facility in accordance with ancient precedent; the observance is one of the three major performance of *yabusame* in the Kantô Plain region.

In addition, the Ogasawara school also performs the *sansanku tebasami* ritual on the day of the autumnal equinox (September 23).





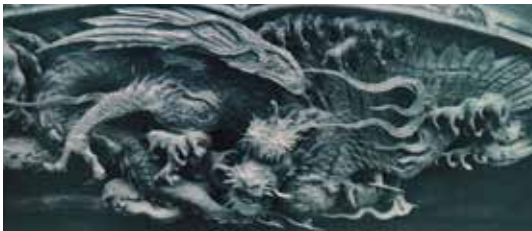
神苑の八重藤 *Yaefuji* wisteria arbor in the shrine gardens.

## 悠久の祈りの庭

当社の御本殿は徳川末期の安政・万延年間（1854～1861）に造営された総檜造りで、昭和63年（1988年）、国の重要文化財に指定されています。また神苑には樹齢400年におよぶ珍種「八重藤」があり、県の天然記念物に指定されています。なお、境内には天然記念物の日本鶏17種が飼育されています。

## Garden of Eternal Prayer

Made entirely of Japanese zelkova-wood (*keyaki*), the *Honden* (Main Sanctuary) of the shrine was constructed during the Ansei-Man'en eras (1854-1861); in 1988 it was designated by the Japanese government as an Important Cultural Asset. Likewise, the shrine gardens include a rare *Yaefuji* wisteria arbor, the trunk of which is some four-hundred years old, and which has been designated an Important Natural Monument by Ibaraki Prefecture.



三頭八方睨の龍 Carving on Main Sanctuary, called *Santô happô niramî no ryû* ("the three-headed dragon that stares angrily in all directions").





御本殿 *Honden*  
(Main Sanctuary)

# 笠間稲荷神社のある街 笠間市

笠間稲荷神社の鎮座する笠間市は、関東地方北部、茨城県に位置する人口3万1000人の街で、その歴史は古く、縄文時代には集落が営まれていたことが遺跡から確認されています。

笠間市は古くから笠間稲荷神社の門前町として発展してきましたが、鎌倉時代の1205年、笠間時朝が佐白山に築城して以降は城下町としても発展し、江戸時代には忠臣蔵で有名な浅野家が藩主を務めたこともあります。

古い歴史をもつことから、街の各所には数多くの史跡・旧跡が残っており、雅びで伝統ある佇まいから「関東の小京都」と呼ばれています。

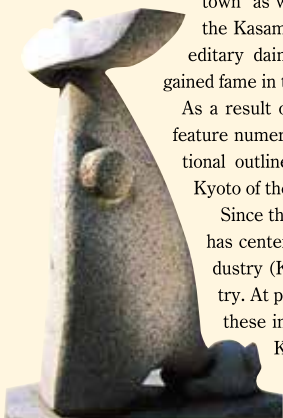
近世に入ってから笠間焼、明治以降は稲田御影石の街として発展を遂げ、現在では笠間稲荷神社と焼物と御影石を中心とした文化・芸術・観光の街として知られています。

## The City of Kasama— Home of Kasama Inari

The city of Kasama is a smaller regional city with a population of 31,000, located in Ibaraki Prefecture at the northern part of Japan's Kantô plain region. The city has a long history, and archaeological excavations have uncovered settlements in the area dating back to the Jōmon period (ca. 5000 B.C.E.-ca. 250 B.C.E.). The town was long associated with Kasama Inari Jinja, but in the year 1205, Kasama Tokiasa constructed a castle on the nearby mountain of Sashirosan, leading to the development of Kasama as a feudal "castle town" as well. In the Tokugawa period (1600-1867), the Kasama domain was led at one time by the hereditary daimyo of the Asano family, one of whom gained fame in the story of the "Forty-Seven Rōnin."

As a result of its long history, the streets of Kasama feature numerous historical sites, and its elegant, traditional outlines have garnered for it the title, "Little Kyoto of the Kantô."

Since the early modern period, city's development has centered particularly on its well-known kiln industry (Kasama-ware) and its Inada granite industry. At present, Kasama continues to be known for these industries as well as for being home to the Kasama Inari Shrine, making it a city of culture, arts, and tourism.





## 笠間焼

笠間市は焼物の街として知られており、名産の笠間焼は、安永年間（1772～1781）、近江国信楽の陶工・長右衛門が伝えたことから始まっています。以後、笠間藩主の保護育成により発展し、今日まで200数十年の歴史をもっています。

笠間焼は独特の渋みとあたたかみで人気を得ており、窯業団地をはじめ、それぞれの陶房における作家たちの手により、日常雑器から芸術性あふれる作品まで、個性的で創造的な焼物が生み出されています。



### Kasama-Ware Ceramics

Kasama is known as a center of the kiln industries for its distinctive Kasama-ware, which has flourished since the transmission of Shigaraki-ware from Ōmi Province by the famous potter Nagauemon in the An'ei period (1772-1781). From that time, the Kasama kilns received the patronage of the daimyo of the Kasama domain, resulting in its present history

of over two-hundred years.

Popular for its restrained warmth, Kasama-ware is produced in centralized kiln groups as well as in numerous independent studios. From the hands of master craftspersons, many distinctive and unique works of Kasama-ware are produced, ranging from objects of daily use to sheer works of art.

東京からJR特急で70分、  
常磐高速で約90分。

#### Location of the City of Kasama

70 minutes from Tokyo,  
on the JR Line *Tokkyū* (Limited Express train).  
About 90 minutes from Tokyo by car,  
on the Jōban Expressway.

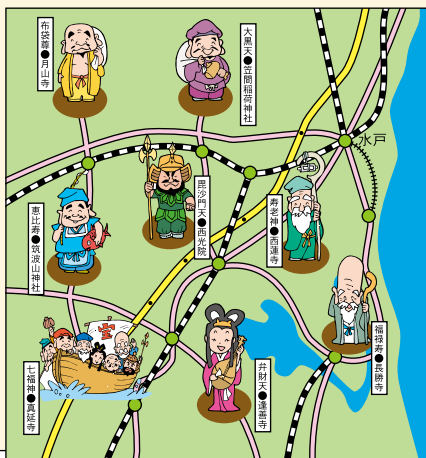
## 常陸七福神

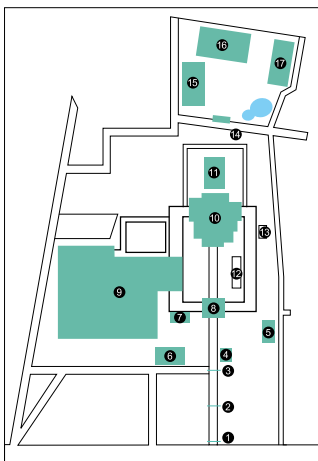
水郷・筑波国定公園に散在する8つの社寺に安置されている“日本で一番長い巡路を持つ七福神”です。七福神は室町時代に大成され、福德成就、長寿、円満、財貨の守護神として広く信仰を集め、特に七福神詣は有名です。

●大黒天	笠間稲荷神社	0296(73)0001
●恵比寿	筑波山神社	0298(66)0502
●毘沙門天	西光院	0299(43)6938
●弁財天	達善寺	0297(87)2162
●福祿寿	長勝寺	0299(62)3808
●布袋尊	月山寺	0296(75)2251
●寿老神	西蓮寺	0299(56)0107
●七福神	真延寺	0298(22)4462

### The Seven Gods of Fortune of Hitachi Province

Local pilgrimage circuits can be found throughout Japan dedicated to the seven gods of fortune (fukujin). The pilgrimage circuit in Hitachi Province (present-day Ibaragi Prefecture) connected eight temples and shrines throughout the region of Suigō and Tsukuba National Park, and was known as having the longest circuit of any of the fukujin pilgrimages in Japan.





- ①一の鳥居 First Torii
- ②二の鳥居 Second Torii
- ③朱の鳥居 Vermillion Torii
- ④手水舎 Purification font
- ⑤東門 East Gate
- ⑥絵馬殿  
Pavilion of dedicatory plaques
- ⑦交通安全祈禱所  
Area for administering traffic  
safety blessings
- ⑧楼門  
Romon (Two-storey gate)
- ⑨社務所 Shrine offices
- ⑩拝殿  
Haiden (Hall of Worship)
- ⑪御本殿  
Honden (Main Sanctuary)
- ⑫藤棚 Wisteria arbor
- ⑬聖徳殿・大黒天  
Shōtokuden and Daikokuten
- ⑭末社 Branch shrines
- ⑮嘉辰殿 Kashinden
- ⑯美術館 Art Museum
- ⑰休憩所 Rest area

## 笠間稲荷神社

### 笠間稲荷神社社務所

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## Kasama Inari Jinja

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