奉拝

巡礼之記

御朱印の旅

THE PILGRIMAGE OF JEFF

Fifty-four vermilion seals · six cities · eight days

Japan · 5–12 November 2026

WHAT IS A GOSHUIN 御朱印とは

A goshuin — 御朱印, the "honorable vermilion seal" — is a shrine or temple's attestation of a visit: its seals pressed in cinnabar ink, then overwritten in brush with the institution's name, its deity or buddha, and the date of worship.

The custom began as a temple's receipt for a sutra copied and offered by a pilgrim. It survives as living calligraphy: no two are alike, and each is written in front of you, in under a minute, for a few hundred yen.

They are gathered in a goshuincho (御朱印帳), a book of one long accordion-folded strip. Some are brushed straight onto the page — 直書き, jikigaki; others are handed over as finished sheets — 書き置き, kakioki — to be mounted at home, as most of this book's were.

奉拝

Hōhai, "respectfully worshipped," opens nearly every page that follows.

Tohai, "climbed and worshipped," marks the ones earned on foot.

THE JOURNEY 旅程

11·5 — TOKYO

Kanda Myōjin: the first stamp of the trip, under the sign of the fire horse.

11·8 — SHIOGAMA

Two shrines share one rank across a single spread: 陸奥國一之宮, First Shrine of Mutsu.

11·9 — SENDAI

Osaki Hachimangū, Masamune's National Treasure, with its side shrines: Five of five.

11·10 — KYOTO · OSAKA

Up Mt. Inari at dawn for a tohai stamp; Katsuo-ji's winners' daruma by afternoon.

11·11 — KYOTO

All ten goshuin of Tō-ji in a morning; then Arashiyama maples — Tenryū-ji in silk thread, Hōgon-in on butterfly paper.

11·12 — NIKKŌ

Twenty-one stamps in one day: Tosho-gū, Futarasan, Rinnō-ji, the sacred bridge, the lake, the falls — and a hidden buddha.

THE BOOK · FRONT 表

inside cover — reserved **0**

1 Kanda Myōjin 神田神社 — Tokyo

2 Shiogama Jinja 鹽竈神社

3 Shiwahiko Jinja 志波彦神社

4 Osaki Hachimangū 大崎八幡宮

5 — Taigen-sha 大元社

6 — Suwa-sha 諏訪社

7 — Kashima-sha 鹿島社

8 — Hokkushin-sha 北辰社

9 Fushimi Inari: Oku-no-in 奥の院

10 Inari-yama 稲荷山 (Gozendani)

11 Fushimi Inari Taisha 伏見稲荷大社

12 Katsuo-ji 勝尾寺 — Saigoku no. 23

13 Inari-yama, autumn art sheet

14–23 Tō-ji 東寺 — the complete ten:

Dainichi · Kōbō Daishi · Fudō · Yakushi · Aizen · Hachiman · Jūichimen Kannon · Bishamonten · Sanmen Daikoku · Kokūzō

Written directly in the book: pages 2–3, 10–12 and 14–23. The rest are mounted kakioki sheets.

Pages advance right to left; of each open spread, the right-hand page is the earlier, and the place of honor.

THE BOOK · BACK 裏

0 Tenryū-ji 天龍寺 — embroidered

1 Hōgon-in 宝厳院

2 Futarasan Jinja 二荒山神社

3 Fire-horse year 丙午 — 開運

4 Takino Jinja 瀧尾神社

5 Hongū Jinja 本宮神社

6 Daikoku-sama — 繁結び

7 Nikkō Benzaiten 弁財天

8 The lucky rabbits 金運・幸運

9 The victory serpent 勝利の大蛇

10 Nikkō Tosho-gū 東照宮

11 Tosho-gū Okumiya 奥宮

12 Sanbutsu-dō 三仏堂

13 Treasure Hall — 風神・雷神

14 Jōgyō-dō — the syllable キリーク

15 Jōgyō-dō — Amida, by name

16 Godai-son 五大尊

17 Fudō Myōō on gold

18 Bishamonten — 下野七福神

19 Taiyūin 大猷院

20–21 The hidden Bishamonten, unveiled — *gold foil, across the spread*

22–23 The Crying Dragon 鳴龍, painted — *ink and wash, the final spread*

The whole back face is Arashiyama and Nikkō: one golden afternoon, then one very long, very lucky day.

HIGHLIGHTS 見どころ

- **One title, two pages.**
  Shiogama and Shiwahiko split a single rank — 陸奥國一之宮 — half on each page of one spread.
- **The fire horse.**
  2026 is hinoe-uma, the first fire-horse year since 1966; its zodiac sheets can't be issued again till 2086.
- **A hidden buddha, unveiled.**
  The Nikkō visit fell inside a gokaichō — the rare opening of the Sanbutsu-dō's secret Bishamonten.
- **Earned on foot.**
  Two stamps are proofs of climbing: Gozendani on Mt. Inari at dawn, and the 207 steps to Ieyasu's tomb.
- **The crying dragon.**
  Clap beneath the Honji-dō ceiling and the dragon answers with a ringing chirp; the painting closes this book across its final spread.
- **Ink is not the only medium.**
  The collection runs to gold foil, silver on black, silk embroidery, die-cut paper, and clear film.

And one page remains empty — front-0, inside the cover, kept for whatever the next journey brings.

KEPT LOOSE 別置

Nine pieces live outside the book:

· Kegon Falls, the black Niō pair, and the foxes under the moon — bound for frames

· the Seven Lucky Gods, four panels wide

· the die-cut Bishamonten — no seal, so strictly a keepsake, and a fine one

· Shinkyō, the sacred bridge, on clear film

· three deluxe twins of mounted pages — gold Futarasan, wide Benzaiten, plain 鳴龍

THE NUMBERS 数

54 seals in eight days — sixteen in brush, the rest as loose sheets

45 now live in the book: 16 written, 29 mounted

7 pilgrimage circuits touched, Saigoku to the Seven Lucky Gods of two cities

3 complete sets — Tō-ji's ten, Ōsaki's five, Fushimi Inari's three offices

2 ichinomiya — first shrines of old Mutsu and Shimotsuke provinces

4 Bishamontens — the most-stamped figure in the collection

1 fire-horse year — and it was this one

満願

man-gan — the vow fulfilled, a pilgrimage completed

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御朱印帳 · 5–12 November 2026 · 令和八年霜月

fifty-four entries, scanned at 600 dpi and catalogued in full at archeious/goshuin