



Fushimi Inari Shrine and Torii Gates

The famed vermilion torii gates can be found at Fushimi Inari Shrine. This type of shrine is used to worship the deity Inari. There are thousands of shrines dedicated to Inari, which are typically associated with rice, prosperity, the color red, and symbols of foxes. Foxes act as Inari's messengers and are often depicted at the shrine entrance, holding a symbolic item in their mouth or under their paw. Offerings of rice, sake, and fried tofu are popular. Fushimi Inari-Taisha, the head shrine of Inari, is known for its path of a thousand vermilion torii gates, which were donated by Japanese merchants. It may take up to 2 hours to walk the entire path, but there are beautiful views, with an overlook of Kyoto about halfway up. The shrine is open 24 hours a day and there is no fee. There are many shops and food stalls leading to the shrine, and you can purchase a fox ema, which is a wooden plaque where you can write your wishes.



Right next to Inari Station, on the JR Nara Line
(5 minutes from Kyoto station)



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<http://inari.jp/en/>