

Amamikoso Shrine

One of the Matsubara Six Shrine Fortune Pilgrimage shrines. Susanoo no Mikoto, Amanokoyane no Mikoto, and Kotoshironushi no Mikoto are worshipped here. This ancient shrine was once known as Amagishi no Miya and is the namesake of the Amami region. It is said that the shrine was built at the start of the Heian period during the Daido era (806-809). During the first half of the 10th century, the shrine was designated as an Engi-Shiki shrine, a historic shrine that could receive offerings from the government for annual ritual prayers for the year's harvest at the time.

Until the beginning of the Meiji period, a Buddhist temple with the mountain name of Amamisan existed on the shrine grounds. The eastern and southern gates are the gates of that temple. The pair of guardian dog statues in front of the hall of worship have the words "Amamisan", "Age of Ajari Kaido", and "September, Bunka year four" inscribed in their bases, indicating that priests build the shrine in the fourth year of the Bunka era (1807).

On the east side of the purification trough stands a stone monument with the inscription, "Safe living place of the priest, Gyoki." During the Edo period, it is said that Gyoki, a high priest of the Nara period, lived there. This is why the bridge that spans the Yamato River to the northwest of the shrine is called the Gyokio Bridge.

In front of the hall of worship, a Shimenawaishi (a stone decorated with a sacred straw rope) was placed by chief priest Wakamiya Harutaka in the 40th year of the Meiji period (1907) after the Russo-Japanese War to celebrate the parishioners from Amami and what is presently Yata of the Higashi Sumiyoshi Ward of Osaka City who went to war. The names of the parishioners are inscribed in the stone.

The inscription of the stone monument with the shrine's denomination, "Village shrine, Amamikoso Shrine" (10th year of the Showa period) located at the east gate was done by chief priest Emi Seifu of the Kasuga-Taisha Shrine (Nara City), but this is because chief priest Wakamiya served as senior priest from the Kasuga-Taisha Shrine in the first half of the Meiji period.