



SHIBUYA HIKAWA JINJA

MINI TOUR

Time: 1 hour
 Accessibility: ☆☆☆
 Immersion: ☆☆☆☆☆
 Attractiveness: ☆☆☆☆☆

Shibuya is a very lively sub-center of Tokyo, located around the railway station of the same name. While not nearly as overwhelming as the Shinyuku area, its small, winding streets can become quite crowded at times, making it very easy to lose track of directions.

The JR Shibuya station is also the starting point of one of the most exciting PGSM mini tours, leading you to three very exciting shrines, one of which is the Shibuya Hikawa Jinja, where most of Rei's outside shots have been taken.



Every tour description starts with four values: time, accessibility, immersion and attractiveness. Here's what they are about:

Time

The approximate amount of time for the tour, including the time to get back to the starting point.

Accessibility

This rating shows how easy you can get to the location, both in means of time and effort.

- ☆☆☆☆☆ Practically lies by the way, with no trouble finding it whatsoever
- ☆☆☆☆ Needs a little detour, but still very easy to find without much time to get there
- ☆☆☆ Closeby, but needs some effort and orientation skills to find
- ☆☆ A real challenge to find, even with this location guide at hand
- ☆ Only recommended if you have a lot of time and at least basic language skills

Immersion

This is a very subjective rating of mine, judging how deeply one feels drawn into the World of Sailor Moon by visiting that location.

- ☆☆☆☆☆ Perfect immersion - a must for every diehard PGSM fan
- ☆☆☆☆ Feels very much like the real deal, with very little distractions
- ☆☆☆ As long as you close your eyes and block out any distractions, you can still get a scent of PGSM
- ☆☆ Only recommended, if this location is part of your favourite scene
- ☆ Going there is hardly worth it

Attractiveness

Another important rating that tells you if the location holds attractions beyond PGSM that allow you to take your travel companions with you, even if they're not into PGSM

- ☆☆☆☆☆ Full fledged tourist spot - nobody will even notice why you're really there
- ☆☆☆☆ Very nice place to go for everyone, not just PGSM fans
- ☆☆☆ Quite nice, but only if you're into this kind of location
- ☆☆ You will have to make up a very good story to lure your folks there
- ☆ Better go there on your own



Enter the footbridge!



Leaving the footbridge.



Motors Cafe - go left.



Turn right here!



You start at the South Entrance of JR Shibuya (not to mistaken with the New South Entrance!). Leaving Shibuya station you see a bus station to your left, but you turn right towards a large footbridge, that will lead you over a crossroads. Once you've crossed the bridge, follow the road on its left side, as pointed out on the map, until you come to the „Motors Cafe“. There turn left to enter a rather narrow street, then after a while, at the „Antique Orgoru Piano“, turn right again. Congratulations! You're now on what I call the „Temple path“. Can you feel how the stress and noise of the nearby city is subsiding around you? It is making way for a much calmer part of Shibuya, gentle and serene, where the soul can rest. Just follow the path that lies before you. You will come by two very beautiful shrines, followed by the most beautiful Hikawa Jinja, which also marks the end of the tour.





„Ward Tree: Keyaki“. Keyaki is the name of a kind of tree (as in the picture), and the ward is Shibuya Ward, one of the administrative divisions of Tokyo. They each have their own tree and flower. (Thanks to David Chart for the Information!)



Finally, Shibuya Hikawa Jinja is coming up.

Latitude: 35°39'17.03"N
Longitude: 139°42'38.62"E

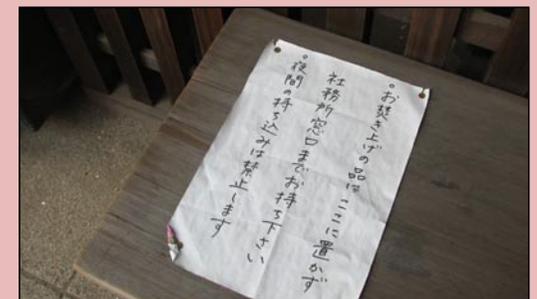
Distance from Keiko's working place: 600 meters
Distance from Ayaka's working place: 900 meters





People change. They are moving on. But places stay the same for much longer. So in order to get really nostalgic, you do not have to visit the people, you have to visit the places. Pictures are good. One picture says more than as a thousand words. But to be there, to watch the leaves moving around you, to hear the sounds and feel the wind and sun on your skin, that is much more than a thousand pictures can say. It is enchanting.





The note on the right says: „If you have things for consigning to the flames, please do not leave them here, but take them to the shrine office window. Leaving things at night is forbidden.“ Cultural note: charms and such from shrines are only supposed to be kept for one year, but cannot be simply thrown away. Instead, you take them to a shrine (ideally the one where you got them, but that’s not essential), where they are burned with full Shinto ceremony, normally as part of a festival. However, busy shrines have little fires throughout the year. A lot of Japanese people want to do this with dolls, but shrines don’t take them because they contain plastics. Shrine charms and such are generally made to burn, these days. (Thanks to David Chart for the Information!)

