



National Treasure
Illustrated Legends of Kitano Tenmangū Shrine (Jōkyū version), Volume 6
Kitano Tenmangū Shrine, Kyoto
On view May 19–June 14, 2026



Standing Eleven-Headed Kannon
(Ekadaśamukha Avalokiteśvara)
Manshu-in Temple, Kyoto



Important Cultural Property
Armor with Red Silk Cords and Large
Shoulder Guards
Hase-dera Temple, Nara
On view April 18–May 17, 2026

Special Exhibition

KITANO TENJIN

Legends of a Shinto God

April 18–June 14, 2026

9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (entrance until 5:00 p.m.)

Fridays, 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. (entrance until 7:30 p.m.)

Closed Mondays

However, open Monday, May 4, 2026

The exhibition has two installations:

Part I: April 18 – May 17, 2026

Part II: May 19 – June 14, 2026

**Please note that some works will be rotated during the exhibition period.
Exhibited works and exhibition dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.



Right: Important Cultural Property. *Tachi (Slung Sword)*, Inscribed "[...]tada," Known as "Usumidori / Hizamaru" Daikaku-ji Temple, Kyoto
Left: Important Cultural Property. *Tachi (Slung Sword)*, Inscribed "Kunitsuna," Known as "Onikirimaru / Hige kiri" Kitano Tenmangū Shrine, Kyoto

The Shinto shrine of Kitano Tenmangū, located in northwestern Kyoto, is dedicated to Tenjin, the deified incarnation of the erudite Heian-period aristocrat Sugawara no Michizane (845–903). In 2027, Kitano Tenmangū is hosting the Hanmantōsai, a festival in which thousands of lanterns are lit to commemorate the 1125th anniversary of Michizane's death. To mark this occasion, the Kyoto National Museum is organizing a special exhibition showcasing treasures related to Tenjin worship from shrines across Japan. At the heart are 17 National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties preserved over centuries in Kitano Tenmangū Shrine.

For this milestone exhibition, the National Treasure *Illustrated Legends of the Kitano Tenjin Shrine (Kitano Tenjin engi emaki)*, Jōkyū version, is being exhibited in full for the first time in history, with every scene on display at some time during the exhibition. Other slightly later versions of the *Illustrated Legends of the Kitano Tenjin Shrine*— including the Kōan, Mitsunobu, and Mitsuoki versions, all designated Important Cultural Properties— will also be on view, depicting scenes of the origin of the Kitano deity and shrine.

The exhibition also features works recently uncovered through joint research by the Kyoto National Museum and the Kitano Cultural Research Institute, as well as masterpieces passed down in Tenmangū and Tenjin shrines and temples across Japan. Through these objects, the exhibition sheds light on the diverse and previously underexplored dimensions of Tenjin veneration, revealing the significant role it has played in shaping Japanese culture.

Special Exhibition Admission

2,000 yen

Organized by the Kyoto National Museum;
Kitano Tenmangū Shrine; The Yomiuri Shimbun

With the Support of Iwatani Corporation;

Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd.;

Non-Destructive Inspection Co., Ltd.

With the Special Cooperation of Zenkoku Tenmangū Baifūkai

In Conjunction with Kyoto City Tourism Association

General inquiries: 075-525-2473

Exhibition website: kitano-tenjin2026.com

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www.kyohaku.go.jp

