Its fall festival welcomes fall to Tsuruga, its ritual grass rings purify visitors...through it all, Kehi Shrine's vermilion gates greet all who journey to it.

Kehi Shrine's grand *torii* gate (National Cultural Treasure)

Festival floats

The area surrounding the shrine's main gate was once marshland, but in 1301 the Buddhist sect saw the difficulty experienced by faithful visitors to the shrine and undertook the arduous task of transporting sand from the harbor to create pathways that would ease travel to the shrine. This was the origin of *osunamochi*, now an important religious rite of the shrine.

Jingūkōgō, the god enshrined at Jōgū Shrine and known in life as the Chūai emperor, is considered a patron deity of sailors and fishermen in the bay. Each year, the shrine calendar’s most important event is the Sōnomai Festival.

Kehi Shrine

Jōgū Shrine

1km

Pathway leading into the shrine

Statues of devotees engaging in ritual *osunamochi* (carrying sand)

Main precincts of Kehi Shrine

Photos ①-⑥ courtesy of Tsuruga City