



Enryakuji

Hieizan "World Cultural Heritage Site"



The holy mother mountain, Mt. Hiei, radiates its rays of light beyond its ancient history of 1,200 years as a treasure of the world.



In December 1994, the registration of Hieizan Enryakuji as a World Cultural Heritage Site was approved by UNESCO's Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Since Dengyo Daishi Saicho established a simple hut on this mountain, many great priests have been trained and educated in this establishment. This magnificent green mountain is now starting to glow with a new brilliance as a great cultural asset generated by mankind upon a foundation of 1,200 years of history.

There is no temple or stupa called Enryakuji in Hieizan. Hieizan itself represents Enryakuji, and the entire natural environment, all the temples, and all the people training here make up the overall religion.

Everything that exists on earth has its own Buddha nature, and all religions, nature, culture, and mankind are blended in and mixed with each other.

The beautiful profile of the mountain, which lies amongst an ancient ocean of trees, was once praised in poetry as "the Mt. Fuji of Kyoto (where the word "Fuji" here also represents a one and only existence)"...

Its gracefulness and elegance still capture the heart of every person who enters the mountain.

How numerous they are, the so-called mountains of this earth, but the one and only Mountain is Mt. Hiei.

By Jichin Kasho

Simply treading on the soil of this mountain, it is said that you can bond with paradise high above – I have established a stupa on this land of promise, thus now I look forward to my life beyond this life.

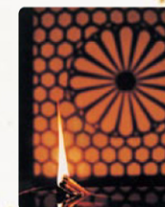
By Teika Fujiwara



The forests of Mt. Hiei have been chosen as one of the Best 100 Water Source Forests in Japan

The cedars and the scents of Enryakuji, Hieizan have been chosen as one of the Kaori Fukei 100 Sen (Best 100 Scented Sceneries) - Scents to be handed down to our children, scenery to be maintained for our descendants -

The Sakamoto district in Hieizan has been designated by the government as an ancient city area to be preserved





To-do

The central stupa area among the 3 stupa areas in Hieizan Enryakuji, and the birthplace of Enryakuji. Numerous important temples and stupas such as the Konpon Chu-do, which is the Head Temple of Hieizan, are gathered in this area.



Konpon Chu-do (national treasure)

The most important temple in Hieizan, and which was established in 788 as Ichijo-shi Kan-in by the patriarch Dengyo Daishi. The hidden Buddhist icon Yakushi Nyorai, which is said to have been carved by Dengyo Daishi himself, is enshrined in the temple, and has been continuously illuminated by "Fumetsu no Hoto" since the establishment of the temple 1,200 years ago.

This temple also serves as the Ketsu-gan (ceremony-closing) spiritual spot for the Shinto and Buddhism Spiritual Spot Society founded in September 2008.



Kaidan-in (important cultural asset)

An important temple where aspiring priests of the Tendai Buddhist sect are ordained as Buddhist priests by receiving the commandments of Buddhism. After Dengyo Daishi had passed away, an imperial permit to establish the temple was issued, and the temple was established in 828 during the tenure of the first Zasu, Gishin. The temple's main building enshrines the icons Shaka Nyorai, Monju Bosatsu, and Miroku Bosatsu.



Hokke So Ji-in, Amida-do

The Konpon Dojo (training hall) of Tendai Tantric Buddhism planned by Dengyo Daishi and founded by Jikaku Daishi En-nin in 862. The hall was burnt down once during an attack by Oda Nobunaga, but was restored 400 years later in 1987. The To-do, Kanjo-do, and Jakkodo are collectively referred to as Hokke So Ji-in. The Amida-do is a temple for holding memorial services for ancestors or the deceased established in 1937, and Eko memorial services are held here every day.



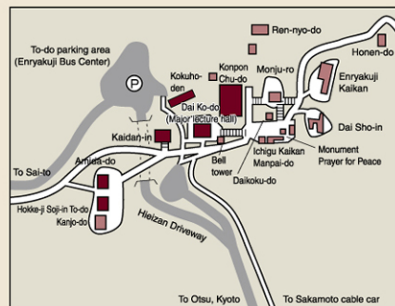
Dai Ko-do (important cultural asset)

A dojo (training hall) for academic training where Hokke Daie (Kogaku Ryugi) are held every 5 years, and in which other lectures on the Buddhist sutra are also held. The former building was burned down in 1956, and the current building consists of the Sanbutsudo which was relocated from Sakamoto and reconstructed on the original site.



Kokuho-den
(national treasure storage building)

The numerous treasures of the temple that are essential parts of the history of Hieizan, such as those appointed as national treasures and important cultural assets, as well as other important treasures which were secretly possessed around the country, have been collected and enshrined here.



Sai-to

Located 1 km to the north of To-do. Centering on the Shaka-do, the oldest building on the mountain, a number of other temples are scattered around this area. These beautiful temples help to create a solemn atmosphere.



Shaka-do (important cultural asset)

Located in the center of Sai-to, the formal name of this building is Tenbo Rin-do. The original building was burned down during Oda Nobunaga's attack on Hieizan. The current building was originally the Miroku-do of Enjo-ji, which was relocated and modified by Toyotomi Hideyoshi following the attack, and is the oldest building on the mountain. The principal icon is the standing figure of Shaka Nyorai created by Dengyo Daishi himself, and the name of the temple is derived from this icon.



Ninai-do (important cultural asset)

Two temples, Hokke-do and Jogyo-do, with the same shape are connected with a corridor, and are well known by the collective name "Benkei's Ninai-do". The buildings represent the teaching implemented at Hieizan that Hokke and the Buddhist invocation are unified together, and Hokke Zanmai training is implemented in the Hokke-do, while Jogyo Zanmai training is implemented in the Jogyo-do.



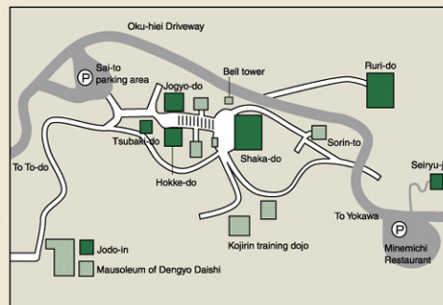
Ruri-do (important cultural asset)

The only building which was not burnt down during Oda Nobunaga's attack. It is located to the west of the Shaka-do, along the Kurotani Michi, and its principal icon is the Yakushi Ruriko Nyorai. Although this is a small temple approximately 5.5m square, it clearly represents the architectural style of the end of the Muromachi era.



Jodo-in

This is the mausoleum of Dengyo Daishi, and is the most sacred area in Hieizan. Dengyo Daishi passed away in 822, and was entombed at this location. The priest protecting this mausoleum is referred to as a Jishin, and is required to strictly follow Buddhist precepts, to make a pledge to stay in the mountain for 12 years and devote himself to training, and to serve Dengyo Daishi.



Tsubaki-do

This is a small temple located in front of the Ninai-do, and its principal icon is the Senju Kan-non. Its name is derived from an episode in which, when Shotoku Taishi visited Hieizan, he thrust a camellia branch he was using as a cane into the ground, and this branch then took root and grew to cover the whole area.

Yokawa

A holy site where the remnants of ancient days remain, located 4km further north from Sai-to. The central temple building Yokawa Chu-do was founded by Jikaku Daishi En-nin.



Yokawa Chu-do

The main building in Yokawa, this is referred to as the Shuryo Gon-in. Established in 848 by Jikaku Daishi En-nin. Although this building was destroyed in a fire after being struck by lightning in 1942, it was restored in commemoration of the 1,150th anniversary (Dai-on-ki) of the death of Dengyo Daishi in 1971. It is the 18th temple for dedicating pilgrimage tags among the new spiritual spots in western Japan, and also serves as the Ketsu-gan (ceremony-closing) pilgrimage dedication spot for the 108 Omi spiritual spots.



Eshin-do

The birthplace of the Japanese Jodo (pure land) religion where Eshin Sozu Genshin (the Sozu in Eshin named Genshin), the author of "Ojo Yo-shu" (written in 985) and the person who established the basis for the Jodo sect, practiced Nen-butsu Zanmai training (a training method which encourages believers to pray devoutly to Amida Buddha) for the first time.



Konpon Nyoho-to

This stupa is named after the Nyoho sutra copying activity first practiced by Jikaku Daishi En-nin in a hollow in the bole of the Konpon cedar tree. It houses numerous copies of Buddhist scriptures which are prayed to and enshrined for the purpose of communicating Buddhism to future generations. The current stupa was restored in 1925.



Shiki Ko-do (Gansan Daishi-do)

This building is named after the lectures made over 4 seasons in 967 on Hokke-kyo sutra in accordance with an imperial decree made by Emperor Murakami. It is also said to have been the house of Jiei Daishi Ryogen (Gansan Daishi) who is referred to as the patriarch of the resurrection of Hieiizan.

Joko-in

This building is located in Kabo-dani in the northernmost part of Yokawa. Nichiren Shonin lived here for approximately 12 years to practice Buddhism training for the purpose of achieving enlightenment.

