



English



"Temple in the Forest" Website

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森の寺 海外発信プロジェクト

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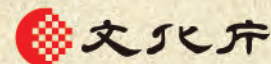
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綾部の文化財を守る会／エフエムあやべ／北近畿みらい



森の京都



海の京都



Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan





Deep in the forest  
a short distance from the city  
is a mountain temple with a thatched roof  
and moss-covered stone steps.  
It has retained the atmosphere of ancient times.

Come and enjoy a moment of relaxation  
at this temple in the forest, brimming with charm.

500m

# 森の寺 / 綾部

## Temple in the Forest: Ayabe City



▶ 至 光明寺  
To Komyoji Temple

### 岩王寺 Shakuoji Temple



1 Teranodan, Shichihyakukoku Town, Ayabe City, Kyoto Prefecture

**[By bus]** 20 minutes on foot heading north from Shichihyakukoku Bus Stop on the Nishiyata Line of Aya Bus departing from JR Ayabe Station

**[By car]** Head north toward Maizuru on National Highway 27. Turn left at Uesugi Intersection, then head west on Prefectural Road 485. Turn right before Shichihyakukoku Bus Stop of Aya Bus and head north.

### 楞嚴寺 Ryogonji Temple



6 Ryogonji, Tachi Town, Ayabe City, Kyoto Prefecture

**[By bus]** 20 minutes on foot heading east from Tachi Bus Stop on the Shiga-Namboku Line of Aya Bus service, departing from JR Ayabe Station

**[By car]** Cross Tamba-ohashi Bridge after passing Mikata Intersection on National Highway 27, then go straight along Prefectural Road 8. Turn right at Torigatsubo Intersection to enter Prefectural Road 9. Turn right at Kurimachi Intersection, turn left onto the road before Toyosato Post Office, then head north.

# Access



## An ancient temple off the beaten track, deep in the forest



Mt. Jingu Shakuoji Temple is said to have been built by Kuya Shonin in 949.

The temple was named "Shaku-Oji" (Stone Prince) after the ink stones that Emperor Saga collected from the mountain behind the temple and which he is said to have cherished.

\*Today, the stones are called "Shakuoji Ishi."

The Shakuoji Ishi have been placed around the stone garden in the front yard. The garden is in harmony with the thatched roof and seasonal flowers for which the temple has become known.



重要文化財  
Important  
Cultural  
Property

髹漆卓  
Kyushitsutaku

"Kyushitsutaku is a table in front of the principal image of Buddha that holds incense burners, candle stands and vases.

It has been decorated with intricate carvings, demonstrating the splendor of Buddhist sutra-reading tables from the period around the 1400s.

"Kyushitsu" is a complicated technique used in Japanese lacquer work, that involves multiple layers of lacquer application.

It was designated as an important cultural property in August 1925.



View more  
IMAGES  
髹漆卓  
Kyushitsutaku

Scan this with a camera on your smartphone or tablet.



Ryogonji Temple

## Karasu-dera Temple of Tamba where seasonal flowers blossom

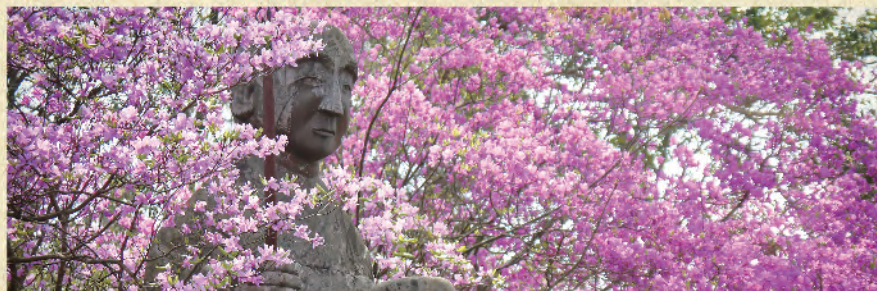


Mt. Engaku Ryogonji Temple is said to have been built by Rinsei Shonin in 732.

With the passing of time, the main temple was reconstructed in 1708. Akita cedar boards with 96 paintings of a variety of flowers decorate the ceiling of the inner temple.

The temple is also known by the name, "Karasu-dera (Crow Temple)," for the seasonal paintings of crows on the sliding doors.

The "Kansai temple of flowers" offers enjoyment of different flowers in season, including rhododendrons and lotus flowers.



重要文化財  
Important  
Cultural  
Property

## 絹本著色不動明王像

Color painting on silk of Fudomyo-o

This is a hanging scroll depicting Fudomyo-o with three children. It has been painted on silk, not paper.

This Buddhist picture went missing around 1912, and its designation was changed from a national treasure to an important cultural property several decades later, in 1950.

The work was re-discovered at the Museum for East Asian Art in Germany, but it was not returned to the temple because it had been acquired legally. A copy was placed on display in 2017; the first time since the original's disappearance 105 years earlier. It was designated as an important cultural property in February 1904.



### IMAGES

絹本著色不動明王像

Color painting on silk of Fudomyo-o

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# 森の寺 / 舞鶴 Temple in the Forest : Maizuru City



## 松尾寺 Matsuno'o-dera Temple



**532 Aza, Matsuno'o, Maizuru City, Kyoto Prefecture**  
**[By train]** 50 minutes on foot from Matsuno'o-dera Station on the JR Obama Line.  
**[By taxi]** 20 minutes by taxi from Higashi-Maizuru Station on the JR Maizuru Line.  
**[By bus]** 40 minutes on foot from Matsuno'o-dera-guchi Bus Stop on the Kyoto Kotsu Bus (bound for Takahama) departing JR Higashi-Maizuru Station.  
**[By car]** 15 minutes from Maizuru-Higashi IC on the Maizuru-Wakasa Expressway.

## 金剛院 Kongoin Temple



**595 Kahara, Maizuru City, Kyoto Prefecture**  
**[By train]** 20 minutes on foot from Matsuno'o-dera Station on the JR Ohama Line.  
**[By bus]** 10 minutes on foot from Kahara Bus Stop on the Kyoto Kotsu bus (bound for Takahama) departing Higashimaizuru Station (JR Maizuru Line).  
**[By car]** 10 minutes from Maizuru-higashi IC on the Maizuru-Wakasa Expressway.

1km

# Access



Matsuno'o-dera Temple

## A majestic and famous temple on the side of Mt. Aoba



Matsuno'o-dera Temple on Mt. Aoba, founded in 708 by Priest Iko, enshrines a statue of Bato Kannon (Horse-headed deity with compassion). It is an object of religious beliefs and practices related to fishing, farming, traffic safety, animal protection, and even horse racing. The temple is Pilgrimage Site 29 on the Saikoku Kannon Pilgrimage registered as a Japan Heritage site, which is Japan's oldest route. The old ginkgo tree on the site, designated as a natural monument by Maizuru City, is said to have been planted by Emperor Toba himself in 1119. The temple also has many cultural properties, including a national treasure painting and the Buddha Dance "Hotoke-mai" since the Middle Ages.



国宝  
National  
Treasure

## 絹本著色普賢延命像 Color painting on silk of Fugen Enmei

This is the only Buddhist painting that has been designated as a national treasure in Maizuru City, and it was painted during the Heian period.

The painting shows Fugen Enmei bodhisattva sitting on a three-headed white elephant, and below them are many tiny elephants propping up the bodhisattva. The painting makes extensive use of gradation and contrast, along with gold and silver leaf in a technique known as "kirikane" to bring out the patterns, resulting in the gentle and calm expression on the face of the bodhisattva depicted in great detail.

It was designated as a national treasure in November 1952.



IMAGES

絹本著色普賢延命像

Color painting on silk of Fugen Enmei

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重要文化財  
Important  
Cultural  
Property

## 木造阿弥陀如来坐像

Wooden sitting statue of Amida Nyorai

Ink inscriptions were found inside the head of this wooden sitting statue of Amida Nyorai in 1963, revealing that it was an early work of Kaikei's, a sculptor of Buddhist statues in the early kamakura period.

It lacks a pedestal and halo, and although the hands were repaired later, it has won high appraisal as a particularly outstanding early work of Kaikei's.

There are around 20 statues throughout Japan that had been inscribed by Kaikei himself. Three of them are in Maizuru City, with one enshrined in Matsuno'o-dera Temple, and the other two enshrined in Kongoin Temple.

It was designated as an important cultural property in June 1971.



View more  
IMAGES

### IMAGES

木造阿弥陀如来坐像  
Wooden sitting statue of Amida Nyorai

◀ Scan this with a camera on your smartphone or tablet.



重要無形  
民俗文化財  
Important Intangible  
Folk Cultural  
Property

## 松尾寺の仏舞

The Hotokemai Dance of Matsuno'o-dera Temple

Hotokemai is a dance that has been performed as a dedication since before the Edo period, and it is showed off on May 8 every year.

The elegant performance is danced by Shaka-nyorai, Dainichi-nyorai and Amida-nyorai, accompanied by Japanese court music.

The dance and music are by local residents and it has been preserved to this day by the Matsuno'o-dera Hotokemai Hozonkai.

It was designated as an important intangible folk cultural property in February 2004.



View more  
MOVIES

### MOVIE

松尾寺の仏舞  
The Hotokemai Dance of Matsuno'o-dera Temple

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Kongoin Temple

## The "maple temple of Tamba" offering timeless scenic beauty



Kongoin Temple of Mt. Kawara Jionji Temple is said to have been built by Prince Shinnyo in 829.

The temple later became dilapidated, but it was restored by Emperor Shirakawa, who also built a three-storied pagoda. It is also known as the "maple temple of Tamba" for the autumn colors.

Tsurukame-no Niwa (Crane and Turtle Garden) made in the 1700s and the main temple blend into the scenery maintaining the historical appearance of this temple.



重要文化財  
Important  
Cultural  
Property

## 金剛院塔婆 (三重塔)

The (three-storied) pagoda of Kongoin Temple

The three-storied pagoda is said to have been built for Prince Shinnyo's memorial service in 1083.

The current pagoda was rebuilt around the 1400s as indicated by the characteristic decorations from that time.

Enshrined inside the pagoda is a sitting statue of Prince Shinnyo who founded the temple. The pagoda blends into its surroundings during all seasons of the year. It has even been mentioned in Yukio Mishima's novel, *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion*, and has won high appraisal as an elegant three-storied pagoda.

It was designated as an important cultural property in April 1917.



MOVIE

金剛院塔婆 (三重塔)

The (three-storied) pagoda of Kongoin Temple

Scan this with a camera on your smartphone or tablet.



重要文化財  
Important  
Cultural  
Property

## 木造深沙大将立像

Wooden standing statue of Jinja Taisho

Jinja Taisho is a Buddhist guardian deity, known for being the model for Sagojo, who appears in Journey to the West.

There is an ink inscription on the inner side of the left leg revealing that it was an early work of Kaikei's, a sculptor of Buddhist statues from around the 1200s.

There are around 20 statues throughout Japan that had been inscribed by Kaikei himself. Three of them are in Maizuru City, with two enshrined in Kongoin Temple, and the other one enshrined in Matsuno'o-dera Temple.

It was designated as an important cultural property in April 1910.



View more  
modeling

CG

木造深沙大将立像  
Wooden standing statue of Jinja Taisho

◀ Scan this with a camera on your smartphone or tablet.



重要文化財  
Important  
Cultural  
Property

## 木造執金剛神立像

Wooden standing statue of Shitsukongo-shitsu

Shitsukongo-shin is a guardian deity who protects Buddhism. It is armed and serves to guard Buddha.

As with the wooden standing statue of Jinja Taisho, it is said to have been sculpted around the 1200s by Kaikei, a sculptor of Buddhist statues. It is believed to have been paired with the Jinja Taisho statue.

This statue has many similarities to the Shitsukongo-shin at Todaiji Temple in Nara City, for which it is believed to have been copied by Kaikei.

It was designated as an important cultural property in April 1910.



View more  
modeling

CG

木造執金剛神立像  
Wooden standing statue of Shitsukongo-shitsu

◀ Scan this with a camera on your smartphone or tablet.