

Access to Mount Hiei Enryakuji Temple and Hieizan Sakamoto



To Mount Hiei and Sakamoto by train

Access from Kansai International Airport

● **Train (JR lines)**
Kansai International Airport Station (Kansai Airport Express HARUKA) → Kyoto Station (change to JR Kosei Line) → JR Hieizan-Sakamoto Station

● **Airport bus**
Platform 1 of Terminal 2 or Platform 8 of Terminal 1 → (approx. 85 min.) → Get off at Kyoto Station Hachijo Exit → Kyoto Station (JR Kosei Line) → JR Hieizan-Sakamoto Station

Access from Osaka (via Kyoto)

● **Train (JR lines)**
Osaka Station (bound for Omi-Shiotsu/Tsuruga (Kosei Line)) → Kyoto Station → Hieizan-Sakamoto Station
Osaka Station (bound for Kusatsu/Maibara) → Kyoto Station (change to Kosei Line) → Hieizan-Sakamoto Station

● **Train (Keihan lines)**
Keihan Yodoyabashi Station → Sanjo Station (change to

Keishin Line) → Biwako-hamaotsu Station (change to Ishiyama Sakamoto Line) → Sakamoto-hieizanguchi Station

Access from Tokyo (via Nagoya)

● **Train (JR lines)**
Tokyo Station (Tokaido Shinkansen) → Kyoto Station (change to JR Kosei Line) → Hieizan-Sakamoto Station

Access to Mount Hiei Enryakuji Temple

● **Train (JR and Keihan lines)**
Tokyo Station (Tokaido Shinkansen) → Maibara Station (change to JR Biwako Line) → Zeze Station → Keihan-zeze Station (change to Keihan Ishiyama Sakamoto Line) → Sakamoto-hieizanguchi Station

When visiting the Saito or Yokawa areas from Enryakuji Temple's Todo area, we recommend using the shuttle bus service departing from Enryakuji Bus Center.

● **Access to Enryakuji Temple from Hieizan-Sakamoto Station on the JR Kosei Line**
Hieizan-Sakamoto Station → (board a bus bound for

Cable Sakamoto Station) → Cable Sakamoto Station (Sakamoto Cable railway) → Cable Enryakuji Station → Approx. 8 min. walk to Todo entrance

● **Access to Enryakuji Temple from Keihan Sakamoto-hieizanguchi Station**
Sakamoto-hieizanguchi Station → (Approx. 10 min. walk) → Cable Sakamoto Station (Sakamoto Cable railway) → Cable Enryakuji Station → Approx. 8 min. walk to Todo entrance

Sakamoto Tourist Association

TEL 077-578-6565
6-1-13 Sakamoto, Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture

Organizer: Executive Committee for the Revitalization of Mt. Hiei-Sakamoto Project



Fiscal Year 2020 Agency for Cultural Affairs Fund for the Promotion of Culture and the Arts (Project to Promote the General Utilization of Regional Cultural Properties)

www.hieizansakamoto.jp



MOUNT HIEI ENRYAKUJI TEMPLE



Mount Hiei, a sacred mountain protecting Kyoto

In ancient times, people in Japan believed that sickness, misfortune and vengeful spirits came from the northeast, the direction regarded in East Asia as the source of evil influences. Mount Hiei is situated exactly northeast of Kyoto.

When Emperor Kanmu transferred the capital of Japan to Kyoto in 794, he issued a decree designating Enryakuji Temple as Kyoto's official guardian temple, charged with protecting the nation from these malign forces.

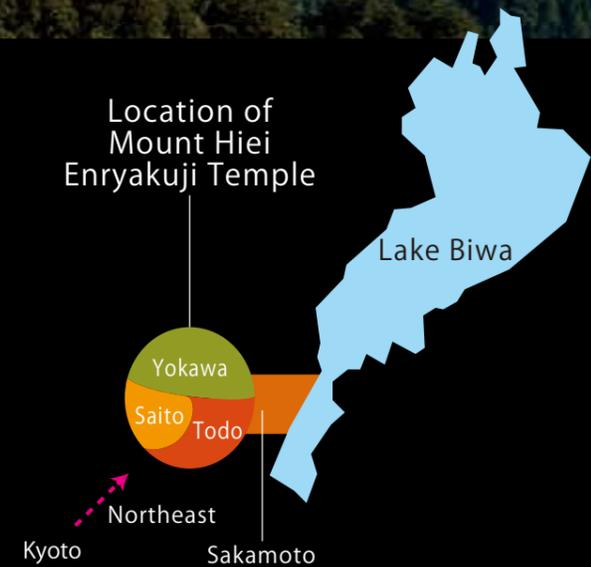
Enryakuji Temple, which for over 1,200 years has helped shape Japan's Buddhist culture, was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1994 as a Historic Monument of Ancient Kyoto.

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Origin of Enryakuji Temple

Since ancient times, Mount Hiei has been regarded as a sacred mountain inhabited by gods. Saicho, the founder of Enryakuji Temple, was born in Sakamoto at the eastern foot of Mount Hiei.

Saicho, who had been brought up in reverence of this sacred mountain, had aspired to follow the path of Buddhism from a young age, and left home to begin his training in Buddhism at the age of twelve. Having undergone a period of strict training and study, at the age of twenty, Saicho was ordained in Nara as a monk with official recognition under the country's temple system. However, Saicho, who had begun to have doubts about Buddhism at that time, left the capital to find seclusion on Mount Hiei to pursue his studies. In 788, he founded a temple named Ichijo Shikanin. This was the beginning of Enryakuji Temple. Six years later, Saicho met Emperor Kanmu, who made Enryakuji Temple a guardian temple for the nation.



Ichigu wo terasu

此則國寶
照千一隅

Ichigu wo terasu is a national treasure.

One of Saicho's teachings was, "Ichigu wo terasu is a national treasure." "Ichigu wo terasu" means to do one's best in whatever place and whatever situation one finds oneself in. In so doing, Saicho believed, a joyful world can be created in which all live in happiness and fulfillment. Saicho's vision is symbolized by the Fumetsu no Hoto ("the inextinguishable Dharma Lamp"), an eternal flame located in Enryakuji Temple's Konpon Chudo Hall. The Fumetsu no Hoto has burned continuously since the temple's foundation more than 1,200 years ago.

Todo area

Enryakuji Temple's central area

Todo is the area that Saicho first opened as Enryakuji Temple. This area contains various temple buildings, centering on the Konpon Chudo Hall, as well as the temple's administrative office, a bus terminal, and hotels.

Hokke Sojiin Todo pagoda



Amidado Hall



Daikodo Hall



Monjuro Gate



Mudojidani



Base for the *Sennichi Kaihogyo*

Konpon Chudo Hall

The Konpon Chudo is Enryakuji Temple's main worship hall. In keeping with the hopes of Saicho, Enryakuji Temple's founder, it is a place where prayers for people's happiness, the well-being of the nation and world peace are offered daily. In 2016, a ten-year program of major restoration work began on the Konpon Chudo Hall (National Treasure) and its corridors (Important Cultural Property).



The Konpon Chudo Hall remains open to visitors during this period of restoration work. (Restoration work due to finish in 2026)



Ever since the days of Saicho, mountain asceticism has always been a key part of ascetic training at Enryakuji Temple. This is why the whole of Mount Hiei itself is considered to be a training ground. The most well-known ascetic practices still performed today are the *kaihogyo*, *rozangyo*, and *kankingyo*. So grueling are these trials that they have come to be known collectively as the “three hells.”



Sennichi Kaihogyo
(circling the peaks for a thousand days)

The *sennichi kaihogyo*, which is carried out in the Todo and Mudojidani areas, was started by the monk Souo Kasho (831–918), who felt a strong connection with the deity Fudo Myouo. While the distance that trainees have to walk in a day differs by year, in some cases it is as much as 80 km. The total distance covered over the course of seven years is equivalent to walking around Earth once. Along the way, trainees visit the various temple building, holy spots and historic places scattered throughout Mount Hiei to offer prayers and recite sutras. It is sometimes called the “hell of circling the peaks,” such is the severity of this regimen in which trainees resign themselves to death.



Juninen Rozangyo
(cleaning for twelve years without descending Mount Hiei)

In a quiet valley on the way to Saito from Todo, there is a temple called Jodoin, a mausoleum dedicated to Saicho. Here, trainees called *jishinso*, meaning “to protect the image of Dengyo Daishi Saicho,” serve Saicho every day as though the great priest were still alive. For twelve years, trainees are required to sweep the temple, a sacred place, both inside and outside until not a speck of dust remains, and to perform set services, prayers and other austerities. This is why this practice is also known as the “cleaning hell.”



Kankingyo
(chanting the sutras)

Ganzan Daishido Hall (Shiki Kodo Hall) in Yokawa is dedicated to Ganzan, credited with restoring Mount Hiei during the late Heian period (794-1185). Monks called *shuji* who serve at this temple are required to undergo a practice whereby they sit still and devote themselves to reading sutras seven times a day. They are not allowed to move or stop reading, and the length and severity of this regimen is why it is also known as the “hell of chanting the sutras.”



Mount Hiei as a ascetic training ground

Saito area



A place of silent Buddhist ascetic training
The Saito area, nestled in a valley blessed with clean air, was developed by Saicho’s disciple Encho and others, who constructed the Shakado Hall (officially known as Tenborindo Hall) here in 834. Today it is a central area for Buddhist training, and home to various temple halls with Shakado Hall at their heart, such as Ninaido Hall (consisting of Jogyodo Hall and Hokkedo Hall) and Jodoin Temple.



Ninaido Hall
(Jogyodo Hall/Hokkedo Hall)



Jogyodo Hall and Hokkedo Hall



Shakado Hall



0 100 200m

There are many different sects of Buddhism in Japan. Nara was Japan's Buddhist heartland during the Nara period (710-794), but during the Heian period (794-1185), Saicho and Kukai worked to spread Mahayana Buddhism, which preaches a doctrine of universal salvation. Kukai established the Shingon school of esoteric Buddhism on Mount Koya, while Saicho turned Mount Hiei into a general place of training for Buddhist practitioners, centering on the Lotus Sutra. Their work paved the way for the appearance of many distinguished priests in the Kamakura period (1185-1333), who went on to found their own schools of Kamakura Buddhism.

The Mother mountain

of Japanese Buddhism

The Japanese Buddhist University

Enryakuji Temple developed into a place of training where practitioners could choose to focus on theories and methods including the Lotus Sutra, esoteric Buddhism, Zen, precepts, or chanting the name of the Amida Buddha, centering on the Mahayana ideal espoused by Saicho of "not only pursuing self-enlightenment but also altruistic practices for the salvation of others." As a result, many monks flocked to Enryakuji Temple, which had become a comprehensive university for Buddhism. Here, they were able to devote themselves to training and studies in the fields of their choice.

Birth of the schools of Kamakura Buddhism

The esoteric Buddhism that Saicho brought back to Japan from China was later refined upon by disciples such as Ennin, Enchin, Annen, and Ryogen, taking shape as Tendai Buddhism. During the Kamakura period (1185-1333), Mount Hiei gave birth to many founders of new schools of Buddhism. These include Annen and Shinran, who taught that it was possible to be reborn in the paradise of the Gokuraku Pure Land by devoting oneself to chanting the name of Amida Buddha, a practice known as *nenbutsu*; Eisai and Dogen, who studied Zen and established the Rinzai and Soto schools of Zen; Nichiren, who at a time when the fate of the nation was at stake due to the Mongol invasions of Japan, set up a sect based on his treatise of "Establishing Correct Doctrine and Peace of the Nation" through the Lotus Sutra; and Kuya, who advocated the *odori nenbutsu*, which added musical rhythm and dancing to *nenbutsu* chanting.



Yokawa area

Yokawa Chudo Hall



A base for the Tendai and Jodo schools of Buddhism

This area of Mount Hiei was developed by Ennin (794-864), who brought Tendai Buddhism to a state of completion. Later, during the middle of the Heian period (794-1185), others would go on to establish the Jodo school of Pure Land Buddhism, including Ryogen (912-985), credited with restoring Mount Hiei, as well as Genshin (942-1017), also known as Eshin Sozu, who indicated a method of attaining rebirth in Paradise by chanting the *nenbutsu*. Even to this day, the area is steeped in a solemn atmosphere.



Ganzan Daishido Hall



Esindo Hall





Praying for world peace



Saicho admonished his disciples to cherish and live up to the following ideals in everything they did.

The first is that all things have the potential to become a Buddha. This applies to all life born in nature, not just those who have achieved enlightenment.

The second is selflessness, the idea that ultimate mercy lies in serving others with selfless devotion without expectation of recompense, accepting the unwillingness of others and giving way to what they do. To do so is to wish for the happiness of others over your own.

In 1981, Pope John Paul II made his first visit to Japan. During a discussion with religious leaders from Japan on this occasion, he made the following comment: "What interfaith cooperation requires most is, in the words of Japan's great Saicho, to nurture the kind of spirit in which 'Serving others with selfless devotion is the ultimate mercy.'" Later, Pope John Paul II invited around 100 representatives of world religions from all corners of the world, including North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, the Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe, to gather in Assisi, Italy in 1986 for a World Day of Prayer for Peace. Prayer services for world peace were conducted by each of the different faiths.

Enryakuji Temple, which wholeheartedly supported the Pope's call for interfaith cooperation, decided to host an annual summit of religious leaders on Mount Hiei.

The first Mount Hiei World Religion Summit took place at the top of Mount Hiei in August 1987. Leaders of seven of the world's major faiths—Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Confucianism—gathered on Mount Hiei for its first ever summit. The participants offered their heartfelt prayers for world peace and issued a joint statement stressing the need for all religious believers to stand together with the oppressed people of the world.

Fundamentally, all religions seek to bring peace to the human mind through the grace of the absolute. Yet in reality, our attachments and desires cause us to doubt each other and engage in angry, unending conflict.

To help address this situation, in August every year, Enryakuji Temple hosts the Mount Hiei World Religion Summit, where the world's religious leaders can set aside national and sectarian differences and pray together for peace.

Prayers for all in Sakamoto

Sanno Festival

The spring festival of Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine

This festival, which traces its origins back to the many gods enshrined on Mount Hiei since ancient times, is held to offer up prayers for world peace and a bountiful harvest.

Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine

A shrine originating from people's reverence for nature

Located at the eastern foot of Mount Hiei, this shrine was founded around 2,100 years ago. It is the head shrine for some 3,800 Hiyoshi, Hie and Sanno branch shrines located throughout Japan. When Emperor Kanmu moved the capital to Kyoto, this area corresponded with the inauspicious northeast of the capital. As such, it became a shrine where people prayed to ward off evil influences and misfortune from the capital, and when Saicho established Enryakuji Temple on Mount Hiei, the shrine's deities came to be worshipped by the Tendai school as the defenders of Buddhist doctrine. Today, it continues to be one of the routes on Enryakuji Temple's *sennichi kaihogyo*.

Saikyoji Temple

A temple that continues to resound with the sound of *nenbutsu* chanting and bells

Saikyoji Temple began life in the 15th century when Shinsei, a monk who had trained at Yokawa on Mount Hiei, reconstructed a temple where Ryogen and Genshin once served as chief priests as a place for the practice of *fudan nenbutsu* (continual chanting of the *nenbutsu*). With an emphasis on following Buddhist precepts and the chanting of the *nenbutsu*, Shinsei treated all believers equally irrespective of their social standing, teaching the doctrines of indifference to worldly gains and benevolence. The temple grounds, which overlook Lake Biwa, contain many things of historical interest, such as the family grave of Akechi Mitsuhide, the samurai general who worked to rebuild the temple after it was destroyed by fire when Mount Hiei came under siege by Oda Nobunaga. Today, the temple grounds continue to resound with the sound of *nenbutsu* chanting and bells.

Site of Shigain Monzeki Temple

A temple at the heart of a town with beautiful stone walls

In Sakamoto, there are groups of residences for retired monks from Enryakuji Temple, known as *satobo*. Of the remaining *satobo*, Shigain Monzeki Temple has the most distinguished history. The Sakamoto area was burned down when Mount Hiei came under siege by Oda Nobunaga. However, during the early Edo period (1603-1867), the great monk Tenkai of Mount Hiei, also known under the posthumous title of Jigen Daishi, became a person of importance in the shogunate government. He based himself in Shigain Monzeki Temple, from where he set about restoring the shrines, temples and streets of Sakamoto, including Enryakuji Temple, transforming it into the area we see today.



Wishes
PRAYERS





Sakamoto area

Take a stroll amid beautiful stone walls

The Sakamoto area is renowned for its beautiful stone walls, built by a group of skilled masons called Anoshu. Here, you will find Shigain Monzeki Temple, a former residence for head priests of imperial descent, as well as Jigendo Hall. During the Edo period (1603-1867), Sakamoto was home to numerous residences for monks who had completed their training on the mountain, known as *satobo*. These *satobo* were grouped on the mountain around Todo, Saito, and Yokawa. Today, several *satobo* are still in use as residences for monks.

Hiyoshi no Banba

The main street from Sakamoto to Enryakuji Temple



Anoshu Stone Walls

Strong and beautiful stone walls built with natural rocks



Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine

A shrine that continues to breathe with the spirit of Shinto and Buddhist syncretism



Saikyoji Temple

Temple associated with the practice of *fudan nenbutsu*, with a view of Lake Biwa



See Otsu City from the Mudojidani direction

With stunning views not to be missed!

Sakamoto Cable railway

By using the Sakamoto Cable railway, the longest of its kind in Japan, you can travel between Sakamoto at the foot of mountain and the summit in as little as 11 minutes each way. This is one of few cable cars with intermediate stations along the way, which you can get off at if you tell the conductor in advance. Cable Enryakuji Station boasts superb views of Lake Biwa on fine days.

From the direction of Mudojidani, you can look down over Otsu City, and you can see all the way to the Suzuka Mountains from the observation zone.



Cable Sakamoto Station

Summit area

Cable Enryakuji Station



Motateyama Station

With a platform alongside a mountain trail, this is known as a secluded station on a steep slope. The grave of ancient court poet Ki no Tsurayuki is located here, someone who loved the view of Lake Biwa from this spot.



Horaioka Station

In 1925, numerous stone Buddhas were unearthed during construction work for the cable car. These stone Buddhas have been enshrined here in a single place.



Sakamoto area



Summit area

Get involved and take your experience of Enryakuji Temple to a deeper level!

This is your chance to get to know much more about Enryakuji Temple than if you just visited temples in the Todo, Saito and Yokawa areas. There are a variety of activities for you to try, including receiving *goshuin*, vermilion stamps available at certain locations across Mount Hiei that show you have visited a particular temple building, as well as attempting *zazen* (seated meditation) and *shakyo* (hand-copying of a sutra).

Reservation required for *zazen* and *shakyo*

077-579-4180 (Enryakuji Kaikan, 9:00-17:00)



Shakyo: 90 min. / 1,100yen (1,650yen with an instructor)

We will provide you with everything you need to take part in these programs, so please do not hesitate to apply. This is a great opportunity for personal reflection in quiet surroundings.



Zazen: 60 min. / 1,100yen (from 11:00 or 14:30)



Goshuin (fee applies)

You can receive a special booklet called a *goshuin-cho* at counters at the various temple buildings around Mount Hiei. Each time you visit a temple building, you can have your booklet stamped with a unique vermilion *goshuin* seal and inscribed with black ink as proof of your visit to the temple. You can collect over 10 kinds of *goshuin* on Mount Hiei.

Try *shojin ryori*, traditional Buddhist cuisine



Enryakuji Kaikan *shojin ryori* (reservation required) 077-579-4180 (9:00-17:00)

Shojin ryori, Japan's traditional vegetarian Buddhist cuisine, is eaten by those entering the priesthood. Nothing goes to waste in preparing this food out of respect for the dignity of life.



Saikyoji Kiku Gozen (reservation required) 077-578-0013

These dishes are prepared with chrysanthemum blossoms, only available in November. This is the profound taste of Japanese cuisine.



Japanese garden with pond and viewing deck, Shigain Monzeki Temple

The prestigious Shigain Monzeki Temple, a former residence for head priests of imperial descent, is home to a garden created by renowned Edo period (1603-1867) garden designer Kobori Enshu, which features magnificent rocks reminiscent of cranes.



Japanese garden with pond and walkways, Former Chikurin-in Monk Residence

This Japanese garden, which intentionally incorporates Mount Hachioji as backdrop scenery, features arrangements of rocks to create waterfalls and artificial hills while making clever use of the area's natural terrain. As you walk around the garden, the scenery changes in the blinking of an eye.

Visit Japanese gardens

Kyoto, the thousand-year capital

Kyoto's UNESCO World Heritage sites: 16 temples and shrines and one castle

Kyoto's history begins when Emperor Kanmu moved the capital from Nagaoka-kyo to Heian-kyo (today's Kyoto). Heian-kyo, which means "Capital of Peace and Tranquility," was given its name in the hope that it would bring stability to the nation and peace to its people. Of the temples and shrines in Kyoto that have been inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage sites, there are some that have stood watch over their areas since even before the capital was moved here. However, Enryakuji Temple was born at roughly the same time that Emperor Kanmu moved the capital. Ever since then, it has continued to pray for peace and tranquility in Kyoto as a temple protecting the city against evil influences coming from the inauspicious northeast.

The capital was relocated to Tokyo following the Meiji Restoration in 1868, but Kyoto still remains Japan's much-loved ancient capital, where numerous cultural properties expressing the culture of each period have been handed down over generations, and where traces of history can be found in abundance.

It was in recognition of Kyoto's outstanding history, traditions and natural environment that, in 1994, 16 temples and shrines and one castle representative of Kyoto's cultural properties were inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage sites.



1 Kosanji Temple



2 Kamowakeikazuchi-jinja Shrine



3 Mount Hiei Enryakuji Temple



4 Ryoanji Temple



5 Kamomioya-jinja Shrine



6 Ginkakuji Temple (Jishoji Temple)



7 Ninnaji Temple



8 Tenryuji Temple



9 Nijojo Castle



10 Honganji Temple



11 Kiyomizudera Temple



12 To-ji Temple (Kyo-o-gokoku-ji Temple)



13 Daigoji Temple



14 Ujigami-jinja Shrine



15 Byodoin Temple

