



Tendaishu Bekkaku Daihonzan

Toeizan Kan'ei-ji

東叡山
寛永寺

Toeizan Kan'ei-ji

Toeizan Kan'ei-ji was constructed in the second year of Kan'ei (1625), by Jigendaishi Tenkai Daisoujo, as a prayer temple where citizens could pray for the safety and prosperity for the Tokogawa Shogunate and all people. Sango, or mountain name, (Toeizan) is derived from "Mt. Hiei in the East," and the name of the temple comes from the fact that it was built in the Kan'ei period. Later a mausoleum for Tokugawa Ietuna, the fourth Shogun, was added on, as well as the Bodai-ji, a family temple. When the Rinnojinomiya for the Imperial family was added to Toeizan, Kan'ei-ji became the biggest temple in the nation during the Edo period, as far as social standing and scale are concerned. Unfortunately, at the end of the Edo period (Bakumatsu), most of the area burned in the Ueno War, and later became Ueno Park at the beginning of the Meiji period. After the Pacific War (World War II), a new cemetery was constructed and accepted a great number of parishioners; which conserving tradition, it has become a very familiar icon for many to this day.

Kompon Chu-do



The original Kompon Chu-do, the main temple, was built in the 11th year of the Genroku period (1698), and was burned during the Ueno War in the 4th year of the Keio period (1868). The present kompon Chu-do was in fact the main temple of the Kawagoe Kitain (built in Kan'ei 15 (1638) by Tokugawa Iemitsu III) and transferred to where the Daijiin (present Kan'ei-ji), part of the Sannai Shiin, stood. The main temple of the Toshogu and all of the apparatus that was spared from the fires during the Ueno War, was added, and reconstructed as a main temple of about 60 ft wide. The hidden main image, Yakushi Ruriko Nyorai, is said to have been carved by Dengyodaishi Saicho, who founded the Tendai School of Buddhism in Japan.

Kaisan-do (Ryo-daishi)

Kaisan-do (Ryo-daishi) is a temple where the Tenkai Daisoujo, who is said to be the founder of Toeizan, is enshrined. The Jietaishi Ryogen Daisoujo is also enshrined in Kaisan-do, which is why it is often referred to as the Ryo-daishi (two great-masters). It was constructed in the first year of Shoho (1644); the current temple was rebuilt in 1993. An old cherry tree, named Mikurumagaeshi, which produces both single and double petal cherry blossoms on a single branch, is rooted in the temple grounds. In summer the ancient lotus (Oga lotus) puts out remarkable flowers for the worshipers to enjoy.



Kiyomizu Kannon-do

Kiyomizu Kannon-do was originally built on Mt. Suribachi by Tenkai Daisoujo in Kan'ei 8 (1631) and moved to its present location (Sakuragaoka) in Genroku 7 (1694). The main temple was built to resemble the Kiyomizu temple with Butai-zukuri*, which stands on Higashiyama in Kyoto. It is a designated Important Cultural Asset of Japan.

The hidden main image, Senju Kannon Bosatsu, is said to have been made by Eshin Sozu, a high priest who lived on Mt. Hiei during the Heian period.

Note: * An architectural technique for a vast veranda (stage) which is attached to the main hall in an integrated manner.



Benten-do Temple



Shinobazu-no-ike Benten-do temple was built by Tenkai Daisoujo with cooperation from Mizunoya Isenokami Katsutaka during the Kan'ei period. An island with a temple was built in the Shinobazu pond, likened to that of Chikubushima in Lake Biwaq, which lies at the foothills of Mt. Hiei. The main image, Happi-dai Benzaiten was also transferred from the Hogenji temple of Chikubujima to the Benten-do. Today, the temple is shaped like an octagon, painted red. The interior is adorned with a mural of a vigorous dragon, painted on the ceiling of the inner room by Kibo Kadama, member of the Japan Art Academy, and flowers painted by understudies of painter Kodama.

Toeizan Kan'ei-ji Branch Temple

Oniioshidashi Park, Kanbara 1053 Tsumagoi-mura, Agatsuma-gun, Gunma

Asamayama Kannon-do



In the third year of Tenmei (1783), his imperial highness Rinnoji-nomiya Tadanobu Hoshin' no extended a rescuing hand to the locals when Mt. Asama erupted. This sparked a relationship that resulted in Kan'ei-ji performing the 170th memorial service for the victims of the eruption in Kanbara, which was held in Showa 28 (1953). In Showa 33 (1958), the Asamayama Kannon-do was built as a branch of Kan'ei-ji. The hidden main image of Shokanzeon Bosatsu, which is from Kanei-ji, is enshrined in Kannon-do.

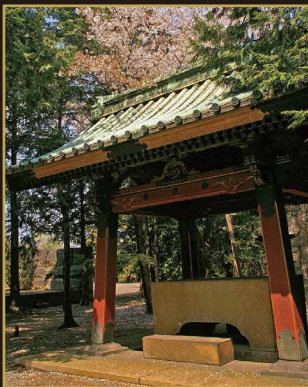
Important Cultural Properties of Japan Mausoleum of Successive Lords of the Tokugawa Shogunate



The mausoleum housing some of the remains of the Tokugawa Shogunate (hereditary military rulers from 1192 to 1867) is composed of the main temple where the honzon (main image), tablet and wooden statue rest, and a prayer room where one worships and pays homage to these articles. They are connected by an intermediate room called the ainoma, a style of architecture typical of mausoleums, and there is a Buddhist pagoda called the Hoto (tomb), where the shoguns are buried, and a wash basin for ritual cleansing. However, most of buildings were burned in the great air raids during World War II and only the wash basin and the Imperial Scroll Gate which were undamaged, have been designated as an Important Cultural Asset of Japan. Shoguns buried inside of Kan-ei-ji includes, Ietsuna IV*, Tsunayoshi V, Yoshimune VIII, Ieharu X, Ienari XI and Iesada XIII. The Hoto proclaims the authority of the shoguns to this day.

*Open to the public on designated days only.

Note: *Roman numerals indicate each lord's succession as Shogun.



Toeizan Grounds Guide Map



◆ Kan'e-i-ji Goshuin Stamp Counter 1 = Goshuin Stamp Counter



Kompon Chu-do



Kalsan-do



Kiyomizu Kannon-do



Benten-do



Pagoda (Shaka Nyorai)



Pagoda (Yakushi Nyorai)



Asamayama Kannon-do

※ Get your Goshuin stamp no. 5, and 6 at the Kiyomizu Kannon-do.

※ Get the Goshuin stamp no. 7 at Asamayama Kannon-do (Gunma Prefecture).

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