

真言三宝宗大本山

清荒神 清澄寺

Kiyoshikôjin Seichô-ji Temple



A Brief History of Kiyoshikôjin Seichô-ji Temple

Kiyoshikôjin Seichô-ji temple was founded in 896, during the early Heian period, in response to thoughts of the Emperor Uda. A high Buddhist priest, Jôkan, was invited to move from the Enryaku-ji temple to become the first Head Priest. Yakushin Sôzu, the head priest of the Tôji-temple of the Shingon esoteric Buddhist sect, was invited to be a leading priest, and the Kiyoshikôjin Seichô-ji temple was inaugurated, with a statue of Dainichi-nyorai (Vairocana) as its principal image. When Yakushin Sôzu worshipped and prayed to the divinity Kôjin, a vivid image of Kôjin appeared on a *sakaki* (cleyera japonica) tree in the front garden of the shrine. Greatly impressed by the report of this miraculous virtue, Emperor Uda granted to the temple the title of "the First Kiyoshikôjin in Japan".

The temple structures were severely damaged by fire in 1183, in a battle between the Genji and Heike clans. However, the damaged buildings were reconstructed by the great Shôgun, Minamoto Yoritomo. About 400 years later, the temple structures were again seriously damaged by fire, but the structure of Kôjin shrine in the temple compound was saved from the fire of battle. This is taken to indicate the miraculous virtue of the divinity of Kôjin.

During the late Edo period Priest Jôkai restored the temple structures. In 1947, the 37th Head Priest, Kôjô, established the Shingon Sambô-shû denomination of Buddhism, and revitalized Kiyoshikôjin Seichô-ji temple as the Head Temple of the denomination.

Priest Kôjô enjoyed a special relationship with a famous master artist, Tessai Tomioka (1836-1924), and collected many of his works of art, mainly those painted late in his life. His works have been exhibited in Japan and overseas, always appealing for peace and love in the world. Following the wishes of his predecessor, the 38th Head Priest, Kôsô, in 1971 established Seihô Bunka Kaikan (the Seihô Culture Hall) for the benefit of visitors to the temple. In 1975, with the aim of bequeathing Tessai's artwork to posterity, the museum for Tessai's artworks, "Seikô-den (the Tessai Museum)", was completed in the temple compound, as a place to exhibit his art to the public.

The 39th Head Priest, Kôken, built a new storage annex onto the Tessai Museum in 1999, and after many years of planning opened the Museum of History and Art in 2008. We have been devoting ourselves to fulfilling the wishes of the 37th and 38th head priests of our temple, which is to bring peace and serenity to the hearts of all the visitors to the temple, through religion and art, based on the fundamental principles of the pioneering days that followed the inauguration.



Temple Structures

Ten-dô (the Hall of Heaven)

Coming through the San-mon (the main gate) and following a stone-paved slope and stone steps with a large 400-year-old ginkgo tree to the rear, visitors finally reach the Ten-dô hall at the top of the steps. A solemn esoteric ritual is held every day in this hall, as a prayer for peace, prosperity, love and happiness. As this is an esoteric ritual, no visitors are allowed to participate in it.



Ten-dô

Gohô-dô

(the Hall for the Protection of Buddhist Teachings)

Gohô-dô Hall is constructed in the *shindenzukuri*-style (or shrine-style) of architecture, and is located across a stream from the Ten-dô hall. Many folded-paper cranes and votive tablets are hanging on the wall as offerings to Buddhist deities.

Ganjin-shi (the Deity of the Eyes Shrine) and Ryûô-dô (the Hall of the Dragon King)

It is said that in bygone days, miraculous water sprang out of this place, and people suffering from eye trouble were cured by washing their eyes with the water. This shrine is also called Ganjin-sama. This hall is dedicated to a deity of water and its patron deity is believed to protect all living things. This deity has been especially worshipped as the guardian of breweries, agriculture and fire-protection since ancient times.

Nôsatsusho (the Talismans Hall)

Old talismans and old representations of Hotei - one of the Seven Deities of Fortune - are returned to this hall. People bring the old representation, which they got the previous year, give thanks to the deity for their fulfilled wishes, and get a larger figurine to keep at home through the next year.

Yakuyoke Hibashi-nôsho (the Fire-tong Hall)

Those who are going through a period of bad luck keep fire-tongs at home as amulets during that period, and when the bad period is over they bring the fire-tongs to this hall and give thanks to the deity.

Gyôja-dô (Cave of En-no-gyôja)

En-no-gyôja, who was an ascetic devotee, the founder of Shugendô (mountain-dwelling asceticism) in Japan, is enshrined in this rocky cave. According to mountain-dwelling asceticism, devotees are supposed to be protected by Buddhist deities from all kinds of sickness and misfortune.

Kenzoku-dô (Servant Hall)

Figurines of Hotei as the servant of Sambô Kôjin are worshiped here. In this hall, visitors can ask for prayers to be said, and they are given talismans, lucky amulets, good-luck fire-tongs that drive away evil, and other aids.

Takara-inari Shrine

This shrine is located near the path along the slope. One night during the Meiji period (mid 19th - early 20th century), Priest Ninzui and Priest Kôjô of this temple had an identical dream of Inari-myôjin, an agriculture deity. This deity has been enshrined there since that occurrence.



Takara-inari Shrine

Hon-dô (the Main Hall)

This hall's original building, which is as significant in the temple complex as the Ten-dô hall, was founded during the Ansei era of the Edo period. In the inner section of the building, an esoteric ritual for Daisho-fudômyô'ô, a Buddhist deity, is held every day. Today's building was completed in 1993 after a five-year renovation of the old building.



Hon-dô

Statue of Kôbô-daishi (Priest Kûkai)

The founder of Shingon esoteric Buddhism in Japan in pilgrimage garb, carrying the traditional Buddhist staff and a bowl. He used to travel around the country in this way. This statue is often called "Shugyôdaishi-sama" which means Priest in the ascetic practices.



Statue of Kôbô-daishi

Rengyô-dô (the Sadhana Hall)

This training hall for Buddhist monks is right behind the Main Hall. This hall houses 20 or more images of Buddha including the principal Buddhist.

Ichigan Jizô-son

(the Statue of Kṣitigarbha, who grants one wish)

There is a gushing spring at the foot of the stone steps in front of the Hon-dô hall. It is said that if visitors pour water over the large statue of Jizô (Kṣitigarbha) near the spring, and make only one wish, that wish will be fulfilled.



Ichigan Jizô-son

Gogyûshin-dô

(the Hall of the guardian deity, Gozuten'ô)

This small hall is located near the path which leads to the Ten-dô hall. Gozuten'ô, which is enshrined as the principle image in this hall, is known as the Buddhist deity of fortunate paths who protects people from misfortune. In the rear section of this hall is an area where the holy fire "Goma" (Homa) is burned, as a part of Buddhist monk practices.

Besides of these major temple halls, there are 40 structures on the green mountain, including the San-mon (gate), Shôro bell tower, Kyôzô archives of Buddhist scriptures, Gokusho hall for offerings, the monks' quarters, Hyakuren-dô hall, Shunkô-an subsidiary temple, a lecture hall, and a storage area. More than forty Buddhist and Shintô deities are enshrined within the compound. One characteristic of our temple is that all of the deities are associated with happiness and prosperity, worshipped by pious visitors hoping for peace and love in life.



Seikô-den (Tessai Museum)

Several times a year exhibitions of about 1,200 art works by Tessai Tomioka, from the temple collection, are held to show his masterpieces to the public.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(Admission is until 4:00 p.m.)

Closed on Mondays.

(When Monday falls on a holiday, the Museum is open on Monday and closed, instead, on the following day.)

Some closings occur during the summer and winter months.

There may be some days the museum is closed for change of the exhibits.

Admission:

Adults: ¥300

University / High School Students: ¥200

Junior High / Elementary School Students: ¥100

Half-price with a senior citizen or disabled person ID.

TEL: 0797-84-9600



Museum of History and Art

The temple's many treasures and collections are shown in rotating exhibits, with explanations of the Temple's history, beliefs, and events. This venue is also where the idea that inner peace can be achieved through religion and art is presented, in order to help spread the beliefs of Kôjin, our primary deity.

Opening Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Open seven days a week

(Closed on the year-end and New Year holidays, in the middle of August and on days when exhibits are changed.)

Admission free



Seihô Bunka Kaikan (the Seihô Culture Hall)

This facility can be used for free for art-related or social welfare activities. It was founded for the purpose of promoting cultural activities.

TEL: 0797-87-0402

Our Major Annual Festivals

Jan. 1 to 3

New Year's Sambô Grand Festival

Jan. 27, 28

New Year's Sambô Kôjin Grand Festival

Feb. 3

Kôjin Star Festival

April 27, 28

Sambô Kôjin Spring Grand Festival

Dec. 27, 28

Year-end Sambô Kôjin Grand Festival

Annual Events

1st day of every month

Monthly Festival

21st of every month

Monthly Ceremony for Kôbô-daishi (Priest Kûkai)

27th and 28th of every month

Monthly Sambô Festival

Jan. 17

Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Day

Mid-February

Ninouma Festival

March 15

Nirvâṇa Service

March 18 to 24

Service for the Week of the Spring Equinox

March 21

Grand Ceremony for Kôbô-daishi (Priest Kûkai)

May 8

Buddha's Birthday Service

June 15

Kôbô-daishi's Birthday Service

July 13 to 15

Urabon Service for the Dead

August 24

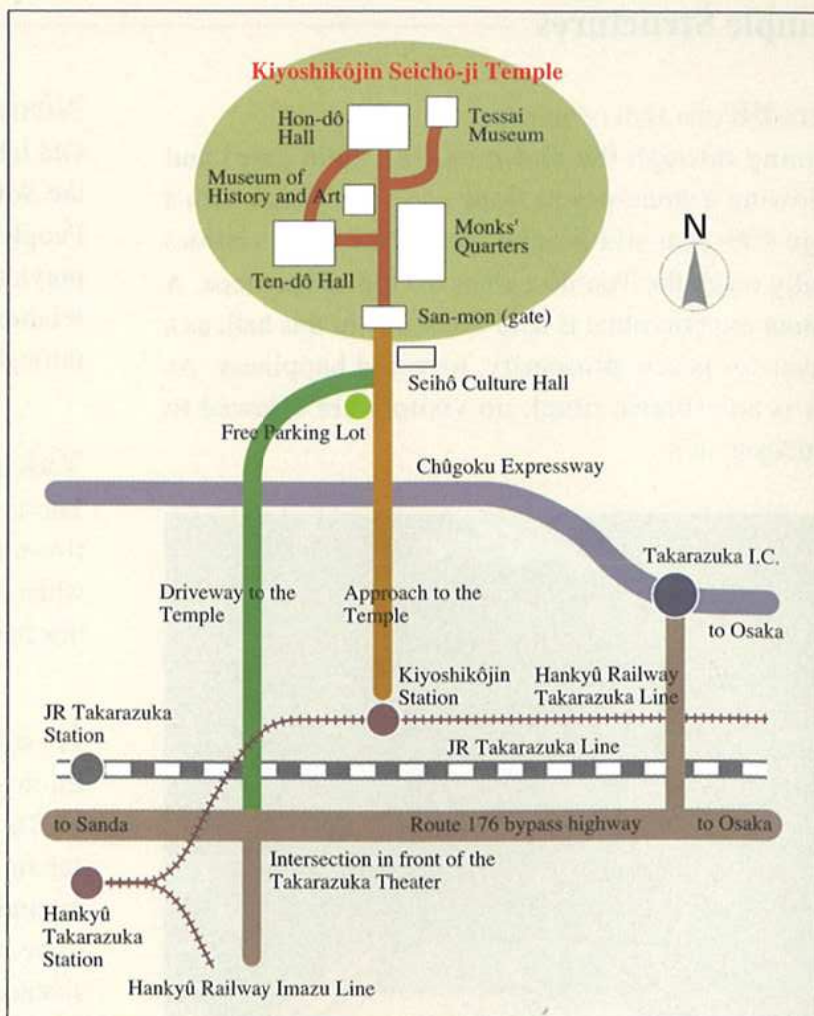
Jizô-bon and Grand Segaki Service

Sep. 20 to 26

Service of the Week of the Autumn Equinox

Around Dec. 22

Kôjin Star Festival Kaibyaku



Access to the Temple

*Hankyû Railway:

Kiyoshikôjin Station, Takarazuka Line

About a 15 minutes' walk from the station (Taxis are available from Takarazuka Station)

*JR Line:

Takarazuka Station, Takarazuka Line

About 10 minutes by taxi.

*Special bus:

During traffic regulation in January, there is special bus service from JR Takarazuka Station to the Kiyoshikojin parking lot.

Fare (one way)

Adults: ¥210 Children: ¥110

*By Car:

Route 176

About 2 kilometers north of the crossing in front of the Takarazuka Theater. Free parking is available in our lot.

As driveways are usually jammed during the year-end and New Year's days and due to police regulation of the traffic, it is recommended that you use the railways.

Notice

Our temple does not go house, sell amulets, force people to have priests chant incantations and prayers nor solicit contributions. If anyone asks you to do these things, they are not a part of our religion.

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