



National Designated Historical Landmark

Temple Remains in Kōzato

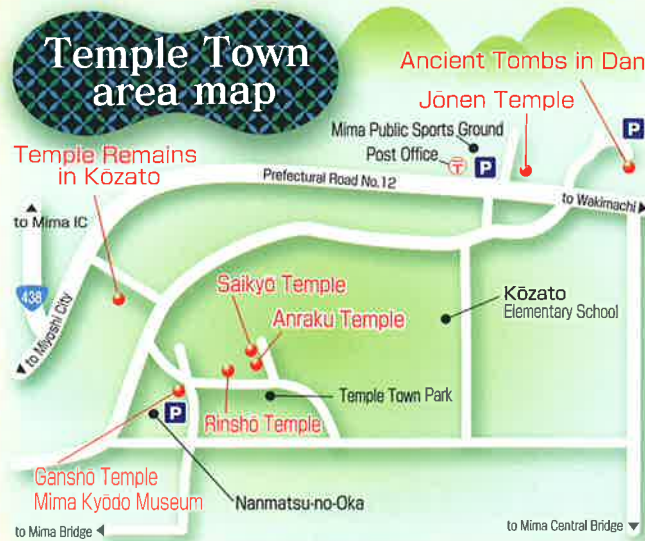
These are the remains of the oldest Buddhist temple in Tokushima Prefecture, constructed around the beginning of the Nara period (± 1300 years ago). The outlay of this temple complex resembles that of the Hōryū Temple, or a mirrored Hokki Temple (both located in Ikaruga Town, Nara Prefecture). Its vast temple grounds measured approximately 100 x 100 meters across. This complex was built as a place to worship the guardian deities of the powerful clan that ruled this region, and at present reflects the prosperity of Mima in these olden days. On top of the temple tower's foundations, building stones dating back to early Nara (710-794) were found, while a giant ginkgo tree, thought to be 700 years old, stands at the center of these temple grounds.



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Ancient Tombs in Dan

These two grave mounds were constructed in the neighborhood "Dan" around 1400 years ago during the Kofun period (±250-700). The eastern one is called "Taiko-Tsuka Mound" while the western one is called "Tana-Tsuka Mound". A horizontal tunnel leading to a dome-shaped stone room, a unique design feature in both mounds, is only seen in this particular part of Japan. Moreover, the tunnel-and-room system of the Taiko-Tsuka Mound is the largest one in Tokushima Prefecture, testifying to the wealth and power of the local clans in those days.



Enquiries

- Mima City Tourist Association
〒779-3610 Tokushima-ken, Mima-shi, Wakimachi, Ōaza-Wakimachi 92
TEL: 0883-53-8599 / FAX: 0883-53-0961
- Mima City - Economics Department, Commerce, Industry & Tourism Division
〒777-8577 Tokushima-ken, Mima-shi, Anabuki-chō, Anabuki, Aza-Kutanchi 5
TEL: 0883-52-2644 / FAX: 0883-52-1704
- Mima City Board of Education
〒771-2195 Tokushima-ken, Mima-shi, Mima-chō, Aza-Tenjin 121
TEL: 0883-63-2177 / FAX: 0883-63-5554
- Temple Town Tour Guides (Anraku Temple)
TEL: 0883-63-2015

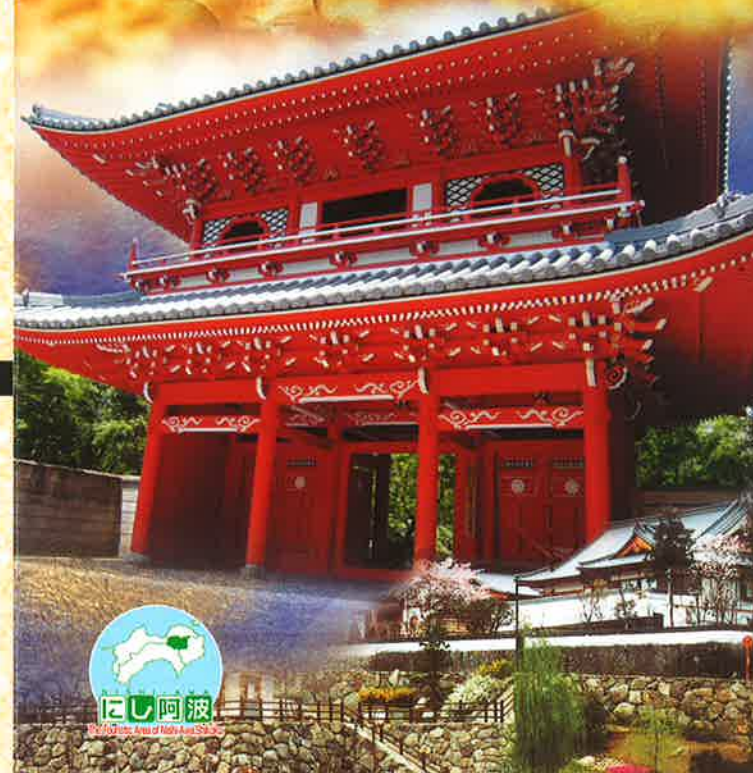


Mima City Tourist Association

Udatsumaru

Enjoy the atmosphere of the past...

Mima City's Temple Town



A brief historic stroll

If one takes a look at the history of Mima City, one finds that, already in early days, this was a very advanced cultural region. When Buddhism started to spread rapidly in the early Nara period (710-794), the first full-scale Buddhist temple in Shikoku was built here in Mima City. Hence we have Temple Town (Teramachi) where for centuries people have been coming to pray to Buddha for safety and peace in their lives. Please take a historic stroll through this beautiful neighborhood and walk from temple to temple while enjoying the solemn atmosphere and tranquility.



Shingonshū Buddhism

Ganshō Temple

In the Heian period (794-1185), the nun Awa-no-Naishi who had served the old Emperor Sutoku held a memorial service in order for the deceased emperor's soul to find enlightenment. On this occasion, she moved the Ganshō Temple from the capital of Kyoto to the Yuima Temple (built during Nara: 710-794) in Awa (Tokushima Prefecture), the home province of her mother. From that moment onwards, Mima had a Ganshō Temple which, under the protection of successive generations of Shugo (military governors) and Daimyō (feudal lords), became Awa's most representative temple. The temple has a Hakkyakumon-style gate dating back to the Meiji period (1868-1911) which is designated as "National Registered Tangible Cultural Property". It also has a Takigumi-style rock garden which is called "Ganshō Temple Garden" and is a "Prefectural Designated Place of Scenic Beauty". It was constructed during the Muromachi period (1333-1573) in the same style as the rock garden of the Tenryū Temple in Kyoto. Finally, the temple houses the "Mima Kyōdo Museum" which is the oldest museum in Tokushima Prefecture. ☎0883-63-2118



Jōdo Shinshū Buddhism

Anraku Temple

After the monk Chiba Hikotarō Tsuneshige came from Eastern Japan to Mima during the Kamakura period (1185-1333) in order to head the Shinnyo Temple (established by the Tendai sect in the Heian period: 794-1185), he converted it into a Jōdo Shinshū temple called "Anraku Temple". Under the patronage of successive generations of Shugo (military governors), this temple greatly extended its power until, at its peak, it had more than 80 branch temples all throughout Shikoku. At the Anraku Temple one can find a vermilion lacquered two-storied gate (National Registered Tangible Cultural Property) built around mid-Edo (1603-1867), a main hall dating back to early Shōwa (1926-1988), a bell tower from the Meiji period (1868-1911), a study from the Taishō period (1912-1925) and a Nō theater stage built in 1996. ☎0883-63-2015



Jōdo Shinshū Buddhism

Saikyō Temple

Apparently, this temple originally started off as the "Inkyō Temple" and was established at the beginning of Edo (1603-1867) by Masamune, the 10th generation head priest of the Anraku Temple. It was of comparable status with the Anraku Temple and had 10 branch temples throughout the Awa region (Tokushima Prefecture) and the Sanuki region (Kochi Prefecture). The Saikyō Temple has a main hall (National Registered Tangible Cultural Property) and a Yakuimon-style front gate which both date back to the end of Edo. Also there is a scripture house from the beginning of Shōwa (1926-1988) and a rock garden that truly compliments the old temple's architecture by creating a beautiful and harmonious surrounding. ☎0883-63-2067



Jōdo Shinshū Buddhism

Rinshō Temple

According to legends, this temple was founded in the Muromachi period (1333-1573) by Rinshō, the younger brother of Ganshō who was the 8th generation head priest of the Anraku Temple. When entering the grounds through the Mukaikaramon-style front gate, (entirely made of Japanese zelkova wood) one sees a large ginkgo tree which in autumn becomes an integral part of this temple's architecture. Furthermore, every year in the beginning of November, as happened for the last nearly 50 years, a large chrysanthemum exhibition is held here. ☎0883-63-2155



Jōdo Shinshū Buddhism

Jōnen Temple

It is believed that this temple, originally a Tendai-shū temple called "Kairakusan Renge-in", was transformed into a Jōdo Shinshū temple called "Jōnen Temple" somewhere during the Muromachi period (1333-1573). It also experienced renewed popularity during the Azuchi-Momoyama period (1598-1600) when Kishu, the oldest son of Masamune (10th generation head priest of the Anraku Temple) entered this temple and became head priest. On the temple grounds several buildings are lined up, such as a main hall, a front gate, a study and the priest's house. The main hall, surrounded harmoniously by many different trees and constructed around the end of the Edo period (1603-1867), has an especially charming appearance. ☎0883-63-2125