



観音ミュージアム

KANNON MUSEUM

KANNON MUSEUM Eng ver.

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History of Kannon Museum

As the predecessor of the Treasure Display House which was established in the Meiji era, the Hasedera Homotsukan opened in 1980. In 2015 the museum celebrates its 35th anniversary, and thusly the Kannon Museum has been renewed with much renovation of formerly deteriorated equipment; in addition to the museum's drawcard, the Kannon Bosatsu (Kannon Bodhisattva), which is the principal image of the Kamakura Hasedera Temple, other ancient treasures of the temple are also proudly displayed.

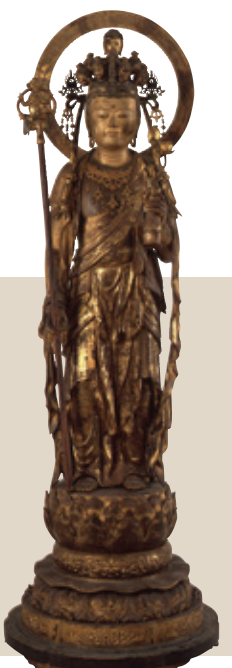
What is Kannon?

The official name of the Buddha, colloquially referred to as Kannon, is Kanzeon Bosatsu or Kanjizai Bosatsu. Bosatsu (Bodhisattva), meaning a person who practices meditation in search of spiritual enlightenment including Jizo Bosatsu (Jizo Bodhisattva), Miroku Bosatsu (Maitreya Bodhisattva) and the other Buddha. Among them, Kanzeon Bosatsu (Kanzeon Bodhisattva) exists to listen to voices from around the world requesting salvation. The Kannon's image is thus changed into a variety of appearances in order to respond to every wish.

Standing Juichimen Kannon Bosatsu Kannon Buddhisattva with Eleven Headed

This statue was enshrined in front of the principal image. It is thought to have its origins in the Edo period, but it is considered to be a revival Buddha of an old image that was made in the Muromachi period from the inscribed wooden tags placed inside the statue.

The figure with a monk's staff in the right hand is a form specific to the Hasedera Temple called "Hasedera-style Juichimen Kannon". It constitutes an important clue to consider the history of the principal image.



Introduction of Collections

Kannon Sanjusan Ogenshin Thirty three Avatars of Kannon

The Kannon Sutra (the Fumonbon chapter of the Lotus Sutra) states Kannon Buddhisattva "goddess of mercy" does act of charity by transforming into thirty three existences (called Ogenshin or Ogeshin) corresponding to the living things. These sculptures express these existences. According to inscription, they can be dated back to the Muromachi period.



Kakebotoke Hanging plaques

Our temple has retained six Kakebotoke (Hanging plaques) that display the Hasedera-style Juichimen Kannon on each front surface. They are excellent treasures created from the late Kamakura period to the Muromachi period. The dimensions of the Kakebotoke are all large, indicating the prosperity of the Temple at that time. In the renovation in 2015, you can now view all six plaques together.



Bonsyo Temple bell

This bell is the oldest cultural property in the temple's possession that attests to the name Hasedera. The date 1264 which is inscribed in the raised relief text shows that this is the third oldest bell after those of the Jorakuji and Kenchoji Temples in Kamakura.

Hasedera-Engi-Emaki Picture scroll History of Hasedera

This picture scroll was donated to Hasedera by its head priest in the Edo period. The content of the scroll is not the history of our temple. Rather, it recalls the establishment of the origin and history of the Yamato Hasedera Temple in Nara. Several copies were made, and those held in collections in Japan, but this is only known copy of the Hasedera Engi scroll with confirmation of the time when it was made.



Other Treasures

The largest Itabi in the Kamakura city ▶

- Itabi with Relief of a Hokyo-in Pagoda (the pagoda inscribed stone monument, shown in the picture on the right), Itabi with Amida Syllable (Amitabha inscribed stone monument)
- Ancient documents including Letter with Seal of Hojo Ujijyasu (The lord seal impressed document), Ban Notice from Toyotomi Hideyoshi (Prohibition orders)
- Sculptures include Standing-Daikokuten (wooden god of wealth, one of the oldest sculptures in Kanagawa Prefecture), Seated Statue of Tokudo shonin (a Likeness of our temple's founder, shown in the picture on the right), Cloud-form Halo (Fragment)
- Many traditional articles include works of Buddhism art such as Waniguchi (a temple gong), Kyojutsu (a sutra case) and Sharitou (a reliquary). Furthermore, archaeological finds excavated from the Temple as well as Wood blocks for printing images created in the Edo period and hereditary estates are possessed.

Instructions

- **Opening hours** 9:00 to 16:30 (admission until 16:00)
- **Closed** Tuesdays (Tuesdays open on public holidays and the 18th. The museum is occasionally closed owing to exhibition replacement.)
- **Admission fees** Adults (Junior high school and older) 300 yen
Children (Elementary school) 150 yen
- **Access** Transit from JR Kamakura Station to Enoden.
Get off at Hase Station. 5-minute walk
Enoden Bus or Keihin Express Bus (For Daibutsu)
Get off at Hase Kannon Bus Stop, 3-minute walk



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