



Oka, the Buddha of Wish-Granting

Established in 663 AD.

Ryūgai Temple, or commonly known as “Oka”, literally means the “Dragon Lid” temple.

The primary Buddha of worship is the *Nyoirin Kannon Bosatsu* or the Buddha of Wish-Granting and is the largest clay Buddhist Statue in Japan which was made in the 8th century.

The *Oka* temple is also known as Japan’s first temple used to drive away *Yaku* or unluckiness.

Prayers from pure heart to Buddha will bring prosperity and happiness.

Address 806 Oka Asuka-mura Takaichi-gun Nara

Map

Access From Kintetsu Kashihara-jingumae Station take a bus to the “Okadera-mae” bus stop.

Web Site (Japanese) <http://www.okadera3307.com/>

Admission Fee

	Adults	Children
	¥400	No charge

Opening Hours 8:00-17:00 (Mar-Nov)
8:00-16:30 (Dec-Feb)

Highlights



Nyoirin Kannon /
Hon-do Hall



Nio Gate



Three-storied
Pagoda



Okuno-in



The legend of
“Dragon Lid”



Nyoirin Kannon Bosatsu, or the Buddha of Wish-Granting

(Sk: Cintamanicakra)

The Buddha of Wish-Granting is the largest clay Buddhist statue in Japan and known as one of the three Great Buddha Statues.

The statue was once brightly painted, but after 1200 years, those paints have worn away, however you can still see faint colors that remain.

It was also said that a monk named *Kūkai*, (posthumously *Kōbō Daishi*) made the statue by mixed clay brought from China, India and Japan.

-Important Cultural Property, Date:8th century, Clay, height: 4.6m

More information about the Three Great Buddha Statues:

[METAL] The *Birushana* Buddha of *Todaiji* Temple (Nara Great Buddha)

[WOOD] The Eleven-Faced *Kannon Bosatsu* of *Hase* temple

[CLAY] The *Nyoirin Kannon Bosatsu* of *Oka* Temple

Hon-do, or Main Hall

The largest building of *Oka* Temple is *Hon-do* and houses the Buddha of Wish-Granting which is about 4.6m high.

Important ceremonies are held in this building.

Built in the late 20th century.





Niō-mon or Nio Gate

Built in 1612.

The gate has quite a lot of rare ornaments including a pair of lions, a dragon and tiger placed under the roof.

-Important Cultural Property

Seasonal Flowers



April: Rhododendron



April: Peony



October: Red Spider lily



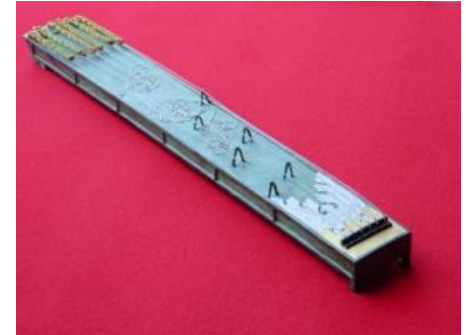
November: Maple



Three-storied Pagoda

The original three-storied pagoda collapsed due to a strong typhoon in 1472 and the construction of the new three-storied pagoda was started in 1984 and completed in 1986. It was commemorated on the 1150th anniversary of Saint *Kōbō Daishi's* death, who was a founder of the *Shingon* sect of Japanese Buddhism and passed away in 835 AD.

The pagoda is decorated with *Koto* (musical instrument) which are rare ornaments and used to offer beautiful sounds to Buddhas.



Shōrō-do, or the Bell Tower

The Bell has seven small holes. These holes were made by Japanese soldiers during the World War II to examine the metal grade for armor. The bell was almost confiscated by the Japanese army.

Fortunately the bell was saved and we appreciate the dedication of the local people who protected the bell during the war. We also thank the divine power of Buddha. We cherish the bell as a symbol of peace and good fortune.

The sound of the bell is very rich and makes your wishes come true.

Built in the early 19th century.





Okuno-In, or the Inner Sanctuary

The stone steps which lead to the Inner Sanctuary are surrounded with seasonal flowers and many Buddhist monuments such as a memorial tower for the founder, a pure spring water well for Saint *Kōbō Daishi* and stone Buddhist statues.

At the end of the sanctuary there is a hand-made cave which enshrines the Buddha of the Future.

Breathtakingly Beautiful Autumn Colors

Oka temple brightened with the colors of the autumn leaves which seem to completely surround its precincts.





The legend of the “Dragon Lid” Pond

In the legend there was an evil dragon harming people in this area.

A priest with great Dharmic power conquered and confined the dragon within a pond and placed a large stone as a lid to keep the dragon from running away.

The “Dragon Lid” pond of *Oka* temple still has the stone lid and when the stone shakes it starts to rain.

The faith of *Yaku* (unluckiness) purification of *Oka* temple originated from the founder of this temple which drove away the evil dragon.

The Faith of Dragon

The dragon, a mythological animal which is worshiped as a sacred *Kami* spirit, controls the weather and water.

Oka temple or the “Dragon Lid” temple has been deeply connected with dragons.

It is said that a dragon has a wish-granting jewel ball.



Dragon Talismans



Dragon Wish-Granting Balls

