

The creation of "WAQOO Mii-dera", Shukubo (temple lodging)
in the grounds of Mii-dera Temple in Shiga Prefecture

1300 years of history in a single day.

Onjo-ji (Mii-dera temple), which is the head temple of the Tendaijimon sect, has been considered one of Japan's 4 great temples since ancient times. Its formal name is "Nagarasan Onjo-ji", and it possesses a large amount of land partway up the Nagarasan Mountains of Otsu City in Shiga Prefecture, southwest of Lake Biwa. It came to be called Miidera because there is a miraculous fountain used for the first baths after the births of Japan's 38th, 40th and 41st emperors. Throughout its long history including disturbances causing it to be burned down multiple times. Since it has overcome such hardships to be restored as such, it came to be called the "Phoenix Temple". It is currently considered one of Japan's most precious temples, possessing many national important cultural properties and a famous garden.



One of Japanese most prominent power spots

The place where Mii-dera is built is a special power spot where routes of underground power intersect at a place called a long mai(ley line). As we know from the fact that Japan's capital was located here over 1,300 years ago, this land has been treated as a special location since ancient times. The "Akaiya (Mii miraculous spring)" from which miraculous spring water flows is a place of especially strong power, and it is only used for limited purposes even within the temple as the miraculous spring water is considered very holy water.

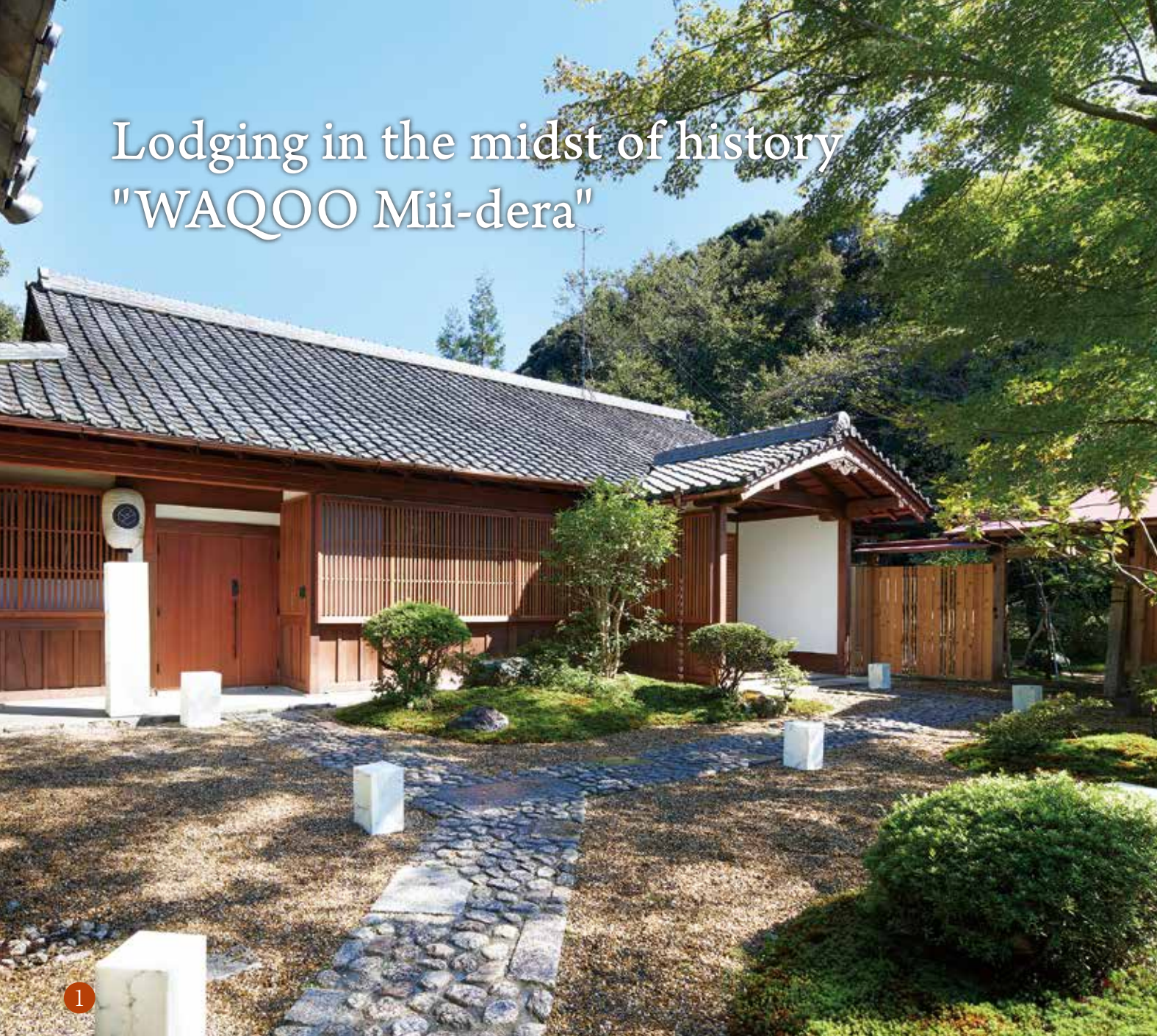
Tendaijimon Sect

The Tendaijimon sect of Buddhism was founded by Chishodaishi Enchin, founder of the sect who became the fifth head priest up following after Dengyou Daishi Saicho. It is one of the 3 head temples of the Tendai sect in Japan. Whereas the Enryaku-ji Temple is called the Sanmon sect, Mii-dera Temple is called the Jimon sect and is a typical sect of Buddhism with a long history of more than 1000 years.

Three Head Temples of Japan's Tendai Sect

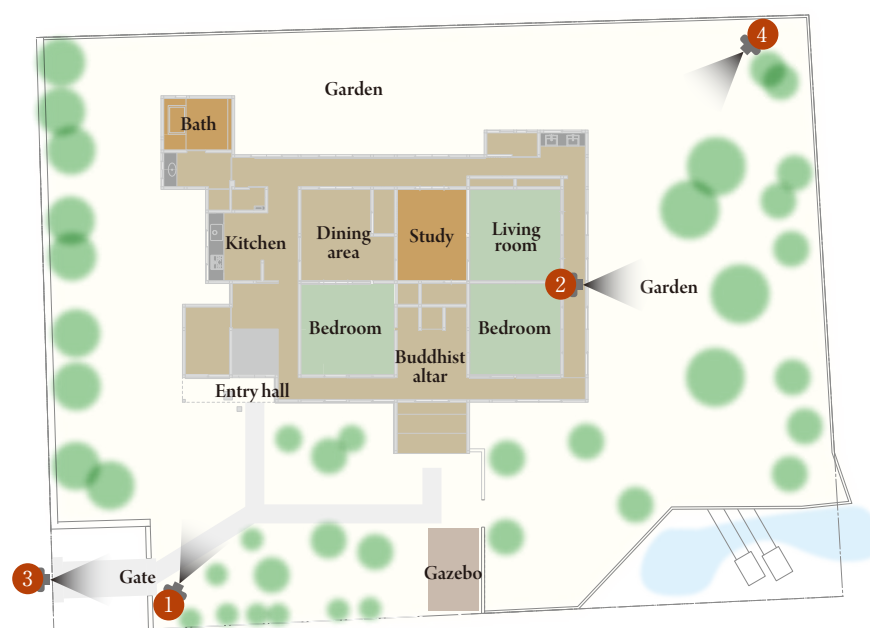
This refers to the three temples " Tendai Jimon Sect Head Temple Mii-dera (Onjo-ji)" Temple, which has a view of Lake Biwa, also known as "the pond of the Tendai Yakushi", "Tendai Head Temple Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple", and "Tendai Shinsei Sect Head Temple Saikyo-ji Temple".

Lodging in the midst of history "WAQOO Mii-dera"



A completely private space renting out 1 building

The priests' temple quarters, Myogonin sub-temple, with over 400 years of history, have been renovated as "WAQOO Mii-dera". We provide a special experience for our lodgers focusing on every detail from the design of the atmosphere which maximally incorporates the scenery which has been cultivated through Mii-dera Temple's long history. The whole lodge is available for rent by one party of up to 4 people per day. The meals range from Buddhist vegetarian cuisine to catering and famous Japanese cuisine specially reserved to meet your tastes.



Scenery only available to a limited number of people



The garden visible from each room is designed by renowned gardeners especially for lodgers. It is also colored by cherry trees in the spring and by autumn foliage in the fall, creating a time and space only for the lodgers. There is also Azumaya (gazebo) where you can feel the air filled with history under a comfortable breeze. (Smoking is only allowed here.)



The four seasons all to yourself

The living room and master bedroom look out over a garden featuring a contrast of stones and moss as well as seasonal trees and the sounds and aromas of nature, allowing you to enjoy them with all of your senses. It also lights up at night, showing different scenery than the daytime. Looking at the scenery changing from daytime into night is a luxurious experience only available to lodgers. Please enjoy having the four seasons all to yourself in a way that you can only experience here.



The Myogon temple gate, which is at the entrance of "WAQOO Mii-dera". Beyond this space unfold a completely private space only for lodgers filled with extraordinary experiences. During your stay the gate is closed and protected by perfect security.



Sleep together with national treasures

Mii-dera Temple has a collection of 64 national treasures and 720 important cultural properties. A temple with such a wealth of precious cultural assets would definitely be counted among the highest class in Japan. Staying at Mii-dera Temple filled with so much of Japan's history and culture is an equally top-class special experience.

The Dainichi Daisho Fudo Myoo statue enshrined in the Butsuma (Buddhist altar), has never been on display to the public before, and can be comparable to the national treasures and important cultural properties. Please sleep soundly in the Shukubo protected by this precious Fudo Myoo statue.



Hospitality at Shukubo

Right/ Towels by IKEUCHI ORGANIC. It is the highest standard of towels in Japan focusing on the environment from the materials and the energy resources to the manufacturing process and products. The "ORGANIC732" towels having firm texture and high absorbency have been prepared for use. Left/"KOTOSHINA" amenities. We provide a travel kit by "KOTOSHINA", an organic skincare brand originating in Kyoto and very popular in Japan as a gift. It is mainly made from Kyoto Uji organic green tea and French spa water and has received recognition as a brand by the "Qualite France" organic certification.



Carefully detailed Japanese handwork

"Ubushina," who creates furniture and lighting designed to suit the space working with artisans possessing traditional Japanese skills and designers, designed furniture to decorate details of Shukubo. Upper/ At the bedside there are Obon (tray) finished carefully by a woodcrafter and the lighting produced by skilled glassworker. Left/The lighting at the corner of the hall is visible from the bedrooms are completely original and created at a workshop in Nagano prefecture.



1 Living room + Main bedroom

The main space of the pilgrim's lodging offering a view of the garden over the veranda. Opening the glass door of the veranda connects the room with the garden. You also can enjoy the dinner with the view of garden's nighttime illumination here.

2 Dining Hall

The dining space with a view of the garden can be used for a special meal by chefs or as a space for communication during your trip. We offer a transcendent tea which can be said to have its roots in Japanese tea brought back to Japan by Tendai sect founder Dengyou Daishi Saicho.

3 Second Bedroom

A second bedroom with a bathed soft light from outside. Including the Main bedroom, we offer a total of 4 semi-double beds. The bed throw is a Jacquard weave with a traditional Japanese fine pattern woven by artisans in Ishikawa Prefecture.

4 Study

The television, remote controls, air conditioners, etc. are designed to be hidden from view as much as possible. Shutting out all outside sounds, it is a place where you can calm your mind and enjoy quietude.

5 Bathroom

Bath time where you can relax surrounded by the aroma of hinoki cypress. Bathing in Mii-dera where the miraculous spring water which is said to have been used for the first baths of Emperors Tenji, Tenmu, and Jito, has a special meaning.

6 Meals

We offer breakfast in a dining room within the grounds. Dinner can be arranged to meet your preference, from Buddhist vegetarian cuisine made carefully down to the dashi, to catering by sushi chefs and famous Kappo (traditional Japanese) restaurant which is difficult to make a reservation.

Other facilities

-Restrooms

There are 2 restrooms in the facilities.

-Kitchen

We offer an IH (induction heating) stove, a refrigerator, a microwave oven and other electric necessities for cooking as well as tableware, glasses, seasoning, and also beverage for free.

-Washroom

In addition to the bathroom, 2 washrooms are available.

Experience Japan's history and culture at Mii-dera Temple

Prefecturally designated cultural properties Moon-viewing stage

"Noh", a world intangible Heritage. The stage for the "Miidera" musical program



Noh is classified by UNESCO as a world Intangible Heritage. Within Noh this is the stage of the climax scene in the famous musical program "Miidera". A place where performers are only allowed to stand when they make an offering, it has a famous view that in the spring is filled with cherry blossoms as well as Japan's greatest lake, visible Lake Biwa down below. Lodgers are specially allowed to stand on the special stage and see this view.



National treasures *It is not open to the public

Kojo-in reception hall

A celebrated example of the "shoinzukuri" style of architecture and a national treasure.

Representative remains of the shoinzukuri style of architecture which was the source of Japan's residential architecture. It is said to have been built by Doami Kagetomo Yamaoka, who was the military commander serving Hideyoshi Toyotomi, lord of Seta Castle, and a monk of Miidera. Inside it there are pictures on wall partitions (Important cultural properties) by from the Kano school including Sanraku Kano in the first two rooms, and the late Muromachi period garden is also designated as a scenic historical landmark. A beautiful scenic historic landmark garden unfolds as if connected to the drawing room veranda, and a serene and dignified atmosphere can be felt in the unified architecture and garden.



National treasures *It is not open to the public

Kangaku-in reception hall

The first room recreated in the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Representative remains of shoin architecture as well as the reception hall for Kojo-in known as the valuable drawing room which conveys the style of "shudenzukuri", which was the archetypical residential housing for warriors during the Muromachi period. It was constructed in 1,600 by Terumoto Mouri. The interior is split into 3 rows of 9 rooms, with gorgeous pictures (Important cultural properties) drawn by Mitsunobu Kano on the big floor room of the south row and the first to the second rooms. A clear and spacious space unfolds from the inside of the room into the southern veranda, continuing into the garden with a long narrow pond from east to west.



National treasures

Kondoh (Main hall of the temple)

Sanctuary of Mii-dera where absolute treasured hidden Buddhist statues, the principal object of worship is enshrined

The main temple hall is the central structure of Mii-dera, and within the inner temple is enshrined Mii-dera's principal object of worship, Maitreya. Emperor Tenji used to worship this object, and it was granted by Emperor Tenji when Miidera temple was constructed over 1,300 years ago. According to Teraden, the size is less than 10cm. It is hidden from view and never displayed, and the enshrinement is also said to be coated with a strong coating, so despite many disasters is miraculously still remains to this day.



Important cultural properties

Akaiya/Sacred Spring of Mii (indoors)

A special power spot where sacred water comes from the routes of underground power stream

"Akaiya", an important cultural property stands quietly behind the Kondoh, main hall of temple. Inside the building, the sacred spring water that were used for ubuyu (a baby's first bath) for 3 emperors (Japan's 38th, 40th and 41st emperors) and is the origin of the name of Mii-dera Temple, are perennially springing out even now. Standing in front of Akaiya and looking up you can see a carving of a dragon considered to be the work of Hidari Jingoro. The tradition says that the dragon came down over Lake Biwa each night, so Hidari Jingoro and others drove a long nails into his eyes to appease him.

The many legends sleeping within "Mii-dera Temple", the temple of the phoenix



The legend of Tengu passed down at Mii-dera Temple

Across from the main hall of the temple, there is a large and old Japanese cedar tree called Tengu-sugi and said to be over 1000 years old. Near the start of the Muromachi Era it is said that one night a priest named Sagamibo Doryo was studying in Kangakuin shoin (the priests' study library) when he suddenly became a Tengu and burst out from the window of the study, stopping at the top of this tree, and when morning came he flew away into the eastern sky. The place where Doryo landed was a temple called Saijo-ji in the far-away Odawara (Kanagawa Prefecture), which is known as Tengu Mountain. The study where Doryo was learning still holds a room named the "Tengu no ma" inside.



Prefecturally designated cultural properties Bell tower/Mii's evening bell

Hear Japan's greatest bell, drawn by Hiroshige Utagawa

One of the Eight Views of Ōmi, "Mii's evening bell", is famous for both its beautiful sound and the fact that it was drawn by ukiyoe artist Hiroshige Utagawa. Also known as one of Japan's three most famous bells, its tone is said to be the most beautiful in Japan. The Momoyama period bell tower where the bell is hung is a national important cultural property, and the bell itself is also designated by the prefecture as a cultural property. The current bell is the 2nd one, with the 1st bell named "the bell dragged by Benkei" and still enshrined within the grounds. There are still many stories relating to the bell in Mii-dera such as legends relating to a giant serpent living in Lake Biwa.

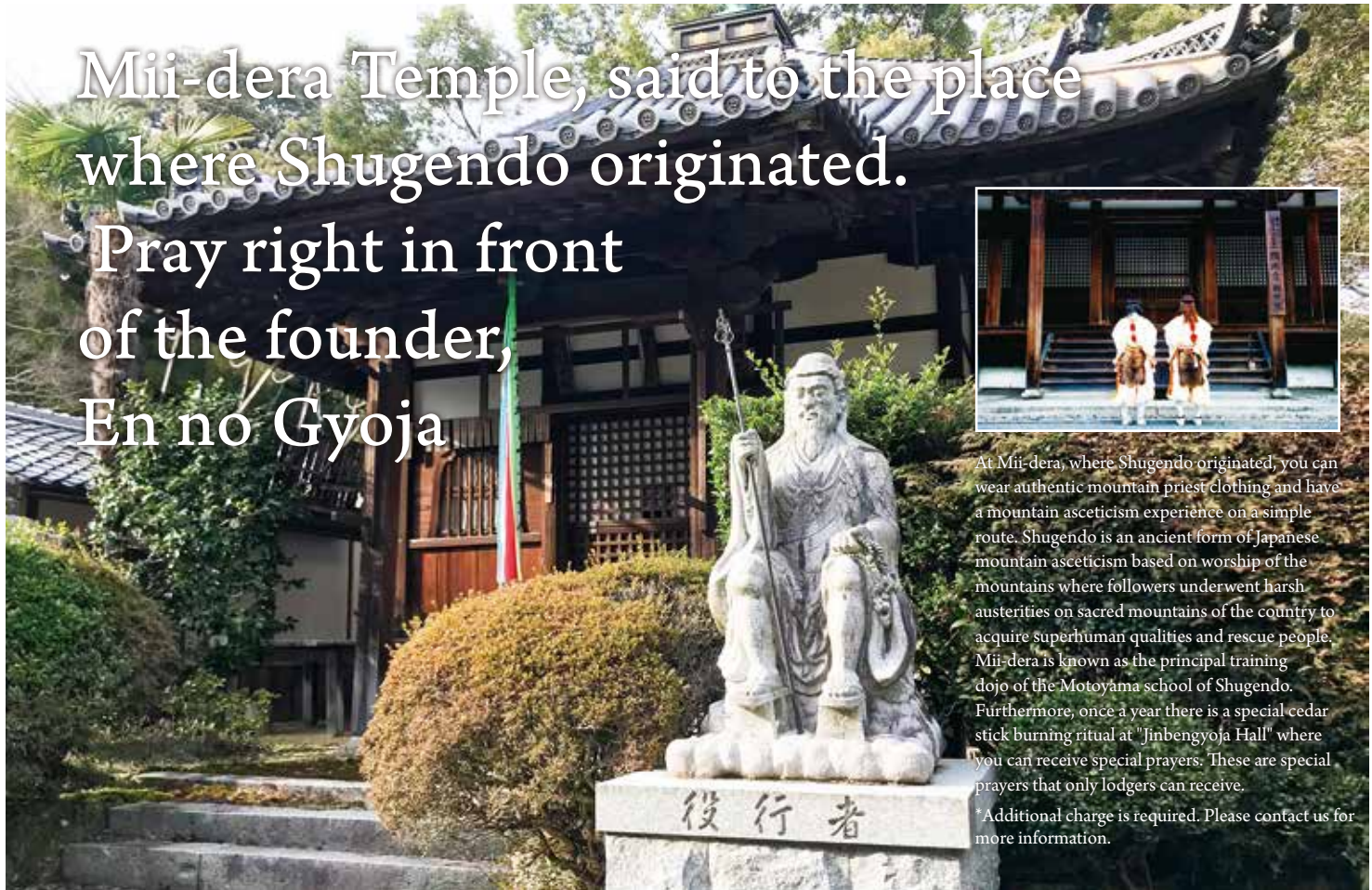


Listening to breathing in the supreme space, Japan's treasure



You can have a special inspection of the normally closed "national treasures Kangaku-in/Kojo-in" with explanations provided by monks of Mii-dera. You can also enter the inner room where the warring states period military commanders sat, and receive guidance on Zen meditation surrounded by important culture property wall paintings. You can experience something special and extraordinary, within the scenery and space where the military commanders sat during the warring states period. An authentic experience in the land where Shugendo originated
*This experience is included in the lodging fee.

"National treasures experience" only for certain people



Mii-dera Temple, said to the place where Shugendo originated. Pray right in front of the founder, En no Gyoja



At Mii-dera, where Shugendo originated, you can wear authentic mountain priest clothing and have a mountain asceticism experience on a simple route. Shugendo is an ancient form of Japanese mountain asceticism based on worship of the mountains where followers underwent harsh austerities on sacred mountains of the country to acquire superhuman qualities and rescue people. Mii-dera is known as the principal training dojo of the Motoyama school of Shugendo. Furthermore, once a year there is a special cedar stick burning ritual at "Jinbengyoja Hall" where you can receive special prayers. These are special prayers that only lodgers can receive.
*Additional charge is required. Please contact us for more information.

Special experience menu

●Regular experience (tour of the grounds by a monk) *Included in the lodging fee.



Special admission and Zen meditation experience in the Kojo-in and Kangaku-in kyakuden, reception hall (national treasure)

Although normally closed to the public, you can have a special inspection of the Kangaku-in and Kojo-in kyakuden (reception hall), a national treasure, guided by a monk. You can also experience Zen seated meditation in a private room for lodgers in wall painting room which is an important cultural property and with a view of the garden which is a beautiful scenic historical site.



Special inspection of Sanju-no-to, Three-storied Pagoda (important cultural property)

Having been transferred from Seson-ji (former Hiso-dera) temple in Nara, it is designated as an important cultural property. It has only ever been opened once to the public before in the past, so being able to enter this place is a precious opportunity. The wooden statues of Gautama Buddha flanked by two attendants enshrined on the Shumidan (dais for a Buddhist image) on the first floor.



Special inspection of the Kanon hall (prefecturally-designated cultural property)

The heart of the Kanon faith, which is important at Mii-dera Temple. Normally not open to the public, you can enter the inner sanctuary where many valuable statues are enshrined and see the principal image of worship, the Cintamani-cakra in front of your eyes, which is only unveiled once every 33 years.



Access to the Kangetsu-butai, moon viewing stage (prefecturally-designated cultural property)

A stage structure which has been famous for moon viewing since ancient times. It is currently not accessible to the general public, but lodgers will have a special chance to stand on it and experience a view which only a few people have the opportunity to see.

●Special experience *Additional charge is required. Please contact us for more information.



Special Prayer

At the Jinben Gyoja-do hall where the special Gomakuyo, Buddhist fire ritual is held once a year, you can have a special prayer which is only available to lodgers of WAQOO Mii-dera. It is an extremely valuable experience to be able to receive a personalized prayer at the head temple of a sect.



Yamabushi, Mountain Priest Experience

Shugendo based upon ancient Japanese mountain worship. You can have an experience wearing the same clothing that true Shugendo mountain ascetics wear. This authentic Tendai Shugendo experience is only possible here because Mii-dera Temple is an origin of Shugendo.



Mii Ancient Traditional Green Tea Ceremony

The sacred springs of Mii have been known throughout the country since long ago, and the "Mii Ancient Traditional Green Tea Ceremony" has continued since the Edo period. It uses green tea leaves rather than match powder, giving you a feel for the history and background.

Experience course examples

First day

14:00 Mii-dera Temple grounds tour

Special observation of the Kojo-in Temple

Seated Zen meditation in the Kangaku-in

Special inspection of Sanju-no-to, Three-storied Pagoda

Special inspection of the Kanon hall sanctuary

Special access to the Kangetsu-butai, moon viewing stage

17:00 WAQOO Mii-dera Arrival



The tour of the grounds starts at the front gate of the Mii-dera Temple, the large front gate where Nio guardian (Deva kings) statues are enshrined (Nio-mon gate). These are designated as important cultural properties created during the Muromachi Era.



Please see Lake Biwa and its changing views over the course of a day. Please imagine the things people standing here over a century ago might have been thinking about as they viewed the same scenery.

2nd day



The daily schedule at a temple starts with a morning religious service. Please start your day with a purified mind by chanting sutras with monks in front of a tablet of the Buddha.

7:40 Kanon hall morning service

9:00 Yamabushi, Mountain Priest Experience

11:30 Special Prayer

12:30 Experience end

和空 三井寺

WAQOO Mii-dera

Capacity: Maximum of 4

Site area: Approximately 807 m²

Guest rooms: Japanese rooms/1 building

Arrangement: 3LDK + altar room (approximately 176.16 m²)

Beds: 4 semi double beds/2 futon sets

Bath: Bath made of 100% hinoki cypress, 2 showers

Toilet: 2 western style toilets

Incidental: Japanese style garden

[Major amenities and facilities in the pilgrim's lodging]

Air conditioner/TV/air purifier/IH cooking heater (IH x 3, grill & oven/refrigerator/wine cooler/microwave oven/toaster/electric kettle/IH rice cooking jar/body soap/shampoo/conditioner/shaving razor/toothbrush/towel/traditional room wear/Wi-Fi(free)/unstaffed check-in (if desired), etc.

[Access to Miidera Temple]

246-Onjōjichō Ōtsu-shi, Shiga-ken

(https://waqoo-miidera.com/index_en.html#access)



[Inquiries] **WAQOO PROJECT Co., Ltd.**

TEL: +81-6-4801-8211

Reception hours: 10AM-6:00PM/excluding weekends and holidays

E-Mail: info@waqoo-miidera.com

https://waqoo-miidera.com/index_en.html



[Mii-dera Temple official website]

<http://miidera1200.jp/>