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 Mii-dera 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.

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 Chishodenshi Enchin, founder of the sect who became the fifth head priest 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 Hiei-zan Enryaku-ji Temple", and "Tendai Shinsho Sect Head Temple Sakyu-ji Temple".

One of Japanese most prominent power spots

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

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.

A completely private space renting out 1 building
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.

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 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.)

Garden
Dining area
Study
Living room
Entry hall
Gazebo
Bedroom
Bedroom
Buddhist altar
Kitchen

Garden
Garden
Garden
Garden
Garden
Garden
Garden
Sleep together with national treasures

Mii-dera Temple has a collection of 64 national treasures and 733 important cultural properties. A temple with such a wealth of precious cultural assets would definitely be something causing the highest degree of excitement among Japanese. Staying at Mii-dera temple filled with so much of Japan's history and culture is an equally top-class special experience.

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.

Hospitality at Shukubo

Right/ Toshiyuki 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 a 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.

Other facilities

-Bathroom

-There are 2 restrooms in the facilities.
-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.

-Waterroom

-In addition to the bathroom, 2 washrooms are available.
Experience Japan's history and culture at Mii-dera Temple

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

Selected as Intangible Cultural Properties

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 Sugimoto Doryo was studying in Kangaku in (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. This place where Doryo landed was a temple called Kojo-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.

[Image of Tengu Mountain]

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[Image of Tengu Mountain]
"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.

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

*This experience is included in the lodging fee.

An authentic experience in the land where Shugendo originated military commanders sat during the warring states period.

Wall paintings. You can experience something special and extraordinary, within the scenery and space where the military commanders sat, and receive guidance on Zen meditation surrounded by important culture property explanations provided by monks of Mii-dera. You can also enter the inner room where the warring states period Y ou can have a special inspection of the normally closed "national treasures Kangaku-in/Kojo-in" with additional charge.

Furthermore, once a year there is a special cedar dojo of the Motoyama school of Shugendo. Mii-dera is known as the principal training route. Shugendo is an ancient form of Japanese mountain asceticism experience on a simple wearing authentic mountain priest clothing and have austerities on sacred mountains of the country to acquire superhuman qualities and rescue people. 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.

Access to the Kangetsu-butsu, 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.

Mii-dera Temple grounds tour

The tour of the grounds starts at the front gate of the Mii-dera Temple, the large front gate where his statue is enshrined. The many cultural properties located in the vast grounds are enshrined in the building. These are designated as important cultural properties created during the Muromachi Era.

Special observation of the Kangaku-in Temple

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.

Special observation 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 Shumidten (altar for a Buddhist image) on the first floor.

Special observation of the Kanon hall sanctuary

The Kanon hall morning service

The daily schedule at a temple starts with a morning-religious service. Please start your day with a morning-religious service with monks in front of a tablet of the Buddha.`

Experience course examples

First day

14:00

Mii-dera Temple grounds tour

Special observation of the Kanon-in Temple

Seated Zen meditation in the Kangaku-in

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

Special observation of the Kanon hall sanctuary

Special access to the Kangetsu-butsu, moon viewing stage

17:00

WAQOO Mii-dera Archipel

2nd day

7:40

Kanzen hall morning service

9:00

Yamabushi, Mountain Priest Experience

11:30

Special Prayer

13:30

Experience end

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

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和空 三井寺
WAQOO Mii-dera

Capacity: Maximum of 4
Site area: Approximately 807 ㎡
Guest rooms: Japanese rooms/1 building
Arrangement: 3LDK + altar room (approximately 176.16 ㎡)
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/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 Mii-dera Temple]
246-Onojocho Otosu-shi, Shiga-ken
(https://waqoo-miidera.com/index_en.html#access)

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[Mii-dera Temple official website]
http://miidera1200.jp/