Sugatani Fudoson

Originally established about 800 years ago

A venerable temple of the Shingon school, Daigo sect

Explore the Temple
30 mins





The main temple of Kankokuji temple was rebuilt in 1770





The Sanmon was completed in 1866 after eight years of construction
It is said that a total of about 5000 people took part in its construction

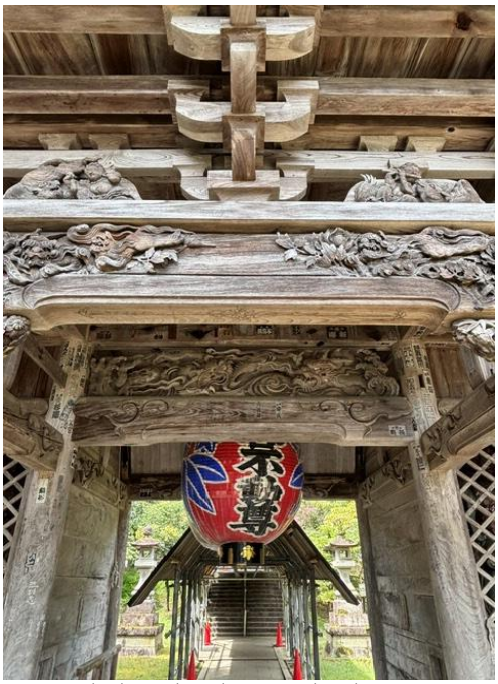




Two Nio (Deva Kings) stand on either side of the Sanmon Gate. These guardian statues protect the temple from evil
There is also a belief that people can help heal their illness by blowing a small piece of paper toward the part of the Nio statue corresponding to the part of their own body that is sick



Look up the beams of the Sanmon Gate, and you will see beautiful and detailed animal carvings
These animals are associated with the Japanese zodiac



A path leads through the Sanmon Gate, beneath a large red paper lantern, toward the main temple









You can also see carvings of the twelve zodiac animals besides the Sanmon Gate

The Japanese zodiac animals

The Japanese zodiac is based on a 12-year cycle with each year represented by a simbolic animal
The 12 animals are in order: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Boar. 2026 is the Year of the Horse, and 2027 will be the Year of the Sheep.
Can you find the animal that represent your birth year?



The Jizo Hall houses statues of Jizo, a Buddhist bodhisattva
Jizo is traditionally believed to be a protector of travelers and children who died at a young age
The statues in the hall date from 1740 and 1804



The beautiful greenery surrounding Kankokuji Temple creates a peaceful and tranquil atmosphere



The main temple features an impressive Irimoya-zukuri roof, a traditional Japanese architectual style combining a garbled roof with a hipped roof



The main temple enshrined Acalanātha (Fudo Myoo), the Immovable Wisdom King
The statue is open to the public once every six years, giving visitors a rare opportunity to see it





The "Sasarindo ", the Kankokuji's temple crest, can be seen on large big red paper lantern hanging from the eaves of the main temple

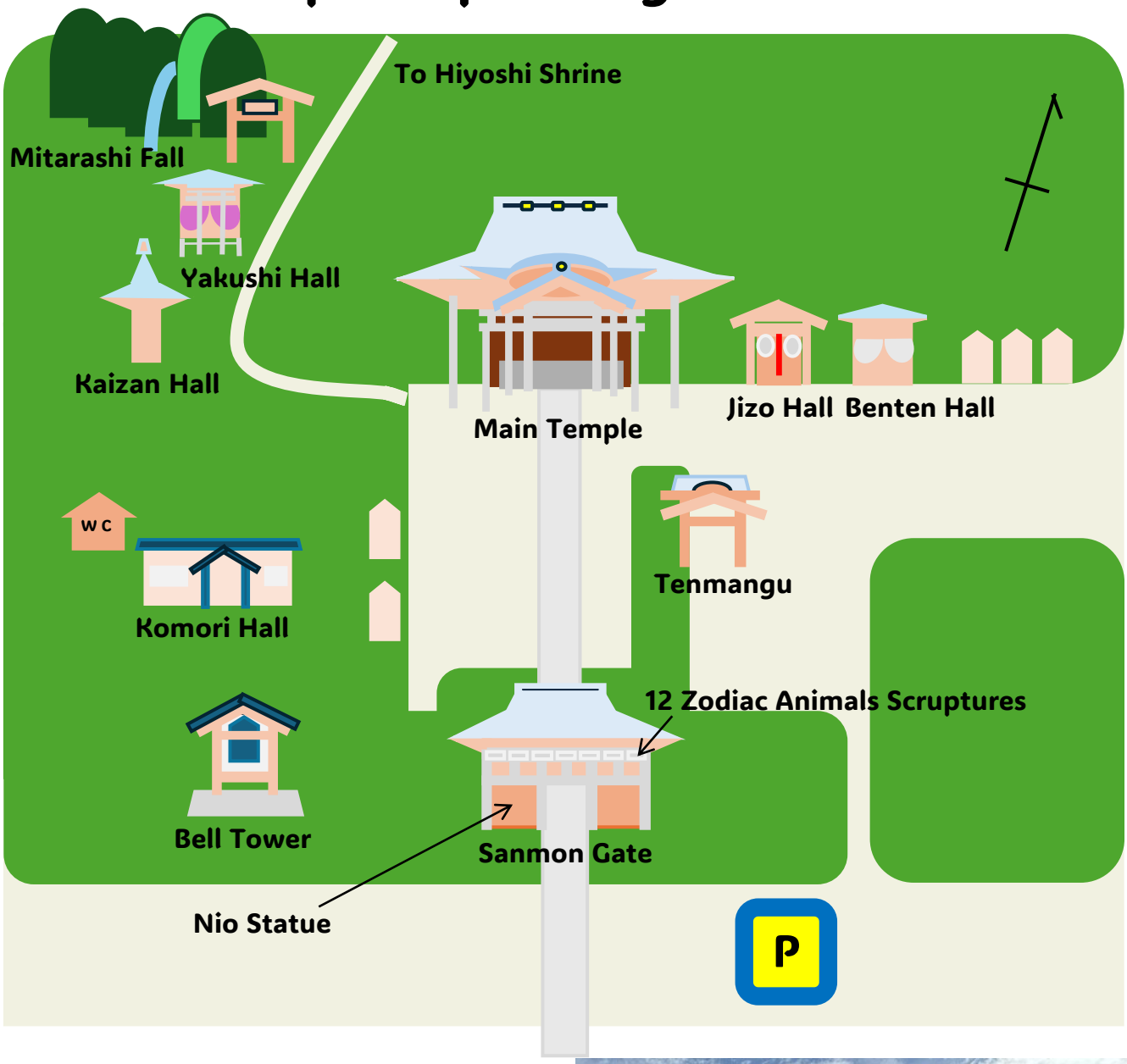


← Mitarashi-no-Taki (Waterfall)



Mitarashi-no-Taki is a waterfall associated with a fascinating legend about the temple's Acalanātha statue
In the spring of 1253, lightning struck the temple and a fire destroyed the entire complex
However, the stutue of Acalanātha survived without any damage
According to legend, many tanishi(pond snails)that lived in the waters of Mitarashi-no-Taki protected the statue from the fire
Remarkably, the statue was said to have suffered no damage - not even to a single hair
Because of this legend, the water of Mitarashi-no-Taki has long been regarded as miraculous water, especially for people suffering from eye problems

A Concept Map of Sugatani Fudoson



Oikake-no-Matsu Pine Tree →
According to legend, Gonen-shonin, the high priest and founder of Kankokuji Temple, was carrying a statue of Acalanātha (Fudo Myoo) from Kyoto When he stopped to rest near this tree, he decided to establish the temple at the foot of the mountain The pine tree is about a 22-minute walk from the temple



Address
860 Sugatani Shibata-city
Niigata Prefecture

Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entrance fee Free

Shibata City Office
Tourism Promotion Section

NIIGATA PREFECTURE
Shibata Regional Promotion Bureau
Planning and Promotion Department

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