

## Nitenmon, Gate of the Heavenly Kings

This second gate protecting the approach to Iemitsu's tomb is the largest at the Nikkōsan temple complex. The gate houses two of the Four Heavenly Kings, each of which guards one of the four cardinal directions. The green-skinned Jikokuten on the left is the guardian of the East and protector of the realm. On the right is the red-skinned Komokuten, guardian of the West whose wide vision sees through all evil. To the rear of the gate are statues of Raijin and Fujin, the deities of thunder and wind. These were originally located elsewhere but were moved here in the late nineteenth century. The inscription above the gate reads "Taiyūin." It was written personally by the 108th emperor of Japan, Gomizunoo (1596–1680).