

Shakado Hall and the Junshi Graves

This hall enshrines a seated Shaka triad—a statue of the historical Buddha accompanied by two bodhisattvas. It is not known when this building was constructed, but it was moved to this location in 1640. The hall was used for meditation.

Two rows of large stone monuments stand to the left of the temple. They are the graves of twenty-four of the chief vassals of the Tokugawa family from the early period of the Tokugawa Shogunate (1603–1867). The first five from the left in the front row are particularly noteworthy. They committed ritual suicide when their feudal lord, Iemitsu, the third Tokugawa shogun, died, in order to follow him into the next world, which is known as *junshi* in Japanese. Thus, these five graves are known as the Junshi Graves. This form of suicide was later forbidden by the Tokugawa shogunate.