

Amida-do

This hall is part of Saicho's original plan for the Lotus Soji-in temple complex. Construction began at the request of Emperor Montoku in 862. It was modeled after Seiryu-ji in the Chinese Tang-dynasty capital city of Changan (present day Xi'an), which Ennin had visited. The hall was completed after decades of work as the center for practicing Tendai Esoteric Buddhism.

Today the Amida-do constitutes the core of the Todo eastern tower district of the monastery. It is connected to the Kanjo-do to the south, and the Jakko-do to the north by corridors. The original buildings were all burnt down in 1571 by the warlord Oda Nobunaga (1543-1582), who attacked Enryakuji to end Buddhist militancy, as part of his campaign to reunify Japan after a century of civil war.

The current structure was built in 1937 as part of the 1150th anniversary celebrations of the founding of Tendai Buddhism on Mount Hiei. It is the only hall in the Enryakuji complex devoted to memorial services. The statue at its center is the **Amida Buddha** and is 4.8 meters high. Pure Land nenbutsu chanting practices are carried out daily.

The benefits of good actions are transferred to others, prayers are offered for the peaceful repose of ancestors and other relations, and many ceremonies such as the spring (March 18th–24th and autumn (Sept. 20th–26th) equinox ceremonies), the Ullambana ancestral festival (August 13th–16th), and the fall equinox ceremonies are conducted here.

J: Japanese

Amida-do (Amida Hall)

Changan (J: Choan)

Kancho-do (Initiation Hall)

Jakko-do (Quiescent Light Hall)

Spring equinox ceremonies (J. haru higan-e)

Ullambana ancestral festival (J. Urabon-e)

Fall equinox ceremonies (J. aki higan-e)