

TITLE: Entsuritsuji Temple

Since its re-establishment during the twelfth century, the sacred monastery of Entsuritsuji Temple has played an important role in the training of priests on Koyasan. To this day, Koyasan Shingon priests must spend one hundred days in training and meditation here before being ordained. Entsuritsuji Temple is one of several religious training centers on the Koyasan plateau.

Entsuritsuji Temple was re-established by Chogen (1121–1206), the Japanese Buddhist priest who also rebuilt the famous temple of Todaiji, in Nara City. In addition, this temple was originally home to several important Buddhist statues produced by Unkei (approx.1150–1223) and his contemporary Kaikei (dates unknown), two of the best-known artists of the Kei school, which flourished during the Kamakura period (1185–1333). Some of these important statues have now been moved to Koyasan's Reihokan Museum for conservation, restoration, and display.

Entsuritsuji Temple is open to the public only one day each year, at the Hanamatsuri festival, celebrated during the fourth month of the lunar calendar. Due to the strict and solemn nature of the important religious training conducted here, visitors are not normally allowed to enter the temple or its precincts. For this reason, visitors are asked to respect the “Do Not Enter” signs posted at the entrances to Entsuritsuji Temple.