

Daisenji Priests' Quarters

In the past Daisenji Temple was much larger than today, and at one time was home to over a hundred monks' living quarters. In the Edo period (1603–1867), the temple complex consisted of the Sairakuin Hall, its administrative center, with at least forty-two buildings serving as quarters for monks and pilgrims. Anti-Buddhist legislation enacted in 1875 sent the complex into decline, and today there are only ten buildings.

In 1914, the acclaimed writer Shiga Naoya (1883–1971) stayed at Renjoin Hall. The climax of his celebrated pre-war novel *An'ya Koro* (*A Dark Night's Passing*), in which the writer-protagonist travels to Mt. Daisen for a pilgrimage and contemplation, was based on Shiga's own experiences of climbing Mt. Daisen.

The ceiling paintings of nearby Enryuin Temple, which was reconstructed in 2009, were executed by the famous manga artist Mizuki Shigeru (1922–2015), who was raised in nearby Sakaiminato.