

This *hondo*, or main hall, was originally built in the mid-seventeenth century by the second lord of the Mori clan. It was subsequently destroyed by fire in 1747, then rebuilt in 1750 by the sixth lord of the Mori clan. As the main building of Daishoin Temple, it is here that rituals honoring Buddhist deities are conducted.

The most highly venerated statue in this hall is a 1,200-year-old image of Kannon, the bodhisattva of compassion. However, the largest sculpture is of Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha. Also enshrined within are objects of ancestral worship devoted to both men and women of the Mori clan, as well as to the spirits of the twenty-six previous abbots of Daishoin. Visible in other rooms are 270-year-old sliding door panels, painted in the fifteenth century in the style of the Sesshu school.