

As religious practices centered around the Mirokuji-Usa Jingu complex continued from the ninth to fourteenth centuries, the number of temples-shrines in the region grew to around 50. Two of the major testaments to this religious fervor are the cliffside carvings and stone monuments that still can be found throughout the peninsula. Most famous among these is Kumano Magaibutsu, a pair of Buddhist stone carvings set into a cliffside in Hirano, Bungotakada. One carving stands six meters high and is the largest depiction in Japan of Dainichi Buddha, the supreme Buddha of the cosmos. The other is eight meters tall and depicts Fudo Myo-o, a guardian of the faith.