

The Komo Jinja shrine building was originally part of a Buddhist and Shinto shrine-temple complex surrounding Misumi Pond. The pond and Mt. Hachimen to the southwest have been associated with spiritual power for over 2,000 years. The mountain is the historic home of the Shinto deities, or kami, that are venerated in this area. Next to the pond is the old pathway leading to Usa Jingu, a historic center of spiritual power for the entire Kunisaki peninsula. Construction of the complex that became Komo Jinja began in the ninth century, but during the nineteenth-century Meiji restoration the shrine-temple complex was forced to separate its Shinto and Buddhist practices. During that time most of the Buddhist buildings were destroyed, but the Komo Jinja building survived. Today, the site is a *jinja* or Shinto shrine and is a place of Shinto worship despite its historically Buddhist architecture.