

The North Gate and the *Tsuijibei* Wall

The North Gate functions as the main entrance to Jisonin Temple. The *kaerumata* (frog-leg) struts and the cut of the beams' corners indicate that this gate was built during the Muromachi period (1392–1573). This four-pillared gate, one of the largest of its kind in Wakayama Prefecture, is a designated Prefectural Cultural Property.

The wall on both sides of the gate was built using an ancient technique called *tsuijibei*, where mud and clay are piled up and compressed between boards, carefully layered up to the desired height. The wall is 100 meters long, about 3 meters high and just under 1.6 meters thick at the bottom. The compressed material is quite strong, and the wall has weathered a number of major earthquakes over the centuries with minimal damage.

While the *tsuijibei* building technique came to Japan from China during the Heian period (794–1185), this wall was most likely constructed in the 1540s. It is a designated Tangible Cultural Property, and one of only a few examples left in Japan.