

Five-Storied Pagoda

National Treasure

Dating to the Tenpyo period (710–794), this pagoda is believed to be the smallest and oldest indoor five-story pagoda in Japan. It is the sole survivor of a pair that stood in the Eastern Golden Hall and Western Golden Hall, respectively. At 4 meters in height and far shorter than the 10 or more meters of most outdoor five-story pagodas, its size is likely due to the temple's limited space. As it was meant to be viewed up close, the pagoda showcases exquisite craftsmanship in the detailed carvings of its roofs and eaves. As with all pagodas in Japan, it is regarded as a memorial to the Buddha.