

Myozenji Temple: Shoromon Gate

The Shoromon is the main gate of Myozenji Temple. Built in 1801, it is noted for its distinctive two-layered structure and high thatched roof. This design, invented by a local artisan, served as inspiration for the temple's current main hall, which also features a thatched roof and was constructed 26 years after the gate. The Shoromon's original temple bell was requisitioned for military use during World War II; its replacement, cast anew after the end of the war, hangs in the gate and is rung for ceremonies and on occasions such as New Year's Eve. On the left side of the gate stands a yew tree (*Taxus cuspidata*), which was planted to mark the completion of the main hall in 1827 and is designated a Natural Monument of Gifu Prefecture, while on the right side grows a cherry tree whose pink blossoms signal the coming of spring in Shirakawa-go.