

Saikyoji Temple

Saikyoji Temple is closely associated with the Buddhist priest Shinsei (1443–1495). He made Saikyoji a place for the practice of *fudan nenbutsu*, the continuous recitation of the name of the Amida Buddha, punctuated with the striking of a bell. The monks of Saikyoji still practice *fudan nenbutsu* in the main hall (*hondo*), although it is no longer done through the night. The current main hall dates to 1739 and was constructed entirely from zelkova wood without the use of nails. It is designated an Important Cultural Property.

The guest hall (*kyakuden*), another Important Cultural Property, was moved from Fushimi Castle in Kyoto. The guest hall has five rooms, each with different paintings on the sliding panels and walls. The paintings were produced by artists of the famous Kano school, possibly by master artist Kano Eitoku (1543–1590). The guest hall garden is modeled on its surroundings, with a pond that represents Lake Biwa while the land around it represents the area on the lake's southern shore, today Shiga Prefecture.