

Juryō'in (Subtemple of Engyōji)

Juryō'in is considered the most important subtemple of the Engyōji complex. It boasts the special honor of having acted as the guest quarters of Retired Emperor Goshirakawa (1127–1192) during his week-long visit to Engyōji in 1174. The present structure harmoniously blends classical (*shinden*) and early modern (*shoin*) architectural styles. The latter is exemplified by alcoves, staggered shelves, interior partitions, and tatami flooring. The central Buddha hall is adorned with a copy of the Taima Mandala, which depicts the Buddhist Pure Land, a paradise where enlightenment is guaranteed.

An entrance hall and elegant gate with a cusped-gable roof separate the residential spaces described above from another section of Juryō'in that is used mainly as a kitchen. One room contains a display of various pieces of Shosha-nuri, the distinctive crimson lacquerware for which Mt. Shosha is famous. Today, Juryō'in is used to host weddings and other private events. With a booking, guests can enjoy traditional Buddhist vegetarian cuisine served on Shosha-nuri.