

Chushoin Temple

Until the Edo period (1603–1867), monks lived and trained at 12 temple buildings at Yamadera, on the slopes of Mt. Hoju. Chushoin is one of just four that remain. The principal object of worship at Chushoin is Amida Nyorai, the Celestial Buddha. One of the roles of the Amida is to lead departed souls to paradise. Behind the hall, there is a funerary monument to the Tozawa family, former rulers of Dewa Province (present-day Yamagata). Across from the temple is a monument to Mogami Yoshiaki (1546–1614), who was a powerful daimyo of the Yamagata domain. In front of the hall is a statue of the arhat Binzuru, depicted sitting cross-legged in the lotus position. Believers with ailments rub the corresponding part of the statue's body in hopes of receiving Binzuru's blessing of healing.