

Midahora

The Midahora is a large, weathered rock face along the path to Yamadera's upper reaches. Over the centuries the elements have carved the rock into something evoking a 4.8-meter-tall image of the Celestial Buddha, Amida Nyorai. Visitors who can make out the likeness are thought to receive Amida's blessing.

Mortuary tablets are carved into the rock beneath the image, and wooden funerary objects called *gosho-guruma* lean against the base of the rock face. The *gosho-guruma* are inscribed with the posthumous Buddhist names of the deceased and have a spinnable prayer wheel. Sutras are written on the wheel, and rotating them is symbolic of reciting the sutra.