

Jurinji Temple

In 815, when Buddhist monk, calligrapher, and poet Kobo Daishi traveled from Japan to China, he prayed to the bodhisattva Jizo for maritime safety, and during his voyage, received spiritual inspiration. After returning home, along with seven other temples, he founded Junrinji Temple as a place of prayer for the protection of the nation and the safety of navigation on the sea, in accordance with an imperial decree at that time.

The Niomon (gate of the guardian kings) at the main entrance to Junrinji Temple is built in the style of the Edo period (1603–1867). The two Nio guardian statues, often found flanking temple gates in Japan, are said to protect the property from threats both spiritual and material.

The *hondo* (main hall) is the largest wooden building in Takasago. It contains two Buddhist paintings: one, on silk, is an Important Cultural Property called *Kenpon Chakushoku Gobutsusozonzo*. The other, a designated Prefectural Cultural Property called *Amida Raigozu*, portrays the Buddha Amida, a celestial Buddha of light and life said to welcome souls to paradise.