



Welcome to Kodosan

Kodosan was founded in 1936 by Rev. Shodo Okano, a priest of the ancient Tendai School. He wanted to create a temple that would bring the teachings of Buddhism to everyday life. Since then, people from all over Japan and abroad have visited Kodosan to experience the wisdom and compassion of Buddhism through activities such as meditation, talks, festivities, art, and culture.

Located on the hill of Torigoe, Kodosan commands a panoramic view of the Yokohama Harbor and Minato Mirai areas, as well as Mt. Fuji. Hundreds of cherry blossoms, trees, and plants add sublime beauty to the serenity and grandeur of the temple. The Buddha Relics Tower, Main Worship Hall, and Mahakala Shrine are the main buildings in the temple complex.

Main Hall



The present Main Hall, built in 1980, accommodates 2,000 people. Natural sunlight shines through the ceiling, and the green carpet on the floor is reminiscent of a meadow, recreating the scene of

people sitting on the grass under a blue sky while listening to the Buddha's dharma teachings.

The artworks on the sliding doors and walls were painted by Japanese painter Katayama Nanpu (1887-1980).



These pictures depict the four main scenes from the life of the Buddha: his birth, enlightenment, first sermon, and parinirvana. Instead of drawing the Buddha, images of nature and animals are used to show that all sentient life has the potential of growing wisdom and compassion like the Buddha.

Buddha Relics Tower

At the summit of Kodosan Temple stands the elegant and sacred double-tiered pagoda, the Buddha Relics Tower (*busshari-den*). The principal object of worship enshrined within its inner sanctuary is a portion of the sacred relics (cremated ashes) of the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni. These Buddha relics were brought to Japan from China during the Heian period by the Master Saicho (767-822), also known as Dengyo Daishi, the founder of Enryaku-ji Temple on Mt. Hiei and the Tendai order in Japan. The relics were bequeathed from Mt. Hiei in August of 1952, and the Tower was completed in 1960 after great efforts by the Kodosan Women's Association, especially the 1st Vice-President Rev. Kimiko Okano, to collect donations for its construction. The tower also houses the Eternal Flame of Dharma, originally lit over 1,200 years ago by Master Saicho. The sacred relics of the Buddha are enshrined in a small pagoda in the Main Buddha Relics Hall, and the Eternal Flame of Dharma shines on both of its sides. The inner chamber of the tower is open to the public twice a year at New Year's and summer Obon, but we welcome visitors anytime of year to walk around the precincts and offer prayers.



Yearly Events

Spring	Flower Festival, season of cherry tree blossoms
Summer	Bon Dance & Buddha Relics Tower open
Fall	Daikoku Festival & Yokubei-ku Ceremony
Winter	New Year's Celebration

◆ New Year's Eve



Ring a temple bell on New Year's Eve to "ring out" delusions and earthly desires and welcome the New Year. Kodosan's Bell of Peace, installed after World War II and renewed in 2017, prays for world peace.

◆ New Year's Day



A grand ceremony in the Main Hall is followed by New Year's greetings from the President and Vice Presidents. Visitors pray for a smooth start of the year and share the serene atmosphere.

Flower Festival (April)



At Kodosan, the Buddha's birthday (also called the "Flower Festival" or *hanamatsuri*) is celebrated on the first Sunday of April with performances and a grand ceremony to bathe the statue of the baby Buddha. With more than 250 cherry blossom trees all over the hill, Kodosan is one of the most spectacular spots for cherry blossom viewing in Kanagawa Prefecture. Come and immerse yourself in the breathtaking scenery and enjoy a moment of peace in the pleasant spring season!

The *Hana-mido* Flower Shrine, a statue of the newly born baby Buddha, is installed in a portable shrine decorated with flowers.

Sweet herbal tea is poured over the statue to "bathe" the baby Buddha.

Kodosan Obon Festival (August)



This nationwide summer festival is unique at Kodosan as it also celebrates the bequeathing of the sacred ashes of Buddha Shakyamuni from Mt. Hiei in August of 1952. Every year, the Yasakoi Soran dance is also held as a joyful celebration of gratitude towards the Buddha relics and one's ancestors. Come join the dance and festivities in mid August every year!

Daikokuten (November)



In Japan, Daikokuten or Daikoku (India: Mahakala) is the God of wealth and happiness. The Daikoku statue, conferred to Kodosan in 1956 by Mt. Hiei and the

Tendai school, is enshrined in the elegant octagonal Daikoku pavilion. On a clear day, you can get a view of Mt. Fuji in the distant background. A popular community event in the area is the Daikoku Festival, which takes place during the autumnal Yokubei-ku Ceremony in November every year. The first day of every month is dedicated to Daikoku and a dharma talk is given in the Main Hall.

Koshi Ceremony Prayer Service

This regular prayer service is conducted at the Daikoku Pavilion for the public on the designated days of *koshi* or *kinoe-ne*. We pray for the transformation of confusion into wisdom, suffering into peace, and disaster into fortune. On a prayer form, you can write down your wishes for relationships, children, family, friends, school entrance, employment, career etc. You will receive a "Buddha's Message Card" with words of wisdom to guide you in your daily life.



Goshuin Sacred Temple Seal Stamp



A variety of sacred vermilion temple seal stamps (the Kodosan original seal, Kannon and Mahakala seals, and seals of seasonal design) are issued to visitors at the temple shop.

Enrich

A Place of Quiet Contemplation: Meditation & Sutra Copying



Fast paced urban life can be stressful and sometimes we get overwhelmed. Kodosan's Main Hall and gardened precincts high above the city are open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. if you need a quiet place to walk or sit and get away from it all for a moment. Feel free to drop by! For deeper levels of tranquility, we offer regular meditation sessions (*zen-jo*) as well as brush pen calligraphy practice known as Sutra Copying (*sha-kyo*). Please contact us for these sessions.

Plan Your Visit

Come for the scenery, stay for the calm. Experience Buddhism through community, art and culture.

Online: Scan for the latest event schedule, access information, and updates.



Website
kodosan.jp



Instagram
[@kodosan_official](https://www.instagram.com/kodosan_official)



Kodosan Buddhist Temple

Yokohama, Japan

Explore
Experience
Enrich

through
Everyday Life, Art & Culture

38 Torigoe, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama,
Kanagawa 221-0062, Japan
TEL 045-432-1201

A hilltop sanctuary
overlooking Yokohama Harbor & Mt. Fuji