



国宝 北条実時像 称名寺蔵 (神奈川県立金沢文庫保管)
Portrait of Hojo Sanetoki (National treasure)



重要文化財 弥勒菩薩立像 称名寺蔵
Standing statue of Bodhisattva Maitreya
(Important Cultural property, not open to the public)



重要文化財 大威徳明王像 光明院所蔵 (神奈川県立金沢文庫管理)
Seated Dainikku Myo-o (Vajrabhairava)
(Important Cultural property, by Unkei)

称名寺

SHOMYOJI TEMPLE



Yokohama Kanazawa City Guide Association
(Nonprofit Organization)
NPO法人 横濱金澤シティガイド協会

Free tours at Shomyoji Temple precinct (on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. except rainy days). We are waiting for you at Nio-mon gate.

YKCGA was established in 1998 and consists of about 100 volunteer guide members.

YKCGA also plans and offers attractive one-day or half-day walking tours in Kanazawa Ward and surrounding areas, such as Kamakura, etc., basically for 500 yen (at cost) per person (some sites may also charge for admission, special events, etc.). Please contact us.

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MAP



Looking for a nice walk? Come to Shomyoji Temple!

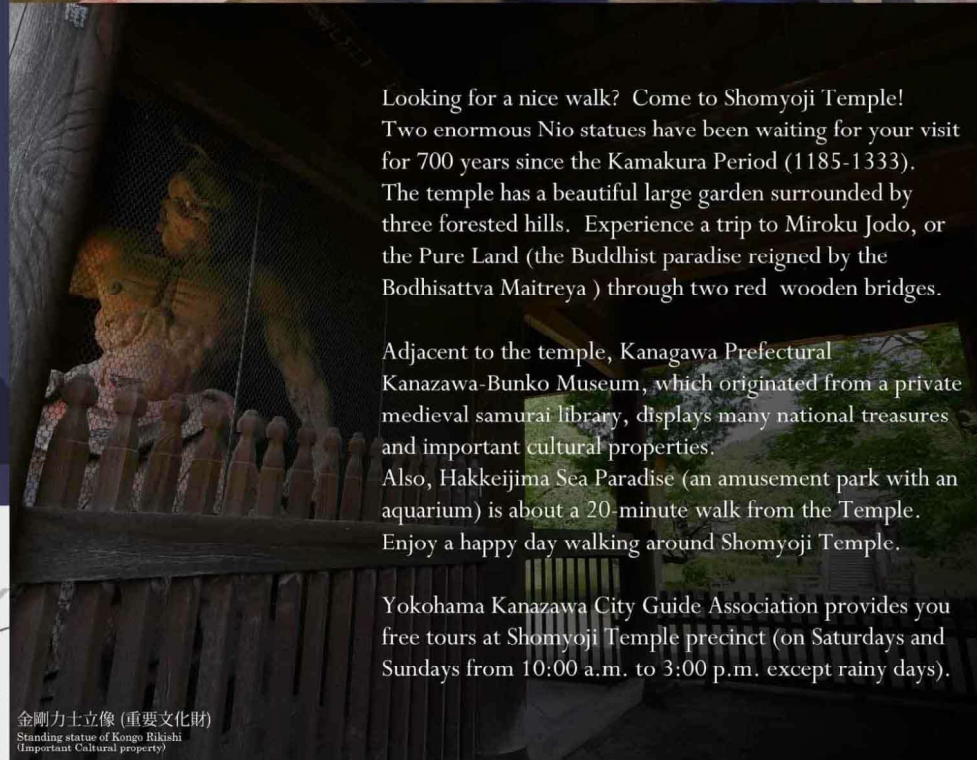
Two enormous Nio statues have been waiting for your visit for 700 years since the Kamakura Period (1185-1333). The temple has a beautiful large garden surrounded by three forested hills. Experience a trip to Miroku Jodo, or the Pure Land (the Buddhist paradise reigned by the Bodhisattva Maitreya) through two red wooden bridges.

Adjacent to the temple, Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum, which originated from a private medieval samurai library, displays many national treasures and important cultural properties.

Also, Hakkeijima Sea Paradise (an amusement park with an aquarium) is about a 20-minute walk from the Temple.

Enjoy a happy day walking around Shomyoji Temple.

Yokohama Kanazawa City Guide Association provides you free tours at Shomyoji Temple precinct (on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. except rainy days).



金剛力士立像 (重要文化財)
Standing statue of Kongo Rikishi
(Important Cultural property)

Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum



Formerly, Kanazawa Bunko was a Kanazawa Hojo family's private library founded by Sanetoki in the Kamakura Period. Sanetoki's passion for learning was inherited by his descendants. They collected and compiled huge amounts of literary works and documents about a variety of topics such as politics, arts and histories, as well as Buddhist texts. It is now a historical museum for the medieval times and holds a lot of national treasures and important cultural assets.

Kanazawa-Hakkei (Eight Views in Kanazawa)



Evening Bell of Shomyoji Temple,
by Utagawa Hiroshige,
Kanagawa Prefectural
Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

Kanazawa was a well-known scenic spot. In the late 17c., eight scenes were selected by a Chinese priest xin yue(心越), and were named as "Kanazawa Hakkei" (Eight Views in Kanazawa). A series of Ukiyoe, Eight Views in Kanazawa, by the famous artist Utagawa Hiroshige (1797-1858) attracted many people to the area, including literati, artists as well as tourists. One of the pictures, "Shomyo-no-Bansho" (Evening Bell of Syomyoji Temple), shows us the evening scene within the sound of Shomyoji's bell that still exists.

Map



Access

- *12-minutes' walk from Kanazawa Bunko Sta. on Keihin Kyuko Line.
- *10-minutes' walk from Umino-Koen Shibaguchi or Minamiguchi Sta. on Seaside Line.

※No parking available

Acknowledgement

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称名寺

SHOMYOJI TEMPLE

the Shingon Risshu sect

Precinct : National Historical Site

Shomyoji Temple was built around the middle of the 13th century at Hojo Sanetoki's stronghold in Kanazawa. Sanetoki was a leading figure of the Kamakura Shogunate (late12c-14c). The temple was developed by his descendants to become a great Buddhist monastery equipped with several temples. The landscape was documented in "Shomyoji-Ezu"(Shomyoji map), dated to 1323.

The developing Kamakura government required a large quantity of goods, but there was no proper port in Kamakura. The harbor Mutsuura in Kanazawa was utilized as a port and a great deal of supplies were carried through Asahina-Kiridoshi Passage. The Kanazawa Hojo family controlled this significant place and flourished for about eighty years.

Kondo (main hall, reconstructed in 1681)
Standing Miroku-Bosatsu (Bodhisattva Maitreya)
 (sculpted in 1276, Shomyoji Temple, Important Cultural property)



In Kondo, or the main hall, Miroku-Bosatsu-Ryuzo (Standing Bodhisattva Maitreya) has been enshrined as the principal image of the temple. Also, there are many other important cultural assets including mural paintings and Shumidan (pedestal). They are not open to the public. You can see the replicas in Kanazawa-Bunko Museum.

Nio-mon Gate (reconstructed in 1818)
Standing Kongo-rikishi (Nio) (sculpted in 1323)



Standing Kongo-rikishi (Nio), sculpted in 1323, Shomyoji Temple, Important Cultural property, photographs were offered by Yokohama History Museum

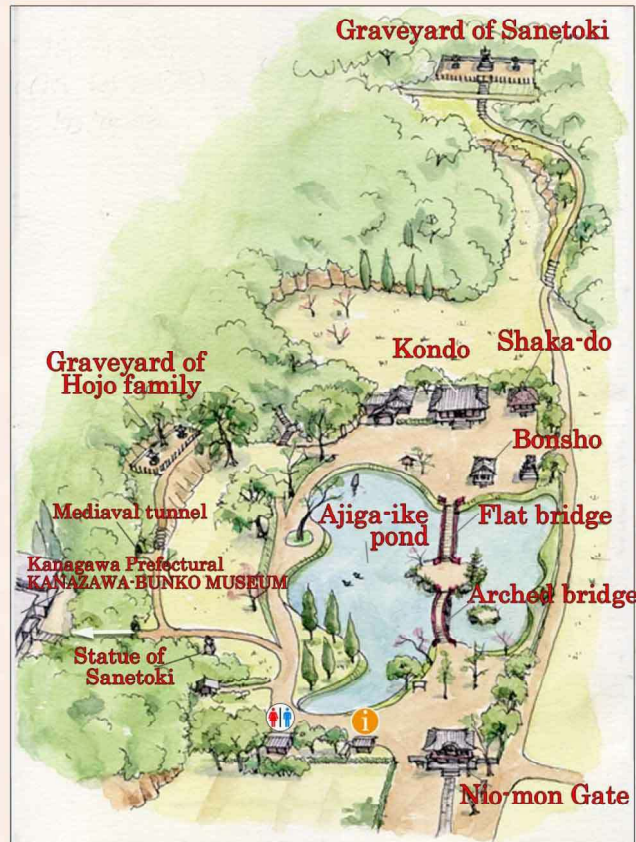
A pair of standing Kongo-rikishi (Nio) sculptures is installed at the gate to guard the sacred precinct of the temple. It is said that visitors' souls will be purified by passing through the gate. But today, people are allowed to pass through the gate only on special occasions such as New Year holidays.



Bonscho
 (temple bell, Important Cultural property)

Hojo Sanetoki had the bell cast to memorialize his father in 1269. And his son Akitoki had it recast in 1301. The bell is 127cm high, 70cm across and weighs 375kg. The belfry was reconstructed after the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923.

Precinct



Jodo-style garden



The garden was designed to represent the Pure Land or Buddhist Paradise in the real world. It is said that the arched and flat bridges over the pond, Ajiga-Ike, connect this world to the future world, where the Buddha (Miroku-Bosatsu) is standing.

Hojo Sanetoki (1224-1276)



Portrait of Hojo Sanetoki
 National Treasure,
 Shomyoji Temple, in trust at Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

Hojo Sanetoki was an important general in the middle of the Kamakura period and the virtual founder of the Kanazawa Hojo family. As the key person of the Shogunate, he assisted six regents during the national crisis.