

MIHOTOKU

The Paradise of Beautiful Buddha

美仏の宝庫



Hibutsu Hibutsu literally means secret (hidden) Buddha statues that are only open to the public for a short time.

Etiquette at temples

- ☀ Temples are sacred places to pray and practice Buddhism. Be mindful not to disturb other visitors and prayers.
- ☀ Some cultural properties, temples, and Buddha statues in this pamphlet are by reservation only or generally not open to the public. You might contact the Kizugawa City Tourism Association or related temples directly to check if they have special openings.
- ☀ Kizugawa City is a “treasure trove of cultural assets” located between the two ancient capitals of Kyoto and Nara. Enjoy the encounter of MIHOTOKU (Beautiful Buddha).

There might be no parking spaces near the temples and roads could be narrow or difficult to drive. It's advisable to check your route and the availability of parking spaces before your journey!

- ☀ “Shuin” is a seal stamp given to worshippers. It was originally a receipt for a dedicated copied sutra. Nowadays, visitors can attain it without having donated a sutra but it still serves as proof of one's visit. If you wish to hop along temples and collect “Shuin”, pray sincerely and experience the unique vibe at different sacred spots.



Shuin stamp collection books and charms exclusive to Kizugawa City
Some temples also have their original shuin stamp books.

Heart-warming charms to make your wishes come true that you can find nowhere else



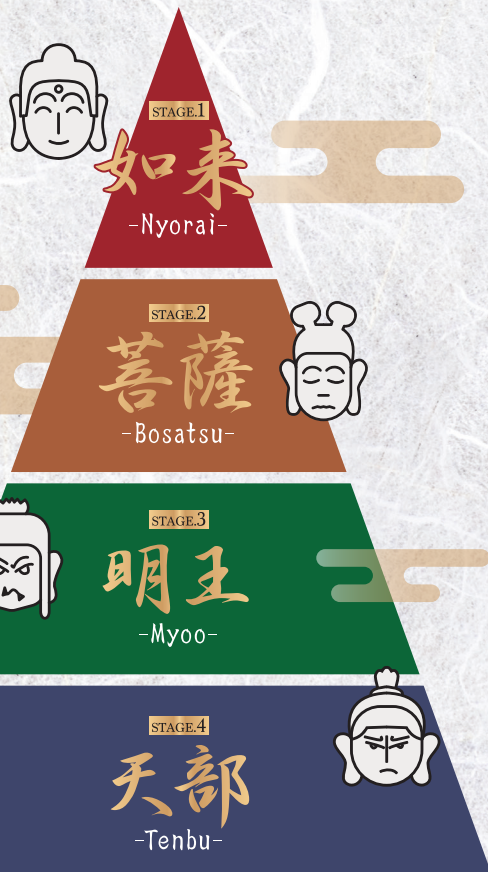
Kanimanji Temple clay bell / charm

Gansenji Temple charm

Kaijusenji Temple five-storied pagoda (national treasure) amulet

How to appreciate the Buddha statues

Buddha statues fall into four major categories-“Tathagata (Nyorai)”, “Bodhisattva (Bosatsu)”, “Wisdom King (Myoo)”, and “Deva (Tenbu)” coming with their unique facial expressions, accessories, and decorations.



Seated Amitabha Buddha / Amida Nyorai (Sainenji Temple)

Nyorai

“Tathagata(Nyorai)”- an epithet used by Buddha referring to himself after enlightenment. No external decorations. (Vairocana is an exception)



The wise, elephant-taming Bodhisattva statue (Gansenji Temple)

Bosatsu

“Bodhisattva (Bosatsu)”- an epithet used by Buddha referring to himself before enlightenment when he was a prince. Bosatsu rescues commoners in various ways. With gorgeous decorations.



Seated Ragaraja (Jindoji Temple)

Myoo

“Wisdom King (Myoo)”- usually represented as wrathful deities as the embodiment of the wheel of injunction and teach through fear, shocking nonbelievers into faith.



Kisshoten goddess statue (Joururiji temple)

Tenbu

“Deva (Tenbu)”- a class of celestial beings or gods revealing the worldview of Indian mythology, including some very different types like the “Four Heavenly Kings” (warriors) and Kisshoten (a female deity).

Mudra

Buddha statues can come in very different symbolic or ritual gestures or poses. The exceptional performance with hands and fingers is called “Mudra”, which carries discernible meanings of the statue, tells its backstories, and reveals the wishes it embodies.



Anjali Mudra

Performed by pressing the palms of the hands together at the chest. When fingers are together firmly and evenly, it's called “Renge”, when fingers of the two hands are interlaced, it's called “Kongo” or “Kimyo”.



Abhayamudra
(Abhaya Mudra and Varada Mudra)

Abhaya Mudra is a “gesture of fearlessness” with the right hand held upright to chest height, and the palm facing forward. Varada Mudra- with the left hand hanging down while standing and the palm facing outwards, which means “opening up a wish”.



Dhyana Mudra

Performed by placing the right hand over the left making two circles by thumbs and index fingers, which stands for the start of a deep meditation.



Chin Mudra

With the right hand held up above the left, the index fingers and thumbs are joined (like a ring gesture). This is the pose taken when Amida from Sukhavati comes to pick us up at the end of our lives.



Vajra Mudra

A ninja-like sign that holds the index finger of the left hand with the right. It is the symbol of the wisdom of Vairocana, which stands for the utmost enlightenment.