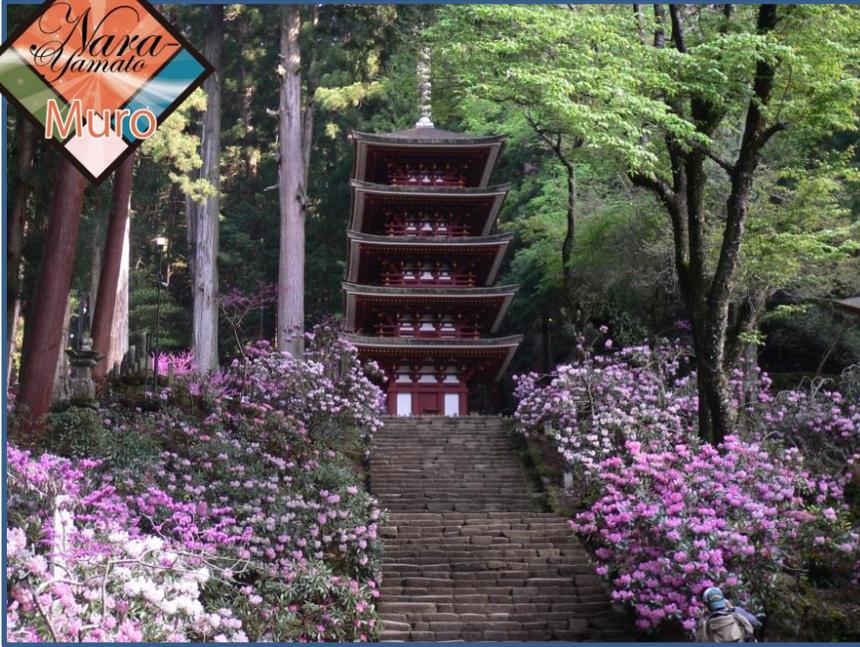


Murō, the Buddha of Enlightenment

Murō temple started accepting female worshippers a long time ago when most temples prohibited women to enter those precincts. Mt. *Kōya* was famous for applying the “No Women Allowed” policy before the 20th century while *Murō* was affectionately called the “Women’s *Kōya*”. A number of believers sought the salvation in this temple.

The *Murō* area is located in thick forests with a beautiful river it is said that sacred dragons dwell in the forests.

The main Buddha of worship is the *Shaka Nyorai*, or the Buddha of Enlightenment who was a founder of Buddhism and attained enlightenment. The *Shaka Nyorai* has attracted devotion by those praying for supplication.



Address 78 Murou Uda-shi Nara

Map

Access From Kintetsu Murouguchi-Ono Station take a bus to the "Murouji" bus stop

Web Site (Japanese) <http://www.murouji.or.jp>

Admission Fee

	Adults	Children
	¥600	¥400

Opening Hours 8:30-17:00 (Apr-Nov)
9:00-16:00 (Dec-Mar)

Highlights



Shaka Nyorai/
Kon-do Hall



Five-storied Pagoda/
Four Seasons



Miroku-do Hall/
Kanjō-do Hall



Nio Gate/
Yoroi-zaka Stairs



Okuno-in/
Women's Kōya



Shaka Nyorai, or the Buddha of Enlightenment

*National Treasure
(Sk: Sakyamuni)*

The main object of worship enshrined in Kon-do Hall is Shaka Nyorai, or the Buddha of Enlightenment who was a founder of Buddhism and attained enlightenment. The statue with the meditative expression, made in the 8th century, was originally an old style Healing Buddha. The beautifully painted halo surrounding the statue is also originally from the 8th century.

Wood, height: 234.8 cm



Kon-do Hall

National Treasure

The Kon-do Hall houses the Shaka Nyorai, Twelve Heavenly Generals and other statues.

The Kon-do hall, built in the middle of the 9th century, is one of the oldest buildings in this temple.

In the 17th century Keishoin, the mother of the 5th Shogun, devoted to Buddhism and gave a generous donation to Murō Temple to restore its buildings, including the Kon-do Hall.





Five-storied Pagoda

National Treasure

The five-storied pagoda is popular for its elegant appearance.

The 16 meter high pagoda is the smallest of its kind in Japan.

In 1998 a giant typhoon hit a large tree and the tree fell down and damaged the pagoda severely.

News reported the damaged pagoda which soon brought a lot of donations from throughout Japan and overseas countries.

Not only from Buddhist groups but also Christian groups as well.

The love of people renovated the pagoda.

Four Seasons of Murō



Spring: 3000 Rhododendron trees burst into bloom



Summer: Fresh green trees and frogs



Autumn: Maples



Winter: Winter tranquility

Kanjō-do Hall/ Nyoirin Kannon

Kanjō-do Hall: Built in 1308, is a hall where an important ritual of Esoteric Buddhism takes place.

National Treasure

Nyoirin Kannon (Sk:Cintamanicakra)

wood, height: 78.7cm,

Made in the *Heian* Period,

Important Cultural Property

This seated *Nyoirin Kannon* with a gentle face is one of the best *Nyoirin Kannon* statuary in Japan.

The statue has 6 arms each of them holding sacred objects such as a wish-granting jewel and a Dharma wheel which grant prayers for health, longevity and an easy childbirth.



Miroku-do Hall/ Miroku Bosatsu, or the Buddha of Future

Miroku-do Hall: Built in the 13th century,
Important Cultural Property

Miroku Bosatsu, or the Buddha of Future (Sk.Maitreya)

The 8th century, Important Cultural Property

This Buddhist statue is one of the oldest statues in this temple.

He has a relatively big head which looks child like..

There is a seated *Shaka Nyorai*, next to the *Miroku Bosatsu*.

The *Shaka Nyorai* attracts devotion from those praying for good harvests, easy childbirth and their children to grow up healthy.



Miroku Bosatsu



Shaka Nyorai



Nio-mon, or Nio Gate

The bright vermilion gate was reconstructed in 1965 and has a pair of red and blue *Niō* guardians.

After passing through the gate there is a small pond in which rare green frogs spawning on inhabited trees.

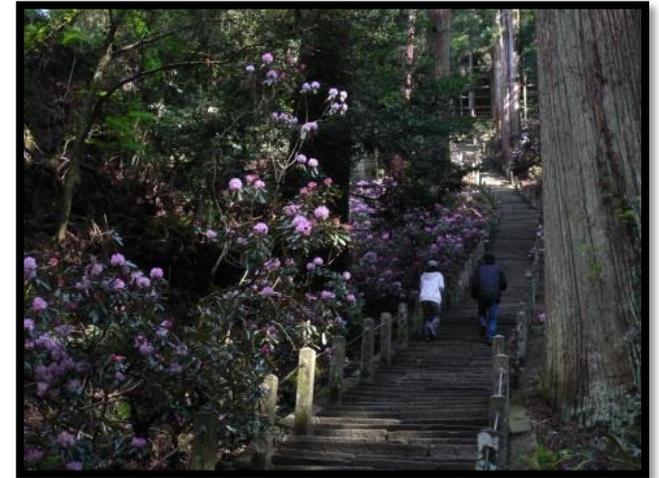


Yoroizaka (Literally: the “Armor Hill” stone stairs)

The stone stairs are surrounded by fresh green trees and pale pink rhododendrons in the spring. The scrupulously piled up stones look like an armor thus the stairs are called “Yoroizaka” (the Armor Hill”).

Okuno-in Mie-do, or Mie-do Hall of the Inner Sanctuary

After climbing 700 steps from the gate you reach the *Mie-do* Hall. The *Mie-do* Hall dedicated to the image of Saint *Kōbō Daishi* that is open to public on the 21st of every month. Important Cultural Property, built in the late *Kamakura* Period



Women's Kōya

The “No Women Allowed” policy prohibited women from entering temples because it was considered that women disturbed monks’ training.

Women were not able to go inside of Mt. *Kōya* before the 20th century.

In a record of *Murō* temple, this temple began accepting female worshippers in the *Kamakura* Period (1185-1333).

The generous donation of the *Shogun's* mother, *Keisyoin*, made *Murō* famous as the “Women's Koya, *Murō* Temple”. Even today about 80 percent of visitors to this temple are women.