

Sanjusangen-do

The main hall of Sanjusangen-do contains 1,001 wooden statues of Juichimen- Senju- Kannon, "11-faced, thousand -armed Buddhist goddess of mercy". The principal image, the seated statue of Senju Kannon, sits in the center of the collection, The Senju-kannon statue was made by Tankei, a master sculptor of Buddhist statues, who lived in the 13th century. The figure is beautiful and has a serene facial expression – it enchants all who look upon it. The Kannon figures are guarded by representations of the Thunder and Wind Gods, which stand on the far right and the far left of the display, respectively. In addition, the 28 followers of Buddha, each given various unique features, are said to protect the other figures and their worshippers. These statues exhibit an extraordinary level of craftsmanship from the Kamakura period, representing the essence of Buddhist art.

The main hall, which stands 120 meters tall, is a remarkable feat of engineering itself, as its design and construction have been completed without the use of nails.