

Bentendo Hall

This small hall is dedicated to Benzaiten, the deity of all that flows: water, poetry, music, wisdom, and fortune. Believed to date to 1484, the structure is designated an Important Cultural Property.

The hall is built in the Wayo (Japanese) style of Buddhist architecture which dates back to the Heian period (794–1185). The hip-and-gable roof and the use of cypress bark shingles are typical of the Wayo style. However, the hall shows influences from later periods such as a decorative Chinese-inspired *karahafu* (rounded, ogee-like) gable adorning the roof.