

National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties

# Amano-san Kongo-ji Temple

“Important Cultural Properties” refers to cultural objects and practices designated as important by the Japanese national government. Those Important Cultural Properties that have exceptionally high value/importance are designated as National Treasures. Kawachinagano is home to a great many such cultural properties, which could be considered treasures of Japan. First off, we would like to introduce you to the cultural properties found in Kongo-ji Temple.

## Haramaki-Type Armor with Black Leather and White Lacing in the *Katajiro* Style

During the Nanbokuchō Period (1336–1392), the hero of the Southern Court Kusunoki Masashige and his family are said to have worn this suit of armor. It is clear that in the middle ages Kongo-ji was closely associated with the members of the warrior class.

Important Cultural Properties



National Treasures

## Landscape of the Four Seasons Folding Screen

In 2018 this folding screen was designated as a National Treasure. The mountainscape, surrounded by troubled ocean waters, expresses the shifting seasons, and in the sky can be seen the sun and moon. The image conveys a feeling of activity and the “fresh” colors have a unique vigor to them. It is open to public viewing in May and November.



National Treasures

## The Sitting Dainichi Nyorai and Sitting Fudo Myo-o (Acala, god of fire) and Sitting Gozanze Myo-o (Trailokyavijaya, god of knowledge)

This is the central icon of Kongo-ji Temple, residing in the main hall. In the center is the Sitting Dainichi Nyorai, with Gozanze Myo-o (left) and Fudo Myo-o (right). All three sitting figures are in a wooden mosaic style and stand over two meters in height.

## Main temple hall

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Constructed at the beginning of the Muromachi Period (14<sup>th</sup> century). With repair works completed in 2017, the beautiful vermilion color of the building as it appeared in ancient times shines anew. The architecture is in the high-class hip-and-gable roof style.



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## Tower gate (*romon*)

Constructed in the Kamakura Period (1185–1333). This is the front entrance to Kongo-ji Temple, wherein lie a variety of buildings such as the main hall (a National Treasure) and the two-storied pagoda (an Important Cultural Property). The gateway structure has two floors and a hip-and-gable roof just as the two-storied pagoda.



## Standing Virudhaka and Standing Dhritarastra

Important Cultural Properties

The tower gate is flanked on both sides by wooden statues that guard the temple with their ferocious stares. On the right is the Standing Dhritarastra (*Jikoku-ten*) at 271.5 cm, and on the left is the Standing Virudhaka (*Zochō-ten*) at 271.9 cm. On the inside of each statue is carved the date and sculptor's name.

