

## History

Another temple and headquarters of Jodo Shinshu. The official name is Ryukoku-zan, commonly referred as Nishi Hongwanji.

Teaching was established by Shinran Shonin in the middle of Kamakura Period (c. 1185-

born in 1173 at Hino in the southeast of Japan and entered the priesthood at the age of 15. He underwent training and studied at Enryaku-ji for twenty years. At the age of 29, he met Genku (Honen) Shonin (1133-1212). He entrusted himself to the Primal Vow teaching through the Name, Namo Amida Butsu, and the Nembutsu was prohibited. He was banished to Echigo at the age of 30. He and his wife, Eshinni, chose to go to Kyoto to spread the Nembutsu teaching. In his latter years, he completed his major work, *The Pure Land Way*, which elucidates the Nembutsu of Other Vows. He laid the foundation for the Shin Buddhist movement on January 16, 1263 at the age of 90. Shinran Shonin's daughter, together with his son, founded a mausoleum in his memory at Otani, and this became the foundation for the Jodo Shinshu movement.

Shinran (priest) of Hongwanji, Rennyo Shonin expanded the circle of propagation. During the Edo period, Kenzo Shonin (1543-1592), the 10th head of Hongwanji, moved to Kyoto and reestablished at Horikawa in the Edo period.

Today, the Jodo Shinshu temples are the Amidado (Hall of Amida), the Founder's Hall, Karamon, Shoin, and other structures, many of which have been designated as National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties. In addition, the Hongwanji received the UNESCO World Heritage in 1994 as part of the Historic Sites and Monuments of Ancient Kyoto.

## Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha (Nishi Hongwanji)

Headquarters  
Horikawa-dori, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto 600-8358 JAPAN  
<http://www.hongwanji.or.jp/english/>

## Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Overseas District Headquarters

**Buddhist Churches of America**  
National Headquarters  
1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109 U.S.A.  
<http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/home/>

**Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**  
Headquarters  
1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813 U.S.A.  
<http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com/>

**Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada**  
Office of the Bishop  
11786 Fentiman Place, Richmond, BC V7E 6M6 CANADA  
<http://www.bcc.ca/>

**Comunidade Budhista Sul-Americana  
Jodo Shinshu Honpa Hongwanji**  
Templo Honpa Hongwanji do Brasil  
Rua Changuá, 108-Chácara Inglesa, São Paulo, SP-BRASIL  
CEP:04141-070  
<http://terrapura.org.br/>

**Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Taiwan Office**  
Kuan Jaw Temple  
18-25 Sec. 2, Chang Ping Road, Taichung City, Taiwan 406  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Mision de Mexico, A.R.**  
Calle. Sagu No.139, Col. Granaja Esmeralda Deleg. Iztapalapa, Mexico,  
D.F.C.P. 09810 MEXICO

**Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia**  
79 Archbold Road, Lindfield, NSW 2070 AUSTRALIA  
<http://www.hongwanji.com.au/>

**Hongwanji Buddhist Society of Nepal / Kathmandu-Hongwanji**  
G.P.O. Box: 8975, E.P.C. No.7087, Ward no-3, Kapan Kathmandu  
NEPAL

## Hongwanji International Center

Gakurin-cho, Higashi-nakasuji, Rokujo-sagaru, Shimogyo-ku  
Kyoto 600-8341 JAPAN  
Tel: (075) 371-5547 Fax: (075) 371-4070  
<http://international.hongwanji.or.jp/>

# Nishi Hongwanji



The Pure Land teaching established by Shinran Shonin (1173-1263) tells us that all are embraced by the power of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow. Entrusting in this Vow enables all to live in the present with confidence and peace of mind and assures them that they will be born in the Pure Land where they will attain Enlightenment.

The purpose of this teaching is to enable all to live lives to the fullest, becoming aware of both potentials and limitations in this world. Through this Teaching, all may be able to overcome difficulties, thus realizing true happiness within this lifetime.

Excerpts from *Jodo Shinshu - A Guide*

## The Essentials of Jodo Shinshu—My Path

**Name of Teaching:** Jodo Shinshu (The True Essence of Pure Land Buddhist Teaching)

**Founder:** Shinran Shonin  
Date of birth: May 21, 1173  
Date of death: January 16, 1263

**Name of School:** Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

**Head Temple:** Ryukoku-zan Hongwanji (Nishi Hongwanji)

**Object of Reverence:** Amida Tathagata (Namo Amida Butsu)

**Scriptures:**

**Sutras:**

- The Three Pure Land Sutras Delivered by Shakyamuni Buddha
1. *Bussetsu Muryōju Kyō* [The Sutra of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life]
  2. *Bussetsu Kammuryōju Kyō* [The Sutra of Contemplation of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life]
  3. *Bussetsu Amida Kyō* [The Sutra on Amida Buddha]

Shinran Shonin's writings

1. *Shōshin Nembutsuge* [Hymn of True Entrusting Heart and the Nembutsu], excerpt from the "Chapter on Practice" of *Kyōgyōshinshō*
  2. *Jōdo Wasan* [Hymns of the Pure Land]
  3. *Kōsō Wasan* [Hymns of the Pure Land Masters]
  4. *Shōzōmatsu Wasan* [Hymns of the Dharma-Ages]
- Rennyo Shonin's *Gobunshō Letters*

**Teaching:**

Attaining the "entrusting heart" – awakening to the compassion of Amida Tathagata (Buddha) through the working of the Primal Vow – we shall walk the path of life reciting Amida's Name (Nembutsu). At the end of life, we will be born in the Pure Land and attain Buddhahood, returning at once to this delusional world to guide people to awakening.

**Way of Life:**

Guided by the teaching of Shinran Shonin, we shall listen to the compassionate calling of Amida Tathagata and recite the Nembutsu. While always reflecting on ourselves, amidst our feelings of regret and joy, we shall live expressing our gratitude without depending on petitionary prayer and superstition.

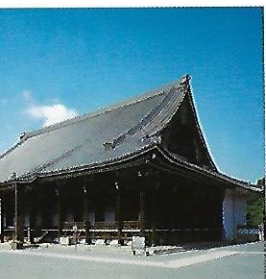
**Purpose:**

The Hongwanji school is a community of people joined together revering the teaching of Shinran Shonin and saying the Nembutsu. We seek to share with others the wisdom and compassion of Amida Tathagata. By doing so, we shall work toward the realization of a society in which everyone is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

April 2008



(Amida Buddha)  
(Hall)



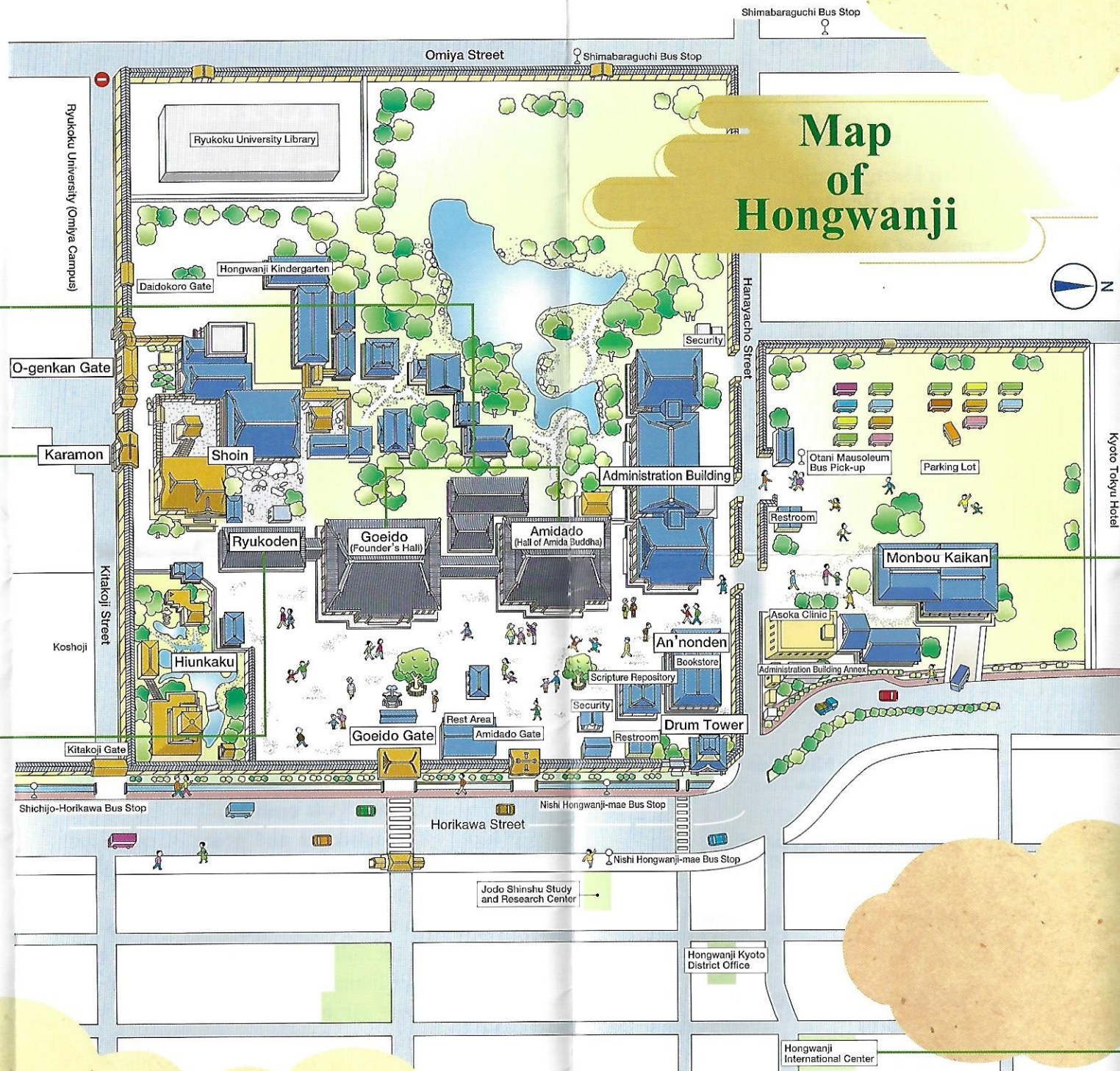
constructed in 1760 and the Goeido  
36. Both of the halls were  
Cultural Assets of Japan. The  
largest wooden structures in  
high great restoration since 1998  
it became open to everyone

00 a.m.  
(Confirmation Ceremony): Conducted daily  
service and again in the afternoon

Reception department  
for memorial services  
and *Kikyoshiki*  
(Confirmation Ceremony)

onal Treasure

The entire precinct of  
Hongwanji were  
designated a World  
Cultural Heritage site  
by UNESCO in 1994.



## Map of Hongwanji

### Monbou Kaikan

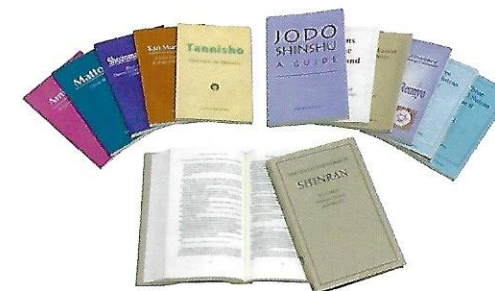


- Lodging
- Dharma talk sessions
- Gift shop
- Restaurant

Tel: (075) 342-1122

Fax: (075) 342-1125

<http://monbou.jp>



English and Portuguese books on Jodo Shinshu are  
available at the Hongwanji bookstore and Hongwanji  
International Center.

### Hongwanji International Center

Headquarters of Hongwanji affiliated overseas temples

Tel: (075) 371-5547 Fax: (075) 371-4070

<http://international.hongwanji.or.jp/>