

Recommended spots near Miyagi Prefecture

Yamadera Temple

Yamadera (Hojuzan Risshakuji Temple) is a holy place that was opened by Ennin, or Jikaku Daishi, in 860. The premises have an area of 1,650,000 square meters, with subtle and profound scenery. It is designated as a National Historic Site and a National Special Place of Scenic Beauty.



Yamadera (Yamagata City)

山寺(山形市)

Basho, a great haiku poet, who visited this temple on July 13, 1689, wrote a famous haiku poem of "How still it is here -- Stinging into the stones, The locusts' trill" (translated by Donald Keene). After entering the main gate, follow the 1,015 stone steps, leading you up to the magnificent view from the Godaido building overhanging from the cliff.

Hiraizumi

It is expected that Hiraizumi will be registered as a World Heritage as "a cultural scene on the basis of the Hiraizumi thought of the pure land" in 2008. It is known due to its history of three generations of the Oshu Fujiwara family with the culture of gold, which is said to be a model for "Zipang, the country of gold," and a legend of Minamoto no Yoshitsune and his subject Benkei.



Motsuji Temple (Hiraizumi Town)

毛越寺(平泉町)

Motsuji, much esteemed as a Chusonji Temple, was constructed by Ennin, or Jikaku Daishi, who also constructed the Chusonji Temple. It is said that, in old times, this temple had 40 buildings for worship and 500 buildings to house monks. The remnants of the temple and a garden called "Jodo Teien" remain now. They have been designated as a National Special Historic Site and Special Places of Scenic Beauty.

Chusonji Temple (Hiraizumi Town)

中尊寺(平泉町)

This temple was the center of the Hiraizumi culture. It was constructed by Ennin, or Jikaku Daishi, in 850. The road to the main building is lined with Japanese cedar trees some hundreds of years old. The golden building fully covered with gold foil enshrines the remains of the heads of the Fujiwara family in three generations, the ruler of the Tohoku region in the 11th and 12th centuries. It is a National Special Historic Site.