

Celebrating 1250 Years Since the Birth of the Great Master Kūkai

Kūkai and the Treasures of Shingon Buddhism

July 14–September 6, 2026 | Heiseikan, Tokyo National Museum



Organizers:

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Notes

- The same artwork numbers are used in both the catalogue and the galleries, but the works are not displayed in numerical order.
- Key to symbols on illustrations: ● = National Treasure, ◎ = Important Cultural Property.
- Some artworks may be rotated during the exhibition period. Exhibition lineup may change as circumstances require.
- Artworks are on view throughout the exhibition period unless otherwise indicated. The rotation schedule is as follows:
Term ① 7/14 (Tue.) — 8/9 (Sun.)
Term ② 8/11 (Tue.) — 9/6 (Sun.)
- Works labeled with a ★: The visible page or section will be changed during the course of the exhibition.

Chapter One: Kūkai and Esoteric Shingon Buddhism

Chapter 1, Part 1: Sacred Treasures Associated with Kūkai

1 Great Master Kūkai (Kōbō Daishi)

Edo period, 17th century
Kongōbuji Temple, Wakayama Prefecture

2 The Eight Patriarchs of the Shingon School

Muromachi period, 15th–16th century
Sainan-in Temple, Wakayama Prefecture

★

3 ◎ Illustrations and Explanations of the Life of Great Master Kūkai (Kōbō Daishi), Vols. 3 and 10

Nanbokuchō period, 1389
Kyōō Gokokuji Temple (Tōji), Kyoto

★

4 ◎ Thirty Volumes of Esoteric Buddhist Teachings, Vols. 6, 18, 22, and 24

By Kūkai and others
Heian period, 9th century
Ninnaji Temple, Kyoto

★

5 ◎ Ten Abiding Stages of Mind According to the Secret Mandalas, Vols. 6 and 7

Vol. 6 By Kenshō
Vol. 6 : Edo period, 17th century
Vol. 7 : Heian period, 1172
Ninnaji Temple, Kyoto

★

6 ◎ Biography of Great Master Kūkai (Kōbō Daishi) in Emperor Go-Uda's Handwriting

By Emperor Go-Uda
Kamakura period, 1315
Daikakuji Temple, Kyoto

Term ①

7 ◎ Last Testament in Emperor Go-Uda's Handwriting with His Handprints

By Emperor Go-Uda
Kamakura period, 14th century
Daikakuji Temple, Kyoto

Term ②

8 ◎ Great Master Kūkai's Last Testament in Twenty-Five Articles

Heian period, 11th century
Takahata Fudō-son Kongōji Temple, Tokyo

Term ①

9 ◎ The Bodhisattva Kannon (Skt. Avalokiteśvara)

Nara period, 8th century
Gankōji Temple, Kagawa Prefecture

10 ◎ Ringed Finial for a Monk's Staff

Tang dynasty, China, 8th century
Zentsūji Temple, Kagawa Prefecture

11 ◎ Bell with a Five-Pronged Vajra and the Four Heavenly Kings

Tang dynasty, China, 8th–9th century
Iyadani Temple, Kagawa Prefecture

12 ◎ Mandalas of the Two Realms

Tang dynasty, China, 8th–9th century
Kongōbuji Temple, Wakayama Prefecture

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13 ◎ The Deva Enmaten (Skt. Yama)

Heian period, 12th century
Daigoji Temple, Kyoto

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The Twelve Devas

Heian period, 1191
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The Bodhisattva Miroku (Skt. Maitreya)

Kamakura period, 13th century
Hōzanji Temple, Nara Prefecture

Term ①

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The Five Great Wisdom Kings

Kamakura period, 12th–13th century
Daigoji Temple, Kyoto



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The Peacock Wisdom King (Skt. Mahāmāyūri)

Kamakura period, 14th century
Chishaku-in Temple, Kyoto

Term ②

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The Wisdom King Aizen (Skt. Rāgarāja)

Kamakura period, 14th century
Hōzanji Temple, Nara Prefecture

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Mandalas of the Two Realms

Kamakura period, 13th century
Daigoji Temple, Kyoto

Term ②

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Mandalas of the Two Realms

Kamakura period, 13th century
Ryūko-in Temple, Wakayama Prefecture

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Mahāvairocana Sutra, Vols. 1 and 7

Heian period, 12th century
Kajūji Temple, Kyoto



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Horā Astrology Diagrams from *Mikkyō Zuzō* (Esoteric Buddhist Iconographies)

Heian period, 1166
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Kamakura period, 13th century
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Iconography of the Deity Jinja Daishō

Kamakura period, 13th century
Kyoto National Museum

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The Deity Shukongōshin (Skt. Vajrapāṇi)

By Kaikei
Kamakura period, 1197
Kongōbuji Temple, Wakayama Prefecture

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The Deity Jinja Daishō

By Kaikei
Kamakura period, 1197
Kongōbuji Temple, Wakayama Prefecture

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Kamakura period, 1197
Kongōbuji Temple, Wakayama Prefecture

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Bessonzakki (“Notes Organized by Deity”), Vol. 14 “Ritual to Pray for Rain” and Vol. 26 “Kokūzō (Skt. Ākāśagarbha)”

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Ninnaji Temple, Kyoto



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Kakuzenshō (Collection of Buddhist Iconographies Compiled by the Monk Kakuzen), Vol. 130 “Ritual to Pray to the Deva Shōten (Skt. Nandikeśvara)” and Vol. 144 “Ritual to Pray to the Deva Enmaten (Skt. Yama)”

Vol. 130: By Jōgen
Vol 130: Kamakura period, copied in 1205
Vol. 144: Kamakura period, 13th century
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Kamakura period, 13th century
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By Buzen Gorō Tamehiro
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Vol. 159: By Kankō
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Vol. 160: Edo period, 17th century
Kajūji Temple, Kyoto



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Diagrams for the Latter Seven Days Ritual from the *Mitsuyōshō* (*Collection of Principal Esoteric Rituals*)

Heian period, 12th century
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Edo period, 19th century
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The Twelve Devas | Rasetsuten (Skt. Rākṣasa), Suiten (Skt. Varuṇa), and Fūten (Skt. Vāyu)

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Kamakura period, 13th century
Kyōō Gokokuji Temple (Tōji), Kyoto

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Kamakura period, 14th century
Kongōbuji Temple, Wakayama Prefecture

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Great Master Kūkai (Kōbō Daishi) with the Deities Niu Myōjin and Kōya Myōjin

Edo period, 18th century
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Heian period, 12th century
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Kamakura period, 13th century
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Chishaku-in Temple, Kyoto

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By Ryōzen
Nanbokuchō period, 14th century
Kiyoshikōjin Seichōji Temple, Hyōgo Prefecture

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Nanbokuchō period, 14th century
Negoroji Temple, Wakayama Prefecture

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The Bodhisattva Fugen with Ten Demonesses

Nanbokuchō period, 14th century
Sumadera Temple, Hyōgo Prefecture

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The Eleven-Headed Bodhisattva Kannon (Skt. Avalokiteśvara)

Kamakura period, 13th century
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Kamakura period, 13th century
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Kamakura period, 13th century
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Heian–Kamakura period, 12th–13th century
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Kamakura period, 13th century
Son'eiji Temple, Shizuoka Prefecture

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Kamakura period, 13th century
Son'eiji Temple, Shizuoka Prefecture

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Kamakura period, 13th century
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Muromachi period, 16th century
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Incense Burner with a Conical Weighted Handle

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Illustrated Origins of Shigisan Temple

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Heian period, 929
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Attributed to Takashina no Takakane
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Calligraphy by Anegakōji Sane
Painting by Sanboku Yoshitsugu
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Heian period, 12th century
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By Kaikei
Kamakura period, 1203
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Kamakura period, 1224
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Heian period, 1103
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Edo period, 19th century
Sennyūji Temple, Kyoto

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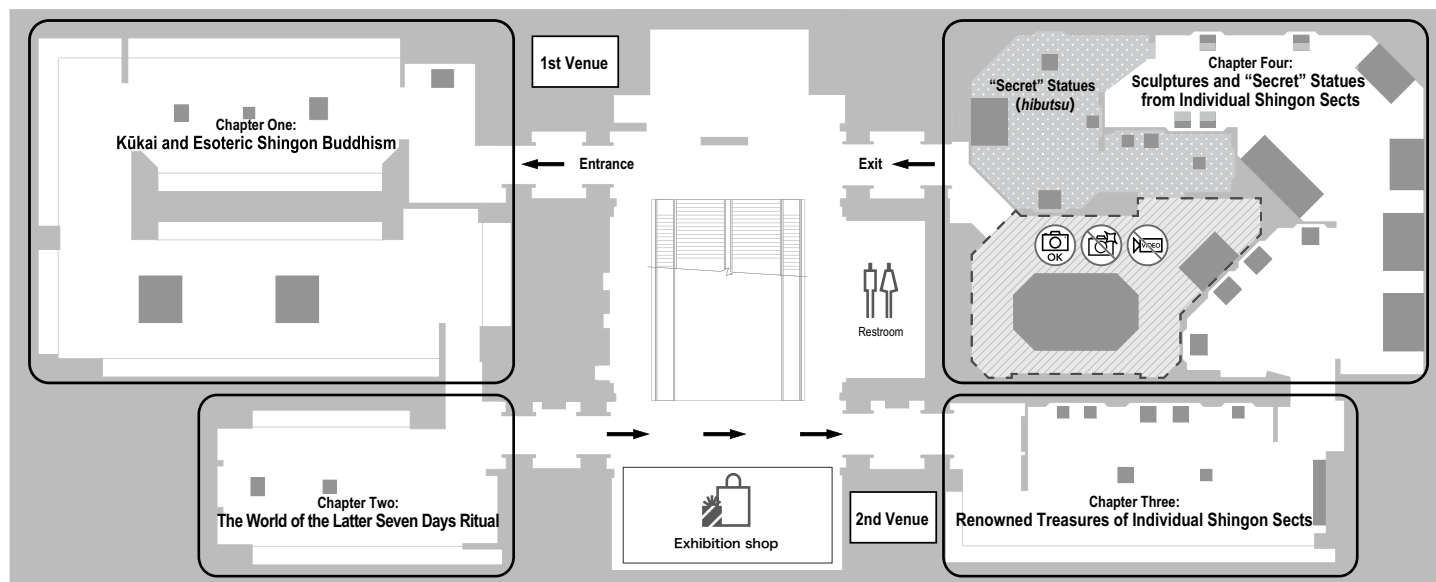
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Great Master Kakuban (Kōgyō Daishi)

Edo period, 17th–18th century
Negoroji Temple, Wakayama Prefecture

Floor Plan | Heiseikan 2F



* Temperature, humidity, and brightness of the exhibition rooms are strictly controlled under international standards for preservation. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



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* Still photography only, no video photography allowed.
* Photographs may be used for non-commercial purposes only. Sharing on social media is OK!
* Please refrain from using flash, tripods, or similar equipment.
* Photography may be subject to additional restrictions at the organizers' discretion.