

TODAI-JI Temple

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大仏殿 (東大寺金堂)

Great Buddha Hall

National Treasure 18thc.

Frontage

Depth

Height

57.01m 187.03ft. 50.48m 165.61ft.

国宝

48.74m 159.89ft.

盧舎那大仏 (本尊) 国宝

Virocana Buddha

National Treasure 8thc. Height of Body 14.98m 48.91ft.

Length of Head 5.33m 17.39ft.

Length of Eye 1.02m 3.34ft. Length of Ear 2.54m 8.33ft.

台座高 Height of

Lotus-petal 3.05m 10.00ft.

八角灯籠 国宝

Octagonal Lantern

National Treasure 8thc.

Height

4.62m 15.15ft.

東大寺は、奈良時代の中頃に聖武天皇の発願によ って創建された。大和の国分寺として建てられたが、 盧舎那大仏(るしゃなだいぶつ)が本尊とされたた めに、大規模な伽藍が営まれた。天下泰平・万民曹楽 などを祈願する道場と教理研究所を兼ねる寺で、 多くの学僧を輩出した。開山は良弁(ろうべん)僧正。 現在は華厳宗の大本山である。本尊の盧舎那仏は 毘盧遮那仏(びるしゃなぶつ)とも呼ばれ、華厳経 の教主とされるが、この名は釈迦如来の別名で、世 界を照らす仏・光り輝く仏の意味である。像は青銅 で鋳造され鍍金が施されていた。天平勝宝四年(752) に盛大な開眼供養が行われた。その後度々損傷を蒙り、 その都度修理されている。両手は桃山時代、頭部は 江戸時代のもの。大仏殿は創建以来、治承四年(1180) と永禄十年(1567)に兵火に罹っていて、今の建物は 江戸時代に建て直された三度目のものである。横 幅が約三分の二に縮小されているが、それでも木 造建造物としては世界最大級の規模を誇っている。

Todaiji Temple was built in the Nara period (710 - 794 AD) at the behest of Emperor Shomu (r.724 - 749). The temple was officially positioned as one of many state-established provincial temples. However, since the chief object of worship of the temple is Vairocana Buddha ("Buddha that shines throughout the world like the sun"), a magnificent temple was built to reflect this importance.

Todaiji Temple serves both as a place of prayer for peace and affluence on earth, as well as a center of Buddhist doctrinal research. Over the centuries, Todaiji has produced many famous scholar priests.

Todaiji Temple was founded by Bishop Roben, and is to this day the Head Temple of the Kegon Sect of Buddhism. The chief object of worship is Vairocana Buddha, who is also the central Buddha in the Kegon Sutra. The statue of Vairocana Buddha is made from cast bronze, which was then plated with gold. The statue was consecrated in 752, but was damaged and repaired several times in the following centuries. The current hands of the statue were made in the Momoyama period (1568 - 1615), and the head was made in the Edo period (1615 -1867). The Great Buddha Hall was burned in the fires of war in 1180 and 1567, and the current building is actually the third generation structure, which was built in the Edo period. The width of the current building is approximately 33% smaller than that of the original structure, but it is still one of the largest wooden structures in the world.