**Stone Buddha statues of Ooyaji Temple**

Finely carved stone Buddha statues, known as the Cliff-carved Buddhas of the East, were nationally designated as a Special Historic Site in March 1954 and as Important Cultural Properties in June 1961 for their outstanding craftsmanship among Japan's stone statues. These artistic, precious stone Buddha statues are known as the Cliff-carved Buddhas of the East, in contrast with Usuki Stone Buddhas of the West (Oita Prefecture).

**About Ooya Kannon (Senju Kannon)**

Senju Kannon, known as Japan's Silk Road

Senju Kannon, which is 4 meters high, is the principal statue of Ooyaji Temple. It is said to have been made by Kobo Daishi in the Heian period (year 810). Known as Ooya Kannon since the ancient times, it became the 19th sacred place of the Bando Pilgrimage in the Kamakura period and has been worshiped by many people. The surface, carved directly into the rock, was coated with vermilion, finely beautified with clay, lacquered, and covered with gold leaf. It used to shine gold. Recent research revealed similarities between Ooya Kannon and the Buddhas of Bamiyan. It is believed to be Japan's Silk Road and carved by Afghan monks.

**Mt. Otome and Keikan Park**

Nationally-designated Place of Scenic Beauty on par with Kegon Falls in Nikko

Mt. Otome of Ooyaji Temple has a scenic view of natural, strangely shaped rocks and red pine trees. It is referred to as “Matsushima on land” and was nationally designated as a Place of Scenic Beauty (July 2006). It is the second Place of Scenic Beauty to be recognized in Tochigi Prefecture, after Kegon Falls in Nikko.
About visiting

Hours of operation
- Summer (April-September): 8:30 am-5:00 pm
- Winter (October-March): 9:00 am-4:30 pm
* Entrance closes 20 min. before end of operation

Closed
- 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from January to March
* Wednesday if Thursday is a holiday
- December 20th-31st each year

Entrance fee
- Adults: 400 yen / Junior high school students: 200 yen / Elementary school students: 100 yen
- Group discount: Adults: 350 yen / Junior high school students: 150 yen / Elementary school students: 70 yen
* Group of 50 people or more

Parking
- 50 spaces (3 for large buses)
* Visitors to the temple may park for free.
- Utsunomiya City Free Parking (100 cars, 10 buses) is also available.

Notice
- Photos are allowed in the precincts but not inside the buildings.

Ooyaji Temple
- Tel: 028-652-0128
- Please do not call outside of normal business hours.
- 1194, Oya-cho, Utsunomiya-shi, Tochigi 321-0045
- http://www.ooyaji.jp

“Heiwa Kannon” 27-meter tall
Consecrated in 1956, praying for the peace of the world

大谷寺
Ooyaji Temple