

# 増上寺 Zojo-ji Temple



1393年(明徳4)、浄土宗第八祖聖しょうそう上人によって開かれた増上寺は、現在の千代田区紀尾井町にあたる「江戸貝塚」に創建され、室町から戦国時代にかけて、東国の浄土宗の要として発展していきました。安土桃山時代になった1598年(慶長3)、徳川家菩提寺として現在の芝の地に移され、徳川家康公の手厚い保護を受け隆盛を極めることとなります。そのため「増上寺」には二代將軍秀忠など徳川家六人の將軍の靈廟が設けられ、境内のあちこちに葵の紋が見られます。明治に入って二度の大火、そして昭和の東京大空襲と災厄に見舞われますが、1971年(昭和46)から4年の歳月をかけ、現在の壮麗な大殿を建立し、復興を果たしました。現在は、焼失をまぬがれた三解脱門や黒門など古くからの建造物をはじめ、鐘樓堂、安国殿など数々の建物が、約1万6千坪の広大な敷地の中に並んでいます。

Zojo-ji Temple was established by Shoso-shonin, the eighth founder of Jodo sect of Buddhism and located in Edo-kaizuka (Edo kitchen midden), present Kioi-cho, Chiyoda-ku. As the main and leading temple of the sect in the East, it had been developed and expanded through the 15th century. In 1598, Zojo-ji Temple was relocated to present Shiba area as the Tokugawa's family temple and prosperously developed under Ieyasu's great protection and care. Because of this, there are six mausoleums of Shogun including the second Shogun, Hidetada, and people can easily find the family crest "mallow" all over the temple. Unfortunately two big fire in Meiji Period and also the Tokyo Air Raid in 1945 hit the temple. Four-years of restoration from 1971, however, made the present magnificent big shrine (O-den) built and revitalized the temple. The old constructions survived from the fire including the "San Gedatsu-mon Gate (Three-deliverance gate)" and "Kuro-mon Gate (Black gate)" and many other constructions such as "Shoro-do (Belfry hall)" and "Yasukuni-den (Shrine to pray for the prosperity of the nation)" are located orderly in the vast premises of approx. 16,000 tsubo (approx. 4850 m<sup>2</sup> or 1.2 acre).



**三解脱門 San Gedatsu-mon Gate (Three-deliverance gate)**  
三解脱門が造られたのは1622年(元和8)、都内最古の建築物であるだけでなく、東日本最大級の大きさを誇っています。入母屋造りの建築様式で朱漆塗りのこの門は、増上寺が江戸の初期に造営された当時の面影を残す唯一の建造物として、国の重要文化財にも指定されています。三解脱門とは、三つの煩惱「むさぼり」「怒り」「おろかさ」を脱却する門のことです。

"San Gedatsu-mon Gate" was built in 1622. It is not only the oldest construction in Tokyo but also the biggest class architecture in East Japan. The vermilion-lacquered gate in Iriomoya-zukuri style is designated as one of the important cultural properties of Japan as the only construction which looks just as it did in the old days when the temple was built in early Edo period. "San Gedatsu-mon Gate" (three-deliverance gate) means the gate to break away from three worldly desires namely "greediness," "anger," and "foolishness."



## 増上寺のカヤ Torreya tree in Zojo-ji Temple

推定樹齢600年を超えるといわれる雄株のカヤで、その大きさは目通り(地上1.5mの高さ)直径約1.3m、周囲約4m、高さ約25mもあります。通常直径80cm以下のものが多く、増上寺のカヤは全国でも最大ものの1本であるといえます。

This male torreya tree is believed to be over 600 years old, and is about 25 m-tall, 4 m in girth, with a diameter of approx. 1.3 m at the height of people's eyes (1.5 m). Torreya trees usually have only 80 cm or less in diameter so that this particular tree belongs to the biggest class in Japan.



**大梵鐘 Dai Bon-sho (Big Temple Bell)**  
鐘樓堂に吊るされている大梵鐘は1673年(延宝元)に、あまりの大きさのため七回の鑄造を経て完成した東日本最大級の鐘で、江戸三大名鐘の一つに数えられています。「今鳴るは芝(増上寺)か上野(寛永寺)か、浅草(浅草寺)か」と川柳にも詠われるほどでした。

"Dai Bon-sho (the big temple bell)" suspended in the "Shoro-do (Belfry hall)" was made in 1673 after seven times of casting because of its size. It is the biggest-class temple bell in East Japan and is counted one of the three famous temple bells in Edo. The Senryu poem introduces those three famous temple bells as "The bell ringing now is whether the one in Shiba (Zojo-ji Temple), in Ueno (Kanei-ji Temple) or Asakusa (Senso-ji Temple)?"



## 「め組」の供養碑 Monument for the repose of the "Me-gumi" (Group "Me") dead

1718年(享保元)建立。増上寺門前の町火消しとして名を馳せた「め組」の殉難者・物故者の供養のために建てられました。

Built in 1718, it is for the memory of the dead who were the member of the firefighters group "Me" in the neighborhood of Zojo-ji Temple.