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The Hasedera Temple 鎌倉長谷寺

A mystical kannon statue, hydrangea at full bloom, a modern dry landscape garden. This is the Hasedera temple in Kamakura, the probably second oldest temple in the city, also simply known as Hase kannon. It is the 4th station of the thirty-three Kannon pilgrimage in the Kanto area.

The Nara Period

The founding of Hasedera dates back to the Nara period (710-784). This period had the first permanent capital and centralized government in Nara, which gave this period its name. Just like Kyoto, the old capital was modeled after a Chinese T'ang dynasty capital. The whole government was reformed after Chinese models, even the term „Tenno“ for the Japanese emperor comes from the Chinese t'ien-huang.



Kannon

観音

Best known Bodhisattva in Mahayana Buddhism. Bodhisattva are mediator to help humans gain enlightenment. Kannon can come in various appearances, eleven-headed is only one of these.