

■ The sects of Japanese Buddhism

Categorization	Line	Sect		13 sects of Japanese Buddhism	18 sects of Japanese Buddhism	The introduction of each sect	Honzan (Head Temple)	Sect founder		Main principal idol		Main Sutra		Comments <small>*Also note that the views and impressions here are those of individuals.</small>	
		Japanese	English					Japanese	English	Japanese	English	Japanese	English		
M a h a y a n a B u d d h i s m	Nara Buddhism line (Nanto Rokushu, or the Six Sects of Nara)	三論宗	Sanron sect		●	625	Gango-ji Temple (Nara) Daian-ji Temple (Nara)	慧灌	Ekan	薬師如来	Yakushi Nyorai (Bhaisajyaguru)	三論	San-ron Sutra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thought that the essence of all existence is "空(Ku)". (空:くう, 梵: śūnyatā) "空(Ku)" is thought of Buddhism regarded as "This world continues changing". (a belief in Buddhism in which everything is regarded as relative) 	
		成実宗	Jojitsu sect		●	-	-	-	道蔵	Dozo	指定なし	None Specified	成実論	Jojitsu-ron Sutra	
		法相宗	Hosso sect	●	●	661	Kofuku-ji Temple (Nara) Yakushi-ji Temple (Nara)	道昭	Dosho	唯識受荼羅 弥勒菩薩	Vijnapti-matrata mandara Miroku Bosatsu (Maitreya Bodhisattva)	解深密經 瑜伽師地論 成唯識論	Sandhinirmocana Sutra Yugashijiron Sutra Jyushikiron Sutra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory of this sect : "We can enter Nirvana by doing long ascetic practices". Theory of this sect : "to practice various kinds of Buddhistic austerities". 	
		俱舍宗	Kusha sect		●	-	-	-	-	-	指定なし	None Specified	阿毘達磨俱舍論	Abhidharma Kosa Sutra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The basic theory of this sect is the same as "Hosso sect". However, this sect assumes "Abhidharma Kosa Sutra" of the origin in India.
		華嚴宗	Kegon sect	●	●	740	Todai-ji Temple (Nara)	審祥	Shinsho	毘盧遮那仏	Birushanabutsu (Vairocana)	華嚴經	Kegon-kyo Sutra (Avatamsaka Sutra)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A theory of this sect is a philosophical, difficult theory. (For example, "One is others, and others are one") The theory of this sect is not to think but to feel. 	
		律宗	Ritsu sect	●	●	754	Toshodai-ji Temple (Nara)	鑑真	Ganjin	毘盧遮那仏	Birushanabutsu (Vairocana)	四分律	Shibun-ritsu Sutra (Dharmaguptika-vinaya)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This sect attaches great importance to religious precepts of the Buddhism called "律(Ritsu)". "律(Ritsu)" is a way of thinking called "a rule of the group are important". (This attitudes parallel a current Japanese education in many points.) 	
		聖徳宗	Shotoku Sect		●	1950	Horyu-ji Temple (Nara)	聖徳太子	Prince Shotoku	釈迦三尊	Shakayami triad	三経義疏	Sangyo Gisho Sutra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The basic theory of this sect is the same as "Hosso sect". This sect make it clear that Prince Shotoku is the founder of this sect. 	
	Esoteric Buddhism line	天台宗	Tendai sect	●	●	806	Hiei-zan Enryaku-ji Temple (Kyoto)	最澄	Saicho	釈迦如来	Shaka Nyorai (Gautama Buddha)	法華経 阿彌陀経	Lotus Sutra Amida-kyo Sutra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This sect is the position of the university of the Japanese Buddhism. This sect produced the initiator of many other denominations. This sect thinks that "Mikkyo(Esoteric Buddhism)" is the same as "Kenkyo(exoteric Buddhism)". Nara has few temples of the Tendai sect. This is because Saicho which is an initiator of this sect was on bad terms with a temple of Nara. 	
		真言宗	Shingon sect	●	●	823	Koyasan Kongobu-ji Temple (Wakayama)	空海	Kukai	大日如来	Dainichi Nyorai (Vairocana)	大日経 金剛頂経	Dainichi-kyo Sutra Kongochō-kyo Sutra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This sect is the position of the college of the Japanese Buddhism. This sect thinks that "Mikkyo(Esoteric Buddhism)" and "Kenkyo(exoteric Buddhism)" are different. This sect thinks that a sect except this sect is a part of this sect. 	
	Jodo line	融通念仏宗	Yuzu-Nenbutsu sect	●	●	1117	Dainenbutsu-ji Temple (Osaka)	良忍上人	Ryonin	天得如来	Tentoku Nyorai	華嚴経 法華経	Kegon-kyo Sutra (Avatamsaka Sutra) Lotus Sutra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory of this sect : "All for one and one and one for all" The word of "融通(Yuzu)" have a meaning as "helps each other". Theory of this sect : Let's make the action of chanting a prayer to Amida Buddha ten times in a day. 	
		浄土宗	Jodo sect	●	●	1175	Chion-in Temple (Kyoto)	法然上人	Honen	阿弥陀如来	Amida Nyorai (Amitabha Tathagata)	浄土三部経	Jodosanbu-kyo (Three Sutras of the Pure Land)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory of this sect : We can go to Paradise if we advocate a prayer to Buddha (Namu Amida Butsu). This sect attaches great importance to a prayer to Buddha very much. I think that it is influence of this sect and Jodo-Shinshu sect that a Japanese advocates a prayer to Buddha frequently. 	
		浄土真宗	Jodo-Shinshu sect	●	●	1224	-	親鸞聖人	Shinran	阿弥陀如来	Amida Nyorai (Amitabha Tathagata)	浄土三部経	Jodosanbu-kyo (Three Sutras of the Pure Land)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory of this sect : Even if we do not demand the help, Buddha helps us. This is a way of thinking of Tarikihongan (salvation by faith in Amitabha). (Therefore let's advocate a prayer to Buddha to thank Buddha.) 	
		時宗	Ji sect	●	●	1274	Shojoko-ji Temple (Kanagawa)	一遍上人	Ippen	阿弥陀如来	Amida Nyorai (Amitabha Tathagata)	浄土三部経	Jodosanbu-kyo (Three Sutras of the Pure Land)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory of this sect : We must not advocate a prayer to Buddha to demand a result. (Let's advocate a prayer to Buddha earnestly without thinking anything.) A thought that all the everyday life is the end of the life. (Therefore let's always advocate prayers to Buddha not to be sorry.) 	
	Zenshu (Zen Buddhism) line	臨済宗	Rinzai sect	●	●	1191	Myoshin-ji Temple (Kyoto) and other	明庵栄西	Minnan Eisai	指定なし	None Specified	指定無し	None Specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory of this sect : to reach the stage of spiritual awakening after getting a delusion out of one's head (State of the Zen) The way of thinking that all life coexists. (Therefore the principal idol is not appointed in this sect in particular.) 	
		曹洞宗	Soto sect	●	●	1233	Eiheji Temple (Fuku) Soji-ji Temple(Kanagawa)	道元禅師(高祖) 莹山禅師(太祖)	Dogen Keizan	釈迦如来	Shaka Nyorai (Gautama Buddha)	正法眼蔵	Shobogenzo Sutra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory of this sect : We must not advocate a prayer to Buddha to demand a result. We must not be particular about a spiritual awakening. 	
		普化宗	Fuke sect			1254	Myoan-ji temple (Kyoto)	心地覺心	Shinchi Kakushin	虚竹禅师	Kichiku Zenji	指定無し	None Specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Buddhist priest of this sect is called "mendicant Zen priest". 	
		黄檗宗	Obaku sect	●	●	1661	Mampuku-ji Temple (Kyoto)	隠元禅師	Ingen	釈迦如来	Shaka Nyorai (Gautama Buddha)	指定無し	None Specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The basic theory of this sect is the same as "Rinzai sect". This sect has a custom to advocate a prayer to Buddha in Chinese. An initiator of this sect is the person who introduced kidney beans to Japan. 	
	Hokke(Nichiren) Buddhism line	日蓮宗	Nichiren sect	●	●	1253	Kuon-ji Temple (Yamanashi)	日蓮上人	Nichiren	釈迦如来 大曼陀羅	Shaka Nyorai (Gautama Buddha) Great Mandala (Maha Mandala)	法華経	Lotus Sutra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This sect regarded the Lotus sutra as the supreme dharma. (Other sects are not recognized.) It is a commoner in the world of the Buddhism even if it is the Emperor. 	
	Other	修験宗(道)	Shugenshu sect (Shugendo sect)		●	Nara period	Kimpusen-ji Temple (Nara) and other	役小角	En no Gyoja (En no Ozunu)	蔵王権現	Zao Gongen	指定無し	None Specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This sect was developed as a mountain religion unique to Japan through incorporation of Shinto religion, Buddhism, Taoism, and so forth. The practitioner of austerities of this sect is called Yamabushi (Buddhist monk). Yamabushi is a practitioner of Shugendo (Japanese mountain asceticism/shamanism incorporating Shinto and Buddhist concepts) who earnestly walks in the mountains as an ascetic practice. 	