

聖天宮 Sheng Tian Gong

Holy Celestial Palace of 5000 Soaring Dragons

10 must-see

Largest Taoist temple in Japan

(Not related to Buddha, but to Lao-tsu)

History of the temple and about the religion Taoism, is written on the signboards outside.



A pair of "Fu lions"; "guardian lions" carved from a single stone

獅子

1

Male on the Yang side with stringed coins, symbolize the role to provide. Female on the Yin side with cub, symbolize the role to prevent the drop off into the Yin.

East, lions were considered mythical. West, tigers were considered mythical.

where to find: near the entrance.

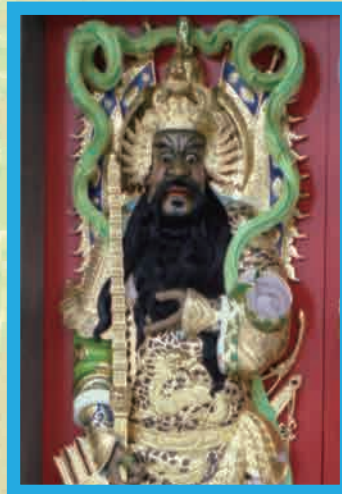
Carved from a single stone. All words are embossed and gilded in gold leaf



Commemorative stone monument

2

Characteristic of the Chinese-verse, with same meter and same line length. where to find: south eastern lawn.



Carved from a solid wood, 4m high, not made of parts

門神 "Men Shen" portal guardians

4

Deities riding clouds and bearing heavenly garments; do not need wings to fly. Not Buddhism hence not depicted with lotuses.

where to find: behind the fortune sticks.

Carved from a single 5m pillar stone.



Pillar of 9 dragons East, dragons are auspicious and do not need wings to fly.

九龍柱

3

Nine is the biggest of the digit and is pronounced as the word "eternity"; also represents "omnipresent". where to find: front of the temple.

Assembled from 10,000 embedded wood parts



5 the "Bagua" 八卦

"The Octagonal expansion." Starting from the Yin and the Yang, and on to the myriads, via the "Bagua" (8, 64, 512...).

where to find: ceiling of the front hall.