



SANZEN-IN TEMPLE

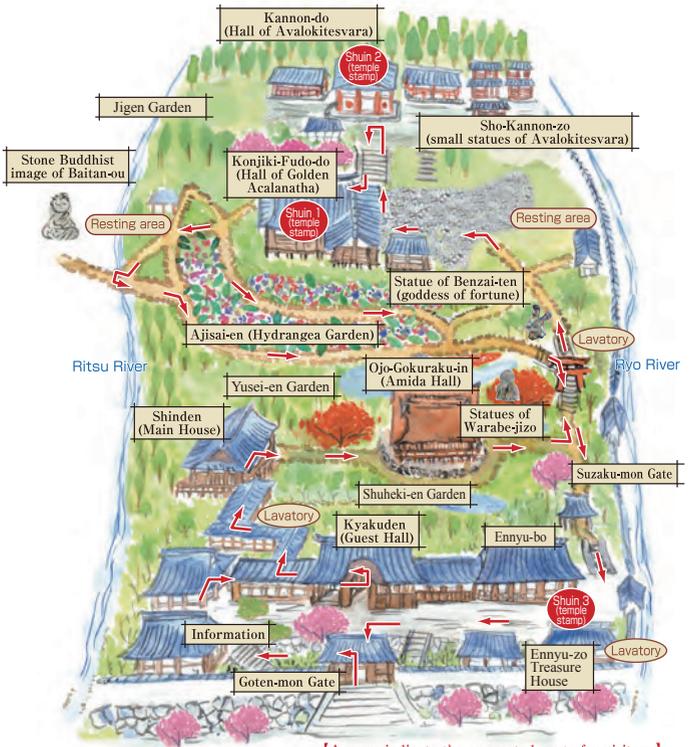


一隅を照らす
これ則ち国宝なり

京都大原
三千院



Goten-mon Gate



[Arrows indicate the suggested route for visitors.]

Types and Location of Shuin (Temple Stamp)	Shuin 1	Konjiki Fudo Myoo • Benzai-ten	Shuin 2	Kannon Bosatsu
	Shuin 3	Yakushi Nyorai • Amitabha Trinity (All the five Shuin, or temple stamps, can be checked here.)		

- Visitor's Hours:
 March through December 7 8:30 - 17:30 (Entry closes at 17:00)
 December 8 through February 9:00 - 17:00 (Entry closes at 16:30)

Sanzen-in Monzeki Administration Office

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Amitabha Trinity (National Treasure)

The Ohara area has been known as Gyozan for more than a thousand years. It is the birthplace of Shomyo (Buddhist sutra chanting) and known as a sacred spot in the belief of Jodo (Pure Land Buddhism) among Nembutsu-Hijiri (prayer mendicant priests). Sanzen-in Temple was originally established as a hermitage by Saicho (767-822), or Dengyo Daishi, when he founded Enryakuji Temple on Mt. Hiei, Shiga Prefecture. The temple, also known as Kajii Monzeki or Nashimoto Monzeki, is one of the five Tendai Monzeki temples, and certain members of the imperial family served here in the priesthood throughout the temple's history. It was officially named Sanzen-in in 1871, according to documentation written by Emperor Reigen in the Jibutsu-do hall of Kajii Goten (the temple building), following the departure of an imperial prince priest from the priesthood.





Ojo-Gokuraku-in in winter



Reproduction of the painting on the ship's-hull shaped ceiling of Ojo-Gokuraku-in Hall (Inside Ennyu-zo)



Ojo-Gokuraku-in in spring

Konjiki Fudo-do Hall and Kannon-do Hall

Konjiki Fudo-do Hall, located in the hydrangea garden, is a place that serves as a center for prayer. It was established in 1989 and houses the principal figure of Konjiki Fudo Myoo (created by Chisho Daishi). Kannon-do Hall houses a standing 3-meter-tall golden figure of Kannon, and surrounding this hall, there are smaller images of Kannon, which were dedications from people as a symbol of their wishes. Next to the hall is the Jigen Garden, designed to replicate sacred ground.

Ennyu-zo

Ennyu-zo, opened in the autumn of 2006, is a storage facility for the temple's Important Cultural Properties, and is equipped with an exhibition room. The ceiling of this building has a reproduction of the painting, found on the ship's-hull shaped ceiling of Ojo-Gokuraku-in Hall. This facility was opened to the public in order to exhibit the cultural properties stored here, and hosts a special exhibition every year in the spring.

Shuheki-en Garden and Yusei-en Garden

Shuheki-en Garden is a "pond appreciating style" garden, which can be viewed from the Kyakuden, and was renovated by Kanamori Sowa, a master of the tea ceremony in the Edo Era. Yusei-en Garden is a "pond strolling style" garden, leading to Ojo-Gokuraku-in Hall, which can be viewed from Shinden. The name derives from a line written by Xie Lingyun, a Chinese poet representing the Six Dynasties. This garden is famous for its large moss garden and beautiful autumn leaves surrounded by cedar trees.

Shinden Hall and Kyakuden Hall

Shinden is a place that serves as a center for Osenboko (a service with Shomyo), and was started by the Emperor Goshirakawa. The principal image of worship in this hall is the Yakushi Ruriko Nyorai (the Nyorai of Emerald Radiance), created by Dengyo Daishi. In the west room, images of successive imperial priests are kept, and in the Gyokuza Room on the east side, also called the Rainbow Room, sliding doors bear a painting of a rainbow by Shimomura Kanzan.

Kyakuden was called Ryuzen-in during the Heian Era, and served as the administration office for Taigen-ji (a collective name for this area with a few temples). Toyotomi Hideyoshi, a feudal lord in the 16th century, renovated this building with leftover materials from a renovation of an imperial palace.

Ojo-Gokuraku-in Hall

According to temple legend, this hall was built by a priest, Eshin Sozu (Genshin) in 986, along with his sister Anyo-ni, as a memorial to the souls of their dead parents. Eshin Sozu, famed as the author of a treatise, Ojo-yoshu, is credited with perfecting the Tendai-Jodo sect. The shape of the ceiling of this hall was designed like the hull of a ship in order to accommodate the Amitabha Trinity (a National Treasure), which was taller than the hall itself. Although it is difficult to see with the naked eye at present, the ceiling is decorated with full-colored depictions of bodhisattvas and celestial maidens flying in the heavens. In the autumn of 2006, Ennyu-zo, a storage facility for the temple's Important Cultural Properties, was opened to the public, with a reproduction of the painting on the ceiling, exhibiting the recreated image of Gokurakujodo, the land of Perfect Bliss. This hall also houses an image of Amitabha seated offering Raigo-in (welcoming hand gesture) in the center, with Kanzeon Bosatsu (right) offering a pose representing the laying out of a deceased person on a lotus pedestal, and Seishi Bosatsu (left) with hands clasped together. Both Bosatsu are seated in the stooping "Yamato" pose.

Kannon-do



Konjiki Fudo-do



Shuheki-en Garden



Hydrangea



Kerria

