

# The Shikoku Pilgrimage is **Japan's heritage**

## Finishing the last three temples

In recent years the number of young people and foreigners attempting the Shikoku pilgrimage has increased.

The Shikoku Pilgrimage was first carried out by Kobo Daishi, who was born in Sanuki and went on a pilgrimage around all 88 spots of the pilgrimage. The total distance is 1,400 kilometers and it is said to have been created when he did it in 815 A.D. when he was 42 years old, so for more than 1200 years pilgrims have been following the route. The pilgrims' sedge hat is recorded as having belonged to his "two companions" who supported and protected Kobo Daishi during his travels, going along with him on what was quite a dangerous journey, so the hat symbolizes prayers, growth, training and healing, which are the aspirations of those who take part in the pilgrimage. Sanuki City is home to the 86th stage, Shidoji Temple, the 87th stage Nagaoji Temple and the 88th Stage Ookuboji Temple, which bring the journey to a close.

### Topics

**In April 2015, the Shikoku Pilgrimage was recognized as "Japan's Heritage".**

Japan's Heritage is a system of the ministry of culture that recognizes regional culture and intangible cultural assets with certification as a package, and provides support for tourism promotion and regional revitalization efforts.

## The 86th Stage **Shidoji Temple**

The feudal lord of Takamatsu Matsudaira Yorishige built the main Hall (Nationally Designated Importance Cultural Property) and there are also many other things to see, including the Five Story Tower, the Kongorikishi statue that is said to have been created by Unkei. There is also the Ama no haka, female diver's grave, which has been passed on as the legend of the female diver's bead search, and a garden created by the Japanese garden architect Shigemori Mirei.



Address: 1102 Shido, Sanuki City  
Tel: 087-894-0086  
Access: 10 minutes walk from JR Shido Station stop of the Sanuki Community bus line, 5 minutes walk from the entrance to the national highway.  
Parking: Yes

Muzentei garden is an dry garden style that represents the legend of the female diver's bead search.



As you finish the last three temples on the pilgrimage route, you can enjoy traditional Japanese culture and the beauty of the four seasons. Make a pilgrimage in your own style.

## The 87th Stage **Nagaoji Temple**



The "Kyodo" in front of the gates is a Nationally Designated Important Cultural Property. It is the symbol of this famous temple that has flourished since the Kamakura era. Also Lady Shizuka, who is said to have been the lover of Minamoto no Yoshitsune, entered the Buddhist nunhood and the hair she cut off is said to be buried in the tonsured mound.

Enjoy a leisurely lunch while looking out over the garden  
**Lunch at "Honbo-zensho"**

※Reservations required



You can look out at the changing seasonal appearance of the garden while enjoying your lunch at Honbo-zensho.  
Open: 5 days/week (For details see: <http://nagaoji.com/>)  
Cost of Meal: 3,500 yen  
Address: 653 Nagaonishi, Sanuki City Tel: 0879-52-2041  
Honbo-zensho (Restaurant) Tel: 0879-52-5251  
Access: 5 minutes walk from the Okawa Bus Head Office stop of the Sanuki Community Bus Line.  
Parking: Yes



## The 88th Stage **Ookuboji Temple**

The final stop on the Shikoku Pilgrimage is Kechiganji Temple. Located at the foot of 744m high Mt. Nyotai, the Main hall and its connected structure Posterior hall Tahoto are surrounded by a peaceful atmosphere. In autumn the 700 year old ginkgo tree puts forth bright colored leaves and the temple is crowded with many worshippers.

Address: 96 Tawakanewari, Sanuki City  
Tel: 0879-56-2278

Access: 1 minute walk from Ookuboji Temple stop of Sanuki Community Bus Line  
Parking: Yes



### Volunteer Guides

## Ohenro Tsukasa no Kai

An organization dedicated to spreading knowledge about the Shikoku Pilgrimage in Sanuki City.  
Available areas: Shidoji, Nagaoji, Ookuboji temples and the pilgrimage route between them  
Applications: Telephone inquiries required in advance  
Guide fees: negotiable  
Inquiries: 087-894-1114 (City Chamber of Commerce Tourism Section)

### Ohenro Experience

## Shido Machibura Tankentai

An easy way to experience the feeling of walking the pilgrimage route. Change into the white pilgrimage wear and sedge hat of a pilgrim and enjoy the experience of walking the pilgrimage route in the temple town of Shido.  
Number of Participants: 1-15 (reservation 2 days in advance required)  
Location: Hiraga Gennai Memorial Museum  
Fees: Adults 2,500 yen, High School/ University Students 2,300 yen, Elementary / Junior High School Students 2,000 yen, Infants 1,700 yen (Includes entrance fee to Hiraga Gennai Memorial Museum)  
※ 1,000 yen refund on return of the costume  
Applications: 090-8970-9352 (Office / Oka)