

Place that connected Kukai and Buddha

Portrait

Three types of Kukai's portraits are recognized in Japan. *Zentsu-ji* version of the portraits is very unique in having Buddha in the right upper corner. This indicates the legend that Kukai met Buddha in *Zentsu-ji* (see right). The nobilities in Kyoto often reproduced the portrait to keep one by their side.



Zentsu-ji version of Kukai's portrait (left) and the sacred place of Mt. Gahaishi-san where Kukai was said to have met Buddha.

Prototype of Shikoku pilgrimage

After Kukai passed away, many Shingon monks visited Shikoku for asceticism. Japanese famous poet Saigyō, whose poems were included in the imperial anthology of *Waka*, once stayed at *Zentsu-ji* for more than one year as he was also a Shingon monk. According to his personal poetry collection written 900 years ago, it was quite important for Shingon

monks to visit the mountain top where Kukai is believed to have met Buddha. This is said to be a prototype of Shikoku pilgrimage. After Tokugawa ruled a whole Japan, travelling was regulated except for pilgrimage. People departed on pilgrimage to Shikoku with a map (B in cover) for the grace of Kukai. A traditional course, *Mandara-ji-michi* is still in use near here (A in cover).



Cliff where Buddha appeared

The cliff where Buddha appeared on Kukai has become a sacred place (View from Mandara-ji temple).

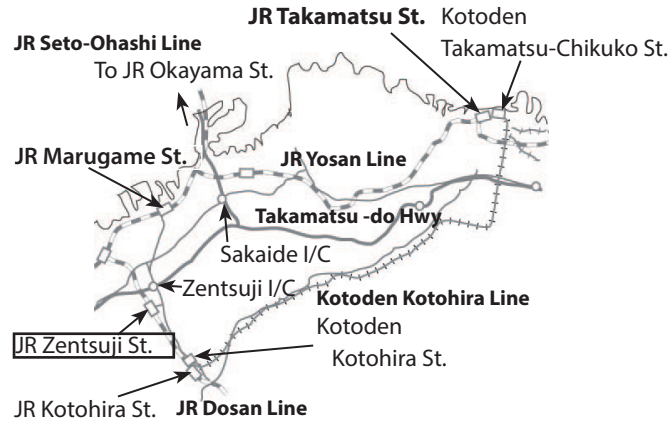


An ancient camphor tree living more than 1200 years

Shikoku pilgrimage

Shikoku pilgrimage is a pilgrimage in circuit of 88 temples associated with a famous Buddhist monk, Kukai in Shikoku Island. He is a founder of Shingon Buddhism, a school of Buddhism. There are many legends about miracles performed by Kukai. One of the legends indicates that Kukai is still alive, and is in asceticism in Shikoku as he did in his youth. *Zentsu-ji*, a temple No.75 of Shikoku pilgrimage is the birthplace of Kukai. It is believed that young Kukai met Buddha on the mountain top near the temple.

Access map



From JR Takamatsu to JR Marugame - 50 min. by train
From JR Zentsu-ji Station - 20 min. by a walk
From Zentsuji Highway I/C - 20 min. by car
(There are car parks around the temple.)



Shikoku Gakuin University,
Kukai Cafe2
(四国学院大学 空海カフェ2)

1-2-3 Bunkyo-cho, Zentsuji, Kagawa 760-8505
<http://shigakuweb.jimdo.com>

Printed by Koueisha Inc. (株式会社 弘栄社)

* This program is supported by the University Consortium Kagawa.



Enjoy Setouchi Outing No.9



善通寺

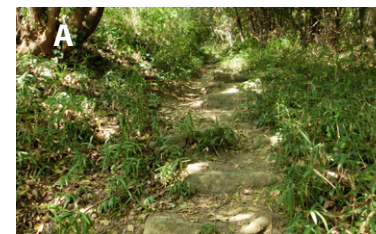
Zentsu-ji Day Out

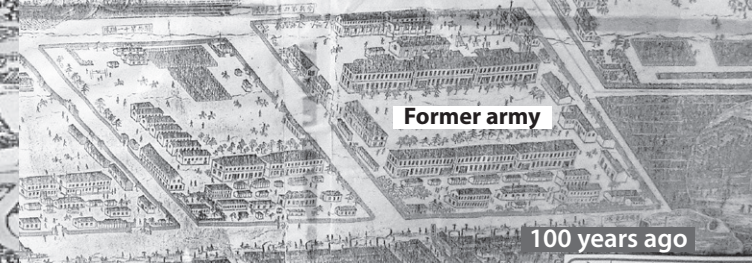
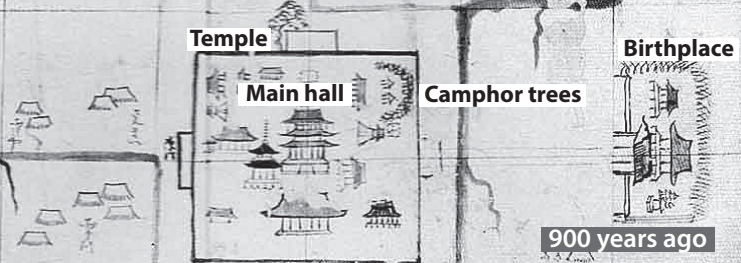


9. Explore Shikoku pilgrimage



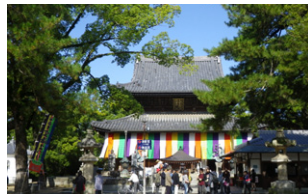
Main gate and five stories-pagoda





Discover Miracles by Kukai

Temple & Memorial hall of his birthplace



1 Main hall (Kondo)

During his studying in China, he became a master of Esoteric Buddhism only in a few months. Returning home, he founded Shingon school and *Zentsu-ji* here.

2 Five-storied pagoda

The pagoda in *Zentsu-ji* built in 1884 is the third tallest among wooden pagodas in Japan. It is the symbolic building in Shikoku pilgrimage.



3 Prayer place for rainfall

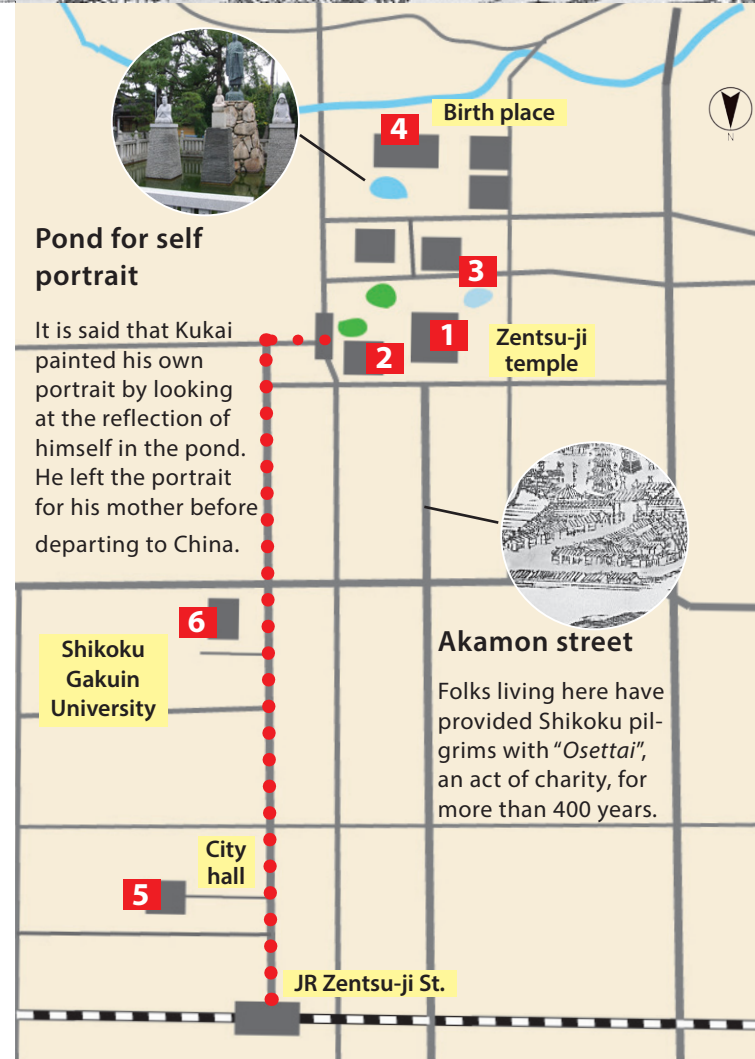
According to a legend, at Emperor's request, Kukai prayed for rainfall by summoning water dragon and immediately they had miraculous rain.

4 Memorial hall

There is a portrait of Kukai in an inner sanctuary of the temple. It is believed that the house of Kukai's mother lived here.

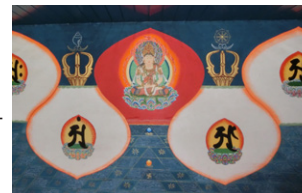


Another huge camphor tree



4-2 Basement of the hall

This is a place for spiritual improvement of stepping forward in the darkness. You will encounter a sculpture of Kukai and hear his voice. **Admission: 500yen.**



After the Meiji restoration, a military station of the former Japanese army was established by the side of *Zentsu-ji* temple about 100 years ago. The city was named after the temple. You can see the military buildings everywhere in the city.

Remains of Japanese army



5 A gathering hall for high-ranked officers

The Meiji government tried to promote civilization by introducing western cultures. They imported classical architecture which was in a main stream in UK. The house above is said to be Renaissance style.



6 Housing for cavalry

A house of the former cavalry is still used for lecture rooms of Shikoku Gakuin University. A triangular pediment supported by columns exhibits western style of architecture. This was an advanced style of building in those days.

How to act in a temple



Manner of praying

First, Visitors are encouraged to rinse their hands and mouth with some water of a ladle for purification of the mind.

Second, buy and offer a bunch of incense if you want. Toss in some coin and ring the bell. Now, Bow and join your palms together for your luck, good health or peace.

