

☼ To Enhance Your Experience

Local Gourmet Spots



- ① **Omi Direct Market:** Fresh seafood bowls, made with market-fresh ingredients, are a popular choice alongside seafood sales.
 - ② **Shichifukuya:** Soft-textured noodles infused with rich dashi flavor is the specialty!
 - ③ **Miyabi:** Seasonal vegetable and koji-based set meals. The daily special set meal, made with seasonal vegetables and koji, is highly recommended!
 - ④ **Minshuku Shirai:** All-you-can-eat tiger prawn available on Tuesdays and weekends. Feast on a variety of prawn dishes, including raw, salt-grilled, and deep-fried breaded prawns.
 - ⑤ **Roadside Station Aio:** A wide selection of dishes, including fried prawn, curry, udon, and desserts.
- *For those who prefer to buy ready-made meals to go, local supermarkets are a convenient option.

For those needing a guide [Yamaguchi Yume Kairo Regional Interpretation Guide Center]

Yamaguchi Prefecture Central Metropolitan Area: "The Yamaguchi Yume Kairo" (Yamaguchi City, Ube City, Hagi City, Hofu City, Mine City, Sanyo-Onoda City, and Tsuwano Town of Shimane Prefecture) offers regional guides who will warmly introduce foreign visitors to the area's attractions, traditions, and culture with a spirit of hospitality.

< Services & Fees >

Languages: Japanese, English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese

Service Area: Yamaguchi Prefecture Central Metropolitan Area

Guide Fees: From ¥3,360 per hour

*Client covers transportation, entrance fees, activity costs, and meals

Group Size: From one person (please contact us)

Booking Deadline: 14 days in advance

Meeting Point: Shin-Yamaguchi Station Tourist Office (JR Shin-Yamaguchi Station North Gate, 2nd Floor)

Inquiries Yuda Onsen Ryokan Association 湯田温泉旅館協同組合
TEL: **083-920-3000**



From Yuda Onsen
Journey Through Japan's Oldest Replication of the Shikoku Pilgrimage
The Aio 88 Temple Pilgrimage



When visiting Yuda Onsen, explore the Aio 88 Temple Pilgrimage!!

The Aio 88 Temple Pilgrimage is a historic route located primarily in the Aio area of Yamaguchi City and the neighboring Aio Futajima area. The sacred sites date back to 1783 (Tenmei 3), when Shokai Hoin, the eighth head priest of Henmyoin Temple, completed the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage. He carefully brought back amulets and sacred soil from each of the sites, enshrined them across Aio, and established them as the Aio Sacred Sites. It is said to be the oldest replication of the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage in Japan.

Things to Know Before the Pilgrimage

A Tradition Preserved Beyond Religious Sects

When the sacred sites were first established, they were not widely accepted by other Buddhist sects or local villagers. Some halls were damaged, and statues of Kobo Daishi were removed. However, Shokai Hoin's deep devotion gradually won over the hearts of the people, spreading the teachings of Kobo Daishi throughout the region. Over time, even temples from different sects began enshrining the sacred sites within their grounds. Since then, these temples and halls have been carefully maintained by the local community.



A Culture of Hospitality Deeply Rooted in the Region

Pilgrims visit the sacred sites throughout the year, primarily from within Yamaguchi Prefecture. However, on the 20th and 21st of the third lunar month, a special event known as "Odaishi Mairi" attracts an even greater number of pilgrims from various regions. During this time, local residents offer heartfelt hospitality by providing sweets, tea, and home-cooked dishes at each sacred site. In the past, there was also a tradition of offering lodging to pilgrims in private homes.



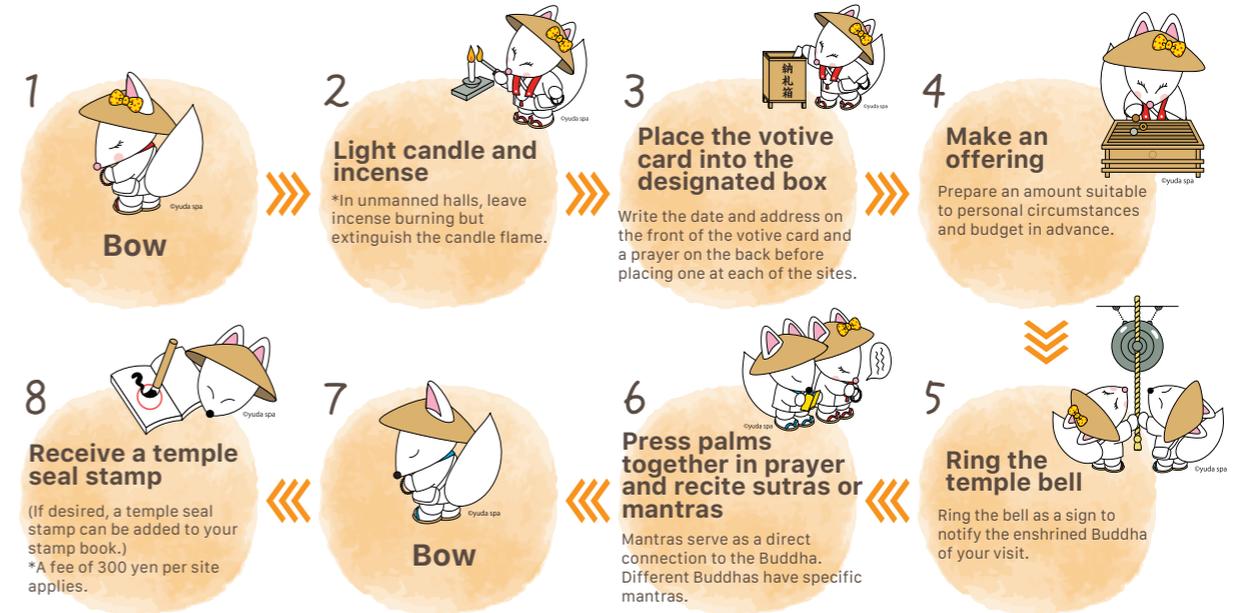
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What is "Osettai"?

"Osettai" refers to an act of selfless giving, also known as Fuse in Buddhist practice. While "Fuse" is commonly associated with offerings given during funerals or memorial services, its original meaning extends beyond money. It includes giving one's possessions, time, expressions, words, and heartfelt kindness without expecting anything in return. There is no expectation of repayment; only a pure sense of compassion and gratitude. "Osettai" during Odaishi Mairi is a way of extending this spirit of generosity to pilgrims and practitioners. While modern Osettai is more commonly associated with hospitality, it is important to remember its deeper origins.



Pilgrimage Etiquette



Main Mantras of the Aio 88 Temple Pilgrimage

Yakushi Nyorai (薬師如来)

(Shingon Sect) On korokoro sendari matougi sowaka

Jizo Bosatsu (地藏菩薩)

(Shingon Sect) On kakakabi sanmaei sowaka

Amida Nyorai (阿弥陀如来)

On amirita teisei kara un

Kanzeon Bosatsu (観世音菩薩)

On arorikiya sowaka

Jizo Bosatsu (地藏菩薩)

(Shingon Sect) On kakakabi sanmaei sowaka

Shaka Nyorai (釈迦如来)

(Shingon Sect) Nomaku sanmanda bodanan baku

Fudo Myo-o (不動明王)

(Shingon Sect) Nomaku sanmanda bazara dan senda makaroshada sowataya untaratakanman

Nyoirin Kannon (如意輪観音)

On handomei shindamani jinbara un

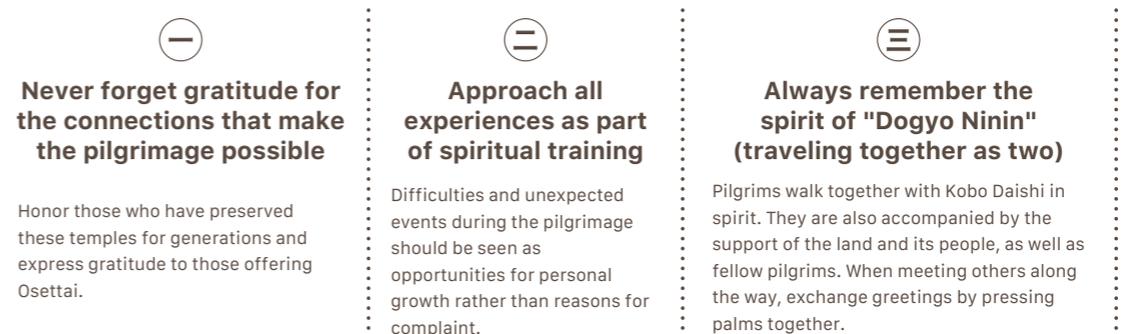
Senju Kannon (千手観音)

On bazara tarama kiriku (sowaka)

Juichimen Kannon (十一面観音)

On maka kyaronikyia sowaka

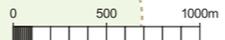
Three Principles of Pilgrimage





The Aio 88 Temple Pilgrimage Map

- Temple Sites
- Boundary Line
- ♀ Bus Stop
- ≡ Bridge
- ♯ Dining Spot
- 🏯 Temple
- 🚻 Toilet
- 🍷 Premises serving tiger prawn
- 🦞 Shops stocking tiger prawn



Temple Locations

No. 1 Miyanodan Daishiji ☎(083)984-4255 Aio Nishi 120	No. 17 Nishiaoe Daishido Aio Higashi 4172	No. 35,36 Shimomura Zenjoji Fudo Hall	No. 49 Kurokata Minami Konpira Shrine Ruins Aio Nishi 3307-1	No. 61 Minami Maenohama Daishido Near Aio Futajima 3559-2	No. 76 Ori Daishido Aio Futajima 1358
No. 2 Nakano Chotokuji Shakado Aio Higashi 7052	No. 18 Sakiaoe Gosha Myojin Shrine Ruins Aio Higashi, Sakiaoe Area	No. 28 Shimomura Henmyoin ☎(083)984-3358 Aio Higashi 6534	No. 50 Chudo Hazukura Daishido Hall Aio Higashi 4898	No. 62 Minami Daishido Community Center Side Aio Futajima 3962	No. 77 Ageta Daishido Near Aio Futajima 588
No. 3 Kurokata Minami Honkoji Temple Ruins Aio Nishi 463-37	No. 19 Sakiaoe Daishido Near Aio Higashi 4290	No. 29 Gionmachi Daishido Aio Higashi 6048	No. 51 Nakano Amida Hall Ruins Near Aio Higashi 7513	No. 63 Minami Yakushido Hall Ruins Aio Futajima 3973	No. 78 Ageta Kaijojin ☎(083)987-2722 Aio Futajima 729
No. 4 Nishi Amada Daishido Aio Nishi 1998	No. 20 Chudo Daishido Aio Higashi 768	No. 30 Hamanaka Fudojin Daishido Hall Aio Higashi 693	No. 52 Kurokata Kita Daishido Aio Nishi 2968	No. 65 Futajima Kitada Daishido Aio Futajima 1625	No. 79 Ageta Daishido Aio Futajima 729
No. 5 Higashi Amada Tenjin Shrine Ruins Aio Nishi 1987 Minamigata	No. 21 Hanaga Kita Daishido Aio Higashi 5049	No. 32 Nagahama Daishido Aio Futajima 4632	No. 53 Kurokata Minami Daishido Aio Nishi 3216	No. 66 Futajima Daishido Near Aio Futajima 1739	No. 80 Mukaiyama Daishido ☎(083)987-2596 Aio Futajima 6-3
No. 6,7,8,9 Higashi Amada Fukurakuji Main Hall & Jizo Hall ☎(083)984-4156 Aio Nishi 1987	No. 22 Nakatsue Daishido Aio Higashi 5285	No. 40 Nagahama Shoukyouin Aio Futajima 4550	No. 54 Sozaisho Shinshoin Daishido	No. 67 Futajima Yakushido Hall Ruins Near Aio Futajima 1925	No. 81 Hanaba Minami Daishido Aio Futajima 777
No. 10 Higashi Amada Higashijo Daishido Near Aio Nishi 1792	No. 23 Yado Daishido Aio Higashi 5681-20	No. 41 Shimomura Daishido Aio Higashi 6737	No. 58 Sozaisho Shinshoin Amida Hall Aio Futajima 5106	No. 68 Negi Suga Daishido Aio Futajima 5909	No. 82 Mukaiyama Daihizan Reikoin Natajima 3483
No. 11 Nakano Saijo Daishido Near Aio Higashi 6938	No. 24,38 Shimomura Zenkoin Kannon Hall	No. 42 Nakano Minamijo Daishido Near Aio Higashi 7460	No. 59 Sozaisho Shinshoin Main Hall ☎(083)987-2025 Aio Futajima 5106	No. 70 Negi Amida Hall Ruins Aio Futajima 5957	No. 83 Mukaiyama Iwayasan Jizoin Temple ☎(083)987-3044 Natajima 3483
No. 12 Nakajo Rokkakudo Kannon Hall Near Aio Higashi 1337	No. 25 Kamo Daishido Near Aio Higashi 5834	No. 43,45 Nakano Chotokuji Daishido Hall	No. 69 Sozaisho Daishido Aio Futajima 2009	No. 71 Negi Daishido Community Center Side Aio Futajima 5818	No. 84 Ninkoji Daishido Near Aio Futajima 7045
No. 13,14 Akasaki Daishoji ☎(083)984-2278 Near Aio Higashi 2596	No. 26 Honmachi Daishido Aio Higashi 6012	No. 46 Nakano Daitoji Kannon Hall Ruins Near Aio Higashi 7261	No. 55 Sozaisho Suginomori Daishido Aio Futajima 5121-5 Toho	No. 72 Sozaisho Daishido Aio Futajima 4241	No. 85 Ninkoji Daishido Near Aio Futajima 7037
No. 15 Nakano Chotokuji Daishido Hall Near Aio Higashi 7052	No. 27,33,34 Shimomura Zenjoji ☎(083)984-4113 Aio Higashi 6422	No. 47 Hiji Daishido Aio Higashi 3424-2	No. 56 Sozaisho Daishido Aio Futajima 5100	No. 73 Negi Daishido Aio Futajima 6082	No. 86 Ninkoji Daishido Near Aio Futajima 6817
No. 16 Kanayamaryo Daishido Near Aio Higashi 503-14	No. 31 Shimomura Zenjoji Kannon Hall	No. 48 Higashi Amada Kaizoji Temple Ruins Aio Nishi 1601	No. 57 Sozaisho Kojima Daishido Aio Futajima 2948	No. 74 Ori Eitaiji ☎(083)987-2118 Aio Futajima 1381	No. 87 Koda Daishido Near Aio Futajima 7654
			No. 60 Minami Daishido Aio Futajima 4091	No. 75 Ori Mantokuin Temple Ruins Near Aio Futajima 1381	No. 88 Miyanodan Daishido Near Aio Nishi 370

*The listed addresses include areas surrounding the temple locations.

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Do you have a pilgrim's handbook?

Most of the temples are unattended, and the paths can be difficult to navigate. Please use a pilgrim's handbook (map) when visiting.

[Pilgrim's Handbook Locations]

Available at each temple, local shops in the Aio area, administrative facilities, and roadside stations (Aio & Kirara Ajisu).



When traveling by car, please use parking facilities at administrative buildings or temple sites whenever possible.

Bus Timetable from Yuda Onsen

Japanese

English

Yamaguchi City Noru-Toku Ticket

★Flat fare of 300 yen per ride on Bocho Buses operating within Yamaguchi City!

Go to Website



Temple No. 87: Koda Daishido

Koda Daishido was rebuilt after 100 years through crowdfunding efforts by the local Koda community. Originally built in 1924, the year following the Great Kanto Earthquake, it houses a hall dedicated to Kobo Daishi, a Yakushi Nyorai statue, and a thousand Jizo statues. The curved karahafu-style roof incorporates some original wood, maintaining a traditional aesthetic.



Before Renovation



Yakushi Nyorai and Nikko & Gekko Bosatsu Statues



Main Jizo Bosatsu and Thousand Jizo Statues

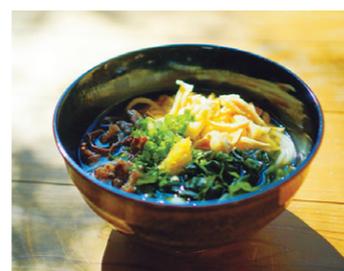
First Steps: 3-Hour Course

Oidemase Course ①



Temple No. 83: Iwayasan Jizoin Temple

The Jizoin Temple was founded in 747 by the Buddhist priest Gyoki Bosatsu. The temple is known for the Higiri Jizoson (Jizo of dividing the day), a Jizo statue revered for its miraculous powers. Additionally, the massive "Human-Faced Rock" located on the temple grounds is believed to remove bad luck and ensure safe childbirth when passing through the rock's gap. On top of the rock is the Gyoja Rock, where a stone-carved Buddha can be found. Visitors are welcome to climb the rock using the chain as a memento of the visit. The temple's cafe, "Muyuan," which opens on the 24th of each month to honor the Jizo, is popular for its chewy udon noodles made with a special dashi broth. The cafe also offers a coffee set with nerikiri sweets, which comes highly recommended.



Temple No. 1: Daishiji



Temple No. 78: Kaijoin



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Chez Aio: Create, Walk, and Taste – An Interactive Tour –

"Chez Aio" is an experiential tour organized by Yamaguchi Prefectural University and the aioHenro88 Project. Participants learn about the Aio 88 Temple Pilgrimage while enjoying traditional hospitality meals and listening to monks' stories.



Interview



aioHenro88 Project Representative: Masaro Tomita

I started this project to pass on the significance of the Daishi pilgrimage to future generations. It has been six years since we launched this tour with Yamaguchi Prefectural University, and some participants return every year. I hope to continue growing interest among local children and a wider audience.



Yamaguchi Prefectural University Chez Aio Staff Leader: Haruto Yamaguchi

I was involved in everything from planning to execution, and this year we had 11 participants, more than last year. The preparation was challenging, but with local support, we had another great tour. I want to increase participation and introduce more people to Aio.



Futajima Ninkoji Volunteer Sachie Fukuda (Second from the left)

We prepare seasonal dishes featuring local autumn ingredients for the pilgrims. For us, offering hospitality has been a long-standing tradition. We will continue this practice, cherishing it as a community.



A Half-Day Pilgrimage Suitable for Beginners

Oidemase Course ②



Temple No. 58: Asahisan Shinshoin

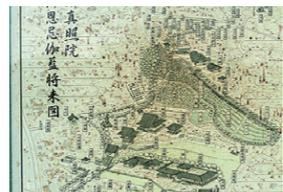
Asahisan, located in Futajima, Aio, Yamaguchi City, is a 70-meter-high mountain with stunning panoramic views. To the east lies Hofu, while to the west, visitors can see Ajiu, Ube, and even as far as Shikoku and Kyushu on clear days. At the mountain's midpoint is Asahisan Shinshoin, a historic temple founded over a thousand years ago and a central sacred site of the Aio 88 Temple Pilgrimage. Amidst the refreshing embrace of nature, there is also a sense of solemn grandeur. The mountain also hosts a replica of the Saigoku 33 Kannon Pilgrimage, with numerous stone Buddhas and monuments scattered along the path. Among these, the unique "Handshake Daishi" statue extends its right hand, eagerly awaiting visitors' greetings.



Temple No. 57: Suginomori Daishido



Temple No. 59: Kojima Daishido



Relax in a Hot Spring with an Ocean View

Comprehensive Course ①



Temple No. 28: Henmyoin

Initially, Aio Hidanokami Moriharu planned to establish this temple to enshrine the spirits of his former lords, Ouchi Masahiro, Yoshioki, and Yoshitaka, as well as his father, Morimitsu, and his mother. Memorial tablets were also created for them. About 100 years later, during the Enpo era (1673–1681), the temple's name was changed from "Seikoin" to its current name, "Henmyoin." This was because the original name, "Seikoin," had the same pronunciation as the Buddhist posthumous name of Lady Seiko, the wife of Mori Terumoto. The change was made under the administration of Mori Hachirozaemon, who was in charge of shrines and temples at the time. Within the temple grounds, there is a hall dedicated to Shokai Hoin, the eighth head priest of Henmyoin, who founded the Aio 88 Temple Pilgrimage.



Temple No. 21: Daishido



Temple No. 34: Zenjoji



Special Feature

Enjoy Aio's Ocean and Cuisine



Kaicho-no-Yado Aio Sou Stunning Open-Air Hot Spring & Renowned Tiger Prawn Cuisine

Aio Sou is a charming inn known for its beautiful natural surroundings and warm hospitality. Located in a stunning spot overlooking the Seto Inland Sea, it offers breathtaking views that change with the seasons. Guests can enjoy exquisite cuisine made with the freshest local ingredients, delivering both indulgence and comfort. The interior embraces a traditional Japanese aesthetic, providing a serene and relaxing atmosphere where visitors can unwind and escape the everyday. With soothing hot springs and a spacious garden, the inn offers a truly rejuvenating experience. Aio Sou is the perfect hidden retreat for those seeking a quiet and peaceful getaway.



【Day-Use Hot Springs】

Open Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Last Admission) (Closes at 5:00 PM) *Wednesdays: Open from 12:00 PM
Fees: Adults ¥570 / Children ¥300

Kaicho-no-Yado Aio Sou
Address: 10768-13 Aio Higashi, Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, 754-1101
TEL: 083-984-2201
FAX: 083-984-2279

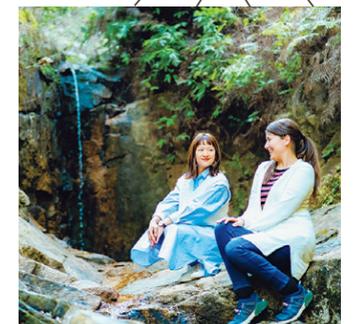


Explore Every Corner

Comprehensive Course ②



Temple No. 12: Rokkakudo



Temple No. 30: Fudojin Daishido Hall and Waterfall



Yoshihiro Ouchi brought this temple from Kyoto's Rokkakudo. Kyoto's Rokkakudo is associated with Prince Shotoku and enshrines Nyoirin Kannon as its principal deity. This Rokkakudo is also hexagonal, just like the one in Kyoto, and similarly enshrines Nyoirin Kannon. As an external Buddhist hall of Daishoji, it was part of a grand memorial service held at the temple every 21 years when the principal deity was publicly unveiled. Daishoji itself was originally called Chotokuji and is said to have been founded by Hirosada Ouchi.

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aioHenro88
Project Member
Saki Yamane

I became interested in Daishi pilgrimages during my time as a Regional Development Cooperation Team member. In 2017, like-minded individuals came together to launch the "aioHenro88 Project." Each year during the two-day pilgrimage, we assist visitors with navigation, provide small changes for temple offerings, and enhance their experience. For those unable to walk the full route, we offer "Sand Stepping," where they can step on bags of sand collected from all 88 sites. I hope more people visit Aio and that we continue building a strong, dedicated community.

