A statue of St. Rennyo overlooks Kashima Forest from the mountain at Yoshizaki, a place once regarded as a major pilgrimage site. The branch temple of Honganji at the base of the mountain vividly recalls the area’s past.

From the statue of St. Rennyo at the remains of Yoshizaki Gobō, visitors can see the same Lake Kitagata, its Kashima no Mori, and the surrounding forests that Rennyo and his followers viewed from their temple during the Muromachi Period.

Rennyo built Yoshizaki Gobō in 1471 atop the mountain where its remains still stand, as a headquarters for the Jōdo Shinshu sect of Buddhism in the Hokuriku Region. Jōdo Shinshu has deep roots in Hokuriku, and even now pilgrims from Higashi Honganji Temple in Kyoto travel to Yoshizaki Gobō on foot, carrying with them a holy vessel housing an image of this Buddhist holy man.