



Eihei-ji Temple

Shikoku, Eihei-ji-cho

Opened as a training ground, its founder Dōgen taught that life in its entirety was a form of training. Meals, cleaning: all becomes an essential part of its monks' daily regimen. Walking along its gleaming floors, one stands taller and feels an inner peace.



Monk at the Chūjakumon Gate (Prefectural Cultural Treasure)^①

Founded in 1244 by St. Dogen, who believed strongly in zazen as a tool for spiritual training, Eihei-ji Temple is the main temple of the Sōtō sect of Zen Buddhism and houses over 200 itinerant monks, training day and night to reach Buddhist enlightenment. Totalling nearly 330,000m2 in area, 70 structures surround the main Shichidō Monastery.

Each summer brings Tōrō Nagashi, or lantern floating, to the nearby Kuzuryū River. The soft, flickering light of thousands of paper lanterns drifting slowly downstream as monks chant Buddhist sutras paints a soothing yet stimulating scene for attendees.



Karamon Gate



Eihei-ji's monastery and fall foliage



Floating lanterns



Ringling the bell at midnight

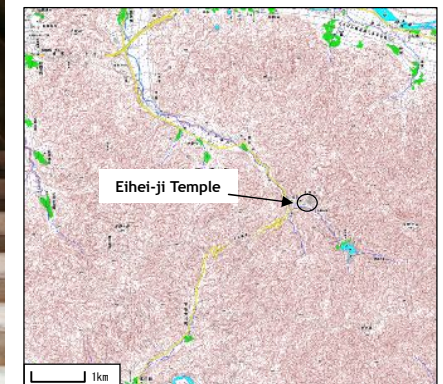
Built in 1914, the Echizen Railways Eihei-ji-guchi Station has since served as the gateway to Eihei-ji Temple, and its long heritage has been preserved. Still in use today, it welcomes visitors to the present-day Eihei-ji while maintaining its character and feel.



Temple corridor



Eihei-ji-guchi Station (Higahi Furuichi, Eihei-ji-cho)^②



Photo① courtesy of Eihei-ji Temple, Photo② of Eihei-ji-cho