



Mt. Ochi

Ōtan-ji, Echizen-cho

The priest Taichō, the founder of religious faith fusing Shinto and Buddhist belief and ritual, gazed upon the ocean, neighboring mountains, and nearby villages from Ochi's summit. Today, its Ōtan-ji Temple retains its heritage as one of the founding sites of this syncretistic religion.



Mt. Hakusan, as viewed from the inner precincts of Mt. Ochi's Ōtan-ji (Ōtan-ji, Echizen-cho)

Mt. Ochi, located in the western part of the Niu Mountain Range, is where the great priest Taichō spent his youth in religious training. At its peak sit Ochi Shrine, a temple inner sanctum enshrining Ōkuninushi and the thousand-bodied bodhisattva, a temple hall enshrining Taichō, and other buildings important to the



Tonoike (Ōtan-ji, Echizen-cho)^①

birth of the priest's mountain religion. Close by sits Tonoike, a pond said to have ties to Oda Nobunaga.

It is said that Taichō, after viewing Mt. Hakusan from atop Mt. Ochi, deemed it sacred and determined to climb to its summit. Taking two of his students with him, he set out on his journey, stopping at Heisen-ji in Katsuyama before reaching his goal

Ōtan-ji Temple was founded by Taichō, and has a history of 1300 years as well as the proud distinction of being the oldest temple in the Hokuriku area.



Mantōe, a festival of lights at Ōtan-ji (Ōtan-ji, Echizen-cho)^②



Stone stairway to the inner precincts of Ōtan-ji^③

Originally known as Daichō-in, the temple housed 1,000 monks at its peak.

Every year on November 3rd, candles are arranged in the shape of the characters for "wish" and lit at dusk, an event known as Mantōe. Locals come to celebrate this festival and view the glow of the candles as they bathe the temples precincts in a soft light.



Ochi Shrine, atop Mt. Ochi (Ōtan-ji, Echizen-cho)

