

The plum trees on either side of this path were brought back from the Korean peninsula by the feudal lord Date Masamune (1567–1636), the founder of Zuiganji Temple. Between 1592 and 1598 he participated in two unsuccessful invasions of the peninsula led by Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537–1598), who in 1590 had unified Japan under his rule after more than a century of civil war. Masamune had the trees planted at Zuiganji to commemorate its construction. When the trees bloom in early April, the blooms on this tree are red, while those on the tree opposite are white. The combination of red and white is auspicious in Japan and is often seen at celebrations.