

According to tradition, the monk Kenbutsu Shonin (dates unknown) took up residence on Oshima Island in 1104 and spent at least twelve years here in solitary Buddhist practice. Among other feats, he is said to have recited the Lotus Sutra 60,000 times and gained the powers of levitation and teleportation. People are drawn to the island and its caves by the legend of Kenbutsu as well as the beauty of the island which is said to resemble the Pure Land, or Buddhist paradise. People began erecting gravestones and carving memorial tablets on Oshima in the twelfth century.