

Otonashi Falls

Otonashi Falls is located in the forest a short distance from Raigo-in Temple. According to local legend, when the Buddhist priest Ennin (794–864) chanted *shomyo* here, he could not be heard over the sound of the rushing water. Eventually, however, his chanting formed a beautiful harmony, and the water fell silent. It is from this story that Otonashi gets its name, meaning “soundless.”

Better known by his posthumous name, Jikaku Daishi, Ennin spent nine years in China from 838 before returning to instruct his disciples in *shomyo* chanting. He built Raigo-in to serve as a training hall for chanting.

The forest surrounding the temple is a dense haven for wildlife, including deer. The trees are particularly beautiful when the leaves take on the colors of autumn.