

## **The Temple of Chishakuin Overview and History**

The temple of Chishakuin is the headquarters of the Chisan school of Shingon Buddhism. It supervises over 3,000 sub-temples throughout the country and serves as the primary training site for novice monks who must master a broad range of esoteric rituals. The temple flourished during the Edo period (1603–1867), receiving lavish patronage from the Tokugawa house. It remains a vibrant center of Buddhist training, devotion, and community engagement.

Screen paintings produced in the early seventeenth century by Hasegawa Tohaku (1539–1610) are exemplary examples of art from the Azuchi-Momoyama period (1568–1603). Depicting scenes from nature using a juxtaposition of vibrant gold and deep earth tones, the screens are designated National Treasures. Chishakuin's garden is equally celebrated. Inspired by the region around Mt. Lu in central China, its scenery changes throughout the year, revealing a distinct beauty in each season.