

Omuro 88-kasho Shikoku Kurige

The *Omuro 88-kasho Shikoku Kurige* (Travels Along the Omuro 88-Temple Pilgrimage) is a humorous adventure book set along Ninnaji's Omuro 88-Temple Pilgrimage. It was published in 1832 to commemorate the reopening of the pilgrimage route after repairs following a major earthquake two years earlier, and to serve as an advertisement. The author, Santo Kyokaku, modeled his tale on the *Tokaidochu Hizakurige* (Travels on the Eastern Seaboard, published in translation as *Shank's Mare*), an illustrated comic novel written as a traveler's guide to the Tokaido, the highway between Kyoto and Edo (present-day Tokyo). The 12-part *Tokaidochu Hizakurige* was one of the most popular books of its time in Japan and was widely imitated. The fact that a version set within the Omuro Pilgrimage was published suggests that the pilgrimage was viewed as more than a religious site. It was also a tourist destination, and a place that could provide a backdrop for an amusing story packed with whimsical antics and outlandish characters.