

Zuikōin (Subtemple of Engyōji)

Zuikōin is one of six subtemples within the Engyōji complex. Historically, each subtemple supported the broader Engyōji community by fostering a group of parishioners, usually based around a charismatic abbot and a distinct set of practices, or the study of a particular sutra or deity. Although little is known about the history of Zuikōin, a plaque near the temple gate attests to its role as lodging for visiting pilgrims. Today the subtemple is celebrated for its scenic beauty. Its earthen outer wall and the brilliant colors of the maple leaves in autumn make it a popular backdrop for wedding photos.

Immediately opposite the temple stands a small shrine dedicated to Daikokuten, a syncretic deity of mixed Buddhist and Shinto origins who is associated with wealth, farmers, food, and good fortune. Nearby is a poetry stone honoring the celebrated poet Hatsui Shizue (1900–1976), who was born in the nearby city of Himeji.