

### **Temple 15: Kokubunji**

On the precincts of this temple is Awa Kokubunji Teien, a garden said to have been created during the Azuchi-Momoyama period (1568–1603). A dynamic arrangement of rocks springs from its many small hills, and it is a designated Place of Scenic Beauty.

The priest Gyoki (668–749) founded the temple in 741. He came to Tokushima at the request of Emperor Shomu (701–756), who had set out to unify the country by establishing a Kokubunji temple in each of the country's provinces. Although it was originally affiliated with the Hosō sect, Kokubunji changed to the Shingon sect in 815 when Kūkai trained there. It was destroyed by fire during the Momoyama period (1573–1615) and fell into ruin. In 1741, it was rebuilt and became part of the Soto school of Zen Buddhism.