

## Shikyakumon Gate

The Shikyakumon Gate is the oldest surviving structure at Menuma Shodenzan Temple. It is believed to have been built in the early Edo period (1603–1867). The gate is supported by four posts (*shikyakumon* means four-legged gate) and was constructed without nails. It has details typical of the Muromachi period (1392–1573), such as the carved *gegyo* (decorative wooden pendants) under the gables that act as talismans against fire, and carvings on the ends of the beams. Compared to the larger Kisomon, the Shikyakumon has a simple appearance, and is simply decorated.

White marks halfway up the gate posts indicate the water level during a major flood in 1910, when the nearby Tone River broke its banks and flooded the temple complex and surrounding villages. The gate is also called the *chumon* (middle gate).