

## **Daishido Hall**

The Daishido Hall at Menuma Shodenzan Temple enshrines the renowned Buddhist priest Kukai (known posthumously as Kobo Daishi; 774–835), who helped popularize Buddhism in Japan. He founded the Shingon school of Buddhism, to which Menuma Shodenzan Temple belongs. The hall was built in 1995.

In Shikoku, where Kukai was born, there is a pilgrimage route called the Shikoku Henro. The route connects 88 temples where Kukai performed religious training. In the Kanto region (Tokyo and surrounding prefectures), a similar pilgrimage route has been established, linking 88 temples with ties to the priest. Menuma Shodenzan is the final temple on the Kanto pilgrimage route. Some pilgrims come to the Daishido Hall dressed in traditional white pilgrim attire. As Menuma Shodenzan is the last stop on the route, it is common for groups of pilgrims to take commemorative photographs in front of the Daishido. Many of these photographs are displayed inside the hall.