**Yosenji Temple**

Yosenji Temple is a branch of Kaneiji, a Tendai Buddhist temple in Ueno, Tokyo. It is the twenty-fifth stop on the Mogami pilgrimage, a circuit of 33 local temples dedicated to Kannon, the bodhisattva of compassion. The famous haiku poet Matsuo Basho (1644–1694) lodged here for seven nights during his 156-day journey from Edo (present-day Tokyo) through northern Japan in 1689. He was accompanied by his disciple Kawai Sora (1649–1710). Their journey was the basis for one of his most famous works, *Oku no hosomichi* (Narrow Road to the Deep North). Along the way they stopped in Obanazawa for 10 nights to visit Basho's friend, the wealthy local merchant Suzuki Seifu (1651–1721). The Suzushizuka, a stone monument inscribed with a brief biography of Basho and a haiku he composed during his stay, stands on the grounds:

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| *suzushisa o* | Making the coolness |
| *waga yado ni shite* | My abode, here I lie |
| *nemaru nari* | Completely at ease. |

(Translated by Donald Keene)

The year of Yosenji's founding is unknown, but it was renovated in 1688, and reconstructed after it burned down in 1895. The temple commands a view of pastoral rice fields, with Mt. Gassan and Mt. Chokai towering in the distance.