Shohoji Temple

Shohoji, a Zen Buddhist temple at the base of Mt. Buppoji, is a popular autumn foliage viewing spot. In November, maple trees on the grounds turn vivid shades of orange and red, particularly around the entrance. At various times of year, azalea, iris, sal trees (*Shorea robusta*), and other plants add color to the tree-covered hill.

According to legend, Shohoji was founded in 744 and dedicated to the repose of Prince Asaka (728–744) after he was buried nearby. The current temple was built in the mid-seventeenth century by the Tamura family, who were the lords of Bukkoji Castle, and supported by the empress Tokugawa Masako (Tofukumon'in, 1607–1678), who was granted Wazuka estate lands upon her marriage to Emperor Go-Mizuno'o.

The temple grounds contain two Tangible Cultural Properties designated by Kyoto Prefecture: the main gate, which was relocated from the Kyoto Sento Imperial Palace, and the Buddha Hall, which enshrines a statue of Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Infinite Life and Light. There are also small halls for worshiping a Koshin folk deity and the bodhisattva Jizo,

a guardian of travelers and children. Between them are twelve round-faced Jizo statues, each posed with a Chinese zodiac animal.

The main hall houses a statue of Sei Kannon, the bodhisattva of compassion, donated by Tokugawa Masako. Visitors who wish to enter the main hall and venerate the statue should inquire with temple staff.

Access

From the Wazukayama-no-Ie bus stop, turn left at the large intersection and walk approximately 8 minutes.