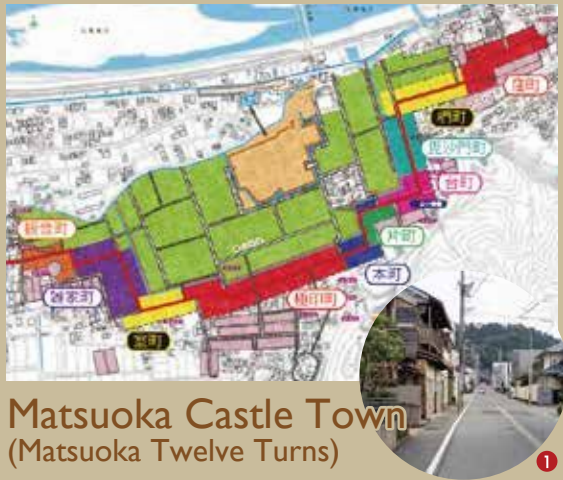




Matsuoka Castle Town (Matsuoka Twelve Turns)

Once under feudal rule, the streets of this town still retain the atmosphere of the Edo period. Matsuoka Castle Town is home to many historical and cultural sites. On the “Matsuoka Twelve Turns” street (designed with multiple right-angle turns to prevent enemy intrusion), visitors will find famous temples and shrines, such as Tenryuji visited by the poet Matsuo Basho, nationally renowned sake breweries, and the Kasugayama Kofun (burial mound), featuring a stone chamber (always open for walking and exploration).



Tenryuji Temple (Soto Zen Buddhism, Seiryozan Tenryuji)

Tenryuji Temple is a branch temple of Daihonzan Eihei, the head temple of the Soto Zen school. It was founded by order of Matsudaira Masakatsu, the first lord of the Echizen-Matsuoka Domain. The temple is known for being visited by the renowned haiku poet, Matsuo Basho, and a stone monument engraved with one of his haiku stands on the temple grounds. Visitors may participate in Saturday Zen meditation sessions, as well as short or long-term Zen training stays.

Address: 1-64 Kasuga, Matsuoka, Eihei Town



Mt. Yoshinogatake (Mt. Zao)

This 547-meter-high mountain is one of the “Echizen Five Mountains” (Mt. Ochi, Mt. Hakusan, Mt. Monju, Mt. Yoshinogatake, and Mt. Hino), opened by the Buddhist monk Taicho Daishi. It is also known as Mt. Zao, as the shrine near the summit is said to be dedicated to Zao Gongen.



Matsuoka Kofungun (Matsuoka Burial Mounds)

Around 50 Kofun (burial mounds), constructed over roughly 500 years from the Yayoi period to late Kofun Period, are spread across the area. Four of these keyhole-shaped tombs have been designated as National Historic Sites, and the nearby Kasugayama Kofun is designated as a Prefectural Historic Site (always open for walking and exploration).



Wakuwaku RiverCAN

(Kuzuryu River Basin Disaster Prevention Center)

Naruka Ozeki (Naruka Dam/Weir) is located at the head of an alluvial fan where the Kuzuryu River flows into the Fukui Plain. The Wakuwaku RiverCAN is an education facility that archives and displays various materials related to flood control (disaster prevention), water usage, and environmental conservation of the Kuzuryu River.



Shiki no Mori (Four Seasons Forest) Complex

The Shiki no Mori Complex in Eihei Town consists of the “Multi-Industry Exchange Center” and the “Sanshokaku (Reception Hall).”

The Multi-Industry Exchange Center offers facilities such as telework and coworking spaces. The Former Sanshokaku faithfully recreates the original grand hall (160 tatami mats), a coffered ceiling, and floral-and-bird paintings of Daihonzan Eihei. The corridor displays treasured artwork and cultural properties related to Eihei Town.

Address: 9-1-2 Yama, Eihei Town



Echizen Railway Eihei-guchi Station Building

Opened in 1913 as Eihei Station on the Kyoto Electric Light Echizen Railway, it was popularly known as “Higashi-Furuichi Station.” The original station building, built in 1913, was converted into a community center after the new station building opened in 2014.

Along with Matsuoka Station and Shiizakai Station, these four sites have been designated as Registered Cultural Properties of Japan.



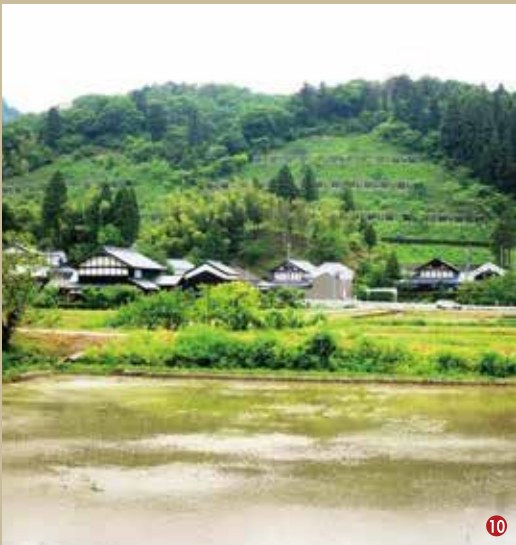
Former Kyoto Electric Light Furuichi Electric Substation (Brick Warehouse)

This brick-built substation from the Kyoto Electric Light era remains within the Echizen Railway’s Eihei-guchi Station.



Mt. Joyama (Hatano Castle Ruins)

Elevation: 473.8 meters. Volunteers from the Joyama Association spent ten years completing the hiking trail. The site was designated a historic site of the town in February 1996 and a historic site of Fukui Prefecture in April 2001.



Kyozen District (Traditional Farmhouse Preservation and Promotional District)

This village is located on the narrowest flat land roughly halfway between Echizen Railway’s Eihei-guchi Station and Daihonzan Eihei. It retains many farmhouse-style residences and earthen storehouses. Combined with the Eihei River running through its center and the mountainous backdrop, the district preserves a rural landscape unchanged by time.



Kippoji Temple (Soto Zen Buddhism Robaizan Kippoji)

This temple was the training monastery where Zen Master Dogen Zenji first trained after relocating from Kyoto to Echizen. It features the “Tettsuzaka” slope where Chef/Zen Master Tettsu was said to have carried rice porridge, and the “Mikaizan Zazen Stone,” where Dogen Zenji practiced seated meditation (zazen).

Address: 35-13-2 Yoshimine, Eihei Town



Daihonzan Eihei Temple (Soto Zen Buddhism, Eihei Temple)

Daihonzan Eihei Temple is a zazen monastery founded by Dogen Zenji in 1244. Nestled deep in the mountains, Eihei Temple consists of more than 70 temple pavilions and pagodas. Eihei Temple’s wooden structures, such as the sanctum and lecture hall, were designated as Important Cultural Properties in 2019. (Visiting Hours: 8:30–16:30)

Address: 5-15 Shihi, Eihei Town



Akai Family Residence

The ancestors of the Akai family were lords of Takami Castle in Tanba during the Sengoku period and served Matsudaira Tadanao of the Fukui feudal domain. In recognition of their contribution during the Winter and Summer Sieges of Osaka, the Fukui feudal domain granted permission in 1767 to build the Koraimon gate designed to allow riders on horseback to pass through. The Koraimon gate was designated a Municipal Cultural Property, and four buildings on the site, including the main residence, were registered as National Tangible Cultural Properties of Japan in 2024. (Visitors may view the site at any time, but permission is required to enter beyond the gate.)



Benzaiten Hakuryu-o Daigongen Shrine

This shrine is dedicated to Benzaiten, the goddess of prosperity in business. People come from all over Japan to pray for business success. A sacred white snake, believed to be a manifestation of the deity, is said to live on the shrine grounds (always open for walking and exploration).

Address: 31-9 Takehara, Eihei Town



Kogyoji Temple

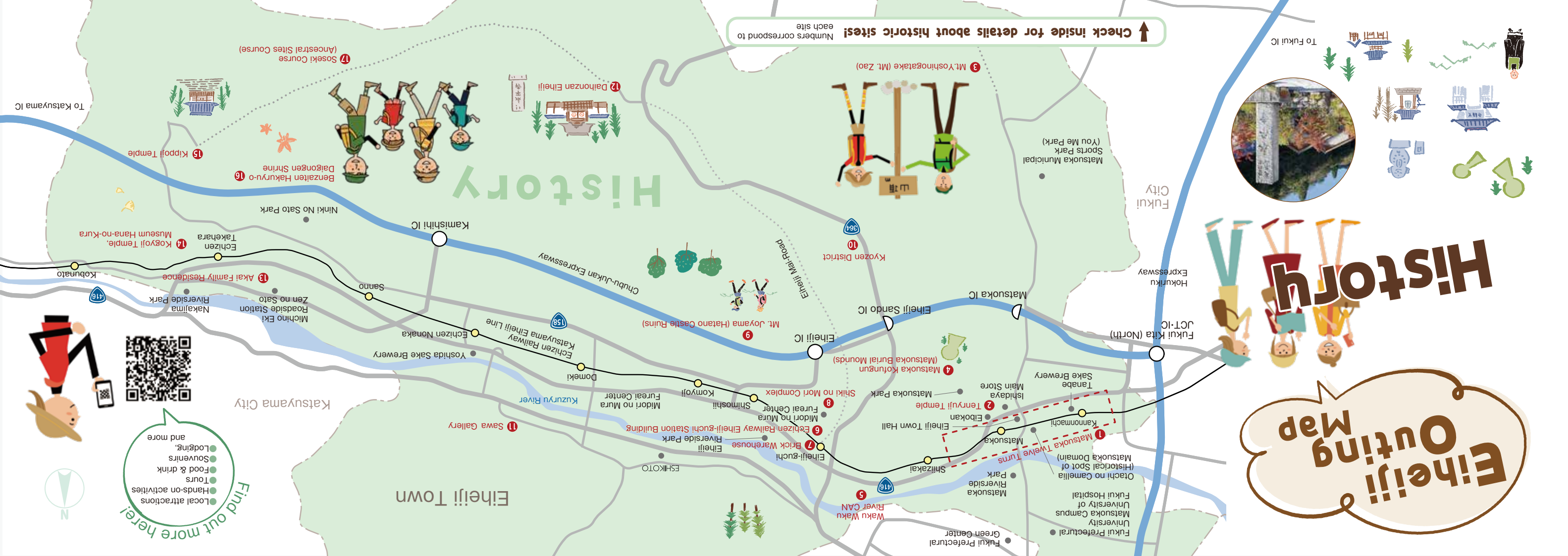
Founded in 1406 by Shukaku Shonin, the third son of Shakunyo Shonin, the fifth head priest of Honganji Temple. The temple is renowned for its “weeping cherry blossoms in spring” and “ginkgo trees in autumn.” The museum “Hana-no-Kura” is also located within the temple grounds.

Address: 34-2 Fujimaki, Eihei Town



Mt. Daibutsuji Ancestral Site Pilgrimage Hike

Elevation: 807m. This ridge trail, running from Kippoji through Mt. Daibutsuji to Daihonzan Eihei, is affectionately known as the “Ancestral Sites Course,” believed to be the route Zen Master Dogen traveled.



禅 × ZEN



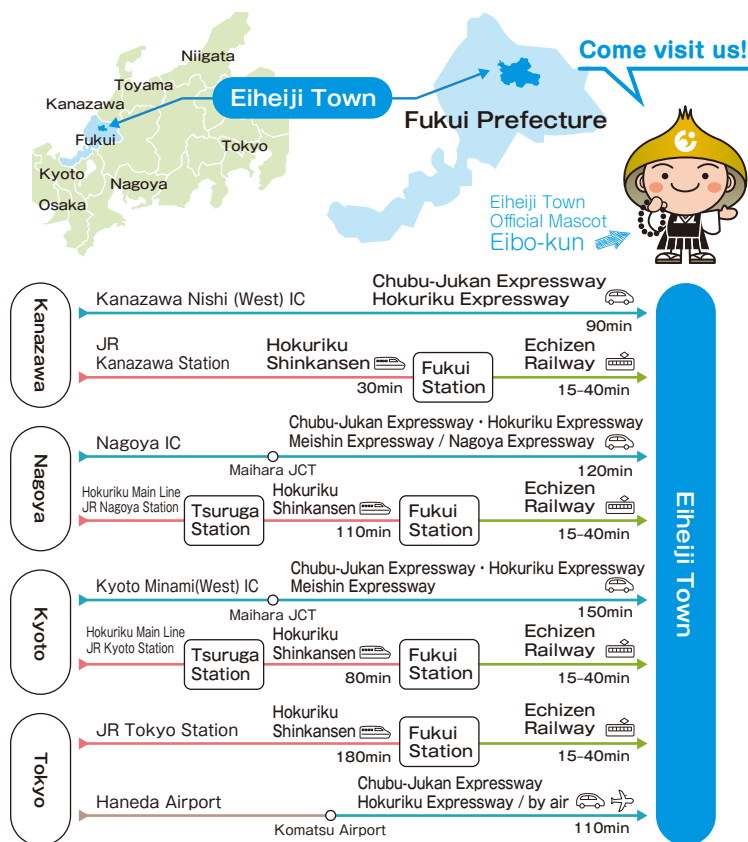
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わたし
こころ
からだ

福井県 永平寺町

Eihei-ji, Fukui

Access to Eihei-ji



ZENTABI Eihei-ji Town, Fukui : Where Zen Breathes

Contact : Eihei-ji Town Commerce, Industry and Tourism Division 0776-61-3921



Tourism Website

ZENTABI

歴史
History



永平寺町
EIHEIJI

