

Otsu City Sakamoto Preservation Zone for a Group of Traditional Buildings

Important Preservation Zone for a Group of Traditional Buildings

The Sakamoto district of Otsu is located on the east side of the Hiei mountain range, and the west side of Lake Biwa. Since ancient times, the area has developed as a gateway town (or “ Monzenmachi ” in Japanese) to Enryakuji Temple and Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine. During the Edo period [1603–1868], when monks who had continued their training on top of Mt. Hiei reached old age, the abbot of the Tendai sect of Buddhism granted them a satobo (a retirement residence) at the foot of the mountain. Many of these satobos were created in the Sakamoto district, which retains an outstanding historical landscape to this day with its buildings, gardens, Ano People Style Stone Walls, and surrounding trees and streams.