

23_5_English_小船入の常夜灯

Night Light of Kofunairi

Designated Tangible Cultural Property of Otsu City

This Japanese night light (a type of street light) was constructed in 1808 by the people of Otsu and Kyoto in worship of Mie Prefecture's Ise Jingu Shrine, and in order to wish safe travels upon those making the pilgrimage to it. This light reveals that during the Edo period [A.D. 1603–1867], this location was home to a landing place for boats and was a hub for lake transportation between Yabase (modern day Kusatsu City). Eventually becoming popular among travelers, such as worshippers of Ise Jingu Shrine, many Edo period teahouse rest stops were located nearby this light.