

Konchi-in Temple

Originally located at Takagamine, in the northern part of Kyoto, Konchi-in temple was relocated to its present site in 1605. The chief monk of Nanzenji Temple at that time, Ishin Suden, restored and reconstructed it as one of the 12 subtemples of Nanzenji Temple. With his strong connection with Ieyasu Tokugawa, the first shogun of the Tokugawa Shogunate, Suden was allowed to play a major part in both political and religious affairs, being touted as "the Prime Minister clad in black clothing".

A dry landscape garden designed by the master landscape designer Kobori Enshu was completed in about 1630. The white sand in the garden represents the ocean with a treasure ship sailing on its sand seas. A motif is arranged between two flat stones, A crane-shaped stone on the right and a turtle-shaped stone on the left, and the surrounding scenery enhances the appearance of the garden.

Wherever you go in this temple, you can experience Japanese culture as it existed during the late 16th and early 17th centuries.