

Sacred Town with Stonework



Viewing Lake Biwa from Mt. Hiei

Town of Satobo

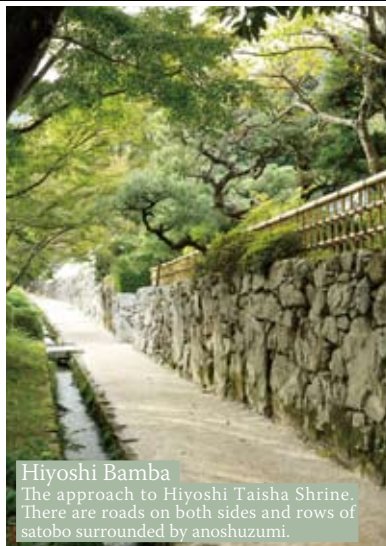
Traditionally known as a town sacred to both Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple and Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine, Sakamoto is also home to numerous satobo. Satobo were constructed for the retirement and recuperation of elderly monks who have undergone strict training in "sanbo" on Mt. Hiei.

Beautiful and Robust Anoshuzumi

As far back as Saicho's era a group of skilled masons called anoshu had handled civil engineering work atop the mountain. Come the middle ages, anoshu were responsible for the maintenance of satobo and had created a beautiful townscape of durable stonework known as anoshuzumi. There are some 50 satobo scattered around the foot of the mountain. Visitors can enjoy the well maintained gardens thriving on the refreshing waters of Mt. Hiei.

Satobo Grouped around Shiga-in Monzeki

The once highly prestigious Shiga-in Monzeki was a retreat for Imperial Family members who became head priests of the Tendai sect. The paths to surrounding Satobo were built from here. Satobo were grouped on the mountain around Todo, Saito, and Yokawa, and in Sakamoto at the foot of the mountain where they have literally shaped the town. Shiga-in Monzeki and the former Chikurin-in are the only satobo open to the public (entrance fee applies).



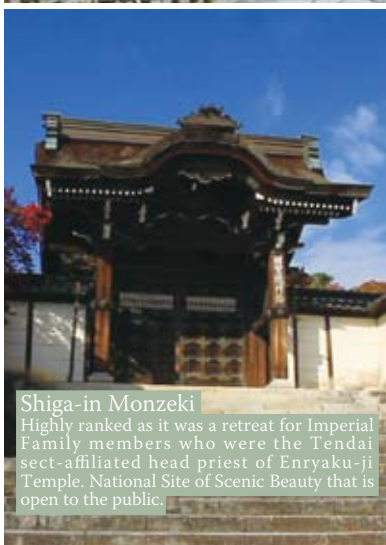
Hiyoshi Bamba
The approach to Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine. There are roads on both sides and rows of satobo surrounded by anoshuzumi.



Shikan-in
The office responsible for general affairs at Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple was located in a satobo. This temple handled the Todo district.



Anoshuzumi
Anoshu, a group of skilled masons originating in the Korean Peninsula lived in the town of Ano next to Sakamoto. They are also credited with the creation of the satobo.



Shiga-in Monzeki
Highly ranked as it was a retreat for Imperial Family members who were the Tendai sect-affiliated head priest of Enryaku-ji Temple. National Site of Scenic Beauty that is open to the public.



Former Chikurin-in
A satobo that is open to the public. The garden, which thrives on the clear waters of Omiya River, borrows the natural beauty of Mt. Hachioji.