



Ōbai-in 黄梅院

Ōbai-in is a semi-autonomous sub-temple of Daitoku-ji and opens only twice a year during spring and autumn.

The opening times differ every year. Please check in advance on their website if you plan to visit. The spring opening is usually longer than the autumn opening.

Daitoku-ji temple

Daitoku-ji is the head temple of the Daitoku-ji branch of Rinzai Zen Buddhism. The temple has 22 sub-temples on its compounds in Kyoto.

Daitoku-ji was founded in 1315 by the priest Shūhō Myōchō. Later he received the name Daitō Kokushi.

Many of the temples burnt down during the Ōnin War in 1474. Ikkyū Sōjun, the new head priest of Daitoku-ji, re-built many of these temples with donations from wealthy merchants.

Daitoku-ji is also known as the family temple of tea masters. Since the Sengoku period and the following Azuchi-Momoyama period, many tea masters came here to study, teach, and for drinking tea.

History of Ōbai-in

There are some theories about how Ōbai-in was founded. The temple itself writes that Oda Nobunaga came to Kyoto in 1562 and chose his subordinate Toyotomi Hideyoshi (at that time probably known as Kinoshita Tōkichirō) as military governor for Kyoto and ordered that he builds a hermitage (庵 - an) in remembrance of Nobunagas father.

Sub-temple

Sub-temples are autonomous temples under the authority of the head temple

Rinzai-Shū

臨濟宗

The Rinzai school is the second largest school of Japanese Zen Buddhism, after the Sōtō school and followed by the Ōbaku school

Shūhō Myōchō

宗峰妙超

1282 – 1337

Known as Daitō Kokushi

Ikkyū Sōjun

一休宗純

1394-1481

Ikkyū Sōjun, Zen monk and poet who introduced Zen philosophy to Japanese art and culture