

Shōan-do 少庵堂

This small tea house was built in 1925 and is dedicated to the son-in-law of the famous tea master Sen no Rikyū. Sen no Shōan was the second generation in the Sen family tradition of Japanese tea ceremony. There is a wooden image of him enshrined here.



Shōan-dō 少庵堂 Small Tea house



Yogo-seki 耀号石 Shadow-facing Stone, the temple's guardian stone



Along the winding path, you can see a low, flat stone which has a sacred straw rope tied around it. Its name is Yogo-seki (耀号石 - shadow-facing stone) and is the temple's guardian stone. Next to it is a small spring called the 'Clear waters of the morning sun'.



A little further down the path, after turning to the left, another tea house comes into view.



The Shonan-tei is said to have been build by Musō Soseki in 1339. It was repaired by Sen no Shōan (1546-1614), who also lived in it in his later years. Japan declared it one of its Important Cultural Properties. The moon viewing platform (月見台-Tsukimi-dai) facing the garden is unique to this tea house. It is easy to imagine him enjoying the sight of a full moon on a clear summer night.

A square area directly above the pond indicates the place were once the Hōjō, the private quarters of the head priest, have stood. The Island you can see from this point is the Island of the Morning sun. The Island of the Evening Sun is directly behind it.

Small gate and mud wall 土壁 Tsuchi-kabe

Shōnan-tei 湘南亭

Moon viewing platform 月見台 Tsuki-mi-dai



View through the window of the Tanhoku-tei

Tanhoku-tei(潭北亭) Going around another turn, the Tanhokutei comes into view. The ceramist Mashimizu, who had a great fondness for this garden, built this tea house in 1928.



Turtle Island 亀島 Kame-jima





Left: Tanhoku-tei 潭北亭

Right: Sanzon-iwagumi 三尊石組 Stone arrangement representing a Buddhist triad. A large rock is placed in the middle, two smaller rocks are placed to its left and right side.



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