



Misato City Utsushi Sacred Place

What is the 88 places of the New *Shikoku* four territories Pilgrimage ?



It is said that the 88 sacred places in the four territories of *Shin-Shikoku* Pilgrimage was opened in 1841 by *Nishiarai daishi sojiji* Temple (*Adachi-ku, Tokyo*), which is the number one *fudasho* temple.

The year of opening is estimated from the year when the guide map of the sacred place was printed and the year when the stone pillars in each temple were established.

Pilgrimage to 88 temples in 4 territories, as the name of the sacred place indicates. These four territories are *Fuchie* territory (*Adachi-ku, Tokyo*), *Kasai* territory (*Katsushika-ku, Tokyo, Edogawa-ku, Koto-ku*), *Hachijo* territory (*Yashio City, Soka City, Koshigaya City, Saitama*), and *Nigo-han* territory. (*Misato City and Yoshikawa City, Saitama Prefecture*).

During the pilgrimage, we will visit a temple called *Daishido*, which is located in the precincts of each temple and is dedicated to the statue of *Kobo Daishi Kukai*.



Ryo : It is one of the divisions the area in the *Edo* period.

The number of pilgrims in the sacred place has decreased due to the abolition of Buddha after the *Meiji* Restoration.

It was once obsolete. Therefore, in 1902, the 64th *Fudasho Toyoji* temple (*Koshigaya* City).

Temple such as the 65th *Fudasho Tozenin* temple (*Soka* City), and *Tozenin* temple, a *Kosha** in *Asakusa*, have rebuilt the sacred places.

According to those who knew when the pilgrimage was taking place, they used to put a statue of *Daishi* on the rear car and went around *Nishiarai* in order. This is called “*Daishi Meguri*”.

At each *fudasho*, a statue of *Daishi* stayed for a few days, during which a fair was held it was crowded. However, as the transportation network was improved, it became difficult to secure a place to open fairs, so it was re-arranged around *Showa* 40(1965).

Kosha: An organization among *koju*. *Koju* refers to people who form a Group and visit the God and Buddha. *Ko* is an organization that Aims to visit and donate to temples and shrines.