



Pilgrimage to the 88 Temples of Shikoku Island: A Bibliography of Resources in English

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The most widely known work in English about the Shikoku pilgrimage is undoubtedly Oliver Statler's 1983 book *Japanese Pilgrimage*, which combines a personal account of Statler's pilgrimage in Shikoku with substantial background and cultural information on the topic. The University of Hawaii's Hamilton Library Japan Collection houses Statler's personal papers in the **Oliver Statler Collection**, which includes several boxes of material related to the Shikoku pilgrimage. The Oliver Statler Collection is an unparalleled and one of a kind source of information in English on the Shikoku pilgrimage. The contents range from Statler's detailed notes on each of the 88 temples to the original manuscript of *Japanese Pilgrimage*. Also included in the collection are several hand-written translations of previous works on the pilgrimage that were originally published in Japanese or languages other than English. The Oliver Statler Collection may be the only existing English translations of many of these works, as they were never published in English. The Collection also contains several photo albums documenting Statler's pilgrimages on Shikoku taken between 1968 and 1979.

A Pilgrimage to the 88 Temples in Shikoku Island (1973) is likely the earliest example of an English-language monograph on the specific topic of the Shikoku pilgrimage. This book, written by the Japanese author Mayumi Banzai, focuses on the legendary priest Kobo Daishi (774-835 A.D.) and the details of his association with the Shikoku pilgrimage. The books *A Henro Pilgrimage Guide to the Eighty-eight Temples on Shikoku, Japan* (Taisen Miyata), *Echoes of Incense: a Pilgrimage in Japan* (Don Weiss), *The Traveler's Guide to Japanese Pilgrimages* (Ed Readicker-Henderson), and *Tales of a Summer Henro* (Craig McLachlan) are all more recent personal accounts offering a less scholarly and more practical "guidebook" look at the pilgrimage. A short introduction to the pilgrimage can be found in the reference work *Encyclopedia of Monasticism*.

In the past decade or so several popular and travel magazines and even newspapers have featured short accounts and information about the pilgrimage. Magazine articles include "The Path of Kobo Daishi" (Sklarewitz, *World & I*), "Pathways to Enlightenment" (Pye, *UNESCO Courier*), "On Being a Pilgrim" (McNicol, *Look Japan*), "Holy Strollers" (McNicol, *J@pan Inc*), and "Hitting the Pilgrim Trail" (Takayama, *Newsweek*). The Canadian newspaper *Ottawa Citizen* recently featured a series of articles on the pilgrimage written by Robert Sibley, which ran in 13 weekly installments from "The Way of Shikoku" in April 2005 to "The Journey's End: Sayonara" in September, 2005.

Ian Reader is perhaps the most prolific writer on the pilgrimage in the English language. His latest work on the Shikoku pilgrimage is the scholarly monograph ***Making Pilgrimages: Meaning and Practice in Shikoku***, published by the University of Hawaii Press in 2005. Ian Reader's previous works on the Shikoku pilgrimage include several chapters in edited books, such as "**Dead to the World: Pilgrims in Shikoku**" in *Pilgrimage in Popular Culture*, "**Legends, Miracles, and Faith in Kobo Daishi and the Shikoku Pilgrimage**" in *Religions of Japan in Practice*, and "**Pilgrimage as Cult: The Shikoku Pilgrimage as a Window on Japanese Religion**" in *Religion in Japan: Arrows to Heaven and Earth*.

The Japanese Journal of Religious Studies published a special edition in Fall 1997 devoted to the topic of pilgrimage in Japan. This issue includes three English-language articles that address the Shikoku pilgrimage: "**Editors' Introduction: Pilgrimage in the Japanese Religious Tradition**" (Ian Reader and Paul L. Swanson), "**Pilgrimage and Peregrination: Contextualizing the Saikoku *Junrei* and the Shikoku *Henro***" (Hoshino Eiki), and "**Shikoku's Local Authorities and *Henro* During the Golden age of the Pilgrimage**" (Kouamé, Nathalie). Two scholarly articles on the Shikoku pilgrimage by Hiroshi Tanaka appear in the journal *Canadian Geographer*. "**Geographic Expression of Buddhist Pilgrim Places on Shikoku Island, Japan**" and "**The Evolution of a Pilgrimage as a Spatial-Symbolic System**" both deal with the physical aspects of the pilgrimage and the 88 temples.

Ron Edwards, an Australian artist and author who completed the pilgrimage in 1988, provides us with unique visual representations of the Shikoku pilgrimage. After his journey he published a series of 5 short books of his sketches, each of which contains dozens of drawings as well as a text narrative: ***Wild Master and the Bongo Multiwagon, A Handful of Oranges, The Gentle Rain on Shikoku, Walking on Yellow Radish, and Underground Goldfish***. While these five books could be difficult to locate, "**The Eighty-eight Temples of Shikoku Island,**" an article written by Ron Edwards featuring several of his sketches, can be found in the journal *Arts of Asia*.

At least two documentary videos have been created on the Shikoku pilgrimage. The first is Oliver Statler's 30 minute ***Pilgrimage to the Eighty-eight Sacred Places of Shikoku***, released in 1983, the same year as his famous book *Japanese Pilgrimage. Between Two Worlds* is another short documentary of the pilgrimage produced by the University of California Extension Center for Media and Independent Learning.

The World Wide Web is an incredibly rich source of information in English about the pilgrimage. One of the most comprehensive and informative websites in English on the topic is David Turkington's ***Pilgrimage to the 88 Sacred Places of Shikoku***, where the author shares his experiences, photos, and advice on the pilgrimage. ***Healing Paths: the 88 Holy Temples of Shikoku*** is the English version of an informative Japanese website that provides a database of photos and background information on each of the 88 temples in the pilgrimage.



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