

え にち じ あと
慧 日 寺 跡
REMNANTS OF ENICHIJI



慧日寺は猫魔火山の南麓にあり、猫魔火山を造っている岩石の礫・砂が堆積して形成された扇状地上に立地しています。

平安時代の初めに奈良の高僧徳一菩薩によって開かれた寺院であり、平安時代以来さまざまな文物将来の拠点となったことから、会津仏教文化のいしずえを築いた寺としても知られています。

明治の初めに廃寺となり、寺跡は「慧日寺跡」として昭和45年に国の史跡に指定されました。以来、長年にわたり史跡整備事業が進められています。

また、史跡の東方に隣接する磐梯神社は、もともと慧日寺の鎮守として祀られていた磐梯明神を起源とし、慧日寺の廃寺後に神社として独立したものです。1200年の伝統を有する古社として、巫女舞や舟引き神事などかつての慧日寺の年中行事を継承しています。



Enichiji lies situated on top of an alluvial fan* formed by the accumulated pebbles, rocks, and sand on the southern foot of Mt. Nekoma. It is a temple built by monk (and later Bodhisattva) Tokuitsu of Nara. The basis of the cultural concepts that were refined after the Heian Period and later practiced in the region were developed here, so it is known as the foundation of Buddhist culture in Aizu. Though its status as a temple was annulled and it was abandoned at the beginning of the Meiji Era, its remains were designated as a historical remnant site (whose official title was “Remnants of Enichiji”) in 1970 (Shōwa 45). Since then, efforts for its restoration have continued.

Though Bandai Shrine—the shrine bordering Enichiji to the east—was originally built to enshrine Bandai Myojin as the guardian deity of Enichiji, it became an independent shrine after Enichiji was abandoned. As an old shrine with 1,200 year old traditions, it still holds Shinto rituals such as the shrine maiden’s ceremonial dance and tug of war festivities throughout the year.

*Describes a geological phenomenon where a river’s sediment is distributed over a wide base as a result of the river’s movement from a high gradient to a less steep gradient, and its subsequent slow in flow.

