

### **Kunisaki Rokugo Onsen**

Kunisaki Rokugo Onsen is a group of six *onsen* (hot springs) spread across Bungotakada. Among the six *onsen* are three different types of saline springs that are believed to alleviate various symptoms and cure a number of ailments: chloride springs, carbonated springs, and sulfate springs. Chloride springs are believed to retain heat and encourage blood circulation, while carbonated springs, also known as “beauty *onsen*,” are reported to soften the outer layer of the skin, creating a smooth and silky feeling. Finally, sulfate springs are believed to help heal wounds, boost circulation, and to counter depression and dry skin.

The six *onsen* that make up Kunisaki Rokugo Onsen—Hanairo Onsen, Ebisudani Onsen, Spaland Matama, Senninyu, Kaimon Onsen, and Fukinotou—each offer different purported health benefits as well as a unique ambience.

- Hanairo Onsen has an open-air bath (*rotenburo*) with a cold (24°C) carbonated spring that is believed to soften the skin. There are also springs that are safe for drinking with a water hardness of 1,500 milligrams per liter or higher.
- A lush forest surrounds the outdoor baths of Ebisudani Onsen, giving the impression of bathing in nature. The water of this sulfate spring is brown, which is a rare find in Oita prefecture.
- Spaland Matama is located inside the Sansuisou Inn, and the baths are open to the public. The soft, carbonated water warms the body and makes the skin feel smooth.
- At nearby Senninyu, the water is kept at 25°C or higher and has a pH level of 8.5 or above, and flows continually from the source. This hot spring is believed to be good for neuralgia and joint pain.
- Kaimon Onsen is a small, high-salinity, chloride spring with brown water located near Matama Beach.
- Lastly, Fukinotou is a carbonated hot spring next to Fukiji Temple (designated a National Treasure). It is located inside a Japanese inn and is only open to guests of the inn.