

## **Sagi-no-yu Onsen**

Sagi-no-yu Onsen is a natural hot spring (*onsen*) located on the Iinashi River in the city of Yasugi. According to legend, the *onsen* was discovered in the eighth century when an egret (*sagi*) was observed bathing there to heal an injured leg. During the Warring States period (1467–1615), it was used by successive warlords of nearby Gassan Toda Castle as a palace bath. A terrible flood in 1666 destroyed the hot spring and many settlements along the Iinashi river, and the *onsen* was forgotten. About 100 years ago, the source of the *onsen* was rediscovered and made the central feature of a traditional-style *ryokan* inn. The entrance wing of the inn is a converted 130-year-old farmhouse that once stood near Izumo Taisha. It was carefully dismantled, brought to the present site, and reconstructed. Over the years, several other inns have opened nearby, forming a small hot-spring community that lies within walking distance of the world-famous Adachi Art Museum.