

Goryuo Shrine

Goryuo Shrine perches on a rock cliff facing Nijimi Falls. To reach it, visitors pass through the torii gate at the trailhead of the Ryuokyo nature trail and follow the steps down to the river. The shrine venerates Takao no Mikoto, the “Dragon King” guardian deity of the two nearby hot springs, Kinugawa and Kawaji. The statue, carved in 1825, was once located in the wetlands of Mt. Keichoan to the northeast of this area, but was moved to its present location in 1929 after local residents suffered from a great flood and other calamities. The deity presides over water-related events, including rainfall, but worshipers also come to pray for help with school studies, work, and the harvest. The annual shrine festival is held on April 15.