

## **Oigami Onsen**

Oigami Onsen is a small hot-spring village on the Katashina River east of central Numata, with 13 spa hotels and inns among the steep hills on both sides of the river. These facilities offer a traditional hot-spring resort experience with bathing in various communal tubs and meals incorporating local ingredients such as freshwater fish and seasonal vegetables.

According to legend, people have been bathing at Oigami Onsen for more than a thousand years, and the discovery of the hot springs is attributed to the deity of the nearby Mt. Akagi. In the story, the deity takes the form of a snake to fight off its rival, the deity of Mt. Nantai, another mountain to the northeast. After the snake deity is wounded by an arrow fired by its opponent, it rips out the arrow and sticks it into the ground. Hot water gushes forth, healing the snake's wounds instantly and empowering it to drive away its adversary. Oigami Onsen is said to stand on the site where the snake-deity was rejuvenated, and the deity is enshrined at Akagi Shrine

above the village.

The landscape of the village and the surrounding valley can be taken in from the Nairaku Bridge, a bright red suspension bridge over the Katashina River.