



Kuzuryū River

Mt. Hō'on-ji, Katsuyama City; Matsuoka Shinmei, Eiheiji-cho; Others

Nothing can compare to the *ayu* raised in the pure waters of the Kuzuryū River, the largest in Fukui. The Naruka Dam at the river's center feeds water to the rich cropland of the Sakai Plains.



The majestic Kuzuryū River, as viewed from Mt. Hō'on-ji^①



Katsuyama's *benten zakura* brilliantly color the banks of the Kuzuryū River^②

Standing atop Mt. Hō'on-ji (elevation 1,357m) grants climbers a sweeping view of the grand Kuzuryū River and the Katsuyama City area. On a sunny day, one can enjoy a serene view extending as far as the Fukui Plains. Katsuyama City's *benten zakura* blossom into a veritable tunnel of cherry blossoms, stretching approximately 1.5km along the right bank of the river. The brilliant blossoms contrast with the snow-capped peaks of Mt. Dainichi (known as the "helm of Echizen") to give viewers a unique glimpse of Japan's snow country in spring.



Looking downstream from Gomatsu-bashi Bridge (Kuzuryū River)^③



Naruka Dam



Anglers in the Kuzuryū River

Though known today primarily for its peaceful environs, clear waters, and ample *ayu* fishing, the river has long been essential to the regions grain producing areas and water supply. Midstream lies the 5.7m-tall, 311.6m-long Naruka Dam, which regulates the river's flow and assures the distribution of its waters to local fields. Though modified many times over the years, the dam in its current, moveable form was built in 2004.

The delectable *ayu* that populate the river and its beautiful environs, both nurtured by its ample volume of water, are well-known throughout the country. From June through October, visitors can take in the sight of fisherman waist-deep in water hoping to catch these savory fish.

