



# Chinju Forest and Tsurugi Shrine

Ota, Echizen-cho

In the town of Ota near Tsurugi Shrine, one of Echizen's two great places of Shinto worship, the sound of taiko drums shakes listeners to the soul.



O • TA • I • KO concert, an annual August event<sup>1)</sup>

Tsurugi Shrine has a history dating back nearly 1,800 years, is one of the two great shrines of Echizen alongside Tsuruga City's Kehi Shrine and still active today in as a center of Shinto worship and religious ceremonies.

Ota, the district in which Tsurugi Shrine lies, is the hometown of Oda Nobunaga's ancestors, who were an

influential family connected to the shrine there. Their power extended to Owari Province and spanned much of the country by Nobunaga's time, but he never forgot his homeland, going to great efforts to protect the shrine and the people living near it.

In the vicinity of the shrine, much of the traditional architecture that marked its heyday as a temple town remains to this day along its streets.



Chinju Forest, where Tsurugi Shrine still stands (Ota, Echizen-cho)<sup>2)</sup>



Tsurugi Shrine, one of Echizen's two great Shinto Shrines (Ota, Echizen-cho)<sup>3)</sup>



Traditional architecture near Tsurugi Shrine (Ota, Echizen-cho)

Taiko, a Japanese drum, is an essential part of local culture, and is the focus of events such as Myojin bayashi at Tsurugi Shrine, the daisuri taiko passed down through generations of households, and year's gala taiko event, O • TA • I • KO Hibike. Held in the Otaiko Hills, this last event brings performing groups from all over the country to display their taiko drumming skills, filling the hills with the sound of beating taiko drums.



Myojin bayashi (Prefectural Folk Cultural Property)<sup>4)</sup>

