



# Imajō

Imajō/Itadori/Yunō, Minami Echizen-cho

Many a great personage stayed at these lodgings, which bustled with travellers seeking rest, respite, and relaxation on their journey along the Kitaguni Highway.



Haneso odori (Pref. Folk Cult. Prop.) in front of Kyōtō Jingorō House (Pref. Cult. Property) (Imajō, Echizen-cho)

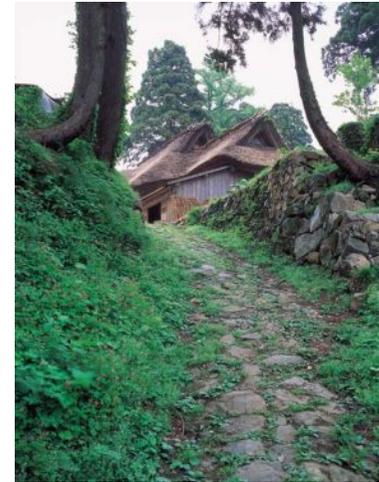
The lodgings at Imajō flourished in the past, ideally situated at the juncture of the Nishiōmi (through the Kinome Pass) and Higashiōmi (through the Tochinokitōge Pass) Highways. Many residences and breweries remain from the settlement's heyday as well as the *haneso odori*, a traditional dance over 1,000 years old and believed to derive from the *chigo no mai* dance performed at Shinki Sankō Myōshō-ji Temple, then located in the western part of town. As the town grew into a lodging settlement, it became a *bon odori* (traditional dance performed during the Obon holiday).



Itadori Lodge (Itadori, Minami Echizen-cho)

In 1964 the dance was designated an Intangible Folk Cultural Property by the prefectural government.

The Itadori Lodge thrived as the “gateway to Hokuriku” along the Kitaguni Highway, and by the end of the Edo Period it had grown to include 53 homes, inns, tea houses, and other stores catering to travellers. Today, the thatched-roof homes still dot its stone streets.



Kinome Pass (Itadori, Minami Echizen-cho)



Inscription along the Yunō Pass (Yunō, Minami Echizen-cho)<sup>2</sup>



Bunsei Period landmark denoting the crossroads of the Kitaguni and Hokuriku Highways (Imajō, Minami Echizen-cho)<sup>3</sup>

The area of the Yunō Pass, located at such a strategic juncture along the Hokuriku Highway, saw many battles over the years and still houses the ruins of castles, tea shops, and many other historically important structures. Recorded in the travel journals of such Japanese literary masters as Matsuo Bashō and Chikamatsu Monzaemon, the area linking the Kinome and Yunō Passes have been selected as part of the National History Road. From the peak of Mt. Hachibuse at Imajō 365 Ski Resort, skiers can enjoy a sweeping view of the Japan Sea, as well as the beautiful contrast between the mountain's brilliant white snows and the ocean's deep blue waters.



Japan Sea as viewed from Imajō 365 Ski Resort (Futatsuya, Minami Echizen-cho)<sup>1</sup>

