



Uriwari Waterfall

Tentoku-ji, Wakasa-cho

Its name means “melon-splitting waterfall,” and the cold waters that comprise it are chilly enough to do so. Pleasant to the touch and delicious to drink, its reputation is impeccable and its waters enjoyed by many throughout the prefecture.



Water flowing along Uriwari Waterfall (Tentoku-ji, Wakasa-cho)



Fall colors along Uriwari Waterfall^①

Uriwari Waterfall, whose waters originate in a gorge within the bounds of Wakasa-cho’s Tentoku-ji, derives its name from the clean, clear waters that comprise its flow. Throughout the year its temperature changes little, always cold enough to split melons placed in its waters, hence its name (*uri* meaning melon, *wari* meaning to break or split). The great priest Taichō held its waters to be sacred, and legend holds that famine was lifted and the sick cured here. The falls’ environs, originally known as *Mizu no Mori*, were training grounds for aspiring priests at Tentoku-ji Temple (founded by Taichō) as well as a site to offer prayers for the imperial family and for rain.

Its waters are rich in minerals, and have been designated as one of the 100 famous waters of Japan by the Ministry of the Environment. The red algae that grow on its rocks are a rare species, and give the waterfall’s rocks a unique hue.



Statues representing 88 incarnations of the Buddha at Tentoku-ji (Tentoku-ji, Wakasa-cho)^②



Wakasa Uriwari Park (Tentoku-ji, Wakasa-cho)^③

At the falls’ base is Wakasa Uriwari Park, with spaces set aside to allow visitors a chance to drink Uriwari’s famous waters straight from the waterfall. Upstream provides a serene landscape, and downstream ample park space for rest, relaxation, and a place to take it all in.

At Tentoku-ji Temple, 88 stone Buddhist statues representing the 88 temples established by the great priest Kōbō on the island of Shikoku are girded with straw hoods in winter, creating a unique sight that inspires onlookers to reflect and contemplate.



Travellers coming to drink Uriwari’s famous waters

