



# Omizu Okuri

Shimonegori, Obama City

The water that flows from Unose in Wakasa is said to arrive at Nara's Tōdai-ji Temple in ten days. Since the Nara Period over 1200 years ago, every year without fail holy water is ritually sent downstream in this historic and holy event.



Omizu okuri<sup>①</sup>



Unose, one of the Famous Waters of Japan



The well at Jingū-ji

The rite of *Omizu okuri* (literally, "sending water") has a history of over 1200 years, in which white-robed Buddhist monks send water (*okasu*) downstream to Nara, to the sound of conch horns and the dim light of torches. On the evening of every March 2<sup>nd</sup>, water is taken from the well at Jingū-ji Temple is carried 2km away to Unose, a pool mid-stream along the Onyū River, where it is poured into the river. It is then said to arrive Nara's Tōdai-ji Temple ten days later, flowing into Wakasa Well at the temple's Nigatsu-dō.



Path to Jingū-ji<sup>②</sup>



Jingū-ji's main hall (National Important Cultural Property)

On March 12 *Omizu tori* ("taking water") is held at Tōdai-ji, where the water sent to Nara is ritually received. This event marks the arrival of spring to the region. The origin of these events comes from the legend of the god Onyū, who fell asleep while fishing and was late to a Buddhist mass commemorating the establishment of the Nigatsu-dō. As an apology, he offered to send some of Wakasa's beautiful waters.

