



Mt. Aoba, the "Mt. Fuji of Wakasa"

Takano, Takahama-cho

Straddling the border between Fukui and Kyoto Prefecture, the summit of Mt. Aoba offers a sweeping view that extends as far as the Tsuruga Peninsula and Echizen Coast.



View of Mt. Aoba^①



The Takahama and Wada coasts from atop Mt. Aoba^②

Its gentle slopes and resemblance to Japan's most famous mountain have earned Mt. Aoba the nickname "Wakasa's Mt. Fuji." The view from its summit extends into Kyoto and over Wakasa Bay, and the view of it from the Takahama Coast is renowned for its beauty. In the 8th century Taichō, priest of the syncretistic Hakusan religion, founded Hakusan Hime Shrine there. The mountain is venerated within the religion as sacred, and local faithful worship there.



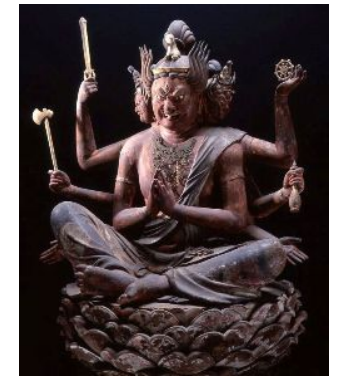
Cherry blossoms set against Mt. Aoba^③



Mt. Aoba from amid the waves^④

The mountain's craggy summit, an important location for monks' spiritual training, was closed to women until the Edo Period.

Located on the mountainside, a sacred location in the area's mountain religion, are several Shingon Buddhist temples. Among them is Nakayama-ji Temple, which reveals its sacred statue of the Batō Kan'on to the public only once every 33 years.



Batō Kan'on statue (Nat. Imp. Cult Prop)^⑤



Main hall of Nakayama-ji (National Important Cultural Property)^⑥

