

Ancient Healing Hot Springs in Japan's Mountains



Each onsen is believed to have healing qualities

In the mountains of the snowy eastern Akita Prefecture is Nyuto Onsenkyo, a collection of eight hot spring spas nestled among a forest of beech trees. These inns date back to 1638, and their cloudy, turquoise waters are believed to have healing properties. Tsurunoyu is among the most famous. It is spectacular year-round, but the cooler months are particularly breathtaking. In the fall, a vivid display of orange and red foliage develops, while winter sees steam rising from the hot springs amid the snow-covered hills.

