



# 杉並木

## *The Steps to the Summit...*

In 1648, Ten'yu Betto, the 50th chief priest of *Dewa Sanzan* built the *Ishi-Dan* - a trail of stone steps that lead to the *Sanjin Gosaiden* shrine. This 1.7km pilgrimage has 2,446 steps and took 13 years to complete. Hidden among these steps are 33 carvings. It is said that if you can find them all, your wishes will come true.

As you climb Mt. Haguro, as pilgrims have done for hundreds of years, you will feel at peace in the stillness of your natural surroundings. Take the time to marvel at the 400-year-old, manmade waterfall, *Suga-No-Taki*, also constructed under Ten'yu Betto.

The route itself is called *Sugi-Namiki* - the cedar tree line. These cedars tower over the *Ishi-Dan* steps leading you through the sacred forest to the shrine. You can catch your breath half-way at *Ninosaka-Chaya*, a small rest-house that sells home-made *mochi* (rice cakes). Since the *Chaya* has no electricity, everything is made by hand. From this vantage point you can take in a view of the Shonai Plains, and on a clear day, as far as the Sea of Japan.



*Ten'yu Betto*