Hikone Castle

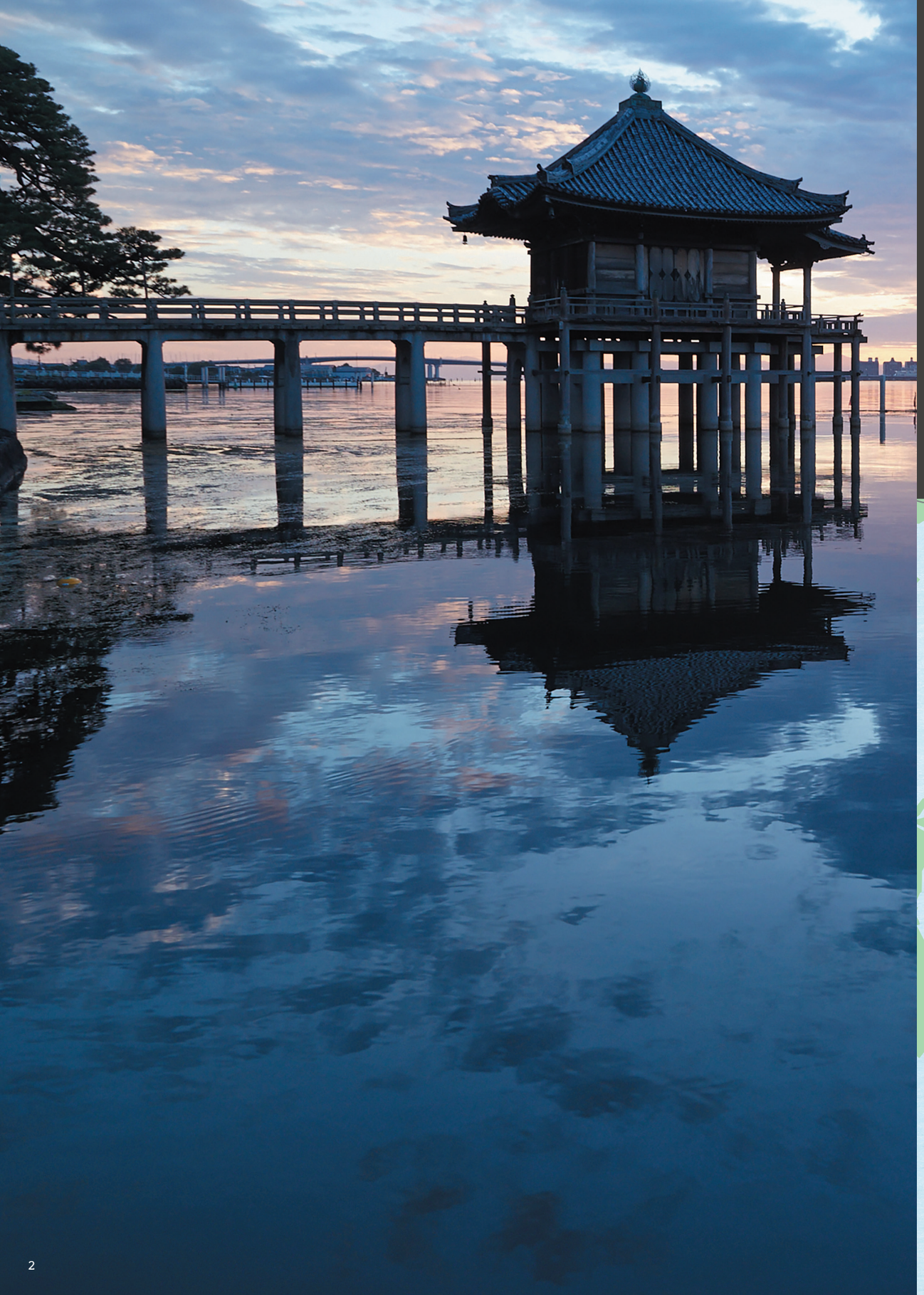
Kongorinji Temple

Find the freedom to open your heart

SHIGA

SHIGA

VISITORS GUIDE





Welcome to Shiga Prefecture!

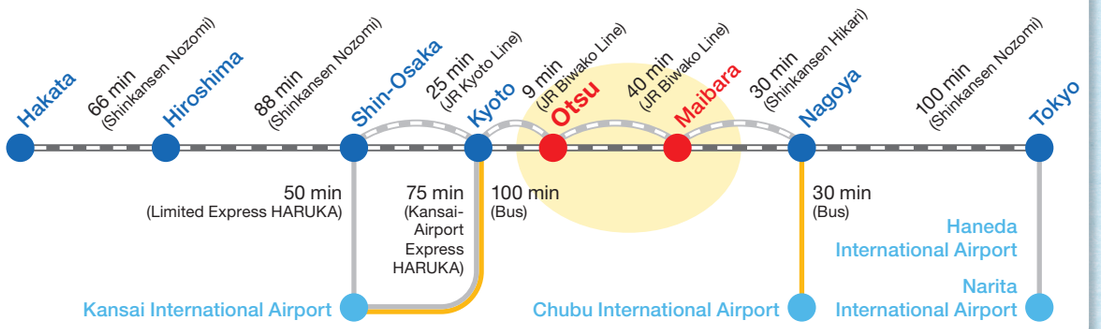
The natural riches of Shiga Prefecture make it ideal to enjoy the great outdoors amid stunning scenery, including Lake Biwa, one of the world's most famous ancient bodies of water and Japan's largest lake, stretching over one-sixth of the prefectural territory. Having prospered through the ages as the heart of a sophisticated society and economy, Shiga's deep history and culture are also major attractions.



Access to SHIGA

Travel time from major cities in Japan to Shiga Prefecture

Major City	Shiga Pref.	By Train	Distance
Kyoto	Otsu	10 min (Special Rapid Services)	14.2 km (Kyoto Sta. → Otsu Sta.)
Osaka	Otsu	40 min (Special Rapid Services)	40.3 km (Suita → Meishin Expwy)
Maibara	Otsu	45 min (Special Rapid Services)	71.3 km (Meishin Expwy)
Nagoya	Maibara	28 min (Shinkansen Hikari)	58.7 km (Komaki → Meishin Expwy)
Tokyo	Maibara	134 min (Shinkansen Hikari)	402.4 km (Tomei/Meishin Expwy)
Kanazawa	Maibara	113 min (Limited Express)	182.7 km (Hokuriku Expwy)



SHIGA Basic Guide



Western Shiga

Kosei ▸Otsu, Takashima

As a rest-stop town along the main travel artery connecting Tokyo and Osaka, the Otsu area flourished as an inland port on Lake Biwa and today remains a place of scenic beauty, dotted with majestic temples and shrines such as Enryakuji Temple and Miidera Temple. Head northward towards the skyline of Hira mountains to discover the wonders of wilderness in the Takashima district, a great area to enjoy water sports such as SUP, hiking, and skiing.

Southern Shiga

Konan ▸Kusatsu, Koka, Shigaraki

Enjoy the atmosphere of a classic lakeside resort at Kusatsu on the east shore of Lake Biwa, still resplendent with echoes of past glory when it prospered as a major stop on the Tokaido and Nakasendo roads. Attractions here include Konan Sanzan, famous for autumn leaves, and the experience of becoming ninja in Koka. In the mountain village of Shigaraki, countless ceramic sculptures of Japan's beloved "tanuki" raccoon welcome you amid an idyllic environment.

Eastern Shiga

Koto ▸Hikone, Higashiomi, Omihachiman

Home to national treasures like Hikone Castle and the daimyo gardens of historic nobility, a stroll through Hikone is a trip back in time amid the scenery of this ancient castle-town. The school buildings of the former Toyosato Elementary School are today a sacred place for anime fans of "K-ON!". Historical architecture and charming townscapes remain in Omihachiman, the famous hometown of the wise Omi merchants.

Northern Shiga

Kohoku ▸Nagahama, Maibara

Nagahama once prospered as a major post town on the Hokkoku Road. The townscape of Kurokabe Square still retains the atmosphere of ages past. Visit the power spot Chikubushima Island, climb Mount Ibuki, one of "Japan's 100 most famous mountains," idyllic scenery of the Kannon Village, and take in the view of Lake Biwa, which was chosen as one of the 100 best sunsets in Japan.

Events

Shiga Prefecture has many notable seasonal events and aspects, such as festivals with a unique background and/or extraordinary history, arts and crafts nurtured through a long history, and natural landscapes with seasonal beauty.

SPRING

Omihachiman Sagicho Festival

A fire festival held at Himure Hachimangu Shrine. In the afternoon of the first day of the festival, about 10 to 20 Sagicho floats, which are made with straw and cedar wood, with a height of six meters, depart the shrine. On the next day, the floats parade through the town from the morning and start to be torched on the shrine grounds from about 8 p.m. (National Important Tangible Folk Cultural Property)



Nagahama Nagahama Hikiyama Festival

The festival of Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine is held from April 9 to 17 every year. The floats, decorated with traditional sculptures and paintings, are called a "mobile art museum." Another highlight of the festival is "Children's Kabuki," where children give performances of kabuki. (UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage)



Hikone Hikone Castle Cherry Blossom Festival

In spring, about 1,100 cherry trees in the area around Hikone Castle start to bloom, attracting many people with the beautiful blossoms. The festival is held around April 1 to 20 every year, during which the cherry blossoms along the moat are beautifully illuminated.



SUMMER

Moriyama Nagisa Park Sunflower Garden

Covering the huge park of about 4,000 sq. m., about 12,000 small sunflowers called "smile kids" bloom. The contrast between the yellow sunflowers and Mount Hira is really picturesque. The peak season for the sunflowers is usually mid to late July.



Taga Mantosai Festival at Taga Taisha Shrine

Held from August 3 to 5 at Taga Taisha Shrine, this lantern festival is for offering people's gratitude for "Izanami no Mikoto," the progenitor goddess of the Japanese myth. More than 10,000 lanterns are lit, shining against the summer night sky and creating a dreamy atmosphere.



Otsu Lake Biwa Grand Fireworks Festival

About 10,000 launches of fireworks above Lake Biwa create a colorful view of the summer night sky and lake surface. This festival attracts about 350,000 visitors every year to come and enjoy the powerful, colorful fireworks. You can enjoy the fireworks from anywhere along the lake shores.



AUTUMN

Shigaraki Shigaraki Ceramics Festival

Shigaraki-yaki is the traditional craft product of the Shigaraki area. Beside the famous Shigaraki statue of *tanuki* (Japanese raccoon dog), various ceramic items, such as plateware, umbrella stands, and bathtubs, are available. You can also join a pottery workshop and have an opportunity to eat and drink using Shigaraki-yaki cups and plates.



Otsu Otsu Festival

This festival at Tenson Shrine offers an atmosphere similar to Kyoto's Gion Festival. It features elaborate *karakuri* wind-up dolls on each of the 13 *hikiyama* (*dashi*) floats. During the parade of the floats, the dolls showcase their *karakuri* performances at more than 20 sites. (National Important Tangible Folk Cultural Property)



Takashima Colored Leaves of the Row of Metasequoia Trees

About 500 metasequoia trees stand along the prefectural road for about 2.4 km, creating impressively beautiful scenery. The leaves of the metasequoia trees don't turn to bright red but to more unique colors, which are described as "brick color" and "brownish color."



WINTER

Nagahama Bonbai Exhibition

About 90 *bonbai*, *ume* plum tree bonsai, are beautifully displayed in Japanese style tatami rooms. These bonsai include a very tall tree of close to three meters and a very old tree, which is claimed to be 400 years old. Enjoy a sophisticated technique and natural beauty at the same time!



Otsu Omi Jingu Shrine Karuta Festival

"Karuta" is Japan's traditional card game, in which participants compete with each other for the speed of grabbing the correct card indicated by reading out loud of a poem. After "Karuta Opening Ceremony" with four women in a traditional costume, the national championship tournament of competitive karuta is held.



Omihachiman Hina-doll exhibition

Precious *hina* dolls and *gogatsu ningyo* dolls, which are owned by the local merchants, are displayed. From the elaborate works on the dolls, you can feel the spirit and attitude of merchants in Hachiman to cherish the culture and tradition. Why not go and see the elegant dolls in the quaint old town?



Recommended Routes 01

Basic route for Shiga beginners (Southern/Western areas)

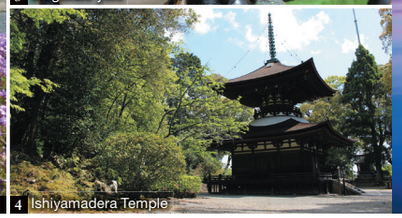
FIT | Group | Coach | Car | Public Transport

Western SHIGA | Southern SHIGA | Eastern SHIGA | Northern SHIGA


Michigan Cruise 1


2 Koka Ninja House


3 Shigaraki-yaki


4 Ishiyamadera Temple

Schedule

Day 1		
	08:30	JR Kyoto Sta. (or in Kyoto City)
09:30	**10:40**	Otsu Port → Sightseeing Cruise (Michigan 60 minute course) *Summer schedule
11:40	**14:00**	Biwako Valley (Biwako Terrace), Sanroku Sta. → Sancho Sta. → (Lunch at Terrace) → Sanroku Sta.
14:30	**16:00**	Lake Biwa Museum *Large-scale museum with an aquarium
16:45		(Stay) Lake Biwa Otsu Prince Hotel
Day 2		
	09:00	(Start)
10:00	**11:00**	Koka Ninja House
11:30	**12:30**	(Lunch) Donabe gohan & café Mutsumian
13:00	**15:00**	Shigaraki-yaki ceramics workshop (Shigaraki Togeimura)
15:45	**16:45**	Ishiyamadera Temple *Temple related to NHK period drama "Hikaru Kimi e" to be aired in 2024.
18:00		JR Kyoto Sta.

Plan by car (including rental car) and by bus.

Features of the Tour

1 Enjoy a panoramic view from the top-floor deck through the Michigan Cruise.

2 In the Koka Ninja House, you can try various trapdoors and other contrivances that were actually used.

3 Ishiyamadera Temple is said to be a place where novelist Murasaki Shikibu (Lady Murasaki) getting the idea for the "Tale of Genji."

Our Pick!

Shigaraki-yaki Ceramics

Shigaraki-yaki ceramics are one of the major local specialty items of Shiga Prefecture, famous for statuette of *tanuki* (Japanese raccoon dog). The area has many places where you can enjoy a hands-on experience of pottery.





Recommended Routes 02

Basic route for Shiga beginners (Northern/Eastern areas)

FIT | Group | Coach | Car | Public Transport

Western SHIGA | Southern SHIGA | Eastern SHIGA | Northern SHIGA


Shirahige Shrine 1


2 Hieizan Enryakuji Temple


3 The Row of Metasequoia Trees


4 Hikone Castle

Schedule

Day 1		
	09:00	JR Kyoto Sta.
10:00	**11:30**	Hieizan Enryakuji Temple (World Heritage site) *The summit can be accessed by car and also cable car from Sakamoto.
12:00	**13:00**	(Lunch) Hieizan Minemichi Restaurant *The restaurant offers a panoramic view of Lake Biwa.
14:00	**14:30**	Shirahige Shrine *A fantastic torii like floating on the lake
15:00	**15:30**	See the avenue of metasequoias
16:30		Nagahama (Stay) Kita Biwako Hotel Grazie *Since it is located in front of Nagahama Port, visiting Chikubushima Island the next day is available.
Day 2		
	09:00	(Start)
9:20	**10:30**	Kurokabe Square *Visit Glass Kan (glassware gallery), Music Box Kan (music box gallery), Kaiyodo Figure Museum Kurokabe, etc.
11:00	**12:50**	Hikone Castle, which is aiming to be designated the World Heritage site, Genkyu-en Garden (Genkyu Rakurakuen)
13:00	**14:00**	(Lunch) Omi Beef Restaurant Sennaritei Kyara
14:40	**16:00**	Omihachiman Boat Tour (1 hour)
16:20	**17:10**	La Collina *Enjoy the shopping of Baumkuchen and other goods.
18:00		JR Kyoto Sta.

Plan by car (including rental car) and by bus.

Features of the Tour

1 Hieizan Enryakuji Temple with a history of 1,200 years was added to the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage sites in 1994.

2 The leaves of the metasequoia trees in Takashima turn to unique colors, which are described as "brick color" and "brownish color."

3 Shirahige Shrine
Featuring the torii gate standing in Lake Biwa, this shrine is said to be the oldest in the prefecture.

Our Pick!

Omihachiman Boat Tour

There are two types of boat tours in Omihachiman. One is Wetland Boat Tours that cruise around "Suigo" (wetlands). Another is Hachimanbori Boat rides that cruise on the Hachimanbori Moat with views of the traditional townscape of historic Omihachiman.





Recommended Routes 03

Viewing cherry blossoms in spring

FIT Group Coach ~~Car~~ Public Transport
Western SHIGA ~~Southern SHIGA~~ ~~Eastern SHIGA~~ ~~Northern SHIGA~~


Miidera Temple

Schedule

		Day 1
11:10		(Arrivval) Kansai Airport
	12:14	"Kansai-Airport Express HARUKA 22"
13:52		JR Otsu Sta.
14:00	15:30	Miidera Temple (touring around the grounds, including buildings of National Treasures and a stage for seeing cherry blossoms)
15:40	16:00	See Lake Biwa Canal
		→ Ogoto Onsen
16:20		(Stay) Biwako Hanakaido
		Day 2
	08:45	(Start)
09:30	10:00	Shirahige Shrine
10:40	12:00	Kaizu-Osaki
12:15	13:45	(Lunch) Restaurant Sower (L'Hôtel du Lac)
14:45		Hikone Castle
	16:30	Hikone Castle, Genkyu-en Garden Hikonyan Show: 15:00-15:30 Genkyu Rakurakuen, Goshoin House
		JR Hikone Sta. → JR Kyoto Sta.

Recommended Routes 04

Water activities and picnic in spring

FIT Group ~~Coach~~ Car ~~Public Transport~~
Western SHIGA ~~Southern SHIGA~~ ~~Eastern SHIGA~~ ~~Northern SHIGA~~


O'PAL OPTEX

Schedule

		Day 1
	09:00	JR Otsu Sta.
09:15	09:40	Otsu Port → Stroll → Michigan Cruise
10:40	12:00	O'PAL OPTEX → Enjoy activities! *Kayaking, Pool, Water tuber, etc.
12:00	12:45	(Lunch) Ensoleiller *In summer, eating a boxed bento (from 1,200 yen) outside is available.
13:20	16:30	Biwako Valley *Enjoy Zip-line and athletics in the green season, and skiing in winter.
17:00		(Stay) Glamping (Afumi, Viwako Glastar are nearby)
		Day 2
	10:00	(Start) → Shiga MK Taxi
10:15	10:40	Shirahige Shrine
11:20		The avenue of metasequoias → Fruits picking at Makino Pick-land (Chestnuts, apples, grapes, blueberry, and sweet potatoes are available depending on the season)
	13:30	(Lunch) Namiki shokudo Tsubame
14:00	15:45	Hot springs at Shirahamaso
	16:00	JR Omi-Takashima Sta.
16:20	16:57	JR Kyoto Sta.

Plan by using Shiga MK Taxi charter plan.

Recommended Routes 05

Viewing fall foliage in autumn

FIT Group Coach Car Public Transport
~~Western SHIGA~~ ~~Southern SHIGA~~ Eastern SHIGA Northern SHIGA


Hyakusaiji Temple

Schedule

		Day 1
	09:00	JR Hikone Sta.
09:00	09:20	Koto Sanzan Koyo Shuttle Bus or Taxi
09:30	12:00	Koto Sanzan (Three temples: Saimyoji, Kongorinji, Hyakusaiji)
12:00	12:40	Koto Sanzan Koyo Shuttle Bus or Taxi
		(Lunch) Omi Beef Lunch at Yumekyobashi Castle Road
13:30	16:00	Hikone Castle (Genkyu-en Gadern, Rakurakuen, Canal boat tour)
16:20	16:40	JR Hikone Sta. → JR Nagahama Sta.
16:50		(Stay) Machiya no Yado Iroha
		Day 2
	09:00	(Start)
09:10	09:20	JR Nagahama Sta. → JR Takatsuki Sta.
09:40	12:20	Takatsuki (Doganji Kannondo, Takatsuki Kannon no Sato)
		Taxi
12:45	13:45	(Lunch) Kokoan
14:00	16:00	Hiking while seeing autumn leaves (Kokokaku, Yoshirokaku, Keisokuji Temple, Shakudoji Temple)
16:00	16:15	Keisokuji (Koyo Junkan Bus) → JR Kinomoto Sta. or move by taxi

Recommended Routes 06

Enjoy skiing in winter

FIT Group Coach ~~Car~~ Public Transport
~~Western SHIGA~~ ~~Southern SHIGA~~ Eastern SHIGA ~~Northern SHIGA~~


Gransnow Okuibuki

Schedule

		Day 1
	08:23	JR Yamashina Sta. → JR Shiga Sta.
	09:05	10 minutes by Kojak Bus → Biwako Valley (final stop) *Fare 390 yen + 100 yen (for bringing skis in winter)
09:15		Biwako Valley
13:00	14:00	(Lunch) Inside Biwako Valley
14:00	16:00	Enjoy skiing!
16:15	16:20	Descending by ropeway
16:20	17:00	Shopping at the shopping street
17:35		Move to JR Shiga Sta. by the last bus

		Day 1
	08:10	JR Kyoto Sta. → shinkansen → JR Maibara Sta.
08:29	08:40	Gransnow Okuibuki by shuttle bus *Fare 1,000 yen (one way)
09:35		Gransnow Okuibuki → Enjoy skiing!
12:30	13:30	(Lunch) Inside Gransnow Okuibuki
13:30	16:00	Enjoy skiing!
16:15	17:00	Enjoy shopping and more after descending
	17:15	→ JR Maibara Sta. by the last bus
18:10	18:16	JR Maibara Sta. → shinkansen → JR Kyoto Sta.

Recommended Routes 07

Ninja master

FIT Group Coach Car Public Transport

Western SHIGA Southern SHIGA Eastern SHIGA Northern SHIGA


Koka Ninja House

Schedule

Day 1		
	08:00	JR Kyoto Sta.
09:41		JR Kusatsu Sta. → JR Koka Sta. (Kusatsu Line) → Free pick-up service → Koka Ninja Village
10:00	11:30	Koka Ninja Village → Ninja Experience (star throwing, Karakuri house, Walking on the water, etc.)
		Taxi
11:45	13:30	(Lunch) Omi Beef & Matsutake mushroom dish, Uomatsu
		Taxi
13:50	14:15	Kogaryu Real Ninja Museum *Come and see Ninja-related exhibitions and souvenirs. You might see a real ninja master!
14:30	15:30	Koka Ninja House *A house where real ninja used to live.
		Taxi → JR Koka Sta.
	16:57	JR Koka Sta. → JR Kusatsu Sta.
18:02		JR Kyoto Sta.

Recommended Routes 08

“Power spots / Spiritual spots”

FIT Group Coach Car Public Transport

Western SHIGA Southern SHIGA Eastern SHIGA Northern SHIGA


Shirahige Shrine

Schedule

Day 1		
	08:19	JR Kyoto Sta.
09:09		JR Omi-Imazu Sta.
09:15		Walk → Imazu Port
	09:30	Imazu Port → Chikubushima Island (arrive at 9:55) *Staying for 75 minutes, 600 yen for the island entry, 500 yen for Kawarake-nage
	11:10	Depart from Chikubushima Island
11:40	11:45	Imazu Port → Walk → JR Omi-Imazu Sta.
		Rent a bike at the station *500 yen/day
12:15	13:20	(Lunch) Eel dish at Nishitomo Honten
		After lunch, go to Shirahige Beach Camp site by bike (20-30 minutes)
13:50		Shirahige Beach Camp
14:30	16:30	Goodtimes, Shirahige Shrine Kayaking (120 minutes)
17:00		Return the bike at JR Omi-Imazu Sta.

Recommended Routes 09

Art and Traditional Crafts of Shiga

FIT Group Coach Car Public Transport

Western SHIGA Southern SHIGA Eastern SHIGA Northern SHIGA


MIHO MUSEUM

Schedule

Day 1		
	09:00	JR Otsu Sta.
09:15	10:15	Meeting at Niomon Gate of Miidera Temple → Otsu-e Walking Tour
10:20	11:45	Otsu-e painting workshop (Ichiwado Seminar House) *Instruction in English available
12:00	13:30	(Lunch) Tankai-ryori Tovin (Omi Chicken)
14:00	15:20	Hinodegama kiln (Ryusokairagi), Pottery experience program
15:50	17:00	Sagawa Art Museum
17:20		(Stay) Lake Biwa Marriott Hotel
Day 2		
	09:30	(Start) Shiga MK Taxi
10:30	11:50	MIHO MUSEUM
12:00	13:00	(Lunch) Organic lunch in the museum
13:20	14:40	Shigaraki, Pottery Experience Program (Meizangama, or Togeimura)
14:50	15:45	The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park
16:30		JR Otsu Sta.

Plan by using Shiga MK Taxi charter plan.

Recommended Routes 10

Luxury travel

FIT Group Coach Car Public Transport

Western SHIGA Southern SHIGA Eastern SHIGA Northern SHIGA


Hikone Castle

Schedule

Day 1		
	09:00	JR Kyoto Sta. → JR Otsu Sta.
		Shiga MK Taxi
10:00	11:30	Biwako Valley (Infinity Lounge Seat 3,000 yen) *Enjoy the great view
12:20		Taxi → L'Hôtel du Lac
12:30	14:00	(Lunch) Restaurant Sower (L'Hôtel du Lac)
14:15	15:45	In front of L'Hôtel du Lac → Private Cruiser → Chikubushima Island → Nagahama Port
16:15		Nagahama Port
16:30		(Stay) Hamakogetsu
Day 2		
	10:00	(Start) → Taxi
10:10		Walking around Kurokabe Square and shopping
	11:10	Taxi
12:00	13:45	(Lunch) French Restaurant Berceau (Maibara City) *Only one group a day
		Taxi
14:50	16:30	Hikone → Hikone Castle, Genkyu-en Garden
17:00		JR Hikone Sta.

Recommended Routes | 11

Cycling tour

FIT | Group | Coach | Car | Public Transport

Western SHIGA | Southern SHIGA | Eastern SHIGA | Northern SHIGA


Biwaichi 1


2 Ukimido


3 Ogoto Onsen


4 Omi Jingu Shrine

Schedule

		Day 1
	08:45	JR Kyoto Sta. → JR Otsu Sta.
09:15		Walk → Otsu Port
	09:40	Michigan Cruise (Adult 2,400 yen, Student 2,000 yen, Elementary school student 1,200 yen)
10:40		Otsu Port
10:45	11:00	Rent a bike at O-Portable *3,300 yen/5 hours, 5,500 yen/day, 3,300 yen/day if renting for consecutive days
11:30		Otsu Port → Biwako Hall → Lake Biwa Otsu Prince Hotel
11:45	13:15	(Lunch) Lake Biwa Otsu, Biona (buffet)
13:20	14:10	Lake Biwa Museum
15:00		Biwako Ohashi Bridge
15:45		Ogoto Onsen
16:00		(Stay)
		Day 2
	09:30	(Start)
10:00	12:00	O'PAL OPTEX → Enjoy various activities *Kayaking, Pool, Water tuber, etc.
12:00	12:45	(Lunch) Ensoleiller *In summer, eating a boxed bento (from 1,200 yen) outside is also available.
13:20	14:20	Katata, Ukimido
15:00	15:45	Omi Jingu Shrine
16:30		Return the bike at O-Portable
		Walk → JR Otsu Sta.

Features of the Tour

1 Ukimido is said to have been built about 1,000 years ago as a place of prayer for safety on the lake and the swift rescue of people in danger.

2 With a history of about 1,200 years, Ogoto Onsen is famous as an onsen where you can enjoy the sunrise.

3 Enshrining the Emperor Tenj, Omi Jingu Shrine has an exhibition facility with a collection of various clocks.

Our Pick!

Biwaichi

Cycling around Lake Biwa is called "Biwaichi." Cycling along the blue lake while feeling a pleasant breeze, you can fully enjoy various attractive aspects of Shiga Prefecture through your five senses.



Recommended Routes | 12

Gastronomical tour of Shiga

FIT | Group | Coach | Car | Public Transport

Western SHIGA | Southern SHIGA | Eastern SHIGA | Northern SHIGA


Omi Beef 1


2 Fermented food and lake fish


3 Wagashi


4 Sake

Schedule

		Day 1
	10:00	JR Kusatsu Sta. West Exit
10:15	11:30	Stawberry Factory → Strawberry picking
11:50	13:00	(Lunch) Omi Beef Lunch at Matsukiya
13:20	14:45	Ishiyamadera Temple *In front of the temple, enjoy fried *mitarashi* dumplings, which are available only here in Shiga Prefecture, local specialty Ishiyamadera pudding, Omi tea, and *funazushi*.
15:00	16:15	Kanou Shoujuan Sunai no Sato *Venerable Japanese confectionery from Shiga Prefecture, Tea ceremony experience (1,000 yen)
16:45		(Stay) Nango Onsen Futabaya *(Dinner) Kaiseki Japanese dish
		Day 2
	09:00	(Start)
09:45	11:30	Hieizan Enryakuji Temple
11:40	12:30	(Lunch) Shojin vegetarian meal at Enryakuji Kaikan
13:15	13:45	Shirahige Shrine
14:00	15:30	Harie Shozu no Sato guided tour (about 3,000 yen/person, English guide available)
15:40	16:30	Kawashima Shuzo *See the brewery.
17:00		(Stay) L'Hôtel du Lac *(Dinner) Course using local ingredients at Restaurant Sower
		Day 3
09:00		(Start)
10:15		Kaizu Osaki → Kinomoto
	12:00	Nagahama Interpreter Guide Tour (Daikou Shoyu, Salada-pan, etc.)
12:30	13:30	(Lunch) Saba-somen (thin wheet noodles topped with mackerel)
13:35		Kurokabe Square (Kurokabe glassware workshop, Kaiyodo Figure Museum Kurokabe, Hikiyama Museum, etc.) *Try famous black "Kurokabe soft-serve ice cream"!
	14:30	Nagahama I.C. → Kusatsu
16:00		Return the car at Toyota Shiga Rental & Leasing Kusatsu Station West Exit Branch

Basically using a rental car. (Support for overseas tourists is available at Toyota Shiga Rental & Leasing.)

Features of the Tour

1 In Shiga Prefecture, the culture of fermentation, including *funazushi*, in which salted fish is fermented with rice, local sake, miso, and vinegar, has a long history and is deeply rooted in people's lives.

2 A wide variety of cute pieces of *mochi* rice cake, *yokan* sweet bean jelly, shaved ice, and delicate wagashi is available in Shiga Prefecture.

3 Being rich in water resources, Shiga Prefecture is a producer of high-quality rice that is suitable for sake brewing.

Our Pick!

Omi Beef

Omi Beef is one of Japan's three best wagyu beef brands, along with Kobe Beef and Matsusaka Beef. There are various ways to enjoy the beef, including steaks, sukiyaki, and shabushabu.





Recommended Routes | 13

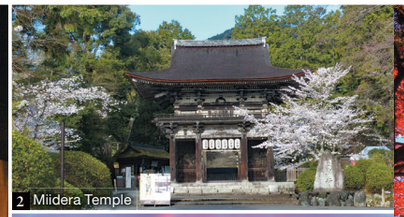
Pop culture tour

FIT | Group | Coach | Car | Public Transport

Western SHIGA | Southern SHIGA | Eastern SHIGA | Northern SHIGA



Kaiyodo Figure Museum Kurokabe 1


2 Miidera Temple


3 Michigan Cruise

Schedule

		Day 1
	09:36	JR Kyoto Sta. → 9:48 Otsukyo Sta. (Keihan)
10:00		Walk → Omi Jingu Shrine *A setting place of "Chihayafuru"
	10:45	Omi Jingu Shrine, See Kangakukan
	11:08	Omi-jingu-mae Sta. (Keihan) → Miidera Sta. (Keihan)
11:12	12:15	Miidera Temple *A shooting place for many films
	12:35	12:32 Miidera Sta. (Keihan) → 12:35 Biwako-hamaotsu Sta. (Keihan)
12:45		Walk → Otsu Port → Michigan Cruise
13:00	14:30	(Lunch) Michigan Cruise, buffet in the boat
15:00	15:10	Walk → JR Otsu Sta.
15:35		JR Omi-Hachiman Sta.
15:50		Bus → La Collina mae stop → La Collina
		Seeing and shopping at La Collina
		Pick-up shuttle by Guesthouse Mio/En
17:00		(Stay) Guesthouse Mio/En
		Day 2
	09:00	(Start)
	10:45	Walking around Omihachiman (Hachimanbori Moat, Chalet Mizugahama) by staff of Guesthouse Mio/En
11:00	11:18	JR Omihachiman Sta. → Hikone → Toyosato Town
12:11		Toyosato Town → Walk around
12:25	13:20	(Lunch) Okamura Honke "Toyosato Hakkogura" (or Yukitei)
		Walk → The old halls of Toyosato Elementary School
13:35	14:15	See the old halls of Toyosato Elementary School
	14:28	Toyosato Town → Maibara → Nagahama
	15:35	JR Nagahama Sta.
15:45	16:45	Walk → Kurokabe Square, Kaiyodo Figure Museum Kurokabe
		JR Nagahama Sta.

Features of the Tour

1 At Miidera Temple, you can try various kinds of experiences, such as *yamabushi* monk training, *zazen* sitting meditation, and *shakyo* sutra copying, and you can even stay overnight. There is also a cafe where you can enjoy local tea and tea cups.

2 **Historical architecture and charming townscapes remain in Omihachiman, the famous hometown of the wise Omi merchants.**

3 **The school buildings of the former Toyosato Elementary School are today a sacred place for anime fans of "K-ON!".**

Our Pick!

Kaiyodo Figure Museum Kurokabe

This is a museum of "Kaiyodo," a world-famous figure manufacturer. More than 4,000 items are displayed, including character figures of popular anime series and TV and movies with special effects. Some hands-on experience programs are offered, for painting figures or production of dioramas.





Recommended Routes | 14

Eco & Sustainable Travel

FIT | Group | Coach | Car | Public Transport

Western SHIGA | Southern SHIGA | Eastern SHIGA | Northern SHIGA


Hieizan Enryakuji Temple 1


2 Hieizan Enryakuji Temple


3 Hieizan Enryakuji Temple


4 Canoeing at O'PAL

Schedule

		Day 1
	08:30	Kyoto (Bus)
09:20		Otsu Port → 9:30 Start boading Michigan Cruise
09:40	10:40	Michigan Cruise (60 minutes course), Fare Adult 2,400 yen, Student 2,000 yen, Elementary school student 1,200 yen *Group with 15 persons and more: 10% discount
10:40	11:00	Disemberkment → Bus → Hieizan Sakamoto
11:00	11:45	Stroll in Hieizan Sakamoto, Visit Chikurin-in, Admission: Adult 330 yen *Group with 15 persons and more: 260 yen per person
11:45	12:20	Move by bus
12:20	13:30	(Lunch) Okuhiei Driveway, Minemichi Restaurant *Options: Enryakuji Kaikan, Fuyoen Honkan
14:30	16:30	(Experience programs) ①Zazen (seated meditation), Shakyo (copying sutras) (Hieizan Enryakuji) 3,000 yen/program ②Nenju (Buddhist rosary) making with a monk (from 1,000 yen/person) or Mini Yamabushi (mountain priest) ascetic training (10,000 yen/person, Miidera Temple) ③Tosenkyo (game of throwing fans) or Tea ceremony (2,450 yen/program, Enman-in Temple) ④O'PAL OPTEX → Activities on the lake (from 5,000 yen/person)
16:30	17:15	Move by bus
17:15		(Stay) Biwako Hotel (with fireworks option) *Other accommodation: Lake Biwa Otsu Prince

Features of the Tour

1 **Hieizan Enryakuji Temple with a history of 1,200 years has about 100 buildings scattered throughout the huge grounds of 1,700 hectares on Mount Hiei. Located on the border between Shiga and Kyoto prefectures, the temple offers a panoramic view of Lake Biwa below and the streets of Kyoto in the west.**

Our Pick!

Activities Around Lake Biwa

You can enjoy various activities, such as water sports, including canoeing and SUP, ferry cruise, and cycling along the lake. O'PAL offers programs for water sports, including SUP, kayaking, and canoeing. You can enjoy the local nature both on the water and on the shore.

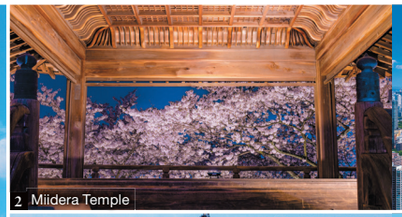


Recommended Routes | 15

Plan for independent travelers

FIT | Group | Coach | Car | Public Transport
Western SHIGA | Southern SHIGA | Eastern SHIGA | Northern SHIGA


Chikubushima Island 1


2 Miidera Temple


Tokyo 1


3 Hikone Castle


Hakone 2


4 Omi-Jofu


Lake Kawaguchiko 3

Schedule

Day 1		
	09:15	JR Otsu Sta.
10:00	**16:30**	Miidera Temple / Yamabushi (mountain priest) ascetic training experience
		10,000 yen per person (with boxed lunch)
		(Stay) WAQOO Mii-dera is recommended. Other options: ①Inase (Important Culrual Property) ②Hotel Koo ③Hotel style: Biwako Hotel, Lake Biwa Otsu Prince ④Onsen ryokan style: Ogoto Onsen Yuzanso
		Plan for consecutive nights
Day 2		
	09:30	(Start)
10:20	**12:00**	Harie Shozu no Sato Inbound Guide Tour (with English/French-speaking guides)
		(Lunch) Shozu Restaurant (Inside Rachine home Harie) or Kawashin, etc.
13:00		Imazu Port → Chikubushima Island
		13:10 Imazu Port → 13:35 Chikubushima Island (75 minutes) → 14:50 Chikubushima Island → 15:20 Imazu Port
15:20		Imazu Port → Taxi
16:30		(Stay)

Shiga MK Taxi charter plan

Day 3		
	09:00	(Start)
09:40		Omihachiman
		Hachimanbori Moat Traditional Boat Tour (30 minutes, 1,500 yen/person), La Collina
12:00	**13:30**	(Lunch) Omi Beef Restaurant "Tiffany" or Morishima
14:00	**15:00**	Hemp fabric weaving experience at Omi-Jofu Dento Sangyo Kaikan (English/French available)
		Experience program: from 500 yen
15:30	**16:45**	Hikone Castle, Genkyu-en Garden
17:00		(Stay) Acommodation options in Hikone: ①Hikone Castle & Spa Resort (in front of Hikone Castle) ②Hikone no Machiya, Honmachi Juku ③Ryotei ryokan Yasui ④Futabaso
		Activity examples: Local bar-hopping tour with staff of Omi Tourism Board
Day 4		
	09:30	(Start) → Sightseeing in Northen Lake Biwa
		Sightseeing options: ①Participating in Biwako Backroads Local Tours ②Hikone Port → Take Island (uninhabited island on Lake Biwa, landing and walking available) ③Mount Ibuki Trekking, full of herbs, paraglider available) ④Rosa & Berry Tawada (Recreating "Shaun the Sheep" world) ⑤Blacksmithing experience (Manyo Kajigoya): Nagahama City Tangible Cultural Property)

Biwako Backroads: Soy sauce brewery tour, Cycling, Visiting traditional artisans, etc.An interpreter-guide in Spanish is available among Nagahama Regional Licensed Guide Interpreter.

Recommended Routes | 16

Group bus tour with the “Golden Route”

FIT | Group | Coach | Car | Public Transport
Western SHIGA | Southern SHIGA | Eastern SHIGA | Northern SHIGA




4 Nagoya


5 Kyoto


6 Osaka

Schedule

Day 1
Narita Airport/Haneda Airport → Hotels in Tokyo
Day 2
Sightseeing in Tokyo (all day) → (Stay) Tokyo
Day 3
→ Sightseeing in Hakone (all day) → (Stay) Hakone
Day 4
→ Mount Fuji (Lake Kawaguchiko), Sightseeing (half day) → (Stay) Nagoya
Day 5
Sightseeing in Nagoya (half day) → Sightseeing in Shiga → (Stay) Shiga
Day 6
Sightseeing in Shiga (all day) → (Stay) Shiga
Day 7
Sightseeing in Shiga (all day) → (Stay) Kyoto
Day 8
Sightseeing in Kyoto (all day) → (Stay) Osaka
Day 9
Sightseeing in Osaka (half day) → Kansai Airport

Features of the Tour

1 With Narita Airport in/Kansai Airport out, visiting popular places along the “Golden Route.” Shiga Prefecture is on the way of the “Golden Route” and easily accessible from major cities in the country.

2 Depending on the schedule of your trip to Japan, you can arrange the recommended tours of Shiga Prefecture on this brochure to suit your convenience.

Our Pick!

Kansai-Airport Express HARUKA

JR West’s “Kansai-Airport Express HARUKA” is a convenient transportation option for accessing Kansai International Airport (KIX) from Shiga, Kyoto, and Osaka prefectures.
Osaka → Kansai-airport 45 minutes
Kyoto → Kansai-airport 75 minutes



*This photo is a visual impression.

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Places to see

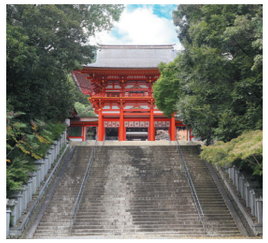
01 Miidera Temple
Otsu · Western · 三井寺



At this temple with a history of more than 1,200 years, you can try various kinds of experiences, such as yamabushi monk training, zazen sitting meditation, and shakyo sutra copying, and you can even stay overnight.

246 Onjoji-cho, Otsu City, Shiga · Miidera Sta. (Keihan) → 7 min walk · Otsu IC (Meishin Expwy) → 10 min · +81-77-522-2238 · 8:00-17:00 · Open 365 days · Adult 600 yen · 350 vehicles, 30 large vehicles

02 Omi Jingu Shrine
Otsu · Western · 近江神宮



Holding a championship tournament of competitive karuta and a yabusame demonstration, this shrine offers many opportunities to come in contact with traditional culture of Japan.

1-1 Jingu-cho, Otsu City, Shiga · Omijingumae Sta. (Keihan) → 10 min walk · Kyoto-higashi IC (Meishin Expwy) → 10 min · +81-77-522-3725 · Worship 6:00-18:00 · Open 365 days · Free, extra fee for some facilities · 200 vehicles, 20 large vehicles

03 Hieizan Enryakuji Temple
Otsu · Western · 比叡山延暦寺



This temple with a history of 1,200 years offers a panoramic view of Lake Biwa below and the streets of Kyoto in the west. It was added to the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage sites in 1994.

4220 Sakamoto-honmachi, Otsu City, Shiga · JR Hieizan Sakamoto Sta. → 20 min walk → Sakamoto Cable → Cable Enryakuji Sta. → 10 min walk · Kyoto-higashi IC (Meishin Expwy) → Nishi-Otsu Bypass → Omi Jingu Ramp → Shimogamo Otsu Route (Yamanakagoe) → Tanotani-toge Gate · +81-77-578-0001 · 9:00-16:00 (some facilities 9:30-16:00 from Dec-Feb) · Open 365 days · Adult 1,000 yen, extra fee for Kokuho-den (treasure house) · 425 vehicles, 100 large vehicles

04 Ishiyamadera Temple
Otsu · Western · 石山寺



Reportedly founded in 747, this temple is said to be a place where novelist Murasaki Shikibu (Lady Murasaki) getting the idea for the "Tale of Genji." It has a large collection of National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties.

1-1-1 Ishiyamadera, Otsu City, Shiga · Ishiyamadera Sta. (Keihan) → 10 min walk · Seta-higashi IC / Seta-nishi IC (Meishin Expwy) → 10 min · +81-77-537-0013 · 8:00-16:00 · Open 365 days · Adult 600 yen · 140 vehicles, 20 large vehicles

05 Ukimido (Mangetsuji Temple)
Otsu · Western · 浮御堂



This building jutting out into Lake Biwa is said to have been built about 1,000 years ago as a place of prayer for safety on the lake and the swift rescue of people in danger.

1-16-18 Honkatata, Otsu City, Shiga · JR Katata Sta. → by bus → Katatademachi stop → 5 min walk · Mano IC (Kosei Road) → 10 min / Ritto IC (Meishin Expwy) → 40 min · +81-77-572-0455 · 8:00-17:00 · Open 365 days · 300 yen · 25 vehicles

06 Michigan Cruise
Otsu · Western · ミシガンクルーズ



"Michigan" is a sightseeing ship travelling around the south part of Lake Biwa. You can enjoy a panoramic view from the top-floor deck.

Otsu Port 5-1-1 Hamaotsu, Otsu City, Shiga · Hamaotsu Sta. (Keihan) → 3 min walk / JR Otsu Sta. → 15 min walk · Otsu IC (Meishin Expwy) → 10 min · +81-77-524-5000 · 1,246 vehicles, 22 large vehicles / **Michigan Cruise** · 9:40-10:40 (Michigan 60), etc. · On weekdays during winter, other cruise service operates instead of Michigan. · Adult 2,400 yen (Michigan 60), etc. · Reservation required

07 Canoeing at O'PAL
Otsu · Western · オーパルカヌー



O'PAL offers programs for various water sports, including SUP, kayaking, and canoeing.

O'pal 5-265-1 Ogoto, Otsu City, Shiga · JR Ogotoonsen Sta. → 12 min walk · Kyoto-higashi IC (Meishin Expwy) → 15 min → Ogi Ogoto IC (Kosei Road) → 5 min · +81-77-579-7111 · 9:30-17:30 · Open every day (summer), Wed-Thur (Jan-Feb), Thur (other season) · Kayaking 6,600 yen, etc. · 120 vehicles, 10 large vehicles · Reservation required

08 Biwako Terrace
Otsu · Western · びわ湖テラス



One of the terraces, "The Main," offers a place where you can enjoy a great view while relaxing on the sofa on the wooden deck.

1547-1 Kido, Otsu City, Shiga · JR Shiga Sta. → 10 min by bus → Biwako Valley stop → Ropeway · Kyoto-higashi IC (Meishin Expwy) → Shiga IC (Kosei Road) → 5 min → Ropeway · +81-77-592-1155 · "The Main" (Terrace Café) 9:10-16:00 (Apr-Oct), 9:40-16:00 (Dec) (Varies depending on the facility) · "The Main" closed winter (late Nov-mid-Apr) (Varies depending on the facility) · Ropeway: Adult 3,500 yen (round trip) · 1,700 vehicles

09 Lucky Ogre Bell Otsu-e Painting Program
Otsu · Western · 大津絵の魔除け鬼土鈴の絵付け体験



There is a hands-on experience program to paint an ogre, one of the representative characters of Otsu-e painting, on a clay bell.

Ichie Wado Seminar House 4-17 Kozeki-cho, Otsu City, Shiga · Miidera Sta. (Keihan) → 8 min walk / JR Otsu Sta. → 16 min walk · +81-77-532-2346 · 10:30-, 13:30- (Reservation required) · Open on Sat, Sun, holidays · Adult 4,400 yen · No perking lot (please use paid perking nearby)

10 Shirahige Shrine
Takashima · Western · 白髭神社



Featuring the torii gate standing in Lake Biwa, this shrine is said to be the oldest in the prefecture as it has a history of more than 2,000 years since its foundation.

215 Ukawa, Takashima City, Shiga · JR Omi-Takashima Sta. → 5 min by taxi · Kyoto-higashi IC (Meishin Expwy) → 50 min (Kosei Road, Route 161) · +81-740-36-1555 · 9:00-17:00 (winter 16:00) · Open 365 days · 50 vehicles

11 Ski areas
Takashima · Western · スキー場



Enjoy skiing on a slope with a great view looking down at Lake Biwa! Various ski runs are available, for beginners to experienced skiers.

Mt. Hakodateyama Hiokimae, Imazu-cho, Takashima City, Shiga · JR Omi-Imazu Sta. → 20 min by bus → Hakodateyama stop · Kyoto-higashi IC (Meishin Expwy) → 70 min (Route 161) / Kinomoto IC (Hokuriku Expwy) → 45 min (Route 303) · +81-740-22-2486 · 9:00-17:00 (late Dec-mid-Mar) · Green season (late Apr-mid-Nov.) · Adult 2,500 yen (including gondola fare) · 1,100 vehicles (including large vehicle spaces)

12 Biwako Hakodateyama
Takashima · Western · びわこ箱館山



Reaching the summit at an elevation of about 630 meters by gondola, you will be in an open space offering a panoramic view of Lake Biwa along with colorful seasonal flowers and plants,

Hiokimae, Imazu-cho, Takashima City, Shiga · JR Omi-Imazu Sta. → 20 min by bus → Hakodateyama stop · Kyoto-higashi IC (Meishin Expwy) → 70 min (Route 161) / Kinomoto IC (Hokuriku Expwy) → 45 min (Route 303) · +81-740-22-2486 · 9:00-17:00 · Winter season (mid-Nov-late Dec, Jan-late Apr) · Adult 2,500 yen (including gondola fare) · 1,100 vehicles (including large vehicle spaces)

Places to see

Hikone 13 Eastern — Hikone Castle

彦根城



Built in the early 17th century, this castle is a symbol of Shiga Prefecture. The castle tower has been designated a National Treasure.

1-1 Konki-cho, Hikone City, Shiga JR Hikone Sta. → 15 min walk Hikone IC (Meishin Expwy) → 10 min +81-749-22-2742 8:30-17:00 Open 365 days Adult 800 yen P 295 vehicles, 36 large vehicles

14 Chikubushima Island

竹生島

The greatest "power spot" of Lake Biwa. It is said that the Karamon Gate of Hogonji Temple is the only architectural remains of the original Osaka Castle (National Treasure).

Hayazaki-cho, Nagahama City, Shiga **[From Nagahama]** JR Nagahama Sta. → 10 min walk → Nagahama Port → 35 min by boat → Chikubushima **[From Imazu]** JR Omi-Imazu Sta. → 5 min walk → Imazu Port → 30 min by boat → Chikubushima **[From Hikone]** Hikone Sta. (JR, Ohmi Railway) → 8 min by taxi → Hikone Port → 40 min by boat → Chikubushima Biwako Kisen (Nagahama Port) +81-749-62-3390, (Imazu Port) +81-740-22-1747 / Omi Marine (Hikone Port) +81-749-22-0619 / Hogonji Temple +81-749-63-4410 9:30-16:30 (Hogonji Temple) The number of cruise operation becomes fewer in winter so that checking the official websites for details is recommended. 600 yen (Chikubushima entry), Adult 300 yen (Hogonji Temple's Homotsu-kan) P 30-100 vehicles (at Nagahama, Imazu, Hikone ports)

Nagahama 15 Northern — Kaiyodo Figure Museum Kurokabe

海洋堂フィギュアミュージアム黒壁



This is a museum of "Kaiyodo," a world-famous figure manufacturer. Some hands-on experience programs are offered, for painting figures or production of dioramas.

13–31 Motohamacho, Nagahama City, Shiga JR Nagahama Sta. → 5 min walk Nagahama IC (Hokuriku Expwy) → 10 min +81-749-68-1680 10:00-17:00 (Admission until 16:30) No fixed holiday Adult 1,000 yen

Koka 16 Southern — Koka Ninja House

甲賀流　忍術屋敷



This is not a ninja house recreated for tourists but was really a house where real ninja used to live. In this house, you can try various trapdoors and other contrivances that were actually used.

2331 Ryuboshi, Konan-cho, Koka City, Shiga JR Konan Sta.→ 20 min walk Konan IC (Shin-Meishin Expwy) → 3 min +81-748-86-2179 9:30-17:00 (Admission until 16:30) Wed, 4th Thur of the month Adult 650 yen P 50 vehicles, 7 large vehicles

Shigaraki 17 Southern — MIHO MUSEUM

MIHO MUSEUM



Located in the mountains rich in nature. The museum restaurant serves dishes made only with ingredients that were grown without using agricultural chemicals and chemical fertilizers.

300 Tashiro Momodani, Shigaraki-cho, Koka City, Shiga JR Ishiyama Sta. → 50 min by bus → MIHO MUSEUM stop Shigaraki IC (Shin-Meishin Expwy) → 15 min / Ritto IC (Meishin Expwy) → 30 min +81-748-82-3411 10:00-17:00 (Admission until 16:00) Mon during exhibition periods (If Mon is a national holiday, it will close the following weekday), during periods with no exhibitions Adult 1,300 yen P 300 vehicles, 20 large vehicles

Shigaraki 18 Southern — Pottery Experience Program

陶芸体験



In Shigaraki Town, which is famous for Shigaraki-yaki ceramics, you can also enjoy a hands-on pottery experience at a pottery studio.

Ogama 947 Nagano, Shigaraki-cho, Koka City, Shiga Shigaraki Sta. (Shigaraki Kohgen Railway) → 15 min walk or 3 min by taxi Shigaraki IC (Shin-Meishin Expwy) → 10 min +81-748-82-8066 10:00-16:30 (L.O. 16:00) Wed, Thur From 2,200 yen (workshop) P 8 vehicles

Eat

01 Western — Hieizan Minemichi Restaurant

比叡山峰道レストラン



Commanding a panoramic view of Lake Biwa. Dishes using local ingredients are served.

Japanese food 4220 Sakamoto-honmachi, Otsu City, Shiga JR Kyoto Sta. → 75 min by bus → Mine-michi stop Kyoto-higashi IC (Meishin Expwy) → 35 min +81-77-578-3673 10:00-17:00 (L.O. 16:30) Open every day (Mar 1- Nov 30), Thur (winter) example: Omi set 1,650 yen P 50 vehicles, 15 large vehicles, 3 spaces for the Disabled 300

02 Western — Tankai Dish Tovin

淡海料理 Tovin



Set dishes are prepared, mainly using local Tankai Chicken as well as fish from Lake Biwa and local vegetables, which makes you feel "This is Shiga" from the cuisine.

Fusion Kyu-Otsu-Kokaido B1F, 1-4-1 Hamaotsu, Otsu City, Shiga Biwako-hamaotsu Sta. (Keihan) → 1 min walk / JR Otsu Sta. → 15 min walk Otsu IC (Meishin Expwy) → 5 min +81-77-572-6356 Lunch 12:00-14:30 (only Sat, Sun), Dinner 18:00-22:00 Wed Tovin Lunch Set: 6,500 yen P 8 vehicles, 1 space for the Disabled 16*Reservation required one day in advance

03 Eastern — Omi Beef Sennaritei Kyara

近江牛レストランせんなり亭 伽羅



Savor melt-in-your-mouth delicious Omi Beef.

Omi Beef Dish 2-1-7 Honmachi, Hikone City, Shiga (Yumekyobashi Castle Road) JR Hikone Sta. → 20 min walk or 5 min by taxi Hikone IC (Meishin Expwy) → 15 min +81-749-21-2789 11:30-21:30 (L.O. 20:30) *Closed14:30-17:00 for preparation Tue Lunch 4,200 yen, Dinner 16,500 yen P 10 vehicles 90

04 Northern — SOWER

レストランSower



Whilst reinterpreting the history and food culture of Northern Lake Biwa, young American chef offers exclusive dishes highlighting products from the lake, sea, and mountains.

Innovative cuisine 1F L'Hotel du Lac, 2064 Oura, Nishiazai-cho, Nagahama City, Shiga JR Nagahara Sta. → 5 min by car (booking required for free pick-up shuttle) Kinomoto IC (Hokuriku Expwy) → 20 min +81-749-89-1888 17:30-22:00 (L.O. 19:30) Tue, Wed 19,800 yen P 40 vehicles 34

05 Northern — Restaurant Berceau

フレンチレストランベルソー



French cuisine is served at one room of Hyotanya, a Japanese inn/restaurant with 300-year history.

French 1127 Suijo, Maibara City, Shiga JR Omi-Nagaoka Sta. / JR Maibara Sta. → by car Maibara IC (Meishin Expwy) → 15 min / Nagahama IC (Meishin Expwy) → 20 min +81-749-58-1782 12:00-14:00 (L.O.), 18:00-20:00 (L.O.) New year holidays, summer holidays, other days Set course 10,000 yen P available 12 seats (only one group) Reservation required

06 Eastern — La Collina Omihachiman

ラ コリーナ近江八幡



You can enjoy various sweets in a location surrounded by beautiful nature. We recommend our signature sweets, Baumkuchen, as souvenirs or gifts!

Cafe/Sweets 615-1 Kitanosho-cho, Omihachiman City, Shiga JR Omihachiman Sta. → 10 min by bus Yokaichi IC, Ryuo IC, or Gamo Smart-IC (Meishin Expwy)→ 30 min +81-748-33-6666 9:00-18:00 (Food court 10:00-17:00) Closed: Jan 1 Baumkuchen 1,296 yen, Dora cake set 980 yen P 650 vehicles, 24 large vehicles (prior contact necessary), spaces for the Disabled 68

Stay

01 Western — Lake Biwa Otsu Prince Hotel
びわ湖大津プリンスホテル

A resort hotel where all rooms offer a lake view. Enjoy a panoramic view of Lake Biwa!



Hotel | Otsu City | 530 | 1,910 | 4-7-7 Nio no Hama, Otsu City, Shiga | Nishiki Sta. (Keihan) → 15 min walk / JR Otsu Sta. → 10 min by shuttle bus (free of charge) | +81-77-521-1111

02 Western — Satoyu Mukashibanashi Yuzanso
里湯昔話 雄山荘

Located on the top of a hill, this ryokan offers a splendid night view of Lake Biwa.



Ryokan | Otsu City | 110 | 450 | 1-9-28 Ogoto, Otsu City, Shiga | JR Ogoto-onsen Sta. → 15 min walk | +81-77-578-1144
Western style bedrooms available

03 Western — Ogoto Onsen Biwako Hanakaido
おごと温泉 びわ湖花街道

A ryokan entirely renovated in 2019 offers a view of Lake Biwa. Some guest rooms have an open-air bath.



Ryokan | Otsu City | 43 | 170 | 1-1-3 Ogoto, Otsu City, Shiga | JR Ogoto-onsen Sta. → 5 min by pickup bus | +81-77-578-1075
Western style bedrooms available

04 Western — Biwako Hotel
琵琶湖ホテル

Biwako Hotel, a historic hotel established in 1934, stands beside Lake Biwa and all rooms offer a lake view.



Hotel | Otsu City | 175 | 565 | 2-40 Hama-machi, Otsu City, Shiga | JR Otsu Sta. → 10 min walk | +81-77-524-1255

05 Northern — Hamakogetsu
長浜太閤温泉 浜湖月

Guests can see a panoramic view of Lake Biwa against the backdrop of the Hira Mountains. The sunset view is superb.



Ryokan | Nagahama City | 8 | 48 | 4-25 Koen-cho, Nagahama City, Shiga | JR Nagahama Sta. → 8 min walk | +81-749-62-1111
Western style bedrooms available

06 Northern — L'Hôtel du Lac
ロテル・デュ・ラク

Nestled in Biwako Quasi-National Park, this is a small, quiet hotel with a total of 15 guest rooms.



Hotel | Nagahama City | 15 | 44 | 2064 Oura, Nishiazai-cho, Nagahama City, Shiga | JR Nagahama Sta. → Pickup bus (free of charge) | +81-749-89-1888

07 Northern — Kita Biwako Hotel Grazie
北ビワコホテル グラツィエ

Situated on the lakeside, the hotel is very close to the boarding point of Chikubushima Cruise. It is also convenient to other sightseeing spots in the vicinity.



Hotel | Nagahama City | 67 | 150 | 4-17 Minato-cho, Nagahama City, Shiga | JR Nagahama Sta. → 10 min walk | +81-749-62-7777



Shiga also has more accommodation facilities. ▶
Check here for details

Tourist Information Locations

After arriving in Shiga, you might have many things to ask about to local people, such as recommended sightseeing spots and where to eat delicious food. For such inquiries, go to the tourist information center! At Hikone, Nagahama, Otsu, and many other places in the prefecture, tourism experts await you!

Hikone City Tourist Information Center
Address
40-7 Furusawa-cho, Hikone City, Shiga
Phone
0749-22-2954
https://tic.jnto.go.jp/jpn/detail.php?id=1218

Nagahama Station Tourist Information Center
Address
1-5 Kitafuna-cho, Nagahama City, Shiga
Phone
0749-63-7055
https://tic.jnto.go.jp/jpn/detail.php?id=3313

Otsu Station Visitor's Information Center
Address
1-3 Kasuga-cho, Otsu City, Shiga
Phone
077-522-3830
https://tic.jnto.go.jp/jpn/detail.php?id=1211

Ishiyama Station Visitor's Information Center
Address
2-28 Awazu-cho, Otsu City, Shiga
Phone
077-534-0706
https://tic.jnto.go.jp/jpn/detail.php?id=1213

Omihachiman Kitaguchi (North Exit) Tourist Information Center
Address
Takakai-cho, Omihachiman City, Shiga
Phone
0748-33-6061
https://www.japan47go.travel/ja/detail/9bbd8000-32f9-41b0-bcf0-9b484f09a32b

Shigaraki Tourist Association
Address
1203 Nagano, Shigaraki-cho, Koka City, Shiga, (Traditional Craft Center of Shigaraki)
Phone
0748-82-2345
https://www.city.koka.lg.jp/16124.htm

Biwako Takashima Tourism Association
Address
1-10- 1 Asahi, Shinasahi-cho, Takashima City, Shiga
Phone
0740-33-7101
https://takashima-kanko.jp/

JAPAN・SHIGA
SHIGA RHYTHM
"σιγά" RHYTHM

Biwako Visitors Bureau
2023/10

This brochure is based on the information provided by the establishments and/or Biwako Visitors Bureau as of September 2023. Please bear in mind that details are subject to change without prior notice. Please check each facility's official website or SNS for the latest information.

SHIGA/BIWAKO SHIGA Tourism Official Website
https://en.biwako-visitors.jp/

JR WEST Transportation, Economical Passes, etc.
https://www.westjr.co.jp/global/en/