



Shiga Rhythm



A trip to experience the Shiga Rhythm and tune into your heart's rhythm.

Feel the Shiga Rhythm.

It is a rhythm right for nature and people,
where people have lived slowly and carefully,
in step with nature without being rushed.

Encounter the life and history of Shiga,
activities in its natural spaces, and casual
conversations with local people.

Amid the many things that happen in our
daily lives, the experience in Shiga will surely
be a journey that will help us to adjust the
rhythm of our hearts and minds.

Welcome!

Enjoy Shiga Rhythm and Lake Biwa.

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Special videos to experience the
Shiga Rhythm are now available!



Shiga Rhythm—Trip to
Experience Living Culture



Shiga Rhythm—
Pleasure Trip

Resting in the Scenery

Shiga Rhythm

Enjoy the refreshing breeze from the lake on the only inhabited island in a freshwater lake in Japan. You will be soothed by the beautiful subalpine flowers you will encounter on Mt. Ibuki, the highest mountain in Shiga. Why don't you blend into the rich nature nurtured over the years and take a break in the slowly flowing "Shiga rhythm"?



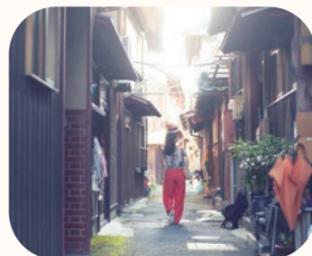
Okishima Island

Lake Biwa Cruising and Okishima Island Walk

Enjoy an island trip

to discover new landscapes.

On a short tour, it takes about two hours to explore Okishima, the only inhabited island in a freshwater lake in Japan, led by a volunteer guide. The scenery of old life remains as if you have stepped back in time, and you can experience the history and culture of Okishima as you walk through the narrow alleys.



- Location: Miyagahama, Okishima-cho, Omihachiman
Bus from JR Omihachiman Station
A short walk from Kyukamura Omihachiman Bus Stop.
- Phone: +81-748-32-3138
(Kyukamura Omihachiman)

Experience the charm of the island through a video!



It is one of Japan's 100 most famous mountains and lies on the border with Gifu Prefecture. The summit offers a panoramic view of Lake Biwa, the mountains of Hira and Hiei, the Japanese Alps, and Ise Bay below. It has been famous since ancient times as a treasure trove of prominent medicinal herbs, subalpine plants, wild birds, and insects. The flower garden at the top of the mountain has been designated a national natural monument.

- Location: Ueno in Maibara and adjacent municipalities
Approx. 20 min. by car from Sekigahara Interchange or Maihara Interchange
- Phone: +81-749-53-5140
(City Sales Department, the City of Maibara)

Mt. Ibuki

Mt. Ibuki is the highest peak in Shiga Prefecture, offering many spectacular views.



It is a beautiful town with a mix of merchants' main residences and traditional farmhouses.

Gokasho Kondo-cho Townscape

Gokasho Kondo-cho is the birthplace of the Gokasho Omi merchants who sold kimono, cotton, and silk products throughout Japan from the 18th to 20th centuries. Residences and storehouses featuring white walls and boat-plank fences stand side by side. Nishikigoi carp swim in the waterways. This scene conveys the town's atmosphere where the Omi merchants, who built the foundation of the Japanese economy, were born and raised.

- Location: Gokasho Kondo-cho, Higashiomi
Take the bus from JR Notogawa Station and get off at Plaza Sanpoyoshi Bus Stop, approx. 5 min. on foot/approx. 15 min. by car from Yokaichi Interchange
- Phone: +81-748-48-6678
(Plaza Sanpoyoshi)



Former Residence of Shigeru Tonomura, Gokasho Omi Merchant





Float your kayak and explore the lake with its spectacular scenery! Enjoy cycling along the lakeside and find your unique view. Have a pleasant time enjoying the rich nature of the lake and mountains with all your senses.

Get Close to Nature

Shiga Rhythm



Log House
Rudder

Enjoy a relaxing kayak stroll to observe nature in a relaxed atmosphere.

Why don't you go on a kayak experience tour with the owner of Rudder? After an on-land paddle lesson and explanation, go to the lake and experience paddling. After getting used to it, you can take a small tour to Oura Bay and then to Okude Bay. You can also observe various creatures and plants you meet while paddling with guidance.



● Address: 1824 Oura, Nishiazai-cho, Nagahama
Approx. 30 min. on foot from JR Nagahara Station
Approx. 20 min. by car from Kinomoto Interchange
● Phone: +81-749-89-8027



Biwaichi
Lake Biwa
Monument

Biwaichi refers to a bicycle tour around Lake Biwa or tourist attractions and scenic spots in Shiga Prefecture. Take a tour of familiar places at your own pace, and enjoy the rich nature, history, culture, and food on your route.

- Location: Imahama-cho, Moriyama
Take the bus from JR Moriyama Station and get off at Daiichi Nagisa Koen Bus Stop.
Approx. 8 min. on foot from the bus stop
- Phone: +81-77-584-5330
(Shiga Prefectural Urban Park, Lakeside Green)

For the official website of Biwaichi, scan the QR code.



Enjoy Biwaichi through your route.

Enjoy the Western-style

outdoor life by the lakeside in a vast natural setting.



Everglades
Biwako

This Western-style outdoor resort opened in April 2021. American culture is incorporated into glamping, a new experiential travel experience that combines comfort with the growing demand for outdoor activities. Children and adults alike will have a fun and enriching time.

- Address: 1249-1 Gotanda, Minamikomatsu, Otsu
Approx. 5 min. on foot from JR Omi-Maiko Station
Approx. 35 min. by car from Kyoto-Higashi Interchange
- Phone: +81-599-55-3867
(Reservation Center)

Experience the charm of the facility through a video!



Give Rise to Blessings

Shiga Rhythm

Experience making miso (bean paste) with rice malt in the home of fermented brewing born of freshwater culture. You will encounter a new taste of lake fish while admiring Lake Biwa. Learn about the charm of the water created by the abundant nature with locally brewed sake (rice wine). Here you will find a fermented culture rooted in Shiga, created by people and nature. Here you will find a unique food experience.



Kojiya Kichiuemon

Enjoy the 180-year-old taste created by local blessings and traditional production methods.

At the foot of scenic Mt. Mikami, where the countryside spreads out, Kojiya Kichiuemon has continued producing malt using a method handed down since the Edo period (1603-1868). He makes and sells miso and amazake (a traditional sweet, low-alcohol or non-alcoholic Japanese drink made from fermented rice) with a special malt and locally grown soybeans, respectively. Hands-on classes, such as a miso-making class, are also offered.



●Address: 1039 Mikami, Yasu
Approx. 5 min. by car from JR Yasu Station or approx. 25 min. on foot from JR Yasu Station
●Phone: +81-77-587-0397

Korian

Nigoro-buna (round crucian carp) caught in Lake Biwa are pickled in salt. Then they are layered with cooked rice for pickling and natural fermentation to produce funazushi (a dish of fermented crucian carp marinated with rice). The Funazushi Kaiseki (a traditional multi-course Japanese meal), served at Korian, offers funazushi in various forms.

●Address: 2307 Makino-cho Kaizu, Takashima
Approx. 30 min. by car from Kinomoto Interchange
Approx. 40 min. by car from Tsuruga Interchange
●Phone: +81-740-28-1010

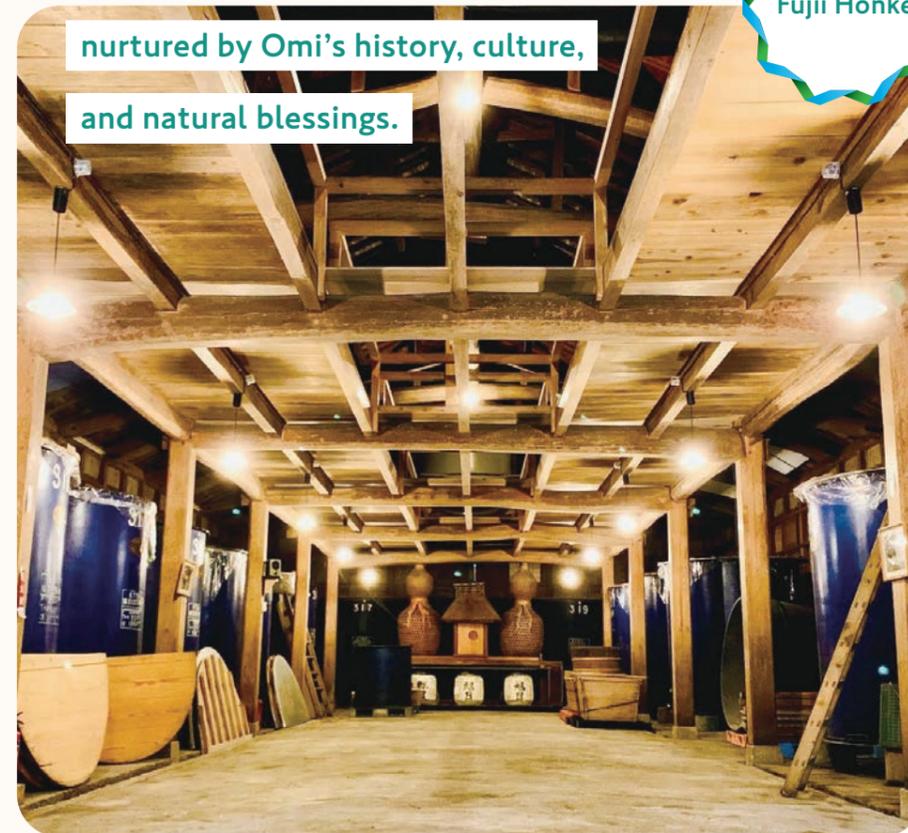


Take your time to enjoy the Funazushi Kaiseki, a traditional taste of Shiga.



Enjoy the sake (rice wine) beautifully nurtured by Omi's history, culture, and natural blessings.

Fujii Honke



The Fujii family has been brewing sake as a family business since its establishment in the Edo period (1603-1868). The sake brewery offers shirozake (sacred sake) to the Imperial Court for the Niinamesai Festival (a Japanese harvest ritual). In 2022, Fujii Honke's Kyokujitsu (sake) brand was designated by the National Tax Agency as Shiga, a Geographical Indication (GI) that indicates that the sake is produced in the correct place of origin and meets certain standards.

●Address: 793 Nagano, Aisho-cho, Echi-gun
Approx. 5 min. by car from JR Inae Station
Approx. 15 min. by car from Koto Sanzan Smart Interchange
●Phone: +81-749-42-2080

Scan the QR code for a list of sake breweries in Shiga.



Trace Back History

Shiga Rhythm

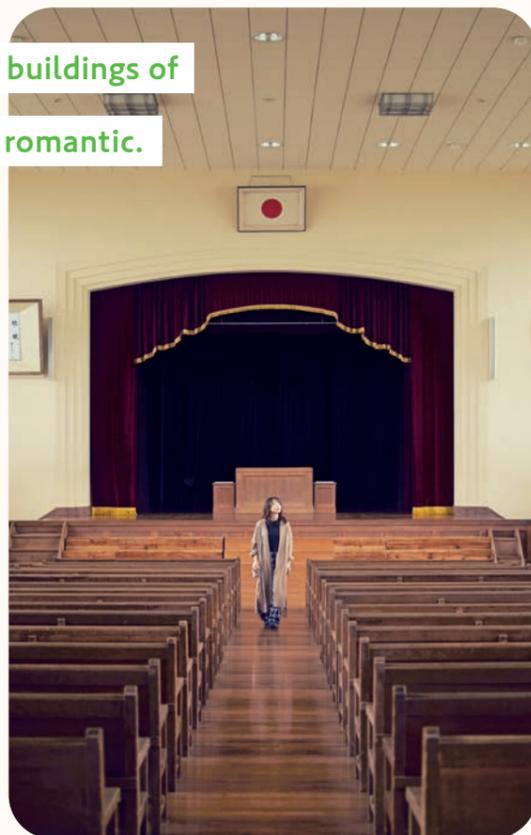


You can catch a glimpse of the atmosphere of the Edo period (1603-1868) at Hikone Castle, which beautifully preserves its appearance of those days. Experience the retro charm of the Showa period (which ended late in the 1980s) in the buildings of a school that is said to be the best elementary school architecture in the East. Feel the history of the area at the temple where the culture of water and prayer remains. Come and see the many traces of history that Mother Lake and its rich nature have witnessed.

Toyosato Elementary School Old School Buildings

The white, retro school buildings of Vories' architecture are romantic.

Designed by William Merrell Vories, the former Toyosato Elementary School building was called the best elementary school in the East. The main building is made of reinforced concrete, which was rare at the time. It was also equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including a swimming pool, an auditorium, and a separate library. Normally, visitors can freely walk around the retro school buildings. If you join a tour, you can visit special places that are not usually accessible.



●Address: 518 Ishibatake, Toyosato, Inukami-gun
Approx. 10 min. on foot from Ohmi Railway Toyosato Station
Approx. 15 min. by car from Koto Sanzan Smart Interchange
●Phone: +81-749-35-3737
(Toyosato Tourism Association)

Enjoy the castle, a national treasure, in a vast space.

Hikone Castle, which remains beautiful in its original form and aims to be registered as a World Heritage site, is decorated with various tree leaves and blossoms, including cherry blossoms, plum blossoms, and red maple leaves, depending on the season. Visitors can enjoy every moment nature and history coexist harmoniously. The adjacent Genkyuen, a feudal lord garden, as well as the stable and turrets, which are Important Cultural Properties, are not to be missed.

●Address: 1-1 Konki-cho, Hikone
Approx. 15 min. on foot from JR Hikone Station
●Phone: +81-749-22-2742



Hikone Castle and Genkyuen Garden

Learn about history and culture through ninja experiences in the great outdoors.



Koka Ninja Village

Visitors can experience ninja training in the mountains. The Koka Ninjutsu Museum in the village has the world's largest collection of ninja art materials. The Karakuri Ninja House (a house of ninja tricks) also exists. This house was originally built as the family home of Yasutake Fujibayashi, known as the author of Bansenshukai (a Japanese book containing a collection of knowledge from the clans in the Iga and Koka regions that had been devoted to the training of ninjas). The house has been moved to the village. In this birthplace of Koka ninjas, visitors can enjoy the great outdoors and feel like ninjas.

●Address: 394 Oki, Koka-cho, Koka
Approx. 10 min. by car from Konan Interchange or Koka-Tsuchiyama Interchange
●Phone: +81-748-88-5000

This temple is associated with Murasaki Shikibu and has beautiful scenery from season to season.

Ishiyama-dera Temple is the head temple of the Shingon sect of Buddhism, located on the west bank of the Seta River, which flows out of Lake Biwa. This temple, known as a temple of flowers, is associated with Murasaki Shikibu, a Japanese novelist, poet, and servant at the Imperial court in the Heian period (794 - 1185). Various kinds of cherry blossoms, narcissus, peonies, azaleas, wisteria, and Japanese honeysuckle bloom from spring to early summer.

●Address: 1-1-1 Ishiyamadera, Otsu
Approx. 10 min. on foot from Keihan Ishiyamadera Station
●Phone: +81-77-537-0013



Ishiyama-dera Temple



Hamaotsu Special Open-air Morning Market

- Location: Hamaotsu, Otsu, a short walk from Keihan Biwako-hamaotsu Station
- Phone: +81-77-523-5010 (Machidukuri Otsu Co., Ltd.)

This open-air morning market is held on the third Sunday of every month from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. It is a gathering place of Omi's finest vegetables and processed goods and a nostalgic place where people of all generations can interact with each other. It is also a place where people from outside the prefecture and abroad can learn about the quality and warmth of Shiga Prefecture.

Morning

The sunrise from Makino Sunny Beach, with its green pine forests, is worth seeing. The vast Lake Biwa is dyed red by the morning sun, and the scenery is hauntingly beautiful and atmospheric.

Lake Biwa at Sunrise

- Location: Nishihama to Chinai, Makino, Takashima/Approx. 15 min. on foot from JR Makino Station
- Phone: +81-740-27-0325 (Chinaihama Auto Campsite)

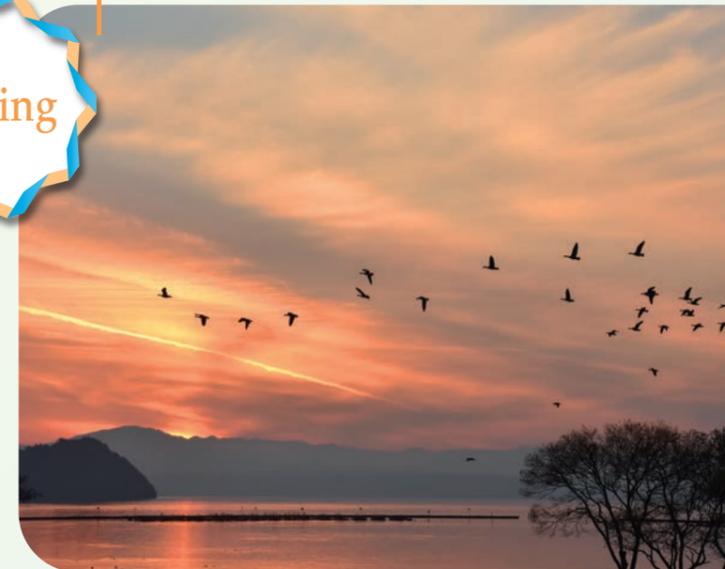


Evening

Evening view of Kusatsu Lakeside Green Park

- Location: Shina-cho, Kusatsu
- Phone: +81-77-566-3219 (Kusatsu City Tourist Association (general incorporated association))

From the Kusatsu Lakeside Green Park, visitors can watch the sunset over the mountains of Hiei on the opposite shore. Lake Biwa and the mountains are dyed red by the sunset, creating a different and dramatic atmosphere.



Located in the Kohoku Waterfowl Park, this center allows visitors to observe rare Lake Biwa waterfowl through a viewing window using a field scope and telescope. The timing of the sunset is especially recommended, and you can enjoy a fantastic view of the setting sun reflected on the lake's surface.

Kohoku Wild Birds Center

- Location: Imanishi, Kohoku-cho, Nagahama/Approx. 15 min. by car from JR Kawake Station
- Approx. 30 min. by car from Nagahama Interchange, approx. 20 min. from Kinomoto Interchange
- Phone: +81-749-79-1289

Shiga Rhythm to Enjoy by Time Slot

Shiga Rhythm



Hachijo-iwa (Mikumo Castle Ruins)

- Address: 251 Yoshinaga, Konan/Approx. 10 min. by car from JR Mikumo Station
- Phone: +81-748-71-2157 (Konan Tourism Association (general incorporated association))

In one of the corners of the ruins of Mikumo Castle, a huge rock over eight meters high called Hachijo-iwa, along with stone walls, remain in their majestic forms, making it ideal for hiking. The view of the Yasu River with the Ryuo area on the other side is beautiful.

Afternoon

You can enjoy a relaxing tour of the inner moat of Hikone Castle, one of the five national treasures of Japan, on the Osuki Yakatabune (houseboat), which is associated with the Ii clan. On a sunny day, you can enjoy the natural beauty of the castle. Enjoy a tour with the mood of a feudal lord's boat ride.

Hikone Castle Moat Tour

- Address: 3-40 Konki-cho, Hikone/Approx. 15 min. on foot from JR Hikone Station
- Get off at Ohmi Railway Hikone Station and walk approx. 15 min. or approx. 10 min. by car from Hikone Interchange.
- Phone: +81-80-1461-4123 (Koedo Hikone (NPO))



Night

Biwako Flower Fountain

- Location: Hamaotsu, Otsu/Approx. 3 min. on foot from Keihan Biwako-hamaotsu Station
- Approx. 5 min. by car from Otsu Interchange
- Phone: +81-77-521-6016 (Biwako Kisen Steamship Co., Ltd., Otsu Port designated manager)

Located on a breakwater 180 meters offshore from the Port of Otsu, this large fountain is approximately 440 meters long and 40 meters high (equivalent to a 10-story building). It is one of the world's longest fountains. At night, it is beautifully illuminated in orange, white, and green, creating a magical atmosphere on Lake Biwa.

It is a famous place for night sky photography, where you can photograph and fully enjoy the star-filled sky in a quiet space surrounded by nature with few cars passing by and streetlights. There are grassy plazas and benches around the dam for families to enjoy.

Zao Dam

- Address: 333-97 Zao, Hino (Management Office)
- From Ohmi Railway Hino Station, get off at Kitabataguchi Bus Stop and walk approx. 30 min.
- Take the bus from JR Omihachiman Station, get off at Kitabataguchi Bus Stop, and walk for approx. 30 min.
- Approx. 25 min. by car from Yokaichi Interchange or Koka-Tsuchiyama Interchange
- Phone: +81-748-52-6577 (Hino Tourist Association)



Lake Biwa-friendly agriculture, forestry, and fisheries with a sense of Shiga Rhythm have been recognized as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) site.



The Biwa Lake to Land Integrated System (agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industry system), which has nurtured rich biodiversity in harmony with Lake Biwa, was recognized as a GIAHS site by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in July 2022. This system includes traditional Lake Biwa fisheries, Sakana-no-yurikago-suiden (lit. fish cradle paddies, where fish from Lake Biwa migrate upstream to the rice paddies, spawn, and nurture their young), and environmentally conscious agriculture.



Please enjoy the fortunes of Shiga nurtured by the rich nature of Shiga Prefecture and the tireless efforts of their producers.

Lake Fish

Lake Biwa is home to a wide variety of lake fish, including species endemic to the lake, such as Biwa trout, Seta shijimi (a common freshwater clam), honmoroko (a member of the carp family and high-end fish living in Lake Biwa), and nigorobuna (round crucian carp). The food culture using these fish has also been nurtured, and funazushi (a dish of fermented crucian carp marinated with rice) is still a popular specialty of Shiga Prefecture.



Omi Beef

Omi beef is one of Japan's three major beef breeds. Bred in Shiga Prefecture, blessed with a rich natural environment and water, Omi beef is characterized by its mellow aroma and tenderness. Its melt-in-your-mouth taste is highly evaluated throughout Japan.



Omi Tea

Shiga Prefecture is said to be the birthplace of Japanese tea leaves. It is said that Saicho, the founder of Enryaku-ji Temple, brought back tea seeds from China and planted them around Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine. The tea produced in the prefecture is called Omi no cha (Omi Tea) and is known as an excellent tea that has won top prizes at national tea fairs and other competitions.

