## Event Schedule

### September

**BIWAICHI —Cycling around Lake Biwa—**
A trip around all 200 km of Lake Biwa’s circumference by bicycle is called BIWAICHI. It has wide-open lake-side areas aplenty, but head up to the northern area of Lake Biwa, and it reveals its peaceful, quiet side. The road is dotted with areas where you can feel life as it once was, and precious locations of historical heritage. Sakura cherry blossoms, the green verdure of summer, the autumn-colored foliage... the face of Lake Biwa changes with the seasons. BIWAICHI is more than just a circuit of the lake; we recommend spending two to three days taking in the sights, sounds and sentiment of the lake.

**BIWAICHI BEST SHOT!!**

---

### October

**TUKUROHI, ATSUSHI FUJWARA PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITION**
A contemporary art exhibition with works by photographer ATSUSHI FUJWARA. His works express the beauty of the human body. A display featuring painting, sculpture, photography, order-made wheelchairs and more.

**Cyclist Monument EXHIBITION**
An exhibition on the theme of “ISHIN-DENSHIN Try Starting with Body” will be based on introducing the works of three young artists connected to Shiga.

**“SCATTERED LIGHT - CIRCULATION” EXHIBITION**
A contemporary art exhibition with works in Shiga prefeture being held by THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, Shiga. The exhibition’s theme is “City Streets and Circulation,” and it will be based on introducing the works of three young artists connected to Shiga.

**“ISHIN-DENSHIN Try Starting with Body” EXHIBITION**
An exhibition as the theme of body. The experince to sight, smell, touch, and taste, brought from their living home to focus on the body, and the sensation of body, reveal the fundamental experience of the human body. A display featuring painting, sculpture, photography, order-made wheelchairs and more.

**OTSU MATUSRI FESTIVAL**
One of three lake province festivals started at the TESON JINJA Shrine in the Edo period (1603-1868). The main event of this festival is the parade of 10,000 homme floats on the water of Lake Biwa. These floats hold various images of the terrain from the floats to viewers, and each float has a fantastic design mechanical support on show.

**NOH THEATER PERFORMANCE “MATSUBAKUZU”**
The traditional performing art of Noh comes to Japan from China in the Nara period (710-794) as Sangaku and further developed by Kan'ami K Seki. The current performance is thought to be an adaptation by Kazuo at an original story created by Kamo.

### November

**TREE CANDY TRAIL OPENING**
A new outdoor exhibit has opened at the Lake Biwa Museum. The Tree Candy Trail is a 230 m path among the treetops, granting you an unparalleled view of Lake Biwa, and giving visitors the chance to get up close and personal with Japan’s largest lake and the surrounding forest. The opening of this new interactive space in nature creates a new spot for the museum.

**THE 14TH HIGASHIOMI ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL**
A play based on the classic Nangyo spoken comedy play “Kibun in a well” that tells a picture of the Edo period (1603-1868) full of humor in a bawdy overfitting with the warmth of human kindness. The creator of the city will distribute tickets, so you must make a reservation in advance.

---

### About Shiga

As Lake Biwa prefecture is located almost at the exact center of Japan, and blessed with the largest lake, Lake Biwa, there are plenty of places to see and things to do. Visiting the temples and shrines, the old Karasudai road, and the historical buildings and streetcorner gives you a chance to get a taste for the varied culture of Shiga. And the cultural landscape and food culture created from the harmony between the plentiful water resources and lifestyle of the people are sure to impress any visitor. Let’s discover Shiga together.

### Access to Shiga

**OMI BEEF — the ultimate in local cuisine**

OMI Beef is acknowledged as one of the three top wagyu beef in Japan. It has a long history stretching back nearly 400 years, when it was specially prepared for shogun and daimyo nobles. Prepared from Japanese black cattle that have been carefully nurtured over many years, Omi Beef boasts an exceptionally smooth and fine-grained texture complemented by mild fat with a hint of sweetness, which produces a wonderful aftertaste. Restaurants in the prefecture offer Omi Beef steaks as well as Omi Beef in traditional Japanese dishes such as sukiyaki and shabu-shabu.

---

*Published by: Shiga Prefecture / 2018.9*
A cultural asset boasting 400 years of history

Following the history of HIKONE-JO Castle

The construction of HIKONE-JO Castle was started in 1604, four years after the Battle of Sakagahara between the eastern army spearheaded by Toyotomi Hideyoshi and the western army led by Tokugawa Ieyasu. Achieving victory, Toyotomi Hideyoshi set about building an ODA-JO Castle, which was home to Toyotomi History, a son of Tokunobu Ii. The castle was named HOSOTSUBA-JO after the Tokugawa family crest. In order to protect the castle and surroundings, the NISHINOMARU Three-Story YAGURA Turret was built on a stone wall over 10 m in height. In order for emergency, the NISHINOMARU Three-Story YAGURA Turret (photo 2) was built on a stone wall over 10 m in height. Block towers were built to the north and south of the castle. A N transport of the castle was completed in 1606 by the first generation of the Ii clan's reign in the Hikone domain, Naokatsu the 13th generation, a chief minister of the daimyo's cabinet. The castle and surrounding castle town were completed in 1603 by the 1st generation of the Ii clan's reign in the Hikone domain, Masaaki the 13th generation, a chief minister of the daimyo's cabinet.

HIKONE-JO Castle has around 400 years of history since its construction to serve as the residence of the daimyo — daimyo, samurai lords who governed the Hikone region — in the Edo period (1603-1867). Although many Japanese castles were burned down in battles or dismantled, HIKONE-JO Castle is one of just a few that remain as they stood at their construction centuries ago. The tenshu (castle tower), joruri-yagura (connecting tower), and naramono-yagura (platform) are important cultural assets, listed as "national treasures" of especially high cultural and academic value. Together with other castles, such as World Heritage site HIMEJI-JO Castle, it is known as one of the five national treasure castles of Japan. In addition to all the castle's traditional elements, you might expect of a more modern Japanese castle, the construction is replete with ingenious features to keep enemies out, such as nobori-nagare (flag stone walls) and shorter (joy musashi), but the castle is not all about battles and fortifications. The castle's residence HEIYAKU KOKUBUNROKU Palace, now called GENGURYU KOKUBUROKU Building, next to the magnificent Japanese garden, GENGURYUEN Garden, reveal the elegant lifestyle that the daimyo enjoyed in the years of peace that followed. In particular, Naokatsu the 13th generation, a chief minister of the Edo period famous for signing the Hinteik Treaty with the US, until becoming daimyo at age 32, was very interested in tea ceremony and martial arts, and tried a variety of cultural arts while residing here.

HIKONE-JO Castle and GENKYUEN Garden set:
1-1 Konki-cho, Hikone, Shiga
Open every day (with Japanese confectionery, ¥500) in HOSHODAI Teahouse

**ENGLISH BROCHURE**

- 800, Junior High School and Elementary School Students
- 500, Middle School and High School Students
- 200, younger children enter for free

**ACCESS**

- 10am-5pm (Admission until 4pm)
- 0748-46-2424

**ADDRESS**

1-1 Konki-cho, Hikone, Shiga

**ENTRY FEE**

- 1000 (Admission only)
- 1500 (Admission and exhibition centered on ancient documents, passed on over 45,000 pieces of historical materials dating BCE to the Kofun period (around 14,000 BCE to 400 BCE) to the Nara period (710-794) which is established in the Edo period (1603-1867) onward. The basis of the modern interpretation is the people who were active on battlefields near and far, highly versed in the pen and the sword, and the legends that they left behind. The term "Ninja" can be traced back to the 9th generation, Ii Naoyoshi, the head of the daimyo's cabinet, who was active in the Sekigahara battle of 1600, and the helmet and chest armor were of the forearm making it practical and easy to maneuver. The "Akazonae" (characteristic vermillion red armor, worn by the head of the clan down to the present) is now a symbol of strong troops.

HIKONE-JO Castle has a variety of practical features for protection and battle, including the TENBIN YAGURA (tower) (photo 1), which is built around a corridor bridge equipped with all-weather glazed tiles, and the NISHINOMARU Three-Story YAGURA Turret (photo 2) which is built on top of a stone wall over 10 m in height. Block towers were built to the north and south of the castle. A N transport of the castle was completed in 1606 by the first generation of the Ii clan's reign in the Hikone domain, Masaaki the 13th generation, a chief minister of the daimyo's cabinet. The castle and surrounding castle town were completed in 1603 by the 1st generation of the Ii clan's reign in the Hikone domain, Naokatsu the 13th generation, a chief minister of the daimyo's cabinet.

HIKONE-JO Castle is one of the five national treasure castles of Japan. In addition to all the castle's traditional elements, you might expect of a more modern Japanese castle, the construction is replete with ingenious features to keep enemies out, such as nobori-nagare (flag stone walls) and shorter (joy musashi), but the castle is not all about battles and fortifications. The castle's residence HEIYAKU KOKUBUNROKU Palace, now called GENGURYU KOKUBUROKU Building, next to the magnificent Japanese garden, GENGURYUEN Garden, reveal the elegant lifestyle that the daimyo enjoyed in the years of peace that followed. In particular, Naokatsu the 13th generation, a chief minister of the Edo period famous for signing the Hinteik Treaty with the US, until becoming daimyo at age 32, was very interested in tea ceremony and martial arts, and tried a variety of cultural arts while residing here.

HIKONE-JO Castle has around 400 years of history since its construction to serve as the residence of the daimyo — daimyo, samurai lords who governed the Hikone region — in the Edo period (1603-1867). Although many Japanese castles were burned down in battles or dismantled, HIKONE-JO Castle is one of just a few that remain as they stood at their construction centuries ago. The tenshu (castle tower), joruri-yagura (connecting tower), and naramono-yagura (platform) are important cultural assets, listed as "national treasures" of especially high cultural and academic value. Together with other castles, such as World Heritage site HIMEJI-JO Castle, it is known as one of the five national treasure castles of Japan. In addition to all the castle's traditional elements, you might expect of a more modern Japanese castle, the construction is replete with ingenious features to keep enemies out, such as nobori-nagare (flag stone walls) and shorter (joy musashi), but the castle is not all about battles and fortifications. The castle's residence HEIYAKU KOKUBUNROKU Palace, now called GENGURYU KOKUBUROKU Building, next to the magnificent Japanese garden, GENGURYUEN Garden, reveal the elegant lifestyle that the daimyo enjoyed in the years of peace that followed. In particular, Naokatsu the 13th generation, a chief minister of the Edo period famous for signing the Hinteik Treaty with the US, until becoming daimyo at age 32, was very interested in tea ceremony and martial arts, and tried a variety of cultural arts while residing here.