

The Merits of Shiga 3 Comfortable living environment

Lake Biwa - comfortable lifestyle that receives the benefits of nature

Shiga Prefecture, with Japan's largest lake 'Biwako' located in the center, is one of the foremost 'environmentally progressive prefectures' in Japan and also has many carefully maintained regional historical and cultural heritage sites. This rich environment makes it a region well suited to forward thinking lifestyles and creative activities.



Profile	
Number of cities and towns	13 cities and 6 towns
Area	4017.36 km ²
Population	1,415,536 (October 1, 2016)
Population density	352.4 people/km ²
Average age	44.5 3rd nationally (2015 census)
Average income per person	3.273 million yen, 4th nationally (2013 Prefectural Economic Census)

Life on the Shores of Lake Biwa

Environment where sports and outdoor activities can be enjoyed in all seasons



A variety of outdoor activities and sports can be enjoyed throughout the year in Shiga Prefecture where nature is plentiful. The 'Biwaichi' where cyclists ride all the way around Lake Biwa is well known and loved among enthusiasts.

Environmental maintenance and the making of tourists routes are being promoted by the prefecture, cities and towns in order for more and more people to be able to enjoy the Biwaichi.

Environment convenient for shopping



The number of department stores and general merchandise stores per hundred thousand people is 2.33, which is the 2nd highest figure nationally. The number of large-scale retail outlets per hundred thousand people is 12.52, which is the 5th

highest figure nationally. This situation allows you to easily shop for daily essential items nearby.

Surroundings where you can meet refined culture and art



Biwako Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Shiga is located in Shiga Prefecture. With the first four-sided stage in western Japan and the holding of independently produced operas, it has received acclaim as one of the foremost locations for stage-based arts in Japan.



There is also the Lake Biwa Museum which conveys the value of Lake Biwa and undertakes research studies, collection, exhibitions and preservation. The same museum has been renewed in recent years and always provides new topics.

Educational environment that makes the most of plentiful nature



Experiential educational curricula are being established in Shiga Prefecture that take advantage of the plentiful natural environment centered around Lake Biwa. Abundant emotions are nurtured in children through a variety of experiential studies such as environmental learning on boats and in the forest, agricultural activities on farmland, artistic activities in Biwako Hall, traditional ceramics activities and workplace experiences for junior high school students, according to the development stage of the children.

Three Merits of Shiga

1. Bringing together the east, west, south and north, right in the heart of Japan

Region blessed with an advantageous position with few natural disasters and convenient access from the major cities.



2. Accumulation of research and development centers

Mother-factories that lead global manufacturing, research and development facilities and universities gather together.



3. Comfortable living environment

Plentiful nature filled with greenery and blessed by Lake Biwa. Education oriented towards the future and comfortable living.



Shiga Prefecture, Department of Commerce, Industry, Tourism and Labor, Corporate Investment Implementation Division

4-1-1 Kyo-machi, Otsu, Shiga 520-8577 Japan
 Telephone: 077- 528 - 3792 / Fax: 077- 528 - 4876
 E-mail: fd00050@pref.shiga.lg.jp
<http://www.pref.shiga.lg.jp/f/shinsangyo/richi>

<http://www.pref.shiga.lg.jp/f/shinsangyo/richi>



The Merits of Shiga 1

Bringing together the east, west, south and north, right in the heart of Japan

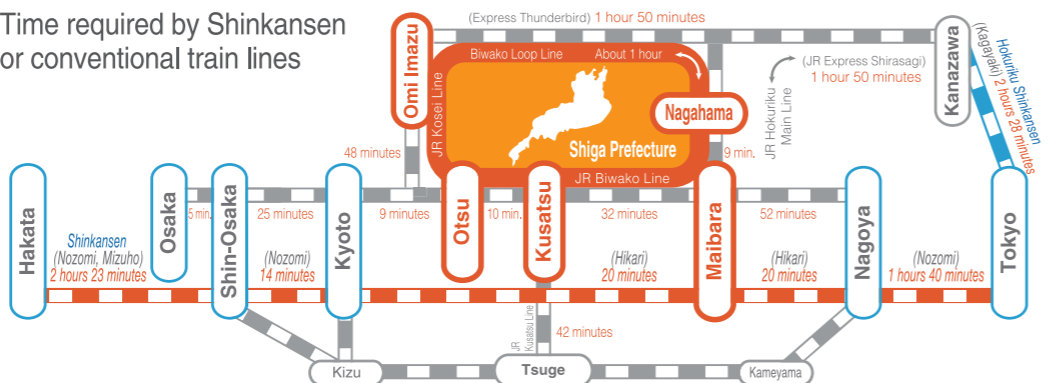
Great accessibility from major cities

Shiga Prefecture is located at a crossing point among the Kansai, Chukyo, and Hokuriku Economic Areas. Numerous international ports and international airports operate within a 100 km area, with each of these reachable within 90 minutes from inside the prefecture. This location is ideal for undertaking business activities in Japan.



From Otsu City to Kansai International Airport		
By Rail	109 km	89 minutes
By Road	107 km	100 minutes
From Maibara City to Chubu Centrail International Airport		
By Rail	119 km	84 minutes
By Road	115 km	110 minutes
From Otsu City to Port of Osaka		
By Road	71 km	61 minutes
From Otsu City to Yokkaichi Port		
By Road	91 km	80 minutes
From Maibara City to Port of Nagoya		
By Road	91 km	80 minutes
Maibara City to Tsuruga Port		
By Road	57 km	54 minutes <i>Using toll roads etc.</i>

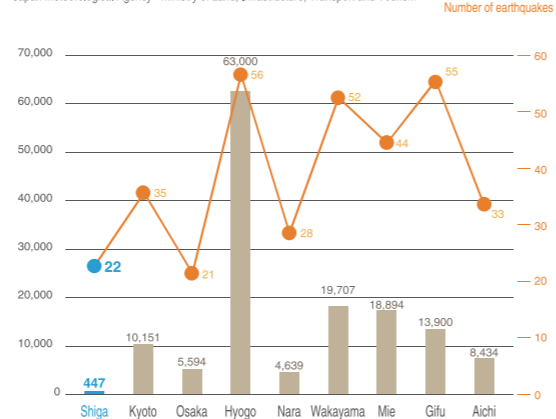
Time required by Shinkansen or conventional train lines



Land is affordable and there are few natural disasters

Land is affordable in Shiga Prefecture compared to nearby regions, with proximity to markets and the convenient transport combining to make it the choice of many companies. Furthermore, the average annual water damage costs for the past 10 years from 2003 to 2012 are the lowest in the country, while the number of earthquakes beyond level 4 are low for the Kansai region, meaning natural disasters are infrequent overall in the region.

Number of earthquakes beyond level 4 and the average cost of annual water damage in the last 10 years
(Source: Seismic Intensity Database, Water Damage Statistical Survey)
Japan Meteorological Agency - Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism



The average price of industrial land (yen/m²) (Source: 2016 Land Price Research by Prefectural Governments)

Gifu Prefecture 20,000	Wakayama Prefecture 24,300	Aichi Prefecture 56,200
Mie Prefecture 19,400	Nara Prefecture 37,600	Kyoto Prefecture 64,500
Shiga Prefecture 26,400	Hyogo Prefecture 48,800	Osaka Prefecture 106,700

The Merits of Shiga 2

Accumulation of research and development centers

In Shiga Prefecture, the accumulation of industrial product manufacturing factories has progressed due to the abundant aquatic resources of Lake Biwa and the advantages of the convenient transport, with the ratio of secondary manufacturing within overall prefectural production amounting to 41%, making it number 1 nationally. (2012 Shiga Prefecture Economic Census/Shiga Prefecture Statistics Division)

The accumulation of intellectual resources has progressed in recent years, through the mother-factories and research and development centers of some of Japan's leading corporations and well as the opening of new university departments.

We aim to function as a world-leading global innovation center for product development while advancing and making use of the accumulation of intellectual resources.



Universities and colleges



13 Universities in Shiga List by academic discipline [2016]

University	Literature/Culture/ Psychology Disciplines	Foreign Language Disciplines	Law/Politics Disciplines	Economics/Business Administration/ Commerce Disciplines	Sociology/Social Welfare Disciplines	International Relations Disciplines	Food/Clothing/Home Economics Disciplines	Artistic Disciplines	Education/Teacher Training Disciplines	Human Sciences/Integrated Science Disciplines	Nursing/Health/Sport/ Health Science Disciplines	Medicine/Dentistry/ Pharmacy Disciplines	Science Disciplines	Engineering Disciplines	Agriculture/Fisheries Disciplines	Environmental Science Disciplines
Nagahama Institute of Bio-Science and Technology																
Shiga Bunkyo Junior College	●															
Shiga University				●					●							
University of Shiga Prefecture	●					●			●		●			●	●	●
Seisen University	●			●					●							
Biwako-Gakuin University/Junior College Department																
Ritsumeikan University (Biwako-Kusatsu Campus)																
Shiga University of Medical Science																
Ryukoku University (Seta Campus)						●										
The Open University of Japan (Shiga Study Center)																
Shiga Junior College				●					●							
Seian University of Art and Design																
Biwako Seikei Sport College																

* The first Data Science Department in Japan was started at Shiga University in 2017

Operational support unique to Shiga Prefecture



Biwako Environmental Business Exhibition

Held annually since 1998 to proactively support environmental businesses which contribute to environmental conservation. Highly acclaimed as a place for environmental businesses to interact, with over 300 companies from across the nation exhibiting and over 30,000 attendees.



Omi Technology Tenbinbo Enterprise

Making an analogy with the Omi merchants who once traded across the nation while bearing Tenbinbo carrying poles, this trade fair features exhibitions and PR for products and technology by prefectural companies aimed at major users from inside and outside the prefecture. It is being used as a chance to expand business chances, raise product strength, and procure component materials.



Omi Kinseki Society

An information exchange meeting about the operational environment held periodically between companies who operate in the prefecture and local governments. The name Kinseki (earth and stone) is meant to represent a firm friendship, with the aim of creating "face to face" relations.