

Explore **forests**, **rivers**, **villages** and **lakes** to the full!

To create your own unique Biwatabi.

Experience in Shiga Prefecture the beauties of its rich and unique natural landscapes such as Lake Biwa, and the traditions and lifestyles inherited by the people who live there. Enjoy heartwarming sceneries and chance meetings as you travel through the forests, rivers, villages, and lakes of Shiga. The tours will provide you with relaxation and insights, enhancing your personal growth—Why not start your own “Biwatabi” ?

What is ecotourism?

While there are various definitions of ecotourism, Shiga Prefecture defines ecotourism as “an activity for enhancing understanding and interest in Lake Biwa and the surrounding environment by allowing people to learn about Lake Biwa and its surrounding natural environment and lifestyles through participation in activities and hands-on experiences, thereby raising their awareness of the significance of Lake Biwa and nature.”

Recommended Route 1 Takashima Area

Exploring the natural beauty in Kosei
Tour around the clear waterside and plateau ▶P4



Recommended Route 4 Konan/Otsu Area

Beginners are welcome!
 Get started with “Bwaichi”
A trip around Lake Biwa to enjoy Lake Biwa with all your senses ▶P10



Recommended Route 2 Maibara/Nagahama Area

Recommended Route 2 Maibara/Nagahama Area

Traveling from Samegai/Kaminyu to Okubiwako
Tour to discover how people live and work in the northern part of Lake Biwa
 ▶P6



Recommended Route 3 Higashiomi Area

Magnificent 10 mountains of Suzuka and Okishima, a populated lake island
Tour to experience the interactions within the ecosystem, including the forests, the rivers, the villages, and the lake ▶P8



Discover more! Ecotourism Sites in Shiga ▶P12

Additional sites Recommended in Shiga!





Kayaking experience to enjoy activities on the water

Recommended Route 1 Takashima Area

Exploring the natural beauty in Kosei Tour around the clear waterside and plateau

START & GOAL



Start your tour at the cool Makino Highland. Visit the Choshigataki waterfall, where the rain-making rituals are held whenever necessary, and then head for the delta at the mouth of the Chinai River. Paddle a kayak to observe the nature on the shores of Lake Biwa, and then pass through the metasequoia trees to return to the Makino Highland. Finally, soothe away your fatigue from the trip in a hot spring on the plateau.

- START** Required time: About 5 hours and 30 minutes
- Makino Highland Visitors' Center
About 30 minutes on foot
 - 1 Choshigataki about 30 minutes
About 30 minutes on foot
 - Makino Highland Visitors' Center
About 15 minutes by car
 - 2 Kayaking in Lake Biwa about 2 hours
About 7 minutes by car
 - 3 Avenue of Metasequoias
About 5 minutes by car
 - 4 Makino Highland Onsen Sarasa about 1 hour and 30 minutes
- GOAL**



Explore the water source forest /

1 Choshigataki

A beautiful waterfall with a drop of 13 m that emerges when you walk along the "Therapy Road" along the Yokitogi River from the Makino Highland Visitors' Center. A round trip walking tour of about 2.6 km, taking about an hour and a half.

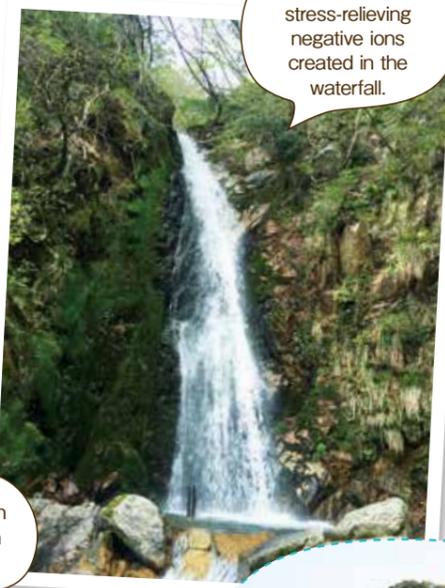
📍 Makino Makino-cho, Takashima-shi ☎️ 0740-27-0936 (Makino Highlands)
📅 Holidays None



Travel through rich nature in Makino!

◀ Takashima City/Makino Area Tour Guide, Makino Nature Observation Club Ryoichi Taniguchi
We offer trekking, nature observation, and kayaking tours mainly in the Makino area.
Makino Nature Observation Club ☎️ 0740-27-1385

▶ Plateau with stretches of lawn



Experience the stress-relieving negative ions created in the waterfall.



Funazushi at Uoji Honten



A traditional food made from slowly fermented Nigoro-buna (round crucian carp).
📍 2304 Kaizu, Makino-cho, Takashima-shi ☎️ 0740-28-1011
📅 Holidays Tuesdays



Experience activities on the lake surface by kayaking!

Waterside kayaking /

2 Kayaking in Lake Biwa

Experience kayaking to observe nature in Lake Biwa and the Chinai River with a rich ecosystem. Observe various fish in the Chinai River, such as ayu (sweetfish) and hasu (Opsariichthys uncirostris). You can also try your hand at net casting during the tour in the Chinai River. (Required time is about 2 hours)

📍 Lake Biwa, Chinai River Estuary, Chinai, Makino-cho, Takashima-shi ☎️ 0740-28-1231 (Okubiwako Makino Park Hotel & Seminar House)
📅 Holidays Please contact.



You may also like...

Cast a net like a fisherman!



Net casting in the Chinai River facilitates even beginners to catch fish. Experience net casting, and you will feel like a fisherman in Lake Biwa!

Go and see the magnificent scenery on the plateau /

3 Avenue of Metasequoias

Enjoy the spectacular road lined with about 500 metasequoia trees extending for about 2.4 km through Makino Pickland, an agricultural park. In any of the four seasons, you can enjoy unique and beautiful scenery.

📍 Hiruguchi to Makino, Makino-cho, Takashima-shi ☎️ 0740-33-7101 ((Public Corporation) Biwako Takashima Tourism Association) 📅 Holidays None

You may also like...



Makino Pickland fruit harvesting experience
Experience picking various fruits, such as cherries from May to June and grapes from August to September.
☎️ 0740-27-1811 (Makino Pickland)



Young leaves of metasequoia create a beautiful landscape in mid-April to May

In the surrounding area...

Adogawa Taisanji Soranone

A restaurant known for its furnace-cooked rice. Many seasonal events such as harvesting and markets are provided. Blueberry picking is very popular in summer!

📍 4942-1 Tanaka, Adogawa-cho, Takashima-shi ☎️ 0740-32-3750
📅 Holidays Thursdays, New Year holidays



▶ Blueberry picking experience

Furnace-cooked rice set



Harie Shozu no Sato

A waterside town known for "Kabata," a water supply system utilizing spring water, which residents still use in their daily lives.



📍 Shinasahi-cho, Takashima-shi ☎️ 0740-25-6566 (Harie Shozu no Sato Committee)
📅 Holidays Please contact.

Takashima City Shin-asahi Waterfowl Watching Center

Guided walking tours during which you can observe waterbirds are popular. The center also has a café.



📍 1600-1 Alba, Shinasahi-cho, Takashima-shi ☎️ 0740-25-5803
📅 Holidays Tuesdays, December 29 to January 3 * Temporary closure may occur in addition to the above.

Equipped with an open-air bath overlooking the Takashima Trail /

4 Makino Highland Onsen Sarasa

A hot spring on the Makino Highland within a one-day distance. An alkaline hot spring containing trace minerals including radon and fluorine ions, which enhance the smoothness of the skin. There is a "Bade" (bath) zone where you can take a bath with your swimsuit on (note: closed in winter).

📍 931-3 Makino, Makino-cho, Takashima-shi ☎️ 0740-27-8126
📅 Holidays 2nd & 4th Wednesdays (closed on the following day if the above falls on a national holiday) * Temporary closure may occur due to maintenance and inspection



Fully equipped with jacuzzi and an open-air bath





The craftsman will teach you carefully.

Recommended Route 2 Maibara/Nagahama Area

Traveling from Samegai/Kaminyu to Okubiwako Tour to discover how people live and work in the northern part of Lake Biwa



The Kaminyu district of Maibara City is surrounded by mountains supplying water to Lake Biwa. The woodcarving industry has flourished in this area since ancient times, and craftsmen today continue the traditional craft. A 30-minute walk from Kaminyu Woodcarving Village will bring you to Samegai-juku, the 61st post town on the Nakasendo. Enjoy a stroll around the post town, and then take a train to the Kohoku Area. Take a water taxi from Onoe Fishing Port to enjoy the view from the lake.



- START** Required time: About 7 hours
- Samegai Station
About 30 minutes on foot
 - 1 Kaminyu Woodcarving Village
about 2 hours
About 30 minutes on foot
 - 2 Stroll along the Jizo River
about 1 hour
About 50 minutes by train
 - Kawake Station Community House
About 30 minutes by bicycle
 - 3 Water taxi
about 1 hour
About 30 minutes by bicycle
 - Kawake Station Community House
- GOAL**

*Available for tourists from abroad

A place where traditional craftsmen assemble

1 Kaminyu Woodcarving Village

Kaminyu, Maibara City, is a unique village where traditional Japanese craftsmen live. About 30 craftsmen, including wood carvers, woodworkers, and lacquer-ware artisans, are engaged in creative activities. At Kaminyu, you can enjoy a hands-on woodcarving experience.



Kazushige Ijiri, one of the craftsmen (Ijiri Choukokusho)

Kaminyu Woodpeckers
A craft center where you can experience woodcarving to make items such as coasters and hot pan holders. Experience time: about 2 hours.

Holidays Irregular
https://tonton-craft.com/

Woodcarving is so interesting that you may even forget the time!



Create coasters of your own design.



A wooden spoon smooth to the touch



Woodcarving works show traditional craftsmanship

The wood carving experience is popular among tourists from abroad!



Maibara City Samegai/Kaminyu Area Tour Guide Biwako Backroads Takako Matsui-Leidy

Biwako Backroads provides guided tours from Maibara Station for tourists from abroad. The tours are aimed to promote tourists' understanding of the nature, culture and history of Shiga.

Biwako Backroads
info@biwakobackroads.com
0749-53-2119



Experience wood carving here!



Kawake Sta.: rental bicycles are available here!

Kawake Sta. Community House
City bikes and battery-assisted bikes are available for rent.
5454 Yamawaki, Kohoku-cho, Nagahama-shi
0749-78-2280
Holidays None

3 Water taxi (Onoe Fishing Port)

Kohoku Wild birds Center / Biwako Waterfowl & Wetland Center

Lake Biwa

Hayami Chuo

Takatoki River

GOAL

Kawake Sta. Community House

Kawake Sta.

Scale 0 500m

Map labels: JR Hokuriku Main Line, Tokaido Main Line, Meishin Expressway, Kamo Shrine, Isame no Shimizu, Samegai Sta., Honjin Higuchiyama, Samegai Museum, Ijiri Choukokusho, Kaminyu, Shimonyu, Maibara Police Station, Maibara Sta., Omi Railway Hikone/Taga Taisha Line, Shiga Prefecture, Samegai Trout Farm, Shinmei Shrine.

3 Water taxi

A water taxi is available at Onoe fishing port. A fisherman from the Kohoku area will guide you and choose the course according to the weather and lake conditions. Enjoy the scenery from the lake using your five senses, such as the flapping wings of migratory birds or the wind crossing the surface of the lake. (Experience time At least 30 minutes)

Onoe Fishing Port, Kohoku-cho, Nagahama-shi
090-6901-0049 (Water Taxi Study Group)
Holidays Not available if the weather is bad (Irregular)



Hands-on tour to enjoy nature

You may also like...



Dip your hand in Lake Biwa

Try dipping your hand in Lake Biwa, as the fisherman serving as your guide very much wants you to know how the lake water feels.



Tour around Lake Biwa as you listen to the fisherman's commentary

Lake Biwa changes its landscape according to the climate and season!



Masatomi Matsuoka, a fisherman at Onoe Fishing Port serving as a water taxi guide

Enjoy unique scenery in each season, such as cherry blossoms in spring and colored leaves in autumn.

In the surrounding area...

+ Additional places to visit in Samegai

Honjin Higuchiyama (Remains of Samegai-juku Honjin)

A restaurant located in the former headquarters of the post town. Valuable items from the Edo period are on display in the restaurant.



You may also enjoy feeding or touching the fish.

122 Samegai, Maibara-shi
0749-54-0016
Holidays Irregular

Shiga Prefecture Samegai Trout Farm

Japan's oldest trout farm. Enjoy fishing rainbow trout, and take the catch home if you like.



Kaminyu, Maibara-shi
0749-54-0301
Holidays New Year Holidays

A relaxing stroll in the post town

2 Stroll along the Jizo River



The water temperature is constantly about 14°C throughout the year.

The Jizo River originates from the spring known as Isame no Shimizu

The Jizo River flows through Samegai Post Town. In spring, cherry blossoms add color to the riverside. From late July to late August, the white flowers of baikamo (plum flower algae) bloom on the surface of the river. The spring water of the Jizo River is still used in daily life, such as for cooling watermelons, by local residents.

Flower field of Mt. Ibuki

The summit hosts a field of wild flowers where about 350 species of flowers are in full bloom.



1632 Aza Nodayama, Okubo, Maibara-shi
0584-43-1155 (Ibukiyama Driveway)
Holidays Open from the 3rd Saturday of April to the last Sunday of November, otherwise closed in winter

Lakeside village of Sugaura (important cultural landscape)

The unique terrain of mountains protruding to the lakeshore presents a beautiful landscape reminiscent of a Nordic fjord.



Sugaura, Nishiazai-cho, Nagahama-shi
0749-65-6521 (Nagahama Tourism Association)



Recommended Route 3 Higashiomi Area

Magnificent 10 mountains of Suzuka and Okishima, a populated lake island

Tour to experience the interactions within the ecosystem, including the forests, the rivers, the villages, and the lake



This is an overnight trip to experience life around Lake Biwa, traveling from the water source forest in the Suzuka Mountains along the Echi River to experience life in a village utilizing resources from Lake Biwa. In Lake Biwa and its surrounding areas, a system of agriculture, forestry and fisheries (Lake Biwa System) that aims to live in harmony with Lake Biwa, including conservation of water source forests, traditional fishing represented by "Eri (fish trap)" fishing, and environment-friendly agriculture such as fish cradle paddy fields, has been handed down for more than a thousand years.

Lake Biwa System
In February 2019, the Lake Biwa System was certified as Japan's Important Agricultural Heritage System. Lake Biwa region has now applied for certification of "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System"! Its campaign Logo mark was selected as a result of an open competition!



- START**
- Day 1** Required time: About 8 hours
- Michi-no-Eki Okueigenji Keiryu no Sato
About 10 minutes on foot
 - 1 Suzuka 10 mountains (Mt. Nihonkoba)
Round trip for about 4 hours 30 minutes (excluding breaks)
About 10 minutes on foot
 - Michi-no-Eki Okueigenji Keiryu no Sato
About 20 minutes by car
 - 2 Farmer's inn (Inaka no Oyado Pikkari) about 3 hours
- Day 2** Required time: About 5 hours 30 minutes
- 2 Farmer's inn (Inaka no Oyado Pikkari)
about 1 hour 30 minutes
About 35 minutes by car, about 10 minutes by boat
 - 3 stroll around Okishima about 2 hours
About 10 minutes by boat, about 10 minutes by car
 - 4 Tour of Gonza in Lake Nishinoko about 1 hour
- GOAL**

Day 1 Embark on an adventurous mountain climb

1 Suzuka 10 mountains (Mt. Nihonkoba)

Mt. Nihonkoba is located north of the Eigenji Dam. The Fujikawadani pathway, climbing from the starting point along the Echi River, provides a view of a huge Cercidiphyllum japonicum tree and a beautiful view of the valley. Make sure to wear clothes and shoes suitable for mountain climbing, because you may encounter slippery rocks.

1 Mandokoro-cho, Higashiomi-shi,
0748-24-5524 (Higashiomi City, General Policy Section, Forest and Water Policy Room)



Watch your step when you proceed in a rocky area!



Left: Yasutaro Imai
Right: Shin-ichiro Kato

Points to note in climbing

- Before climbing a mountain, make sure to submit a mountain climbing notification.
- Wear clothing and shoes suitable for mountaineering.
- Make sure that the climbing time is within the range of about 4 and a half hours to 5 hours.

Day 1 Experience cooking with "Mom"

2 Farmer's inn (Inaka no Oyado Pikkari)



Try a recipe created by Mitsuko using local ingredients!

Mr and Mrs Nishida greet you at the farmhouse inn. Let's cook some dishes with Mitsuko, Mrs. Nishida, using vegetables harvested from their garden field. Experience a stay in the farmhouse, enjoying freshly harvested food and the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Nishida.

1 Notified as soon as the request for stay is accepted.
0748-29-3920 (Tadama Stay Higashiomi Steering Committee) **Holidays** Please contact.



Tour Guides of Suzuka 10 mountains

Members of Suzuka 10 mountains Ecotour Guide Club

These members are guides from the Suzuka 10 mountain Visitors' Center in the Michi-no-Eki. They give advice on mountain conditions and climbing.



There are also other farmhouse inns in the Aito area!

- Honoka no Shizuku
 - Sanshuyu no Yado
 - Margaret no Yado
 - Kishikawa, an inn with a small orchard
 - Hana no Sato
 - Muimui
 - Katchan
 - Minpaku Rui
 - Ainowa
- 0748-29-3920 (Tadama Stay Higashiomi Steering Committee)

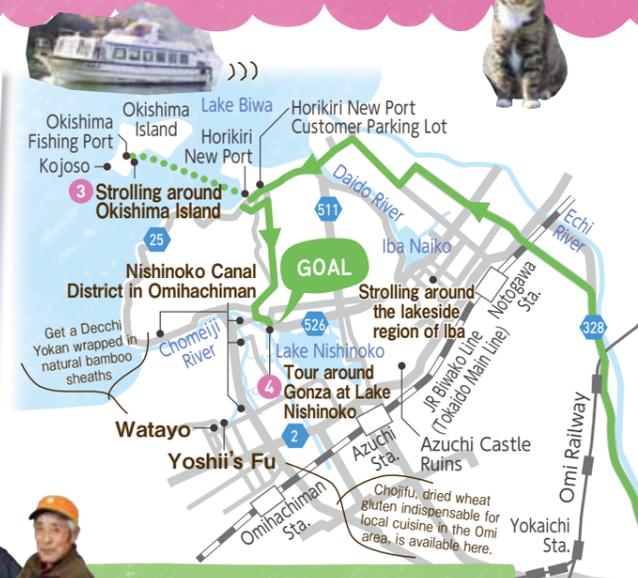
You may also like...



Harvesting experience
Harvest with Mitsuko various vegetables such as tomatoes, eggplants, and green peppers growing in the field next to the inn.

Left: Saburo Nishida, Right: Mitsuko Nishida

Delicious food and peaceful nature. We will be waiting for you in Higashiomi!



Day 2 Japan's First Important Cultural Landscape

4 Tour around Gonza at Lake Nishinoko

Lake Nishinoko, Lake Biwa's largest attached lake, serves as an important habitat for native fish and wild birds by providing them with abundant phragmites growing in the lake. "Gonza" is an isolated patch of paddy fields remaining in Lake Nishinoko like a floating island, where "Wataribune," a legendary rice species for sake brewing, is grown. With advance application, you can participate in a guided tour to and from Gonza on a paddy field boat. (Tour time: About 1 hour)

1752 Shirao-cho, Omihachiman-shi, 090-8124-7649 (Onishi, Secretariat of the Group for Protecting and Cultivating Gonza and canal district)
Event Period Please contact.



Day 2 Take a boat from Horikiri New Port!

3 Strolling around Okishima Island

Okishima is the only populated lake island in Japan. Residents of Okishima are mainly engaged in fishing, and utilize food from Lake Biwa. There are no cars or motorcycles on Okishima, so the village is very quiet. After strolling around the island, enjoy traditional lake fish dishes! (Time for strolling: About 2 hours for a walk *Lunch time included)

1 Okishima-cho, Omihachiman-shi 0748-33-9511 (Okishima Fisheries Cooperative)



Okitushima Shrine on the island provides a full view of Okishima Fishing Port!

You may also like...

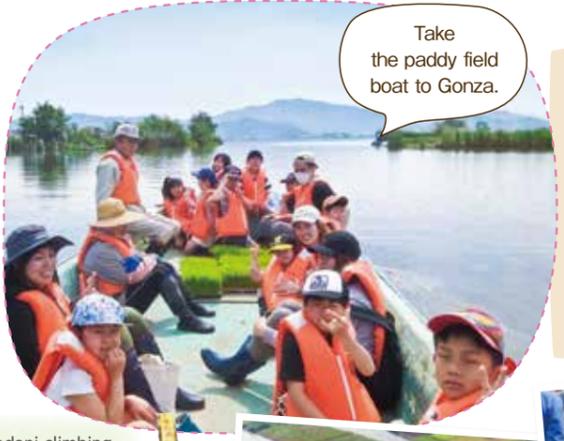


Application Send a message via Facebook page: Monte (a website for fans of Okishima, a remote island in a prefecture with no ocean coasts) Instagram: Send a message from montekite2017

Experience fisherman's work at the Kitamura's
Go aboard a fishing boat with a fisherman from Okishima and experience net lifting off the coast. The catch of the day can be served for lunch.

There is also a guest house on Okishima!

Kojoso
A fisherman's inn located at the western end of Okishima. If you make a reservation, you can enjoy a lunch of fish from Lake Biwa.
0748-33-9639



Take the paddy field boat to Gonza.

Fish cradle paddy field

Lakeside paddy fields play a major role in spawning and growing of Nigoro-buna and catfish. During the breeding season, the parent fish return upstream and spawn in the paddy fields, and the juvenile fish, when grown, descend the river to Lake Biwa.



A waterway with a weir (fishway) installed to help fish to run upstream

There used to be multiple isolated paddy fields. The only field left around Lake Biwa is "Gonza."

In the surrounding area...

Nishinoko Canal District in Omihachiman

Take a boat through the waterway, slowly progressing amid the reed beds, which is an unchanged scenery since old times. Required time: At least 60 minutes by regular boat services

0748-33-6061 (Omihachiman Station North Exit Tourist Information Center) **Holidays** Regular boat services are not available in winter

Strolling around the lakeside region of Iba

Stroll around Iba, one of the lakeside villages remaining in the Koto Plain, (with your tour guide. (Strolling time: About 1 hour)

2015 Iba-cho, Higashiomi-shi (Lakeside Village Iba Landscape Preservation Society) 0748-42-0362 (Iba-cho Residents' Association Office) **Holidays** Sundays and holidays



◀ It feels so good to feel the wind and run!

Recommended Route 4 Konan/Otsu Area

Beginners are welcome! Get started with "Biwaichi" a trip around Lake Biwa to enjoy Lake Biwa with all your senses



Get started with an active day to enjoy Lake Biwa directly with your senses. First, rent a stylish sports-type bicycle and ride to the Karasuma Peninsula! After cycling, travel across the Lake Biwa Bridge to the venue of the SUP experience. Enjoy activities on Lake Biwa to your heart's content using a paddle board which is easy to operate even for beginners.

*Biwaichi Abbreviation for around Lake Biwa. For safety reasons, counterclockwise is recommended along Lake Biwa.

- START** Required time: About 5 hours 30 minutes
- 1 Lakeside Cycling** (Giant Store Biwako Moriyama) About 40 minutes by bicycle
 - 2 Shiga Prefectural Lake Biwa Museum** about 2 hours Within a short distance by bicycle
 - 3 Kusatsu City Aquatic Botanical Garden Mizunomori** about 1 hour About 40 minutes by bicycle
 - 4 SUP experience** (BSC Water Sports Center) about 1 hour About 20 minutes by car
- GOAL**



Kick off with a bike ride to experience Biwaichi!

1 Lakeside Cycling (Giant Store Biwako Moriyama)

A sports-type bicycle shop operated by the world's leading bicycle brand. The shop also provides a base of rental bicycles, offering customers a wide range of models and sizes to choose from, such as trekking bicycles and road bicycles.

1 Lake Biwa Marriott Hotel 1F, 2876 Jukkenya, Imahama-cho, Moriyama-shi
☎ 077-584-2033 **Holidays** Tuesdays



▶ A wide range of products from kids' bicycles to trekking bicycles!



Pedal with about 80% power and keep a constant pace!

Points to note for beginners of cycling

Seiji Sato, Giant Store Biwako Moriyama
The area around Lake Biwa is almost flat, so it is easy for beginners to ride. Take at least what you might need in your luggage such as a beverage for hydration, rain gear, and emergency supplies!



Observe a collection of lotuses from around the world!

3 Kusatsu City Mizunomori Water Botanical Garden

A botanical garden filled with flowers under the theme of "interactions between plants and people, and water and people." The atrium of the Lotus Pavilion, which is the core facility, is full of beautiful domestic and foreign aquatic plants such as tropical water lilies blooming all year round.

1091 Oroshimo-cho, Kusatsu-shi, ☎ 077-568-2332 **Holidays** Monday (Closed on the following day if Monday falls on a national holiday.), from December 28 to January 4 the following year **Adults** 300 yen, high school/university students 250 yen, free for junior high school students or younger



Participate in events such as standing on a Paraguayan giant waterlily leaf.

+ Additional places to visit in Kusatsu

Michi-no-Eki Kusatsu Green Plaza Karasuma
Fresh local agricultural and marine products are available. You may be able to experience strawberry picking at the Rock Bay Garden.

1436 Oroshimo-cho, Kusatsu-shi
☎ 077-568-1208
Holidays Mondays (Closed on the following day if Monday falls on a national holiday.), New Year holidays * Open on every day in July and August



Walk on Lake Biwa by SUP

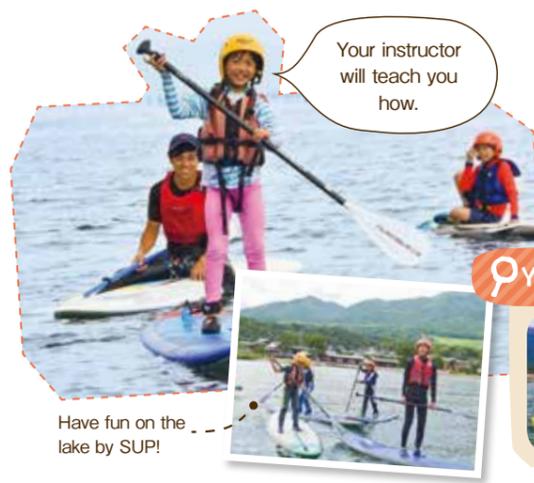
4 Experience SUP (BSC Water Sports Center)

A nature experience and learning facility in Horaihana. Standup paddleboarding or SUP (reservation required) allows you to enjoy paddleboarding with ease while standing using a single paddle. Why not experience the refreshing sensation of standing on Lake Biwa? (Experience time: About 1 hour)

4-1 Minamifunaji, Otsu-shi ☎ 077-592-0127 **Holidays** Please contact.



Your instructor will teach you how.



Have fun on the lake by SUP!

You may also like... Kayaking experience

Choose from one-seater and two-seater kayaks. Observe colored leaves in autumn and a snowy landscape in winter from the lake.

Moriyama Firefly Resource Center

An institute on fireflies and other living things, and nature.

10 Miyake-cho, Moriyama-shi ☎ 077-583-9680 **Holidays** Tuesdays, the following day after public holidays, from December 28 to January 4 the following year



NPO Biwako-hojo-no-sato also presents waterside exploration workshops and Akanoi Bay exploration tours.

2 Shiga Prefectural Lake Biwa Museum

Reopened in October 2020! Learn about the changes in Lake Biwa that have occurred over 4 million years.

A museum that introduces the nature and history of Lake Biwa and the relationship between Lake Biwa and people's lives. Don't miss one of the largest aquarium exhibition rooms in Japan for freshwater organisms, as well as outdoor exhibits and walking along the tree canopy trails.

1091 Oroshimo-cho, Kusatsu-shi ☎ 077-568-4811 **Holidays** Mondays (open on holidays) * Temporary closure may occur as needed **Adults** 800 yen, high school/university students 450 yen, free for elementary/junior high school students * Price for permanent exhibition only * Advance reservation is required from the website



▶ Enjoy many hands-on exhibits.



▶ Tempura rice bowl topped with tempura of Biwa trout and black bass 1,120 yen (tax included)

You may also like... Discovery room for adults

Various specimens such as birds and plants are on display. You can also observe and sketch specimens with a microscope.

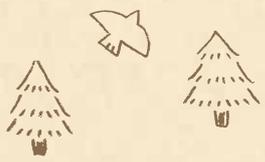


In the surrounding area...

Farmers Market Ominchi
A direct sales market of locally grown vegetables, flowers, and fruits. Prepared foods made from local ingredients and homemade gelato are also popular.

2785 Sumoto-cho, Moriyama-shi ☎ 077-583-8318 **Holidays** 2nd Wednesdays (excluding the 2nd Wednesdays in January and from May to August); from December 31 to January 4 the following year





Discover more! / Ecotourism Sites in Shiga



Hikone

Takeshima Island



A small island about 20-minutes by boat from Hikone Port. The island itself is thought to embody a deity.

📍Hassaka-cho, Hikone-shi
☎0749-22-0619 (Omi Marine Hikone Port Sales Office)



Ritto

Ritto Nature Observation Forest



Popular events include nature observations in the woods and various hands-on activities. There is also a Nature Center for learning about nature.

📍178-2 An-yoji, Ritto-shi ☎077-554-1313



Koka

Ugui River Park



Enjoy a spectacular view of about 200 cherry trees lining the riverside. There are also more than a thousand cherry blossoms in full bloom in an adjacent area.

📍601 Ayukawa, Tsuchiyama-cho, Koka-shi ☎0748-60-2690 ((General Incorporated Association) Koka City Tourism and Community Development Association)



Yasu

Climbing Mt. Mikami



This mountain is also called Omi Fuji because of the beauty of its ridge line. It rises to a height of 432m.

📍Mikami, Yasu-shi
☎077-587-3710 (Yasu Tourist Product Association)



Konan

Hiking on Mt. Iwane (Junibo)



Travel around Zensui-ji Temple, a national treasure, and Mt. Iwane. After hiking, freshen yourself up at Junibo hot spring.

📍Iwane, Konan-shi
☎0748-71-2157 ((General Incorporated Association) Konan City Tourism Association)



Hino

Omi Hino Merchant Museum (Formerly Shokichi Yamanaka's Residence)



Beside the museum, there is also a restaurant where you can enjoy traditional cuisine.

📍1264 Oaza Nishioji, Hino-cho, Gamo-gun
☎0748-52-0008



Ryuo

Michi-no-Eki Agripark Ryuo



Try harvesting various fruits such as strawberries, grapes, and peaches, etc. as well as rice crops.

📍6526 Yamanoue, Ryuo-cho, Gamo-gun
☎0748-57-1311



Aisho

Uso River Valley



The view from the top of the dam offers a beautiful panorama of the Koto Plain. Another popular site is Yamabiko spring widely known for its sweet water.

📍Matsuoji, Aisho-cho, Echi-gun ☎0749-42-7683 ((General Incorporated Association) Aisho Town Tourist Association)



Toyosato

Sunayamaike/Tatsugaike Irrigation Pumping Station



Japan's earliest steam-driven groundwater pumping facility. It is a civil engineering heritage that currently operates electrically.

📍Sijukuin (Sunayamaike)/Ishibatake (Tatsugaike), Toyosato-cho, Inukami-gun
☎0749-35-3737 (Toyosato Tourism Association)



Kora

Strolling around Seseragi water channels



Enjoy an idyllic countryside landscape with water channels and facilities everywhere, allowing people to enjoy waterside activities.

📍2168 Shimonogo, Kora-cho, Inukami-gun
☎0749-38-2035 (Kora Town Tourism Association)



Taga

Kawachi Wind Cave



One of the largest limestone caverns in the Kansai region with a total area of 1,544 square meters. Experience the thrill of going down the illuminated rocky path.

📍Kawachimiyamae, Taga-cho ☎0749-48-0552 (Kawachi Wind Cave Tourism Association)



Three tips to enjoy ecotourism

- 1 Familiarize yourself with nature**
Enhance your understanding of Lake Biwa and nature to protect the beauty of the natural environment.
- 2 Be thoughtful about local communities**
Be thoughtful about the people and their lives in the communities you visit.
- 3 Observe the rules**
Observe the rules established by each municipality, facility, and so forth.

Due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, business hours and holidays may change without notice. Please check the related information in advance before using each site.

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4-1-1 Kyomachi, Otsu-shi, Shiga Prefecture 520-8577, Japan
Phone: 077-528-3460, Fax: 077-528-4847



In cooperation with: (Public Corporation) Biwako Visitors Bureau
Collaboshiga 21 6th floor, 2-1 Uchidehama, Otsu-shi,
Shiga Prefecture 520-0806
Phone: 077-511-1530, Fax: 077-526-4393

