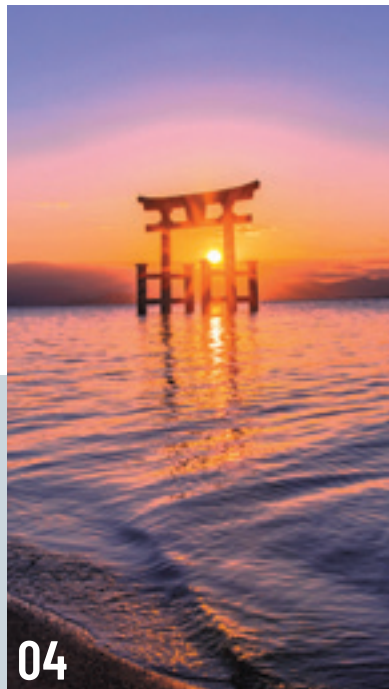




A collection of COOL SHIGA articles from 2018 to 2019



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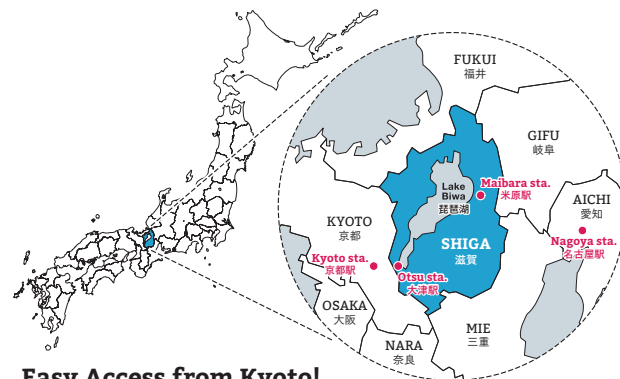
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About Shiga 滋賀県について

Shiga Prefecture is located just northeast of Kyoto, at the center of Japan's main island. We're home to Japan's largest lake, Biwako, or Lake Biwa, and to communities of unique culture and traditions that developed over time in harmony with the nature that sustains our local cuisine, industry, and lifestyle. Scenic lake views and abundant nature have been a continual source of inspiration for artists. Since long ago when Shiga was known as Omi Province, the area has been a junction between East and West Japan, now seen by its historic sites such as temples and castle ruins, as well as many enchanting traditional towns.

日本列島のほぼ中央、古都京都の北東に位置する滋賀県。日本最大の湖「琵琶湖」を有する滋賀県では、水と共に生きる人々の知恵から生まれた独特の食文化、産業、暮らしが古くから培われてきました。豊かな水と自然が織りなす美しい風景は多くの芸術家を魅了し、また交通の要所としても栄えたこの地には、歴史ある寺社や城跡など、情緒ある町並みが大切に保存されています。



Easy Access from Kyoto!

京都からのアクセスも便利!

By SHINKANSEN
- Kyoto Sta. to Maibara Sta. in about 20 min.
JR京都駅からJR米原駅まで約20分

- Nagoya Sta. to Maibara Sta. in about 27 min.
名古屋駅から米原駅まで約27分

By JR TRAIN
- Kyoto Sta. to Otsu Sta. in about 9 min.
JR京都駅からJR大津駅まで約9分

JR京都駅からJR大津駅まで約9分



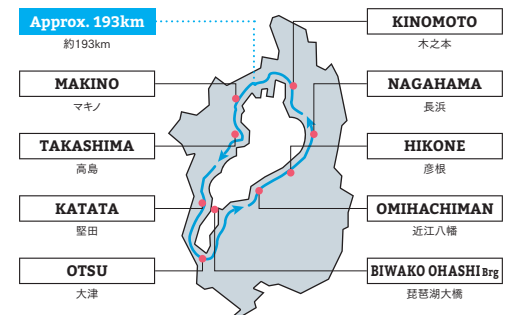
BIWAICHI

- Cycling around Lake Biwa -

ピワイチ ~自転車で琵琶湖をめぐる~

Biwaichi is a cycling route of approximately 200 km around Lake Biwa. In 2019, the route was designated as one of Japan's National Cycling Routes. According to the pace or level of cyclist, lanes are separated to allow a comfortable cycling journey while enjoying the scenery of the lake. There are also numerous points of interest along the route where you can dig deeper into local culture and history. Finishing the entire route in a single day is a good challenge, but spending 2 to 3 days at a slower pace is recommended for a more relaxing immersion into nature, or exploring more of the local food and culture.

琵琶湖の周囲約200kmを自転車で1周するのが「ピワイチ」。2019年、日本を代表する魅力的なサイクリングルートとして、「ナショナルサイクルート」に認定されました。走行レベルに応じて低速・上級と、2つのコースに合わせた通行空間も整備され、琵琶湖を感じながら快適にサイクリングが楽しめます。沿道には昔ながらの生活文化が残る場所や貴重な歴史遺産も点在。湖岸を走るだけでなく、自然や文化、食など、滋賀県の奥深い魅力を体感しながらゆっくりと2~3日かけて走るのがおすすめです。



BIWAICHI CYCLING NAVI



BIWAICHI Cycling around Lake Biwa Japan
<https://www.biwako1.jp>



BIWAKO VISITORS BUREAU
<https://en.biwako-visitors.jp/>

Chapter I

Lake Biwa, the Origin of Shiga Life and Culture

At the heart of Japan, in Shiga Prefecture, lies Lake Biwa, the nation's largest lake.

It's been referred to as the "Mother Lake" since ancient times, as it nurtured both nature and culture. As this diverse culture grew and flourished in Shiga's rich natural environment, a deep connection with water became apparent in the unique development of everything from food traditions to religion, arts, and culture. For instance, the Lake appears as a recurring theme in all local art forms, as can be seen in local museums and performance spaces such as the lakefront art theater, Biwako Hall.

滋賀の中央に鎮座する、日本最大の湖、「琵琶湖」。

滋賀の人々は琵琶湖を「母なる湖」と呼び、ともに生きてきました。

滋賀県には、琵琶湖を中心とした豊かな自然やその琵琶湖によって育まれた食文化、水の信仰と深く関わる文化財があります。また、琵琶湖を望むびわ湖ホールで創造される舞台芸術や琵琶湖にまつわる美術作品などが多く生み出されており、過去から現在まで連なる多様な文化があふれています。



Okishima, among the rare freshwater islands of the world that are still inhabited by a community of residents.
世界でも珍しい湖上の有人島である沖島。

Life and Prayer with Water

水と祈りの文化



Spiritual gateway of Lake Biwa at the floating torii gate of Shirahige Shrine in Takashima.
琵琶湖上にそびえる神秘的な雰囲気「白鬚神社」の大鳥居です。



Mt. Ibuki in Maibara. Worshipped since long ago as a sacred mountain and home of water deities.
滋賀県米原市、雄大に佇む「伊吹山」には水の神が棲まうとされ、昔から崇拝されてきました。



Annual Buddhist ritual, Isaki-no-Saotobi, in Omihachiman is a unique ceremony with a history believed to date back nearly 1,000 years.
修行僧が琵琶湖に飛び込む「伊崎の掉飛び」。「再生」を願う行事として約1,000年続くと言われます。



The Shinto ritual, Yatsugasaki-shinji, of Hyozu-taisha Shrine in Yasu takes place annually in December.
毎年12月の真冬に行われる「八ヶ崎神事」は、野洲市五条にある兵主大社の伝統行事です。