

Explore More Along the Kosei Line!

Hop on a

**Rental
Bike**

at the station and start your adventure!

Nagahama City Inside Omi-Shiotsu Sta.

Omi-Shiotsu Sta. Community House

● JR Omi-Shiotsu Station, 245 Yo, Nishiazai-cho, Nagahama City, Shiga Pref.

☎ 0749-88-0989

🕒 8:00-16:30 (Open daily).

Nearby Attractions

Shiotsu Garden, Fukasaka Old Road, Roadside Station "Shiotsu Kaido Ajikama-no-Sato", etc.

Takashima City Inside Omi-Imazu Sta.

JR Omi-Imazu Sta. Tourist Information Center

● JR Omi-Imazu Station, 1-9 Nakoji, Imazu-cho, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.

☎ 0740-22-4201

🕒 9:00-14:00 (Dec-Feb)
9:00-13:00, 14:00-17:00 (Mar-Nov) (Closed year-end/New Year's).

Nearby Attractions

Imazu Port, Biwako Hakodateyama, Lake Biwa Rowing Song Museum, etc.

Otsu City Katata Station (1-min walk)

Midy Rental Cycle Katata Station Bicycle Parking

● 1-5-1 Mano, Otsu City, Shiga Pref.

☎ 077-573-0925

🕒 8:00-18:00 (Closed year-end/New Year's).

Nearby Attractions

Ukimido Temple, etc.

Nagahama City Inside Nagahara Sta.

Nagahara Sta. Community House

● JR Nagahara Station, 1098-4 Oura, Nishiazai-cho, Nagahama City, Shiga Pref.

☎ 0749-89-0281

🕒 8:00-10:30, 12:00-16:30 (Open daily).

Nearby Attractions

Sugaura lakeside village, Lake Biwa Maruko-Bune Boat Museum, Tsuruzaozaki Observatory, etc.

Takashima City Shin-asahi Sta. (1-min walk)

Biwako Takashima Tourism Assn

● Takashima City Tourist Info Plaza, 1-10-1 Asahi, Shin-Asahi-cho, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.

☎ 0740-33-7101

🕒 9:00-17:00 (Closed Sundays & year-end/New Year's),
(Sundays: Available at "Marugoto Department Store").

Nearby Attractions

Harie village, etc.

Otsu City Hieizan-Sakamoto Sta. (10-min walk)

Sakamoto Tourism Assn

● In front of Keihan Sakamoto-Hieizanguchi Station, 6-1-13 Sakamoto, Otsu City, Shiga Pref.

☎ 077-578-6565

🕒 9:30-16:30 (Closed year-end/New Year's).

Nearby Attractions

Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine, Sakamoto townscape, Sakamoto Cable (Mt. Hiei), etc.

Takashima City Inside Makino Sta.

Makino Station Tourist Info

● JR Makino Station, 1209-8 Nishihama, Makino-cho, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.

☎ 0740-28-1188

🕒 9:00-17:00 (Closed year-end/New Year's).

Nearby Attractions

Metasequoia trees, Makino Sunny Beach, Kaizu-Osaki, etc.

Takashima City Inside Omi-Takashima Sta.

JR Omi-Takashima Station Tourist Info

● JR Omi-Takashima Station, 2245-5 Daimon, Katsuno, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.

☎ 0740-36-1314

🕒 9:00-14:00 (Dec-Feb)
9:00-13:00, 14:00-17:00 (Mar-Nov) (Closed year-end/New Year's).

Nearby Attractions

Shirahige Shrine, Omizo Castle Gate, Otomegaikae Pond, etc.



For one-way rentals, return bikes at designated locations.
Contact each rental shop for details.

Check the Plus Cycle website for Shiga's rental bike info.

<https://pluscycle.shiga.jp/rental/>



Note: The information provided is accurate as of March 2026. / Phone support is available in Japanese only.

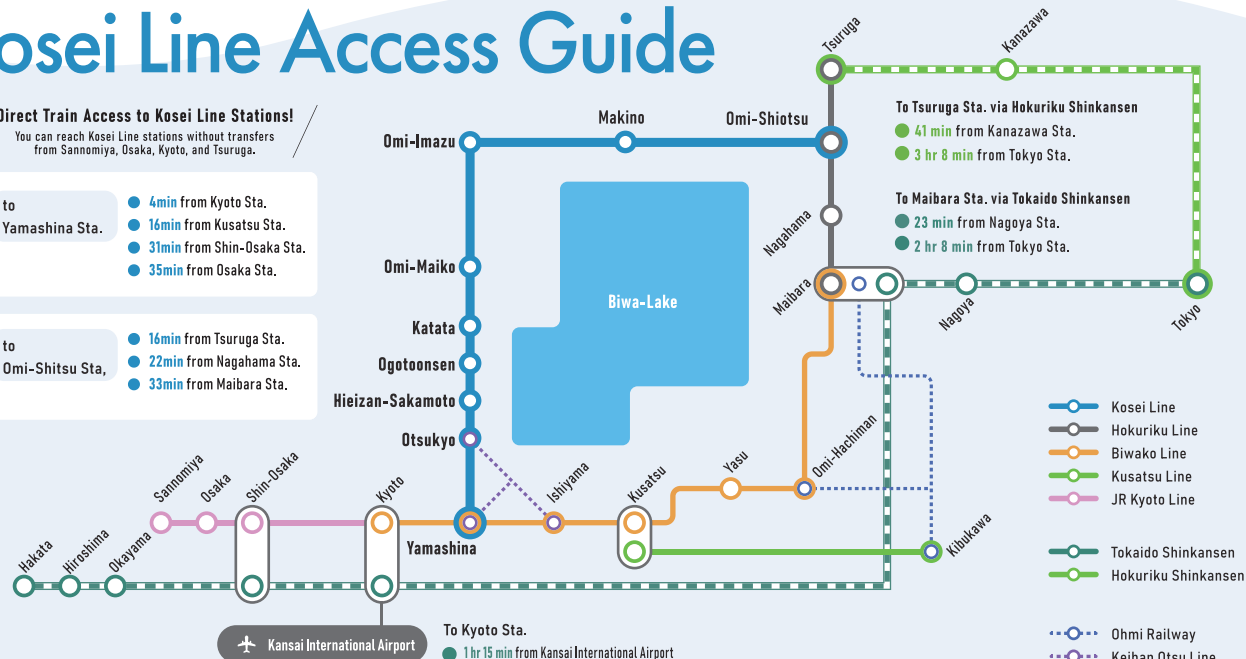
Kosei Line Access Guide

Direct Train Access to Kosei Line Stations!

You can reach Kosei Line stations without transfers from Sannemiya, Osaka, Kyoto, and Tsuruga.

to Yamashina Sta.
● 4min from Kyoto Sta.
● 16min from Kusatsu Sta.
● 31min from Shin-Osaka Sta.
● 35min from Osaka Sta.

to Omi-Shiotsu Sta.
● 16min from Tsuruga Sta.
● 22min from Nagahama Sta.
● 33min from Maibara Sta.



Tourist information

Looking for more tourist information about the Kosei Line?

SHIGA Tourism Official Website
SHIGA BIWAKO



<https://en.biwako-visitors.jp/>

SHIGA Tourism Official Website
SHIGA BIWAKO

BIWAKO OTSU
TRAVEL GUIDE



<https://otsu.or.jp/en/>

BIWAKO OTSU
TRAVEL GUIDE

BIWAKO TAKASHIMA
TRAVEL GUIDE



<https://takashima-kanko.jp/en/>

TRAVEL GUIDE
BIWAKO TAKASHIMA

NORTHERN LAKE BIWA
TRAVEL GUIDE



https://kitabiwako.jp/en/travel_guide

TRAVEL GUIDE
NORTHERN LAKE BIWA

We've launched official accounts to share the charms of the Kosei Line!

Kosei Line
Instagram



@koseisen_fan

A guide to discovering Lake Biwa and the journey it inspires.

湖西線利便性向上プロジェクト
Kosei Line Improvement Project



湖西線で
絶景と
出会う旅をしよう。

A SCENIC JOURNEY ON THE KOSEI LINE

A journey along Japan's largest lake, where the water meets the sky.

The Kosei Line weaves its way between the endless blue of Lake Biwa and the towering green peaks of the Hira Mountains.

A train ride that soothes the soul, a route that makes you long for adventure.

Take in the breathtaking views from the train window, then step off to discover hidden wonders along the way.

Let the Kosei Line take you on a journey to unforgettable scenery.

The Kosei Line runs along the western shore of Lake Biwa, connecting Yamashina Station to Omi-Shiotsu Station, where it meets the Hokuriku Line. Since most of the line is elevated, the view from the train is simply spectacular.

This scenic route between the lake and mountains is packed with breathtaking sights. Whether you're gazing out from the train window or stepping off to explore, you'll be captivated by the stunning landscapes.

Hop on the Kosei Line
and embark on a journey to discover magnificent views!

Kosei Line's DATA

Opened: 1974
Total length: 74.1 km
Number of stations: 21
(including Yamashina and Omi-Shiotsu)

Kosei Line

50th

Anniversary

in 2024

近江塩津 : Omi-Shiotsu
永原 : Nagahara
マキノ : Makino
近江中庄 : Omi-Nakasho
近江今津 : Omi-Imazu
新旭 : Shin-asahi
安曇川 : Adogawa
近江高島 : Omi-Takashima
北小松 : Kitakomatsu
近江舞子 : Omi-Maiko
比良 : Hira
志賀 : Shiga
蓬萊 : Horai
和邇 : Wani
小野 : Ono
堅田 : Katata
おのゑ温泉 : Ogotoonsen
比叡山坂本 : Heizan-Sakamoto
唐崎 : Karasaki
大津京 : Otsukyo
山科 : Yamashina

Scenic Views 車窓が絶景

from the Train Window

The Kosei Line, starting from Yamashina Station, is an elevated railway that offers stunning views from the train window! Just by riding, you can enjoy the feeling of a journey. Here are some of the best scenic spots along the Kosei Line.

Yamashina Sta. > Omi-Shiotsu Sta.

POINT
1

Horai Sta. > Shiga Sta. Getting closer and closer to Lake Biwa!

After departing from Yamashina Sta., you will soon catch sight of Japan's largest lake, Lake Biwa, on your right. Initially, it appears beyond the cityscape, but as you pass Katata Sta., the lake draws nearer. Around Horai Sta., a breathtaking panoramic view of Lake Biwa fills the train window. On your left, you can also spot the ropeway leading to Biwako Valley.

Shiga Sta. is the closest station to Lake Biwa!



POINT
2

Around Hira Sta. Evening Snow at Hira, Eight Views of Omi



In winter, the Kosei Line offers a view of 'Evening Snow at Hira' (Hira no Bosetsu), one of the Eight Views of Omi. Especially on clear days, the stunning contrast of the blue sky, silver mountains, and Lake Biwa creates a breathtaking scene. Ski resorts along the line are easily accessible by public transport, making the Kosei Line a perfect way to enjoy winter in Shiga.

KOSEI-Line
route map



POINT
3

Kitakomatsu Sta. > Omi-Takashima Sta. Otomegaike Pond on the Right, Hira Mountains on the Left!

After passing Kitakomatsu Sta., Otomegaike Pond opens up on your right. This is a unique spot on the Kosei Line where you can see a serene waterscape, distinct from Lake Biwa, from the train window. In the distance, Lake Biwa extends, while the majestic Hira Mountains rise on your left. The beautiful contrast that unfolds on both sides of the train window is the highlight of this section.



POINT
4

Makino Sta. > Nagahara Sta.

This section, where the cherry blossom trees of Kaizu-Osaki stretch, is a spot where you can view the northern end of Lake Biwa, known as Okubiwako. As you enjoy the beautiful lake scenery, the train enters a deep forest. Emerging from the trees, a rural landscape unfolds, evoking a sense of nostalgia and wanderlust. This spot is filled with the unique charm of the Kosei Line, surrounded by nature.



We asked JR employees working on the Kosei Line!



What are their recommended scenic viewpoints along the Kosei Line?

Ogotoonsen Sta.

The sunrise view from the platform is breathtaking! Lake Biwa, seen in the crisp winter air, is stunningly beautiful.

Horai Sta. > Shiga Sta.

Near Shiga Sta., on the mountain side, you'll find the torii gate of the popular photo spot, "Juge Shrine"!

Shiga Sta. > Hira Sta.

The rice seedlings spreading across the fields on the mountain side beautifully complement the summer blue sky!

Hira Sta. > Omi-Maiko Sta.

The "Omatuzaki", one of the Eight Views of Lake Biwa, is recommended from the train window!

Scenic Spots

to Explore After Getting Off the Train

降りても絶景

Even after disembarking from the Kosei Line, breathtaking views await. Here are some recommended spots around each station.

Dawn Redwood (Metasequoia) Avenue

A short bus ride or rental bike trip from Makino Sta. takes you to the breathtaking Dawn Redwood Avenue, a 2.4 km stretch lined with around 500 towering metasequoia trees. The scenery changes beautifully with the seasons - lush green in spring and summer, fiery red in autumn, and a mystical snow-covered wonderland in winter. The area also features cafes, farm experiences, a fresh produce market, and a horseback riding facility. Whether you take a leisurely stroll or feel the wind on a rental bike, this iconic tree-lined path is a must-see.

📍 Makinocho Hiruguchi-Makino, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.

🚌 6 min by bus from Makino Sta.

🚲 18 min by rental bicycle from Makino Sta.

Takashima City



Shirahige-jinja Shrine

A short ride along the lakeshore from Omi-Takashima Sta. by rental bicycle brings you to Shirahige Shrine, famous for its striking vermillion torii gate that stands in the waters of Lake Biwa. As Shiga's oldest shrine, with a history spanning over 2,000 years, it is often compared to the iconic Itsukushima Shrine. The most enchanting moments to visit are dawn and dusk when the mystical atmosphere intensifies. For the best view, visit "Aiko Shirahige-dai," a scenic observation deck near the shrine's main office.

📍 215 Ukawa, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.

⚠️ Crossing the national highway in front of Shirahige Shrine is extremely dangerous. Please use the designated photo spot instead.

☎️ 0740-36-1555

🚲 12 min by rental bicycle from Omi-Takashima Sta.

Takashima City



Biwako Valley

Reach Biwako Valley, 1,100m high, by bus and ropeway from Shiga Sta. Biwako Terrace offers breathtaking panoramic views of Lake Biwa and the surrounding mountains, creating the illusion of floating in the sky. Enjoy a wide range of activities year-round: ziplining and trekking in the refreshing summer air, and skiing and snowboarding on pristine slopes in winter.

📍 1547-1 Kido, Otsu City, Shiga Pref.

⚠️ Closed several times a year. Please check the official website for details.

☎️ 077-592-1155

🚌 15 min by bus from Shiga Sta. (to the ropeway Sta.)

Otsu City



Scenery of the Sugaura Lakeshore Village

Nagahama City



🚌 Approximately 20 min by taxi or community bus from Nagahara Sta.

🚲 45 min by rental bicycle from Nagahara Sta.

Sugaura, a 'hidden spot' of Okubiwake, offers stunning Nordic fjord-like views. Its historic streets, with old gates and the serene Suga Shrine, evoke a timeless atmosphere. Take a leisurely walk to immerse yourself in the tranquil lake scenery and the rich history of this unique village.

📍 Sugaura Hamlet, Nishiazai-cho, Nagahama City, Shiga Pref.

Makino Sunny Beach

Takashima City



🚶 10 min walk from Makino Sta.

🚲 4 min by rental bicycle from Makino Sta.

10-min walk from Makino Sta., stunning beach with views of Lake Biwa's islands. Enjoy swimming & BBQ in clear waters amidst white sand & pines.

📍 Nishihama, Makino-cho, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.

Chikubushima Island

Nagahama City



🚶 5 min walk from Omi-Imazu Sta. + Approximately 25 min by sightseeing boat from Imazu Port

Chikubushima, a sacred isle floating on Lake Biwa, has drawn worshippers for centuries. A 25-min boat ride from Imazu Port (just a 5-min walk from Omi-Imazu Sta.) will take you to this mystical island. Here, ancient shrines and breathtaking rock formations await, whispering tales of gods and legends.

📍 Chikubushima, Hayazaki-cho, Nagahama City, Shiga Pref.

⚠️ An island entry fee is required when landing on Chikubushima Island (Adults: 600 yen, Children: 300 yen).

Ukimido (Mangetsuji Temple)

Otsu City



🚌 5 min by bus + 7 min walk from Katata Sta.

Ukimido a temple floating like a painting on Lake Biwa. Known as 'Katata Rakugan' in Omi's Eight Views, it's a must-see spot. Enjoy a stroll from Katata Sta., with cafes & restaurants nearby.

📍 1-16-18 Hon-Katata, Otsu City, Shiga Pref.

☎️ 077-572-0455

Kaizu-Osaki Peninsula

Takashima City



🚌 6 min by bus + 2 min walk from Makino Sta.

🚲 25 min by rental bicycle from Makino Sta.

800 cherry trees bloom along 4 km of lakeshore, with stunning views of Lake Biwa and Chikubushima Island. Enjoy walking/cycling through the cherry tunnel or take a scenic boat ride.

📍 Kaizu, Makino-cho, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.

A hill where you can see Lake Biwa

Takashima City



🚌 Approximately 20 min by bus from Omi-Imazu Sta.

🚲 33 min by rental bicycle from Omi-Imazu Sta. (to the gondola Sta.)

Biwako Hakodateyama's 630m hill offers paradise-like views of Lake Biwa. Photogenic spots, like the deck & wind chime path, overlook the lake. New cafes & shops are opening.

📍 Hiki-mae, Imazu-cho, Takashima City, Shiga Pref. (Biwako Hakodateyama)

⚠️ Open only during the green season. Please check the official website for details.

☎️ 0740-22-2486

Omimaiko Beach

Otsu City



🚶 7 min walk from Omi-Maiko Sta. (to Nakahama swimming beach)

Omimaiko Beach features 4km of scenic white sand, lined with green pines. With stunning views of Lake Biwa, enjoy swimming, windsurfing, or BBQ in crystal-clear waters

📍 Minami-Komatsu, Otsu City, Shiga Pref.

⚠️ Please check the official website for the swimming beach opening period.

☎️ 077-596-0520 (July and August only)

Former Chikurin-in Temple

Otsu City



🚌 5 min by bus + 3 min walk from Hieizan-Sakamoto Sta.

🚲 6 min by rental bicycle from Hieizan-Sakamoto Sta.

Chikurin-in, an old temple with Enryakuji roots, boasts a stunning moss garden, a national treasure. In autumn, the garden's maple leaves light up, creating a magical scene. Especially, the 'upside-down maples' reflecting the scenery are a must-see! It's a peaceful spot to feel history.

📍 5-2-13 Sakamoto, Otsu City, Shiga Pref.

☎️ 077-578-0955

Note: The information provided is accurate as of March 2025 / Phone support is available in Japanese only.

Scenic Dining Experiences

食ベも絶景

The Kosei Line area offers many charming restaurants and cafés where you can enjoy delicious food with breathtaking views. Take a break from your journey and savor a meal while admiring the stunning scenery of lakes and mountains.

Cafe Koan

A scenic cafe with a panoramic view of Lake Biwa, the sky, and the Kosei Line. Located on a hill in the Hira Mountains, a 15 -min walk from Shiga Station. Enjoy unique dishes like unsweetened French toast burgers and 'Castella Shake' while watching trains pass by. A special experience with Kosei Line views!

📍 1224-2 Kido, Otsu City, Shiga Pref.
☎ 070-8471-5644

🚶 15 min walk from Shiga Sta.

▶ Nearby Spot Biwako Valley



Relax in a space with open views!



Takashima City

Korian

Overlooking the quiet waters of Lake Biwa, Korian is a traditional lakeside restaurant devoted to the art of funazushi. Operated by Uoji, a maker with over 200 years of history, it serves seasonal kaiseki featuring this unique fermented delicacy and local lake fish (reservation required). As the light over the lake shifts, enjoy refined flavors rooted in the region. The adjoining Uoji shop also offers funazushi and local specialties to take home.

📍 2307 Kaizu, Makino-cho, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.
☎ 0740-28-1010

🚶 19 min walk from Makino Sta.

▶ Nearby Spot Kaizu-Osaki

For a special day. Funazushi kaiseki with the changing light of Lake Biwa.



Takashima City



Antique & Cafe Kaizu

A cafe in a 200-year-old rice store, with antique goods. Enjoy special coffee with views of the famous cherry blossom spot, Kaizu-Osaki.

📍 2080-7 Kaizu, Makino-cho, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.
☎ 0740-28-8055

🚲 14 min rental bike ride from Makino Sta.

▶ Nearby Spot Kaizu-Osaki

Takashima City



CRAG cafe & SUP

A lakeside cafe with SUP and other activities. Try their roast beef sandwich!

📍 111 Imazu, Imazu-cho, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.
☎ 080-4235-1084

🚶 12 min walk from Omi-Imazu Sta.

▶ Nearby Spot Imazu Port

Otsu City



R cafe

A Hawaiian-style beachside cafe. Enjoy marine sports and a resort feel!

📍 934-1 Kitahira, Otsu City, Shiga Pref.
☎ 077-596-1355

🚶 17 min walk from Omi-Maiko Sta.

▶ Nearby Spot Omimaiko Beach

Takashima City



Namiki Cafe Metasequoia

A cafe restaurant with Metasequoia tree views. Enjoy cafe menus with local veggies and fruits.

📍 835-1 Terakubo, Makino-cho, Takashima City, Shiga Pref. (Makino Pick Land)
☎ 0740-27-0068

🚶 6 min bus ride from Makino Sta.

🚲 18 min rental bike ride

▶ Nearby Spot Metasequoia trees

Takashima City



Shirahige Soba

Enjoy ten-wari soba and mackerel sushi after visiting Shirahige Shrine. Lake views from window seats!

📍 293 Ukawa, Takashima City, Shiga Pref.
☎ 0740-20-2251

🚲 12 min rental bike ride from Omi-Takashima Sta.

▶ Nearby Spot Shirahige Shrine

Otsu City



Pecorino

A scenic restaurant overlooking Ukimido from its terrace. Enjoy authentic Italian cuisine with local ingredients

📍 1-18-5 Hon-Katata, Otsu City, Shiga Pref.
☎ 077-572-8138

🚶 22 min walk from Katata Sta.

🚶 10 min bus + 7 min walk

▶ Nearby Spot Ukimido

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Did you know?

Trivia

about the Kosei Line!

Trivia
 Transfers
 Shinkaisoku Stops
 Rapid/Local Stops
 ● Nearby Spots
 ★ Featured in Pamphlet

