



### Biwako Free Wi-Fi

In Shiga Prefecture you can use Biwako Free Wi-Fi. This icon is displayed where Biwako Free Wi-Fi is available. Methods of connecting may vary depending upon the location of use. Please check this website for

URL https://biwako-wifi-info.jp/about?locale=en

**Bicycle Insurance Required** in Shiga Prefecture

By prefectural ordinance, anyone who wants to ride a bicycle in Shiga Prefecture must have 'private or group insurance that covers all accidents related to bicycle use'. Before setting out on your trip, check whether you have insurance or not and the coverage provided by your policy. Insurance is included in rental rates at some locations. For details, contact the rental bicycle location.

Cycling Map of Shiga Prefecture - Let's cycle around Lake Biwa! March 2017

[For more information] Shiga Prefecture, Tourism and Exchange Bureau, Office for Promotion of BIWAICHI

4-1-1 Kyomachi, Otsu-city, Shiga Pref. 520-8577, Japan Mail biwaichi@pref.shiga.lg.jp (Japanese and English support provided) The information on this map is valid as of March 2017. But, information can change, so check up on things before setting out on your bike ride.

# Cycling Map of Shiga Prefecture บราวาร Let's cycle around Lake Biwa! Shiga Prefecture



One lap around Lake Biwa is about 200 km. Seasoned riders can cover this distance in one day, but we recommend you take 2 or 3 days and do some sightseeing and try the local food along the way. You can also do just the northern half of the lake, which is about a 150 km ride, or the southern half of the lake, which is about a 50 km ride, or you can combine biking and ferry rides

The lake should be circled in the counterclockwise direction. So, since bicycles must be ridden on the left

side of the road like cars in Japan, the lake will be on your left. This puts you that much closer to the shore and makes your ride easier because there are less roads to cross. The best seasons are spring and autumn. In summer, you must watch out for heatstroke. Winter, though beautiful in its own way, is not suited for cycling because of the snow accumulation.

### Plan your trip out

Plan your trip on an assumed average speed of 12 km/h and include breaks. For a 2-day 1-night trip

If departing from Otsu, you should consider Beginners who are thinking of 2 days and 1 somewhere around Kinomoto (approx. 96 km of night, doing just the northern half of the lake (approx. 85 km of riding) would be good. For a 3-day 2-night trip

If departing from Otsu, you should consider the first day and giving yourself plenty of night and somewhere around Omi-takashima (80km) for the second night. If starting from Maibara, somewhere around Omi-takashima (75km) would be good for the first night and travelling between October and April when somewhere around Omihachiman (86km) for the sun sets earlier in the day.

riding) for staying the night. If starting from (150 km around) instead of the full 200 km Maibara, somewhere around Omi-maiko round would not be unreasonable, or you and benefits of a 3-day 2-night journey.

might also want to explore the possibilities We recommend covering a shorter distance on leeway so that you can arrive at your lodging early. Get as early of a start as possible and plan out your ride so as to get to your

A road bike is built for road racing, so it is made to As its name suggest, a mountain bike is

cover long distances at high speeds. However, you built for off-road riding such as on

ng-ride models that can be ridden in a more meet with greater resistance.

have to be somewhat used to the thin tires, drop mountain trails. All Biwaichi courses

rs and forward-leaning riding posture. More travel on paved surfaces, so the deep

ntly, manufacturers have come out with many treads typical of mountain bike tires will

(Small diameter tire bike)

A minivelo uses small wheels of no

more than 20 inches in diameter

Foldable types work great if combining

riding with public transportation like

minivelo offers less riding performance

than road bikes and cross bikes.

(Rated ★★☆)

### Bicycle recommendations Choose a 'sports bike' for your ride.



**Cross bike** 

This genre of sports bicycle comes with straight nandlebars and slightly wider on-road tires hough a cross bike does not reach the speeds of trains, buses or ferries. However, the a road bike, it is operated much like a city bike, so

mfortable posture for people who are not

looking for race-competitive speeds.

### Check your bike out before riding

To ensure safe riding, check the following before heading out on your ride. If you do not feel capable of checking you bike properly, consult a bicycle shop, etc.

Check that your tires are properly inflated and not scratched, damaged or deformed in any way. Also, spin our tires by hand and check if they are warped. ry moving your bike forward and back with the front and ear brakes squeezed, and check that the brakes are working properly and are not loose. Also, check that the

rubber brake shoes are not worn down and that the brake wires are not damaged in any way. **Tightness of assembled parts**Raise one tire at a time about 10 cm off the ground, then drop the pike and listen for sounds that might suggest loose parts. Check also that the handlebars and seat are aligned straight and tight. Check your chain for dirt and grime. It should be

ubricated only to the degree that it looks slightly wet.

and have it flicker the whole time you are riding, rather than rely on reflectors.)

Check that your bike has a bell and that it actually rings. Once your bike clears all of the above checks, check your riding position and posture. The proper seat height is when, seated with your heels on the pedals. ground when seated, lower the seat slightly. At that same height, try grabbing the handlebars and

Make sure that your front lights are sufficiently bright.

(When riding through tunnels, you are required to turn

your lights ON. On the rear, it is safer to mount a taillight

your knees can fully extend. If the ball of your foot cannot touch the check that your posture is not unbearable. If too strenuous, you should adjust the position of your handlebars. Also, make sure that you can easily operate the brake

Flat tire repair kit

Change of clothes

### Clothing and carried items

Bicycling is a sport. Choose clothing that is appropriate for doing sports. Minimize and bundle carried items in

kicked-up rocks, etc.

our hands. They also protect hands should



The best shoes for riding

with hard soles. Laces

must be kept tied so that

they do not get entangled

and compact as possible he general practice is to carry just what can fit nto a small backpack of bags that can be hur load placed on you



Spare tube, portable pump and tools)

### **Riding style**

You should know how to ride long distances without straining yourself, as well as the basics of riding a bicycle.

The best gear for riding long distances is that which makes it slightly easy to Pedal. Switch gears as often as needed when climbing slopes or riding into the wind, so that you keep Pedaling at a constant

Bicycling causes you to sweat more than you think. It is best to hydrate

yourself constantly rather than waiting till you feel thirsty. The right brake lever is for the front wheel and the left brake lever

for the rear wheel. Braking with just one or the other can cause you to fall. So, brake with both hands.

### **Traffic rules and etiquette**

Like cars, bicycles are to be ridden on the left of vehicle roads. Also, you must be considerate of pedestrians.

A bicycle is a vehicle of sorts. Under the law, bicycles must be ridden in the farthest left lane of the roadway Bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks where marked 'Bicycles Permitted on Sidewalk', but pedestrians have the right-of-way. If you encounter pedestrians, slow down and pass them with safe clearance. If you cannot pass them

Observe traffic rules! • Obey signals at intersections. If the traffic light in front of you is red, you cannot proceed forward or turn left. If wanting to turn right, ride on the left edge of the roadway, first cross the street before you, then, once across, turn to the right and cross the street you were just on

• Always come to a full stop at intersections. Bicycles

must obey stop signs and roadway indications at intersections with poor visibility. • Ride behind each other in a row. Do not ride side-by-side Always turn lights ON in tunnels. Also, turn your lights ON if having

• It is prohibited to drink and ride, ride in twos (except for children under the age of 6 with proper child seat), ride with an open umbrella, or use a cellphone or earphones while riding.

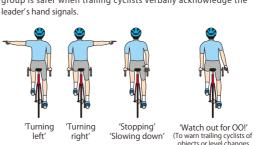
Unless you eat something, you might run out of energy and find yourself unable to ride. A hearty breakfast before setting out on your ride is particularly important. Replenish your energy often as you ride. And, since there are many great food options along the way, why not try some of the local treats!

Stretch a little before riding and massage your muscles during breaks. A good massage at the end of a day's ride greatly lessens the fatique that carries over to the next day. Fatigue accumulates in the latter half of a trip and can cause you to hit obstacles you would normally avoid or fall when riding over different levels. Therefore, be especially careful.

de on the left of vehicle lanes in Japan! Be courteous to pedestrians and

> A road is not a race course. People live and work in the area. Be appreciative of local residents for allowing Biwaichi to ride through their community. Be sure to reduce your speed when riding through It will make those who get out of your way happy if you would say

Whether riding alone or in a group) Since bicycles are not equipped with indicators or brake lights, hand signals tell drivers and others behind you what your intentions are. Also, say what you are doing at the same time. If you are unable to use hand signals, you may just announce your intentions. Riding in a group is safer when trailing cyclists verbally acknowledge the

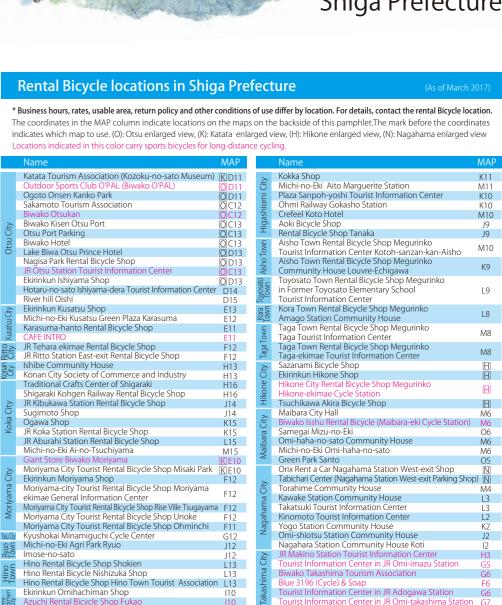


many people walked their way

Konan City Ameyama

Cultural Sports Park

This park is built for playing













## One-way Street Pedestrians and Bicycles Only One-way Stree

# Shiga Prefecture has a wondrous natural landscape that is interspersed with history and culture. And, it can be enjoyed on any of the skill-appropriate courses from the short and challenge Discover the Sites and Attractions Found Only by Circling Lake Biwa Shiga Prefecture has a wondrous natural landscape that is interspersed with history and culture. And, it can be enjoyed on any of the skill-appropriate courses from the short and challenge Discover the Sites and Attractions Found Only by Circling Lake Biwa

Short easy-biking course to local legacies Touring the Historical Legacies of Otsu

This course guides you to many of the historical legacies in the central part of Otsu City. It covers a total distance of 12 km, so even beginners can give it a shot. The journey starts from Ogoto Onsen Kanko Park at Ogoto Onsen Hot spring, which made its mark in history as the closest hot springs to Mt. Hiei, then joins the Nishiomiji Byway. The longest uphill climb in this course is just Hieizan-Sakamoto Station. At the top of the climb is Hiyoshi-taisha Shrine. From there, you pedal alongside Keihan Electric Railway's Ishiyama-Sakamoto Line with views of Lake Biwa to the east. The traffic picks up from Hiyoshitaisha Shrine to Omi-jingu-mae Station and, since there is basically little if any shoulder, you have to be careful in this segment. At around Mii-dera Temple, the course allows a slower pace along the Lake Biwa Canal, which is known for its cherry blossoms, until reaching the end at the Biwako Kisen Otsu Port.





Hama-otsu to the Kamo River in Kyoto. It was built in 1885 as a particularly beautiful in autumn Heritage. It is also famous as the means of transport to Kyoto, hydroelectric power source and thanks to the changing colors of location where they filmed



Information is available on local sightseeing attractions, local specialties are on display and sold, and there is a café.



Hiyoshi-taisha Shrine is the head With over 100 Important shrine of more than 3,800 Cultural Properties and National 'Sanno' shrines all across Japan Treasures like the Kondo (main

and is a recognized Japanese temple), this Buddhist sanctuary Heritage. The shrine is is a recognized Japanese

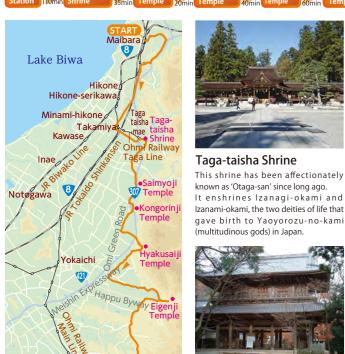


### **Pedal and Ride the Ohmi Railway Getting Around on the Cycle Train**

This course tours the most representative tourism spots along Ohmi Railway. You start by renting a bicycle from the rental bicycle shop at Maibara Station. The first stop is at Taga-taisha Shrine, one of the biggest tourist attractions in Shiga Prefecture. You then Pedal around the three main temples on the eastern side of Lake Biwa, which are beautifully tinged in autumnal foliage in November and December. You pay a visit to Eigenji Temple that was built in a valley and absorb the historical quarter of Hino. There are several ups and downs with the steepest climb imparting from the base of Hyakusaiji Temple, but

Cycle Train, bike and all, back to Maibara.

the magnanimous view from the top is well worth the effort. If you are pooped out, you can catch the



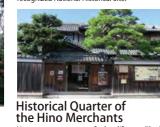
Izanami-okami, the two deities of life that gave birth to Yaoyorozu-no-kami



orime location for viewing the autumnal grown around Lake Biwa. The Yotsugi of a booming pharmaceutical trade, and the Kannon revered by the temple is known



Saimyoji, Kongorinji and Hyakusaiji are all his shrine has been affectionately temples of the Tendai Sect of Buddhism and collectively known as the 'Koto Sanzan the colorful foliage. The main temples at Saimyoji and Kongorinji are National Treasures, while most of the grounds at Hyakusaiji are a



former Residence of Shokichi Yamanaka,

recommended spots you should visit are foliage. The thatched roof over the main the Omi-Hino Merchant Museum, the Hino hall of worship was made with reeds Machikado Kanno, which was a focal point

This course runs along the Seta and Shigaraki Rivers from Seta-no-karahashi Bridge. Though the initial climb Sekinotsu is steep, it is short and the course is free from big ups and downs. There also is little traffic, lots of nature all around and villages with traditional homes. The halfway point is Asamiya, known for growing Japanese tea. There are many tea shops where you can quench your thirst. As you enter the Town of Shigaraki, the ceramic raccoon dogs will catch your attention; Shigaraki is the home to one of Japan's most representative ceramic industries. The latter half of the course has many downhills where it is easy to pick up speed. There are also numerous blind spots, so watch your speed and stay alert.

Around Shigaraki from Seta-no-karahashi Bridge 📞 52.2km 5h Omin

Idyllic Fields of Asamiya Tea (Ride through Tea Groves and Stop for a Cup)

Seta 111 ta-no-Karahashi Bridge Shigaraki Palace Site



his Buddhist sanctuary was built in the 8th century. There are several recognized cultural properties such as the main temple that was built on top of a mammoth boulder of wollastonite, which itself is a Natural Monument. The temple is associated with the 11th entury female novelist Shikibu Murasaki.



This weir works as a water source for 14 million people in the Kinki Area and to protect floods downstream. You can learn about the weir at Aqua Biwa Museum. The original weir was built in 1905. 'Araizeki Retro Café' opens once a month at the old weir

Azuchi Castle, Hikone Castle and

**Other Historically Important Sites** 



This park is all about ceramics. he world and has a gift shop he local ceramic art. The park lso has an Artist in Residence ogram that welcomes artists om around the world to come and pursue their work. Large works are displayed outdoors a

Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park



old, and the former Toyosato Elementary School that is known for its architectural importance and the setting of the anime 'K-ON!' After that, you go from Hikone Castle to the road travelled by Korean traders (Hikone-michi Byway). There is a steep but short climb to make, but it takes you to the final destination on

Mt. Kojin (about 150 m in elevation) where you have a spectacular view of Lake Biwa.

This course starts at the Shiga Prefectural Azuchi Castle Archeological Museum where you find artifacts and

information about Azuchi Castle and Nobunaga Oda, one of the 16th century generals who helped end

decades of civil war in Japan. You then visit the site where Azuchi Castle stood. Next is the Nakasendo and

plenty of interesting places to visit like the Gokasho Kondo Quarter where the homes are 200-plus years



Mt. Kojin Kojinyamá-jinja Shrine The mountain i quaintly known as th god of cooking. It is one of the eight prized ocations in Hikone as Hikone Castle



The castle was built on Mt. Hikone in 1622 and still looks today as it view of Lake Biwa. A did when it was first built. The main keep, extended watchtower and

recently verified burial — long watchtower are National Treasures. Around the base of the mound found on the mountain are the historically important inner and middle moats. The mountain has been designated a Historical Site of Japan. The stone Genkyu Rakurakuen Garden of the lord's villa is designated a Place of

### **Traveling Japan's Historical Roads** Yabase and Shinakaido Byway

Pedaling Around an Old Port Town on Lake Biwa This course departs from the former site of the Yabase Landing on Lake Biwa and merges with the Tokaido Highway that served as a principal road in the 17th century, in Kusatsu. After taking in the historical streetscape of Kusatsu, the course heads to Ishibe. This is where you cross the Yasu River and get your first sight of the beautifully contoured Mt. Mikami, which looks very much like Mt. Fuji. The route that takes you on the eastern side of the mountain is great for riding because of the plush natural landscape and manageable ups and downs. Beyond that, the course merges with yet another historical thoroughfare, the Nakasendo Highway that takes you to Moriyama. From here, you head towards to the final destination,

Shina Landing. Along the way, a tasty thing to try is kushidango, a local sweet of mochi balls on a stick.

Lake Biwa Former Site of the Yabase Landing This former landing is one of the eight prized locations of Omi, a port a long time ago. Back in the day, boats were a shortcut fo getting across the lake, but when the weather was bad and the boats could not leave port

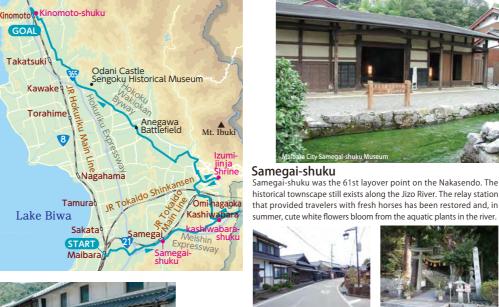






### **Traveling Japan's Historical Roads** Nakasendo and Hokkoku Wakiokan

This course follows a section of the Nakasendo Highway that was built in the 17th century as a primary road between Kyoto and Edo (now Tokyo), and a shortcut from there to the Hokkoku Byway, known as the Hokkoku Wakiokan Byway. You start at Maibara Station and visit the Samegai-shuku that operated as a layover point on the Nakasendo. Then, from Kashiwabara-shuku on the border with Gifu Prefecture, you first ride to Izumi-jinja Shrine where you wet your thirst on the famously toted water, then pass Mt. Ibuki over its southern foot until finding the Hokkoku Wakiokan that will take you to Kinomoto. Along the way, you will encounter a series of historical locations to note the 16th century Anegawa Battlefield and the former site of Odani Castle. Without any major ups and downs, the 53.2 km are easy to ride, so the various attractions along the way can be enjoyed.



Kinomoto-shuku



ongest layover town at about

Springs by the Ministry of the



This layover town is at the northern end of the Hokkoku Wakiokan 1.4 km. On a corner in the Environment. The water

Byway. (The town flourished a long time ago on the throngs of historical quarter is the produced at Kamo-jinja Shrine in

townscape has an interesting atmosphere with old storehouses and that explains the history of the (It is recommend to boil the

travelers on pilgrimage to Kinomoto-jizoin Temple.) The historical Kashiwabara Museum of History Samegai is also on this list.



The Somakaido and Tokaido are historical roads built in the 17th century 🛴 Intermediate Course \*\* A convenient way to get to Kibukawa Station is to Pedal along JR's Kusatsu Line. In the initial segment, you can see the trains as you follow the Somakaido. Once off the Somakaido, it is uphill to the Ohara Dam. You merge with the Tokaido and climb to the Suzuka Pass. There, you can pray for a safe journey at the Manninkotoro Lantern (elevation: 357 m) that is always lit. From there, it is downhill to Mikumo, first over a quick-paced gradient and then an almost flat stretch. The transformation from the idyllic countryside landscape to the castle town streetscape of Minakuchi is worth seeing. After that, you cross











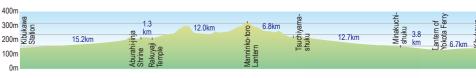
roof. Since traffic along the of a sitting 11-faced Kannon Bodhisattva in Japan that has been highway was often busy at carved from a single piece of wood. It was made by the monk Saicho who founded the Tendai Sect of Buddhism at the end of the a landmark visible from the 8th century. The 20 statues of Buddha worshipped here are landing on the other bank.

partly because of its traditional Japanese architecture. It is revered by

local residents as a god of oil-lit fires and garners the faith of oil

producers across the country. It was also honored by the Koka Ninias

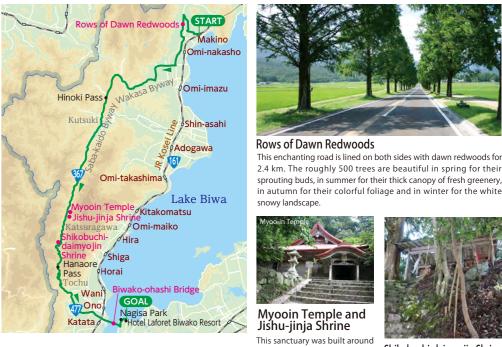
ercv) is the





This roughly 68.6 km course runs through valleys and over a mixture of ups and downs. After spinning past the rows of dawn redwoods lining the road from Makino Station, you cross the foot of Mt. Hakodate from Imazu and head for Kutsuki Village where the Ado River originates. You will gradually get a feel for how important the river was to livelihoods long ago, from the numerous shrines that safeguarded the local rafters who floated timber downstream in days gone by. The course eventually joins the Saba-kaido Byway and crosses Hanaore Pass. After that, it's across the Biwako-ohashi Bridge with its over-the-water views of a seemingly endless Lake

Biwa. Once off the bridge, you turn left at the Biwako-ohashi-higashizume Intersection onto Kogan Rd. and follow the lakeshore until you reach the end at the Hotel Laforet Biwako Resort.



Biwako-ohashi Bridge



the 9th century as a dojo for the Shikobuchi-daimyojin Shrine monks of Enryakuji Temple to (Shikobuchi-jinja Shrine) ,350m across Lake Biwa at its the valley is the main shrine of until the early 20th century, the arrowest point and sits 26.3m above Jishujinja, which features an Ado River was used to float he water at its highest point. It exceptionally rare architectural felled trees from inland forests onnects Katata in Otsu City with style for Shiga Prefecture by to mills downstream. This shrine

This enchanting road is lined on both sides with dawn redwoods for



