

TAKE FREE See the best of Omihachiman

By bus and on foot

By bicycle

By car

6 routes, 6 different kinds of adventure!

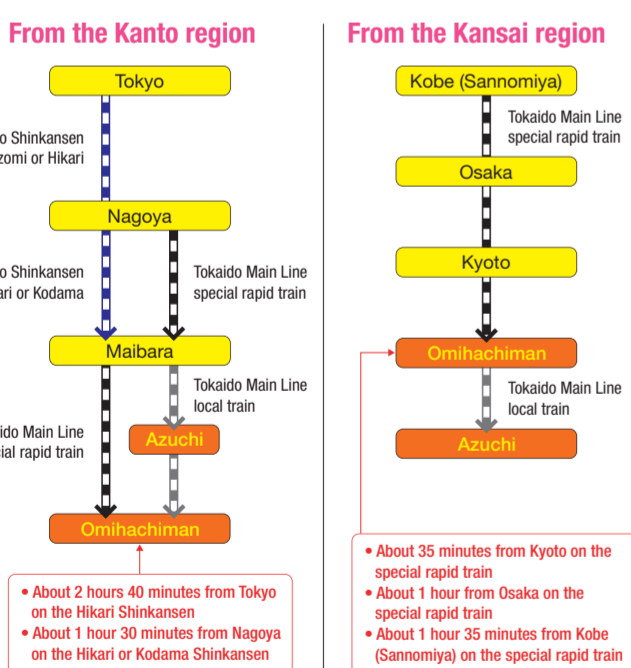
Omihachiman Tour Map



The information in this pamphlet is current as of January 2024. Note that prices and other information may change. The maps here are based on maps published by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan.

Getting to Omihachiman

- From the Kanto region, take the Tokaido Shinkansen to Maibara, then take the special rapid train on the Tokaido Main Line to Omihachiman. To get to Azuchi, transfer to a local train at Maibara.
- From the Kansai region, take the special rapid train on the Tokaido Main Line (from JR Kyoto Line to JR Biwako Line sections) to Omihachiman. To get to Azuchi, transfer to a local train at Omihachiman.



- About 2 hours 40 minutes from Tokyo on the Hikari Shinkansen
- About 1 hour 30 minutes from Nagoya on the Hikari or Kodama Shinkansen
- About 35 minutes from Kyoto on the special rapid train
- About 1 hour from Osaka on the special rapid train
- About 1 hour 35 minutes from Kobe (Sannomiya) on the special rapid train

Tourist Information

Omihachiman Station North Exit Tourist Information Center (Omihachiman volunteer tour guides)
Takakachi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ 0748-33-6061

Azuchi Station Tourist Information Center (Azuchi volunteer tour guides)
1303 Kamitoyoura, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ 0748-46-4234
9:00-17:00 ☎ Mondays is the off season, the day following a public holiday, year-end/New Year holidays (December 29-January 3)

Hakuunkan Tourist Information Center (Omihachiman Tourism Association office)
9-1 Ishinohomoto, Omihachiman ☎ 0748-32-7003
9:00-17:00 ☎ Year-end/New Year holidays (December 29-January 3)

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Getting to the start of each route

Route 2

Getting to Okishima Island

To get to Okishima Island, you need to take the Okishima Ferry from Horikiri Port. If you're coming by car, about five minutes walk from the port (where you board the ferry) is the Okishima visitor parking lot. If you're coming by bus (two buses per day, only on weekdays), get off at Horikiri Port stop.

- JR Omihachiman Station: 10 km, 20 min. by car
- Okishima visitor parking lot: 5 min. on foot
- Horikiri Port: 10 min. by Okishima Ferry
- Okishima Port

☎ Parking is 300 yen. ☎ The ferry to Okishima Port costs 500 yen one-way. Pay on the ferry.

Getting to the start of each route

Route 1

Bus

JR Omihachiman Station

A short walk from the north exit

- Omihachiman Station bus terminal (stop #6, Chomeiji route, Ohmi Railway Bus): 5 min.
- Obatacho Shiryokan-mae bus stop: 3 min.

Hachimanbori (Osugicho) Hachimanyama Ropeway-guchi bus stop

★ Get off here if you're going to the Hachimanbori area.

QR code for bus route map

★ Besides the Chomeiji route, you can also take a bus on the Hachiman Shinai route. For details, see the bus route map.

☎ For bus stop #6 (Chomeiji route) at Omihachiman Station, leave the station via the north exit and turn left at the bus roundabout.

Wetlands boat tours

Hand-paddled boats

- Omihachiman Sightseeing Cooperative**
☎ 0748-32-2564 ☎ 880 Kitanosho-cho, Omihachiman
☎ Scheduled boats: 2,400 yen for adults, 1,200 yen for children
- Suigo no Sato Maruyama**
☎ 0748-32-2333 ☎ 1467-3 Maruyama-cho, Omihachiman
☎ Scheduled boats: 2,200 yen for adults, 1,870 yen for junior high to university students (need student ID), 1,100 yen for elementary school students

Engine-powered boats

- Shima Shinju Suigo Boat Tours**
☎ 0748-32-3527 ☎ 224 Maruyama-cho, Omihachiman
☎ Scheduled boats: 2,200 yen for adults, 1,100 yen for children
- Biwako Kanko Corporation**
☎ 0748-32-2131 ☎ 639-1 Nakanosho-cho, Omihachiman
☎ Scheduled boats: 2,200 yen for adults, 1,100 yen for children

Scheduled boats will take even one passenger. Boat tour times are 60 to 80 minutes. With all tour boat companies, you can either take a scheduled boat or rent one privately (reservations required). Note that scheduled boats may not run in winter. For details such as number of scheduled boats and boat tour times, either contact the boat company or visit the website below.

QR code for Wetlands boat tours, Omihachiman Tourism Association

Lake Biwa Wide-area Road Map

Legend: Expressway, Toll road, National route, Local road, IC: Interchange, PA: Parking area, SA: Service area, JCT: Junction

Getting to the start of each route

Car

Routes 1, 2, 6

Meishin Expressway Interchange	Meishin Expressway Gamo Smart Interchange	Meishin Expressway Ryuo Interchange
31 km, 55 min.	13 km, 25 min.	12 km, 25 min.

Obata Tourist Parking Lot

★ To visit the Hachimanbori area, the Obata Tourist Parking Lot is convenient.
☎ 500 yen per day (standard-size car; as of April 2024) ☎ 9:00-17:00

CHECK

Rental cars: a great way to get around

Rent a car near JR Omihachiman Station	Rent a car near JR Maibara Station
2 km, 7 min.	32 km, 50 min.

Obata Tourist Parking Lot

Getting to the start of each route

Rental bicycle

Routes 1, 5

JR Omihachiman Station

A short walk from the north exit

Ekirinkun Omihachiman Store (rental bicycles)

10 min.

Hachimanbori area

☎ There are rental bicycles next to the tourist information center at the bottom of the north exit stairs.

Routes 1, 5

JR Azuchi Station

A short walk from the north exit

Takashima Bicycle Rentals

Fukao Bicycle Rentals

10 min.

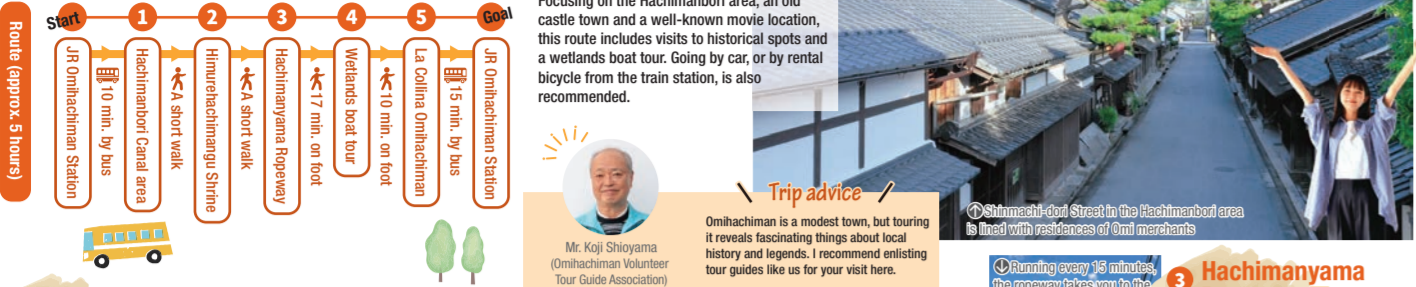
Azuchi Castle ruins

Route 4

Takashima Bicycle Rentals

☎ Go down the north exit stairs of JR Azuchi Station and cross the street to find rental bicycle shops.

Classic Sightseeing Route



1 Hachimanbori Canal Area
The most of Hachimanyama Castle, where the warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi lived, is surrounded by a quiet town with many sightseeing spots. Stroll the canal lined with stone walls and stonehouses.

2 Hachimanyama Ropeway
A ropeway takes you to the top of Mt. Hachiman, the symbol of Omihachiman. Marvel at panoramic views of Lake Biwa, Lake Nishinoko, and the old castle town.

3 Hachimanyama Shrine
A ropeway takes you to the top of Mt. Hachiman, the symbol of Omihachiman. Marvel at panoramic views of Lake Biwa, Lake Nishinoko, and the old castle town.

4 Wetlands Boat Tour
The Omihachiman wetlands boat tour is said to have originated when warlords Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi traveled the wetlands by boat, mimicking boats going to the Imperial Court.

5 La Collina Omihachiman
This is the flagship store of Taneya Japanese confectioneries and Club Haru Western confectioneries. The complex includes stores to shop, enjoy a coffee, or see how baumkuchen cake is made.

6 Hachimanyama Ropeway-guchi
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7 Hachimanyama Shrine
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1 Hachimanyama Shrine
The worship hall and the main hall were built in the Kamakura period.

2 Hachimanyama Shrine
The main shop's roof is covered in moss.

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Follow Oda Nobunaga's Footsteps



1 Assumed Former Site of Seminario
This is believed to be where Japan's first Christian mission was built by Organtino, an Italian missionary who was received warmly by Nobunaga. Together with Azuchi Castle, it was burnt down following the death of Nobunaga.

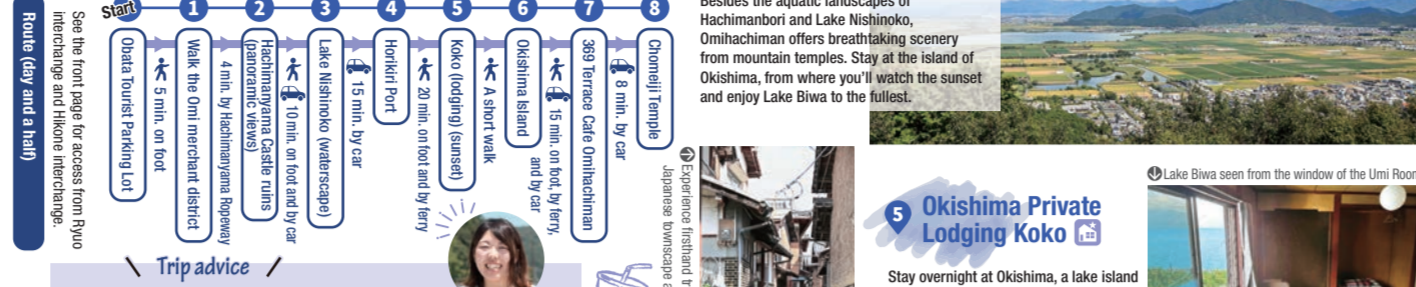
2 Azuchi Castle Ruins
The ruins of Nobunaga's castle are on the 198-meter-high Mount Azuchi. The stone steps and walls that lead to the castle tower and main castle compound make for an imposing sight and hint at the prosperity of Nobunaga's reign.

3 Shiga Prefecture Azuchi Castle Archaeological Museum
Archaeological relics reveal life in Omi from about 300 BC to 500 AD. Exhibits give an easy-to-understand look at Azuchi Castle and Oda Nobunaga in Japan's medieval ages and Warring States period.

4 Nobunaga's Castle Museum
A full-size reconstruction of the 5th and 6th floors of Azuchi Castle tower was shown at Seville Expo '92 in Spain. It is now exhibited here for visitors to enjoy its exquisite design.

5 Azuchi Castle Museum
Peruse exhibits related to medieval Azuchi. Don't miss the 1:20 scale model of Azuchi Castle, or the porcelain folding screen paintings of Azuchi Castle.

Spectacular Sights



1 Okishima Island
Besides the aquatic landscapes of Hachimanbori and Lake Nishinoko, Omihachiman offers breathtaking scenery from mountain temples. Stay at the island of Okishima, from where you'll watch the sunset and enjoy Lake Biwa to the fullest.

2 Okishima Island
Okishima is Lake Biwa's largest island. One of the few inhabited lake islands in the world, it even has its own elementary school. A great place to relax and forget about time.

3 369 (Miroku) Terrace Cafe Omihachiman
The casual French cuisine highlights local vegetables grown using no fertilizers or agrochemicals. Homemade veggie cake (850 yen) and lemonade (850 yen) are also popular.

4 Chomeiji Temple
This mountain temple founded by Prince Shotoku is known for bestowing health and longevity to visitors. Take in a panoramic view of Lake Biwa from the temple at the top of the 808 stone steps.

5 Walk the Omi Merchant District
The road from the Obata parking lot to the Hachimanbori Canal is lined with the residences of Omi merchants, who flourished in the distribution business.

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Refreshing Waterside Cycling



1 Lake Biwa Shoreline Route
Go on a half-day cycling trip through farmland and along the wetlands of Lake Nishinoko. On the long route, you can ride along the shores of Lake Biwa. Recommended for beginner cyclists, too.

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Lakeside Activities



1 Wetlands Boat Tour: Try Paddling Yourself
Omihachiman Sulgo is one of Japan's three main wetlands. Take a guided boat ride through this natural Japanese scenery. You can swap places with the boatman and try paddling yourself.

2 Mizugukiyaki Toji no Sato
Take a class in making Mizugukiyaki, ceramics characterized by light blue colors representing the water of Lake Biwa. Guided instruction ensures that even beginners can make pottery. Booking recommended.

3 Chomeiji Onsen Amaha no Yu
After a day of activities, refresh yourself in a hot spring next to Lake Biwa. Locals and visitors alike frequent this facility, which boasts seven types of baths and a wood-fired sauna.

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Visiting Historic Buildings



1 Nishikawa Jingo House
A magnificent mansion exists at the place where tub manufacturer Nishikawa Co., Ltd. was founded, where the 12 generations of the Nishikawa family lived and retains designs from various periods. Although the house is usually closed to the public, you can enter the museum and store.

2 Former Nishikawa Residence
This building was the residence and headquarters of Nishikawa Riemon, one of the wealthiest merchants in Omi. It retains the characteristics of an Omi merchant's residence, with an inner garden, open yard, and a three-story warehouse (entry prohibited).

3 Vories Memorial Hall
This was the residence of William Merrell Vories, an architect and the founder of The Omi Brotherhood, Ltd. Observe the inner structure and furnishings to see how it affects the attractive elements of Japanese architecture.

4 Hyde Memorial Hall
This was once a kindergarten established by Vories and his wife. The corridors, staircases, classrooms, and kindergarten are preserved in their original state. Photographs, drawings, and panel exhibitions tell the history of the Vories family.

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