

Sacred land of the

# SAMURAI

“Shiga, Japan”

— Feel the Real Samurai Spirit —

# Sacred land of the SAMURAI

Shiga Prefecture, home to Lake Biwa, Japan's largest lake, is located roughly in the center of Japan.

Approximately 450 years ago, during the age of the samurai, Shiga Prefecture was known as "Omi".

Due to its strategic location at the intersection of major highways and the presence of Lake Biwa's water transport, it often played a crucial role in history. It was said, "Whoever controls Omi controls the country".

Oda Nobunaga, one of the most famous samurai who stood at the pinnacle of samurai power, built Azuchi Castle here as his base for unifying the nation".

Additionally, the area was home to craftsmen who made swords and guns, and built castles, as well as ninjas who served the samurai.

Therefore, Shiga was an extremely important place for the samurai. Indeed, Shiga can be called the "sacred land of the samurai."

When you visit Shiga, there are many places and experience where you can feel the presence of the samurai.

We invite you to come and explore!

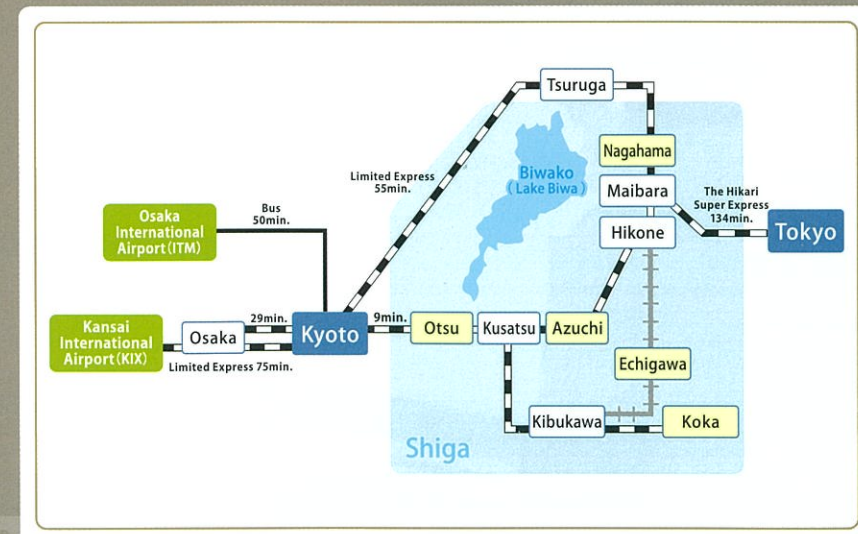
※unifying the nation = the end of civil wars and the establishment of a large unified country.

All inquiry : c/o Biwako Visitors Bureau, Shiga prefecture  
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## Access to Shiga

From Osaka	40min.	JR Kyoto Line Special Rapid
	51min.	JR Kyoto Line Rapid
From Kyoto	9min.	JR Biwako Line Special Rapid
From Tokyo	134min.	JR Shinkansen The Hikari Super Express



## Shiga Location information



## Otsu City

### SAMURAI WALL

Otsu City was home to craftsmen who built castle stone walls. The Sakamoto area features many stone walls made using the "Ano-shu piling" technique, which skillfully combines natural stones without cutting them.



### "Tour of World Heritage Site Hieizan Enryakuji, Scenic Stone Walls, and the Town Where Monks Live"

A tour guided by an English interpreter around the World Heritage Site Hieizan Enryakuji and the town at its base, which features scenic stone walls.

**Duration** 7 hours (9:30-16:30)

**Fee** 15,800 yen (for 4-6 people)  
22,100 yen (for 2-3 people)  
34,900 yen (for 1 person)

**Other Conditions** April to November  
Reservation required at least 7 days before departure

- Before reservation confirmation: 0%
- Until 15 days before the tour: 0% (if confirmed within 72 hours)
- Until 15 days before the tour: 10% (if confirmed after 72 hours)
- From 14 to 8 days before the tour: 50%
- From 7 days before to the day of the tour: 100%



### "SUP Tour Around Sakamoto Castle Ruins and Underwater Ruins"

A tour exploring Japan's largest lake, Lake Biwa, by SUP to view the stone wall ruins of a submerged castle.

**Duration** 2 hours

**Fee** 12,000 yen per person  
※Participants: 1-6 people

**Other Conditions** Reservation required at least the day before.



# Koka City

## ❖ NINJA ❖

Koka: The Birthplace of the Special Forces "Koka Ninja" During the Sengoku Period

### "Ninja Village Real Ninja Bicycle Guided Tour"

Dress in ninja attire and explore the places where Koka ninjas actually operated by assisted bicycle. Enjoy the traces of Koka ninjas in the nature-rich ninja village.

#### Sample Course

- Ninja Residence: Koka Ninja House
- Ninja Training Ground: Around Iwao Mountain
- Ninja Meeting Place: Aburahi Shrine
- The course can be adjusted to your level.

**Duration** About 3 hours (Meeting & dismissal in Koka City)

**Fee** 22,000 yen per person  
16,500 yen per person for 2 people  
13,200 yen per person for 3 or more people ※up to 8 people

**Other Conditions** Target: Height 145 cm or taller, Weight 100 kg or less  
Option: Full-day tours available  
※After applying, course details and meeting place will be confirmed.



### Making Ninja Ration Balls

Recreate the recipe from the ninja secret texts! Make ninja ration balls and learn about the history of Koka's pharmaceutical industry at a museum. The rich history of Koka's herbal medicine industry is deeply connected to the Koka ninjas. During the ration ball making, you will also tour the museum.

**Duration** 60-90 minutes

**Fee** 7,000 yen per person  
※English guide and ninja attire included

**Other Conditions** At least 2 weeks in advance 2 or more people



### "Ninja Training Experience with Koka Ninja"

The Ninja Village in Koka is a ninja theme park surrounded by pristine forests. Guided by a Koka ninja, experience shuriken throwing and learn about ninja tools.

**Duration** 60-90 minutes ※Flexible plans available based on time Bento (boxed lunch) available

**Fee** 8,000 yen per person  
※Ninja attire rental, trick house tour, ninja tool explanation, and shuriken throwing experience.  
Admission fee and English guide included.

maximum 40 people  
Experience content can be adjusted based on the duration of your stay. If there are many participants, dressing in ninja attire may take time.

# Omihachiman City

## ❖ KING OF SAMURAI ❖

Omihachiman is the place where Oda Nobunaga, a representative SAMURAI (warlord) of Japan's Warring States period, built the magnificent Azuchi Castle. With innovative tactics and political skills, he left many achievements and almost unified the country before his dream vanished. His legacy remains in this area.



### Experience 100,000 Gold Leaves! The Full-Scale 5th and 6th Floors of Oda Nobunaga's Last Castle "Azuchi Castle"!

Watch a 15-minute short movie "VR Sumptuous Azuchi Castle" on a 200-inch screen and explore the full-scale Azuchi Castle tower.

VR Screening Times:

9:40, 10:30, 11:20, 12:10, 13:00  
13:40, 14:20, 15:00, 15:40, 16:20

※Screenings are typically held only at these times. However, during busy periods, additional screenings may be scheduled.

Opening Hours: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
(last admission 4:30 PM) (last VR screening 4:20 PM)

Closed Days: Mondays  
(if Monday is a holiday, closed the following day)  
The day after holidays (except when the following day is a Saturday or Sunday)  
Year-end and New Year holidays (December 28 - January 4)

#### Running Time

#### Other Conditions

#### Fee

Set Plan 1

20,000 yen per person  
Experience Oda Nobunaga's Castle & Charter Taxi, with a Special Historic Azuchi Castle Climbing Guide  
**Duration** About 3 hours

### King of SAMURAI March to Unification! Lake Cruise and Local Cuisine Plan Overlooking Azuchi Castle"

Experience wearing armor and touring the interior of the 1/20 sized Azuchi Castle at the Azuchi Castle Museum. Then take a chartered taxi to Nishinoko. From Japan's largest inland lake, view Azuchi Castle (mountain) and enjoy a lake cruise with local cuisine (Jun-jun Nabe/Chicken Sukiyaki).

**Duration** About 3 hours

**Fee** Set Plan 2 SAMURAI Experience  
25,000 yen per person

Lake Nishinoko Cruise for 5 people (with hot pot), including a chartered taxi and guide.



※The photo shows a group hotpot, but currently we serve a hotpot for one person.



※The set plan is the price for one person when 5 people use it. ※Charter Taxis are for 9 people. ※The price may be revised.

### Private boat tour in Lake Nishinoko.

Experience the serene beauty of Lake Nishinoko with a private boat tour, perfect for groups! All season

**Fee** 60min 13,000 yen Charter boat  
90min 17,000 yen Charter boat

**Lake Nishinoko Cuisine** Jun Jun (Chicken Sukiyaki) 1,500 yen per person  
Jun Jun Bento 1,300 yen per person

**Other Conditions** Reservation required  
Opening Hours: 10:00 AM - 15:00 PM  
(Consultation required for weekday, Saturday, Sunday and holiday service.)  
One boat accommodates up to 12 people.

# Aisho Town

## SAMURAI SPIRIT

Aisho is an area crossed by major ancient roads (Tosan-do and Nakasendo) that have traversed Japan since ancient times. Samurai risked their lives to run along these roads and fought in various parts of Omi. Today, people who inherit the samurai spirit pray for victory, train in martial arts and continue to refine various cultures.



### "The God of Victory" Toyomitsu Shrine ~Miko Kagura Experience and Formal Worship~

At Toyomitsu Shrine, revered as "the god of victory" by the samurai, wear miko attire and perform a formal worship to greet the gods, then receive instruction from a miko to perform kagura. After the experience, enjoy taking photos in the shrine grounds.

- Duration** About 1.5 hours Reception Hours: 10:00-15:00 (changing clothes, formal worship, dance, free time, changing clothes)
- Fee** 15,000 yen per person  
\*Miko attire set (juban, white kimono, scarlet hakama, tabi) available for purchase (around 30,000 yen)
- Other Conditions** 1-4 people per session  
Please make a reservation at least 2 weeks in advance.  
\*Experience is for women only.  
\*Excludes year-end and New Year holidays and festivals.  
\*Only Japanese is spoken here.

## Kenshinkai

### ~Kendo Experience: Beginning and Ending with Respect~

After donning the protective gear, observe a demonstration match by instructors, learn the basics of kendo, and then participate in a match yourself.

Enjoy photo sessions afterward.

- Duration** 120min Reception Hours: 10:00-12:00  
\*Afternoon sessions are negotiable.
- Fee** 15,000 yen per person  
\*(Includes Kenshinkai hand towel, excluding tax)
- Other Conditions** 2-6 people per group  
Reservation required at least 1 month in advance.  
\*Excludes extreme cold (January-February) and extreme heat (August-September) periods.  
\*Only Japanese is spoken here.  
\*Children around 140 cm tall and above can participate.



## Echi SAKE Brewery

### ~Experience the full flavor of "SAKE" brewed by the descendants of Samurai warriors.~

Sake brewing lecture and sake lees pickling experience at a sake brewery with the family crest of a warlord (Takedabishi). While drinking local sake, taste the sake lees pickles made by the proprietress.

- Duration** About 2 hours Reception Hours: 10:00-12:00 14:00-16:00  
\*Trial period available July/August/September.  
\*Experience age: 20 years old or older.
- Fee** 10,000 yen per person  
\*Includes 1 kg of pickled sake lees, including postage and tax.
- Other Conditions** 1-8 people per group  
Reservation required at least 1 month in advance.  
\*Homemade sake lees pickles can be delivered to your hotel by cool delivery service.  
\*Can be taken back to the home country depending on the country. You can feel the depth of flavor with the number of days of pickling.  
\*Only Japanese is spoken here.



# Nagahama City

## SAMURAI SWORD

Scan here  
For experience  
information  
in Nagahama City.



Located in the northern part of Shiga Prefecture, Nagahama has been the site of many battles due to its strategic location. Today, it attracts history and samurai enthusiasts as a sacred land of the Sengoku period. Nagahama Castle, which played a crucial role in the rise of the famous general Toyotomi Hideyoshi, stands on the lakeshore as a history museum and symbol of Nagahama. From the observatory, you can enjoy a panoramic view of the natural beauty of the northern part of the lake.

### Blacksmith Workshop Paper Knife Making Experience

At the "Manyo Kajigoya," a designated tangible cultural property of Nagahama City, you can experience traditional blacksmithing as if you've traveled back in time. A blacksmith will light the fire, and you can swing the hammer yourself to create your original paper knife.

- Option A** Visit the "Manyo Kajigoya," a designated tangible cultural property of Nagahama City, and interact with skilled craftsmen who preserve the cultural heritage of Nagahama.
- Option B** There are also options for guided tours of the blacksmith town, which has been around for 840 years, and a countryside meal plan (optional).



- Duration** About 2 hours
- Fee** 5,000 yen **Option A** Town walk (about 40 minutes) 5,500 yen per 4 people or more  
**Option B** Countryside meal 2,000 yen per person
- Other Conditions** Target: Age 7 and above (children aged 7-9 must be accompanied by an adult)  
Reservation: (Option A) (Option B) 5 people or more, At least 10 days in advance.  
Participants: 1-15 people



## Samurai For A Day

### The sacred land of the Sengoku period, you can wear authentic samurai armor and feel like a warrior.

In Nagahama, the sacred land of the Sengoku period, you can wear authentic samurai armor and feel like a warrior.

- Plan A** Take photos in armor at the keep of Nagahama Castle or with the castle as a backdrop. (\*Photography is self-service)
- Plan B** Walk around Nagahama in armor with an English-speaking guide and visit a workshop where authentic armor is made. (\*Workshop visit may not be possible)

- Duration** **Plan A** About 1 hour  
**Plan B** About 3 hours
- Fee** **Plan A** 11,000 yen  
**Plan B** 22,000 yen

- Other Conditions** Target: 140 cm or taller  
Reservation: At least 5 days in advance for Plan A, 2 weeks in advance for Plan B  
Participants: 2-6 people  
Operation Period: Excluding Mondays and the period from December 27 to January 3



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