

**TAKE FREE** See the best of Omihachiman

By bus and on foot

By bicycle

By car

6 routes, 6 different kinds of adventure!

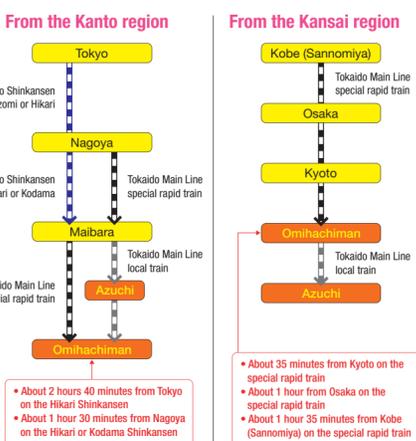
# Omihachiman Tour Map



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.



- Phone
- Address
- Hours
- Closed
- Parking
- Fee/admission
- Bus stop

## 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 Ishinomoto, Omihachiman ☎ 0748-32-7003  
9:00-17:00 ☎ Year-end/New Year holidays (December 29-January 3)

### Route 2 Spectacular sights

**Getting to the start of each route**

**Getting to Okishima Island** **Route 2**

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.

### Route 3 Lakeside activities

### 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.

### Route 5 Refreshing waterside cycling

**Getting to the start of each route**

**Bus** **Route 1**

- 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.

★ 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.

### Route 1 Classic sightseeing route

### Route 4 Follow Oda Nobunaga's footsteps

**Getting to the start of each route**

**Car** **Routes 1, 2, 6**

Meishin Expressway Hikone 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
- Ekirin 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.

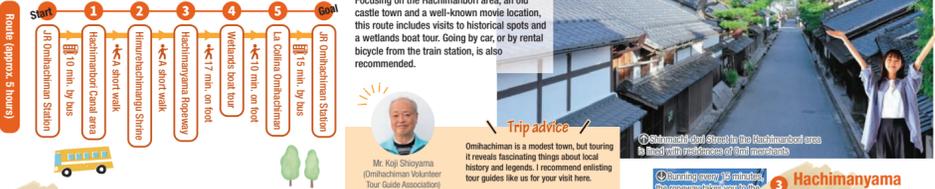
### Getting to the start of each route

**Rental bicycle** **Route 4**

- JR Azuchi Station: A short walk from the north exit
- Takashima Bicycle Rentals
- Fukao Bicycle Rentals
- Azuchi Castle ruins

☎ 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.

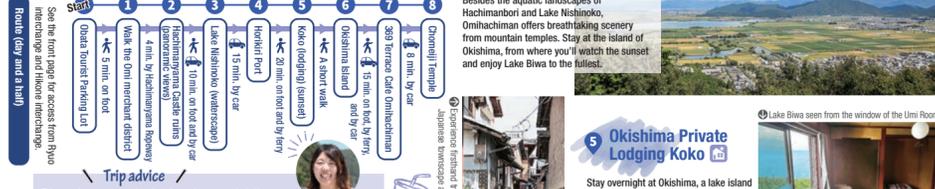
**5 La Collina Omihachiman**  
This is the flagship store of Taneya Japanese confectioneries and Club Haru Western confectioneries. The complex includes stores to shop, enjoy a coffee, or see how Baumkuchen cake is made.

**6 Hachimanyama Ropeway**  
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.

**7 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.

**8 Hachimanyama 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.

# Spectacular Sights



**1 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.

**2 Horikiri Port**  
Arrival and departure point for Okishima ferries. Park your car at the visitor parking lot a five-minute walk from the port.

**3 Lake Nishinoko**  
The largest of Lake Biwa's attached lakes has reed beds in the shallows. The reeds are a brilliant green in spring and summer, and reflect the setting sun in fall and winter.

**4 Hachimanyama Ropeway**  
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**8 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.

# Lakeside Activities



**1 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.

**2 Kyukamura Ohmi-Hachiman**  
The wooded shores with sweeping views of Lake Biwa have plenty of places for overnight stays or daytime activities. Come and enjoy a barbecue for the day (reservations needed). All food and gear is provided and barbecues are under roofs in case of rain.

**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.

**4 Horikiri Port**  
Arrival and departure point for Okishima ferries. Park your car at the visitor parking lot a five-minute walk from the port.

# 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.

# Refreshing Waterside Cycling

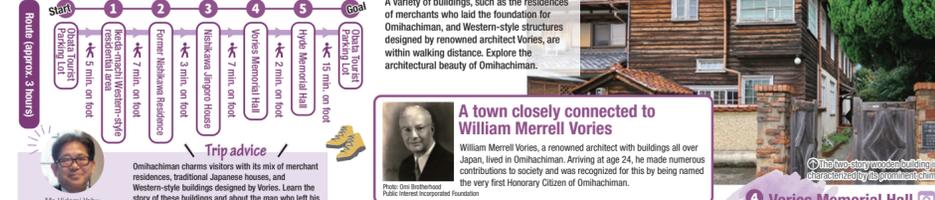


**1 Lake Biwa Shoreline Route**  
Go on a half-day cycling trip through farmland and along the wetlands of Lake Nishinoko. On the long route, you can ride along the shores of Lake Biwa. Recommended for beginner cyclists, too.

**2 Cycling around Lake Nishinoko**  
There's a dedicated cycle and foot path along the south shore of Lake Nishinoko. Enjoy the attractive waterscape of Omihachiman, such as the tall reeds along the shore of Lake Nishinoko and the scenic pond fields.

**3 Cycling around Hachimanbori Canal**  
This cycle path goes along Shiratori River, which feeds Lake Biwa, the shore of the lake, and the south-west of Lake Nishinoko. The flat, easy route allows you to enjoy the scenery while riding.

# Visiting Historic Buildings



**1 Nishikawa Jingoro 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.

**5 Ikeda-machi Western-style Residential Area**  
The American-style houses in this area designed by Vories represented a new way of living. Waterhouse Memorial Hall is also used as a hotel.

Route 1

By bus

On foot

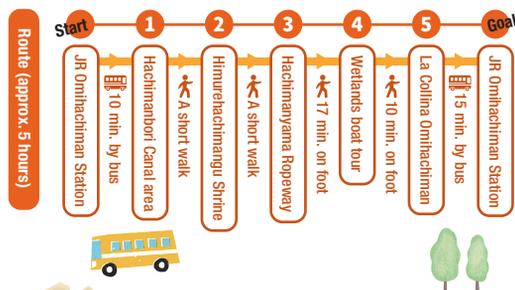
By car

By bicycle

Recommended for first-time visitors



# Classic Sightseeing Route



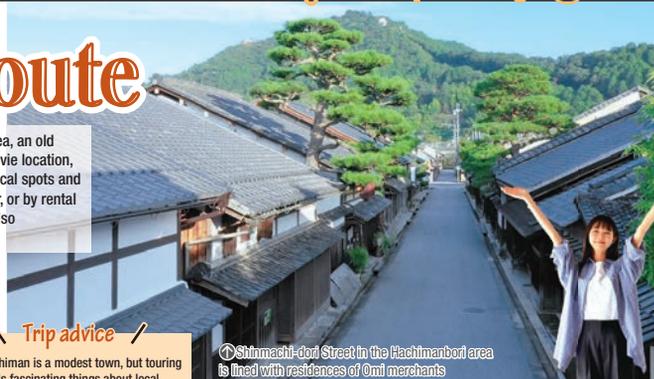
Focusing on the Hachimanbori area, an old castle town and a well-known movie location, this route includes visits to historical spots and a wetlands boat tour. Going by car, or by rental bicycle from the train station, is also recommended.



Mr. Koji Shioyama  
(Omihachiman Volunteer  
Tour Guide Association)

## Trip advice

Omihachiman is a modest town, but touring it reveals fascinating things about local history and legends. I recommend enlisting tour guides like us for your visit here.



Shimachi-dori Street in the Hachimanbori area is lined with residences of Omi merchants

## 1 Hachimanbori Canal Area

The moat of Hachimanyama Castle, where the warlord Toyotomi Hidetsugu lived, is surrounded by a quaint townscape with many sightseeing spots. Stroll the canal lined with stone walls and storehouses.

☎ 0748-33-6061 (Omihachiman Station North Exit Tourist Information Center) 📍 Area around Miyauchi-cho, Omihachiman 🅇 Obata Tourist Parking Lot



🚣 A boat traveling along the Hachimanbori Canal  
🌙 Lit up at night

## 2 Himurehachimangu Shrine

Omi merchants have paid homage at this shrine since ancient times. The Sagicho Festival in March and the Hachiman Festival in April are two of the main fire festivals in Shiga Prefecture, and designated as Intangible Folk Cultural Properties of Japan.

☎ 0748-32-3151 📍 257 Miyauchi-cho, Omihachiman 🅇 Obata Tourist Parking Lot



🏯 The worship hall and the main hall were built in the Kamakura period

🏯 The romon, a two-story gate, is said to ward off evil from all who pass through



- a** Omihachiman Himure Village (Japanese and Western confectioneries)
- b** Sennaritei Hachimanbori store (Omi beef croquettes and sushi)
- c** Meijibashi Amana (popular parfait made with uiro rice cakes)
- d** Watayo (renowned Omi sweet called detchi yokan originated here)
- e** Hatsuuyuki Shokudo (famous retro-style restaurant)
- f** Marutake Ohmi Nishikawa (dutch's and restaurant selling Omi beef)
- g** Norimatsu Shokuhin Yoshii Shoten (originator of aka kon'nyaku, a local specialty)
- h** Kanekichi Yamamoto main store (freshly made deep-fried croquettes)

## 3 Hachimanyama Ropeway

🕒 Running every 15 minutes, the ropeway takes you to the top of the mountain in 4 minutes

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

☎ 0748-32-0303 📍 Miyauchi-cho, Omihachiman 🔄 Roundtrip adults 950 yen, children 480 yen 🕒 9:00-17:00 (last ropeway up leaves at 16:30) 🅇 Open year-round 🅇 20 spaces



## 4 Wetlands Boat Tour

The Omihachiman wetlands boat tour is said to have originated when warlords Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hidetsugu traveled the wetlands by boat, mimicking boating done at the Imperial Court.

**Hand-paddled boats**

- Omihachiman Sightseeing Cooperative
- Suigo no Sato Maruyama

**Engine-powered boats**

- Shima Shinju Suigo Boat Tours
- Biwako Kanko Corporation

There are four wetlands boat tour operators, including the one shown on the route (to the left). See the reverse side of the pamphlet for details of each tour operator.



🚣 Enjoying a lazy hand-paddled tour in the wetlands

## 5 La Collina Omihachiman

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

☎ 0748-33-6666 📍 615-1 Kitanosho-cho, Omihachiman 🕒 9:00-18:00 (food court 10:00-17:00) Hours vary by shop. 🎉 New Year's Day 🅇 650 spaces



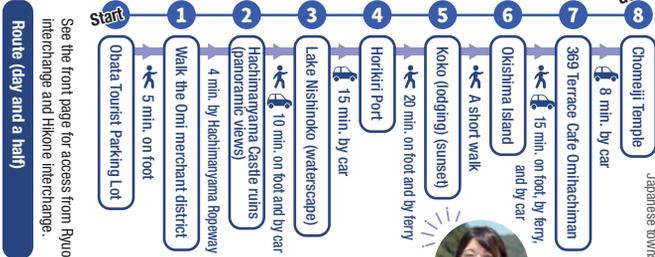
🏠 The main shop's roof is covered in moss



📦 Pick up specially packaged sweets



# Spectacular Sights



Route (day and a half)

See the front page for access from Bvuo interchange and Hime interchange.

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.

This route features postcard-perfect views wherever you look. Keep your camera ready for a day around Lake Biwa, where you'll find tranquil townscapes and natural colors that change with each hour.



Ms. Asumi Kawase (Okishima Fishery Cooperative)



Experience firsthand traditional Japanese townscape and living

## 5 Okishima Private Lodging Koko

Stay overnight at Okishima, a lake island with 250 residents. The private lodging and island townscape are a throwback to mid-20th century simpler times.

Lake Biwa seen from the window of the Umi Room



☎ 050-8887-5376 📍 250-1 Okishima-cho, Omihachiman  
 🏠 3,500 yen/night (no meals). Has a kitchen. 📅 Check-in 15:00 / check-out 10:00 🚗 Open year-round 📺 None

## 6 Okishima Island

About 1.5 km off the shore of Omihachiman, 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.

☎ 0748-33-9779 (Okishima Island Promotion Council)



Selected by the Japanese government as a historical and cultural heritage site

## 7 369 (Miroku) Terrace Cafe Omihachiman

The casual French cuisine highlights local vegetables grown using no fertilizers or agrochemicals. Homemade vegan cake (650 yen) and lemonade (850 yen) are also popular.

☎ 050-8887-2238

📍 182-22 Chomeiji-cho, Omihachiman

🕒 11:00-18:00

🗓 Tues., Wed., year-end/New Year holidays

🚗 15 spaces



For takeout customers only, enjoy a commanding view of Lake Biwa from the terrace

## 8 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.

☎ 0748-33-0031 📍 157 Chomeiji-cho, Omihachiman

🏠 Free 🕒 8:00-17:00 🗓 Open year-round 📺 Yes (at mountain top)



The main hall and three-story pagoda are important Cultural Properties



## 1 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.

Shinmachi-dori Street is lined with merchant homes



The magnificent view of Lake Biwa from the western castle compound

☎ 0748-32-3323

📍 (Zuiryuji Temple)

📍 Miyauchi-cho, Omihachiman 🕒 Temple admission 500 yen

🏠 (600 yen for special viewing ticket) 🕒 9:00-17:00 🗓 Open year-round 🚗 20 spaces (parking lot for ropeway users)



Ferries depart to Okishima 10 to 12 times a day

## 4 Horikiri Port (Okishima Ferry terminal)

Arrival and departure point for Okishima ferries. Park your car at the visitor parking lot a five-minute walk from the port.

☎ 0748-33-9779 (Okishima Island Promotion Council)  
 📍 Okishima-cho, Omihachiman 🕒 Okishima Ferry 500 yen one-way 🕒 7:15-21:00 (from 8:15 on Sun.) 🗓 Open year-round 🚗 Parking lot for ferry passengers to the island (300 yen; pay on the ferry)

## 3 Lake Nishinoko

The largest of Lake Biwa's attached lakes has reed beds in the shallows. The reeds are a brilliant green in spring and summer, and reflect the setting sun in fall and winter.

A famous bird-watching spot from where many varieties can be seen



## 2 Hachimanyama Castle Ruins

Hachimanyama Castle was built by warlord Toyotomi Hidetsugu. Zuiryuji Temple, Hidetsugu's family temple, today stands where the main castle compound once stood.



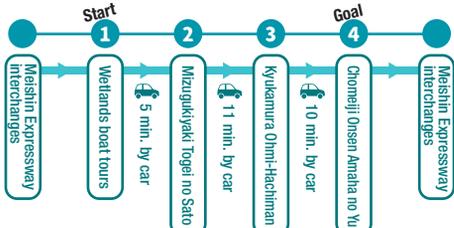
Zuiryuji Temple was relocated from Kyoto



# Lakeside Activities

Route (approx. 5.5 hours)

See the front page for access from Ryūto Interchange and Hikone Interchange.



Spend a day with a range of activities in Omihachiman. Take a refreshing drive along Lake Biwa. We also recommend choosing just one activity and experiencing it to the fullest.

## Trip advice

There are so many ways to engage your senses in the rich nature, history, and culture of Omihachiman. Bring along friends or family to make beautiful memories.



Mr. Hisanori Imai  
(Mizugukiyaki Togeti no Sato)



Enjoy a deluxe barbecue of Omi beef



## 3 Kyukamura Ohmi-Hachiman

The wooded shores with sweeping views of Lake Biwa have plenty of places for overnight stays or daytime activities. Come and enjoy a barbecue for the day (reservations needed). All food and gear is provided and barbecues are under roofs in case of rain.

0748-32-3138 Miyagahama, Okishima-cho, Omihachiman Depends on type of facility and plan (see official website to confirm) 500 spaces

A spacious site next to Lake Biwa



There's a restaurant and a terrace to relax while looking out at Lake Biwa

Next to the main bath is a sauna styled after a Japanese tea room



## 4 Chomeiji Onsen Amaha no Yu

After a day of activities, refresh yourself in a hot spring entry to Lake Biwa. Locals and visitors alike frequent this facility, which boasts seven types of baths and a wood-fired sauna.

0748-31-1126 68-1 Chomeiji-cho, Omihachiman  
Hot spring entry: 1,200 yen for junior high students and older (1,500 yen on weekends and public holidays), 600 yen for ages 3 and older (700 yen on weekends and public holidays). Children under 3 not allowed. Prices include hot spring tax. 10:00-21:00, closes at 22:00 on Fri.-Sat. and public holidays (restaurant last orders at 20:30)  
 Closed on maintenance days; confirm before coming 58 spaces



Create cups and plates in the shape you like



There's also a cafe where you can enjoy local dishes and Omi beef

Choose from classes in manual wheel pottery, electric wheel pottery, or ceramics painting



Wear a *happi* jacket and become a boatman. Be sure to take lots of photos on the boat.

Wetlands abound with the refreshing sight of newly green reeds in summer



## 1 Wetlands Boat Tour: Try Paddling Yourself

Omihachiman Suigo 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. 60-minute tour.

**Suigo no Sato Maruyama** 0748-32-2333 (Ask for the Shiga Rhythm program) 1467-3 Maruyama-cho, Omihachiman From 8,000 yen for 2 people per private boat (Book by 12 noon the day before.) Use of a private boat by 1 person will require the fee for 2 people. During bad weather, Wed. in winter 15 spaces  
Inquire about private boats and other matters.

## 2 Mizugukiyaki Togeti 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.

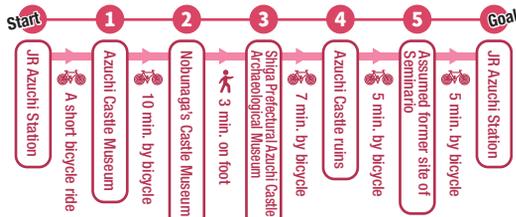
0748-33-1345 620 Nakanosho-cho, Omihachiman  
 Depends on the class (see official website to confirm)  
 Wed., year-end/New Year holidays 30 spaces



# Follow Oda Nobunaga's Footsteps

Route (approx. 5 hours)

Travel around the Omihachiman area as well



## Trip advice

If you're touring Azuchi by bicycle, I recommend bringing your own lunch so you can eat it wherever you like. This allows you to take your time visiting historic places connected to Nobunaga.



Mr. Shigeru Yamazoe  
(Azuchi Volunteer  
Tour Guide Association)

Cycle around Azuchi, site of one of the primary castles of Oda Nobunaga. Feel the history of Azuchi as you walk around the stone walls of the large castle ruins and surrounding spots that are closely connected to Nobunaga.

## Side trips

To the east of Azuchi Station, check out Kannonshoji Temple, which stands on the former site of a castle Nobunaga once invaded. In autumn, visit Kyorinbo Temple, famous for its brilliant fall colors.

The stone-wall-lined Otomichi road leads from Sanmon gate to Azuchi Castle

## 5 Assumed Former Site of Seminaro

This is believed to be where Japan's first Christian seminary 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.

☎ 0748-46-4234 (Azuchi Station Tourist Information Center)  
🏠 275 Shimotoira, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman 🗺 5 spaces



📍 Located along the outer moat of Azuchi Castle ruins

## 1 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.

☎ 0748-46-5616 🏠 700 Konaka, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman  
🎫 200 yen for adults, 150 yen for students, 100 yen for children under 12 ⌚ 9:00-17:00 (enter by 16:30) 🗺 Mon. (open on public holidays, closed following day), year-end/New Year holidays 🗺 20 spaces

👉 The scale model is separated in the middle to show the interior of the castle tower



©Akira Naito

The porcelain folding screen paintings and diorama of Azuchi Castle ruins and its surroundings are impressive



A samurai-themed traffic safety sign!



- 📍 11 Yakniku and Sukiyaki (kamoto operated by an Omi beef butcher)
- 📍 12 Coffee Roast Bogota (coffee beans specialty shop)
- 📍 13 Bronze Statue of Nobunaga (an image of a gallant Nobunaga)
- 📍 14 Makezu no Tsuba Hompo Mangoro (connection connected to Nobunaga)
- 📍 15 Kitagawa spring (spring water filled carpis live in)
- 📍 16 Umenokawa spring (one of the springs supplying Nobunaga with tea ceremony water)
- 📍 17 Ryori Uoishi (serves local cuisine; reservations needed)

## 4 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.

☎ 0748-46-6594 🏠 Shimotoira, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman  
🎫 Adults 700 yen, children 200 yen ⌚ Depends on the season  
🗺 Open year-round 🗺 150 spaces

## 3 Shiga Prefectural 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.

☎ 0748-46-2424 🏠 6678 Shimotoira, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman  
🎫 500 yen for adults, 320 yen for senior high and university students, free for junior high and elementary school students. There is an extra charge for special exhibits.  
⌚ 9:00-17:00 (enter by 16:30) 🗺 Mon. (open on public holidays, closed following day), year-end/New Year holidays 🗺 55 spaces

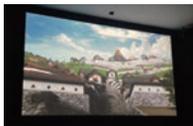


The building's exterior design has a traditional European look

## 2 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.

☎ 0748-46-6512 🏠 800 Kuwanomiji, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman  
🎫 610 yen for adults, 350 yen for senior high and university students, 170 yen for junior high and elementary school students  
⌚ 9:00-17:00 (enter by 16:30) 🗺 Mon. (open on public holidays, closed following day), year-end/New Year holidays 🗺 55 spaces



Watch a movie showing a virtual recreation of Azuchi Castle

Inside is a recreation of a gold-ground painting by Kano Eitoku



©Akira Naito



# Refreshing Waterside Cycling

Long route takes approx. 4 hours  
Short route takes approx. 3.5 hours



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.

Lake Nishinoko is the largest of Lake Biwa's attached lakes



## Trip advice

Take care while riding in town, where there's a lot of traffic and the roads can be a bit bumpy. If you have time, I recommend a side trip to Horikiri Port, where you can take a ferry to Okshima.



Mr. Tetsuya Kakuta  
(Omihachiman Local Vitalization Cooperator)

## + Lake Biwa Shoreline Route



There's a dedicated cycle and foot path along the Shiratori River

Cherry blossoms line the route in spring



## Biwako Yoshibue Road

This cycle path goes along Shiratori River, which feeds Lake Biwa, the shore of the lake, and the south-west of Lake Nishinoko. The flat, easy route allows you to enjoy the scenery while riding.

Hakuunkan is a tourist information center and an Omihachiman landmark



## Cycling around Hachimanbori Canal

The Omihachiman cycling route ends in the Hachimanbori area. Take the time to view both Japanese and Western architecture, including Omi merchant residences and buildings designed by renowned architect William Merrell Vories.



## 1 Cycling around Lake Nishinoko

There's a dedicated cycle and foot path along the south shore of Lake Nishinoko. Enjoy the attractive waterscape of Omihachiman, such as the tall reeds along the shore of Lake Nishinoko and the scenic paddy fields.



The lakeshore and paddy fields can be seen from the cycle path



The magical morning atmosphere of Lake Nishinoko

## 2 Nishinoko Station

This gathering place affords a front-row view of Lake Nishinoko and includes a cafe and restaurant. Take a break from cycling to have lunch here.

☎ 0748-46-6960 🏠 4187-3 Shimotoira, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman 🕒 11:00-14:30 🗓 Wed., summer break, year-end/New Year holidays 🪑 25 spaces



Take a break by the window for a view of Lake Nishinoko

The Nishinoko udon noodles (500 yen) contains flour made from the lake's reeds

## Explore the Town by Electric Scooter

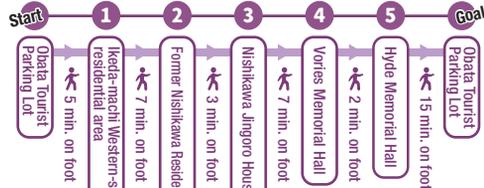
You can rent an electric scooter in the Taga Tourist Parking Lot. It's a smooth, effortless way to get around.

**BREEZY+ Omihachiman Store**  
☎ 090-1222-5050 🏠 Taga Tourist Parking Lot, 569 Taga-cho, Omihachiman  
🕒 Starting at 2,000 yen per hour (no advance reservations needed)  
🕒 10:00-18:00 (rentals end at 17:00)  
🗓 Mon., Tues.

Breeze around Omihachiman



# Visiting Historic Buildings



A variety of buildings, such as the residences of merchants who laid the foundation for Omihachiman, and Western-style structures designed by renowned architect Vories, are within walking distance. Explore the architectural beauty of Omihachiman.



Mr. Hidemi Yabu  
(Vories Memorial Hall director)

## Trip advice

Omihachiman charms visitors with its mix of merchant residences, traditional Japanese houses, and Western-style buildings designed by Vories. Learn the story of these buildings and about the man who left his architectural mark all over Japan.



Photo: Omi Brotherhood  
Public Interest Incorporated Foundation

## A town closely connected to William Merrell Vories

William Merrell Vories, a renowned architect with buildings all over Japan, lived in Omihachiman. Arriving at age 24, he made numerous contributions to society and was recognized for this by being named the very first Honorary Citizen of Omihachiman.

① The two-story wooden building is characterized by its prominent chimney

## 3 Nishikawa Jingoro House

A magnificent mansion exists at the place where futon manufacturer Nishikawa Co., Ltd. was founded. It's 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.

☎ 0748-32-2909 (Nishikawa Cultural Foundation) 🏠 17 Osugi-cho, Omihachiman 🚫 Usually closed to the public (house open briefly in spring and autumn), museum and store open 10:00-17:00 (closed Tues. and year-end/New Year holidays) 🅕 None



① The residence and the warehouse are on a 2,310 m<sup>2</sup> lot

## 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).

☎ 0748-32-7048 🏠 2-19 Shinmachi, Omihachiman 🅕 300 yen for adults, 150 yen for junior high and elementary school students 🕒 9:00-16:30 (enter by 16:00) 🅑 Mon. (open on public holidays, closed following day), year-end/New Year holidays 🅕 None



① The Edo period architecture has been designated an Important Cultural Property



- a Statues of Vories and a girl (in front of the Omi Brotherhood)
- b Old Hachiman Post Office (designed by Vories)
- c Machiya Club (complex occupying a former sake brewery)
- d Andrews Memorial Hall (the first building designed by Vories; can only be viewed from outside, except during special openings)
- e Table Mother (restaurant inside a traditional townhouse)

## Side trips

Try visiting all of the more than 20 buildings designed by Vories. You can also experience the past at Musajuku, one of the stations along the Nakasendo route in the south of the town, where you'll find things like former inns for government officials.



① Some of the four existing houses are still inhabited

## 4 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 adopts the attractive elements of Japanese architecture.

☎ 0748-32-2456 🏠 11 Jonjicho-moto, Omihachiman 🅕 500 yen (300 yen for junior and senior high students, free for elementary school students and younger) 🕒 10:00-16:00 (Must phone ahead for reservations) 🅑 Mon., public holidays, year-end/New Year holidays 🅕 3 spaces



① The exhibition room has calligraphy done by Vories and a piano

## 5 Hyde Memorial Hall

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

☎ 0748-32-3444 🏠 177 Ichii-cho, Omihachiman 🅕 500 yen (free for high school students and younger) 🕒 10:00-16:00 🅑 Mon., year-end/New Year holidays 🅕 None



① The white walls and red roof exude warmth

① Visitors can enter Kyokku Kaikan, which was a lecture hall

