

LAKE CAPITAL OTSU

Just steps from Kyoto

SHORT TRIPS with **7** Themes

Breathtaking Views
Seasonal Scenery
Visit Historic Sites
Seasonal Activities
Taste the Region
Artisan Crafted Souvenirs
Exclusive Stays



TAKE THE DIVE

Just 9 minutes away from Kyoto, Otsu is the former capital of Japan and home to the country's largest lake, Lake Biwa. Later becoming known as the birthplace of Japanese Buddhism, as well as an integral connection point for travelers between modern day Tokyo and Kyoto, Otsu has cultivated a rich history and diverse folk culture which has been preserved for hundreds of years. Centuries later, the endless blue of the mother lake continues to inspire and attract visitors to this day. Come and "take the dive" into stunning seasonal scenery, storied temples and shrines, a thriving local food culture, and more at Japan's lake capital, Otsu.



C O N T E N T S

- 4 Breathtaking Views
- 6 Seasonal Scenery
- 8 Visit Historic Sites
- 12 Seasonal Activities
- 16 Taste the Region
- 18 Artisan Crafted Souvenirs
- 20 Exclusive Stays
- 22 Sample Itineraries

1 / Former Chikurin-in Temple

This is a retreat of a former priest from Enryaku-ji Temple. The garden, which stretches to the southwest of the main building, is designated as a scenic garden by the Japanese government. The trees in the circuit-style garden, which incorporate the pure water of the river, the immaculately manicured moss and ever-changing scenery of each season offers a truly enchanting escape.

ADD 5-2-13 Sakamoto, Otsu

PHONE 077-578-0955



2 / Ukimido (Mangetsu-ji Temple)

This temple was built during the Heian period (794 - 1185) in the hope of keeping travelers safe as they crossed the lake. Mangetsu-ji Temple is called "Ukimido," meaning "Floating Hall," because it seems to float on the surface of the lake. It is one of the Eight Views of Omi and its beautiful scenery is a highlight of the area. The view of Lake Biwa against the blue sky, Ukimido on the surface of the lake, and the rising sun are not to be missed.

Note: Omi is the historical name of Shiga Prefecture.

ADD 1-16-18 Honkatata, Otsu

PHONE 077-572-0455



3 / The Lake Biwa Canal

This canal was constructed in the Meiji era (1868 - 1912) to carry water from Lake Biwa to Kyoto. With a history stemming back over a hundred years, traces of its Meiji era past can still be found at this mellow canal. This is also known as one of the most famous cherry blossom spots in Otsu, with mountain cherry and Yoshino cherry trees blossoming in spring.

ADD Miideracho, Otsu

PHONE 077-522-3830 (Otsu Station Tourist Information Center)

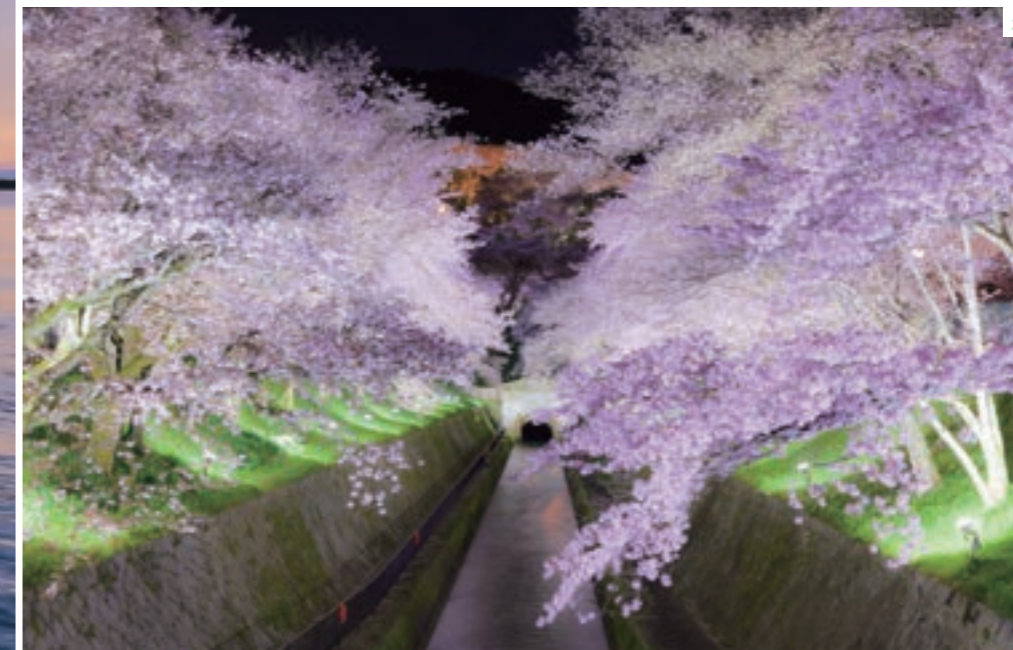


1
2



OTSU Breathtaking Views

Natural scenic views with historical roots await you around every corner.



3



4



5



6

4 / Sakamoto Cable Car

A cable car ride of about 11 minutes takes you to Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple, which is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Sakamoto Cable, built in 1927, is the longest cable car in Japan at 2,025 meters. Sit back in the nostalgic seats and take in the view of Lake Biwa from the windows.

ADD 4244 Sakamoto Hommachi, Otsu

PHONE 077-578-0531 (Hieizan Railway)



5 / Panoramic views of Lake Biwa from Lake Biwa Otsu Prince Hotel

"The Top of Otsu," located on the top floor of the Lake Biwa Otsu Prince Hotel, is a banquet room that offers first-class seating with grand views of Lake Biwa. The scenery from nearly 130 meters high is a great accompaniment to special occasions.

ADD 4-7-7 Nionohama, Otsu

PHONE 077-521-1111



6 / Shusodaishiden Karamon Gate at Saikyo-ji Temple

Legend has it that this temple, which was the family temple of feudal Japan warlord Akechi Mitsuhide, was built by Asuka period (593 - 710) politician Prince Shotoku for his mentor. This is the head temple of the Tendai Shinsei sect of Buddhism with nearly 400 branch temples nationwide, and the view of Lake Biwa from the Shusodaishiden Karamon Gate is gorgeous.

ADD 5-13-1 Sakamoto, Otsu

PHONE 077-578-0013



1 / Cherry blossoms from the Moon-Viewing Stage at Mii-dera Temple

This well-known cherry blossom spot originates from the Manyo period (1,250 - 1,350 years ago). The view of the cherry blossom trees reflected on the moon-viewing stage are truly breathtaking.

▶ P09

ADD 246 Onjojicho, Otsu

PHONE 077-522-2238



S p r i n g

2 / Michigan Cruise Ship and Shibazakura Flowers

The pink Shibazakura flowers blossoming along the shore near the "Michigan" paddleboat cruising Lake Biwa. This scene shows Nionohama Harbor in the spring.

▶ P12

ADD 5-1-1 Hamaotsu, Otsu

PHONE 077-524-5000

(Reservation center)



3 / Illuminated Autumn Foliage at Saikyo-ji Temple

Saikyo-ji is known as the family temple of Akechi Mitsuhide. The illuminated autumn foliage offers visitors enchanting, mystical scenery.

▶ P05

ADD 5-13-1 Sakamoto, Otsu

PHONE 077-578-0013



4 / Otsu Festival

The Otsu Festival held every October is one of Otsu's three main yearly festivals, taking after the traditions of the Gion Festival in Kyoto.

▶ P11

ADD 1-2-27 Chuo, Otsu

PHONE 077-525-0505

(Otsumatsuri Hikiyama Renmei)



A u t u m n

OTSU
Seasonal
Scenery



S u m m e r

5 / Lake Biwa Great Fireworks Festival

This festival is a summertime tradition in Otsu and draws many visitors each year. Nearly 10,000 fireworks are fired off from the lake, illuminating the night sky in brilliant colors.

ADD All across the water off Otsu Port (Launching location)

PHONE 077-511-1530 (Biwako Visitors Bureau)



6 / Swimming at Omimaiko

Kick back under the shade of the nearby pine trees while taking in the views of the Hira mountain range at this crescent-shaped beach. Visitors flock to this spot to cool off in the clear water of this freshwater lake.

ADD 1095 Minamikomatsu, Otsu

PHONE 077-596-0033

(Minamikomatsu Neighborhood Association), 077-596-0520 (Omimaiko Nakahama Beach Office/July and August only)



6

7

7 / Winter Scenery and Skiing at Biwako Valley

A world of silvery-white spreads out as far as the eye can see at this mountaintop winter resort. The panoramic views of Lake Biwa and exhilarating skiing are well worth a visit.

▶ P15

ADD 1547-1 Kido, Otsu

PHONE 077-592-1155



8

8 / Sanno Torii Gate in the snow at Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine

This is the head shrine of nearly 3,800 Hiyoshi, Hie, and Sanno shrines across the country. The contrasting colors of the vermilion Sanno Torii gate rising up out of the pure white snow make for striking scenery.

▶ P10

ADD 5-1-1 Sakamoto, Otsu

PHONE 077-578-0009



W i n t e r

Visit Historic Sites

Step through the halls of time at Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple, which is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site, and other historic temples and shrines that dot the Otsu landscape.



1 Konpon Chudo Hall, the main hall in the To-do area (east area of the temple grounds)
2 Shakado Hall, the oldest building at the temple



Special Activity

Overnight or dinner guests at Enryakuji Kaikan may participate in ascetic monk training practices such as Zen meditation and sutra copying, which is said to bring good luck. Advance reservations are required for Zen meditation.

World Heritage site brimming with a sacred atmosphere
Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple

This is the head temple of the Tendai sect of Buddhism, and runs along the borders of Otsu and Kyoto. Also called the mother temple of Japanese Buddhism, many monks have trained here over the years. To the east, the grand view of Lake Biwa spreads across the land, and to the west, panoramic views of the city of Kyoto. With 1,200 years of history and tradition, Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1994. The temple grounds are packed with things to see and do, such as a temple bell that visitors can ring and a popular cafe. The temple cafe is known for its Sanskrit latte and Sanskrit dessert set which are only available on weekends and holidays.

ADD 4220 Sakamoto Hommachi, Otsu

PHONE 077-578-0001

Ascetic training experience:
077-579-4180 (Enryakuji Kaikan)



1 The Golden Hall rebuilt by Kita no Mandokoro, wife of Toyotomi Hideyoshi
2 Great Gate of Onjo-ji Temple (Temple Guardian Gate)



Home to one of the Eight Views of Omi, the "Evening Bell of Mii"
Mii-dera Temple

Officially known as Nagarasan Onjo-ji Temple, this is the head temple of the Tendaijimon sect of Buddhism. It is home to many national treasures and cultural assets, such as the Kannondo Hall. Known for its evening bell, which is one of the Eight Views of Omi, the temple is also home to a must-see cherry blossom viewing spot known as the Kangetsu Butai (or "Moon-Viewing Stage" in English). Because it was embroiled in conflict, and overcame dangers such as being set on fire, it is also known as the Phoenix Temple.

ADD 246 Onjojicho, Otsu

PHONE 077-522-2238



Special Activity

Banish your delusions by taking part in the special training of mountain monks known as "Yamabushi", a practice rooted in Japanese culture and traditions. While participating, you'll receive instruction from a practicing monk and wear authentic Yamabushi garments.

A temple of noble lineage connected to the Imperial family
Enman-in Temple

Built in 987, this temple of the Tendai sect of Buddhism was run by nobles close to the imperial lineage. The temple's Shinden Hall is designated as an important cultural asset, and its expansive garden to the south is designated as a historic scenic spot known as the Famous Garden of Mii. Highlights on the temple grounds include the changing seasonal scenery of the garden, and a museum dedicated to the traditional folk-art paintings known as "Otsu-e." Visitors can also eat Buddhist vegetarian cuisine at Yuyutei, the temple restaurant.

ADD 33 Onjojicho, Otsu

PHONE 077-522-3690



Special Activity

Enman-in Temple offers a variety of Japanese cultural activities such as *tosenkyo* and Zen meditation. *Tosenkyo* is a traditional game akin to darts that spread from Kyoto during the Edo period, where players toss an open fan onto a target known as a *cho* on a block.





- 1 Statues of temple guardians on both sides of the Great East Gate
- 2 Colorful seasonal flowers at the temple
- 3 Imposing wollastonite rocks and the two-storied pagoda

Where the legendary novelist Murasaki Shikibu is said to have begun writing the *Tale of Genji*
Ishiyama-dera Temple

Ishiyama-dera Temple is located near the Seta River in the foothills of Mount Garan. It is the headquarters of the Shingon sect of Buddhism, and well known as one of the Eight Views of Omi, the autumn moon of Ishiyama. The temple is also where Murasaki Shikibu found the inspiration for the *Tale of Genji*. It is home to the Nyoirin Kannon, a hidden Buddhist statue that is not shown to the public, and many cultural assets including the main hall and a two-storied pagoda, both of which are national treasures. Known locally as the “Flower Temple,” Ishiyama-dera is also home to a wide variety of flowers that bloom throughout the year such as plum blossoms, cherry blossoms, and azalea.

ADD 1-1-1 Ishiyamadera, Otsu
 PHONE 077-537-0013

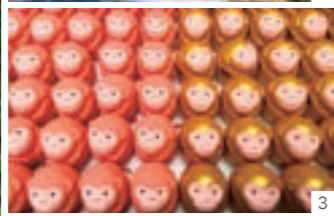


- 1 The vivid, vermillion two-storied gate
- 2 The famous Hyakunin Isshu *karuta* card game
- 3 Water Clock Festival held each June

A mecca for the traditional Japanese card game *karuta* and home to the father of clocks
Omi Jingu Shrine

Omi Jingu Shrine enshrines Emperor Tenji, who moved the capital of Japan to Otsu in 667. Surrounded by vast forests, the grounds of the shrine are home to a vermillion-painted two-storied gate and a main building crafted in the traditional Omi-style. Emperor Tenji was known as the father of clocks after creating the first water clock in Japan, and on the grounds, you'll find many water clocks, sundials, and a clock museum. The temple is also renowned as the home of the card game *karuta*.

ADD 1-1 Jingucho, Otsu
 PHONE 077-522-3725



- 1 The uniquely shaped Sanno Torii Gate
- 2 Masaru can be found at the four corners under the eaves of the two-storied gate at the West Main Shrine
- 3 Cute Masaru fortunes

Famous autumn foliage spot surrounded by abundant nature
Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine

This is the head shrine of nearly 3,800 Hiyoshi, Hie, and Sanno shrines across the country. It is home to several buildings designated as important cultural assets such as the West and East main shrines, and the grounds are a notable autumn foliage spot. Masaru, the servants of the gods at the shrine, are famous as monkeys of good fortune because their names rhyme with the Japanese words for eliminating evil and winning.

ADD 5-1-1 Sakamoto, Otsu
 PHONE 077-578-0009



Three Great Otsu Festivals

The historic spring, summer, and autumn festivals held in Otsu are known as the Three Great Otsu Festivals. In spring the Sanno Festival is held at Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine, the Senko Festival is held at Takebe Taisha Shrine in the summer, and the city comes to life during the Otsu Festival in the autumn with its 13 traditional floats.

Spring



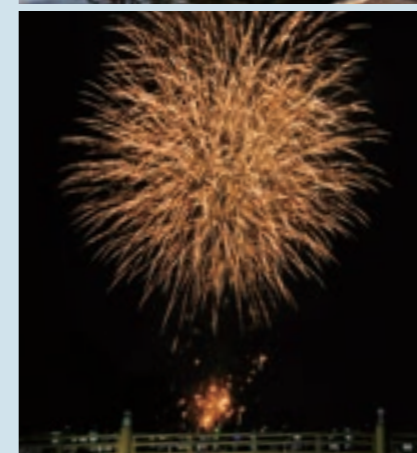
A springtime festival with beautiful cherry blossoms and portable shrines
Sanno Festival

The Sanno Festival at Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine is a famous annual prayer for peace and a bountiful harvest with a history of over 1,200 years. This lively festival features seven portables shrines that are utilized in various rituals such as the beautiful “Hanawatari-shiki” ritual, the “Uma no Shinji” ritual, and the “Yoimiya-otoshi Shinji” ritual.

ADD 5-1-1 Sakamoto, Otsu
 PHONE 077-578-0009
 (Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine)



Summer



A summer festival commemorating a legendary journey
Noryo Senko Festival

This summer festival at Takebe Taisha Shrine celebrates the legendary ocean voyage of folk hero Yamato Takeru. The Noryo Senko Festival pays homage to his journey by imagining that the Seta River is the ocean route he took, recreating his journey by sending boats laden with portable shrines from the Seta side to the Kurozu side of the river. Once this symbolic journey is over, the festival concludes with a dazzling fireworks display at sunset.

ADD 1-16-1 Jinryo, Otsu
 PHONE 077-545-0038
 (Takebe Taisha Shrine)



Autumn



A historic festival continued for nearly 400 years
Otsu Festival

The Otsu Festival is held each autumn at Tenson Shrine, and is one of the city's largest events. It is designated as an important intangible folk property by the Japanese government, and borrows heavily from the traditions of the Gion Festival. During the festival, thirteen floats built during the Edo period make their way through the city, each with their own unique clockwork puppets.

ADD 1-2-27 Chuo, Otsu
 PHONE 077-525-0505
 (Otsumatsuri Hikiyama Renmei)



OTSU Seasonal Activities

From a refreshing day by the lake, to a thrilling skiing trip in the great outdoors, there's always something to do no matter the season in Otsu.



- 1 Explore Lake Biwa with a cruise from Otsu Port
- 2 Don't miss the Lake Biwa Flower Fountains
- 3 Rent a bike at the lakeside Cycle Station
- 4 Enjoy cycling with gorgeous scenic views
- 5 Snap a photo near the Michigan at Otsu Port
- 6 Try a croque monsieur sandwich from BirdCafe

Spring

Board Biwako Kisen's "Michigan," and take in the country's largest lake with a relaxing cruise around Lake Biwa. Whether you choose to enjoy meals, drinks, and live music performances inside the ship, or explore the exterior cruise deck and photo spots, there are many ways to spend your time on the paddleboat as it makes its way around the south side of the lake. The spectacular panoramic views and refreshing breezes off Lake Biwa are not to be missed.

Michigan Cruise

Biwako Kisen

1 2

ADD 5-1-1 Hamaotsu, Otsu
PHONE 077-524-5000 (Reservation center)



The "Biwaichi" is a cycling route that wraps all the way around Lake Biwa, and there's no better starting point than the O-PORT-able bike rental shop. With all the cycling items you need available for rental, as well as offering repair and maintenance services, feel free to stop by the shop empty handed to start your journey. Don't forget to take a break when you get back, and stop by Bird Cafe inside the shop for a relaxing meal, beverage, or snack.

Cycling

CYCLE STATION O-PORT-able

3 4 5 6

ADD 5-1-7 Hamaotsu, Otsu
PHONE 077-548-6572 (Biwaichi Bike)



- 1 Rafting on the Seta River offers an exciting adventure
- 2 Experience the thrill of tubing
- 3 Don't be afraid to try river bugging on your own
- 4 Barbecue some meat and veggies for a tasty lunch
- 5 Head out to Ukimido on a stand-up paddleboard
- 6 Take in the views of the Hira mountains

Summer

Lake Biwa and the Seta River offer plenty of unique aquatic activities to choose from. The Seta River is a renowned destination for visitors from all across the Kansai region as a hotspot for rafting, tubing, and river bugging. Whether you team up with friends for a rafting expedition or strike out on your own in a solo tube, you're sure to have fun on the water.

Rafting and Tubing

Friendship Adventures

1 2 3

ADD 1215-5 Ishiyama Nangocho, Otsu
PHONE 077-533-5112



O'PAL is one of the most acclaimed facilities in Otsu for outdoor activities. From water activities on Lake Biwa, to outdoor experiences on Mt. Hiei, O'PAL arranges many programs to help you get some quality time with mother nature. O'PAL's stand-up paddleboarding and kayaking programs are among their most popular, with options that include barbecues and cycling trips around the city as well.

Kayaking and Stand-Up Paddleboarding

O'PAL

4 5 6

ADD 5-265-1 Ogoto, Otsu
PHONE 077-579-7111



- 1 Try catching some black bass on the lake
- 2 Sail across Lake Biwa
- 3 Relax and enjoy the refreshing autumn breeze as it blows across the lake
- 4 The Sanno Torii gate at Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine decorated in autumn colors
- 5 The crimson colored leaves at Mii-dera Temple
- 6 Nighttime autumn illumination event at Ishiyama-dera Temple



Autumn

The mild autumn weather in Otsu makes it the best season for fishing and sailing on the lake, and Marina Club Rivre is the perfect place for both. From guided fishing tours of the best spots for black bass to trying your hand at sailing, there is always plenty to do on Lake Biwa.

Fishing and Sailing

Marina Club Rivre

ADD 3-23-19 Imakatata, Otsu
PHONE 077-573-5656



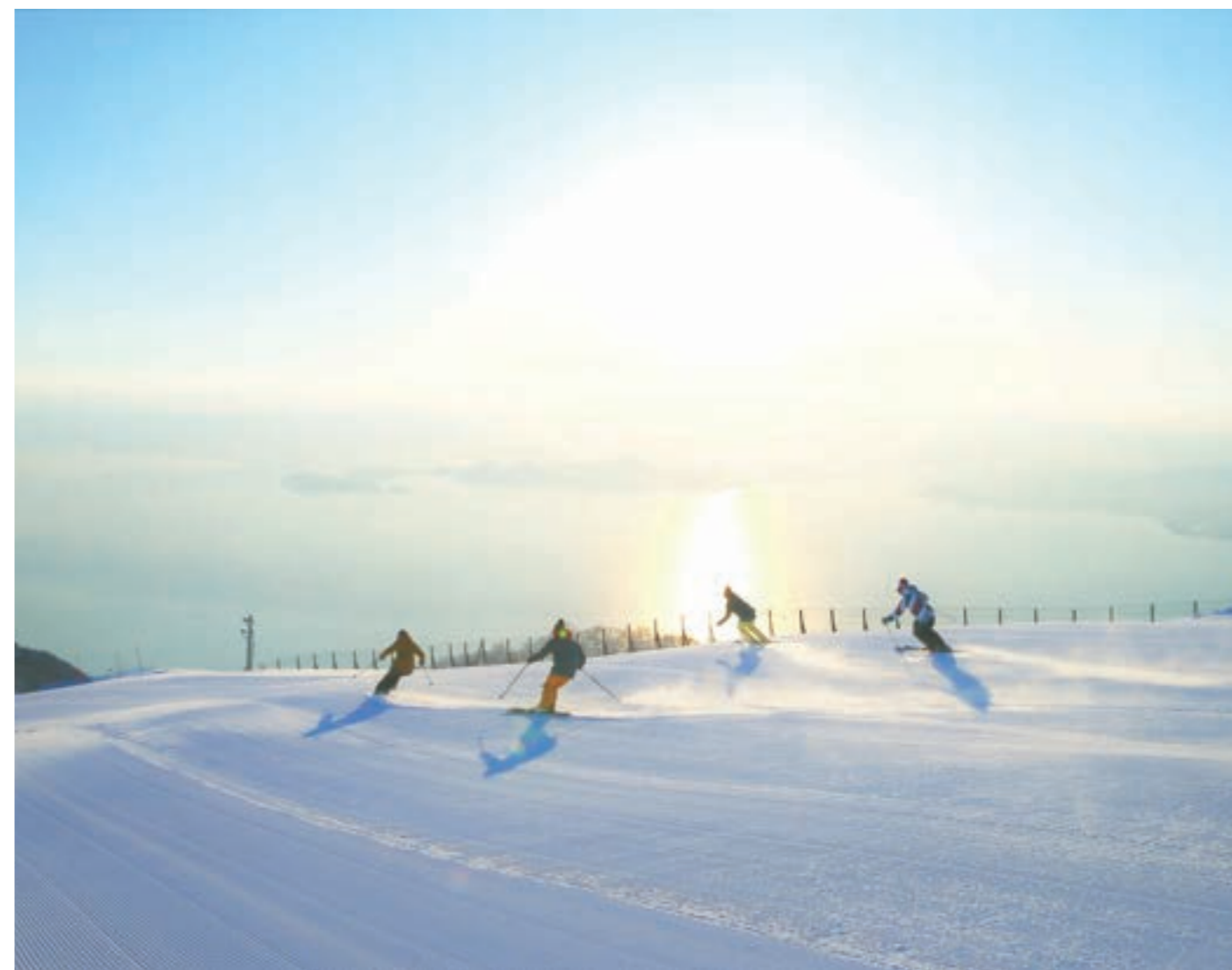
Otsu, with its lush natural surroundings, is home to many famous spots to see the fall colors. Each year as the colors begin to change, visitors flock to see the autumn foliage in Otsu at locations like Mii-dera Temple, Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine, Ishiyama-dera Temple, the Lake Biwa Canal, and Hieizan Driveway. Make sure to save the date for your next visit, and come see all the Autumn season has to offer in Otsu.

Tour the Fall Colors

Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine 4 ▶ P10
Mii-dera Temple 5 ▶ P09
Ishiyama-dera Temple 6 ▶ P10



Spanning Mount Uchimi and Mount Horai, this ski resort features gentle slopes that are perfect for beginners and children alike. Ski to your heart's content as you take in the breathtaking views.



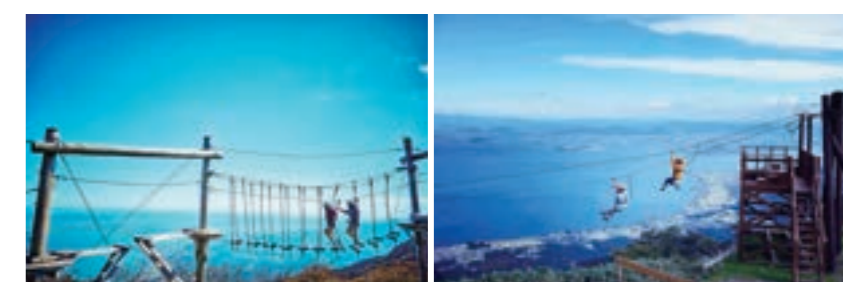
Winter

Located at an elevation of 1,100 meters, the mountaintop resort Biwako Valley is the perfect year-round spot for grand panoramic views of the Lake Biwa Landscape. December marks the start of the winter season at the resort when the mountain transforms into a snow-covered paradise. With many open areas and slopes available, the resort is a hotspot for skiers all across the Kansai region this time of year in Japan. At Biwako Terrace, you can kick back, relax, and lose track of the time while taking in the grand views of Lake Biwa below.

Skiing

Biwako Valley

ADD 1547-1 Kido, Otsu
PHONE 077-592-1155



[Green Season Late April - Late November]

The "Green Season" at Biwako Valley takes place during the spring and summer months, featuring a variety of outdoor activities from a zipline down the mountain to an obstacle course in the sky. Activities during this season are available until early November.

Taste the Region

Otsu boasts many delectable Omi-style foods to choose from. From Omi beef, one of Japan's three major Wagyu breeds and the oldest beef brand in Japan, to Biwa trout, a fish indigenous to Lake Biwa, you will be spoiled for choice here in Otsu.

Omi Beef Steak

Omi Beef, which is one of the three major brands of Wagyu in Japan, is known for its soft texture and finely marbled meat. The beef at Matsukiya is aged at low temperatures, bringing out its true flavor and enhancing its umami for a delicious meal. Make sure to try the Omi Beef Fillet or the Omi Beef Sirloin.

Restaurant Matsukiya (Main Branch)

ADD 14-17 Karahashicho, Otsu
PHONE 077-534-2901



Omi Shamo Chicken Sukiyaki

Jidoriya Onza uses homegrown lean chickens which are well-known for their savory meat and texture. These free-ranging birds are raised with zero stress, resulting in Omi shamo with quality meat which is used for cooking in home-made sauce for delicious sukiyaki. Jidoriya Onza is a restaurant run directly by the Kawanaka chicken farm, so you can enjoy the best chicken umami in a variety of luxurious dishes.

Jidoriya Onza

ADD 4-9-50 Mano, Otsu
PHONE 0120-003-129



Natural Biwa Trout Sashimi

Natural trout caught in Lake Biwa, known as biwamasu in Japanese, are a vibrantly-colored, fatty fish with a superb flavor. Every day, Tokkuri offers natural Lake Biwa seafood fresh from the market, lake fish boiled down in soy sauce, and unique seasonal flavors that you'll only find in Lake Biwa.

Tokkuri

ADD COCOLAS Otsu 1F, 2-1 Kasugacho, Otsu
PHONE 077-522-1147



Eel Shabu-Shabu

The restaurant Osugi specializes in eel cuisine, with its crown jewel being its "eel shabu-shabu" which attracts foodies from all across the country. The restaurant's secret to its incredible shabu-shabu is cooking the eels in quality soup stock to draw out the meat's fat and delicious flavors, creating a melt in your mouth experience like no other. It is also recommended to use the wasabi soy sauce or ponzu citrus vinegar toppings to bring the umami of the eel to a whole new level. Osugi features many eel-themed items, courses, and more.

Osugi

ADD 3-4-30 Chuo, Otsu
PHONE 077-526-3824



Shabu-shabu is a Japanese hot pot dish of thinly-sliced ingredients cooked by passing them through boiled water, which are then dipped in sauce.

Artisan Crafted Souvenirs

Top off your trip with travel-friendly souvenirs from artisans in Otsu whose techniques have been passed down for generations.

Pearls from Lake Biwa

At Jinbo Pearls (founded in 1966), the shop's third generation owner personally selects each and every pearl that is used in their jewelry. Pearls from Lake Biwa are renowned for their unique colors and shapes, and here you can select the exact pearls you want to use in your custom jewelry. The distinct pearls perfectly compliment the wide variety of simple jewelry designs at the shop. From pendants to earrings, Jinbo Pearls is the perfect place to find a souvenir of your time at Lake Biwa.

1 / Jinbo Pearls

ADD 1F, 3-4-28 Chuo, Otsu
PHONE 077-523-1254



Amo Sweets

Kanou Shoujuan is known for amo, a treat that features the refined sweetness of Tamba Dainagon adzuki beans perfectly balanced with a mochi center. Don't forget to buy some Amo Karuta crackers, which are crispy, card-shaped biscuits that are perfect for making an "amo sandwich."

2 / Kanou Shoujuan Sunai no Sato

ADD 4-2-1 Oishi Ryumon, Otsu
PHONE 077-546-3131



Omi Beef Curry

This ultimate beef curry is made by Matsukiya, who is said to have spread the name of "Omi Beef" across the country. The beef in this instant curry is hand cut by craftsmen to deliver the true flavor of luxurious Omi Beef. It was developed and improved over the course of years to create the perfect souvenir for your trip.

3 / Restaurant Matsukiya (Main Branch)

ADD 14-17 Karahashicho, Otsu
PHONE 077-534-2901



Asajio Japanese Sake

This long-standing brewery has watched over Otsu since 1658, perfecting its craft along the way with its signature "Asajio" sake. The Special Junmai "Ginfubuki" in this series strikes the perfect balance between umami and sweet, offering an easy on the palate flavor that even novice-sake drinkers can enjoy.

4 / Hirai Shoten

ADD 1-2-33 Chuo, Otsu
PHONE 077-522-1277



Craft Beer

Omi Beer is a small-scale brewery in Katata which creates its own original craft beer. Koji Ale is a unique beverage made with malted rice, and makes a great souvenir along with the Lake Biwa IPA. In addition to the 330 ml regular beer, Omi Beer also offers special brews and seasonal flavors which can be purchased individually and in sets.

5 / Omi Beer

ADD 3-24-37 Honkatata, Otsu
PHONE 077-536-5222



Otsu-e Paintings

Otsu-e paintings are a folk art which originated in Otsu during the Edo period (1603 - 1710). These Buddhist paintings were popular among travelers on the Tokaido road, and were created by Otsu artists using techniques handed down over generations to the current day. The fifth generation Otsu-e artist Takahashi Shozan continues to use time-honored techniques and materials to create these works of art at his shop, Otsu-e no Mise. Paintings that feature oni demons in monk's clothes and beautiful women in traditional Japanese costume are some of the most popular subjects in Otsu-e art.

6 / Otsu-e no Mise

ADD 3-38 Miideracho, Otsu
PHONE 077-524-5656



Exclusive Stays

Browse from a selection of hand-picked accommodations, ranging from a historic hot spring inn, to renovated traditional townhouses, and much more.



- 1 The Gesshin-no Yu outdoor bath offers sweeping views of Lake Biwa
- 2 Enjoy a delicious, beautiful meal at Yumotokan
- 3 Modern, Japanese-style twin room
- 4 The Kotone DX suite is a guest room with an outdoor hot spring bath



Ogoto Hot Spring

The Ogoto Hot Spring is a coveted source of mild, highly alkaline simple springs, offering visitors with even the most sensitive of skin types a soothing soak that leaves the skin feeling silky soft and beautiful. This storied hot spring was once regarded as a “miraculous disease curing spring” due to its proximity to the many sacred shrines and temples in Otsu, and to this day, weary travelers from all over the prefecture come to wash away their fatigue at the over 1,200-year-old Ogoto Hot Spring.

Ogoto Hot Spring Inns and Hotels

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lakeside Inn Ogotoso | Biwako Hanakaido |
| Yumotokan | Biwako Grand Hotel Kyo-Ohmi |
| Kotoyu | Biwako Ryokusuitei |
| Dantokan Kikunoya | Yuzanso |
| Komolebi | |

Historic hot spring lodging Yumotokan

This inn has the longest history in the Ogoto Hot Spring area, and is enveloped in a warm, quiet Japanese atmosphere. The sophisticated floor "Hanare Karoi" has its own lounge and guest rooms equipped with outdoor hot spring baths. Gesshin-no-Yu offers charming panoramic views of Lake Biwa, and trying each of the intricately-designed baths is one trusty way to treat yourself to a true moment in luxury. As an added perk, guests here can expect all the best from light to hearty flavors as the food is said to tantalize all five of the senses.

ADD 2-30-7 Noka, Otsu
PHONE 077-579-1111



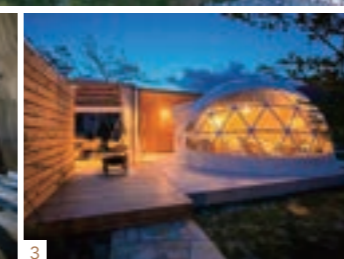
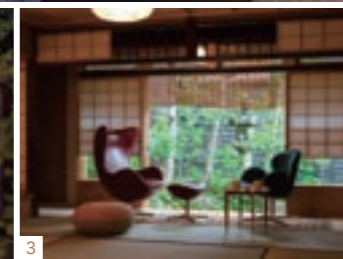
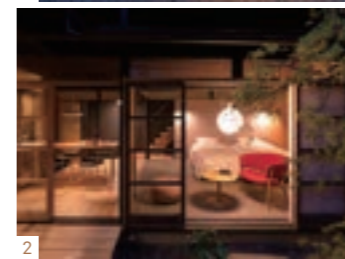
- 1 There are seven townhouses here including "Ohmiya", the front desk building
- 2 Modern, Japanese-style guest room "Koujiya"
- 3 Take in the views of a Japanese-style garden while relaxing on the veranda
- 4 Try breakfast made with ingredients from Lake Biwa

Renovated townhouses

Hotel Koo Otsu Hyakucho

This hotel operates out of seven renovated traditional Japanese-style townhouses that were once used over 100 years ago by travelers along the old Tokaido road in the "Otsu Hyakucho" shopping district. Featuring a variety of modern Japanese-style guest rooms to choose from, Hotel Koo is the perfect place to catch your breath and take a break from the action. For breakfast, make sure to try the "Eel Chazuke," an eel dish which comes with side dishes with ingredients straight from Lake Biwa.

ADD 1-2-6 Chuo, Otsu
PHONE 0570-001-810



Glamping resort AFUMI KITAKOMATSU

Located on the shores of Lake Biwa, Afumi Kitakomatsu is a glamping resort that offers unique experiences near the foothills of the Hira mountains. Enjoy the magnificent views, seasonal barbecue menus, and easy access from Kyoto while you treat yourself to a relaxing holiday by the lake.

ADD 997-1 Kitakomatsu,
Otsu
PHONE 077-535-9215



- 1 Stay in a luxurious outdoor dome with a perfect lakeside view
- 2 Guest rooms comfortably accommodate two to four people
- 3 Enjoy a peaceful night near the lake
- 4 Taste the flavors of Shiga with a barbecue featuring local ingredients



01



1 Practice Zen meditation while gazing at the gardens of Enman-in Temple

02



1 Feast your eyes on the never-ending blue scenery at Biwako Terrace
2 Relish some Omi beef at a mountaintop resort
3 Enjoy a variety of activities available all year-round



4 Try Omi shamo chicken sukiyaki
5 Kick back and relax with a craft beer
6 Feel the breeze from a yacht on Lake Biwa

Sample Itinerary - Day Trip

Take a step back in time with a historic walking course of Otsu



2 Springtime cherry blossoms at the Lake Biwa Canal
3 Artisans who have perfected their craft over generations
4 Cruise across Lake Biwa on the "Michigan" paddleboat
5 Distinctive pearls from the Mother Lake
6 Exquisitely-flavored Omi tea
7 Experience the one-of-a-kind eel shabu-shabu

- 9:30 A.M.** Find your best snap at the photo-worthy Lake Biwa Canal **2** ▶P04
- 10:00 A.M.** Visit Mii-dera Temple, famous for its cherry blossoms and autumn foliage ▶P06, 09, 14
- 11:00 A.M.** Try Zen meditation and a game of *tosenkyo* at Enman-in Temple **1** ▶P09
- 12:00 P.M.** Taste some shojin cuisine, the traditional meal of Buddhist monks, at Enman-in Temple ▶P09
- 1:00 P.M.** Witness the techniques of a master craftsman at Otsu-e no Mise **3** ▶P19
- 2:00 P.M.** Head to a famous Japanese sweets shop in Nagara, "Kanou Shoujuan" **A**
- 3:00 P.M.** Tour Lake Biwa on the Michigan Cruise **4** ▶P06, 12
- 4:30 P.M.** Search for your favorite Japanese sweets at Kakurido **B**
- 5:00 P.M.** Find local Shiga sake at Hirai Shoten ▶P19
- 5:30 P.M.** Visit Jinbo Pearls to pick out jewelry using pearls from Lake Biwa **5** ▶P18
- 6:00 P.M.** Stop by Nakagawa Seiseido Chaho for some Omi tea **6** **C**
- 6:30 P.M.** Get your fill of eel shabu-shabu at Osugi **7** ▶P17

A Kanou Shoujuan Nagara (Main Branch)

ADD 2-4-2 Nagara, Otsu
PHONE 077-525-8111



B Kakurido

ADD 1-2-18 Kyomachi, Otsu
PHONE 077-523-2662



C Nakagawa Seiseido Chaho

ADD 3-1-35 Chuo, Otsu
PHONE 077-522-2555



Sample Itinerary - 2 Days, 1 Night

Dive into the best views and activities Otsu has to offer

Day 1

- 10:00 A.M.** Gaze in wonder at the breathtaking panoramic views of Lake Biwa from Biwako Valley **1** ▶P07, 15
- 12:00 P.M.** Take a break for some lunch at HALUKA, Biwako Valley's own bar and grill **2** **A**
- 1:30 P.M.** Indulge in a skiing adventure in the great outdoors **3**. Try some other outdoor activities during the "Green Season," from exhilarating mountain zip lines to a challenging obstacle course in the sky
- 5:00 P.M.** Get comfy at the Ogoto Hot Springs historic Yumotokan inn ▶P20

Day 2

- 9:30 A.M.** Treat your feet to a complimentary foot bath in the morning at Ogoto Onsen Kanko Park **B**
- 10:30 A.M.** Sail a yacht at the Marina Club Rivre **6** ▶P14
- 1:30 P.M.** Savor a delectable course meal at Jidoriya Onza **4** ▶P16
- 3:00 P.M.** Visit Ukimido, the floating temple at Mangetsu-ji Temple ▶P04
- 3:30 P.M.** Stop by Uotomi Shoten for some tsukudani, a traditional dish of fish boiled in soy sauce **C**
- 4:00 P.M.** Satisfy your sweet tooth with seasonal Japanese sweets at Shimaya **D**
- 4:30 P.M.** Learn about the sake crafting process at Naminooto Shuzo, a historic brewery **E**
- 5:30 P.M.** Raise a toast to end the day at Omi Beer Terrace **5** ▶P19

A Grill and Bar HALUKA (Inside Biwako Valley)

PHONE 077-592-1155
Reservations not accepted



B Ogoto Onsen Kanko Park

ADD 1-2-17 Ogoto, Otsu
PHONE 077-578-3750



C Uotomi Shoten

ADD 1-16-14 Honkatata, Otsu
PHONE 077-572-1029



D Shimaya (Ukimido Branch)

ADD 1-21-22 Honkatata, Otsu
PHONE 077-574-3791

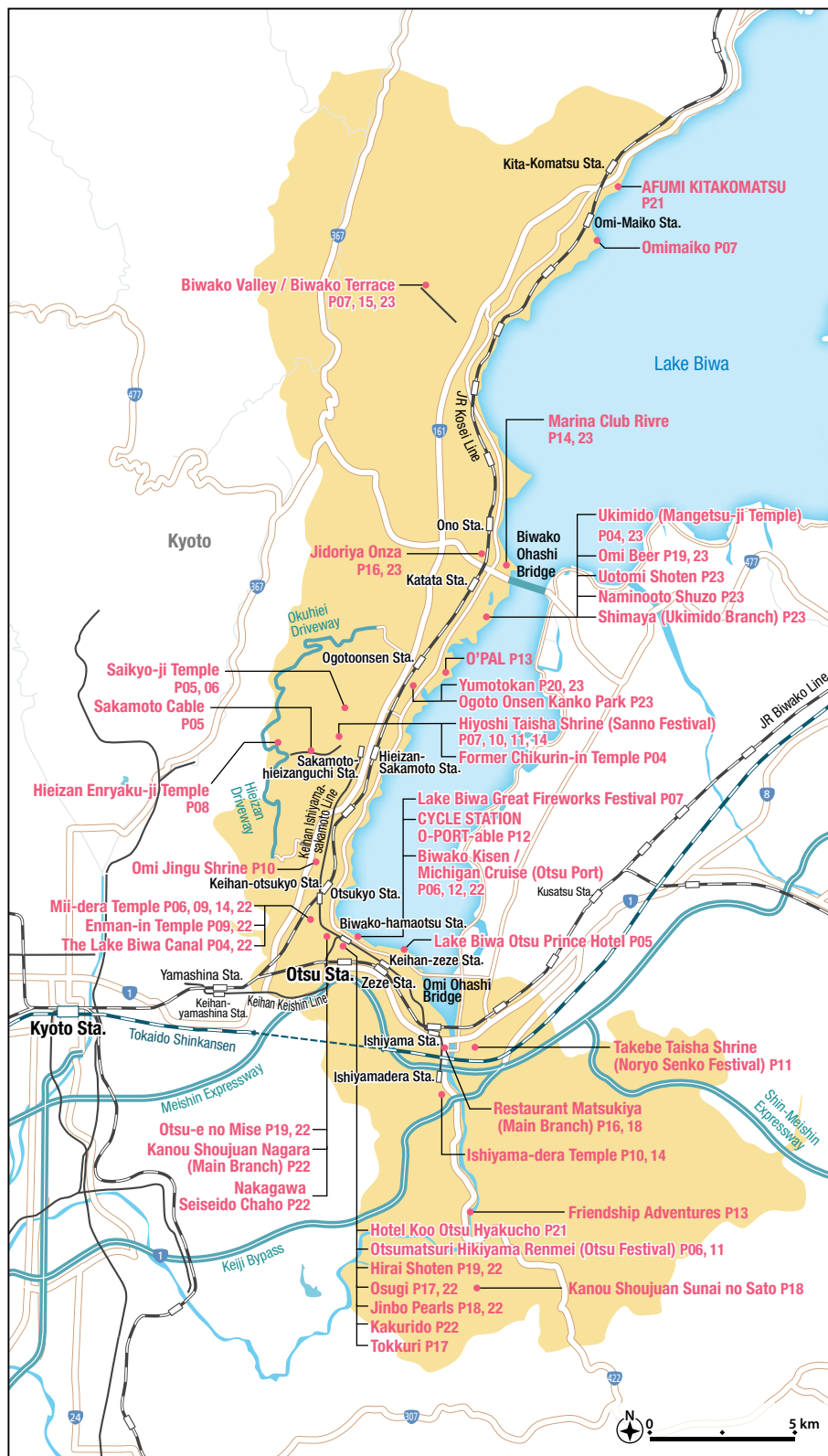


E Naminooto Shuzo

ADD 1-7-16 Honkatata, Otsu
PHONE 077-573-0002



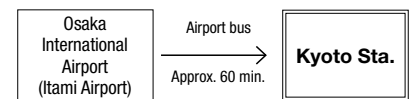
Getting There



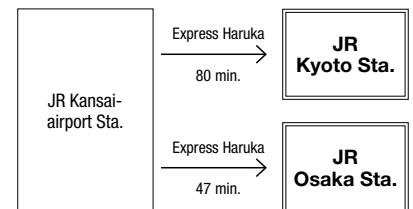
Access

By Airplane

Osaka International Airport (Itami Airport)

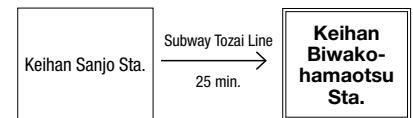
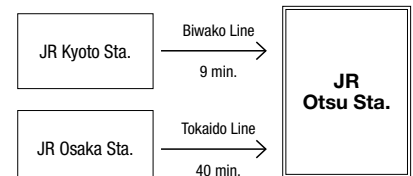


Kansai International Airport

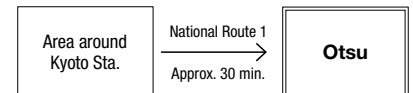


See the following section for access from Kyoto or Osaka Station.

By Train



By Car



Tourism Inquiries

Otsu Station Tourist Information Center
OTSURY (Inside JR Otsu Station)
English service available

PHONE 077-522-3830



Biwako Otsu Travel Guide
Otsu's official tourism information website



Published by: Otsu Tourism Promotion Division

Photos: Biwako Otsu Tourism Association, PIXTA, @50tempets Produced by: GOOD LUCK TRIP (Arukikata. Co., Ltd.)