

Visiting Omihachiman

～ A great place to live A great place to visit A great place to come back to ～

Omihachiman visibly and tastefully intertwines a beautiful natural environment, traditional culture and the lives of today's residents who inherited these blessings.

Spring under the cherry blossoms

Sagicho Matsuri



Foot of Mt. Azuchi

After unifying the nation by force, the great commander Oda Nobunaga from Japan's years of civil war built Azuchi Castle with pronounced beauty and splendor in the thriving fiefdom of the Sasaki Rokkaku Clan that ruled over Omi. The way Oda Nobunaga believed in himself and did what he intended resembles a magnificent cherry tree in bloom.

Hachimanbori Matsuri



Kuwanomidera Temple

The savvy merchants of Hachiman set out for Edo (Tokyo), Osaka and ports overseas from the Hachiman Moat. They built themselves a name and reputation by placing the utmost importance on trust and conducting business in ways that benefited society rather than exclusively thinking about personal profit.

Autumn tinged in gracious beauty

A land where Oda Nobunaga dreamed of unifying a nation and a commerce-oriented town was built by Hidetsugu Toyotomi

Hachiman Moat in early summer



Chomeiji Temple

After the death of Oda Nobunaga, Hidetsugu Toyotomi, the nephew of the preeminent daimyo Hideyoshi Toyotomi, built his mountain fortress of Hachiman Castle with the intention of developing trade and business in the area. The moat he had built served both as a defense and means of transportation. It was a genius idea that went as smooth as water.

Mt. Hachiman in winter



Omihachiman Doll Festival (Hinamatsuri Doll)

With its latticed windows, artistically pruned pine trees peering from behind walls and characteristically Japanese architecture, the Preservation District of Omihachiman speaks of life long ago. The teachings and love that the forefathers had for this land have been passed down through the changes in landscape and population like a thick layer of snowflakes on the ground.

Summer and clear water

Winter dusted with snowflakes

Stepping back into the ages of the Manyo Verses

A land where faith has not changed in centuries

27 Kuwanomidera Temple



This temple was built at the behest of the Emperor Tenji (626 - 671) and is the 46th sacred point of worship on the Saigokuyakushi Pilgrimage. Its name roughly means "fruit of the mulberry tree" and comes from recounts that the first monk, Jokei, who is accredited with starting silkworm breeding in Japan, brought back mulberry seedlings from the Tang Dynasty. The main hall and the scroll painting depicting the temple's origin are designated Important Cultural Properties.

Admission Adults: ¥300, Children: ¥150
Hours 9:00~17:00 (Until 16:30 between December and February)
Tel 0748-46-2560 , 0748-46-4025

28 Oshiojinja Shrine and Forest



The forest associated with this shrine has appeared in literature since the Manyo Verses and is designated a Historic Site of Japan. Nestled amongst the woods, the shrine reveres Mt. Kinugasa (Mt. Kannonji) as a deity of safe childbirth, long life, and good hunting and harvests.

Tel 0748-46-2481

The cry of the cuckoo recalls a night long ago in the Oiso Forest.

(Kiinokami Norimitsu/Tale of Heike)

Now that I'm 40, just how long will I be able to enjoy the snow of the Oiso Forest to the east?

(Mabuchi Kamo)

The cuckoo's call from the Oiso Forest would be welcome this night as spring would be near.

(Norinaga Motoori)

29 Kamojinja Shrine



This shrine was built by the Emperor Shomu in 736 on the site of the first-ever nationally-managed pasture. For this reason, the site has a special connection with horses. The shrine is also associated with the 8th century scholar and statesman Makibi Kibi and is said to have miraculous powers for enabling marriage, granting pregnancy and ensuring safe childbirth. During the Kamo Matsuri in May, horses race around the grounds as part of a ritual dating back more than 1,000 years.

Tel 0748-33-0123

30 Sasakijinja Shrine



This shrine originally worshipped the Shinto deity of a powerful and influential family in the Gamo area by the name of Sasakiyama, but having lost their status over the years, the name was rewritten with characters to reflect that in the mid Heian Era. The main worship hall heads a list of 8 structures designated Important Cultural Properties of Shiga Prefecture. The shrine is best remembered for the flowers that bloom at different times of the year and the Sasaki Matsuri that is held in April.

Tel 0748-46-3564

31 13 Iwatoyama Buddhas



These 13 Statues of Bhuddha were carved into a large bolder on the southern side of Mt. Mitsukuri at the behest of Prince Shotoku (572 - 622). The site is flooded every April by the faithful who are rewarded with a 1,000 days of blessings for one day of pilgrimage in what is known as a sennichikai. There is great panoramic view from the summit.

Tel 0748-46-4234
(Azuchi Station Tourist Information Center)

Sites heralded by essayist Masako Shirasu in her "Kakurezato" and "Omiyamakosho"

Masako Shirasu (1910-1998) An essayist who profoundly loved Omi and wrote about its beauty with delicate sensibility

Masako Shirasu was the second daughter born to Aisuke Kabayama, an Advisor to the Emperor. She was the first woman in history to perform Noh on stage and wrote extensively about Japanese culture, counting within her circle of intellects the top art critics of her time, Hideo Kobayashi and Jiro Aoyama. Shirasu also traveled to many places on her own accord and, with her profound yet delicate sensibility, described the natural and cultural beauty she encountered in ways that still attract many readers today.

32 Chomeiji Temple



This temple is the 31st sacred point of worship on the Saigokuyakushi Pilgrimage. According to temple legend, this was the site where some, 1,800 years ago, Sukune Takeshiuchi, a grand minister under the Emperor Keiko, prayed for a long life and was rewarded by living well over 300 years. Hearing this story, the Prince Shotoku (572 - 622) named this temple Chomeiji or literally the "temple of long life." The main worship hall, 3-tier pagoda, bell tower and the hall where fire offerings are made are connected and there is a magnanimous view of Lake Biwa from the grounds.

Tel 0748-33-0031

33 Kannonshoji Temple



This temple is the 32nd sacred point of worship on the Saigokuyakushi Pilgrimage. It is said to have been built by the Prince Shotoku in 605, at the request of local fishermen. Inside is found a 6 m tall statue of a thousand-handed thousand-eyed Buddhist saint made of sandalwood from India.

Admission Free (Inner Temple: ¥300)
Tel 0748-46-2549

34 Kannonji Castle Ruins



Found on Mt. Kinugasa, these ruins belong to the castle of the Rokkaku Line of the Sasaki Clan, who ruled over Omi in Japan's Middle Ages. The castle was amongst the largest of its kind in Japan as it encompassed the entire mountain, and is today recognized as a National Historic Site and one of Japan's Top 100 Castles. The stone walls and foundation still stand today.

35 Kyorinbo Temple



This old temple sits quietly in the rural hamlet of Ishidera. The stone garden is said to be the work of the 16th century tea master Enshu Kobori and exhibits an elegance characteristic of the Azuchi-Momoyama and Early Edo Eras. It is highly reputed for its autumnal foliage and bamboo forest.

Admission Adults: ¥500, Children 7 - 15: ¥200
* Normally open only on weekends and holidays. Open on weekdays between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15. Parking (cars x 50, buses x 4) by reservation only.
Tel 0748-46-5400

A treasured hamlet of Masako Shirasu in Omi

Oda Nobunaga

Nobunaga's heroic campaign to squelch the chaos and unify Japan began here.

① Azuchi Castle Ruins



Azuchi Castle was said to have been an architectural masterpiece. It was built by the Daimyo Nagahide Niwa over a 6-year period, under orders from Oda Nobunaga in 1576. All that remains today are the stone walls and foundation. The ruins and grounds are designated a Special Historic Site of Japan.

Admission Adults: ¥500, Children 7 - 15: ¥100
Hours 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Last admission: 16:00. Varies by season.)
Closed Open year-round
Tel 0748-46-4234 (Azuchi Station Travel Office)

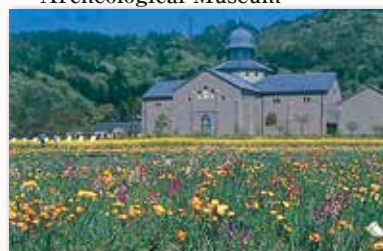
② "House of Nobunaga"



This full-scale replica of the 5th and 6th floors of Azuchi Castle was created complete with interiors for the Japanese Pavilion at the 1992 World's Fair in Seville, Spain. The splendor of the gold leaf, dolphin roof ornaments and interior murals were extolled at the time in Europe by missionaries.

Admission Adults: ¥500, Children 16 - 21: ¥300, Children 7 - 15: ¥150
Hours 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Last admission: 16:30)
Closed Monday (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday), New Year's holiday
Tel 0748-46-6512
 *Pay-one-price tickets include the Shiga Prefectural Azuchi Castle Archeological Museum.

③ Shiga Prefectural Azuchi Castle Archeological Museum



Built in an architectural style typical of Western Europe, this museum is located in a landscaped park in the foothills. Exhibits cover a wide gamut of local history from Japan's Yayoi and Tumulus Periods, and present a plethora of interesting facts about Oda Nobunaga and Azuchi Castle.

Admission Adults: ¥400, Children 16 - 21: ¥250, Children 15 and below: Free (Separate price added for special exhibits.)
Hours 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Last admission: 16:30)
Closed Monday (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday), New Year's holiday
Tel 0748-46-2424
 *Pay-one-price tickets include the House of Nobunaga.

④ Azuchi Castle Museum



The museum explains everything you want to know about Azuchi Castle via videos, a 1:20 scale model that has been meticulously reproduced in astonishing detail down to the interiors, and murals designed like folding screens that encircle the gallery. Espresso coffee is also served.

Admission Adults: ¥200, Children 16 - 21: ¥150, Children 7 - 15: ¥100
Hours 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Last admission: 16:30)
Closed Monday (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday), New Year's holiday
Tel 0748-46-5616

⑤ Jogonin Temple



This temple was built by Oda Nobunaga as part of the Azuchi fiefdom. There are 7 Important Cultural Properties on the grounds, beginning with the main worship hall. The temple featured prominently in the Azuchi Religious Debate of 1579 between the Jodo and Nichiren sects of Buddhism.

Admission ¥300
Hours 9:00 ~ 16:30 (Reservations required)
Tel 0748-46-2242, 0748-46-5435

⑥ Seminario Site



This is where the first Christian seminary in Japan stood. It was built in 1581 by the Italian missionary Soldo Organtino and had the protection of Oda Nobunaga. The buildings were lost in the fires of war that burned down Azuchi Castle. The grounds have been converted into a public park.

The legacy and soul of a man who deeply loved Omihachiman still very much alive today

William Merrel Vories / Known in Japan as Mereru Hitotsuyanagi (1880-1964)

Amidst its distinctively rich Japanese culture, Omihachiman has a number of buildings with Western architectural features that seem to belong in another part of the world. They were designed by William Merrel Vories, an American who came to Japan in 1905 to teach English at what is now Hachiman Shogyo High School. While in Japan, Vories was passionately active as a Christian missionary and was involved in designing some 1,600 structures across Japan in which he demonstrated his conviction that a "building, like a person, is defined not just by its appearance but also by its substance."

Vories also imported mentholatum and built the Omi Sanatorium (now Vories Memorial Hospital) to care for people with tuberculosis, which was untreatable at the time. He made many other social contributions that included establishing a library and the Omi Brotherhood Schools as places of learning for the local youth. Vories believed that "Omihachiman was the center of the world," and left a legacy and soul that can still be seen today.



William Merrel Vories

⑦ William Merrel Vories Library



Once the home of William Merrel Vories and his wife Makiko, this museum puts on display articles from the Vories' history. Reservations required. Call for reservations.

Admission Free
Hours 10:00 ~ 16:00 (Reservations required. Call for reservations.)
Closed Monday, public holidays, irregular holidays
Tel 0748-32-2456

⑧ Old Hachiman Post Office



This post office was designed by Vories in 1921. It serves today as the office of the Hitotsubunokai, an NPO dedicated to preserving buildings designed by Vories. Open to the general public.

Tel 0748-33-6521

⑨ Ikedacho Dormitory



Built as a dormitory for missionaries, this colonial style residence features a brick fence, tall chimney and spacious garden. The building can only be viewed from the outside.

⑩ Iba Residence



This Tudor style home was built in 1913 as a residence for Shinkichi Iba, the fourth son of Teigo Iba, the second Director-General of Sumitomo Zaiatsu. Plans are to open the residence for viewing on a limited basis.

Tel 0748-33-3111
 (Omihachiman Culture & Tourism Department)

⑪ Hachiman Moat

There are several explanations as to why Omihachiman developed into a thriving community, but the roles played by the Hachiman Moat should not be discounted. Though moats most commonly served to defend a castle, Hidetsugu Toyotomi thought of using this particular moat as a canal and required all boats transiting to and from Lake Biwa to make port in Hachiman. Moreover, because a free market similar to that in Azuchi was opened, private business thrived in the castle town.

The Hachiman Moat gave local merchants quicker access to the rest of the country and helped them build a noteworthy reputation, but lifestyles changed during Japan's economic surge of the late 1950s and local interest in the moat was gradually lost. With its prominence seemingly faded away, plans were crafted to fill it in. But then, sensing that they would come to regret its demise, concerned residents banded together to clean and restore the moat to its original beauty, efforts that various organizations continue today. Now, the Hachiman Moat is a place for residents to relax, a popular tourist attraction that draws photographers, artists and history buffs to Omihachiman, and frequently the location for historical movie shoots.



Hachiman Moat in spring



Movie being shot

View from Meijibashi Bridge in the early 1970s



View from Meijibashi Bridge today

⑫ Murakumogoshozuiryuji Temple



This temple was originally built in 1596 in Murakumo, Kyoto to mourn the death of Hidetsugu Toyotomi by his birth mother, Zuiryuin Nisshuniko. Accused of plotting a coup, Toyotomi committed suicide on Mt. Koya under orders of Hideyoshi Toyotomi. It was relocated to Mt. Hachiman in 1961. From the top of the mountain, there is a commanding view of Mt. Azuchi, Lake Biwa and the marshlands that border the lake.

Tel 0748-32-3323



Aerial view of Okishima Island

⑬ Okishima Island

Okishima is the largest island in Japan's largest lake, Lake Biwa. It is also a rare example of a lake island where a community actually lives on a full-time basis. The first inhabitants are said to have been retreating Genji Clan soldiers who fled the Genpei War of 1180 - 1185. Some 6.8 km around and 1.5 km² in size, the island has an elementary school, post office, temple and shrine, and lodgings. Most of the inhabitants are fishermen and lead a calm life in the island's warm climate.

* Ships depart regularly for Okishima Island from Horikirishinko Port.

⑭ Miyagahama Beach



One of Japan's Top 88 Beaches selected by the Ministry of the Environment, Miyagahama is a great and safe place to bring children, as the grass reaches almost to the shoreline and boating is prohibited in the shallow waters just off the beach.

⑮ Kitagawa Springs



This section of town thrived in Japan's Muromachi Era (1333 - 1573) as the Jorakuji Docks. Many of the natural springs today look and flow just as they did back then.

⑯ Johama



Johama was a prosperous dockside community in the Muromachi Era, since it was the outer port of Kannonji Castle. It remained a port-of-call for steam ships that cruised Lake Biwa up until the early Showa Era (1930s). Today, it is a park that provides residents a place of rest and relaxation. It is also known today as "Jonobashi," which literally means the "bridge over the lock."

⑰ Umenokawa



This is one of the natural springs that feed Lake Nishinoko. It is said that Sekian Takei, a military commander under Oda Nobunaga and a tea ceremony adherent, prepared tea for the leader with water from this spring. So impressed was Nobunaga that he reportedly demanded this water for tea ceremonies whenever he was in the area.

The scent of the seasons blows on the wind across the water.

⑱ Nishinoko Canal District

The canal district around Lake Nishinoko is counted amongst the best eight landscapes of Lake Biwa. In the springtime, grebes and warblers can be found amongst the reeds. It is a popular choice amongst city dwellers who seek some peace and quiet away from the everyday hustle and bustle, as the seasons can be enjoyed with the five senses throughout the year.

The aquatic environment of the marshes has received lots of attention in recent years, as the filtering and ecological importance of the reeds has become more widely known. The marsh was named Japan's first Important Cultural Landscape in January 2006, the wetlands comprising Lake Nishinoko and Chomyoji River were registered as a Ramsar Site in October 2007, and the "Shirao-Maruyama" area was listed amongst Japan's Top 100 Sato in January 2008. The unspoiled landscape instills a wholesome feeling in visitors and triggers a natural healing effect.

* The Nishinoko Canal District tour services are provided by 4 operators. (As of March 2013)



Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter

The beauty and importance of the canal district

Business in Omihachiman has long been guided by the principle that business should benefit each the vendor, the buyer and society as a whole.

⑲ Omihachiman Municipal Museum



This "museum" actually consists of 4 separate buildings that belonged to prominent merchants in the area: Local History Museum, History and Folklore Museum, former Ban Residence and former Nishikawa Residence (Important Cultural Property). The orderly architecture and interiors convey the simplicity and frugality that characterized the mindset of local merchants.

Admission Adults: ¥500, Children: ¥300
(Pay-one-price ticket for all 4 sites)
Hours 9:00~16:30 (Last admission: 16:00)
Closed Monday (except holiday), Next day of holiday (except Saturday, Sunday and holiday), New Year's holiday
* Open everyday during tourist season.
Tel 0748-32-7048

⑳ Himurehachimangu Shrine



This shrine has been the patron deity of local merchants for over 1,000 years and, to this day, continues to bask in the unwavering faith and protection of many. The shrine houses numerous Important Cultural Properties amongst which is an old painting of a ship headed for An Nam (ancient day Vietnam) that was donated by Taroemon Nishimura (1603 - 1651), a local merchant who traveled to Vietnam at the ripe age of 20 and made a name for himself doing business. The shrine is also known for the festivals it hosts: Sagicho Matsuri in March and Hachiman Matsuri in April.

Tel 0748-32-3151

㉑ Hakuunkan (Tourist Information Center)



Originally built as the Hachimanhigashi School in 1871, the building's construction was funded primarily with donations from local merchants who believed in promoting better education for local youths. Today, it doubles as a tourist information center and art gallery. (Tangible Cultural Property of Japan)

Admission Free
Hours 9:00~17:00
Closed New Year's holiday
Tel 0748-32-7003

㉒ Kawara Museum



This one of the few museums in Japan dedicated to roof tiles. Exhibits focus on the local history of Omihachiman's roof tile industry but also present roof tiles from around the world. The building itself is a striking structure dressed in local tiles. Workshops on making tiles from clay are offered (reservations required).

Admission Adults: ¥300, Children: ¥200
Hours 9:00~17:00 (Last admission: 16:30)
Closed Monday (except holiday), Next day of holiday (except Saturday, Sunday and holiday), New Year's holiday
* Open everyday during tourism season.
Tel 0748-33-8567

㉓ NO-MA Borderless Art Museum



Located in the city's Preservation District, this museum was once the early Showa Era home of Seiroku Noma, a prominent businessman from Omihachiman. The galleries opened in 2004, and the creative exhibitions and events have drawn acclaim both across Japan and abroad.

Admission Varies by exhibition
Hours 11:00~17:00
Closed Monday (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday), New Year's holiday, in-between exhibitions
Tel 0748-36-5018

㉔ Hikiyama to igusa no yakata



This museum puts on display the tools that were used locally to make tatami mat facings and to harvest and process the rush (pronounced igusa in Japanese) from which they were made. Also on display are the six hikiyama floats that are paraded through the streets during the Asagoigion Matsuri that is held every year on the third Saturday in July. The museum takes the rush, natural springs and community development as its themes.

Admission Adults: ¥300, Children 7 - 18: ¥150
Hours 10:00~17:00
Tel 0748-33-0559

Nakasendo, one of the Edo Era's five major roads connecting Edo (Tokyo) and Kyoto

Teigo Iba (1847-1926) A businessman who was concerned about the environment 100 years ago while at the helm of Sumitomo Zaibatsu



Teigo Iba was born in what is now Nishijukucho, Omihachiman in 1847. He was appointed judge at the age of 22 and executed those responsibilities in diverse locations, only to grow disillusioned with civil service and retire after ten years. When paying a visit to his uncle, Sahei Hirose, then the first Director-General of Sumitomo Zaibatsu, his uncle encouraged him to join the company, which he did. At that time, the company was troubled by labor disputes and pollution caused by their Besshi Mine, but Teigo was tenacious about solving the problems. Teigo was appointed the second Director-General of Sumitomo Zaibatsu and built the foundations of the Sumitomo Group of today by establishing the predecessors of today's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking, Sumitomo Metal Industries, Sumitomo Electric Industries, Sumitomo Light Metal Industries and other major companies. In 1890, he was elected to the House of Representatives of the First Imperial Diet. Four years later, he retired from Sumitomo Zaibatsu to let the next generation build the future. He passed away in 1926 at the age of 79.

㉕ Honganji Hachimanbetsuin Temple



It is where the Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa rested after his victory in the Battle of Sekigahara, while on his way back to the capital. Hachiman is believed to have been special to Tokugawa because local businessmen are said to have aided him in the Siege of Osaka. The temple also provided food and lodging for Korean envoys to Japan. A poem left by Chamberlain Rinanko (李南岡) hangs inside the temple.

Tel 0748-33-2466

New relations between Japan and Korea along the Chosenjinkaido

Though Japan was closed to the outside world during the Edo Era, it maintained diplomatic relations with Korea and the Ryukyu Kingdom via correspondence and with China and Holland via trade. Using channels in the Tsushima Domain, the Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa sent messengers on diverse occasions to Korea in an attempt to mend relations that were broken off after Hideyoshi Toyotomi invaded the Korean Peninsula. In 1607, an official envoy from Korea was finally welcomed. A total of 12 envoys would follow between then and 1811. The route these delegations took from Korea to Edo (Tokyo) became known as the Chosenjinkaido (literally the "Korean Route"), a name that remains today. The route has its origins in the road that led to Kyoto when Oda Nobunaga built Azuchi Castle. It was thought of as the lower reaches of the Nakasendo and, because it followed the shores of Lake Biwa, was referred to as the Hamakaido (literally the "beach road"). The Korean emissaries had also a cultural capacity and often were accompanied by scholars, artists and calligraphers, which are thought to have considerably influenced Japanese culture at the time.



During the Edo Era, Omihachiman was a busy stopover for travelers between Edo (Tokyo) and Kyoto. The old houses with latticed windows and stone markers that stood at crossroads are reminders of the heydays. Reportedly long ago there were local specialties like measuring cups and lacquerware that bore the musa brand. Similarly, the dragon's head flower (pronounced musharindo in Japanese) that was discovered here gets its name from the locality.

A flow of people and ideas along the Nakasendo and Chosenjinkaido

[illegible]

A detailed map of the Azuchi area. The JR Tokaido Main Line (Bowako Line) runs horizontally through the center, with a dashed line indicating the route to Omihachiman Station. A central box labeled 'Azuchi' is positioned above the line. To the north, several locations are marked with red dots and numbered in circles: 16 Tsunehama Mizube Park, 15 Kitagawa Springs, 17 Umenokawa Spring, and 4 Azuchi Castle Museum (Azuchicho Tourism Association). Other landmarks include Azuchi Kindergarten, Azuchi Elementary School, Azuchi Station Travel Office, Azuchi Community Center, Azuchi Post Office, Matsubara, Sumo Yagura, and Sasakijinja Shrine. Transportation icons include blue circles for bus routes, a train icon for the JR line, and a compass rose. A scale bar indicates 'Route 8 ~'.

Moat. The moat also provided access to Lake Biwa and encouraged people living in Azuchi and the surroundings to move into the castle town. There, Hidetsugu established an open market that laid the foundations for the fiefdom's development as a commercial center. Later, Hidetsugu inherited the role of Chief Advisor to the Emperor, but when Hideyori was born to his uncle Hideyoshi, he was accused of plotting a rebellion and ordered to commit suicide. Hidetsugu is recognized today as the founding father of Omihachiman.

Guided tours of the city are available for groups of 2 or more persons with 5 days advanced notice. (Guides work on a volunteer basis, but ¥1,000 per guide is requested to cover personal travel expenses.)

**Omiyahiman Station Tourist
Information Center**
Tel 0748-33-6061

**Azuchi Station Tourist
Information Center**
Tel 0748-46-4234

– See it all in Omihachiman – 2 days 1 night Model Course

Tracing the steps of great people History Course

1st day >>

JR Azuchi Station — Azuchi Castle Museum — Azuchi Castle Ruins — (Lunch) — Shiga Prefectural Azuchi Castle Archeological Museum/House of Nobunaga — Sasakijinja Shrine — Lodging in Omihachiman, etc.

2nd day >>

Lodging in Omihachiman, etc. — Ikedacho Dormitory — Omihachiman Municipal Museum — Hachiman Moat — Himurehachimangu Shrine — (Lunch) — Nishinoko Canal District — William Merrel Vories Library — Old Hachiman Post Office — NO-MA Borderless Art Museum — JR Omihachiman Station

The sacred path through Omi Pilgrimage Course to Temples and Shrines

1st day >>

JR Omihachiman Station — Honganji Hachimanbetsuin Temple — Omihachiman Municipal Museum — Hachiman Moat — (Lunch) — Hachimanyama Ropeway (Murakumogoshozuiryuji Temple) — Kawara Museum — Chomeiji Temple (31st sacred point of worship on the Saigokuyakushi Pilgrimage) — Lodging in Omihachiman, etc.

2nd day >>

Lodging in Omihachiman, etc. — Jogonin Temple — Kitagawa Springs — Nishinoko Canal District — (Lunch) — Kannonji Castle Ruins/Kannonshoji Temple (32nd sacred point of worship on the Saigokuyakushi Pilgrimage) — Kyorinbo Temple — Ishiderarakuichi Market — JR Azuchi Station

Festival Calendar

April 1st Sat. : Sasaki Matsuri (Sasakijinja Shrine)

14-15 : Hachiman Matsuri (Himurehachimangu Shrine)

Torches are lit on the 14th and a large drum is paraded into the shrine on the 15th.

May 4 : Shinodanohanabi (Shinodajinja Shrine)

Traditional fireworks display dating back to the Edo Era. Every year, a themed mural of fireworks is lit up.

6 (First Sunday after the 6th if the 6th is a weekday.) : Ashifusesome (Kamojinja Shrine)

Early June : Azuchi Nobunaga Matsuri (Mt. Azuchi)

July 3rd Sat. : Asagoigion Matsuri (Asagoicho)

August 1 : Isakinosatobi (Isakiji Temple)

1st Sun. : Hachimantenbin Matsuri
(Omihachiman City Office)

Mid September : Hachimanbori Matsuri (Along Hachiman Moat)

October : Omi Genji Matsuri (Sasakijinja Shrine)

Mid November – : Autumn Evening Illumination (Kyorinbo Temple)
Early December

Mid February – : Omihachiman Doll Festival
Mid March (Omihachiman Municipal Museum, etc.)

March Sat. : Sagicho Matsuri (Himurehachimangu Shrine)
around 14-15 Festival for announcing spring. 13 decorations associated with the Chinese Zodiac are paraded around the old quarter and burned in a bonfire on the 2nd day.



Omihachiman's local specialties

Omihachiman has many local specialties born from the blessings of a fertile environment and a long history. A few of the representative specialties are "Omigyu" (one of three best brands of beef in Japan), "Akakonyaku" (devil's tongue jelly that dates back to Oda Nobunaga), "Decchiyokan" (sweet bean paste tied to local business), "Chojifu" (bread-like food made from gluten), "Omimai" (rice) and "Kogyotsukudani" (lake fish boiled in soy sauce). In recent years, ecological products have come recommended such as noodles and ice cream made with rush. There are also numerous handicrafts of local origin including oshie (padded cloth pictures that date back to the Nara Era), Hachiman juzu (rosaries said to have been instituted by the Prince Shotoku), Hachiman kawara (roof tiles that were an integral part of the architectural landscape of a commerce-oriented town), bamboo handicrafts, shoes and of course paper and bamboo blinds made with rush from the local marshes.

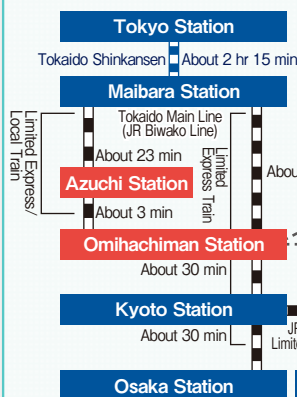


Map of Shiga Prefecture

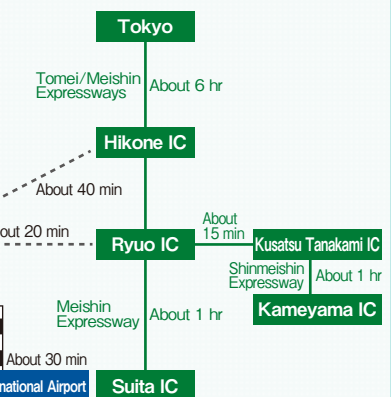


Access by Car/Train

► If coming by JR



► If coming by car



► Parking

Lot	Microbus		Car	
	Capacity	Fee (Per day)	Capacity	Fee (Per day)
A. City Obata Parking Lot	11	¥2,060	83	¥510
B. Taga Parking Lot	7 (Max. 10)	¥2,000	43 (Max. 57)	¥500
C. Azuchi Castle Parking Lot	30	¥2,060	180	¥510

* Hours ... 9:00 – 17:00 (Reservations not accepted)

【 Tourism Inquiries 】

Omihachiman Tourism Association...<http://www.omi8.com>

Omihachiman Station Tourist Information Center

...Tel 0748-33-6061 Fax 0748-32-4125

Azuchi Station Tourist Information Center...Tel/Fax 0748-46-4234