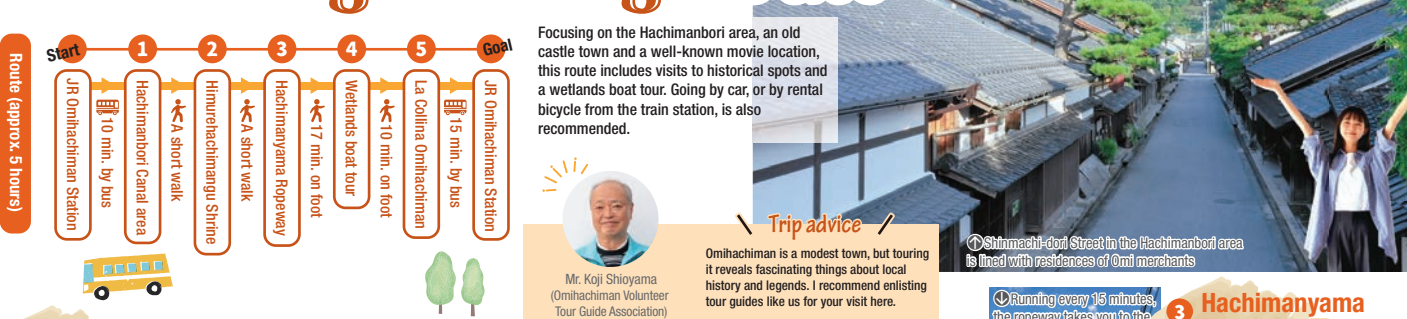


Classic Sightseeing Route



1 Hachimanbori Canal Area
The moat of Hachimanyama Castle, where the warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi lived, is surrounded by a quaint townscape with many sightseeing spots. Stroll the canal lined with stone walls and storefronts.
☎ 0748-32-4061 (Omihachiman Station North Exit Tourist Information Center) ☎ Area around Miyachi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ Obata Tourist Parking Lot

2 Himurehachimangu Shrine
Omi merchants have paid homage at this shrine since ancient times. The Sagho 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 Miyachi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ Obata Tourist Parking Lot

3 Hachimanyama Ropeway
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 ☎ Miyachi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ Roundtrip adults 950 yen, children 480 yen ☎ 9:00-17:00 (last ropeway up leaves at 16:30) ☎ Open year-round ☎ 13 spaces

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 boating done at the Imperial Court.
☎ 0748-32-3135 ☎ Omihachiman Sightseeing Cooperative ☎ Suijo no Sato Maruyama Engine-powered boats ☎ Shiga Shinryu 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.

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 ☎ 250 spaces

6 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.
☎ 0748-32-0031 ☎ 157 Chomeiji-cho, Omihachiman ☎ ☎ 8:00-17:30 ☎ Open year-round ☎ Yes (get mountain top)

Spectacular Sights

Start Obata Tourist Parking Lot
1. 5 min. on foot
2. 4 min. on foot
3. 4 min. on foot
4. 4 min. on foot
5. 4 min. on foot
6. 4 min. on foot
7. 4 min. on foot
8. 4 min. on foot

Trip advice
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.

Mr. Asumi Kawase
(Okishima Fishery Cooperative)

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.
☎ 0748-33-9778 (Okishima Island Promotion Council)

7 369 (Miroku) Terrace Cafe Omihachiman
The casual French cuisine highlights local vegetables grown using no fertilizers or agrochemicals. Homemade vegan cake (850 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

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.
☎ 0748-32-0031 ☎ 157 Chomeiji-cho, Omihachiman ☎ ☎ 8:00-17:30 ☎ Open year-round ☎ Yes (get mountain top)

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.
☎ Shimadachi-dori Street is lined with merchant homes

2 Hachimanyama Castle Ruins
Hachimanyama Castle was built by warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Zuiyui Temple, Hideyoshi's family temple, today stands where the main castle compound once stood.

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

4 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 steam bath.
☎ 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

Lakeside Activities

Start Obata Tourist Parking Lot
1. 5 min. on foot
2. 4 min. on foot
3. 4 min. on foot
4. 4 min. on foot
5. 4 min. on foot
6. 4 min. on foot
7. 4 min. on foot
8. 4 min. on foot

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
(Mizugakiyaki Togeto no Sato)

1 Wetlands Boat Tour: Try Paddling Yourself
Omihachiman Suijo 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.
☎ 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 for 1 person will require the fee for 2 people. ☎ During bad weather, Wind, in winter ☎ 15 spaces (Inquire about private boats and other matters).

2 Mizugakiyaki Togeto no Sato
Take a class in making Mizugakiyaki, 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 Nakano-cho, Omihachiman ☎ ☎ Depends on the class (see official website to confirm) ☎ Wed., year-end/New Year holidays ☎ 50 spaces

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.
☎ 0748-32-3135 ☎ Maruyama, Okishima-cho, Omihachiman ☎ ☎ Depends on type of facility and plan (see official website to confirm) ☎ 500 spaces

4 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 steam bath.
☎ 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

Follow Oda Nobunaga's Footsteps

Start JR Azuchi Station
1. 10 min. on foot
2. 10 min. on foot
3. 10 min. on foot
4. 10 min. on foot
5. 10 min. on foot
6. 10 min. on foot
7. 10 min. on foot
8. 10 min. on foot

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 Yamazaki
(Azuchi Volunteer Tour Guide Association)

5 Assumed Former Site of Seminaro
This is believed to be where Japan's first Christian seminar 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 Shimotora, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ 5 spaces

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 Kozuka, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ 200 yen for adults, 150 yen for students, 100 yen for children under 12 ☎ 9:00-17:00 (entry by 16:30) ☎ Mon. (open on public holidays, closed following day), year-end/New Year holidays ☎ 20 spaces

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.
☎ 0748-46-6094 ☎ Shimotora, 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 Shimotora, 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 (entry by 16:30) ☎ Mon. (open on public holidays, closed following day), year-end/New Year holidays ☎ 55 spaces

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.
☎ 0748-46-6094 ☎ Shimotora, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ Adults 700 yen, children 200 yen ☎ Depends on the season ☎ Open year-round ☎ 150 spaces

5 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 Kanonji, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ 610 yen for adults, 360 yen for senior high and university students, 170 yen for junior high and elementary school students ☎ 9:00-17:00 (entry by 16:30) ☎ Mon. (open on public holidays, closed following day), year-end/New Year holidays ☎ 55 spaces

Refreshing Waterside Cycling

Start JR Omihachiman Station
1. 10 min. on foot
2. 10 min. on foot
3. 10 min. on foot
4. 10 min. on foot
5. 10 min. on foot
6. 10 min. on foot
7. 10 min. on foot
8. 10 min. on foot

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 Okishima.

Mr. Tetsuya Kakuta
(Omihachiman Local Visualization Cooperator)

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 Biwa and the scenic paddy fields.
☎ The lakeshore and paddy fields can be seen from the cycle path

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.
☎ 0748-46-6860 ☎ 1187-3 Shimotora, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ 11:00-14:30 ☎ Wed., summer break, year-end/New Year holidays ☎ 25 spaces

3 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.
☎ Hakuun (a tourist information center and an Omihachiman landmark)

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.
☎ 0748-46-6512 ☎ 800 Kanonji, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ 610 yen for adults, 360 yen for senior high and university students, 170 yen for junior high and elementary school students ☎ 9:00-17:00 (entry by 16:30) ☎ Mon. (open on public holidays, closed following day), year-end/New Year holidays ☎ 55 spaces

Visiting Historic Buildings

Start JR Omihachiman Station
1. 10 min. on foot
2. 10 min. on foot
3. 10 min. on foot
4. 10 min. on foot
5. 10 min. on foot
6. 10 min. on foot
7. 10 min. on foot
8. 10 min. on foot

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.

Mr. Hidemi Yabu
(Vories Memorial Hall director)

1 Nishikawa Jingoro House
A magnificent mansion exists at the place where tuben 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 Ogi-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

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).
☎ 0748-32-7500 ☎ 2-19 Shimotora, Omihachiman ☎ 300 yen for adults, 150 yen for junior high and elementary school students ☎ 9:00-16:30 (entry by 16:00) ☎ Mon. (open on public holidays, closed following day), year-end/New Year holidays ☎ None

3 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.
☎ 0748-32-7003 (Omihachiman Tourism Association) / Waterhouse Memorial Hall ☎ 0748-32-4654 (Omihachiman Museum Club) ☎ Area around 5-chome, Ikeda-machi, Omihachiman ☎ Can only be viewed from outside (Some rooms are available for viewing, inquire before coming) ☎ None

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 affects the attractive elements of Japanese architecture.
☎ 0748-32-2458 ☎ 11-1 Jangyoku-machi, Omihachiman ☎ 500 yen (300 yen for junior and senior high students, free for elementary school students and young people) ☎ 10:00-16:00 (Must phone ahead for reservations) ☎ Mon., public holidays, year-end/New Year holidays ☎ 3 spaces

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 ☎ 171 Kichi-cho, Omihachiman ☎ 800 yen (free for high school students and young people) ☎ 10:00-16:00 ☎ Mon., year-end/New Year holidays ☎ None