

EVENT SCHEDULE

ALL MAP



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12 December

15TH SHIGA PREFECTURAL FACILITIES AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS JOINT EXHIBITION "ing"

The exhibition showcasing art and design works created by people with disabilities is an initiative of Borderless Art Museum NO-MA in conjunction with special schools and care facilities in Shiga and local art and design instructors.

DATE From Sat., December 1st, 2018 to Sun., February 24th, 2019
 *Closed Mon. (if Mon. is a public holiday, then next day will be closed day), from Sat., December 29th, 2018 to Fri., January 4th, 2019
TIME 11am-5pm
PLACE Borderless Art Museum NO-MA (16 Nagahara-cho Kami, Omihachiman, Shiga)
ADMISSION ¥200 (¥150), University Students and High School Students ¥150 (¥100), Junior High School Students and younger for free.
 *Prices in brackets () are for groups of 20 or more
TEL 0748-36-5018
WEB <http://www.no-ma.jp/english.html>

BIWAKO ART FESTIVAL 2018

An art festival with varied programs including musical collaboration by junior orchestras and ballet groups from Shiga and a piano recital from the Shiga Prefectural Cultural Prize for the Next Generation recipient, as well as art-oriented workshops and an art-themed handcrafted market.

DATE Sat., December 22nd, 2018
TIME 11am-6pm (Main Theatre open until 7:50pm)
PLACE All facilities in Biwako Hall, Center for the Performing Arts, Shiga (15-1 Uchidehama, Otsu, Shiga)
ADMISSION Free admission to an orchestral concert in the Main Theatre; a small charge for some other concerts
TEL 077-523-7146
WEB <https://ba2018.com/>

BIWAKO HALL SILVESTER CONCERT 2018-2019

The annual Silvester Concert on New Year's Eve has been going since 1998 when the facility first opened. The concert features entertaining music as well as raffles and a host of other attractions. You can enjoy the moment of countdown to New Year that reaches the climax.

DATE Mon., December 31st, 2018
TIME 10pm-12:30am
PLACE Main Theatre, Biwako Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Shiga (15-1 Uchidehama, Otsu, Shiga)
ADMISSION SS section ¥9,000 (¥7,500), S section ¥6,500 (¥6,000), A section ¥5,000 (¥4,500), B section ¥4,000, C section ¥3,000, youth discount (below 25 years old) S-C sections ¥1,500
 *Prices in brackets () are for *Tomo-no-kai* members
TEL 077-523-7136 (Biwako Hall Ticket Center)
WEB <https://www.biwako-hall.or.jp/en>

1 January

SPECIAL EXHIBITION: CULTURAL ASSETS OF THE ZODIAC - FROM DOG TO BOAR

The Shiga Prefectural Azuchi Castle Archaeological Museum at Omi Fudoki-no-Oka realistically depicts the lives of ordinary people from the Yayoi period (around 500 BCE-300 AD) through to the Kofun period (around 200 AD-600 AD).

As a New Year project, there will also be a special exhibition of local artworks from Shiga prefecture inspired by the signs of the zodiac.

DATE From Tue., December 11th, 2018 to Sun., January 27th, 2019
 *Closed Mon., Dec. 17th 2018, Tue., Dec. 25th 2018, from Fri., Dec. 28th 2018 to Fri., Jan. 4th 2019, Mon., Jan. 7th 2019, Tue., Jan. 15th 2019, Mon., Jan. 21st 2019
TIME 9am-5pm (Admission until 4:30pm)
PLACE Shiga Prefectural Azuchi Castle Archaeological Museum No. 2 Exhibition Space (6678 Shimotaira, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman, Shiga)
ADMISSION ¥450 (¥360), University Students and High School Students ¥300 (¥240), Junior High School and Elementary School Students; Senior Citizens (65 years or older) who are residents of Shiga prefecture; and people with disabilities for free
 *Prices in brackets () are for groups of 20 or more
TEL 0748-46-2426
WEB <http://www.azuchi-museum.or.jp/>

PERFORMANCE OF THE NOH WORK TAKASAGO

Noh Theater is a designated UNESCO intangible cultural asset. *Takasago* is an inspired choice for the New Year, in which matrimonial happiness and longevity are admired, and the joy of life is expressed.

DATE Sat., January 5th, 2019
TIME Doors open: 1:30pm, Performance start: 2pm, Performance end: 4:30pm
PLACE Otsu Traditional Performing Arts Center (246-24 Onjoji-cho, Otsu, Shiga)
ADMISSION S section ¥6,000 (¥5,500), A section ¥5,500 (¥5,000)
 *Prices in brackets () are for advanced sales
TEL 077-527-5226
WEB <http://www.dentogoinokaikan.net/>

NEW YEAR PERFORMANCE AT CHOEIZA PLAYHOUSE: TRADITIONAL SONG AND JAPANESE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT OF THE LAKE COUNTRY

An uplifting New Year's performance combining music and video, with a diverse repertoire ranging from traditional Japanese music to a new suite themed on the place of plentiful water source, Maibara, performed by singers and musicians using authentic traditional instruments. Enjoy the beautiful melody with your heart.

DATE Sun., January 20th, 2019
TIME From 2pm
PLACE Shiga Theatre for Cultural and Industrial Development (2-137 Shimotara, Maibara, Shiga)
ADMISSION ¥2,500, up to 25 years old ¥1,500 (Add ¥500 if purchasing tickets at the door)
TEL 0749-52-5111
WEB <https://www.s-bunsan.jp/>

2 February

EXHIBITION OF HINA DOLL PASSED DOWN TO MERCHANT FAMILIES

An exhibition of excellently preserved *hina* dolls and other artifacts dating back to the Edo period (1603-1867) that have been lovingly maintained in the homes of Omi merchant families. Some 110 sets of *hina* dolls in nine separate locations give us an insight into traditional life from old times in Japan.

DATE From Fri., February 1st to Thu., March 21st, 2019
TIME Four residences of Omi-Shonin Yashiki, 9:30am-4:30pm (Times may vary between locations)
PLACE Gokashokondo in Gokasho district, Higashiomi
ADMISSION Admission fees vary between locations
TEL 0748-29-3920 (Higashi Omi Tourist Association)
WEB <http://www.higashiomi.net/>

SPECIAL EXHIBITION: HINA DOLLS AND MINIATURE HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS

This annual springtime exhibit provides a rare opportunity to view the complete set of *hina* dolls and doll-making tools given by Ii Naosuke, the 13th head of the powerful Ii clan that ruled Hikone for generations during the Edo period (1603-1867), to his favorite daughter Yachiyo (1846-1927), together with many other *hina* dolls from established local families.

DATE From Fri., February 8th, 2019 to Mon., March 4th, 2019
TIME 9:30am-5pm (Admission until 4:30pm)
PLACE Hikone Castle Museum (1-1 Konki-cho, Hikone, Shiga)
ADMISSION ¥300, Junior High School and Elementary School Students ¥150
TEL 0749-22-6100
WEB <http://hikone-castle-museum.jp/en/>

WATARU HISASUE PIANO RECITAL BRAHMS PIANO SONATA NO. 2 SHIGAGIN HALL 2018-19 SERIES, SEASON 2

Wataru Hisasue, a local pianist of exceptional talent who placed third at the 2017 ARD International Music Competition in Munich, has mastered the entire collection of Brahms piano sonatas. This concert will showcase his interpretation of Brahms Piano Sonata No. 2 and other works.

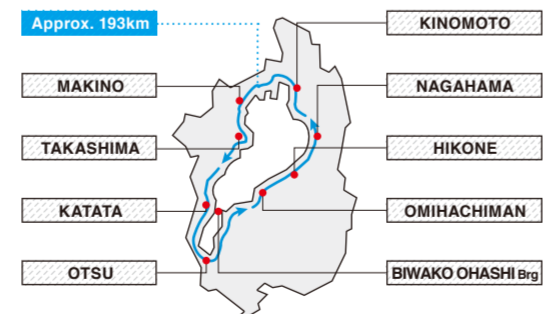
DATE Sat., February 23rd, 2019
TIME 2pm-4pm
PLACE Ensemble Hall, Biwako Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Shiga (15-1 Uchidehama, Otsu, Shiga)
ADMISSION ¥3,500, University Students or younger ¥2,000
TEL 077-526-0011
WEB <http://www.keibun.co.jp/>

BIWAICHI -Cycling around Lake Biwa-



The vast natural beauty of Shiga is complemented by mountains and villages brimming with a sense of history and culture. From ancient thoroughfares and historical treasures to countless examples of nature's beauty, most notably the brilliant displays of autumnal colors, Shiga has so much to offer. Cycling is the ideal way to enjoy the many natural and cultural attractions of Shiga. For the perfect cycling holiday, try the BIWAICHI-PLUS routes with various cycling paths dotted throughout the prefecture, some of which include trains with dedicated bicycle racks to help you get around easily. BIWAICHI-PLUS routes can make a great addition to a standard BIWAICHI—a circuit of Lake Biwa—cycling trip. Why not enjoy cycling both the lakeside and inland areas?

BIWAICHI BEST SHOT!!



BIWAKO VISITORS BUREAU
<https://en.biwako-visitors.jp>



BIWAICHI RENTAL CYCLE
<http://biwaichi-cycling.com/en/>

FREE DEC 2018 - FEB 2019 vol.2

COOL SHIGA

CULTURAL INFORMATION GUIDE

TEMPLE

A historical temple with miraculous effects

THE BUDDHIST IMAGES OF SHIGA

Spotlight on *Yakushi Nyorai* and *Kannon Bosatsu*

THE SYNCRETISM OF SHINTO AND BUDDHISM

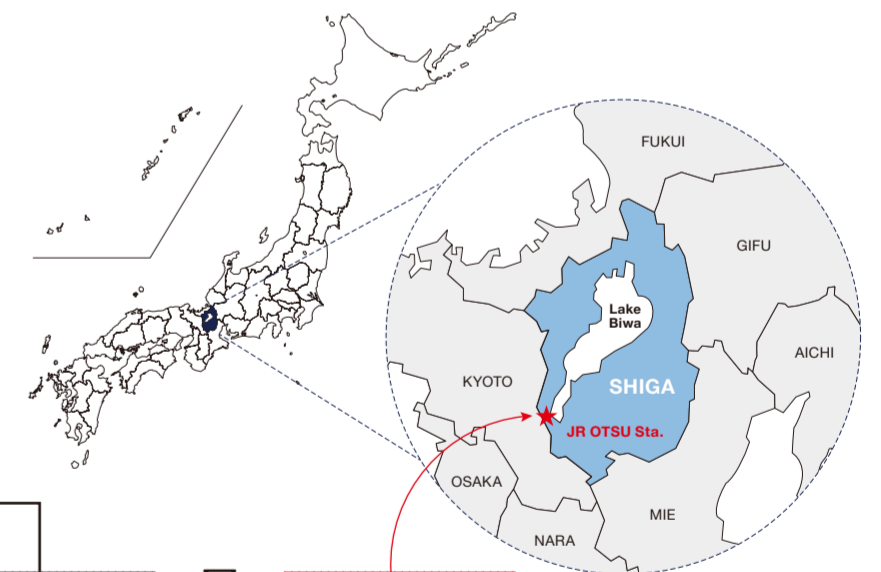
Trace the history of the syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism

LOCAL CUISINE / EVENT

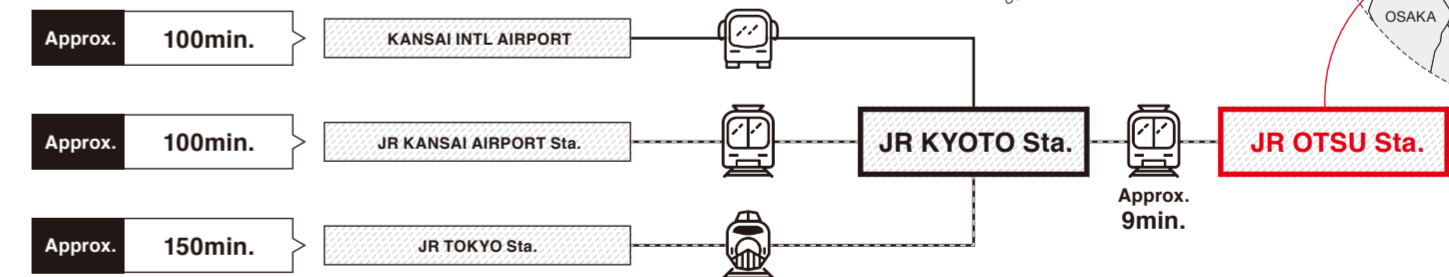
Yakurin Kannon / ISHIYAMADERA Temple

ABOUT SHIGA

As Shiga prefecture is located in almost the exact center of Japan, and blessed with the largest lake, Lake Biwa, there are plenty of places to see and things to do. Visiting the temples and shrines, the old *Kaido* road, and the historical buildings and streetscapes gives you a chance to get a taste for the varied culture of Shiga. And the cultural landscape and food culture created from the harmony between the plentiful water resources and lifestyle of the people are sure to impress any visitor. Let's discover Shiga together.



ACCESS to SHIGA



OMI TEA

The birthplace of traditional Japanese tea

Omi has a long history of tea, said to begin in the year 805, when Saicho, whose posthumous title is Dengyo Daishi, returned from China with seeds and planted them in the foothills of Mount Hiei. *Omi-cha* tea thrives in areas with great temperature differences, and features an inherent refined aroma. The region is dotted with tea growing areas, each with their own unique speciality. Tsuchiyama is famous for *kabuse-cha* tea, where the plants are covered before plucking to concentrate their flavor and reduce astringency. Asamiya is known for the beautiful bright golden yellow of the tea color typical of *sen-cha* tea. And tea from Mandokoro is extremely precious and said to be the favorite drink of feudal lord Toyotomi Hideyoshi.



TEMPLE

A HISTORICAL TEMPLE WITH MIRACULOUS EFFECTS

A temple of flowers connected to historic literature.

Shiga prefecture is home to more than 3,000 temples. Amongst them, ISHIYAMADERA Temple is one with long history dating back to its opening during Emperor Shomu's reign (701-749). Visitors and pilgrims are welcomed by a picturesque temple gate alongside the Seta River—the only outlet from Lake Biwa. In the Heian period (794-1185), pilgrimages to the temple were popular among the nobility, with visitors retiring to the main temple building for prayer in the presence of the principle image of the temple, *Nyoirin Kannon* Buddhist statue, which is enshrined there. Such details are recorded in *Kagero Nikki* by the Mother of Fujiwara no Michitsuna. Other texts describing life at ISHIYAMADERA Temple include *Izumi Shikibu Nikki* by Izumi Shikibu, *Makura no Soshi* by Sei Shonagon, and *Sarashina Nikki* by the Daughter of Sugawara no Takasue. However, the most famous is surely Murasaki Shikibu's *Genji Monogatari*. The imperial princess requested something new to read, so Murasaki Shikibu retired to ISHIYAMADERA Temple for 7 days to begin writing *Genji Monogatari* in seclusion. It is said that the idea for the story came to Murasaki Shikibu when the full moon looked especially beautiful over Lake Biwa. The location at which inspiration took hold is known as one of the Eight Views of Omi, featuring in paintings such as *Ishiyama no Shugetsu* (The Autumn Moon at Ishiyama).

This temple also drew in many top-class female writers due to its abundance of flowers. *Ume* plum trees bloom in February and winter-blooming *sakura* cherry blossom trees in March, providing an extremely rare opportunity to see both *ume* and *sakura* blossoming at the same time. And after cherry blossom trees such as *Someiyoshino* have blossomed, in late April the 200-year-old *Kirishima Tsutsuji*—Rhododendron obtusum—flowers, and in early summer, iris, lotus and others bloom. Here you can enjoy the floral beauty year-round.



Todaimon (East Main Gate)

ISHIYAMADERA Temple — The Sacred Grounds of Emperor Shomu's Imperial Prayer

One of the important cultural properties that remains in ISHIYAMADERA Temple is the *Ishiyamadera Engi Emaki*—a scroll painting of the history and legends of ISHIYAMADERA Temple. The scroll acts as a captioned history from the temple's creation through to the end of the Kamakura period (1185-1333), presented in the *Yamato-e* traditional painting style with description. The beginning tells of the temple's inception. Emperor Shomu wished to erect a giant Buddha statue at TODAI-JI Temple, the temple he had built in Nara, but for this, he would need a lot of gold. He asked the monk, Roben, for help. One night, *Zao Gongen*, a deity of the Shugendō religion, appeared by Roben's bedside bearing a message instructing him to offer prayers at the sacred grounds in Seta, Omi. There he met an old man calling himself *Hira-myōjin* deity. Just as instructed, Roben took Emperor Shomu's *Nenjibutsu*—a sacred Buddhist icon of Prince Shotoku—enshrined it on the rock at the sacred grounds and began to offer prayers. Almost immediately afterwards gold was found in *Mutsu-no-kuni* (part of the current Tohoku region) and was being presented to the Emperor. The result of this was that the *Nenjibutsu* could not be taken away from the rock, so a simple thatched hut was built to home it, and that was the origin of ISHIYAMADERA Temple. That rock remains within the temple grounds to this day and is composed of *keikaiseki*—wollastonite. The main shrine of the temple—a national treasure itself—was built upon the rock. The principal image, the *Nyoirin Kannon*, is an impressive 5 m tall statue located in a *zushi* miniature shrine within the temple and is not normally available for public viewing. It sits on a pedestal of wallastonite in a half-lotus pose with its right leg bent and its left leg down. This is the only Buddhist image to have a *chokufu*—an imperial seal—so unveiling it to the public requires the Emperor's permission. It is available for public viewing every 33 years or the year following the enthronement of a new emperor, so your chance to see it could be just around the corner! A stand-in is on view, placed in front of the *zushi*, and is a significant Buddhist symbol in its own right. Although it stands only around 1/3 the size of the original, it is in the same pose and dates back to the Muromachi period (1333-1573). This year, 2018, marks the 1300th anniversary



The *Ishiyamadera Engi Emaki*, scroll 5, part 1 (paper 4-5), belonging to ISHIYAMADERA Temple

of the oldest *junreiro* in Japan: the *Saikoku Sanjusansho Junreiro* are a type of pilgrimage to various temples, and this one prescribes a trip around 33 temples in the Kansai region and Gifu prefecture. To celebrate this auspicious occurrence, there are special viewings and other events until 2020. Starting your pilgrimage of the *Kannon* deities with a visit to ISHIYAMADERA Temple would surely make for an excellent trip!

TEL 077-537-0013 ADDRESS 1-1-1 Ishiyama-dera, Otsu, Shiga
 OPEN 8am to 4:30pm (Last admission: 4pm) CLOSED Open every day
 ADMISSION ¥600, Chancel of main shrine hall entrance: ¥500, tea: ¥500 (Special exhibitions may require additional fees)
 SMOKING No WEB https://www.ishiyamadera.or.jp/



Map of the temple grounds



1 Wallastonite 2 Two-storied pagoda 3 A statue of Murasaki Shikibu



The *Denryakushi Nyorai* standing statue of NISHINO YAKUSHI-DO Temple. Heian period (794-1185).



KONSHO-JI Temple houses the oldest and largest example of a wooden *Gundali Myo-o* standing statue among independent statues in Japan. Heian period (794-1185).



The *Juichimen Kannon Bosatsu* standing statue that is a national treasure at KOGEN-JI Temple. Heian period (794-1185).

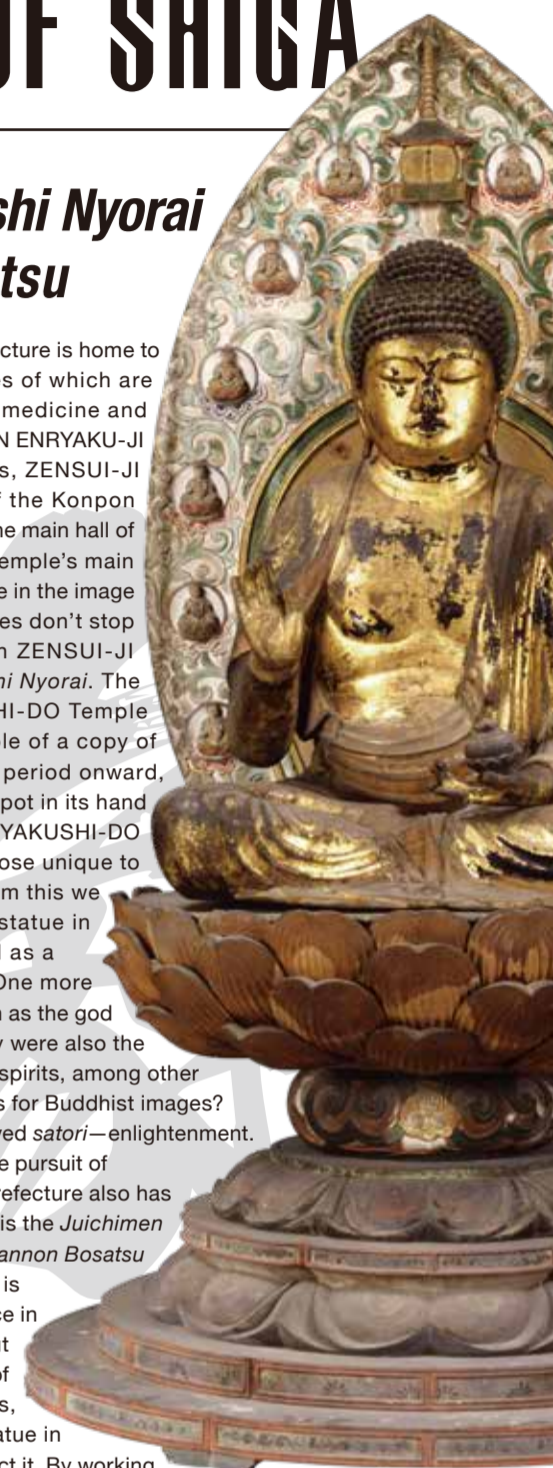


UKIMI-DO Temple also enshrines a hidden Buddhist statue. The wooden *Shokannon Bosatsu* seated statue is an important cultural asset. Heian period (794-1185).

THE BUDDHIST IMAGES OF SHIGA

Spotlight on *Yakushi Nyorai* and *Kannon Bosatsu*

It is said that the reason that Shiga prefecture is home to so many temples, the principal images of which are *Yakushi Nyorai*—the Buddhist god of medicine and healing, is that they are imitating HIEIZAN ENRYAKU-JI Temple. Among these myriad temples, ZENSUI-JI Temple preserves the atmosphere of the Konpon Chudo of the Heian period (794-1185)—the main hall of ENRYAKU-JI Temple. The ZENSUI-JI Temple's main hall is a national treasure obviously made in the image of the Konpon Chudo, but the similarities don't stop there—the hidden Buddhist image in ZENSUI-JI Temple depicts the same god—*Yakushi Nyorai*. The principle image of NISHINO YAKUSHI-DO Temple (JUMAN-JI Temple) is another example of a copy of ENRYAKU-JI Temple. From the Heian period onward, *Yakushi Nyorai* holds a *yakko* medicine pot in its hand but the hand of the statue in NISHINO YAKUSHI-DO Temple is empty with a *raigoin* hand pose unique to *Amida Nyorai*—a celestial Buddha. From this we can surmise that in later periods the statue in NISHINO YAKUSHI-DO Temple acted as a representative for *Amida Nyorai* too. One more point about *Nyorai* is that they are known as the god of healing illnesses, but in the past, they were also the god of bountiful harvests, removing evil spirits, among other things. Did you know that there are ranks for Buddhist images? The highest is for *Nyorai* that have achieved *satori*—enlightenment. The next rank is for *Bosatsu* that are in the pursuit of knowledge to become a *Nyorai*. Shiga prefecture also has many *Kannon Bosatsu*, one such statue is the *Juichimen Kannon Bosatsu*, an 11-faced standing *Kannon Bosatsu* statue housed at KOGEN-JI Temple. This is perhaps the greatest carving masterpiece in Japan's history and is known throughout the country. When faced with the threat of being burned during wars and conflicts, the head priest and villagers hid the statue in rivers and buried it in the ground to protect it. By working together to overcome such difficulties, we can see that one of the traits of the people of Shiga prefecture is that they were in close contact with their Buddha.



Yakushi Nyorai sitting statue. Heian period (794-1185). The hidden Buddhist image from ZENSUI-JI Temple.

THE SYNGRETISM OF SHINTO AND BUDDHISM

Trace the history of the syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism

It is said that since ancient times Japan has been home to 8 million unique, Japanese gods. After the introduction of Buddhism to Japan, little by little, the gods and Buddha blended into one, so much so that in the Nara period (710-794), you could find Buddhist texts being read in Shinto shrines, and even see Buddhist temples erected within Shinto shrine grounds. However, the Meiji period (1868-1912), brought about the separation of Shinto and Buddhism—all Buddhist materials were removed from Shinto shrines as part of an anti-Buddhist movement. Yet in Shiga prefecture, perhaps because their religious piety and desire to treat both gods and Buddha with respect, you can still see many examples of the syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism to this day. One such example is the wooden *Sogyo Hachimanshin* seated statue held in KONSHO-JI Temple. This wooden statue depicts *Hachimanshin*, the Shinto god of war, but with the form of a Buddhist monk. Within the main hall of KONSHO-JI Temple there is a small shrine in which the *Shijin*—four gods said to rule over the four directions—reside. Since the Heian period (794-1185), the imperial court has requested that Buddhist sutras be read for the gods, and this practice continues to this day.



RELATED LOCATIONS

- 1 NISHINO YAKUSHI-DO Temple**
 The descendants of Prince Otomo, Nishino-Tanbanokami Iessumi, have protected NISHINO YAKUSHI-DO Temple as their family temple. It was once a temple of the Tendai sect of Buddhism in Kosza Terayama in the north-west of Nishino. It is left in ruins following repeated wars but the Buddhist statues were protected by the village people. The statues are now in the possession of JUMAN-JI Temple and enshrined in YAKUSHI-DO Temple.
 TEL 090-8938-6369
 ADDRESS 1688 Nishino Takatsuki-cho, Nagahama, Shiga
 OPEN 9am-4pm (Reservation required, Viewing not permitted 12pm-1pm) CLOSED Open every day
 ADMISSION ¥AKUSHI-DO Temple and Senju Kannon: ¥500
 SMOKING No
- 2 KOGEN-JI Temple**
 A temple of the Jodo Shinshu Otani sect of Buddhism, also known by the name DOUGAN-JI KANNON-DO Temple. Features perhaps Japan's best example of a *Juichimen Kannon*—an 11-faced god of mercy. This statue is a national treasure and was carved by the monk Taicho in the 8th year of the Tenpyo period (736), to ward the city against the epidemic from which it was suffering.
 TEL 0749-85-6632
 ADDRESS 60 Douganji Takatsuki-cho, Nagahama, Shiga
 OPEN 9am-4pm (Last entry 3:30pm)
 CLOSED Open every day
 ADMISSION ¥500
 SMOKING No
- 3 KONSHO-JI Temple**
 UKIMI-DO Temple was built in the Heian period (794-1185), by Eshin Sozu, who was the model for the character Bishop of Yokogawa from *The Tale of Genji*. It is also famous as one of the Eight Views of Omi paintings: *Katata no Rakugan*—Wild geese returning home at Katata. It is officially the MANGETSU-JI Temple, and the KANNON-DO main hall within its grounds enshrines the *Shokannon Bosatsu* seated Buddhist statue.
 TEL 077-558-2996 (Mountain top monk), 077-558-0058 (Village monk)
 ADDRESS 1394 Arahari, Ritto, Shiga
 OPEN 8am-5pm (Closes at 4:30pm between Dec and Mar)
 CLOSED Open every day ADMISSION ¥500
 SMOKING No WEB https://www.konshoji.com
- 4 UKIMI-DO Temple**
 TEL 077-572-0455
 ADDRESS 1-16-18 Honkatata, Otsu, Shiga
 OPEN 8am-5pm
 CLOSED Open every day
 ADMISSION ¥300
 SMOKING No

ENGLISH BROCHURE