

# EVENT SCHEDULE

ALL MAP



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FREE SEP-NOV 2018 vol.1

# COOL SHIGA

CULTURAL INFORMATION GUIDE



## CASTLE

Telling the history of the feudal lords

## RED ARMOR

The valor of the Ii clan's red armor

## NINJA

Masters of Skill and Knowledge

## LOCAL CUISINE / EVENT

## 9 SEPTEMBER

### BIWAKO BIENNALE 2018 KIZASHI ~BEYOND~

**BIWAKO BIENNALE 2018**  
15th Oct - 11th Nov

Ancient townscapes and contemporary art meet in the old town of Omihachiman for this international art festival. Around 77 groups of artists from around the world will exhibit their works in buildings filled with history, such as houses from the Edo period (1603-1867), a former sake brewery, and more.

**DATE** From Sat., September 15th to Sun., November 11th \*Closed Tue.  
**TIME** 10am-5pm  
**PLACE** Old city area of Omi Hachiman (12 Nagahara-cho Naka, Omi Hachiman, Shiga and its vicinity)  
**ADMISSION** ¥2,200 (¥2,000, University Students and Vocational School Students and High School Students ¥1,500 (¥1,300), Junior High School Students and younger for Free  
\*Prices in brackets ( ) are for presales  
**TEL** 0748-36-3786  
(Information center "OGA SHOTEN")  
**WEB** <https://energyfield.org/biwakobiennale/en/about/> **ENGLISH SPOKEN**

### "SCATTERED LIGHT - CIRCULATION" EXHIBITION

A contemporary art exhibition with roots in Shiga prefecture being held by THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, SHIGA. The exhibition's theme is "City Streets and Circulation," and it will be based on introducing the works of three young artists connected to Shiga.

**DATE** From Sat., September 22nd to Sun., October 21st  
**TIME** 10am-5:30pm  
**PLACE** Around Kurokabe Square in Nagahama (Main location: 7-1 Omiya-cho, Nagahama / Satellite location: 22-37 Motohama-cho, Nagahama)  
**ADMISSION** Free  
**TEL** 077-522-2111  
**WEB** <http://www.shiga-kinbi.jp/>

### "ISHIN-DENSHIN Try Starting with Body" EXHIBITION

An exhibition on the theme of "body." The expressions by eight creators, brought from their coming face-to-face with the body and the sensation of body, reveal the fundamental experience of the human body. A display featuring painting, sculpture, photography, order-made wheelchairs and more.

**DATE** From Sat., September 22nd to Sun., November 25th  
**TIME** 11am-5pm  
**PLACE** First location: Borderless Art Museum NO-MA (16 Nagahara-cho Kami, Omi Hachiman, Shiga), Second location: Okumura Residence (8 Nagahara-cho Kami, Omi Hachiman, Shiga)  
**ADMISSION** ¥300 (¥250, University Students and High School Students ¥250 (¥200), \*Junior High School Students or younger, and a single attendant of those with disabilities may enter for free.  
\*Prices in brackets ( ) are for groups of 20 or more  
**TEL** 0748-36-5018  
**WEB** <http://www.no-ma.jp/>

## 10 OCTOBER

### TUKUROHI, ATSUSHI FUJIWARA, PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITION

It is the distance itself makes us try to connect. The Shiga-born photographer Atsushi Fujiwara has been continuing to chase such dreams of humans. His latest work, *Semimaru*, and the three preceding collections will be on display. Enjoy his journey for connection.

**DATE** From Sat., October 6th to Sun., November 4th  
**TIME** 9am-4:30pm  
**PLACE** MIDERA-Temple Kannon-do Shoin hall (246 Onjoji-cho, Otsu, Shiga)  
**ADMISSION** Free (Separate fee for entering MIDERA-Temple: ¥600, Junior High School Students ¥300, Elementary School Students ¥200)  
**TEL** 090-2496-7072  
**WEB** <http://tujui-field.jp/tukurohi/> **WI FI** **ENGLISH SIGNAGE**

### Special Exhibition "Masters of Beauty Who Were Charmed by Shigaraki"

From modern ceramic master Kenkichi Tomimoto, to painter and sculptor Taro Okamoto, many artists have visited ceramic town Shigaraki. Why not seek out new charm in the pottery of Shigaraki as you trace the steps of these famous artists.

**DATE** From Sat., October 6th to Thu., December 20th  
**TIME** 9:30am-5pm (Admission until 4:30pm)  
**PLACE** The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park (2188-7 Chokushi Shigaraki-cho, Koka, Shiga)  
**ADMISSION** ¥700 (¥500, University Students and High School Students ¥500 (¥400), Junior High School Students and younger for Free  
\*Prices in brackets ( ) are for groups of 20 or more  
**TEL** 0748-93-0909  
**WEB** <https://www.sccp.jp/>  
\*Free Wi-Fi in the Shigaraki Exhibition Hall of Industrial Ceramics **WI FI**

### OTSU MATSURI FESTIVAL

One of three lake province festivals started at the TENSON-JINJA Shrine in the Edo period (1603-1867). The main event of this festival is the parade of 13 decorated *Hikiyama* floats through the city. *Chimaki* and hand towels, which were purified to ward off evil in advance, are thrown down from the floats to viewers, and each float has a *karakuri ningyo* mechanical puppet on show.

**DATE** Yamatate (Building floats): Sun., September 30th, Festival Eve: Sat., October 6th, Festival: Sun., October 7th  
**TIME** Yamatate: 8:30am-3pm, Festival Eve: Evening-9pm, Festival: 9am-5:30pm  
**PLACE** TENSON-JINJA Shrine (3-3-36 Kyo-machi, Otsu, Shiga)  
**ADMISSION** Free  
**TEL** 077-525-0505  
**WEB** <http://www.otsu-matsuri.jp/home/> **ENGLISH BROCHURE** **ENGLISH SPOKEN**

## 11 NOVEMBER

### TREE CANOPY TRAIL OPENING

A new outdoor exhibit has opened at the Lake Biwa Museum. The Tree Canopy Trail lets visitors walk high among the treetops, granting an unparalleled view of Lake Biwa, and giving visitors the chance to get up close and personal with Japan's largest lake and the surrounding forest. The opening of this new interactive space in nature creates a new symbol for the museum.

**DATE** Opens on Sat., November 3rd  
**TIME** 9:30am-5pm (Admission until 4:30pm)  
**PLACE** Lake Biwa Museum 1091 Oroshimo-cho, Kusatsu, Shiga)  
**ADMISSION** Free (exhibits requires a ticket)  
**TEL** 077-568-4811  
**WEB** <http://www.biwahaku.jp/> **WI FI** **ENGLISH BROCHURE**

### THE 14TH HIGASHIOMI ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

A play based on the classic *Rakugo* spoken comedy tale "Rice bowl in the well." It paints a picture of life in the Edo period (1603-1867) full of humor in a tale overflowing with the warmth of human kindness. The center in the city will distribute tickets, so you must make a reservation in advance.

**DATE** Sun., November 18th  
**TIME** From 2pm  
**PLACE** Yokai Arts and Cultural Center (1-50 Aoba-cho, Higashiomi, Shiga)  
**ADMISSION** Free (Reservation ticket required)  
\*Tickets distributed at: Yokai Arts and Cultural Center, Notogawa Community Center, etc.  
**TEL** 0748-24-5872 (Higashiomi Arts and Culture Festival Executive Committee Office)  
**WEB** <http://www.city.higashiomi.shiga.jp/>

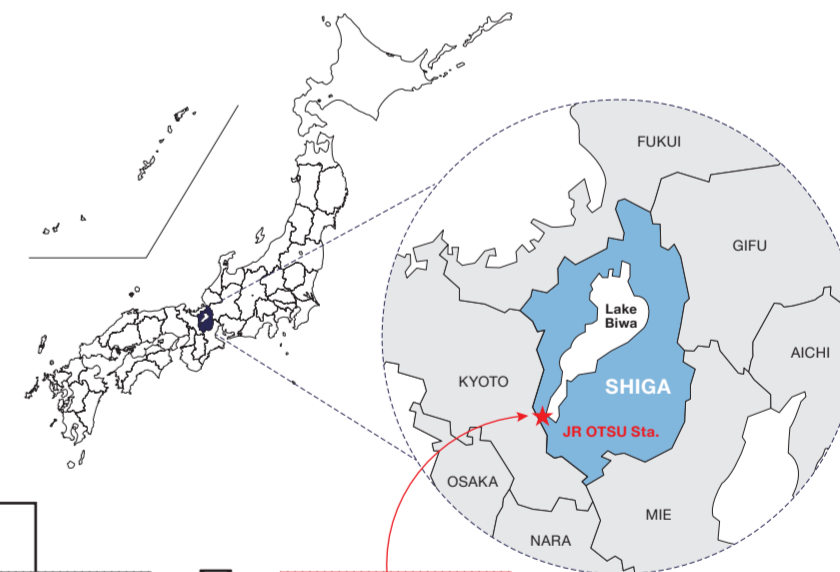
### NOH THEATER PERFORMANCE "MATSUKAZE"

The traditional performing art of *Noh* came to Japan from China in the Nara period (710-794) as *Sangaku* and further developed by Kan'ami and Zeami. "Matsukaze" is thought to be an adaptation by Zeami of an original story created by Kiamei.

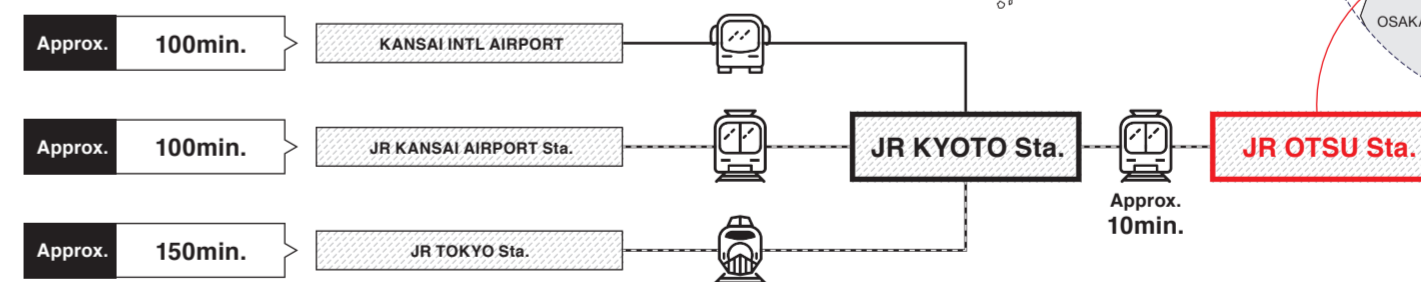
**DATE** Sat., November 24th  
**TIME** Doors open: 1:30pm, Performance start: 2pm, Performance end: 4:30pm  
**PLACE** Otsu Traditional Performing Arts Center (246-24 Onjoji-cho, Otsu, Shiga)  
**ADMISSION** Advanced sale S seats: ¥5,500 (At the door: ¥6,000), Advanced sale A seats: ¥5,000 (At the door: ¥5,500)  
**TEL** 077-527-5236  
**WEB** <http://www.dontogoinoikaikan.net/>  
\*Available at Otsu Traditional Performing Arts Center, or Katata Station Tourist Information (077-573-1000)  
\*No refunds

## 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.



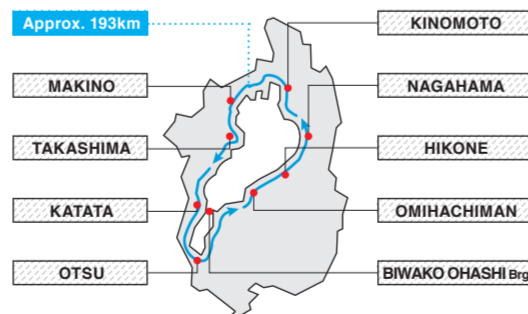
## ACCESS to SHIGA



## BIWAICHI -Cycling around Lake Biwa-



A trip around all 200 km of Lake Biwa's circumference by bicycle is called BIWAICHI. It has wide-open lakeside areas aplenty, but head up to the northern area of Lake Biwa, and it reveals its peaceful, quiet side. The roadway is dotted with areas where you can feel life as it once was, and precious locations of historical heritage. Sakura cherry blossoms, the green verdure of summer, the autumn-colored foliage... the face of Lake Biwa changes with the seasons. BIWAICHI is more than just a circuit of the lake, we recommend spending two to three days taking-in the sights, sounds and sentiment of the lake.



## BIWAICHI BEST SHOT!!



## OMI BEEF — the ultimate in local cuisine

Omi Beef is acknowledged as one of the three finest wagyu beef varieties in Japan. It has a long history stretching back nearly 400 years, when it was specially prepared for *shogun* and *daimyo* nobles. Prepared from Japanese black cattle that have been carefully nurtured over many years, Omi Beef boasts an exceptionally smooth and fine-grained texture complemented by mild fat with a hint of sweetness, which produces a wonderful aftertaste. Restaurants in the prefecture offer Omi Beef steaks as well as Omi Beef in traditional Japanese dishes such as *sukiyaki* and *shabu-shabu*.





# CASTLE

TELLING THE HISTORY OF THE FEUDAL LORDS

## A cultural asset boasting 400 years of history

This castle cannot be excluded when talking of Japanese history and culture. It began as a castle base for military protection, but came to serve as a symbolic castle residence as it adapted to the times.

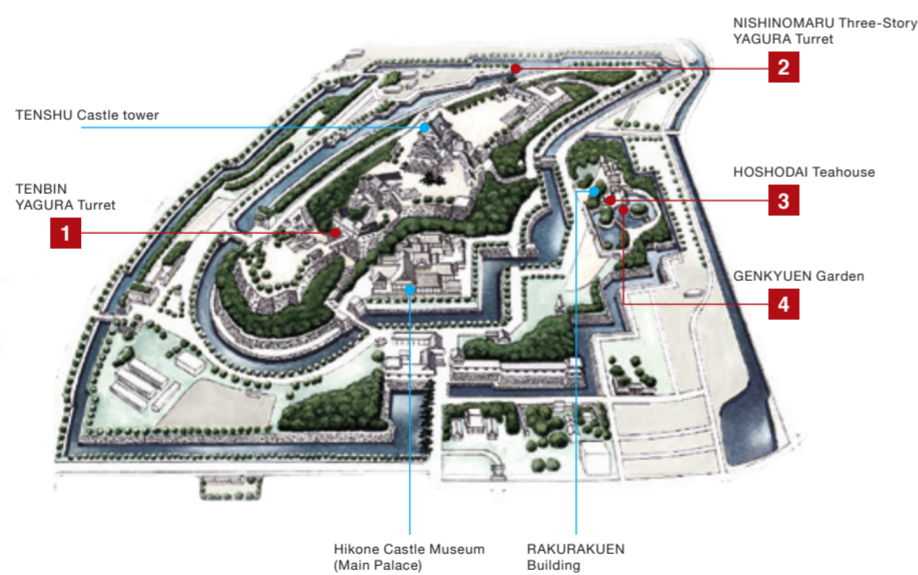


HIKONE-JO Castle has around 400 years of history since its construction to serve as the residence of the li clan — *daimyo* feudal lords who governed the Hikone region — in the Edo period (1603-1867). Although many Japanese castles were burned down in battles or dismantled, HIKONE-JO Castle is one of just a few that remain as they stood at their construction centuries ago. The *tenshu* (castle tower), *tsuke-yagura* (connecting tower), and *tamon-yagura* (hall turrets) are important cultural assets, listed as “national treasures” of especially high cultural and academic value. Together with other castles, such as World Heritage site HIMEJI-JO Castle, it is known as one of the five national treasure castles of Japan. In addition to all the fundamental elements you might expect of a more modern Japanese castle, the construction is replete with ingenious features to keep enemies out, such as *nobori-ishigaki* (tall stone walls) and *ohorikiri* (dry moat). But the castle is not all about battles and fortifications. The *daimyo*'s residence KEYAKI GOTEN Palace, now called GENKYU RAKURAKUEN Building, next to the magnificent Japanese garden, GENKYUEN Garden, reveal the elegant lifestyle that the *daimyo* enjoyed in the years of peace that followed. In particular, Naosuke the 13th generation, a chief minister of the Edo period famous for signing the Harris Treaty with the US, until becoming *daimyo* at age 32, was very interested in tea ceremony and martial arts, and tried a variety of cultural arts while residing here.

## Following the history of HIKONE-JO Castle

The construction of HIKONE-JO Castle was started in 1604, four years after the Battle of Sekigahara between the eastern army spearheaded by Tokugawa Ieyasu and the western army led by Ishida Mitsunari. Achieving victory, Tokugawa Ieyasu set about keeping watch on OSAKA-JO Castle, which was home to Toyotomi Hideyori, a son of Toyotomi Hideyoshi—the man Ishida Mitsunari worked for. There, Tokugawa Ieyasu placed his trust in li Naomasa, his head chief retainer, gave him charge of the Hikone region, and ordered a castle to be built there to govern the area. li Naomasa died of his wounds from the Battle of Sekigahara and the position and castle construction was left to his eldest son, li Naotsugu. After that, the greater part of the castle and the surrounding castle town were completed in 1622 by Naotsugu's younger brother, Naotaka.

HIKONE-JO Castle has a variety of practical features for protection and battle, including the TENBIN YAGURA Turret (photo 1), which is built around a corridor bridge designed to be dropped down in times of emergency, and the NISHINOMARU Three-Story YAGURA Turret (photo 2) which is built on top of a stone wall over 10 m in height. In order for the Edo Shogunate, led by the Tokugawa clan, to bring about an era of peace after the total eradication of the Toyotomi clan, a main palace to house the *daimyo* and for administration was constructed at the foot of the castle. Additionally, as this location was to become a place for social intercourse for the *daimyo*, GENKYU RAKURAKUEN Building was constructed to hold tea ceremonies, etc. These additions reflect how the castle and surroundings changed to suit the times. Visitors can enjoy *matcha green tea* (with Japanese confectionery, ¥500) in HOSHODAI Teahouse (photo 3), erected in GENKYUEN Garden (photo 4). Let your imagination run as you gaze upon the magnificent scenery in the same way the *daimyo* did and think of the history of the HIKONE-JO Castle.



1 TENBIN YAGURA Turret



2 NISHINOMARU Three-Story YAGURA Turret



3 HOSHODAI Teahouse



4 GENKYUEN Garden

TEL 0749-22-6100 ADDRESS 1-1 Konki-cho, Hikone, Shiga  
 OPEN 8:30am-5pm CLOSED Open every day  
 ADMISSION ¥800, Junior High School and Elementary School Students ¥200, younger children enter for free  
 \*HIKONE-JO Castle and GENKYUEN Garden set: ¥1,200, Junior High School and Elementary School Students ¥350  
 SMOKING No (Smoking area available) WEB <http://www.hikoneshi.com/jp/castle/>

WI FI ENGLISH BROCHURE



1st generation, li Naomasa  
 朱漆塗伝二夜脚具足



2nd generation, li Naotaka  
 朱漆塗輝章威福延腰取二夜脚具足



4th generation, li Naooki  
 朱漆塗朽葉糸威福延腰取二夜脚具足



9th generation, li Naoyoshi  
 朱漆塗紅糸威福延腰取二夜脚具足

# RED ARMOR

## The valor of the li clan's red armor

*Kacchu* refers to the set of armor and helmet worn to protect oneself in battle. The li clan troops are known for their characteristic vermilion red armor, worn by the head of the clan down to the retainer. This is the li clan's red armor: “li no Akazonae.” The *kacchu* armor of li Naomasa, who lived in the Sengoku warring states period (around 1467-1573), had a unified design from the shoulder to the forearm making it practical and easy to maneuver in during battle, and the helmet and chest armor were of a simple and unornamented design. In the second generation of the li clan's reign in the Hikone domain, Naotaka's armor featured a single horizontal stripe of leather, the facemask had teeth and a moustache, and the helmet was adorned with golden horn-like *daitentsuki* crests on the sides—an imposing figure indeed! By the fourth generation, peace had continued for some time, such that Naooki's *kacchu* armor was incredibly ornamental. And in the 13th generation, Naosuke's *kacchu* armor was designed to emphasize his excellent physique. The li clan's red armor continued unchanged through the Edo period (1603-1867), and the fully red *Akazonae* style was handed down to future ages as a symbol of strong troops.

13th generation, li Naosuke  
 朱漆塗紅糸威福延腰取二夜脚具足

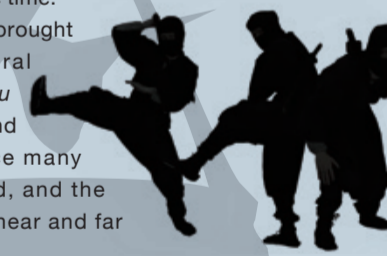


# NINJA

## Masters of Skill and Knowledge

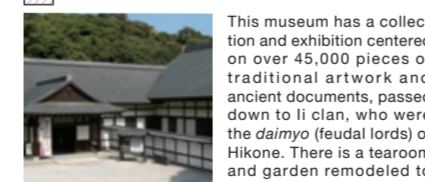


Using strange abilities to execute assassinations... the image of ninja that has spread around the world is in fact mostly hyperbole that spread through *kabuki* theater plays, books, manga and movies from the Edo period (1603-1867) onward. The basis of the modern interpretation is the people called *shinobi* who operated in the villages of Koka in Shiga prefecture and Iga in Mie prefecture from the Muromachi period (1336-1573) into the Edo period. Their true missions were to return home safely with information. They were elite groups, possessing skills and information-gathering techniques that far-exceeded the everyday knowledge of the time. The villages were surrounded by highways that brought in information and goods, leading to cultural development, and many temples of *Tendaishu* and *Shugendou* religion that taught reading and writing. This allowed the villages to produce many people well versed in the pen and the sword, and the legends that they were active on battlefields near and far are still passed down to this today.



## RELATED LOCATIONS

### 1 Hikone Castle Museum



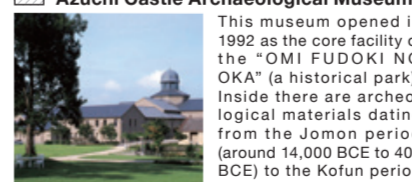
This museum has a collection and exhibition centered on over 45,000 pieces of traditional artwork and ancient documents, passed down to li clan, who were the *daimyo* (feudal lords) of Hikone. There is a tearoom and garden remodeled to look like they did back in

the day, and a *Noh* theater stage built in the Edo period (1603-1867), allowing you to get a glimpse of the lifestyles and culture of days gone by.

TEL 0749-22-6100  
 ADDRESS 1-1 Konki-cho, Hikone, Shiga  
 OPEN 8am-5pm (Admission until 4:30pm)  
 CLOSED Open every day (closed Dec.25-31), the museum may be temporarily closed  
 ADMISSION ¥500, Junior High School and Elementary School Students ¥250, younger children enter for free  
 SMOKING No (Smoking area available)  
 WEB <http://hikone-castle-museum.jp/>

WI FI ENGLISH BROCHURE

### 2 Shiga Prefectural Azuchi Castle Archaeological Museum



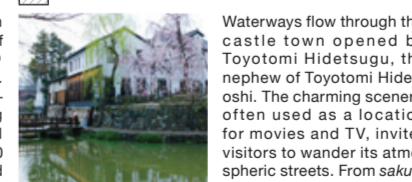
This museum opened in 1992 as the core facility of the “OMI FUDDOKI NO OKA” (a historical park). Inside there are archaeological materials dating from the Jomon period (around 14,000 BCE to 400 BCE) to the Kofun period (around 200 AD to 600 AD),

and a large collection of materials related to Oda Nobunaga and AZUCHI-JO Castle on display.

TEL 0748-46-2424  
 ADDRESS 6678 Shimotoira Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman, Shiga  
 OPEN 9am-5pm (Admission until 4:30pm)  
 CLOSED Mon. (Next business day if Mon. is a public holiday), may closed for maintenance and New Year holidays  
 ADMISSION ¥450 (Additional exhibitions: ¥500), University Students and High School Students ¥300 \*Special exhibitions may require additional fees.  
 SMOKING No (Smoking area available)  
 WEB <http://www.azuchi-museum.or.jp>

WI FI ENGLISH BROCHURE

### 3 Omi Hachiman-bori



Waterways flow through this castle town opened by Toyotomi Hidetsugu, the nephew of Toyotomi Hideyoshi. The charming scenery, often used as a location for movies and TV, invites visitors to wander its atmospheric streets. From *sakura* cherry blossoms in spring,

to snow-covered scenery in winter, every season offers something beautiful.

TEL 0748-33-6061 (Omi Hachiman Tourist information)  
 ADDRESS Takakai-cho, Omihachiman, Shiga  
 OPEN 9am-5pm (Omi Hachiman Tourist information)  
 CLOSED Open every day  
 ADMISSION Free  
 SMOKING Yes  
 WEB [http://www.omib.com/annai/hachimambori\\_info.htm](http://www.omib.com/annai/hachimambori_info.htm)

WI FI ENGLISH BROCHURE

### 4 Koka Ninjutsu Village



This village, surrounded by a virgin forest at the foothills of the SUZUKA Mountains, is home to a trick-and-trap-filled *karakuri yashiki* house and *shuriken* throwing star practice hall, making it the perfect place for a ninja experience. The

valuable ninja weapons and armor on display in the KOKANINJUTSU MUSEUM are also a must-see!

TEL 0748-88-5000  
 ADDRESS 394 Oki Koka-cho, Koka, Shiga  
 OPEN 10am-5pm (Admission until 4pm)  
 CLOSED Mon.  
 ADMISSION ¥1,030, High School and Junior High School Students ¥820, Elementary School Students ¥730, Children (Age 3-5) ¥520  
 SMOKING No  
 WEB <http://koka.ninpou.jp/>

ENGLISH SPOKEN