

•Tour Planning Guide•

Unwind with Nature on a Freshwater Adventure Around Lake Biwa

Lake Biwa, Japan's largest lake, and the world's third-oldest, lies at the heart of a unique ecosystem. Mountain rainfall flows through satoyama landscapes and villages before reaching the lake, shaping the environment as well as local culture. Explore the beauty of this connection through outdoor activities and visit to iconic sites surrounding the lake.



INTRODUCTION

Unwind with Nature on a Freshwater Adventure Around Lake Biwa

Experience the tranquility of Lake Biwa, where nature and wellness converge in perfect harmony. Engage in outdoor activities like yoga and SUP, offering opportunities for detox and meditation amidst stunning natural surroundings. Cycle along the picturesque lakeside, take a scenic cruise to one of the islands, and savor healthy, locally-sourced cuisine. Enjoy your stay at a lakeside retreat, where you can take in breathtaking views of the lake throughout your visit.

KEY DESTINATIONS



Harie "Springwater Village"

In the Harie Village of Takashima City, spring water sourced from the surrounding mountains has long been used for daily life. Visitors can experience the traditional sustainable water culture that has shaped the area's way of life.



Konshoji Temple

Located near the summit of Mount Konze, the area offers a tranquil setting for spiritual reflection. Experience wellness yoga while basking in the sunlight filtering through the trees, rejuvenating both body and mind.

Premium Experience 2



MIHO MUSEUM

Opened in 1997, this collection features both ancient and Japanese art. Designed by I.M. Pei, the architect of the Louvre's glass pyramid, the museum harmoniously blends architecture and nature.



Chikubushima Island

Known as the "sacred island" of Lake Biwa, it is home to important temples and shrines, as well as historic buildings that reflect its rich cultural heritage. The island is accessible by ferry from various points around the lake.

4- Day Sample Course

Day 1: Western Shore of Lake Biwa

- Enjoy SUP (stand-up paddle) around the iconic floating torii gate of Shirahige Shrine (see Page 2)
- Explore the Harie Springwater Village
- Visit Kawashima Sake Brewery.

Day 2: Ritto & Shigaraki Area

- Forest Bathing Yoga at Konshoji Temple (see Page 3)
- Visit MIHO MUSEUM

Day 3: Moriyama Area

- Check-in at Setre Marina Biwa Lake (see Page 5)
- Enjoy outdoor activities like cycling or SUP

Day 4: Chikubushima & Nagahama Area

- Cruise from Nagahama Port to the island
- Explore the island and its historic heritage
- Return to Nagahama & stroll around Kurokabe Square for shopping

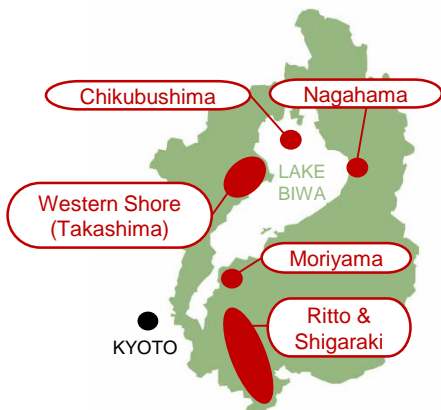
Note: The course can be tailored to a single day according to your preferences.

SHIGA SPECIALITIES

Kawashima Sake Brewery: Crafting Tradition and Taste

Established in 1865, Kawashima Sake Brewery has built a dedicated fanbase nationwide with its sake that reflects the local terroir. The renowned "Matsu no Hana" sake is crafted using pure spring water from Harie and rice from trusted farmers, including varieties like "Yamada Nishiki" and "Tamasakae," ensuring a rich, authentic flavor.

BIWAICHI: BIWAICHI is an abbreviation for "cycling around Lake Biwa." The "BIWAICHI" route that circles Lake Biwa is a 200-kilometer cycling route that has been designated by the government as a "National Cycle Route" and is a world-class cycling route. There are many bicycle rental shops and cyclist-friendly accommodation facilities in the prefecture. Since there is little elevation change, even beginners can enjoy it.



Facility Name	Shirahige SUP (1091 Ukawa, Takashima, Shiga (inside Shirahige Beach))		
Activity Details	<p>Serene SUP Adventure to the Floating Torii Gate (2 hours) Set out on a serene SUP journey toward the iconic torii gate of Shirahige Shrine, floating mystically on the waters of Lake Biwa. Paddle through the crystal-clear waters of the lake's western shores, known for their purity, while taking in panoramic views of the expansive lake and the beauty of the surrounding nature. This peaceful and accessible SUP experience, with stable boards for easy balance, is perfect for participants of all ages and skill levels, offering a safe, enjoyable adventure in the tranquil waters of Lake Biwa.</p> <p>Inclusion: SUP board, paddle, life jacket, leash, insurance, and guide fee.</p>		
Start Time / Duration	9:00 AM / 12:00 PM / 2:30 PM / 5:00 PM (Sunset time: available only during major holidays in late April and early May, also peak season in July and August) Duration: 2 hours		
Minimum No. of Guests	1	Maximum No. of Guests	30
Language	Japanese and English		
Important Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participants must be at least 5 years old. ● Children under 13 years old must be accompanied by an adult. ● The activity will proceed in light rain, but may be canceled in case of unsafe weather conditions such as heavy rain, flooding, or strong winds. In such cases, we cannot compensate for travel expenses or any other incurred costs. ● Available from mid-March to the end of November. ● Please wear comfortable, water-safe clothing and shoes, and bring a towel and a change of clothes. ● The experience lasts for 2 hours, not including the time for changing clothes. 		



*For pricing, please inquire.

*Reservations must be made at least one month in advance.

Facility Name	Konshoji Temple (1349 Arahari, Ritto, Shiga)		
Activity Details	<p>Plan A: Temple Tour (25 mins) Enter the peaceful sanctuary of the temple, where moss-covered pathways and lush green trees welcome guests. Located near the summit of Mount Konze, this tranquil setting offers breathtaking seasonal beauty and fresh, crisp air. Feel the ancient energy of this 1,300-year-old temple.</p> <p>Plan B: Meditation & Forest Bathing Yoga with Tea Session with Instructor (80 mins) Experience yoga at the highest point of the temple grounds, in a forest clearing where a temple lecture hall once stood. In this serene, tree-lined space, leave the fast pace of daily life behind. Let yourself unwind and reconnect with nature, allowing both the body and mind to fully relax.</p> <p>Sample Schedule 9:00 AM – Registration & introduction 9:15 AM - Temple tour 9:40 AM - Meditation and forest bathing yoga 10:50 AM - Tea session with the instructor 11:00 AM – Conclusion</p>		
Tour Operating Time / Duration	Between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM / Duration Plan A:25mins ,Plan B:80mins *Other time slots are available upon request.		
Minimum No. of Guests	2	Maximum No. of Guests	10
Language	Japanese & written English instruction		
Important Notes	Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes.		



*For pricing, please inquire.

*Reservations must be made at least one month in advance.

Recommended 3-Day Comprehensive Itinerary

All transportation is by private vehicle / Estimated cost: 340,000 yen per person

Day 1	Forest Bathing Yoga at Konshoji Temple & MIHO Museum
9:00 AM	Depart from Kyoto Station and travel to Konshoji Temple (60 mins).
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Take a guided tour of the temple grounds, followed by forest bathing yoga and a tea break (Premium Experience 2)
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Enjoy lunch at Nyo-i-no-Sato Gokigensan restaurant, featuring seasonal mountain cuisine.
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Head to Shigaraki to visit MIHO MUSEUM and explore the town.
5:00 PM	After a 60-minute journey, check in at an onsen ryokan and enjoy Japanese cuisine made with local Shiga ingredients.
Accommodation: Ogoto Onsen Yumotokan Hanare Karoi	
Day 2	Lake Biwa SUP & Springwater Village
8:30 AM	Travel to the Takashima (30 mins).
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Try SUP and visit Shirahige Shrine (Premium Experience 1)
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Enjoy a delicious unagi lunch at Nishitomo.
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Explore the Harie area and take a sake brewery tour at Kawashima Sake Brewery.
4:00 PM	Travel to L'Hotel du Lac (30 mins) and enjoy a unique course dinner, only available at this distinctive lakeside hotel
Accommodation: L'Hotel du Lac	
Day 3	Sacred Island Cruise & Historic Nagahama Area
8:50 AM	Check out and head to Imazu Port (30 mins). The private vehicle will be sent to Nagahama Port to stand by.
9:30 AM – 9:55 AM	Cruise from Imazu Port to Chikubushima Island. Explore the island (60 mins)
10:55 AM – 11:30 AM	Depart from the island for Nagahama Port.
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Enjoy an Italian lunch featuring local Shiga ingredients at Kitabiwako Hotel Grazia to
12:35 PM – 1:30 PM	Stroll around the Kurokabe Square District for shopping
	Terminate the town at Maibara Station (20 mins).

Access from Major Cities to Otsu / Maibara

Travel from:	Arrive in:	Travel Time by JR Train / Shinkansen	Distance / Route
Kyoto	Otsu, Shiga	10 mins to JR Otsu Sta. (Biwako Line Special Rapid)	14.2 km (JR Kyoto Sta. – JR Otsu Sta.)
Osaka	Otsu, Shiga	40 mins to JR Otsu Sta. (Biwako Line Special Rapid)	40.3 km (From Meishin Expressway Suita IC)
Maibara	Otsu, Shiga	45 mins to JR Otsu Sta. (Biwako Line Special Rapid)	71.3 km (via Meishin Expressway)
Nagoya	Maibara, Shiga	28 mins to JR Maibara Sta. (Tokaido Shinkansen Kodama / Hikari)	58.7 km (From Meishin Expressway Komaki IC)
Tokyo	Maibara, Shiga	134 mins to JR Maibara Sta. (Tokaido Shinkansen Kodama / Hikari)	402.4 km (via Tomei and Meishin Expressway)
Kanazawa	Maibara, Shiga	113 mins to JR Maibara Sta. (Hokuriku Shinkansen Tsurugi & Local JR Express)	182.7 km (via Hokuriku Expressway)

Recommended Accommodations

Biwako Otsu Prince Hotel



A Lakeside Escape with Breathtaking Views of Lake Biwa

A lakeside hotel offering panoramic views of Lake Biwa, located just two stations (10 mins) from Kyoto. With 38 floors and 529 rooms, all facing the lake, guests can enjoy a luxurious and resort-like experience.

[Address] 4-7-7 NionoHama Otsu, Shiga

[Access] 10 mins by vehicle from Otsu Station / 40 mins from Kyoto Station.

Setre Marina Biwako



Private Serenity Amid the Beauty of Nature

A hotel offering an intimate escape with 14 rooms, right on Lake Biwa. Enjoy a relaxing retreat with locally sourced cuisine and well-designed rooms. Surrounded by natural beauty, it provides a luxurious, peaceful experience for those seeking tranquility.

[Address] 1380-1 Mizuho-cho Moriyama, Shiga, Yanmar Marina

[Access] 20 mins by vehicle from Moriyama Station

L'Hotel Du Lac



Charming Lakeside Retreat with Exclusive Dining

An auberge inn nestled on a northern cove with a 40,000 square meter property along the shore of Lake Biwa, featuring just 15 rooms. It serves exclusive “Kohoku (Northern Lake Biwa) Cuisine” based on the concept of “unique meals that can only be enjoyed here.”

[Address] 2064 Oura Nishiazai-cho, Nagahama, Shiga

[Access] 5 mins by vehicle from Nagahara Station / 20 mins by vehicle from the Hokuriku Expressway Kinomoto IC

Ogoto Onsen Yumotokan Hanare Karoi



Tranquil Retreat with Open-Air Hot Spring Bathing

A historic inn at Ogoto Onsen in Otsu with 21 private rooms, each featuring an open-air bath. Guests can enjoy a luxurious, adult-oriented atmosphere and a refined retreat.

[Address] 2-30-7 Noka, Otsu, Shiga

[Access] 5 mins by vehicle from Ogoto Onsen Station / 20 minutes by vehicle from Meishin Kyoto East IC