

OTSU ACCESS MAP

TOURIST INFORMATION

1 Otsu Station Tourist Information Center

Location JR Otsu Stn.
(Vierra Otsu 1F)
Tel +81-77-522-3830
Email kanko@otsu-guide.jp
Opening hours 9:00-18:00

2 Ishiyama Station Tourist Information Center

Location Keihan Ishiyama Stn.
Tel +81-77-534-0706
Email info@otsu.or.jp
Opening hours 8:40-17:25

*If Japanese assistance is necessary for additional information or reservations, feel free to contact the Tourist Information Centers.



- ☑ Advance reservation is required
 - ☑ Reservations on the day are possible
 - ☑ Reservations via phone are possible
 - ☑ Reservations via email are possible
 - ☑ Website
 - ☑ English-speaking staff
- EN English KO Korean SC Simplified Chinese TC Traditional Chinese TH Thai JP Japanese only

VIEW

- 1 **Ukimido**
1-16-18 Honkatata, Otsu-shi
- 2 **Biwako Valley (The Biwako Terrace)**
1547-1 Kido, Otsu-shi
- 3 **Ogi Rice Terraces**
Ogicho, Otsu-shi
- 4 **Mii-dera Temple**
Ishiyama-dera Temple
246 Onjoji-cho, Otsu-shi * 1-1-1 Ishiyamadera, Otsu-shi
- 5 **Otsu Port (Cruise Ship Boarding Area)**
5-1-1 Hamaotsu, Otsu-shi

EXPERIENCE

- 1 **BSC Watersports Centre**
4-1 Minamifunaji, Otsu-shi
- 2 **Friendship Adventures**
1215-6 Ishiyamanangocho, Otsu-shi
- 3 **Biwako Skypark Paraglider School**
1096 Ikadachimukaizaijicho, Otsu-shi
- 4 **Biwako Valley (Winter Sports)**
1547-1 Kido, Otsu-shi
- 5 **Biwako Valley (Zipline)**
1547-1 Kido, Otsu-shi

FOOD

- 1 **Honke Tsuruki Soba**
4-11-40 Sakamoto, Otsu-shi
- 2 **Matsukiya**
14-17 Karahashicho, Otsu-shi
- 3 **Maruman**
3-21-9 Oe, Otsu-shi
- 4 **Nagisa Warms**
15-5 Uchidehama, Otsu-shi
- 5 **Kaneyo**
23-15 Otanicho, Otsu-shi

CULTURE

- 1 **Hieizan Enryakuji Temple**
4220 Sakamotohonmachi, Otsu-shi
- 2 **Ogoto Onsen (Ogoto Onsen Kanko Park)**
1-2-17 Ogoto, Otsu-shi
- 3 **Omi Jingu Shrine**
1-1 Jingucho, Otsu-shi
- 4 **Sunai no Sato**
4-2-1 Oishiryumon, Otsu-shi
- 5 **Sakamoto Area-Kyu Chikurin Garden**
5-2-13 Sakamoto, Otsu-shi

ART & CRAFT

- 1 **Nakagawa Woodcraft Studio**
419 Hachiyado, Otsu-shi
- 2 **Jinbo Pearls Shop**
3-4-28-201 Chuo, Otsu-shi
- 3 **Ken Makie Studio**
- 4 **Minobe Onigawara Studio**
1-10-8 Hieitsuji, Otsu-shi
- 5 **Shop "Otsu-e no Mise"**
3-38 Miideracho, Otsu-shi

OTHERS

- 1 **Boat Race Biwako**
1-1 Chagasaki, Otsu-shi
- 2 **Carmel Beach Club**
243 Kitahira, Otsu-shi
- 3 **B&B Inase**
3-3-3 Nagara, Otsu-shi
- 4 **Omiimaiko Ichigoen**
1020 Minamikomatsu, Otsu-shi
- 5 **Ichiban-maru Michigan Cruise (Otsu Port)**
Near 1 Ishiyamadera, Otsu-shi
5-1-1 Hamaotsu, Otsu-shi

Kansai Area Pass

With the JR-WEST Kansai Area Pass, you do not need to buy tickets from Kansai International Airport to Otsu. Ride free on all the JR-WEST trains bound for the main cities in Kansai. Convenient and cheap!

	Reserve online or purchase from overseas	Purchase from a JR-WEST station
1 day	2,200JPY (Children ages 6 to 11 1,100JPY)	2,300JPY (Children ages 6 to 11 1,150JPY)
2 day	4,300JPY (Children ages 6 to 11 2,150JPY)	4,500JPY (Children ages 6 to 11 2,250JPY)
3 day	5,300JPY (Children ages 6 to 11 2,650JPY)	5,500JPY (Children ages 6 to 11 2,750JPY)
4 day	6,300JPY (Children ages 6 to 11 3,150JPY)	6,500JPY (Children ages 6 to 11 3,250JPY)

Available Areas

The Kansai Area Pass is valid for unlimited rides within the area shown on the map. This applies to the following trains.

Non-reserved seats on Kansai-airport Express HARUKA

Special Rapid Services, Rapid Services, and Local trains on JR-WEST conventional lines



- Notes**
1. Only foreign nationals traveling in Japan on a short-term visa can purchase the pass.
 2. The rail pass is to be used over successive periods. (E.g. a 3-day pass can only be used for 3 consecutive days)
 3. The pass can be used only by the person who purchased it. Please be aware that JR station staff may ask to see your passport.
 4. In case of purchases or reservations from overseas, you will receive a voucher that will be exchanged for an actual pass.

For details, learn more about the pass on the JR-WEST official site.
<https://www.westjr.co.jp/global/en/>

English



HELLO
OTSU
SHIGA, JAPAN

HELLO OTSU

Located in the valley between Japan's largest body of water, Lake Biwa, and the motherland of Japanese Buddhism on Mt. Hiei, Otsu is a repository of nature and history not far from the world-class tourism city of Kyoto.

The culture of this lake country dates back 1300 years to a time before Kyoto was the country's capital, and still attracts a great number of travelers with its colorful features to this day.

What is in store for you on your visit to the yet unknown land of Otsu?

A trip full of firsts awaits.



VIEW

- 1 Ukimido Temple
- 2 Biwako Terrace (Biwako Valley)
- 3 Ogi Rice Terraces
- 4 Mii-dera & Ishiyama-dera Temples
- 5 Seasonal Snow-viewing Biwako Cruise (Otsu Port)



EXPERIENCE

- 1 Sunrise Kayak (BSC Watersports Centre)
- 2 Water Tubing (Friendship Adventures)
- 3 Paragliding (Biwako Sky Park Paraglider School)
- 4 Winter Sports (Biwako Valley)
- 5 Zipline (Biwako Valley)



FOOD

- 1 Soba (Honke Tsuruki Soba)
- 2 Omi Beef (Matsukiya)
- 3 Saikuzushi (Maruman)
- 4 Otsu Omi Rice Curry (Nagisa Warms)
- 5 Unagi (Kaneyo)



CULTURE

- 1 Hieizan Enryakuji Temple
- 2 Ogoto Onsen
- 3 Kimono Experience (Omi Jingu Shrine)
- 4 Japanese Sweets (Sunai no Sato)
- 5 Sakamoto Area & Kyu Chikurinin Garden



ART & CRAFT

- 1 Kioke Containers (Nakagawa Woodcraft Studio)
- 2 Biwa Pearls (Jinbo Pearls Shop)
- 3 Maki-e (Ken Makie Studio)
- 4 Onigawara Tiles (Minobe Onigawara Studio)
- 5 Otsu-e



OTHERS

- 1 Boat Race (Boat Race Biwako)
- 2 Marine Resort (Carmel Beach Club)
- 3 Machiya Guesthouse (B&B Inase)
- 4 Strawberry Picking (Omimaiko Strawberry Garden)
- 5 Cruise (Ichiban-maru & Michigan)



Search for the thousand faces of Otsu, in a moment of heart-stirring excitement

Nestled along the coast of the mother lake, Lake Biwa, the expansive city of Otsu is a trove of beautiful waterfront scenery harmoniously combining nature, history and daily life.

From historic landmarks to mountains and lakes, Otsu presents a variety of faces throughout the four seasons. Come and discover a moment of heart-stirring excitement!

You are sure to be captivated by the abundance this waterfront offers.

VIEW



1 Ukimido and its colorful sunrises

Rising from the surface of Lake Biwa, Ukimido is a Buddhist temple erected around the 10th century as a prayer for safety on the lake and the spiritual awakening of all creatures.

Still retaining its original form, the temple's charm is further enhanced by the surrounding pine trees, and the beautiful sunrise that can be seen from here is one of Otsu's most symbolic views.



2 Sky Terrace and Biwako Valley

Take a 5-min, 1,100m journey on Japan's fastest ropeway to visit Biwako Valley. From this superb height, you can look out over 80% of Lake Biwa. Opened in the summer of 2016, the Sky Terrace lets you indulge in stunning grand views while enjoying delicious cuisine and café treats.



3 The unspoiled landscape of the Ogi rice terraces

Stretching across northern Otsu, the Ogi area is home to beautiful terraced rice fields stacked along the base of the surrounding mountains and hills. The "horseshoe-shaped" terraced paddy is an especially rare sight in Japan. With a view of Lake Biwa and the Hie mountain range in the distance, the Ogi rice terraces are a must-see when visiting Otsu.



4 Magical illuminated temples in autumn and fall

In spring, 1000 cherry blossom trees are illuminated at Mii-dera Temple and 2,000 maple trees are lit up at Ishiyama-dera Temple in autumn. Enjoy a wondrous evening captivated by magical temple scenery tinted in the colors of spring and autumn.



5 Take a cruise and capture the winter sites of the Hira Mountains

From January to early March, you can hop on a cruise set against the wonderful winter scenery of the Hira Mountains. This memorable experience offers picturesque scenes of magnificent snowcapped mountains and the idyllic villages that lay at their feet.



**Experience the purifying spirit of nature
for an unforgettable moment
with those special to you**

Blessed with an abundance of nature, Otsu offers an assortment of activities in settings filled with beautiful lakes, mountains, rivers and skies.

Become one with the majestic scenery and transform your purifying experience in nature into a once-in-a-lifetime memory with friends, family and others you love.

EXPERIENCE



**1 Watch the sun rise
on a kayaking adventure**

Paddle out before daybreak into the morning twilight of Lake Biwa for a kayak excursion. Enjoy a mystical experience of oneness with nature set against magical scenes of the rising sun illuminating the lake's surface.



**2 Kansai's one and only
river tubing adventure**

This river sport takes place at the Setagawa River, the only river emanating from Lake Biwa. Plunge your body into the river's dynamic currents on a grand adventure with friends. The exciting rapids are guaranteed to thrill any visitor.



**3 Fly like a bird at the Biwako
Sky Park Paraglider School**

Let a boat take you to the skies on a real-life flight or start with a gentle slope for a more moderate challenge. This paragliding adventure will send you soaring like a bird. There is no better way to experience Japan's largest lake.



**4 Enjoy winter sports
on the slopes of Biwako Valley**

These are the closest slopes to the popular sightseeing destinations of Osaka and Kyoto. Enjoy winter activities while taking in stunning scenery with a view covering 80% of Lake Biwa. As Kansai's number 1 area for snow and winter scenery, you are sure to get your fill of exciting winter sports!



**5 Glide through the skies
on the Biwako Valley Zipline
for unbeatable thrills**

Set on the mountaintop, this popular attraction sends you zipping through the trees at an altitude of 1,100m. Made up of 7 courses, you can enjoy stunning views of Lake Biwa as you glide. The excitement will keep you coming back for more!

Blessed with a rich history and natural landscape, Otsu offers delectable dishes made from local seasonal ingredients

A thriving roadside town from ancient times, Otsu is blessed with natural features and a rich history that has given rise to famous ingredients, renowned restaurants and notable stores. Both locals and travelers alike have been mesmerized by Otsu's flavors. Not only delicious, Otsu's cuisine carries an exciting past that offers visitors a profound cultural experience.



1 Soba:
300 years of history,
still loved today

Soba from the Sakamoto area - a temple town associated with the Enryakuji World Heritage Site on Mt. Hiei - is said to have been eaten by monks to reacclimate their stomachs after undergoing one of the world's strictest fasting practices. Here, you can enjoy a flavor unlike any traditional soba.



2 Omi Beef:
melt-in-your-mouth
deliciousness

Omi beef is one of Japan's three renowned types of wagyu. With over a 400-year history as a brand, the meat's delicate qualities and slightly-sweet oils give it a melt-in-your-mouth softness. Lauded as a "masterpiece of flavor," savor the taste of Omi beef right at its birthplace.



3 Saikuzushi:
the art of cuisine

Saikuzushi expresses a variety of subjects such as flowers, birds and maiko in the form of sushi. This cuisine is born from the exquisite skills of sushi masters who have won numerous awards in national competitions. The beauty and charm of these almost too-perfect-to-eat dishes will mesmerize you.



4 Otsu Omi My Curry:
a collection of perfection

With its rich water resources, Otsu is one of Japan's renowned areas for rice. "Otsu Omi My Curry" arose from the desire to provide the delicious Omi rice cultivated here to as many people as possible and is served at many shops around Otsu city. As each restaurant offers its own flavors and selections, we recommend you taste and compare the differences.



5 Savor Japan's top unagi and Japanese gardens

Founded in 1872, the renowned unagi shop Kaneyo has inherited a long history and tradition as one of Japan's top tastes. While here, take a tour around the 2,645-square-meter Japanese garden and enjoy the beauty it presents with each changing season.



**Using all 5 senses,
experience the culture of Otsu
that arose from the mother lake, Lake Biwa**

The history and lifestyles of the people of Otsu arose in part from the blessings received from Lake Biwa, a site worshipped by many as the "mother lake."

The great traditions of the past handed down unbroken until today surely have many stories to tell. Go on a cultural journey of discovery with all 5 senses and learn about the people who lived in the lake country of Otsu.

CULTURE



1 The sacred land of Japanese Buddhism found at Enryakuji Temple on Mt. Hiei

One of Japan's 3 major temples, Enryakuji on Mt. Hiei is known as the "mother mountain" of Japanese Buddhism, since many of the founders of Japan's existing Buddhist sects originally studied here. Designated as a Unesco World Heritage Site in 1994, Enryakuji offers more than 200 years of history and tradition for you to enjoy.



2 Enjoy a moment of healing at Ogoto Onsen

Enjoyed for its beautifying baths, Ogoto is a therapeutic hot spring town with around 1200 years of history. The area is home to 9 Japanese inns (ryokan), each with a unique atmosphere in which guests are served. Rest up after a day of travels in an outdoor bath overlooking Lake Biwa.



3 Dress in kimono at Omi Jingu Shrine

Kimono is Japan's traditional formal wear. While not widely known, Omi Jingu offers an affordable chance to try on these outfits. Omi Jingu Shrine is also considered the holy ground for the traditional Japanese card game, karuta. Recently, a karuta-themed best-selling manga and anime-turned-movie were released, and the shrine gained fame as the set for the film.



4 Experience unspoiled sites of traditional Japan at Satoyama

The Satoyama Facility operates one of Otsu's famous confectionery shops, Kanou Shoujuuan. In addition to old Japanese houses, plum gardens and promenades - vestiges of traditional Japan - you can also enjoy tea ceremonies and confectionery classes held by master artisans. This rich array of experiences includes confectionery shops and Japanese cuisine as well.



5 Get lost in the moment at the Satobo of Sakamoto

Satobo are dwellings used as retreats by monks after finishing their training on Mt. Hiei. A cobblestone town filled with relics over 400 years old, Sakamoto is still home to many Satobo structures. The Kyu Chikurinjin residence with its 3,300-square-meter garden is one of the few Satobo open for public viewing today.

A city of art born from Lake Biwa; Otsu crafts that connect past and present

Helping bolster the traditional craft trade of Kyoto - Japan's capital of 1000 years - Otsu's time-honored craftsmanship remains beautiful and vibrant even today. Breaking free from conventional molds, Otsu's crafts are now being recognized for their artistic value not only within Japan but also overseas. Come and witness the techniques of world-class artisans firsthand.



1 Transforming Kioke containers into innovative furniture

A fixture of Japanese daily life from long ago, Kioke containers are now captivating the world. At Nakagawa Mokkougei, Kioke techniques have been used to create a champagne cooler with a delicate and graceful form and high aesthetic sense that was recognized and selected by Dom Perignon for use as its official cooler. Come and experience the elegance of ancient Japanese techniques.



2 A one-of-a-kind Biwako pearl just for you

Taking 3 years for the shell to grow and another 3 for the pearl to form, freshwater pearls offer a true piece of Lake Biwa. The pearls' unique beauty is born from the many years nature has spent nurturing them. The characteristic shapes and forms of non-nucleated pearls offer a one-of-a-kind gift of nature that is a feast for the eyes.



3 Interweaving tradition and technique in gold lacquer art

Kenji Omachi, head of the Ken Makie Studio, created a new "saikiko" technique, which uses a material called Kyoto opal to decorate the lacquerware that is typically seen in traditional Japanese crafts. Repainting the history of lacquer containers, this traditional craft has found new life in Otsu today.



4 Onigawara tiles imbued with the spirit of the artisan

With over a 1400-year history, Japan's Onigawara "gargoyle" tiles are a roofing material meant to ward off evil and decorate many of Japan's architectural structures. The artisanal skills of the Minobe Onigawara Studio, whose works adorn many of Japan's famous temples and shrines, are a must see.



5 The timeless and charming humor of Otsu-e folk art

The patterns in Otsu-e art overflow with humor and witty, dynamic expressions, while each painting offers a moral lesson to the viewer. Once a must-have souvenir throughout Japan, the art features demons dressed in priest's robes and beautiful women carrying wisteria branches for a style that still captivates many today. Otsu-e was also recently introduced into France to much acclaim. Here, you can buy postcards, towels and a variety of other goods.





Explore and enjoy the endless indescribable charms of Otsu

Otsu abounds with a charm that cannot be expressed in words. There is no limit to the sights and experiences that can be found here. What will you discover next in this place of boundless wonder and mystery? Your very own Otsu experience awaits you.

OTHERS



1 A thrilling view - Boat Race Biwako

Boat races with government-operated gambling were unique to Japan for many years until being introduced to South Korea in 2002. At Boat Race Biwako, you can enjoy the best views in the boat-racing world as well as the chance to place your dreams in a boat flying across the lake's surface.



2 Stay active at Marine Resort

Carmel Beach Club is a resort facility where you can enjoy various marine sports such as wakeboarding and flyboarding, in addition to barbecuing. This is the birthplace of flyboarding in Japan making it an extremely popular spot among professional riders. From beginners to experts, everyone will enjoy the ride.



3 Enjoy a stylish atmosphere while staying at a traditional townhouse

B&B Inase is a guesthouse made from a renovated 150-year-old traditional Japanese townhouse. In addition to the charming and stylish atmosphere, you can also enjoy once-in-a-lifetime encounters in the living room and other communal spaces. Make sure you take a stroll around the neighborhood as well.



4 All-you-can-eat delicious strawberries

Snugly nestled between the mountains and the lake, this garden fills with bright red strawberries at the arrival of spring. Enjoy strawberry picking while savoring the sweet aroma wafting in the wind at this beautiful open-air garden.



5 Take a cruise and witness stunning lake views

Make sure to head out on a cruise when visiting Otsu. You can enjoy a variety of options from lunch or dinner on the Michigan - a ship made in the style of an old-fashioned American paddle steamer - or a river cruise down the Setagawa River on the Ichibanmaru - a renovated paddle steamer that operated at the beginning of the Meiji period.