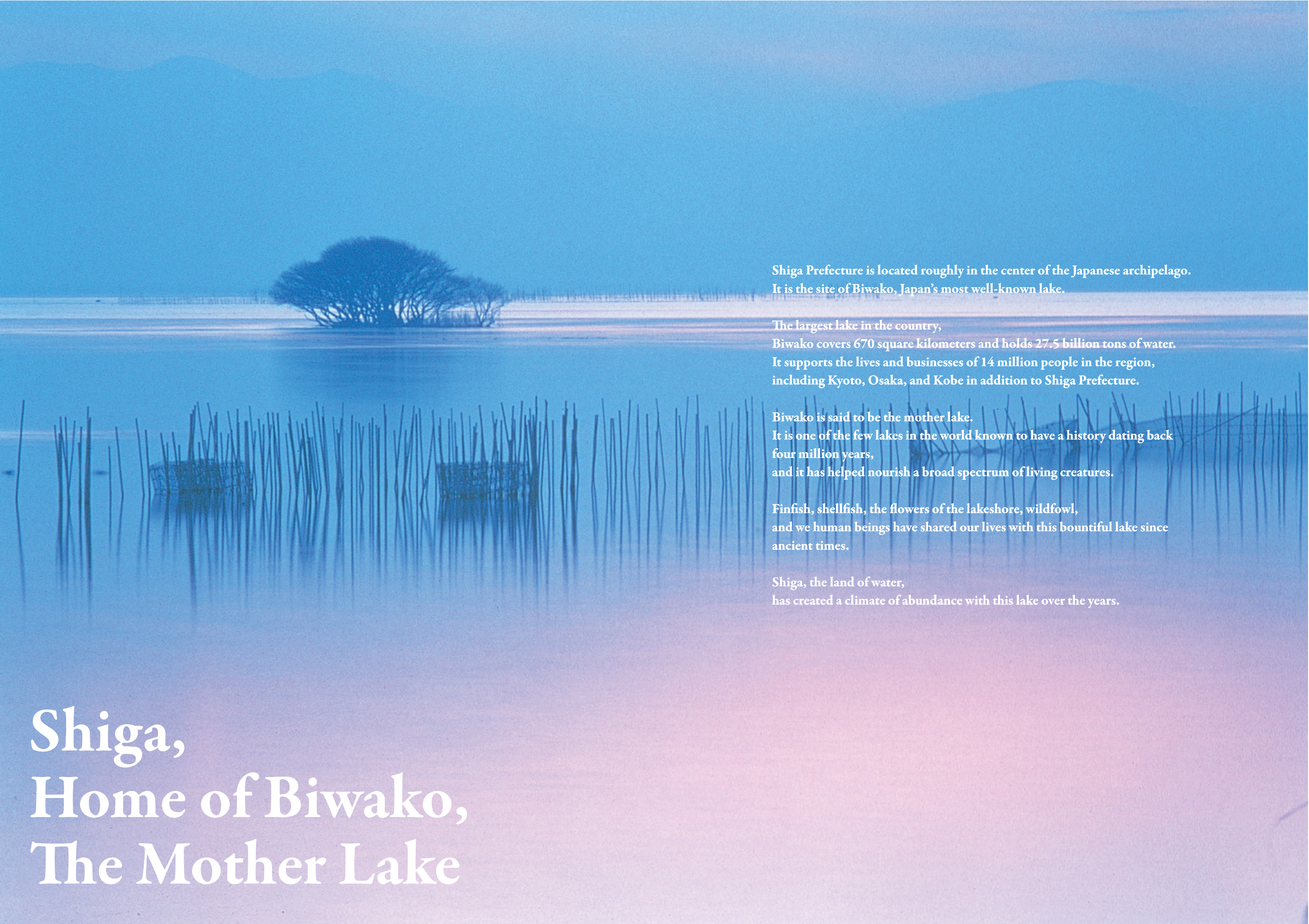




Travel Guide
of Shiga Prefecture, Japan





Shiga Prefecture is located roughly in the center of the Japanese archipelago. It is the site of Biwako, Japan's most well-known lake.

The largest lake in the country, Biwako covers 670 square kilometers and holds 27.5 billion tons of water. It supports the lives and businesses of 14 million people in the region, including Kyoto, Osaka, and Kobe in addition to Shiga Prefecture.

Biwako is said to be the mother lake. It is one of the few lakes in the world known to have a history dating back four million years, and it has helped nourish a broad spectrum of living creatures.

Finfish, shellfish, the flowers of the lakeshore, wildfowl, and we human beings have shared our lives with this bountiful lake since ancient times.











Shiga, the land of water, has created a climate of abundance with this lake over the years.

Shiga, Home of Biwako, The Mother Lake



The reason we love “Biwako”

Where do you want to go when you visit Japan? Of course, Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka come to mind, but how about Shiga Prefecture? Where do you think the largest lake in Japan is? It is in Shiga, the Mother Lake, BIWAKO! You can enjoy nature, culture, art, food, and many other things in Shiga. But, that’s not all; the people who love Biwako are the treasures of Shiga. Biwako is beautiful and touches our hearts. Why don’t you come and experience Biwako with us? It will be great!

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Hundreds of expressions of Biwako

The Mother Lake Biwako contains various treasures. The beauty depends on where you are and what time it is. Biwako is always changing and gives you a chance to see many different views of her beauty. Everyone can enjoy the beauty that lasts only for a moment at a specific spot. Biwako gives you all, encouragement, refreshment, and calming feelings. Give a glance at “your” Biwako. How does it look?

Have a cruise on the Michigan with the Lake Biwa-ko Cruise. Another scene of Biwako is there, waiting for you. Enjoy Biwako in your own style and you will be sure to find “your” charming view.

Lake Biwa-ko Cruise

ADDRESS: 5-1-1 Hamaotsu, Otsu City
ACCESS: From JR Otsu Sta., 15min on foot
PHONE: 077-522-4115
URL: <http://www.biwakokisen.co.jp/english/>



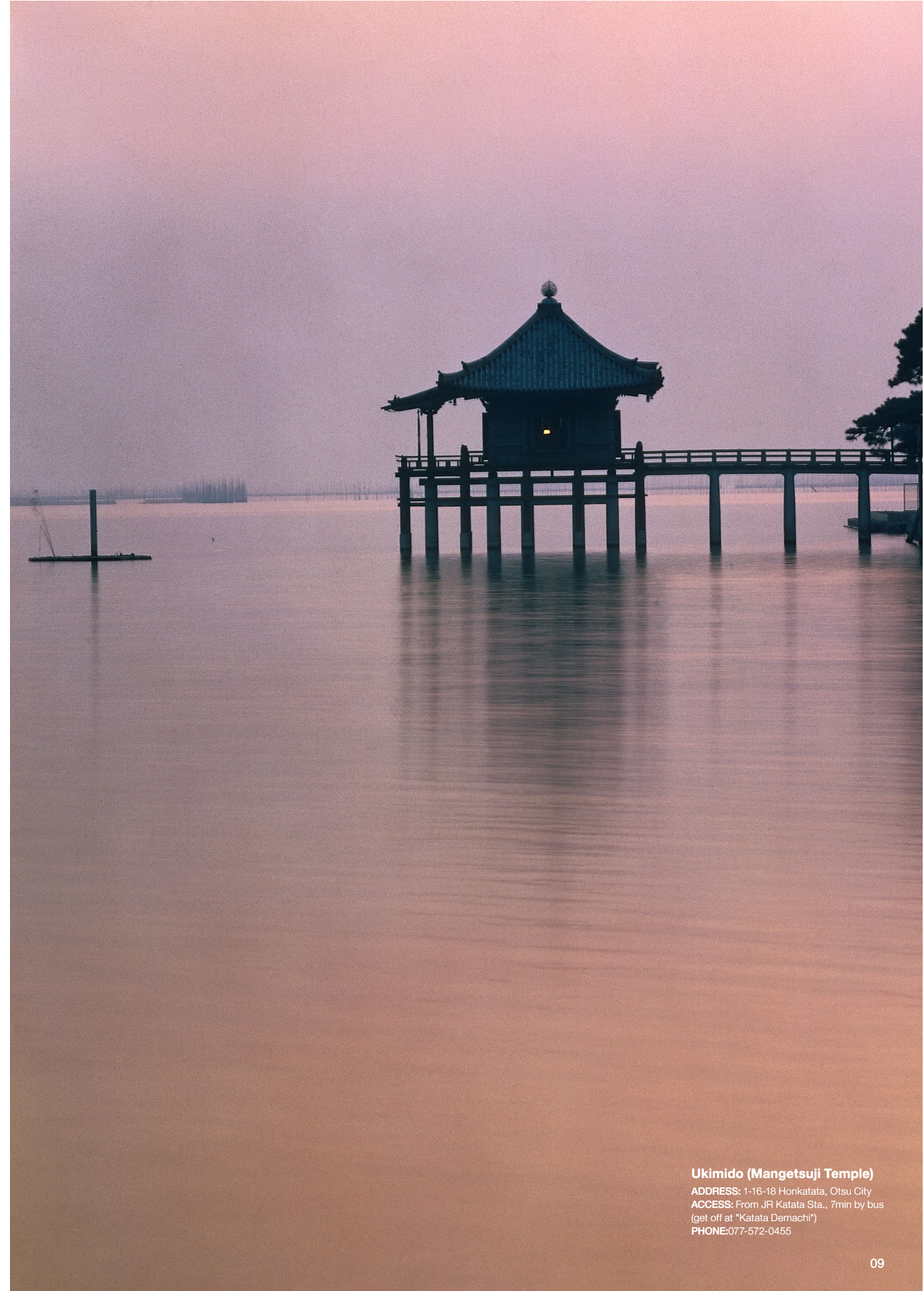
Shirahige Jinja Shrine

ADDRESS: 215 Ukawa, Takashima City
 ACCESS: From JR Omi-Takashima Sta., 5min by taxi
 PHONE: 0740-36-1555
 URL: <http://shirahigejinja.com/>

Energy under the silence

The sun pushes up from the dark and lights up the world. Many animals are awakened by the brightness and start their day. The sun gives us energy and power to go through the day. If you stand on the west side of Biwako, you can see the rising sun across the lake.

Open your sleepy eyes and visit the Shirahige Jinja Shrine or Ukimido Temple tomorrow morning. A breathtaking view will open up in front of your eyes. The sunrise over Biwako will give you enough energy to overcome anything.



Ukimido (Mangetsuji Temple)

ADDRESS: 1-16-18 Honkatata, Otsu City
 ACCESS: From JR Katata Sta., 7min by bus (get off at "Katata Demachi")
 PHONE: 077-572-0455



Biwako Valley
 ADDRESS: 1547-1 Kido, Otsu City
 ACCESS: From JR Shiga Sta., 10min by bus
 (get off at "Biwako Valley")
 PHONE: 077-592-1155
 URL: <http://www.biwako-valley.com/>

Refreshing air dance overhead

When the sun comes up, blue skies, white clouds, green leaves and the life of Biwako can be seen. Climb up a mountain and close your eyes. Feel the breeze; listen to the birds singing and the leaves rustling in the wind. And then, command a view of the Mother Lake, Biwako.

From Mt. Hiei you can see Biwako and its peoples' living. You can understand how they live together. Go to Biwako Valley to look over Biwako. It will tell you how huge it is and it's Mother Lake. Enjoy the various colors around Biwako and feel the rich nature.



Hieizan Enryakuji Temple
 ADDRESS: 4220 Sakamoto-Honmachi, Otsu City
 ACCESS: From JR Hieizan-Sakamoto Sta.,
 20min on foot until the Sakamoto Cable Car
 PHONE: 077-578-0001
 URL: <http://www.hieizan.or.jp/pdf/english.pdf>

Hieizan Enryakuji Temple - A UNESCO World Heritage Site

Hieizan Enryakuji Temple has a history of more than 1200 years. It is on Mt. Hiei, which is on the border of Shiga and Kyoto. The Temple has been registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its rich history and tradition.





Kohokuchō Waterfowl Park

ADDRESS: Imanishi, Kohoku-chō, Nagahama City
 ACCESS: From JR Kawake Sta., 15min by bus
 (get off at "Kohokuchō Town Bus Yacho Center")
 PHONE: 0749-79-1289
 URL: http://www.biwa.ne.jp/~kohoku-s/chiiki/kank_kouen.htm

Just sit by

After a long journey, let your feet take you to the Kohoku Waterfowl Park. Let time pass you by. The blue sky will turn orange as the sun changes to gold. The golden sun even makes the blue Biwako turn gold. In the gold and black world, silhouettes of plants, islands, birds and all of nature leads your

heart to silence. Feel free and relaxed.

If you drive along Biwako, you can enjoy the sun while it sets. Calm, quiet air completes your journey and will leave you with a great memory of Biwako.

Enjoy the view of Biwako while driving and cycling

To truly enjoy Shiga Prefecture it is necessary to rent a car.

You can have a pleasant drive along the roads alongside Biwako or enjoy a great view from Mt. Hiei's parkways. There are also many places to stop and visit like temples, noted cherry blossom viewing spots and places to see the fall colors.

Come to Shiga Prefecture by train and travel around in a rented car, which you can rent in front of most stations, such as Otsu Station or Hikone Station. If you have a car, you can visit some of the beautiful places that would be difficult to get to otherwise.

Cycling is another way to travel the shores of Biwako. There are rental cycle services near some stations and hotels. Electric bicycles can be rented too, so you can enjoy cycling if you have no confidence in your physical strength. Please cycle around the lake and feel the beautiful wind around Biwako.

Moreover, you can travel to the three islands on Biwako by ferry. There is a very different and beautiful view of Biwako from these islands.

You can choose how to enjoy Biwako. Which way best suits you?



SPORTS



Your body awakes to the charm of “Biwako”

Imagine: You're a bird flying high over Biwako. You can enjoy a panoramic view of Biwako and feel the grandeur of its natural surroundings. So why don't you try zip-lining at Biwako Valley? You can zip-line about 3600 feet down Mount Horai.

Is it scary? No way! It is thrilling and exciting for everyone. Come experience zip-lining for yourself. It is the only way to know how it feels.

**Biwako Valley**

ADDRESS: 1547-1 Kido, Otsu City
ACCESS: From JR Shiga Sta., 10min by bus
(get off at "Biwako Valley")
PHONE: 077-592-1155
URL: <http://www.biwako-valley.com/>



BSC Watersports Centre
ADDRESS: 4-1 Minamifunaji, Otsu City
ACCESS: From JR Horai Sta., 6min on foot
PHONE: 077-592-0127
URL: <http://www.bscjapan.info/>

Smiles are universal

Splash! Splash! Splash! Relax in Biwako. Many children will gather at Biwako and enjoy water sports, camping and international communication. Children can gain international understanding through interacting with children from other

countries. Staff are available to help you in your own language. You can have fun wakeboarding or doing other water sports. There are no borders between countries. Our smiles say it all! ...Splash! Splash!



O'PAL
ADDRESS: 5-265-1 Ogoto, Otsu City
ACCESS: From JR Ogoto-onsen Sta., 15min on foot
PHONE: 077-579-7111
URL: <http://www.o-pal.com/>

