



Jump from 4500 feet down into Biwako

Mt. Ibuki is the highest mountain in Shiga Prefecture. Close your eyes and take a deep breath at the top. The wind there will push you into the air and gently catch you. A breathtaking 360° view of Biwako and its surroundings will unveil itself in front of your eyes. How does it feel to be one with the wind?

Mt. Ibuki Paraglider School
ADDRESS: 1488-2 Ueno, Maibara City
ACCESS: From JR Omi-Nagaoka Sta.,
pick-up bus available
PHONE: 0749-58-1382
URL: <http://www.za.ztv.ne.jp/dwi4w4zc/>



A funny guy will lead you on a great adventure!

What kind of adventures are they? FRIENDSHIP ADVENTURES! By conquering the rapids together, new bonds of friendship will be built and they will be deeper than past friendships. Rafting and water tubing down the river are fantastic. The air is always filled with funny jokes and laughter! Now you're keen to join one of these adventures, right?



Friendship Adventures

ADDRESS: 6-1215-6 Nango, Otsu City
ACCESS: From JR Ishiyama Sta., 15min by bus
(get off at "Kaeruiwa")
PHONE: 077-533-5112
URL: http://www.friendship-adventures.com/index_eng.html

**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/>

Not only in the summer, but in winter too!

The best season in Shiga Prefecture isn't just summer. Let's go skiing with a fantastic view of Biwako in front of us. What a nice idea! Or, how about trekking the mountain covered with snow and enjoying it at your own pace? Why would you hide inside your house during this beautiful white season? Have a memorable winter near scenic Biwako.

**Takashima Trail**

ACCESS: (Changes following the course.
For more detail, please ask)
URL: <http://www.takashima-trail.jp/>



Omihachiman



An exquisite balance between Omi merchants and Mr. Vories

Omihachiman is a town of Omi merchants. The retro air is created by the site of the Omi merchant's residences that line the streets. However, when you walk around, you will catch sights of some unexpected western-style buildings. These buildings were made by the architect, William Merrell Vories, who lived in Omihachiman. The unique streets come from these two different

types of buildings. Moreover, cafes, miscellaneous shops and art museums can be found in renovated buildings.

After you have walked around, why don't you take a canal tour down the "Hachimanbori", Hachiman moat to enjoy the city from a different point of view? In summer, the "Hachimanbori Festival" is held and the moat is illuminated for two days during this

festival every year.

Then, grab your "Tourism Passport (¥1000-)*" and enjoy a bit of Omihachiman. Spend plenty of time and enjoy yourself. If you like, there are rental cycles and tours available.

*Tourism Passport – a passport that allows you to go into some tourist spots and offers many special benefits.



Hikone



A casual walk in a simple calm town

Hikone gives you a sigh of relief. Forget your cares and have a relaxing time. You can't forget Hikone Castle, a magnificent white hilltop castle and national treasure. You can have a great view of Hikone from the top of the hill. Its keeper "Hikonyan", whose one of the most loved popular mascot characters in Japan, is indispensable for Hikone.

After viewing the castle, stop at Genkyuen, a beautiful strolling

Japanese garden with a pond in the center. In every season, you can feel a dreamy atmosphere around the cherry blossoms, green leaves, fall colors and snow. The area around Hikone Castle is also a designated special historic site and there's a "jinrikisha", rickshaw, you can ride. The rickshaw driver will guide you around.

After you enjoy Hikone Castle, try taking a walk down to Yume-Kyobashi Castle

Road, which has characteristics of the town houses from the historic, Edo Japan. Here is the perfect place to rest or do some shopping at the end of the trip.



Nagahama



Historical, but Modern

Kurokabe Square is a charming nostalgic area in Nagahama. The Kurokabe Glass Shop, which used to be the Kurokabe Bank, was established during the Meiji Period in Japan. Due to the black plaster used on its walls, the bank was nicknamed Kurokabe Bank ("Kurokabe" means black wall). In 1989, it was renovated and turned into the Kurokabe Glass Shop. It displays and sells glass products from Japan and

overseas. Moreover, you can take part in a workshop making glassware, which is nearby.

This is located at the crossing of Hokkoku-kaido Road and Otemon-dori Street. At Hokkoku-kaido Road, there's a row of traditional merchant family houses and you can see a vestige of old Nagahama. Nagahama has a famous festival, Nagahama Hikiyama Matsuri Festival, which has a history of over

400 years. You can learn more about it when you go to Nagahamashi Hikiyama Museum.

In these historical streets, you can find some miscellaneous shops, guest houses and you can enjoy shopping, too. When you're hungry, there's "Yaki Saba Somen" which is a feature of Nagahama. Nagahama is a beautiful town where the past and present age coexist.



Sakamoto



Sight of “Satobou” stables your heart

Sakamoto is a town closely related to the Hieizan Enryakuji Temple. Many priests of the Hieizan Enryakuji Temple live there in houses called “Satobou”. When you walk down the street you will catch sight of magnificent stonewalls which mark the boundaries of the Satobous.

You are allowed to go in to some of the Satobous. Many of

Satobous have beautiful traditional Japanese gardens. You can relax in a teashop that was once a Satobou and has a great view of a garden. Just a simple stroll through this quiet stone town relaxes you and allows you to communicate with nature.



Shigaraki



The dotted individuality

Shigaraki is a town famous for its pottery and being surrounded by beautiful nature. Shigaraki Pottery is one of the six old kilns in Japan and features a rustic texture with a touch of the simple and quiet. The pottery on the street is a sure-tell sign that there are many craftsmen in this town.

You can take a walk down the Kamamoto Promenade Trail to

see the scenes or galleries of Shigaraki Pottery. When you go from one shop to another, you can enjoy the different creative charm for each shop. You can enjoy the traditional and the new and innovative modern pottery. The pottery itself expresses one's originality. Seeing the many different types of Shigaraki pottery is what makes Shigaraki an interesting place to visit.



Toyosato



A school loved by the local people and enthusiasts

Toyosato has an old elementary school building which was built in 1937. It was designed by the architect, William Merrell Vories in Omihachiman. This old elementary school was protected from demolition by the local people and was renovated for them to use.

Suddenly, because of a rumor that the old school building

might have been a model for the anime series “K-On!”, many fans began to visit the site. The old school and the areas accept those fans and together they love the Toyosato Old Elementary School. Toyosato is a beautiful town made by the love of “K-On!” fans and the local people.



Gokasho



Take a time slip into a merchant world

A tasteful atmosphere runs through the silent town of Gokasho. Warehouses and merchant residences line the street and watercourse, which you can see along Gokasho's streets. When public transportation came to Gokasho, this town became an important part of Japan's commerce. Some major companies are said to have started here. The appearance is

just as it used to look, and remains unchanged today.

You can go into some merchant residences and still feel the old Japan. Why don't you look back upon Japanese merchant's past?