Short easy-biking course to local legacies **Touring the Historical Legacies of Otsu**

This course guides you to many of the historical legacies in the central part of Otsu City. It covers a total distance of 12 km, so even beginners can give it a shot. The journey starts from Ogoto Onsen Kanko Park at Ogoto Onsen Hot spring, which made its mark in history as the closest hot springs to Mt. Hiei, then joins the Nishiomiji Byway. The longest uphill climb in this course is just Hieizan-Sakamoto Station. At the top of the climb is Hiyoshi-taisha Shrine. From there, you pedal alongside Keihan Electric Railway's Ishiyama-Sakamoto Line with views of Lake Biwa to the east. The traffic picks up from Hiyoshitaisha Shrine to Omi-jingu-mae Station and, since there is basically little if any shoulder, you have to be careful in this segment. At around Mii-dera Temple, the course allows a slower pace along the Lake Biwa Canal, which is known for its cherry blossoms, until reaching the end at the Biwako Kisen Otsu Port.





Lake Biwa Canal

This multipurpose waterway stretches 11 km from its intake gate in Hama-otsu to the Kamo River in Kyoto. It was built in 1885 as a particularly beautiful in autumn Heritage. It is also famous as the means of transport to Kyoto, hydroelectric power source and thanks to the changing colors of location where they filmed



Ogoto Onsen Kanko Park

Ogoto Onsen Hot spring dates back 1,200 years. The free foot bath is perfect for soothing tired feet after a day of Pedaling. Information is available on local sightseeing attractions, local specialties are on display and sold, and there is a café.





Hiyoshi-taisha Shrine Hiyoshi-taisha Shrine is the head With over 100 Importan

shrine of more than 3,800 Cultural Properties and National 'Sanno' shrines all across Japan, Treasures like the Kondo (main and is a recognized Japanese temple), this Buddhist sanctuary Heritage. The shrine is is a recognized Japanese



Pedal and Ride the Ohmi Railway **Getting Around on the Cycle Train**

This course tours the most representative tourism spots along Ohmi Railway. You start by renting a bicycle from the rental bicycle shop at Maibara Station. The first stop is at Taga-taisha Shrine, one of the biggest tourist attractions in Shiga Prefecture. You then Pedal around the three main temples on the eastern side of Lake Biwa, which are beautifully tinged in autumnal foliage in November and December. You pay a visit to Eigenji Temple that was built in a valley and absorb the historical quarter of Hino. There are several ups and downs with the steepest climb imparting from the base of Hyakusaiji Temple, but the magnanimous view from the top is well worth the effort. If you are pooped out, you can catch the Cycle Train, bike and all, back to Maibara.





ine has been affectionately known as 'Otaga-san' since long ago. It enshrines Izanagi-okami and Izanami-okami, the two deities of life that gave birth to Yaoyorozu-no-kami multitudinous gods) in Japan.



Eigenji Temple

Built in 1361, this Zen temple sits Here, you get a taste of what life was like in amongst a silent forest, which makes a Hino back in the heydays. A few orime location for viewing the autumnal recommended spots you should visit are foliage. The thatched roof over the main the Omi-Hino Merchant Museum, the Hino hall of worship was made with reeds Machikado Kanno, which was a focal point grown around Lake Biwa. The Yotsugi of a booming pharmaceutical trade, and the Kannon revered by the temple is known former Residence of Shokichi Yamanaka,



Idyllic Fields of Asamiya Tea (Ride through Tea Groves and Stop for a Cup) Around Shigaraki from Seta-no-karahashi Bridge 📞 52.2km 5h 0min

This course runs along the Seta and Shigaraki Rivers from Seta-no-karahashi Bridge. Though the initial climb Sekinotsu is steep, it is short and the course is free from big ups and downs. There also is little traffic, lots of nature all around and villages with traditional homes. The halfway point is Asamiya, known for growing Japanese tea. There are many tea shops where you can quench your thirst. As you enter the Town of Shigaraki, the ceramic raccoon dogs will catch your attention; Shigaraki is the home to one of Japan's most representative ceramic industries. The latter half of the course has many downhills where it is easy to pick up speed. There are also numerous blind spots, so watch your speed and stay alert.



Ishiyama-dera Temple

his Buddhist sanctuary was built in the 8th century. There are several recognized cultural properties such as the main temple that was built on top of a mammoth boulder of wollastonite, which itself is a Natural Monument. The temple is associated with the 11th ntury female novelist Shikibu Murasaki



Setagawa Weir

This weir works as a water source for 14 million people in the Kinki Area and to protect floods downstream. You can learn about the weir at Aqua Biwa Museum. The original weir was built in 1905. 'Araizeki Retro Café' opens once a month at the old weir



Shigaraki Ceramic **Cultural Park**

This park is all about ceramics. There is a museum that he world and has a gift shop ne local ceramic art. The park ogram that welcomes artists om around the world to come and pursue their work. Large

Kusatsu-shuku

still standing today.

Kusatsu was the 52nd of 53 layove

points on the Tokaido Highway ir

the 17th - 19th centuries. It was

important because this is where

the Nakasendo Highway branched

from the Tokaido Highway. Of the



Azuchi Castle, Hikone Castle and Other Historically Important Sites

This course starts at the Shiga Prefectural Azuchi Castle Archeological Museum where you find artifacts and information about Azuchi Castle and Nobunaga Oda, one of the 16th century generals who helped end decades of civil war in Japan. You then visit the site where Azuchi Castle stood. Next is the Nakasendo and plenty of interesting places to visit like the Gokasho Kondo Quarter where the homes are 200-plus years old, and the former Toyosato Elementary School that is known for its architectural importance and the setting of the anime 'K-ON!' After that, you go from Hikone Castle to the road travelled by Korean traders (Hikone-michi Byway). There is a steep but short climb to make, but it takes you to the final destination on Mt. Kojin (about 150 m in elevation) where you have a spectacular view of Lake Biwa.

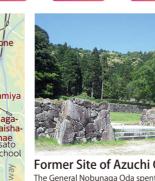


Koto Sanzan Saimyoji, Kongorinji and Iyakusaiji Temples Located on the eastern side of Lake Biwa

Saimyoji, Kongorinji and Hyakusaiji are all temples of the Tendai Sect of Buddhism and collectively known as the 'Koto Sanzan' Autumn is the busiest time of year because of the colorful foliage. The main temples at Saimyoji and Kongorinji are National Treasures, while most of the grounds at Hyakusaiji are a ecognized National Historical Site.



Historical Quarter of the Hino Merchants



The General Nobunaga Oda spent 3 years building this castle, which was completed in 1576. Just 3 years later, Oda was forced into committing suicide by his retainer and the castle was burnt to the



ocations in Hikone as Hikone Castle

it has a commanding The castle was built on Mt. Hikone in 1622 and still looks today as it view of Lake Biwa. A did when it was first built. The main keep, extended watchtower and recently verified burial —long watchtower are National Treasures. Around the base of the mound found on the mountain are the historically important inner and middle moats. The mountain has been designated a Historical Site of Japan. The stone Genkyu Rakurakuen Garden of the lord's villa is designated a Place of Scenic Beauty by Japan.



Mt. Kojin

Kojinyamá-jinja Shrine

The mountain is

quaintly known as the

god of cooking. It is

one of the eight prized

Traveling Japan's Historical Roads Yabase and Shinakaido Byway Pedaling Around an Old Port Town on Lake Biwa

46.4km 4h 15min

This course departs from the former site of the Yabase Landing on Lake Biwa and merges with the Tokaido Highway that served as a principal road in the 17th century, in Kusatsu. After taking in the historical streetscape of Kusatsu, the course heads to Ishibe. This is where you cross the Yasu River and get your first sight of the beautifully contoured Mt. Mikami, which looks very much like Mt. Fuji. The route that takes you on the eastern side of the mountain is great for riding because of the plush natural landscape and manageable ups and downs. Beyond that, the course merges with yet another historical thoroughfare, the Nakasendo Highway that takes you to Moriyama. From here, you head towards to the final destination, Shina Landing. Along the way, a tasty thing to try is kushidango, a local sweet of mochi balls on a stick.



Moriyama-shuku



eight prized locations of Omi, a town that flourished around its port a long time ago. Back in the day, boats were a shortcut fo getting across the lake, but when the weather was bad and the boats could not leave port many people walked their way

Konan City Ameyama

This park is built for playing This is where you find Tomon-in Temple, a quardian temple that sports all year-round. There is a protects the Enryakuji Temple on Mt. Hiei. There are several points of interest along the way such as the view from Dobashi Bridge that and Folk Museum by the par and other public officials, the one Hiroshige Utagawa (1797 - 1858) painted, and Katsube-jinja Shrine, You can experience the past at which is famous for its fire festival. The home where former Prime the recreated historical



Cultural Sports Park

This lantern was built in the 18th This lantern marks the spo century to safeguard people where one of the 13 ferry

Manninko-toro Lantern

Traveling Japan's Historical Roads

Touring Koka on the Somakaido and Tokaido

The Somakaido and Tokaido are historical roads built in the 17th century Intermediate Course **

A convenient way to get to Kibukawa Station is to Pedal along JR's Kusatsu Line. In the initial segment,

you can see the trains as you follow the Somakaido. Once off the Somakaido, it is uphill to the Ohara

Dam. You merge with the Tokaido and climb to the Suzuka Pass. There, you can pray for a safe journey at

the Manninkotoro Lantern (elevation: 357 m) that is always lit. From there, it is downhill to Mikumo, first

over a quick-paced gradient and then an almost flat stretch. The transformation from the idyllic

countryside landscape to the castle town streetscape of Minakuchi is worth seeing. After that, you cross

the Yasu River and follow the Somakaido again from Mikumo Station until reaching the final destination.

travelling back and forth crossings along the Tokaido between Suzuka Pass and Ise, and sailing between Ise and Kotohiragu Shrine in Shikoku. It height, 17.3 m around its is 5 m 44 cm tall and weighs 38 perimeter and topped by a 2.3 m roof. Since traffic along the highway was often busy at a landmark visible from the



Aburahi-jinja Shrine

argest statue of a sitting 11-faced Kannon Bodhisattya in Japan that has been carved from a single piece of wood. It was made by the monk Saicho who founded the Tendai Sect of Buddhism at the end of the 8th century. The 20 statues of Buddha worshipped here are designated Important Cultural Properties

This shrine is designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan

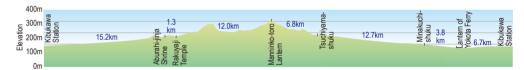
partly because of its traditional Japanese architecture. It is revered by

local residents as a god of oil-lit fires and garners the faith of oil

roducers across the country. It was also honored by the Koka Ninjas

Rakuya

ercy) is the



Traveling Japan's Historical Roads Nakasendo and Hokkoku Wakiokan

This course follows a section of the Nakasendo Highway that was built in the 17th century as a primary road between Kyoto and Edo (now Tokyo), and a shortcut from there to the Hokkoku Byway, known as the Hokkoku Wakiokan Byway. You start at Maibara Station and visit the Samegai-shuku that operated as a layover point on the Nakasendo. Then, from Kashiwabara-shuku on the border with Gifu Prefecture, you first ride to Izumi-jinja Shrine where you wet your thirst on the famously toted water, then pass Mt. Ibuki over its southern foot until finding the Hokkoku Wakiokan that will take you to Kinomoto. Along the way, you will encounter a series of historical locations to note the 16th century Anegawa Battlefield and the former site of Odani Castle. Without any major ups and

Minister Sosuke Uno was born and raised is open for viewing



downs, the 53.2 km are easy to ride, so the various attractions along the way can be enjoyed.



Kinomoto-shuku

This layover town is at the northern end of the Hokkoku Wakiokan 1.4 km. On a corner in the Environment. The water Byway. (The town flourished a long time ago on the throngs of historical quarter is the produced at Kamo-jinja Shrine in travelers on pilgrimage to Kinomoto-jizoin Temple.) The historical Kashiwabara Museum of History Samegai is also on this list. that explains the history of the (It is recommend to boil the a sake brewery, which are best enjoyed by strolling the streets.



that provided travelers with fresh horses has been restored and, in mmer, cute white flowers bloom from the aquatic plants in the river.



Kashiwabara-shuku

Nakasendo lies in the valley of Mt. Ibuki. Because of its between Mt. Ibuki and the freshness, this water was Suzuka Mountains, It is the selected amongst the Top 100



Izumi-iinia Shrine

Everyday, about 4,500t of spring This layover point of the water gush from the limeston longest layover town at about Springs by the Ministry of the water before drinking.)

Cultural Exploration on the Nature-Rich West side of Lake Biwa **Dawn Redwoods and Worship**

landing on the other bank.

This roughly 68.6 km course runs through valleys and over a mixture of ups and downs. After spinning past the rows of dawn redwoods lining the road from Makino Station, you cross the foot of Mt. Hakodate from Imazu and head for Kutsuki Village where the Ado River originates. You will gradually get a feel for how important the river was to livelihoods long ago, from the numerous shrines that safeguarded the local rafters who floated timber downstream in days gone by. The course eventually joins the Saba-kaido Byway and crosses Hanaore Pass. After that, it's across the Biwako-ohashi Bridge with its over-the-water views of a seemingly endless Lake Biwa. Once off the bridge, you turn left at the Biwako-ohashi-higashizume Intersection onto Kogan Rd. and follow the lakeshore until you reach the end at the Hotel Laforet Biwako Resort





This sanctuary was built around

,350m across Lake Biwa at its the valley is the main shrine of until the early 20th century, the an end-to-end view of the lake from the bridge's highest point. bark shingles.



the 9th century as a dojo for the Shikobuchi-daimyojin Shrine monks of Enryakuji Temple to (Shikobuchi-jinja Shrine) pened in 1964, this bridge stretches practice their disciplines. Across From before the 8th century

arrowest point and sits 26.3m above Jishujinja, which features an Ado River was used to float he water at its highest point. It exceptionally rare architectural felled trees from inland forests onnects Katata in Otsu City with style for Shiga Prefecture by to mills downstream. This shrine Imahama in Moriyama City. When travelling by bicycle, you can get sporting a roof made of cypress watched over the woodmen



Biwako-ohashi Bridge



sprouting buds, in summer for their thick canopy of fresh greenery. in autumn for their colorful foliage and in winter for the white

