The four seasons of Japan's largest lake

Journey to Shiga

Shiga Prefecture is situated in a very convenient location with excellent access to Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe and Nagoya. You can easily access Tokyo via the Shinkansen.

Tourist information center

Biwako Visitors Bureau
Shiga Prefecture Tourism Promotion Division
http://en.biwako-visitors.jp/
Shiga offers plenty of historic spots to visit. Shiga boasts Hikone Castle (a national treasure) and ancient temples such as Heianz Enryakuji.

Shiga provides plenty of opportunities to come in contact with nature, and any time of the year you can encounter breathtaking views. You can spend your holiday at the mother lake Biwa, the biggest lake in Japan, enjoying various attractions such as historic buildings, nature views, traditional crafts and cultural experiences, seasonal lake side food and local cuisine, high-quality hot springs, waterfront activities and sports.

Spring
In springtime, a cool wind blows from Lake Biwa. Encounter nature on a cruise ship and a boat and en route to a water district.

Summer
In summer, Shiga offers a lot of fun on the waterfront, including watersports, fireworks and festivals.

The beautiful season is coming to Lake Biwa, setting a marked contrast to a colorful autumn in the mountains.

Autumn
In the mountains surrounding Lake Biwa turn shades of red and yellow. Visit the lake country to see the colorful leaves, the stone Buddha statues on the east side of the lake, and a festival where you’ll experience the tradition, culture and history.

During the quiet and atmospheric winter in Shiga, you can watch charming waterfall and view bonsai plum trees. Warm your body and your soul with hot duck pot and hot spring baths. This is a place of snowy ski resort and the Biwa exhibition of water-based bonsai plum trees with pink blossoms. The lake country quietly awaits the spring.

Savor the food of the lake country with plenty of local ingredients.

Shiga Prefecture, at the heart and crossroads of Japan, has flourished since ancient days. Today Shiga remains a convenient base for travelling in Japan, offering easy access to Kyoto and Osaka, as well as Kyushu and Tokyo. Lake Biwa, the biggest lake in Japan, offers a scenic and tranquil setting. Shiga Prefecture is the quintessential Japan.