

BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae

LAKE BIWA CYCLING MAP

Cycling route maps around Lake Biwa



**BIWAKO
TOURISM
BASE**

ビワコ ツーリズム ベース



English

BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae | East exit of JR Inae Station (Biwako Line)

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CYCLING RULES IN JAPAN

From April 2026, cyclists can get a "Blue Ticket" fine too! Know the basics before you ride



**BIWAKO
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びわこツーリズム ベース

1

Keep Left on the Road



Bicycles are "light vehicles"
Ride on the left side of the road;
riding on the right is illegal
Pavements only where signs allow;
go slowly and give way to walkers

2

Signals & Stop Signs



Always stop at red lights
At a red inverted triangle "止まれ",
stop fully and look both ways
Never enter a level crossing
when the barriers are down

3

Lights On at Night



Turn on your front light after dark
A rear reflector or tail light
is required
Use lights in tunnels too

4

No Drinking and Riding



Not even one sip before riding
Serving alcohol to a cyclist, or
lending a bike to someone who
has been drinking, is also
punishable

5

Please Wear a Helmet



Since April 2023, all riders are
expected to wear a helmet
(a legal "duty of effort")
Protect your head, reduce injury
Helmets available with our rentals

What Is a Blue Ticket?

- In force from 1 April 2026
- Applies to riders aged 16 and over, including visitors
- 113 violation types, with fines of ¥3,000 to ¥12,000
- Pay within the deadline and the case is closed, with no criminal record
- Under-16s mainly receive guidance and warnings

Main Violations & Fines (Blue Ticket)

1 Holding a phone (talk/view)	¥12,000	6 No lights at night	¥5,000
2 Entering a closed crossing	¥7,000	7 Umbrella/earphones	¥5,000
3 Running a red light	¥6,000	8 Faulty brakes	¥5,000
4 Riding on the right	¥6,000	9 Riding side by side	¥3,000
5 Not stopping at "止まれ"	¥5,000	10 Carrying a passenger	¥3,000

Red Ticket (Criminal Offences)

Serious violations are crimes, not fines:

- Drunk riding
Up to 5 years in prison or ¥1,000,000
- Riding over the alcohol limit
Up to 3 years in prison or ¥500,000
- Phone use causing traffic danger
Up to 1 year in prison or ¥300,000
- Obstructive (road-rage) riding, etc.

Cycling Etiquette & Tips in Japan



Give Way to Walkers
Pedestrians first on
pavements; don't ring
your bell at them



Two-Stage Right Turn
At junctions with lights,
cross straight, then turn
and wait



Use Bike Parking
Use a "駐輪場"; stray bikes
are removed for a fee



Ride in Single File
Ride one behind another;
take care in tunnels



Take Rubbish Home
Public bins are rare;
please carry your rubbish
with you



Bicycle Insurance
Shiga requires cyclists to
be insured; please ask us

※Shop tip: Helmets are available with our rentals. Check brakes, lights and bell before you set off. In an accident, call the police (110), and an ambulance (119) if anyone is hurt.

※Sources: National Police Agency, Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, JAF (2026). Fines follow official announcements; umbrella and earphone rules follow each prefecture's regulations.



**BIWAKO
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ビワコ ツーリズム ベース

Lake Biwa

COURSE DATA

Difficulty: ★★★★★
Distance: approx. 30 km loop
Time: approx. 3 h riding
Mostly flat, beginner friendly

— Route — Side trip

Ride Biwaichi anticlockwise!

Turn right at the lake road, lake on your left



5 Oyabu Park
Lawn & benches, rest
Next: Inukami & Seri R.

6 Hikone Port
Ferries to Chikubu & Takeshima

7 Matsubara Beach
White sand & pine trees
Birdman Rally venue

From BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae
HIKONE CASTLE LOOP RIDE
Lake Biwa → Hikone Castle → ramen
→ K-ON! school, one big loop!

8 Hikone Castle → Castle Road
National Treasure keep, lake views
Castle-town food, souvenirs, Hikonyan

9 VIVA CITY Hikone
Mall: food court & cinema
Rest stop & souvenir shopping

10 Ramen Nikko & Koyoken
Top-2 ramen in Shiga (Tabelog)
By the Inukami River; great lunch!

3 Mt. Kojin & Sonenuma Pond
Side trip: hill & bird pond
Kojinyama Shrine & Park

4 Uso River Bridge
Lake & Mt. Kojin views

2 Ishidera Bench
Famous lonely lakeside bench
Top Biwaichi photo spot!

1 BIWAKO TOURISM BASE
Inae shop: start & finish
Rental: city bikes & e-bikes

Start area detail (shop → Route 20)

1 Head NW from the shop through the rail tunnel
2 Go SW along the tracks to Route 20
3 Turn right on Route 20 (NW) to the lakeside road
4 Turn right at the lakeside road, then head NE

Times are estimates. Pedestrians first, wear a helmet, ride safely.



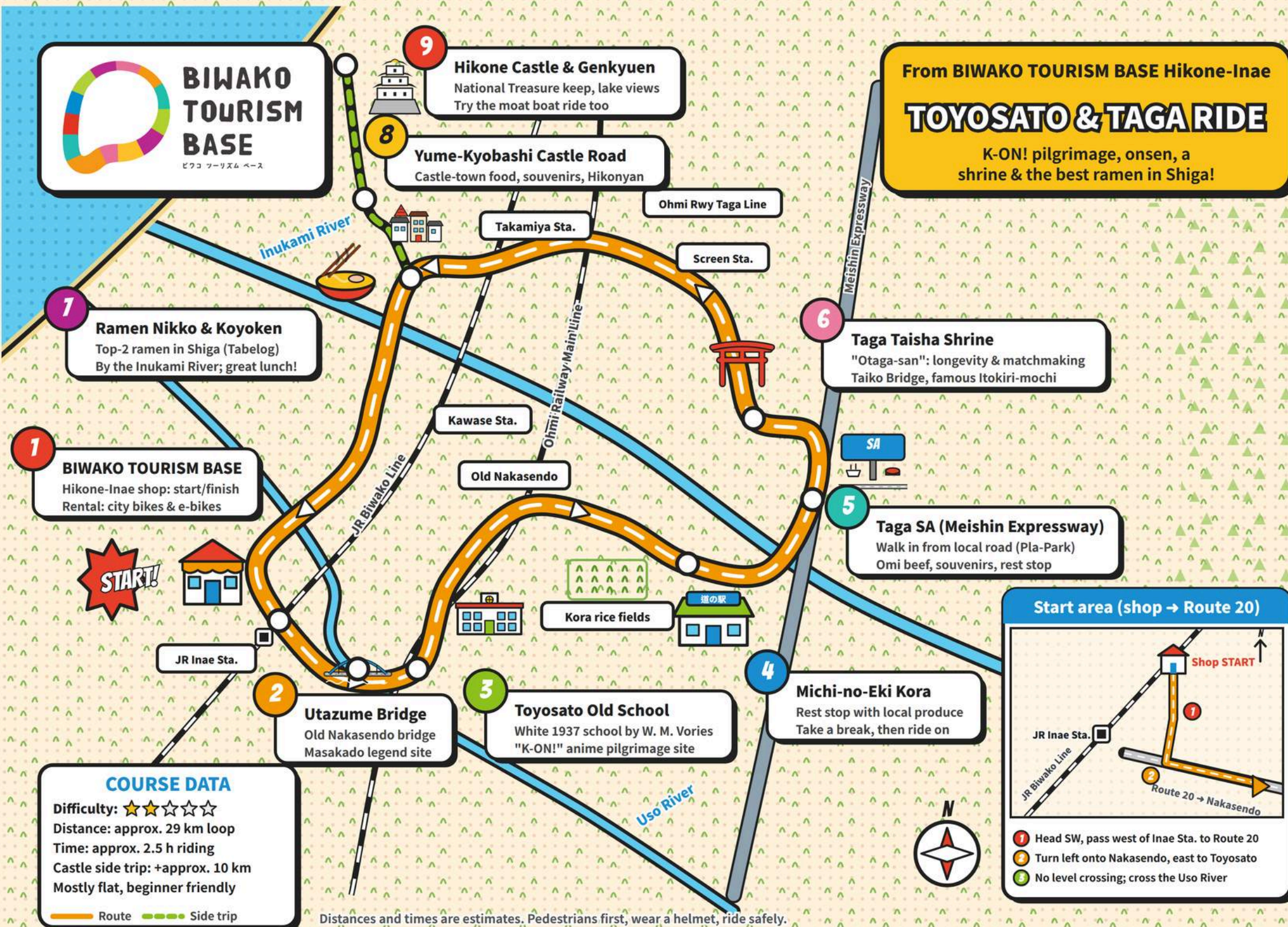
BIWAKO TOURISM BASE

ビワコ ツーリズム ベース

From BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae

TOYOSATO & TAGA RIDE

K-ON! pilgrimage, onsen, a shrine & the best ramen in Shiga!



Start area (shop → Route 20)



- 1 Head SW, pass west of Inae Sta. to Route 20
- 2 Turn left onto Nakasendo, east to Toyosato
- 3 No level crossing; cross the Uso River

Lake Biwa

START!

1

BIWAKO TOURISM BASE

Hikone-Inae shop: start/finish
Rental: city bikes & e-bikes

2

Omi-Jofu Textile Hall

Omi-Jofu linen exhibits & crafts
By Echigawa Sta., linen goods shop

3

Aisho Rice Fields

Paddies & mountains
Flat farm roads

4

Aito Margaret Station

Local produce, flowers, souvenirs
Next to Shiga Peace Museum (free)

9

Toyosato Old School

White 1937 school by W. M. Vories
"K-ON!" anime pilgrimage site

8

Michi-no-Eki Kora

Rest stop with local produce
Take a break, then ride on

7

Saimyoji Temple (No.1)

Nat. Treasure hall & pagoda
Foliage & year-round cherry

6

Kongorinji Temple (No.2)

Nat. Treasure hall, red maples
1,000 Jizo statues & garden

5

Hyakusaiji (No.3)

Prince Shotoku's temple
Garden with plain views

Higashiomi



From BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae

KOTO SANZAN RIDE

Three foliage temples, Omi
linen, a farm station & onsen!

COURSE DATA

Difficulty: ★★★★★
Distance: approx. 40 km loop
Time: approx. 3.5 h riding
Moderate: short temple hills
For fit or experienced riders

Route



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ビワコ ツーリズム ベース

Start area (shop → Route 20)



- 1 Head SW, pass west of Inae Sta. to Route 20
- 2 Follow Route 20 east to the Old Nakasendo
- 3 Turn right (south) toward Echigawa

Distances and times are estimates. Pedestrians first, wear a helmet, ride safely.

From BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae

HIGASHIOMI & AZUCHI RIDE

Merchants, a mountain shrine, a castle & canals: the big loop!

1

BIWAKO TOURISM BASE

Hikone-Inae shop: start/finish
Rental: city bikes & e-bikes

JR Inae Sta.

10

Notogawa Museum

History & folk exhibits
Free; library next door

JR Notogawa Sta.

9

Iba Water Village

Old village laced with canals
Stone bridges & old houses

7

Azuchi Castle & Nobunaga Hall

Full-scale golden keep replica
Nobunaga's castle site & stairway

JR Azuchi Sta.

6

Kyorinbo Temple

Founded by Prince Shotoku
Rock garden (spring & fall only)

5

Tarobo-gu Shrine

Shrine of victory, twin rocks
742 steps, great plain views

Higashiomi

4

Kawabe Ikimono Forest

Woodland park, Echi River
Boardwalks, birds & insects

3

Omi Merchant Museum

Kobayashi merchant residence
White storehouses & garden

Aisho

2

Omi-Jofu Textile Hall

Omi-Jofu linen exhibits & crafts
By Echigawa Sta., linen goods shop

Echigawa Sta.

START!

Start area (shop → Route 20)



- 1 Head SW, pass west of Inae Sta. to Route 20
- 2 Follow Route 20 east to the Old Nakasendo
- 3 Turn right (south) toward Echigawa

8

Waterwheel & Canoe Land

Giant 13 m waterwheel
Canoeing on Iba Lagoon

Iba Lagoon

Nishinoko

JR Biwako Line

Gokasho Sta.

Ohmi Railway

Yokaichi Sta.

COURSE DATA

Difficulty: ★★★★★

Distance: approx. 50 km loop

Time: approx. 4.5 h riding

Moderate: long but mostly flat

For fit, experienced riders

Route



BIWAKO
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びわこ ツーリズム ベース

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From BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae

OMIHACHIMAN & AZUCHI RIDE

Chomeiji, La Collina,
Hachiman-bori & Azuchi!

Lake Biwa

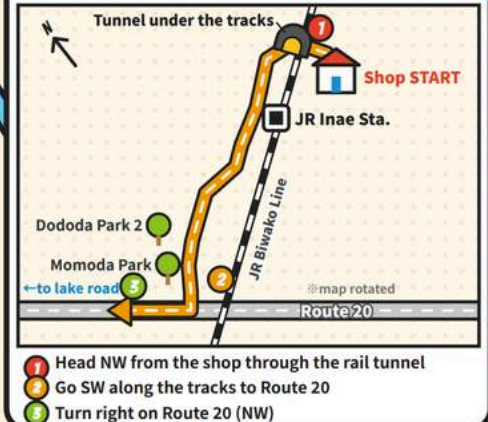
START!

BIWAKO TOURISM BASE

Hikone-Inae shop: start/finish
Rental: city bikes & e-bikes

JR Inae Sta.

Start area detail (shop → Route 20)



Horikiri Port

Ferry port to Okishima
Okishima: inhabited island

Iba Lagoon

Waterwheel & Canoe Land

Giant 13 m waterwheel
Canoeing on Iba Lagoon

Nishinoko

Notogawa Museum

History & folk exhibits
Free; library next door

JR Notogawa Sta.

Iba Water Village

Old village laced with canals
Stone bridges & old houses



Chomeiji Temple

Saigoku temple No. 31
808 steps, lake views

La Collina Omiachiman

CLUB HARIE baumkuchen HQ
Grass roofs & photo spots



Azuchi Castle & Nobunaga Hall

Full-scale golden keep replica
Nobunaga's castle site & stairway

JR Azuchi Sta.

Omi Brotherhood & Old Town

Birthplace of Vories & Mentholatum
Merchant houses on Shinmachi St.

Gokasho Merchants

Omi merchants' birthplace, old town
Kanpoken calligraphy museum

8

Hachiman-bori & Himure Shrine

Canal, white storehouses, film location
Ropeway up Mt. Hachiman, lake views

9

**BIWAKO
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COURSE DATA

Difficulty: ★★★★★

Distance: approx. 65 km loop

Time: approx. 6 h riding

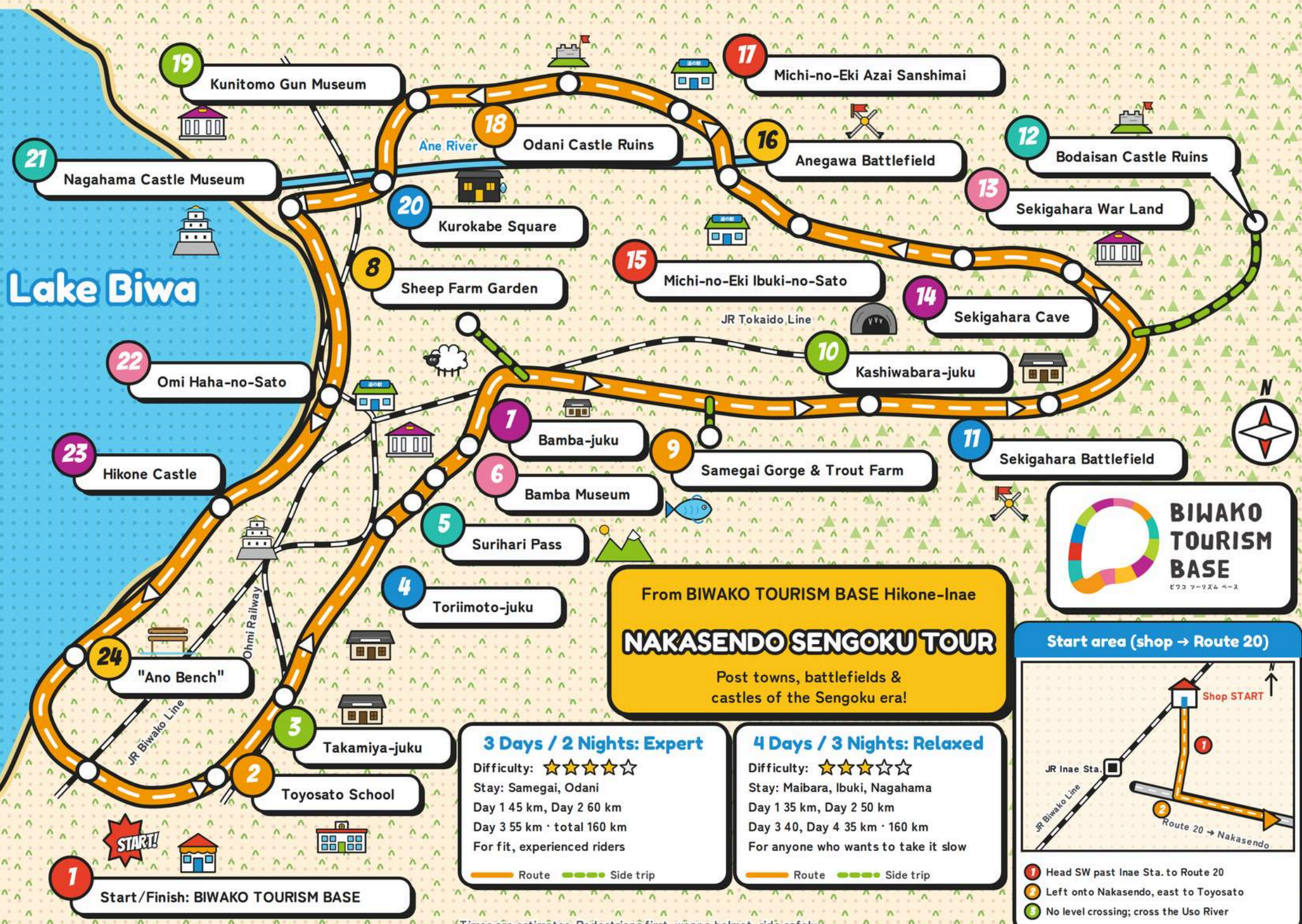
Long & flat; e-bike advised

For fit, experienced riders

Route

Times are estimates. Pedestrians first, wear a helmet, ride safely.

Lake Biwa



From BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae

NAKASENDO SENGOKU TOUR

Post towns, battlefields & castles of the Sengoku era!

3 Days / 2 Nights: Expert

Difficulty: ★★★★★

Stay: Samegai, Odani

Day 1 45 km, Day 2 60 km

Day 3 55 km · total 160 km

For fit, experienced riders

Route Side trip

4 Days / 3 Nights: Relaxed

Difficulty: ★★★★★

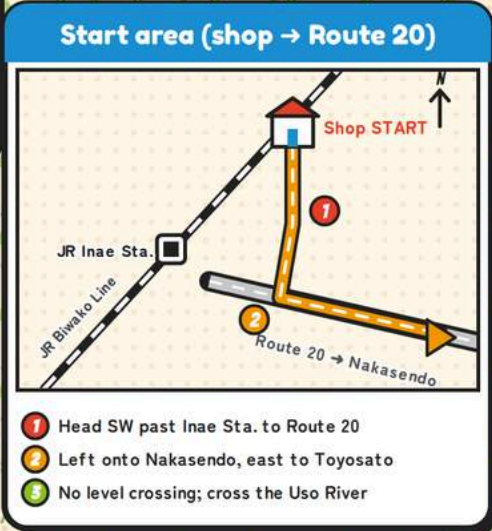
Stay: Maibara, Ibuki, Nagahama

Day 1 35 km, Day 2 50 km

Day 3 40, Day 4 35 km · 160 km

For anyone who wants to take it slow

Route Side trip



*Times are estimates. Pedestrians first, wear a helmet, ride safely.



From BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae

NINJA, POTTERY, TEA & ART TOUR

Temples, ninja villages,
Shigaraki ware, tea & museums!

4 Days / 3 Nights: Expert

Difficulty: ★★★★★

Stay: Okawara Onsen, Shigaraki, Kusatsu

Day 1 65 km, Day 2 60 km, Day 3 50 km

Day 4 60 km · total 235 km

For fit, experienced riders

— Route — Side trip

5 Days / 4 Nights: Relaxed

Difficulty: ★★★★★

Stay: Eigenji, Koka, Ishiyama, Moriyama

Day 1 45 km, Day 2 55 km, Day 3 55 km

Day 4 30, Day 5 50 km · 235 km

For anyone who wants to take it slow

— Route — Side trip

Start area (shop → Route 20)



1 Head SW past Inae Sta. to Route 20

2 Left onto Nakasendo, east to Toyosato

3 No level crossing; cross the Uso River

Times are estimates. Pedestrians first, wear a helmet, ride safely.

From BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae

BIWAICHI LAKE LOOP

A once-in-a-lifetime lap
of Lake Biwa (200 km)



The BIWAICHI mark shows official BIWAICHI CHECKPOINT sites.

Times are estimates. Pedestrians first, wear a helmet, ride safely.

HOW TO GET YOUR BIWAICHI CERTIFICATE

Finished the lap? Take home your official certificate! (mail / fax application)



1

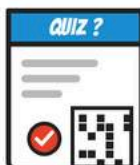
Download the form



Go to biwako1.jp/support/authorize
Download the application form (PDF)
and print it before you set off
Carry it with you on the ride
No printer? Ask our staff to print it

2

Check in on the way



All 17 CHECKPOINTS have a quiz poster
Write the quiz answer, date and time
on your form at each stop
At least 1 checkpoint in each of the 4 areas
No time limit; several trips are fine

3

Send your application



POST / FAX

Fill in your name, address and e-mail
Mail or fax the form to the
Wa-no-Kuni Biwako office
FAX: +81 50-3730-5843
E-mail address required; keep a copy

4

Pay & receive



Fee: 1,500 yen (paid afterwards)
Certificate & yearly sticker are
shipped overseas by sea mail
Allow several weeks to 1 month
Comes with the Biwaichi newspaper

Requirements

- Check in at 1+ CHECKPOINT in each of the 4 areas
- No time limit; several trips are fine
- All 17 CHECKPOINTS have a quiz poster

About the certificate

- Reed paper, with check times & serial no.
- Annual sticker changes colour every year
- Silver sticker at 5 laps, gold at 10 laps
- Group discount for 10+ riders

BIWAICHI CHECKPOINTS

SOUTH

- Hotel Biwa Lake Otsuka
- Shiga Tourist Assoc.
- Otsu Port
- Michi-no-Eki Kusatsu
- Lake Biwa Marriott Hotel

NORTH

- Maibara Sta. Cycle Station
- Michi-no-Eki Omi Haha-no-Sato
- Nagahama Port
- Kohoku Mizudori Station
- JR Nagahara Sta. Info Centre

EAST

- Suzuan
- Notogawa Waterwheel & Canoe Land
- Minami-Mitsuya Park
- Hikone Port

WEST

- Imazu Port
- STAGEX Takashima
- JR Omi-Takashima Sta. Info Centre

SCAN THE QR CODE



Official BIWAICHI certification site
m.biwako1.jp
Form download & latest info
List of all CHECKPOINTS

See www.biwako1.jp/support/authorize for details and updates. Our staff will gladly print the form and assist with any enquiries.

BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae

RENTAL BIKE PRICE

All prices include tax

Cross Bike

GIOS LIEBE

★ Full-day plan

(8:00 am – 6:00 pm)

Extra day: ¥2,000

¥2,900

★ 5-hour plan

(e.g. 11:00 am – 4:00 pm)

¥1,800



E-Bike (electric assist)

IVOTANI

★ Full-day plan

(8:00 am – 6:00 pm)

Extra day: ¥4,000

¥5,900

★ 5-hour plan

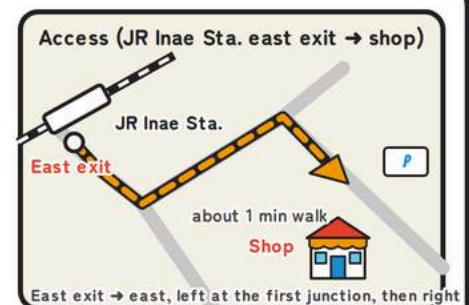
(e.g. 11:00 am – 4:00 pm)

¥3,800



Rental Information

- ◆ 1-minute walk from the east exit of JR Inae Station (Biwako Line).
- ◆ Parking for 3 cars is available; driving here is welcome.
- ◆ Helmets are lent free of charge; please wear one while riding.
- ◆ Full-day plan: return by 6:00 pm; extra days are charged.
- ◆ Our staff will explain the rental details when you pick up your bike.



Tour Packages

Besides bike rental, we offer a range of tour packages with a guide and support car. See our website for details:

<https://biwako-tourismbase.com/>



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Scan for our website



BIWAKO TOURISM BASE Hikone-Inae | Lake Biwa Cycling Map

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