



Cycling Trip in Japan - Lake Biwa Example of 4-day itinerary

Possible duration: from 1 (nonstop trip for experienced cyclists) to 6 days.



Lake Biwa, Shiga

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Biwa Lake, located in west-central Honshu, is Japan's largest freshwater lake.

The "**Biwa-Ichi**" cycle route offers breathtaking landscapes which one can enjoy from the beautiful bike path looping around the lake. The trail follows the edge of the lake for most of its length and is relatively flat. There are many scenic routes and a wide range of historical and cultural sites to enjoy along the way.

You can also take advantage of the beaches to soak your feet in the water, have a picnic in one of the parks on the banks or satisfy your inner ornithologist at one of many the bird-watching stations.

Day 1: Tokyo / Kyoto / Moriyama

Evening departure from Tokyo station for Moriyama.

Night at the hotel.



Day 2: Moriyama / Omihachiman / Hikone / Maibara / Nagahama

Breakfast at the hotel.

Bike rental if necessary and departure along the east coast of Lake Biwa.

Options:

- ✧ Bike and rental equipment for the duration
- ✧ Transport and use of your own bike
- ✧ Depending on the date, some ferry routes could be open to cyclists between the ports of Hikone, Nagahama and Takashima, allowing for shortcuts.

✧

Crossing the towns of Omihachiman, Hikone, Maibara and night in Nagahama (46km).

The relatively flat route remains mostly on the shores of Lake Biwa, offering beautiful natural landscapes. There are opportunities to make short detours to visit some of the most interesting sights in the cities of Omihachiman, Hikone, Maibara or Nagahama.

Visit Suggestions:

- **Hachiman-bori Canal**

Canal winding along the city dating back to the Edo Era. Some shopping districts are preserved along the canal, offering a beautiful picture of the city's past.

- **Hikone Castle**

With a magnificent view of Lake Biwa, Hikone Castle has been virtually unchanged since its initial construction more than 400 years ago.



Hikone Castle



Day 3: Nagahama / Takashima

Breakfast at the hotel.

Bike through the city of Nagahama and night in Takashima (48km).

The route between Nagahama and Takashima includes a small peninsula that can be crossed in two different ways. The road along the lake has beautiful scenery and a seaside observatory at its highest point, but it is a bit mountainous (360-meter slope). Those who want to avoid a climb can take the Yanokuma tunnel, which completely bypasses this road.

Visit Suggestions:

- **Chikubu Island**

Called the Island of the Gods, it is accessible in about thirty minutes by ferry from the port of Nagahama or Takashima. This sacred island is uninhabited and is home to the Tsukubusima Shrine and Hogon-ji Temple, dating from 420 and 724 respectively. It is one of the most sacred places in the region.

- **Shirahige Shrine**

Beautiful shrine famous for its Torii (Sacred Arch) that rises from the waters on the lake.



Torii of the Shirahige Shrine



Day 4: Takashima / Otsu / Moriyama

Breakfast at the hotel.

Biking through Otsu and back to Moriyama (37km).

Return of the bike rental and return to Tokyo by train in the afternoon.

Visit Suggestions:

- **Ukimido Floating Temple**

One of the most iconic and picturesque sites of Lake Biwa, cherished by haiku poets such as Matsuo Basho. The temple itself is located on the lake, on stilts.

We are here to help you plan and achieve your wishes.
We can shorten or extend your stay, or add other destinations.

Do you enjoy freedom and **lack of constraints**?
We can leave you with a personalized list of interesting activities and locations, giving you the freedom to wander around as you please during your stay.

Do you want a bulletproof plan and **hassle-free getaway**?
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