



### ④Shiga-in Monzeki Temple

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
This prestigious temple is believed to have been established in 1615, when the monk Tenkai moved Hossho-ji Temple from Kitashirikawa in Kyoto to Sakamoto. It served as the residence of successive imperial princes who held the position of head of the Tendai school of Japanese Buddhism until the end of the Edo period.  
The vast grounds are enclosed by stone walls built in the traditional style of the Ano-shu stonemasons, and in the drawing room, visitors can enjoy numerous wall paintings by the Kano school from the early Edo period. The nationally designated scenic garden, said to have been designed by Kobori Enshu, features impressive stone arrangements, plantings, waterfalls, and stone bridges, all of which can be appreciated from a leisurely setting on the veranda of the Main Hall.

Next door, Jigendo is the mausoleum of Tenkai and contains the graves of successive Tendai heads from the Edo period onward, as well as memorial towers for Tokugawa Ieyasu and Murasaki Shikibu.



### ⑥Seian-ji Temple

Hours: 9:30 am to 4:00 pm (reservations required)  
Located in the Ano area, this temple of the Tendai Shinsei school features a guest hall known as Momoyama Palace. It houses a wooden standing statue of the Eleven-Faced Kannon featured in Yasushi Inoue's novel *Hoshi to Matsuri*. The temple also includes a garden from the Edo period said to depict the descent of Amida and a heavenly multitude as well as a war drum donated by Akechi Mitsuhide. The stone walls, built in the Ano-shu style, resemble a castle with their masterful stonework.

Nestled in a quiet location, the temple offers a peaceful setting for unhurried appreciation.



### ①Sakamoto Castle Site

Sakamoto Castle was built on the lakefront by Akechi Mitsuhide. A *mizuki* (castle surrounded by water), it drew in water from Lake Biwa and is believed to have had a grand structure with a tall central keep and multiple subsidiary towers. Jesuit missionary Luis Fróis praised it, writing, "There is no castle in all of Japan as famous as Mitsuhide's, except for Nobunaga's Azuchi Castle." Today, a statue of Mitsuhide stands in a park maintained on the former castle site. A monument at the location of the former *rinomaru* (second enclosure) and stone walls that remain submerged in the lake attest to the castle's existence.

When Lake Biwa experiences extreme drought, the fortress's robust stone foundation emerges from the water, revealing echoes of its past.



### ⑤Hiyoshi Toshogu Shrine

Hours: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays  
Constructed in 1623 during the reign of Tokugawa Iemitsu, the third shogun, this shrine has strong ties to the monk Tenkai, a priest of the Tendai school who was instrumental in the founding of the Toshogu. Built in the *gongen-zukuri* style, which connects the main and worship halls, the shrine is coated in black lacquer and adorned with a series of vivid, ornate decorations. The structure is said to have served as a model when the Nikko Toshogu was rebuilt. In addition to the main shrine buildings, the Karamon Gate and latticed wall have been designated Important Cultural Properties by the Japanese government.

Known as the "Nikko of Kansai," the shrine grounds, situated on a high terrace, offer sweeping views of cherry blossoms, autumn leaves, and Lake Biwa.



### ⑧Shogen-ji Temple

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
This temple is the birthplace of Saicho, founder of the Tendai school of Japanese Buddhism. The well said to have drawn water for his first bath remains, and statues of his parents are enshrined in the main hall. Believed to have been founded by Saicho himself, the temple is revered as a sacred site within the Enryaku-ji Temple complex and hosts many religious events. Every year on August 18, a grand celebration is held to commemorate Saicho's birth.

Located near Sakamoto-hieizanguchi Station, the temple is considered the spiritual heart of the Sakamoto area. Visitors can also experience sutra copying.



### ②Sakamoto Cable Railway

March through November: First departure at 8:00 am, last departure at 5:30 pm  
December through February: First departure at 8:30 am, last departure at 5:00 pm  
Built in 1927, this cable car line, which connects Sakamoto and Enryaku-ji Temple, stretches 2,025 meters, making it the longest in Japan. Along the route are two intermediate stations, bridges, and tunnels that offer panoramic views as you ascend the mountain. At Horaioka Station, you'll find a sacred cave enshrining stone Buddhas discovered during the line's construction. At Motate Yama Station lies the grave of the famed poet Ki no Tsurayuki.

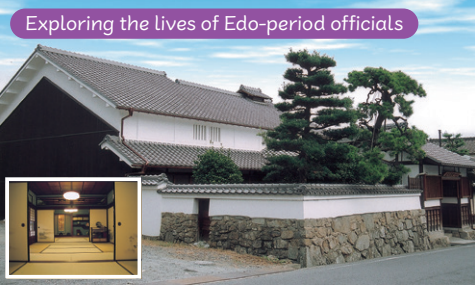
The retro-style station building, constructed in 1925, is a two-story Western-style wooden structure that's been designated a Registered Tangible Cultural Property by the Japanese government.



### ⑦Former Chikurin-in

Closed Mondays (or the following day if Monday is a public holiday) and over the New Year's holidays. Open every day in November.  
Originally built as a retirement villa for high-ranking monks of Enryaku-ji Temple on Mt. Hiei, this property features a roughly 3,300-square-meter garden that incorporates the scenic backdrop of Mt. Hachioji as well as an artificial hill as well as a meandering stream and waterfall drawn from the clear waters of the Oniya River. The garden, which has been designated a Place of Scenic Beauty by the Japanese government, is a pleasant place to take a stroll. Whether in the fall foliage season, when cherry blossoms bloom in spring, or in the vivid green of trees and moss in early summer, its beauty throughout the year offers visitors healing and tranquility.

Recently, "reflection shots" of the garden mirrored on the lacquered table in the main house have become popular on social media.



### ③Kunin Yashiki

Closed Mondays (or the following day if Monday is a public holiday) and over the New Year's holidays.  
Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (last entry at 4:30 pm)  
During the Edo period, monks of Enryaku-ji Temple who served as public officials were permitted to marry, bear surnames, and wear swords. These so-called *kunin* were responsible for temple administration, including maintaining public order and collecting taxes and duties. This official residence (former Okamoto Residence) retains much of its original appearance, and unlike many residences that have been renovated inside, it offers a rare glimpse into the lifestyle of the time. The main house was built in the late Edo period, and structures like the rice storehouse and stables remain in their original form.

On display inside you can find *kan'ei tsubo*, a widely circulated coin currency minted during the Edo period. Production of this coin began both in Edo and in Sakamoto, where it came to be known as "Sakamoto coinage."



### ④OKUHIEI Driveway and Hieizan Minemichi Restaurant

March through November: 7:00 am to 11:00 pm  
December through February: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm  
(Restaurant hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm [last order at 4:30 pm])  
This pilgrimage road allows you to visit all three areas of Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple (Yokawa, Saito, and Tado) while taking in the changing seasons and historical sites. At the Hieizan Minemichi Restaurant & Observatory in the Saito area, you can enjoy sweeping views of the town of Sakamoto below, Lake Biwa, and Omi Fuji in the distance. The menu offers set meals and sweets made with locally sourced ingredients.

The cherry blossoms in spring and the autumn foliage are spectacular, offering scenic beauty that you can enjoy throughout the year.



## Sanno Festival, One of the Lake Biwa Region's Three Great Festivals (April 12 to 15)



This annual festival of Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine begins on the first Sunday of March. On April 12, Uma-no-Jiriji takes place; on the 13th, the Yomiya Otoshi is held, famous for rituals known as Hanawatari-shiki and Mikoshi-furi. On the 14th, following the main festivals at both the East and West Shrines, portable shrines are paraded through the town and then carried across the lake in the Funatogyo ritual.

With a history of more than 1,200 years, the Sanno Festival is a majestic celebration worthy of its place among the Lake Biwa region's three great festivals.



### ⑥Hiyoshi Tea Garden

It's said that Japanese tea began here, when the monk Saicho brought tea seeds from Tang China and cultivated them at the foot of Mt. Hiei.  
Within the garden stands a monument built by Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine commemorating this origin.

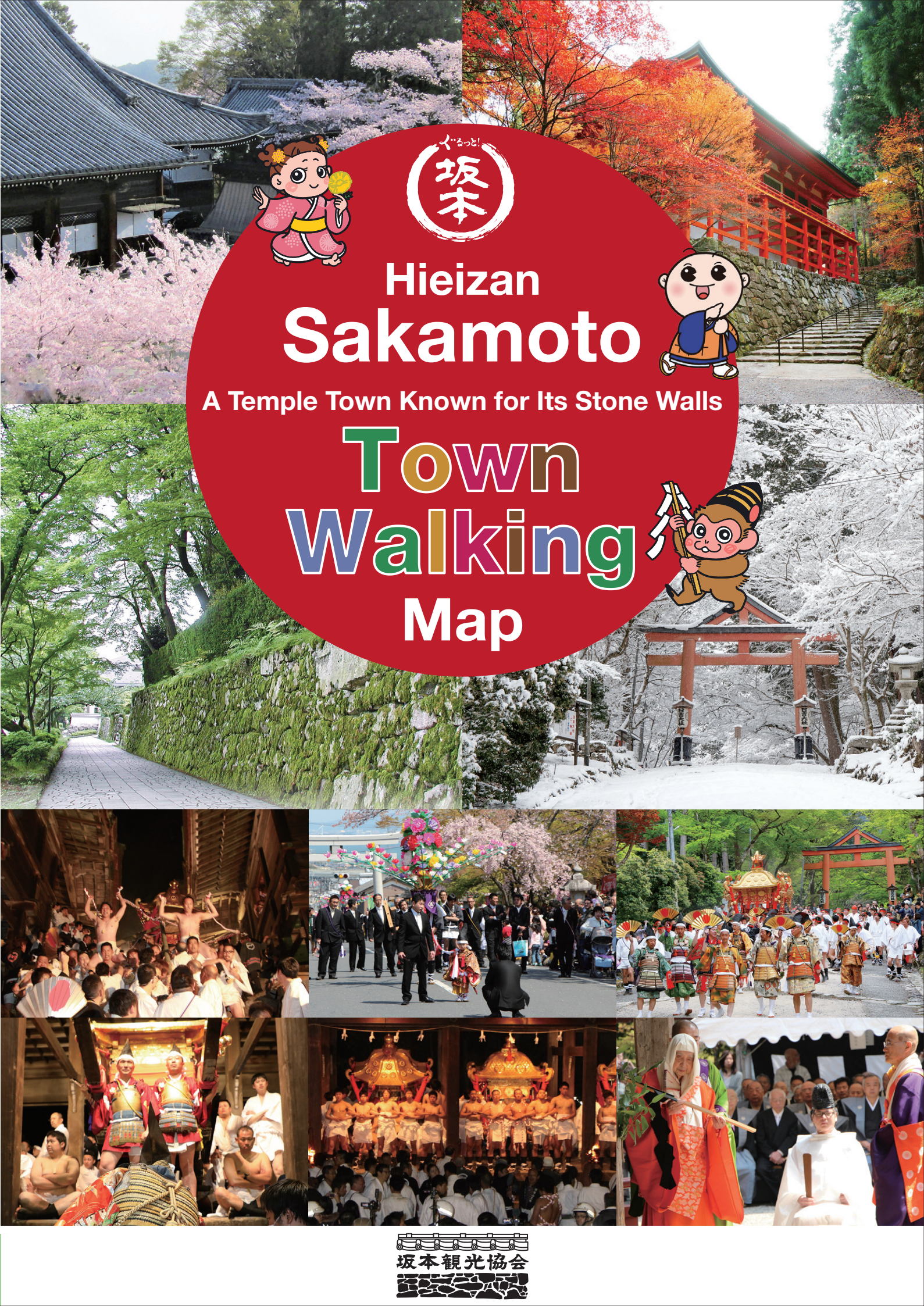
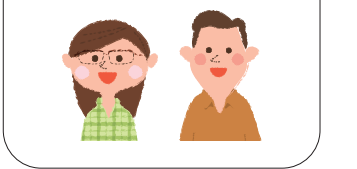
### ■ Sakamoto Tourism Information Office

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Open year-round (closed December 29 to January 3)  
Rental bicycles and coin lockers (large and small) available  
• 750 m from JR Hieizan-Sakamoto Station  
• Adjacent to Keihan Sakamoto-hieizanguchi Station

### ■ Omiyagawa Tourist Parking Area (about 70 spaces, free)



Tourism volunteer guides ISHIDUMI provide tours of town.



# Hieizan Sakamoto Town Walking Map

A Temple Town Known for Its Stone Walls



The "mother mountain" of Japanese Buddhism:  
A UNESCO World Heritage site



### A Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple

Hours: To-do area: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Year-round)  
Saito and Yokawa areas: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (March through November)  
Saito and Yokawa areas: 9:30 am to 4:00 pm (December through February)

Enryaku-ji Temple, the head temple of the Tendai school of Japanese Buddhism, which was founded by the monk Saicho, is home to the "Eternal Light of Buddhism," which has burned continuously since the temple was founded over 1,200 years ago. The entirety of Mt. Hiei, with an elevation of 848 meters, comprises the temple precinct, which is divided into three areas: To-do, centered around the Main Hall (Konpon Chu-do); Sai-to, centered around Shaka-do; and Yokawa, established by Enrin, Enryaku-ji Temple, home to many National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties, is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The grounds, which are shaded by towering cedar trees, are imbued with the solemn atmosphere of a training ground for monks of the Tendai school. Visitors can also enjoy the site's natural beauty throughout the seasons, including cherry blossoms in spring, fresh greenery in early summer, and autumn foliage. It's also popular as a scenic spot offering panoramic views of downtown Kyoto and Lake Biwa.



The appeal of this quiet and dignified setting lies in the ability to savor seasonal beauty throughout the year.

Shoju-san, official mascot of the Tendai school's Ichigo-wo-terasu Movement Headquarters

A place connected to Akechi Mitsuhide



### B Saikyo-ji Temple

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (last entry at 4:30 pm)

Saikyo-ji Temple, the head temple of the Shinsei branch of the Tendai school of Japanese Buddhism, is said to have been founded by Prince Shotoku. Although it fell into disrepair for a time, it was revived during the Heian period by the monk Ryogen (Ganzan Daishi) and later rebuilt during the Muromachi period by the monk Shinsei as a training center for Buddhist precepts and practice. The chanting of the *nembutsu* continues unbroken to this day.

The Main Hall, an Important Cultural Property constructed entirely of zelkova wood, was donated by the Kishu Tokugawa family. It enshrines a six feet tall statue of Amitabha Tathagata (also an Important Cultural Property). The Guest Hall, also an Important Cultural Property, was relocated from Toyotomi Hideyoshi's Fushimi Castle. It features sliding screen paintings by Kano Eitoku. There are four gardens, each with its own character, designed by masters such as Kobori Enshu and the Ano-shu stonemasons. Visitors can also enjoy seasonal views of Lake Biwa from the Karamon Gate. The autumn foliage is especially famous.

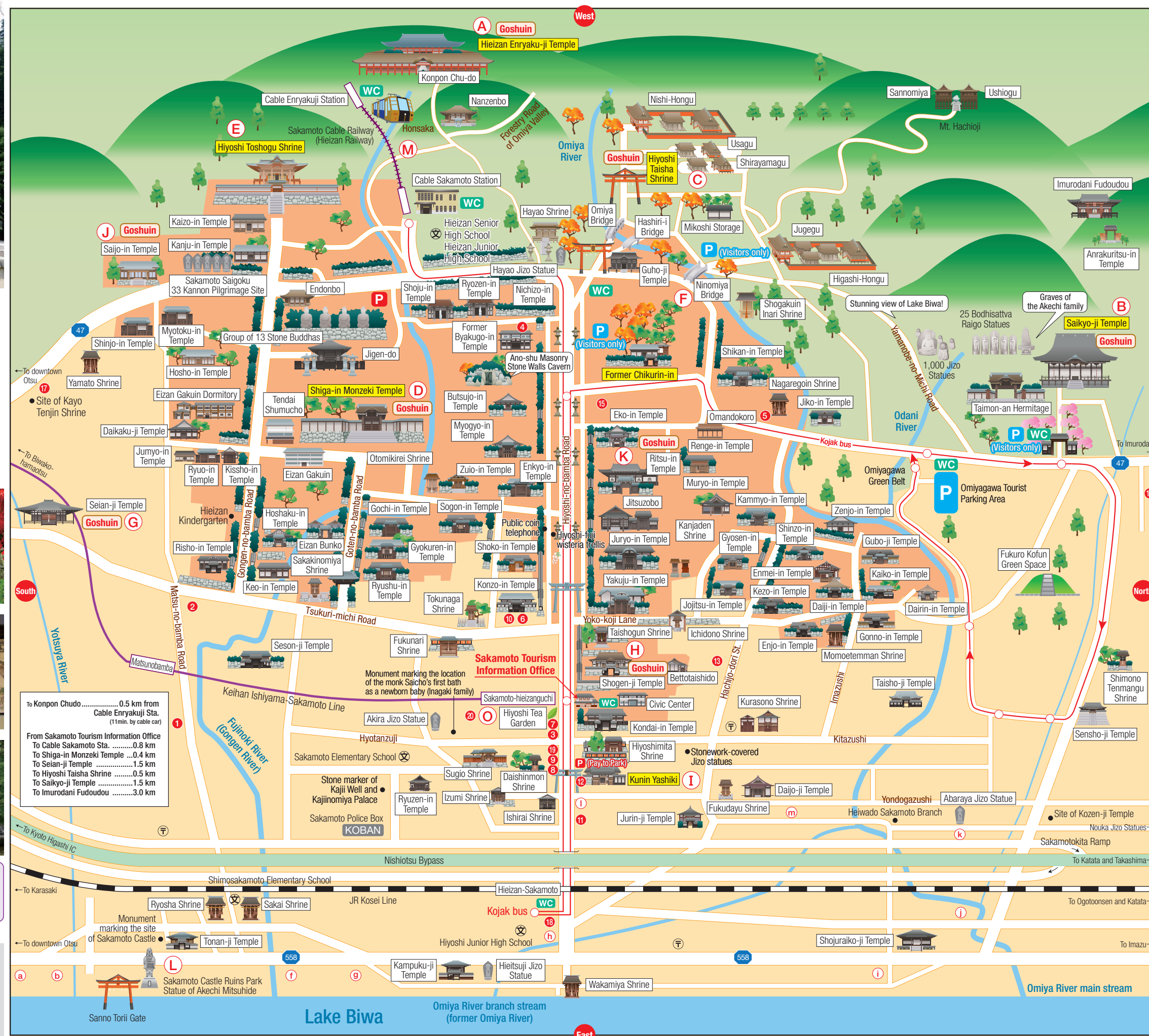
Following the destruction of the temple during the burning of Mt. Hiei, Akechi Mitsuhide, then lord of Sakamoto Castle, played a key role in its restoration. The temple's main gate was moved from Sakamoto Castle, and the site also contains the graves of Mitsuhide, his family, and his wife Hiroko as well as many items connected to them.



Sites worth seeing include the grand Main Hall and a tunnel of autumn leaves that stretches from the main gate.

Kiku-hime, Saikyo-ji Temple's official mascot

Shrines and temples	Food and gifts	Other
A Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple 077-578-0001	1 tsurukisoba seika co., Ltd. 077-578-0327	1 Yamamoto Soba Seifun 077-579-0415
B Saikyo-ji Temple 077-578-0013	2 Seiyoken Bakery (Ishizumi bread) 077-578-0111	2 Hiei sankurou 077-578-1720
C Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine 077-578-0009	3 Marutame and SmartTOCHABO (Cafe + Craft + Experience) (sake shop) 077-579-3967	3 Hishiya Mitsuakawa Liquor Shop 077-578-0023
D Shiga-in Monzeki Temple 077-578-0130	4 Fuyoen Honkan (dining) 077-578-0567	4 Oosugi Chaya (souvenirs and soba noodles) 077-576-7730
E Hiyoshi Toshogu Shrine (to Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine) 077-578-0955	5 Fuyoen Bekkan (dining) (reservations required) 077-578-0565	5 AN cafe & space 090-2015-6757
F Former Chikurin-in 077-578-2002	6 Teuchi Soba Tsuryuyakihachi 090-1716-7299	6 Kayo Terijiyama Traditional Japanese-style Medicinal Food Cafe (Shokusan Historic site and Dining) 090-1716-7299
G Seian-ji Temple 077-578-0205	7 Ueda (gifts and sweets) 077-578-0382	7 Chinese Restaurant Tonkou 077-576-7730
H Shogen-ji Temple 077-578-0205	8 Uozen (catered cuisine) 077-578-0251	8 cafe POCO 090-9989-0950
I Kunin Yashiki (former Okamoto Residence) 077-578-6455	9 TCS (Oishi Gyunyuuya-san) 077-579-0992	9 OHMICA-MARUYOSHI 077-532-8021
J Saijo-in Temple 077-578-0094	10 ANO SHOP 077-536-6930	
L Sakamoto Castle Ruins Park		



**Parking information**

- P** Paid parking
- P** Free parking

**Facility open to the public** (Yellow background)

**Goshuin** Site offering a commemorative seal (Red circle)

**Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings** (Designated by the Agency for Cultural Affairs)

**Ogoto Onsen, the closest hot spring to Hieizan-Sakamoto, is known for its beautifying waters, which have a pH of 9.0.**

Ogoto Onsen's official mascot **Ogoton**



### C Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine is the head shrine of over 3,800 Sanno-san shrines nationwide. Located to the northeast of the ancient capital Heian, the shrine has been venerated since the Heian period as a protective deity of the capital and guardian of Hieizan Enryaku-ji Temple. The shrine's divine messenger is the monkey Masaru, whose name combines the meanings of warding off evil and ensuring victory. The monkey appears on protective charms, fortunes, and votive pictures.

The expansive grounds include the main halls of both the East and West Shrines, which have been designated National Treasures, as well as many Important Cultural Properties, including the Three Bridges of Hiyoshi, which are considered the oldest stone bridges in Japan. The entire complex has been designated a Historic Site by the Japanese government.

The Sanno Festival, which is held annually from April 12 to 14, is one of the three major festivals of the Lake Biwa region. Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine is also considered to be one of the top maple leaf viewing spots in the Kansai region. In autumn, evening illuminations highlight the foliage, and the fresh greenery of summer is well loved, too.



At the shrine office, visitors can collect commemorative seals from each of Sanno's seven sub-shrines.

Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine official mascot Masaru-kun

### Retirement residences and Ano-shu Masonry Stone Walls (Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings)



These retirement residences were granted to elderly monks who had practiced on Mt. Hiei. They were typically built facing the road, enclosed by stone walls constructed using the Ano-shu stacking method along with fences or hedges, and feature spacious gardens (10 of which have been designated Places of Scenic Beauty by the Japanese government). The buildings themselves lie deeper within the property. The townscape combines more than 50 such residences with halls, main shrines, lanterns, torii gates, signposts, trees, and small waterways, all of which come together to form the rich historical scenery of the temple town of Sakamoto.

The Ano-shu, a group of stonemasons from Sakamoto who were skilled in building sturdy natural stone walls, gained fame during the Sengoku period. Refining their craft alongside the development of Enryaku-ji Temple and Sakamoto's history, these craftsmen played key roles in the construction of castles and temples, including the famous Azuchi Castle.

Sakamoto Elementary School's mascot Sakae-mon

Lodging	Services	Other
1 KKR Hotel Biwako 077-578-2020	1 Yamamoto Gas Station 077-578-2047	Awata Construction (Ano-shu stonework) 077-578-0170
2 Biwako Rakuen Hotel Izutsu 077-577-2235	2 Yamaha Marina Biwako 077-578-2182	Uemata Tatami Sangyo co., Ltd. 077-578-0175
3 L'Hôtel de Hiei 075-701-0201	3 Sakamoto Branch, Kansai Mirai Bank 077-578-4571	Kitai Engineering Firm 077-525-1248
	4 Asahi Automotive 077-578-0473	Sakamoto District Neighborhood Association 077-578-0015
4 Sakamoto Cable Railway (Heizan Railway) 077-578-0531	5 Shimizu Jimuki 077-579-2611	Yoshida Landscape Co., Ltd. 077-578-0561
5 OKUHEI Driveway 077-578-2139	6 Yamamoto Florist 077-578-8741	Takao Ito Certified Tax Accountant Office 077-574-0225
6 Kyoritsu Taxi 077-579-2278	7 Sakamoto Branch, Shiga Bank 077-578-2188	kawamurasayajikoudensya company 077-578-0229
7 Mizuta Taxi 090-2109-2436	8 Kosei Denka 077-578-4376	Keishin Surveying 077-578-5316
8 Yoshizawa Taxi 090-4767-3695		Sakamoto Castle Study Group 077-579-8888
		Yuuki Planning 077-574-1004