

SHIGA

Walking Paths

1 Mt. Yokote Panorama View Walk

Distance: 1.5km
Time: 1h
Elevation gain: 307m
(Trail Access Point)

A flat summit walking path with easy chairlift and "Sky-Lator" access, offering panoramic views and a possible glimpse of Mt. Fuji on clear days.



2 Sunshine & Mizunashi-ike Pond Trails

Distance: 3.9km
Time: 1.5h
Elevation gain: 100m
(Trail Access Point)

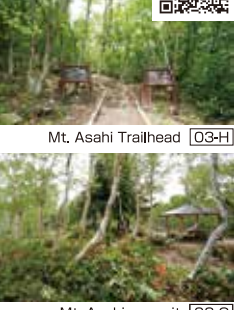
The loop trail around Biwa-ke Pond is paved to accommodate wheelchair users, although some sections may be challenging with steeper slopes. Sunshine trail connects to Munashike trail. Both are individual loop trails that are connected at one end of Biwa-ke Pond.



3 Mt. Asahi Trail

Distance: 3.5km
Time: 2h
Elevation gain: 100m
(Trail Access Point)

A quick 30mins walk from the base to the summit offers limited views from the top, but panoramic views of Biwa-ke Pond as you stroll from the gazebo towards the pond. It's surrounded by a beautiful birch forest for a pleasant walk.



4 Small Brook Trail

Distance: 1.8km
Time: 1h
Elevation gain: 60m
(Trail Access Point)

This wooden walkway follows along the stream through several marshes, and you will appreciate flowers blooming from the early spring. This is a Japanese Char, native fish species (Iwana) protected area and you will see the fish swimming in the stream.



5 Giant Shinanoki Tree Trail

Distance: 2km
Time: 1.5h
Elevation gain: 70m
(Trail Access Point)

There is a large Japanese linden tree that was designated as a special natural treasure. This is one of the biggest trees in Japan, estimated at 800 years old, about 23m in height, and a root circumference of about 10m.



Nature Discovery Trails

6 Ikemeguri Trail

Distance: 9.6km
Time: 3.5h
Elevation gain: 360m
(Trail Access Point)

This is the most iconic trail in Shiga Kogen, featuring the vibrant Onuma-ike Pond and Shijuhachi-ike Wetland with its forty eight small ponds, winding through well-maintained subalpine forests for a pleasant hike.



7 Nature Discovery Trail

Distance: 4.1km
Time: 2h
Elevation gain: 160m
(Trail Access Point)

This trail offers a variety of landscapes including six ponds, four wetlands, virgin forests, etc. For an easier one-way trip, consider using the public bus to start from Kido-ike Pond.



8 Okushiga White Birch Garden Loop Trail

Distance: 3.7km
Time: 1h20m
Elevation gain: 50m
(Trail Access Point)

This trail starts at the end of Okushiga Pension Village street and runs through a beech and birch forest. Shirakaba-ike is a small pond at the end of the trail which offers a serene resting spot where you can enjoy an amazing range of flowers, aquatic plants, mischievous dragonflies and butterflies.



9 Shimizu-Shindo Trail

Distance: 1.1km
Time: 35mins
Elevation gain: 40m
(Trail Access Point)

This course connects Ikemeguri Trail and Nature Discovery Trail. From here you can go to primordial forests toward Kido-ike Pond and Hasu-ike Pond via Shinshu University Shiga Nature Education Garden.



10 Okura-Shindo Trail

Distance: 2.7km
Time: 1h15m
Elevation gain: 160m
(Trail Access Point)

The trail winds through a tranquil beech forest and ski slopes, with parts transforming into flower meadows in early spring and late autumn. Since the trail is confusing, a detailed map or GPS is needed.



KOGEN MAP

SHIGAKOGEN NAVIGATOR



Okajo / Stoat

Okajo, the motif of Shiga Kogen's mascot character "Okomin" is a 15cm long weasel family animal that is agile and good at climbing trees and swimming. They build nests in rock crevices and tree roots, and prey on field mice and other animals. In winter, they turn completely white except for the black fur on the tip of their tails.



Japanese Serow

Though it looks like a deer, it belongs to the goat-antelope family. Both males and females have short horns. Curious and calm, it's often seen near roads or trails, sometimes pausing to watch people. It is a protected species in Japan.



The Original Japanese Char

The Zako-gawa River is a natural heritage and breeding ground for the original Japanese char, and has been featured as one of the model cases in the Fisheries Agency's attempts to increase the number of wild fish. Measures have been taken to prevent the introduction of non-native species. Please enter the river with good manners.



Genji-Botaru Firefly

In Ishinoyu area, these fireflies live at the highest altitude known for the species. Males fly and flash their lights, whereas females remain on grass or rocks and emit a different flashing rhythm for courtship.



Japanese Macaque

Japanese macaques, or "snow monkeys," are the only wild monkeys native to Japan. In winter, they grow thick fur to survive the cold. At Snow Monkey Park near Shiga Kogen, you can watch them soaking in hot springs—a rare and unforgettable sight.



Asiatic Black Bear

The Asiatic black bear inhabits Shiga Kogen and is a key indicator of the area's rich ecosystem. To maintain a safe distance from bears and other wildlife, please carry a bell while trekking.



Experience the trails of Shiga Kogen on Google Street View!



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The required time of each course is approximated. Rest time is not included.

- Walking Paths (For Beginners)
- Nature Discovery Trails (For Intermediates)
- Mountain Trails (For Advanced Hikers)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Information | Fishing Zone |
| Public Toilet | Boating |
| Parking Lot | Campsite |
| Bus Stop | No Fishing Zone |
| Police Station | Shelter |
| Post Office/ATM | Skunk Cabbage Habitat |
| Chair Lift | Eniophorum Habitat |
| Scenic Gondola | Fireweed Habitat |
| Sky-Lator | Japanese Azalea Habitat |
| View Point | Daylily Habitat |
| Osen/Hot Spring | |
| Tennis Court | |
| SUP | |

Mountain Trails

Shiga Kogen features six mountains that exceed 2,000 meters, all of which can be enjoyed as day trips. Be sure to prepare sufficient food and drink, and allow plenty of time to enjoy the experience.

13 Mt. Shiga Trail

Distance: 12.6km
Time: 5.5h
Elevation gain: 300m
(Trail Access Point)

On a mountain scarred by vast lava flows, you can see ponds formed from craters. From near the summit of Mt. Ura-Shiga, views extend over Onuma-ike Pond, Moto-ike Pond, and Shijuhachi-ike Wetland.



14 Mt. Yakebitai Trail

Distance: 7km
Time: 3h
Elevation gain: 400m
(Trail Access Point)

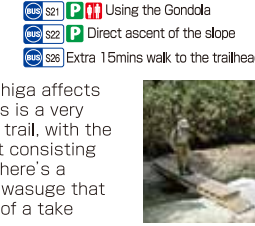
This trail primarily crosses ski slopes, offering expansive views as you climb. At the summit, the Chigo-ike Pond and a broad wetland are surrounded by trees, with wooden paths for walking. This can be exposed and is a challenging trail. Be well prepared for sunshine and wind.



15 Mt. Iwasage Trail

Distance: 9.5km
Time: 6.5h
Elevation gain: 700m
(Trail Access Point)

Trailhead choice to Mt. Shiga affects the feel and duration. This is a very exposed and challenging trail, with the last 600m to the summit consisting of a steep scree slope. There's a shelter at the top of Mt. Iwasage that has a hut nearby for use of a take home toilet system.



16 Mt. Kasagatake Trail

Distance: 7km
Time: 4h
Elevation gain: 350m
(Trail Access Point)

The trail leads through the forest to the Togeno Ohaya tea house (closed). Beyond, it ascends steep stairs and a bit of climbing over large rocks, but the 360° view from the top is exceptional.



17 Mt. Hachi / Mt. Yokote Trail

Distance: 6.5km
Time: 3h
Elevation gain: 625m
(Trail Access Point)

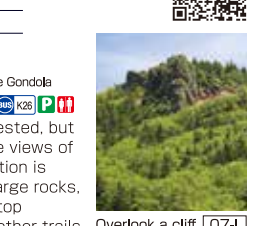
The trail from Shijuhachi-ike Wetland to Mt. Yokote summit is surrounded by forests and bamboo grass. After heavy rain, puddles can form easily, so caution is needed.



18 Mt. Akaishi Trail

Distance: 11.5km
Time: 6h
Difference: 550m
(Trail Access Point)

Most of the mountain is forested, but the summit offers expansive views of Onuma-ike Pond below. Caution is needed near the summit's large rocks, as they overlook a cliff. The top section can be added onto other trails.



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