

# SHIGA KOGEN MAP

## 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.



Sky View Terrace [05-L]

Nozoki [05-L]

### 2 Sunshine & Mizunashi-ike Pond Trails

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

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



Paved path [03-9]

Biwa-ike Pond [03-6]

### 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-ike Pond as you stroll from the gazebo towards the pond. It's surrounded by a beautiful birch forest for a pleasant walk.



Mt. Asahi Trailhead [03-H]

Mt. Asahi summit [03-G]

### 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 (wana) protected area and you will see the fish swimming in the stream.



Ichinose Diamond Wetland [05-F]

Takamagahara Wetland [05-G]

### 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 600 years old, about 23m in height, and a root circumference of about 10m.



Giant "Shinanoki" linden tree [05-F]

## 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.



Onuma-ike Pond [06-L]

### 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.



Well-maintained trail [06-L]

### 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.



A beech and birch forest [06-B]

Osawa River [06-C]

### 9 Shimizu-Shindo Trail

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

This course connects 6 Ikemeguri Trail and 7 Nature Discovery Trail. From 6 S19 you can go to primeval forests toward Kido-ike Pond and Hasu-ike Pond via Shinshu University Shiga Nature Education Garden.



Primeval forests [04-H]

### 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 ups and downs, meadows in early spring and late autumn. Since the trail is confusing, a detailed map or GPS is needed.



Soft windflowers path [05-9]

## 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 herbarium 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-Butaru Firefly

In Ichinoyu 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.



### 11 Magatama Hill Loop Trail

Distance: 2.8km  
Time: 2h  
Elevation gain: 165m  
(Trail Access Point)

This trail on a slope created by Mt. Shiga lava flows has many ups and downs, abundant giant rocks and trees, and unique attractions like luminescent moss and wind caves typical of lava plateaus.



Giant twin rocks [04-L]

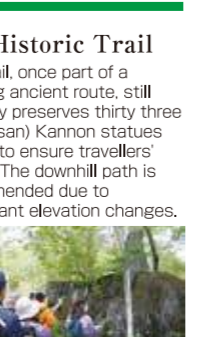
Kannon statue No.3 [04-L]

Kannon statue No.31 [03-H]

### 12 Sanju-san Kannon Historic Trail

Distance: 6km  
Time: 2.5h, 1.35h  
Elevation gain: 620m  
(Trail Access Point)

This trail, once part of a bustling ancient route, still carefully preserves thirty three (Sanju-san) Kannon statues placed to ensure travellers' safety. The downhill path is recommended due to significant elevation changes.



Kannon statue No.3 [04-L]

Kannon statue No.31 [03-H]

### 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.



Onuma-ike Pond view from Mt. Urashiga [05-L]

### 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 enjoyed as a challenging trail. Be well prepared for sunshine and wind.

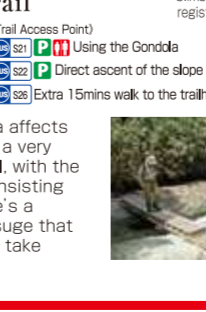


Chigo-ike Pond [05-D]

### 15 Mt. Iwasage Trail

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

Climbing Mt. Iwasage requires registration of a climbing plan. 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.



Arata-sawa [06-F]

Mt. Iwasage [08-G]

### 16 Mt. Kasagatake Trail

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

The trail leads through the forest to the Togano Chaya 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.



Togano Chaya tea house (closed) [03-K]

Stars are visible on steep slopes. [03-K]

### 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.

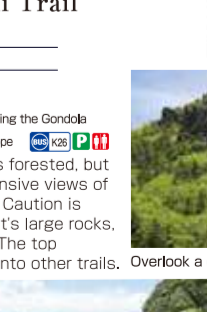


Mt. Kasagatake view [06-L]

### 18 Mt. Akaishi Trail

Distance: 11.5km  
Time: 6h  
Elevation gain: 650m  
(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.



Overlook a cliff [07-L]

Onuma-ike Pond view from a scree slope [07-L]

## Index

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