



Shiga Prefecture, home to Lake Biwa, Japan's largest lake, is located roughly in the center of Japan. Approximately 450 years ago, during the age of the samurai, Shiga Prefecture was known as "Omi". Due to its strategic location at the intersection of major highways and the presence of Lake Biwa's water transport, it often played a crucial role in history. It was said, "Whoever controls Omi controls the country".

Oda Nobunaga, one of the most famous samurai who stood at the pinnacle of samurai power, built Azuchi Castle here as his base for unifying the nation*. Additionally, the area was home to craftsmen who made swords and guns, and built castles, as well as ninjas who served the samurai. Therefore, Shiga was an extremely important place for the samurai. Indeed, Shiga can be called the "sacred land of the samurai."

When you visit Shiga, there are many places and experience where you can feel the presence of the samurai. We invite you to come and explore!

※unifying the nation = the end of civil wars and the establishment of a large unified country.

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