

Museum Facilities Guide

1F **Entrance Hall**

(※Use of the entrance hall is always free.)

Along with serving as a resting place, the entrance hall is furnished with screening equipment, allowing visitors to learn about the history of Otsu.

■ Video Theater:

Film displaying a bird's eye view of each territory of Otsu is screened on a large, 100 inch screen.

■ Museum of History Information System:

You can look up information about various topics relating to Otsu history, including: the museum's artifacts, a chronology of Otsu history, vintage photographs, and a guide to historical landmarks. You can even test your knowledge of Otsu history by taking a quiz.

■ Video Corner:

You can view video recordings of religious festivals, ethnic events and customs, post-World War II Otsu, and commentary on permanent exhibits.

◆ **Museum Shop**

Publications and goods, including art and photograph collections of exhibits, related to Otsu history are available for purchase.

2F **Project Exhibition Room**

Museum organized projects are almost always on display. However, when no museum event is being held, the space can be used for art exhibition or as a gallery.

◆ **Observation Hall**

This hall is located high above ground and overlooks Lake Biwa. From the 2nd floor Observation Hall, you can enjoy a panoramic view of Otsu's townscape and the opposing shore's seasonal beauty, perfectly framing Lake Biwa.

**Seminar / Lecture Events**

Periodically, aligning with particular exhibitions or mini exhibitions, seminars pertaining to Otsu and Omi history, art, archaeology, and folk customs are held. Also, child-friendly events aimed at giving both parents and children a hands-on understanding of history are periodically held.

● **Museum Hours**

9 : 00 ~ 17 : 00 (Last admission at 16 : 30)

● **Closed**

Mondays (When Monday falls on a national holiday, the museum stays open and is closed on the following Tuesday)

Day following National Holiday (When it falls on a Saturday or Sunday, then the museum stays open)

New Year's Holiday (12/27 ~ 1/5)

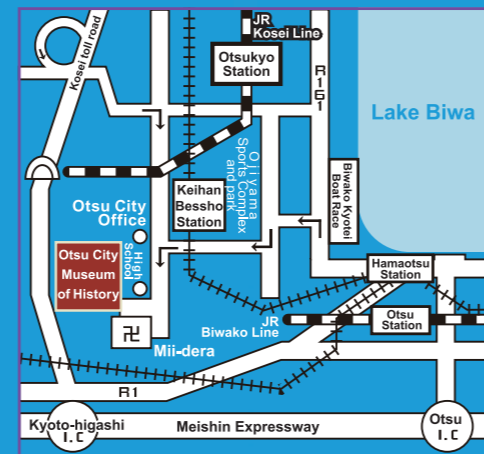
Please note the museum closing days may be subject to change.

● **Admission Fees**

Ticket Type	Individual	Group (15 persons or more)
General	¥ 320	¥ 250
High School /University Student	¥ 240	¥ 190
Elementary /Jr High School Student	¥ 160	¥ 120

※The admission to the mini featured exhibition is included in the regular admission ticket.

※Admission tickets for the featured exhibition changes based on the nature of the exhibition.



Transportation access

● Keihan Railway Sakamoto-Ishiyama Line, Bessho Station, 5 minute walk

● JR Otsukyo Station, 15 minute walk

**大津市歴史博物館**

OTSU CITY MUSEUM OF HISTORY

〒520-0037

Goryo-cho 2-2, Otsu, Shiga Prefecture

TEL077-521-2100 FAX077-521-2666

http://www.rekihaku.otsu.shiga.jp/

● Parking lot (Approximately 70 cars, free of charge)

**大津市歴史博物館**  
OTSU CITY MUSEUM OF HISTORY



The Otsu City Museum of History opened on October 28, 1990. It works to collect, preserve, and research various historical artifacts and data with the purpose of making the information widely available to the public. In addition, by showcasing Otsu's history and culture to the world, it hopes to become a museum that is beloved and admired by many.

**Museum Card Information**

This special ticket enables visitors to freely enjoy sponsored exhibitions. It also includes a discount on publications and exhibit fees, a variety of exhibition information and guides, and other special privileges.

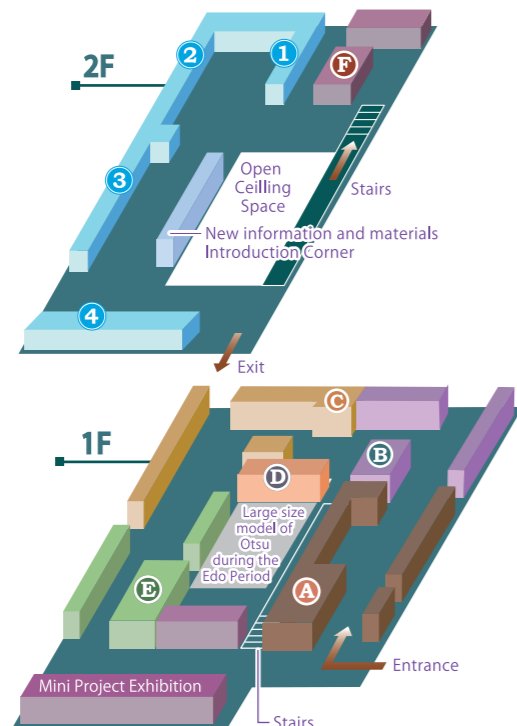
(Good for one year)

General	¥ 2,000
Fee High School / University Student	¥ 1,500
Elementary/Jr High School Student	¥ 1,000

★For further details, please direct inquiries to the Otsu City Museum of History.

**Admission** History and Culture of Otsu

Both a rich historical and cultural legacy have been forged because of Otsu's blessed nature—Lake Biwa and forested mountains. Since people first settled in Otsu, over 8,000 years ago during the Jomon Period, to today, the land has become a common setting in the course of history, and a constant focus of attention. This can be attributed to the fact that Otsu has long served as a center for transportation, tying the Kansai region together. Also, because Otsu stretches from north to south, early people came to develop their own unique histories and cultures. Through permanent exhibits, including “themed exhibits” that focus on a particular area of Otsu and “chronology exhibits” that introduce symbolic events of particular time periods, Otsu's gradual development over time is made tangible.



The view from the 2nd floor observation lobby is the best!

**A** Katata and Hira Sanroku Villages  
【themed exhibit】

Based in Lake Biwa's many bays, the water transportation and fishing industries of Katata Village flourished at the end of the Muromachi Period. A model of the village reconstructs how the village would have appeared during this time. This exhibit also introduces the history of the Hira Sanroku Villages, which were able to thrive due to Mt. Hira and Lake Biwa.



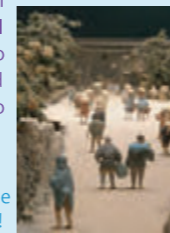
If you gaze over the model just so, you can enjoy a 3D view of history!

**B** Mt. Hiei and its Base  
【themed exhibit】

This exhibit introduces the history of Sakamoto and Sakamoto Castle, which originally stood as towns built around Enryaku-ji and Hiyoshi-sha. A model displays the layout of Sakamoto as it would have appeared during the latter half of the Edo Period.



You might find someone who looks just like you!



**C** Otsu Hyakucho  
【themed exhibit】

This exhibit introduces the history of Otsucho, an area of Otsu that served as a port town and a center for water transportation, along with being a waypoint on the Tokaido road. A model recreates how the center of the waypoint and the town of Fudanotsuji would have appeared during the latter half of the Edo Period. Also, an area has been set up to display souvenirs long beloved by travelers: Otsu-e, abacuses, and Ikegawa sewing needles.



**D** The Eight Views of Omi  
【themed exhibit】

A representative landmark of Omi's lake country: The Eight Views of Omi. This locale's beautiful nature is immortalized in many paintings and crafted artwork from the Edo Period. At this corner, archetypal ukiyo-e paintings by Utagawa Hiroshige are on display.



**E** The 60,000 Koku Fief of Zeze  
【themed exhibit】

This exhibit introduces the history of the 60,000 koku (a unit of measure pertaining to volumes of rice; approximately 10.8 million liters) fief of Zeze, which was ruled by the Hondashi Clan. This fief included Zeze, the town surrounding the castle, and various other villages. A model displays how these areas would have appeared during the latter half of the Edo Period, and illustrations in the exhibit depict daily life within the domain. There is also an area dedicated to the master haiku poet, Matsuo Basho, who loved the scenery of Omi.

Appreciate the aesthetics of these famous tea ceremony tools—Zeze-yaki pottery with connections to tea ceremony master, Kobori Enshu!



**F** Otsukyo  
【themed exhibit】

This exhibit introduces the history of Otsukyo, which is rife with ancient ruins, through archaeological artifacts and illusions. A replication model of Otsu Palace based on the latest research is also on display.



**1~4** Chronology Exhibit  
①Primeval/Ancient Times ②Middle Ages ③Early Modern Ages ④The Modern Era

This exhibit presents the history and culture of Otsu from primeval/ancient times to the modern day, and introduces events from each era through documents, photographs, and illustrations. On top of introducing various historical events, this exhibit also focuses in on some defining matters from each time period. From primeval/ancient times, the exhibit contains a mound of shells from Ishiyama and shibi, or decorative roof tiles, (an irreplaceable cultural treasure) found at an archaeological site at Yama no Kami, dating back to the Jomon Period. From the middle ages, the exhibit displays information on the Kannon Pilgrimage, dating back to the Muromachi Period. From the early modern ages, information on the Siege of Otsu Castle and the Battle of Sekigahara, along with what Otsu was like during the upheaval of the Tokugawa shogunate, is on display. Finally, from the modern era, information on steam boats, the railway system, the Otsu Incident, and more is on display.



**Mini Project Exhibition**

At this corner, using the museum's collection of artifacts, certain interesting themes relating to Otsu and Omi history and culture are introduced.