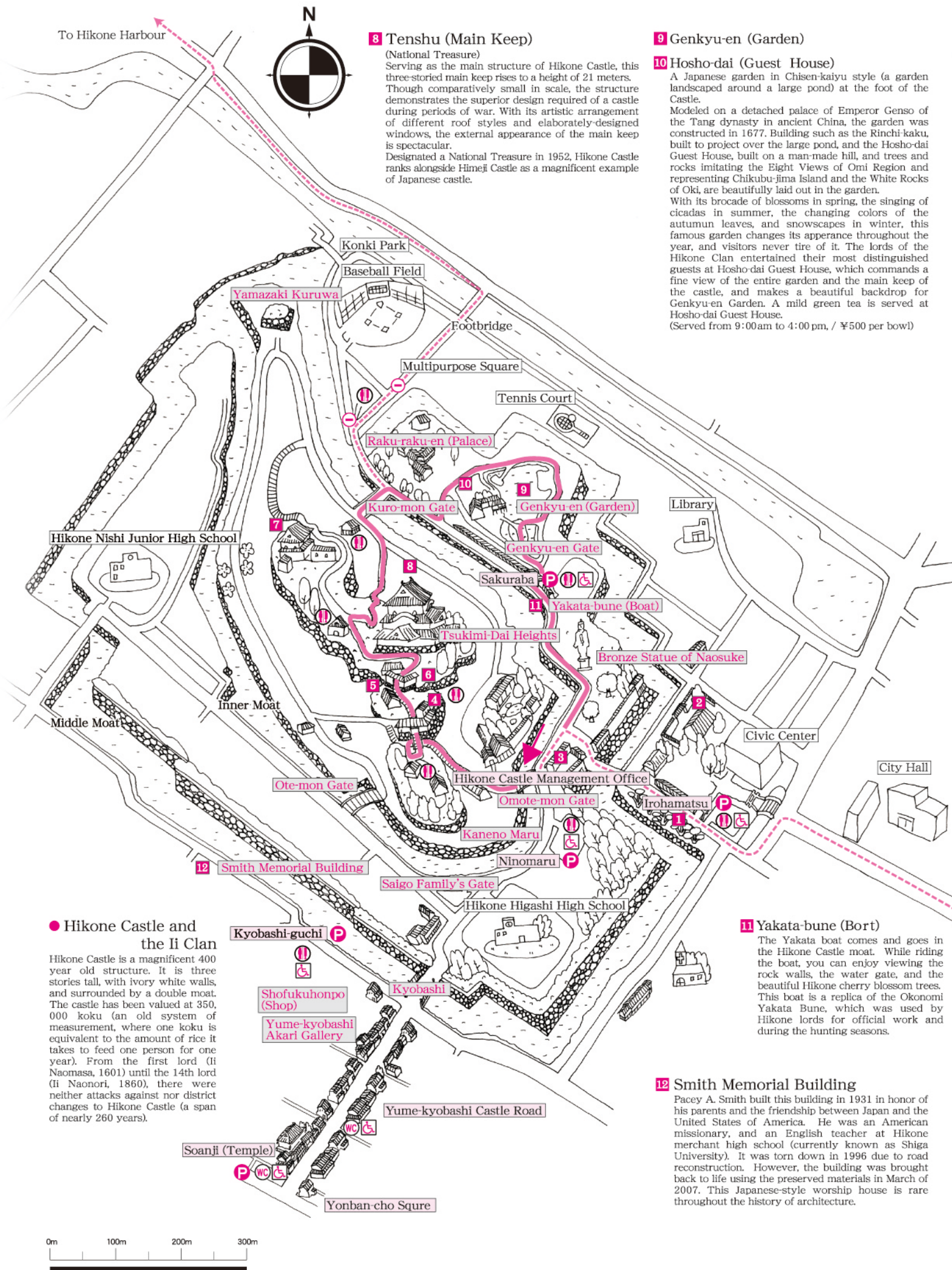


CLOSE UP HIKONE CASTLE

Street Map & Guide To HIKONE



8 Tenshu (Main Keep)

(National Treasure)
Serving as the main structure of Hikone Castle, this three-storied main keep rises to a height of 21 meters. Though comparatively small in scale, the structure demonstrates the superior design required of a castle during periods of war. With its artistic arrangement of different roof styles and elaborately-designed windows, the external appearance of the main keep is spectacular.
Designated a National Treasure in 1952, Hikone Castle ranks alongside Himeji Castle as a magnificent example of Japanese castle.

9 Genkyu-en (Garden)

A Japanese garden in Chisen-kaiyu style (a garden landscaped around a large pond) at the foot of the Castle.
Modeled on a detached palace of Emperor Genso of the Tang dynasty in ancient China, the garden was constructed in 1677. Building such as the Rinchi-kaku, built to project over the large pond, and the Hoshō-dai Guest House, built on a man-made hill, and trees and rocks imitating the Eight Views of Omi Region and representing Chikubu-jima Island and the White Rocks of Oku, are beautifully laid out in the garden.
With its brocade of blossoms in spring, the singing of cicadas in summer, the changing colors of the autumn leaves, and snowscapes in winter, this famous garden changes its appearance throughout the year, and visitors never tire of it. The lords of the Hikone Clan entertained their most distinguished guests at Hoshō-dai Guest House, which commands a fine view of the entire garden and the main keep of the castle, and makes a beautiful backdrop for Genkyu-en Garden. A mild green tea is served at Hoshō-dai Guest House.
(Served from 9:00am to 4:00 pm, / ¥500 per bowl)

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1 Iroha matsu (Pine Trees)

Evergreen pine trees lining the outer moat which borders an avenue leading to Nino-maru Sawaguchi Tamon-yagura.
The pine trees are of a "Tosa Pine Tree" species, whose roots do not protrude from the ground. To allow easy passage of people and horses, they were brought in all the way from Tosa, now Kochi prefecture, when the Castle was first built.
In the course of time, however, some were replaced with other species, so now not all of them are "Tosa Pines"

2 Umoregi-no-ya (Lodge)

This is the lodge where Naosuke II, the 13th lord of the Hikone Clan, spent his days in ascetic style from the age of 17 to 32, applying himself to the pursuit of learning and martial arts. Later he was promoted to an important office in the government of Edo, and played a crucial role in deciding to open up Japan to the outside world. His contemplative days at this lodge must have provided him with unusually broad vision.

3 Umaya (Stable)

(Important National Cultural Asset)
Here, a dozen horses belonging to successive lords of the Hikone Clan were always kept. This stable is unique in that it is the only stable in Japan still existing within a castle site.

4 Tenbin-yagura (Tower)

(Important National Cultural Asset)
A turret, a small, fortified structure, is called a "yagura" in Japanese.
As you ascend the slope from the front gate, you'll find a "corridor bridge," which can be demolished in emergencies. Forming a symmetric shape with the bridge at the center is the Tenbin-yagura.
This yagura is so named because it resembles a balance scale, or "tenbin" in Japanese. It is said to be the reconstruction of the main gate of Nagahama Castle originally constructed by Hideyoshi Toyotomi. Hikone Castle has the sole example in Japan of this unique shape.

5 Jiho-sho (Time-keeping Bell)

This bell was originally located in Kane-no-maru. But it was later re-molded and moved to its present location by order of the 12th lord, Naosuke II, so the sound of the bell would reach the entire castle town. Today, the bell is rung five times a day to tell the time to all those within reach. The sound of the bell still fills the city with its century-old resonating tone.

6 Taiko-mon-yagura (Tower)

(Important National Cultural Asset)
This solidly-built yagura gate guards the front entrance leading to the Honmaru, or the main keep. Here was placed a "taiko," or drum, used to send coded signals.

7 Nishino-maru Sanju-yagura (Tower)

(Important National Cultural Asset)
The west side of the Honmaru quarter is called Nishino-maru, or the west-wing fort. And at the far end of the area stands Sanju-yagura, which is built on a stone wall exceeding 10 meters in height. In the area east of the Yagura stands a grove of cherry trees, enchanting visitors in spring with their exquisite blossoms.

11 Yakata-bune (Boat)

The Yakata boat comes and goes in the Hikone Castle moat. While riding the boat, you can enjoy viewing the rock walls, the water gate, and the beautiful Hikone cherry blossom trees. This boat is a replica of the Okonomi Yakata Bune, which was used by Hikone lords for official work and during the hunting seasons.

12 Smith Memorial Building

Pacey A. Smith built this building in 1931 in honor of his parents and the friendship between Japan and the United States of America. He was an American missionary, and an English teacher at Hikone merchant high school (currently known as Shiga University). It was torn down in 1996 due to road reconstruction. However, the building was brought back to life using the preserved materials in March of 2007. This Japanese-style worship house is rare throughout the history of architecture.

Hikone Castle walk around course for 90 min. **90** minutes

Omote mon bashi→Omote mon→Kanenomaru→Tenbin-yagura→Jihoshō→Taikomōn-yagura→Tsukimidaï-Tenshu (main tower)→Kuro mon→Raku raku en→Gen kyu en

This course includes the castle tower (a national treasure), Yaguras (an important cultural assets) and Gen Kyu En (the garden). The course allows you to look down from the top of the castle mountain and to look up from the garden below.

Walk around course 30 minutes **30** minutes

+ Hikone Castle Museum

Hikone Castle museum is a replica of the Hikone government administration building, Omote Gotten. The current building was built in 1987 for a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Hikone's government. In the museum, there are crafts, Noh theater items and tea ceremony items, old book exhibits, a restored tea room, a garden, and an actual Noh theatre. A national treasure, the Hikone screen is displayed to the public every spring. The Noh theatre opens every spring and fall.

+ Umoregi-no-Ya (Lodge)

ii Naosuke spent 15 years (from when he was 17 years old until 32 years old) in this house. This walking course has access to the parking lot (Iroha Matsu).

+ Gen Kyu En (Garden)

Walking course through Gen Kyu En. Enjoy Usucha (tea) in Hou Shou Dai (a tea room) for relaxation.

Walk around course 45min **45** minutes

+ close observation of the castle tower

After studying the castle tower, proceed to Nishinomaru Sanju Yagura. Proceed from Yamazaki Kuruwa to the Black Gate. There is an option of starting from Yamazaki Kuruwa, and going through the plum forest, and ending with Ohte Mon. Enjoy the natural beauty of Hikone.

Walk around course 60 min. **60** minutes

+ Yume Kyobashi Castle Road to Yonban-Cho Square

The Yume Kyobashi castle road gives you a sense of nostalgia. The Machiya style shops have black and white traditional walls along with gabled roof. You may eat at a restaurant, stop at a coffee shop, or buy a souvenir.
Yonban-Cho Square is designed with an image of a romantic Taisho era. Its concept is water, sound and prayer. Centered around a food themed building, you can enjoy hypersonic sounds through the town.

For further information

- Hikone Tourist Information ☎0749-22-2954
- Hikone Sightseeing Association ☎0749-23-0001
- Hikone Castle Management Office ☎0749-22-2742

<http://www.hikoneshi.com/>



The first lord, Ii Naomasa and Koku stipend

When the first lord, Ii Naomasa was 15 years old (1575), he received 2000 koku (with one koku being enough rice to feed one person for a year) at Iidani, Shizuoka prefecture, from Tokugawa Ieyasu. When Naomasa was 16 years old, he received another 13,000 koku for a victory prize (for his first war). When he was 22 years old, he received 40,000 koku for conquering the Takeda clan. When he was 30 years old, he became lord of Miwa Castle in Ueno, which was worth 120,000 koku. Later, his victory in Sekigahara allowed him to receive Sawayama Castle (in Hikone) which was worth 180,000 koku. After Naomasa lived in Hikone, he passed away due to a war wound suffered from the battle of Sekigahara. He was only 42 years old.

Ii Naosuke

Naosuke was born as the 14th son of the 11th Hikone lord. He spent his life in Umorigi house learning about Japanese poetry (waka) with Nagano Shuzen, the Japanese scholar. He also learned about Noh and Kyogen theater, and tea ceremony. He took leadership after his brother died and he became lord of Hikone. In 1858, he became Tairo. He insisted on opening Japan to the other countries. He signed a trade treaty between Japan and the USA. However, two years later (1860) on March 3rd, he was attacked by antiforeign factions, and this event brought his life to an end.

Haiyuukan

Closed on Tuesdays TEL0749-22-6849
This place informs you about Hikone along with haiku (Japanese poetry). It is an old bank building (built in 1914) and it has an aged and distinguished atmosphere. You can also submit your Haiku too. In addition, you can attempt to answer a quiz about Hikone, and play Hikone's traditional board game, Karomu.

Yume-Kyobashi Castle Road

From Kyo-bashi Bridge built across the outer moat of the Castle, the City's 350-meter-long main street stretches southward-this is the area called "Yume-Kyobashi Castle Road," around which a project to build the Heisei version of a castle town is underway. Arts and crafts shops, tea houses, restaurants, and boutiques, as well as private houses, are refurbished in a unified color of white, black, brown and gray, together creating the atmosphere of merchants' houses of Edo era. Passers-by are entertained by unique presentations at each shop as they walk along the road, and are reminded of past times. With the old merchant town beautifully arranged in a modern style, Yume-kyo-bashi Castle Road has become another tourist favorite of Hikone City.

After walking around the tourist favorites at the castle site, we recommend a stroll along Yume-kyobashi Castle Road. Don't forget to buy some souvenirs! Now, how about a tea break? Check your guidebook-what's your next choice? Visiting temples is a must in Hikone-the city of beautiful temples. Rambling through "Zelkova Tree Avenue," and visiting the Street of Hikone Buddhist Altars would be nice, too. You can take a sightseeing pleasure boat tour on Lake Biwa, and visit neighboring cities. There is a lot more to see around the lake, and in the city.

Yume-Kyobashi Akarikan (Shop)

Closed on Tuesdays TEL0749-27-5501
In this place Japanese-style candles from the Edo Period, which light up the heart of Hikone City, are introduced. About 500 types are on display and for sale here. You can also experience the making of your own original candle in the shop's studio area. You can enjoy seeing, learning and experiencing the charming lights and see how they have evolved through history.

Shofukuhonpo (Shop)

Closed on Tuesdays TEL0749-23-8629
Manekineko (beckoning cat) are a type of traditional good-luck charm. They are often placed at the entrance of restaurants and shops hoping they'll beckon many customers and thriving business. Many different types are on display and for sale here.

Yonban Cho Square

This refreshed Taisho styled town used to be called the kitchen of Hikone. This relaxing town is centered around Hikone food manor Yonban Cho dining, and Hikone center town plaza. There is a patio, a creek, and a Roku Dou Shi for your relaxation; and you can always hear hypersonic sounds.

Hikone Buddhist Alters (Street)

Hikone is also famous for its production of Buddhistaltars, which dates back to the middle of the Edo era, when craftsmen of armor and weapons reportedly abandoned their former business to start the peacetime industry of crafting Buddhist altars. From east to west, as you walk along the Zelkova Tree Avenue by the Seri-gawa River, and cross the Seri-bashi Bridge to Nana-magari Road on the east end, you'll see factories and shops selling Buddhist altars crowded together. If you're lucky, you'll be able to see just one part of the detailed production processes at the shop front.

Soanji (Temple) TEL0749-22-0801

Soanji, also called the Temple of the Red Gate, is famous for its unusually tall, vermilion-lacquered main gate. The gate, which was built this tall to accommodate saddled horsemen, was originally the main gate of Sawayama Castle, in which resided the former ruler of the Hikone area, Ishida Mitsunari. The main hall was rebuilt from its original location in the Gunma Prefecture area by the first lord of Hikone, Ii Naomasa. And it is said that the lords of Hikone would come to this temple every month to pray for the soul of Tokugawa Ieyasu.

Takeshima (Island)

Slightly east of the center of Lake Biwa there is a small island called Takeshima Island (literally Many View Island). It is a small island, at only 500 meters in circumference, that consists mainly of quartzite rock and is covered by thick forest. There is also a small temple of the Nichiren sect called Kentoji. (The island can be reached from the Hikone port in about an hour.)

Hikone city was established as a castle town in the Edo era. The town possessed many merchants, craftsmen, and farmers other than warriors. There were over 100 different occupations that were divided at specific districts according to their social structure. In addition, warriors lived in specific areas according to their ranking. They were called Hikone Machi Kata fifty-three Cho. Currently most of the town and its names are updated; however, we can still observe the old days according to the design of the houses, and the roads.

Souvenirs and Products

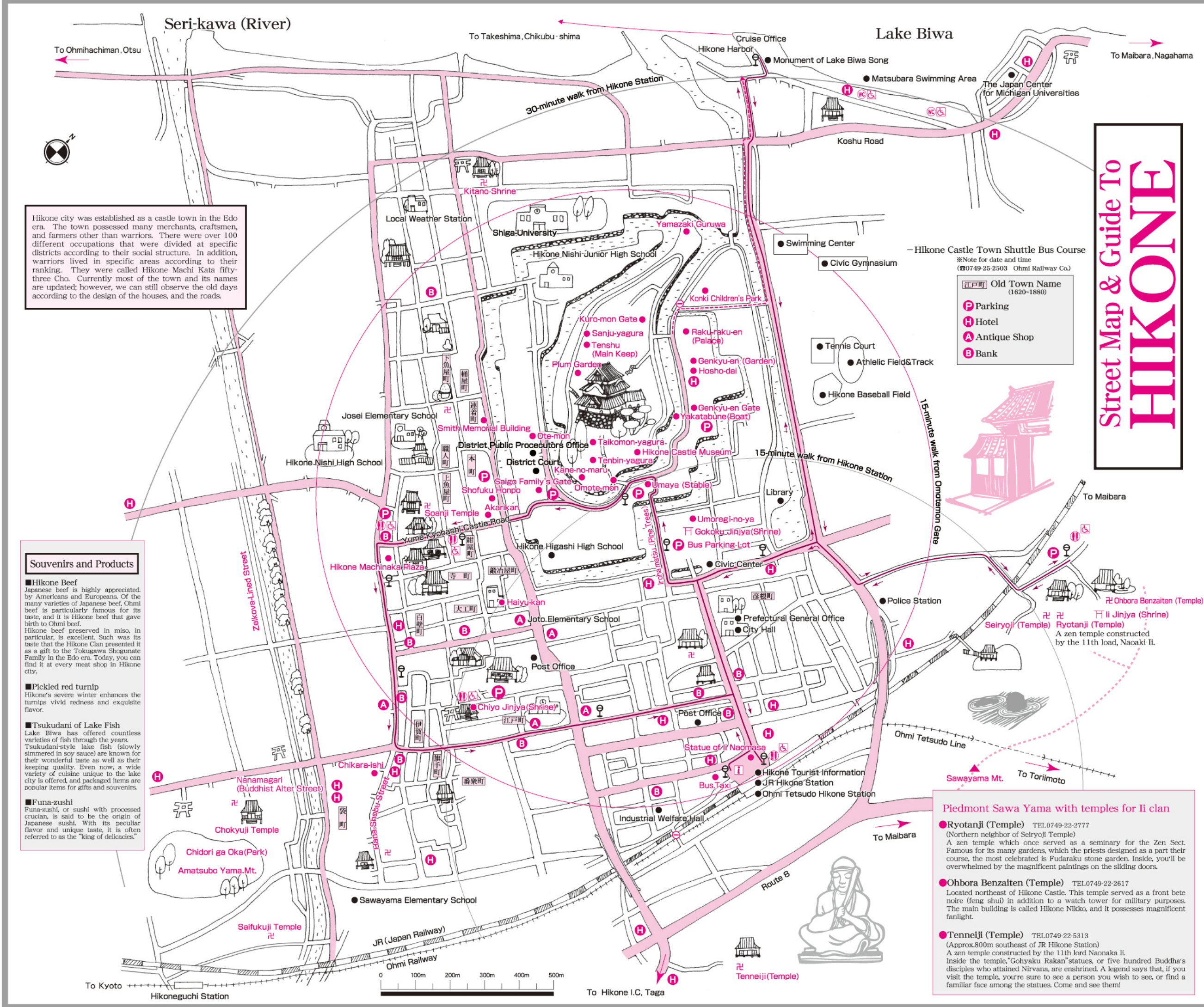
■ **Hikone Beef**
Japanese beef is highly appreciated by Americans and Europeans. Of the many varieties of Japanese beef, Ohmi beef is particularly famous for its taste, and it is Hikone beef that gave birth to Ohmi beef. Hikone beef preserved in miso, in particular, is excellent. Such was its taste that the Hikone Clan presented it as a gift to the Tokugawa Shogunate Family in the Edo era. Today, you can find it at every meat shop in Hikone city.

■ **Pickled red turnip**
Hikone's severe winter enhances the turnips vivid redness and exquisite flavor.

■ **Tsukudani of Lake Fish**
Lake Biwa has offered countless varieties of fish through the years. Tsukudani-style lake fish (slowly simmered in soy sauce) are known for their wonderful taste as well as their keeping quality. Even now, a wide variety of cuisine unique to the lake city is offered, and packaged items are popular items for gifts and souvenirs.

■ **Funa-zushi**
Funa-zushi, or sushi with processed crucian, is said to be the origin of Japanese sushi. With its peculiar flavor and unique taste, it is often referred to as the "king of delicacies."

Hikone Tourism Department.
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Street Map & Guide To
HIKONE

旧町名 (Old Town Name 1620-1880)

- P Parking
- H Hotel
- A Antique Shop
- B Bank

Piedmont Sawa Yama with temples for Ii clan

- **Ryotanji (Temple) TEL0749-22-2777**
(Northern neighbor of Seiryoji Temple)
A zen temple which once served as a seminary for the Zen Sect. Famous for its many gardens, which the priests designed as a part their course, the most celebrated is Fudaraku stone garden. Inside, you'll be overwhelmed by the magnificent paintings on the sliding doors.
- **Ohbora Benzaiten (Temple) TEL0749-22-2617**
Located northeast of Hikone Castle. This temple served as a front bete noire (feng shui) in addition to a watch tower for military purposes. The main building is called Hikone Nikko, and it possesses magnificent fanlight.
- **Tenneji (Temple) TEL0749-22-5313**
(Approx.800m southeast of JR Hikone Station)
A zen temple constructed by the 11th lord Naonaka Ii. Inside the temple, "Gohyaku Rakan" statues, or five hundred Buddha's disciples who attained Nirvana, are enshrined. A legend says that, if you visit the temple, you're sure to see a person you wish to see, or find a familiar face among the statues. Come and see them!