



A grandeur drama under the silence

At first sight, you will see reeds surrounding Nishinoko (west lake) which are bending in the wind. Nishinoko is the largest of Biwako's inner lakes. Nishinoko is home to some of the largest reed beds in the Kansai area. Reeds are used for making blinds or folding screens, but in recent years, reed flutes and chopsticks are also being produced.

Once you step in through the reed beds, various plants will appear. Not only plants, but many living things like, fish, insects, birds etc. are there. This suggests that one harmonious ecosystem exists in Nishinoko. Human beings also live in harmony with this ecosystem. Nishinoko continues to exist because of the coexistence in the ecosystem and human beings.

To feel and go through the nature, you can take a "Suigou Meguri", canal tour where the rower will tell you more about Nishinoko. It is great in spring going down a stream lined with cherry blossoms.



写真提供：株式会社ラーゴ



Living water close to residents

There is a unique relationship between the people of Shiga Prefecture and Biwako. Perhaps this relationship is best presented in the village of Harie.

At Harie, residents continue to use Kabata, spring water pools. Kabata are created by natural springs made from mountains, snow and rain. The residents use these springs in their daily life. Eventually, the water will end up in a pool where carp live. These carp

clean the water by eating food waste. The pools are connected to a series of streams that finally flow into Biwako. This is really the sort of eco-living that we should all hope to enjoy.

Tours are available and take visitors through personal Kabatas. The tour includes tasting water from many different springs and shows off the beauty of this small Japanese village. (Appointments are required for the tour.)

Harie Shozu no Sato

ADDRESS: 372 Harie, Shinasahi-cho, Takashima City
 ACCESS: From JR Shin-Asahi Sta., 20min on foot
 PHONE: 0740-25-6566
 URL: <http://www.geocities.jp/syouzu2007/>



The whole of Biwako

Biwako is not just about rich nature, but also about humanity as well. Therefore, the Lake Biwa Museum's theme is "Lake Biwa and Its People". The museum is based on research and exploration. Its enormously diverse exhibits cover an aquarium, geological and human history, information about the lake environment and our changing relationship with it. In the aquarium exhibit, you can see many of the different kinds of aquatic life that

live in and around Biwako.

The Lake Biwa Museum also runs many workshops for its visitors and local community. Participants can do various activities such as make plankton models. When you go through the Lake Biwa Museum, you can learn all kinds of things about Biwako and come to understand how human beings began to depend on their local waters.

Lake Biwa Museum

ADDRESS: 1091 Oroshimo-cho, Kusatsu City
 ACCESS: From JR Kusatsu Sta., 25min by bus (get off at "Biwako Hakubutsukan mae")
 PHONE: 077-568-4811
 URL: <http://www.lbm.go.jp/english/>



Art in nature, on the water

You will be under the illusion that the museum is floating on the water when you enter the gates of Sagawa Art Museum. The building's beauty and structure attracts instant attention. It sits amongst lush natural surroundings. The

permanent exhibits contain works by three artists.

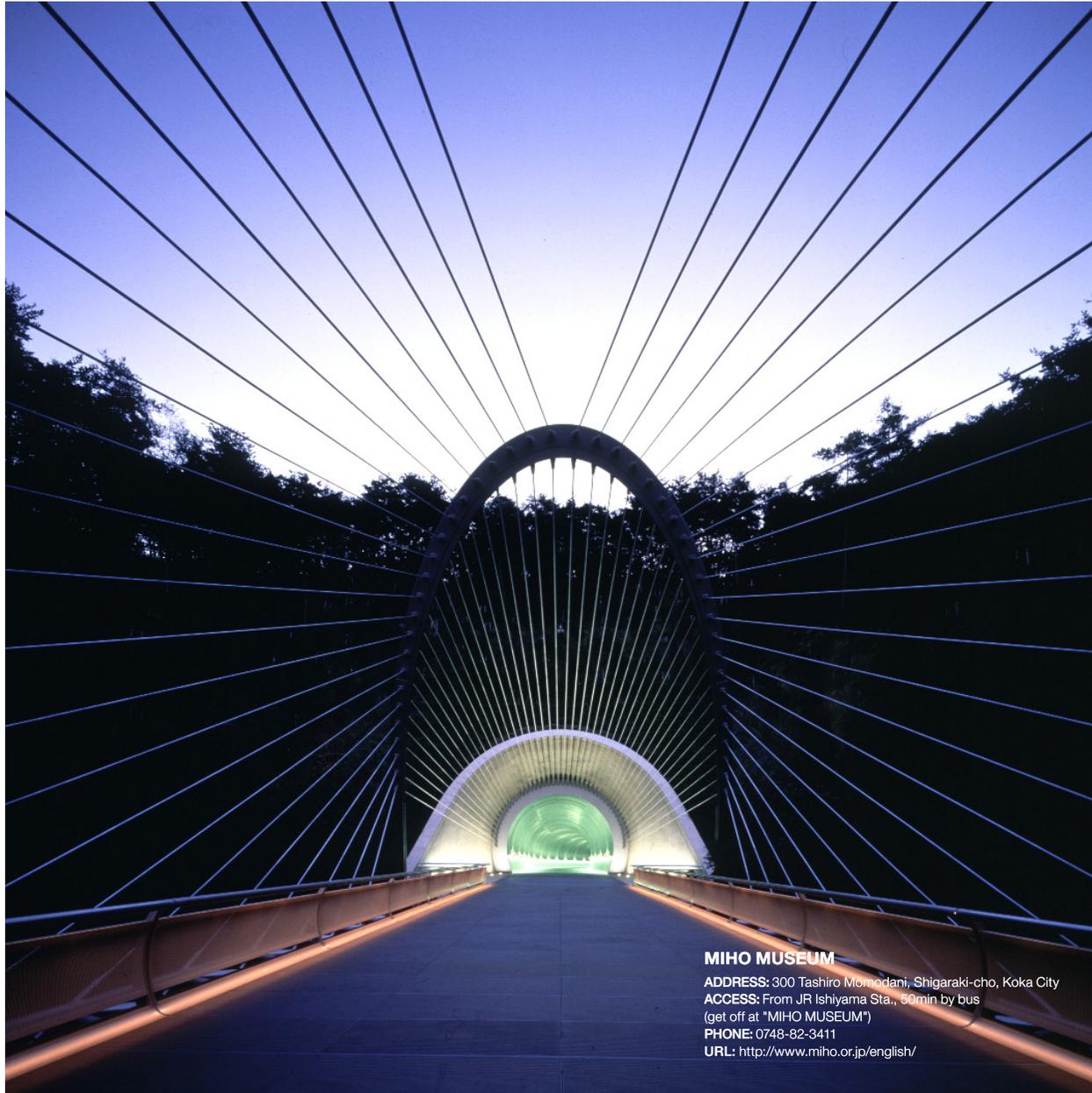
The charm of this museum is that it has a "Chashitsu", a tea-ceremony room. To enter the Chashitsu, you must go underground and under the water. You

will then find yourself in an interesting space made of spectacular materials. Sagawa Art Museum matches its natural surroundings in a way that allows you to enjoy both art and nature.

Sagawa Art Museum

ADDRESS: 2891 Kitagawa, Mizuho-cho, Moriama City
ACCESS: From JR Katata Sta., 15min by bus
 (get off at "Sagawa Bijyutsukan")
PHONE: 077-585-7800
URL: <http://www.sagawa-artmuseum.or.jp/english/>





MIHO MUSEUM
ADDRESS: 300 Tashiro Momodani, Shigaraki-cho, Koka City
ACCESS: From JR Ishiyama Sta., 50min by bus
 (get off at "MIHO MUSEUM")
PHONE: 0748-82-3411
URL: <http://www.miho.or.jp/english/>



Borderless Art Museum NO-MA
ADDRESS: 16 Nagahara-chokami, Omihachiman City
ACCESS: From JR Omi-Hachiman Sta., 10min by bus
 (get off at "Osugicho")
PHONE: 0748-36-5018
URL: <http://www.no-ma.jp/about/english.html>

Open your mind to a mystical world

The MIHO MUSEUM is in the middle of a beautiful mountain area. As you walk towards the museum you will see a tunnel. You will have a mysterious feeling when you pass through the tunnel. When the field of vision opens, a different world will be in front you. At first sight, you can see that the beautiful architecture assimilates into the

abundant natural scenery surrounding the museum. I. M. Pei designed the museum.

The museum exhibits many historical items and works of art from many places around the world, including, Egypt, Rome, Asia and China. At least once you should step into the paradise on earth that is the MIHO MUSEUM.



Feel the power of art

Have you heard of the art form known as "Art Brut"? The NO-MA museum of art brut is a place where the energy of artist's creative works allows visitors to overcome the artificial boundaries of their minds. Human expression is the heart of this museum. Everyone will experience this differently and will be touched by the exquisite pieces of art in

unique ways.

The building is rather plain on the outside and blends into the streets of Omihachiman, but inside it is actually an art museum. It's one of the most famous art brut museums in the world. These works of pure human emotion will open your eyes and heart to a whole new form of human expression.

