

Discover



**JAPAN** 

A Leading Pottery Destination, Nurturing Heritage, Defining Excellence.

## Travel Professional Destination Guide







### Welcome to Shigaraki

Shigaraki Tourism Association's comprehensive
"Travel Proffessional Guide"
has been crafted to serve as your indispensable resource for planning unforgettable experiences in Shigaraki.



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We are excited to introduce you to the Shigaraki Tourism Association's comprehensive "Travel Proffessional Destination Guide", crafted to serve as your indispensable resource for planning unforgettable experiences in the captivating Shigaraki region.

As Shigaraki embarks on a journey of re branding and repositioning before the 2025 Osaka Expo, we are excited to share this guide, which is designed to enrich your understanding of Shigaraki, ensuring that your clients can immerse themselves fully in all that this remarkable destination has to offer.

Shigaraki is a place where tradition and innovation coexist seamlessly. It's one of Japan's six ancient kiln areas, renowned for its pottery craftsmanship that transcends time. But Shigaraki is not just about pottery; it's a treasure trove of cultural, natural, and culinary experiences waiting to be discovered.

In this guide, you will find a wealth of information, from an in-depth introduction to Shigaraki's geographical and cultural significance to travel tips and contact information for seamless planning. Explore the top attractions and historical temples and shrines. Delve into the local cuisine, outdoor adventures, and arts and crafts experiences. Learn about the festivals and events that make Shigaraki come alive, and discover the various accommodation options.

Our commitment to sustainable tourism and cultural preservation is unwavering, and this guide reflects our dedication to providing authentic, enriching experiences while respecting the environment and heritage of Shigaraki.

We encourage you to use this guide as a valuable tool for staff training, allowing your team to become experts on Shigaraki and as an essential resource for creating memorable journeys for your clients. Shigaraki is where every traveller can find their unique connection, whether through the artistry of our pottery, the tranquillity of our land-scapes, or the grace of our festivals.

Welcome the world to Shigaraki and share our rich heritage, natural beauty, and warm hospitality. This guide will be instrumental in ensuring your clients have a truly immersive and enjoyable experience.

### **Shigaraki Tourism Association**

### www.e-shigaraki.org





Follow our SNS channels for the latest information.





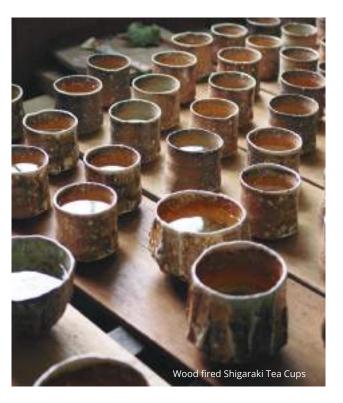


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### Location

Shigaraki is located in the southern part of Shiga Prefecture, making it easily accessible from major cities like Osaka, Kyoto, Nagoya, all within a convenient 100 km radius.

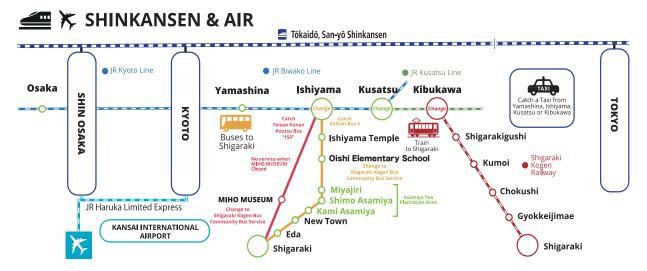
This proximity to urban centres has historically positioned Shigaraki as a vital transportation and trade hub. Moreover, Shigaraki is embraced by a picturesque natural landscape, with mountains encircling the region. These mountains not only contribute to the area's breathtaking scenery, they have provided the clay for producing pottery and a degree of separation from other areas, positively affecting demand for product from the area. Over centuries, people have navigated the mountainous terrain, establishing trade routes that connect Shigaraki to neighbouring regions like Uji, Kyoto, Nara and Osaka. The distance from Kyoto to Shigaraki is 44.4 km by car and the travelling time is around 50 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. The total travel time to reach Shigaraki by train from Kyoto is 1 hour and 30 mins.





### Access

There are several methods to access Shigaraki and these vary depending on travellers requirements. The main forms of access are Train, Bus, Taxi, Chartered vehicle or Rental car.



### **Access from Kansai Airport to Kyoto**

JR Haruka Limited Express departs from Platform 4 at the JR Kansai Airport Terminal Station. The Limited Express Haruka runs about 30 round trips between Kyoto Station and Kansai Airport Station every day.

The train carriages are decorated in a "Hello Kitty" design, There are 4 different "Hello Kitty" design themes used to decorate the various trains, which provide this service. Many visitors can enjoy taking photos with the eye catching "Haruka Limited Express" train before departure from the station.

**Note:** Fares and timetables listed below are an indication only and are subject to change, always check travel details independently.

#### **IR Information & Timetable/ Route Map**

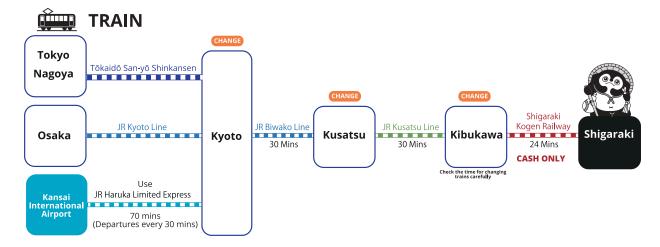
Use the QR Code below for access to the latest JR West Timetables and information.



JR Rail Access Information & Timetable



JR West Japan Line Route Map



### Kyoto - Kibukawa

- Depart from **Platform 2** at JR Kyoto Station.
- Use the JR Biwako Line, board the **express train** bound for Kusatsu.

At Kusatsu Station - Change lines from the JR Biwako Line to the JR Kusatsu Line. The train bound for Kibukawa departs from Platform 5.

 Take a local train from JR Kusatsu Station to Kibukawa on the Kusatsu Line.

Fare: 770 yen Adult/ 380 yen Child

Travel time: 51 mins from Kyoto to Kibukawa.

Note: At Kibukawa Station change lines from the JR Biwako Line to the Shigaraki Kogen Railway Line. Do not go though the ticket gates at Kibukawa Station, follow the signs and get a transfer ticket from the orange vending machine.

### Kibukawa - Shigaraki ★CASH ONLY★

At the Kibukawa station, there are two ticket vending machines that accept **CASH ONLY**. Tickets can be purchased at these vending machines.

 Take the Shigaraki Kogen Railway - Local service to Shigaraki. There are 4 stops before reaching Shigaraki Station.

Fare: 470 yen Adult/ 240 yen Child Travelling time: 24 mins

**Note:** IC Card Payments can not be made for the Shigaraki Kogen Railway Section of the journey to Shigaraki. **CASH ONLY.** 

### Shigaraki's Kiln Exploration Trail Map

### https://shigaraki-wa.jp/



### Strengths

When promoting Shigaraki as a destination, the following points are the strengths contributing to the destination's appeal.

### **Geographic Access:**

Shigaraki, just 44.4 km from Kyoto, offers easy access within 1 hour and 30 minutes by train, making it a convenient destination.



#### **Pottery Heritage:**

Shigaraki stands proudly among Japan's Six Ancient Kiln Areas, with a rich history dating back to the Azuchi-Momoyama period. It has not only survived but thrived, becoming a national pottery hub.



### **Charming Townscape:**

The town is adorned with Tanuki sculptures and unexpected pottery displays, creating a delightful and eccentric ambiance, perfect for pottery hunting and photography.



#### **Tea Plantation Roots:**

Shigaraki, home to one of Japan's original tea plantations, has deeprooted connections with Asamiyacha, one of Japan's five great teas.



#### **Golf and Artistic Pursuits:**

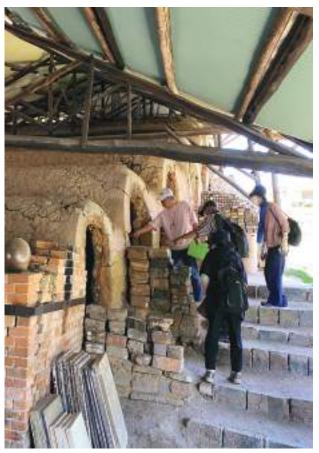
Shigaraki's proximity to Koka City, renowned for numerous golf courses, allows visitors to enjoy both golf and artistic pursuits seamlessly.



### **Diverse Culinary Scene:**

Shigaraki offers a diverse culinary experience with high-quality produce, including the exquisite Omi beef, delicious dairy products from local farms, and unique rice varieties like "Mizukagami."





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www.e-shigaraki.org

# Contact us by email info@e-shigaraki.org





