

~ Introduction to three attractive areas of Agricultural Heritage Systems ~



Osaki Kōdo's landscape connected by rice paddies, waterways, and "Igune" (homestead woodlands)

Osaki Kōdo's Traditional Water Management System for Sustainable Paddy Agriculture

Osaki region in Miyagi Prefecture

In the Osaki region, there still remain the ingenious water management systems developed to cope with natural disasters such as cold temperature damage and flooding, and a rich wetland ecosystem blessed with diversity of flora and fauna in "Igune" (homestead woodlands) scattered in the rice paddies like forests, which creates a unique landscape.

Visitors can also enjoy the fantastic scenery of migratory birds such as roosting geese, and experience the culture of historical fermented food such as sake, miso, and soy sauce making.

Why don't you experience the scenery, culture, and nature unique to the rice-paddy farming region of Tohoku?



Traditional wasabi cultivation in Shizuoka ~ The birthplace of wasabi tells the history of people and wasabi ~

Shizuoka Wasabi Cultivating region in Shizuoka Prefecture

In the Shizuoka wasabi cultivating region, wasabi, an endemic species to Japan, is grown in traditional wasabi fields called "Tatamiishi style," which are created by clearing mountain streams to make terraces for wasabi cultivation. The traditional wasabi cultivation has been inherited, using nutrients contained in spring water with as little fertilizer or pesticides as possible.

Ikadaba wasabi fields, which boast one of the largest cultivation areas in the Izu region, overlook a vast array of Tatamiishi style wasabi fields and is selected as one of the 10 best terraced rice fields in Shizuoka Prefecture for the spectacular scenery.

Visitors can enjoy an outdoor trip with a guided cycling tour by e-Bike, wasabi harvesting and making wasabi pickles, and other experiences.

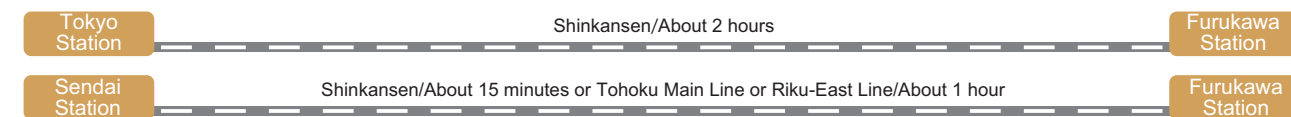


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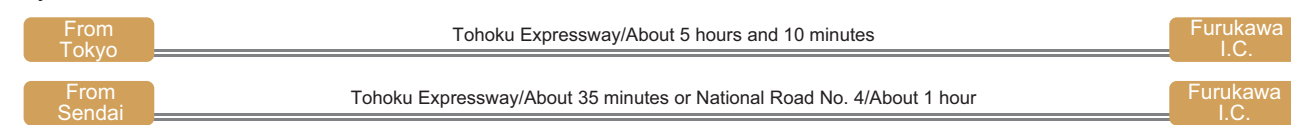
Osaki region in Miyagi Prefecture



By train



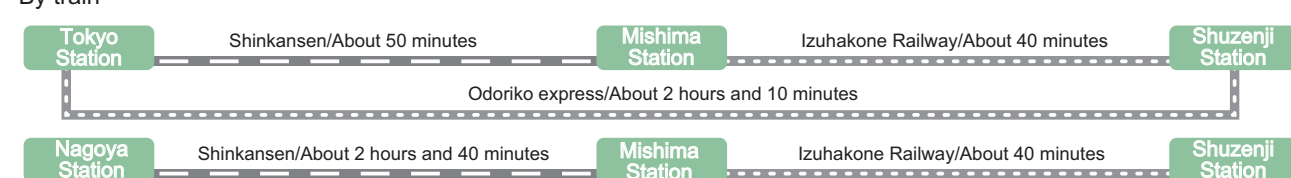
By car



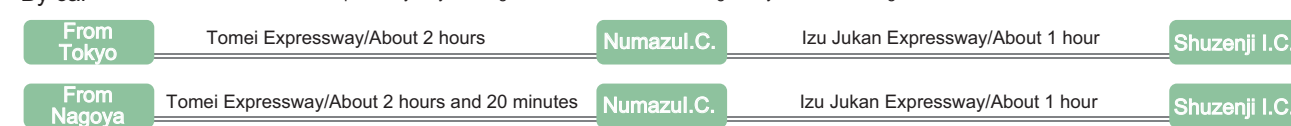
Shizuoka Wasabi Cultivating region in Shizuoka Prefecture



By train



By car ♦ Please note that Izu Jukan Expressway may be congested on weekends and during cherry blossom viewing season.



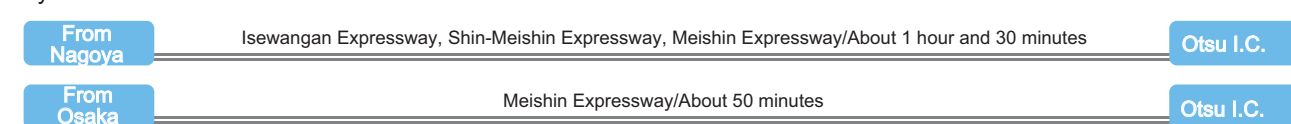
Lake Biwa region in Shiga Prefecture



By train



By car



INFORMATION Links are in Japanese only

Osaki region in Miyagi Prefecture



Miyagi-Osaki
Tourism Bureau



Naruko Spa Tourist
Association Official
Website



Official Izu Travel
Guide



Izu City Tourist
Information



Shiga Rhythm/Biwako
Visitors Bureau



Biwako Otsu Tourism
Association



Okishima Remote
Island Development
Council

Information about Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (J-NIAHS) is also found on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).
<https://www.maff.go.jp/nousin/kantai/index.html>



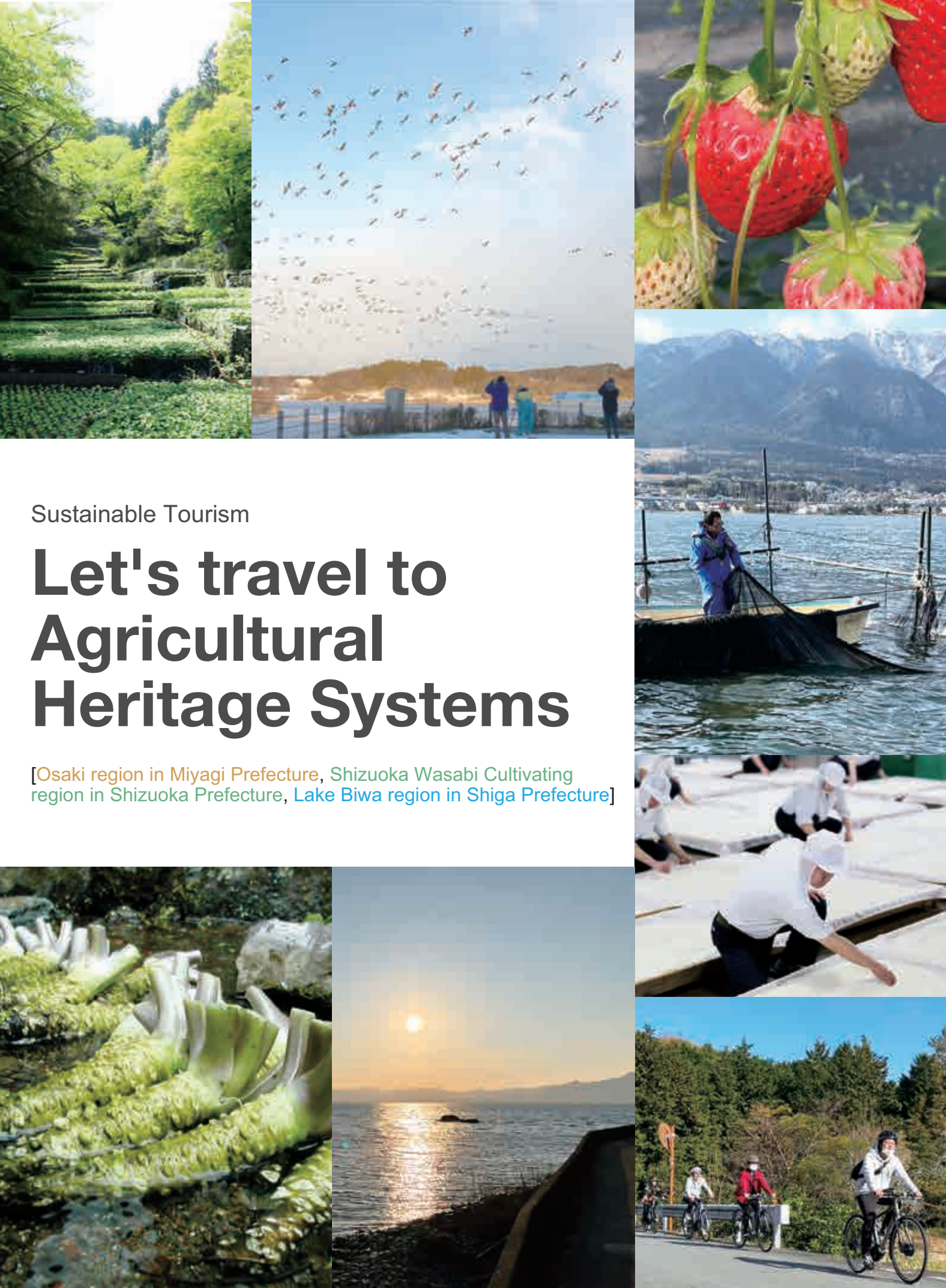
Click here for tourist information about Agricultural Heritage Systems
https://www.maff.go.jp/nousin/kantai/giahs_7/index.html



Publisher/contact

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(September, 2023)



Sustainable Tourism

Let's travel to Agricultural Heritage Systems

[Osaki region in Miyagi Prefecture, Shizuoka Wasabi Cultivating region in Shizuoka Prefecture, Lake Biwa region in Shiga Prefecture]

What is Agricultural Heritage Systems?

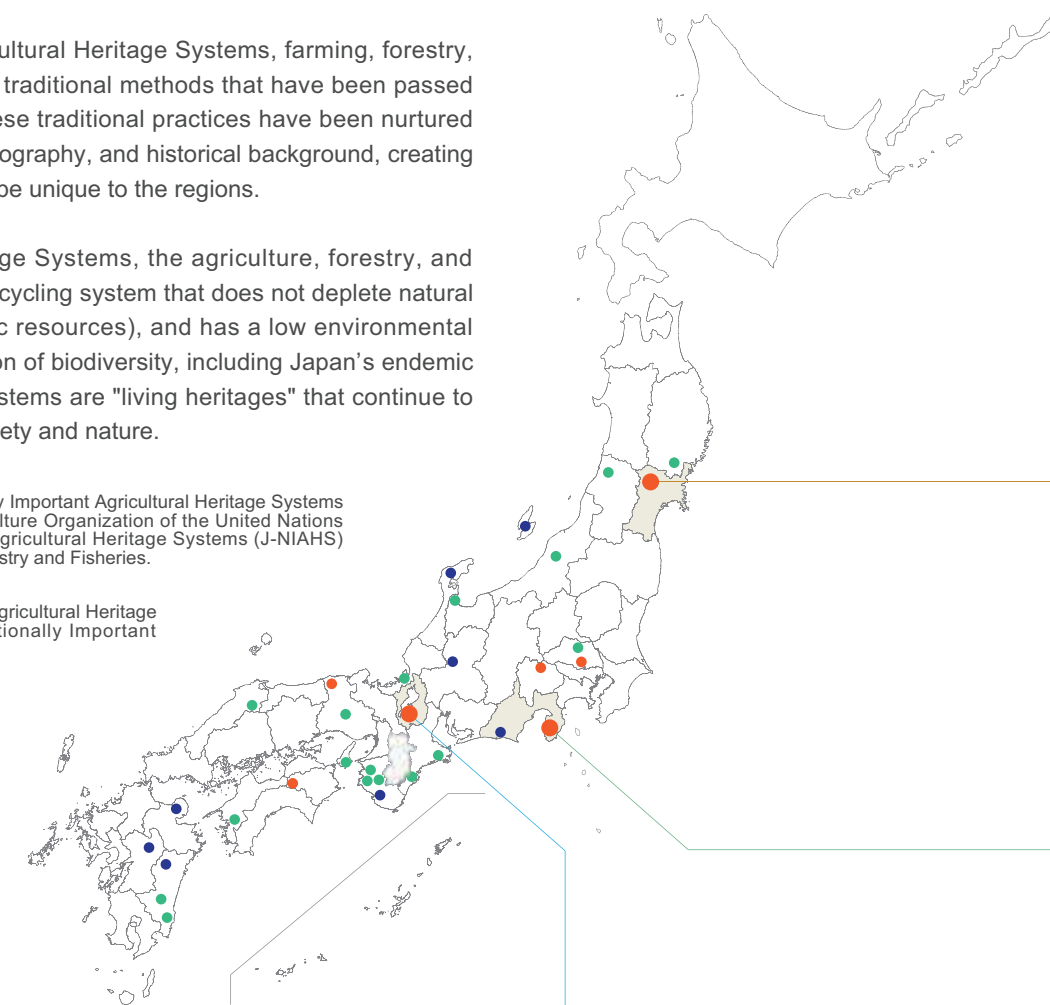
In the regions designated as Agricultural Heritage Systems, farming, forestry, and fishing have been practiced in traditional methods that have been passed down for more than 100 years. These traditional practices have been nurtured and formed by the local climate, topography, and historical background, creating a food culture, climate, and landscape unique to the regions.

Designated as Agricultural Heritage Systems, the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industry has a resource recycling system that does not deplete natural resources (soil, forest, and aquatic resources), and has a low environmental load, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, including Japan's endemic creatures. Agricultural Heritage Systems are "living heritages" that continue to evolve and adapt to changes in society and nature.

Agricultural Heritage Systems include Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) designated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (J-NIAHS) designated by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

In Japan, there are 15 Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and 24 Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (J-NIAHS).

● Areas designated for both
(As of the end of September 2023)



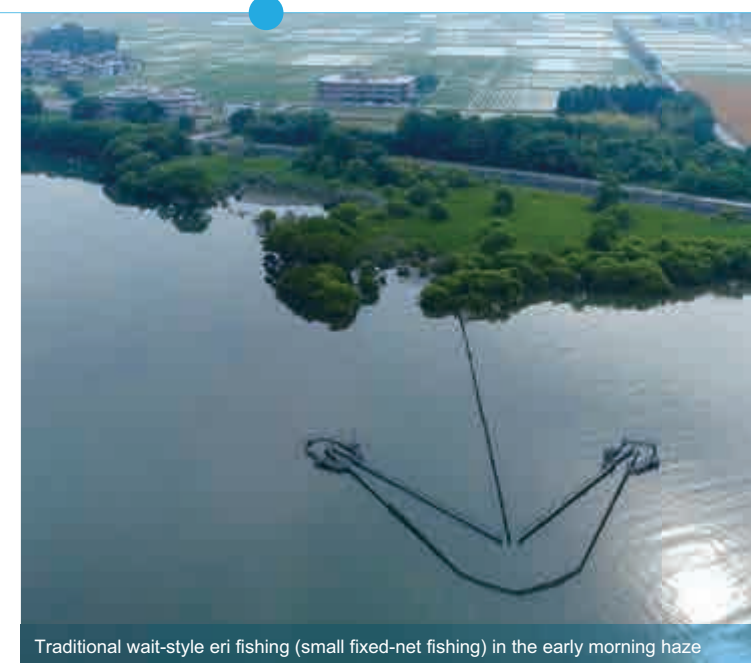
Biwa Lake to Land Integrated System

Lake Biwa region in Shiga Prefecture



The Biwa lake to land integrated system is known as Satomi. The system has a history of more than 1000 years of using eri fishing (small fixed-net fishing) and agricultural techniques that contribute to lake conservation, leading to a unique food culture that was passed down.

Around Lake Biwa, fishing for catching lake fish including species indigenous to Lake Biwa such as Nigoro-buna (the round crucian carp), has connected with agriculture, and created a diverse and distinctive food culture that combines lake fish with agricultural products, such as "fish and rice". Enjoy a trip in harmony with Lake Biwa, and experience fishing and farming where people's ingenuity shines through.



Traditional wait-style eri fishing (small fixed-net fishing) in the early morning haze

MAFF
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries