

## **Hachimanyama Ropeway**

The Hachimanyama Ropeway is a cable-car lift that climbs the 272-meter Mt. Hachimanyama. The mountain's summit offers commanding views over the surrounding countryside and was the site of Hachimanyama Castle in the late sixteenth century. Ruins of the castle's stone ramparts can be seen on the mountain, and Zuiryuji Temple is located on the site of the castle's main keep.

The ropeway takes passengers from the foot of the mountain to the top in about 4 minutes. From the cable car, there is a sweeping view of the town of Omihachiman to the south. Visible to the northeast are Lake Nishinoko and the wetlands between the town and Lake Biwa. Beyond Lake Nishinoko rise Mt. Azuchi and Mt. Kinugasa, which were also sites of important castles in the sixteenth century. A short walk through the woods from the ropeway station on the mountain leads to an observation point on the north side of the summit with a view over Lake Biwa and the Hira Mountains to its west.

The ropeway is open year-round, and cable cars run every 15 minutes from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (the last car to the summit departs at 4:30 p.m.). Fares for adults are 500 yen one way, or 890 yen for a round trip. Fares for children (from 6 to 12 years old) are 250 yen one way, or 450 yen for a round trip. Children aged 5 or younger can ride for free.

Hachimanyama Ropeway is a 3-minute walk from Himure Hachimangu Shrine. A souvenir shop at the ropeway entrance sells local specialties such as *detchi yokan* (a traditional sweet made with azuki bean jam), ropeway-branded rice crackers, and craft beers.