

Hachimanbori Moat

The Hachimanbori Moat is an artificial waterway that played a significant role in the commercial development of Omihachiman. The moat was constructed in 1585 as part of the defense works for Hachimanyama Castle but also as a canal connecting the town with Lake Biwa. The transport of goods via the canal and the lake contributed to the town's prosperity and helped local merchants extend their influence throughout Japan.

In the decades after World War II, Hachimanbori ceased to be used as a canal and began to fill with sludge from local drainage. In the 1970s, the city government proposed a plan to fill in the moat, but residents were concerned about the loss of the town's heritage and began a campaign to save the waterway. As a result of their efforts, Hachimanbori was restored to its former beauty, and visitors can now explore the waterway on traditional-style boats.