

Enjoy along with your cable car trip

# Map of things to see in historic Sakamoto



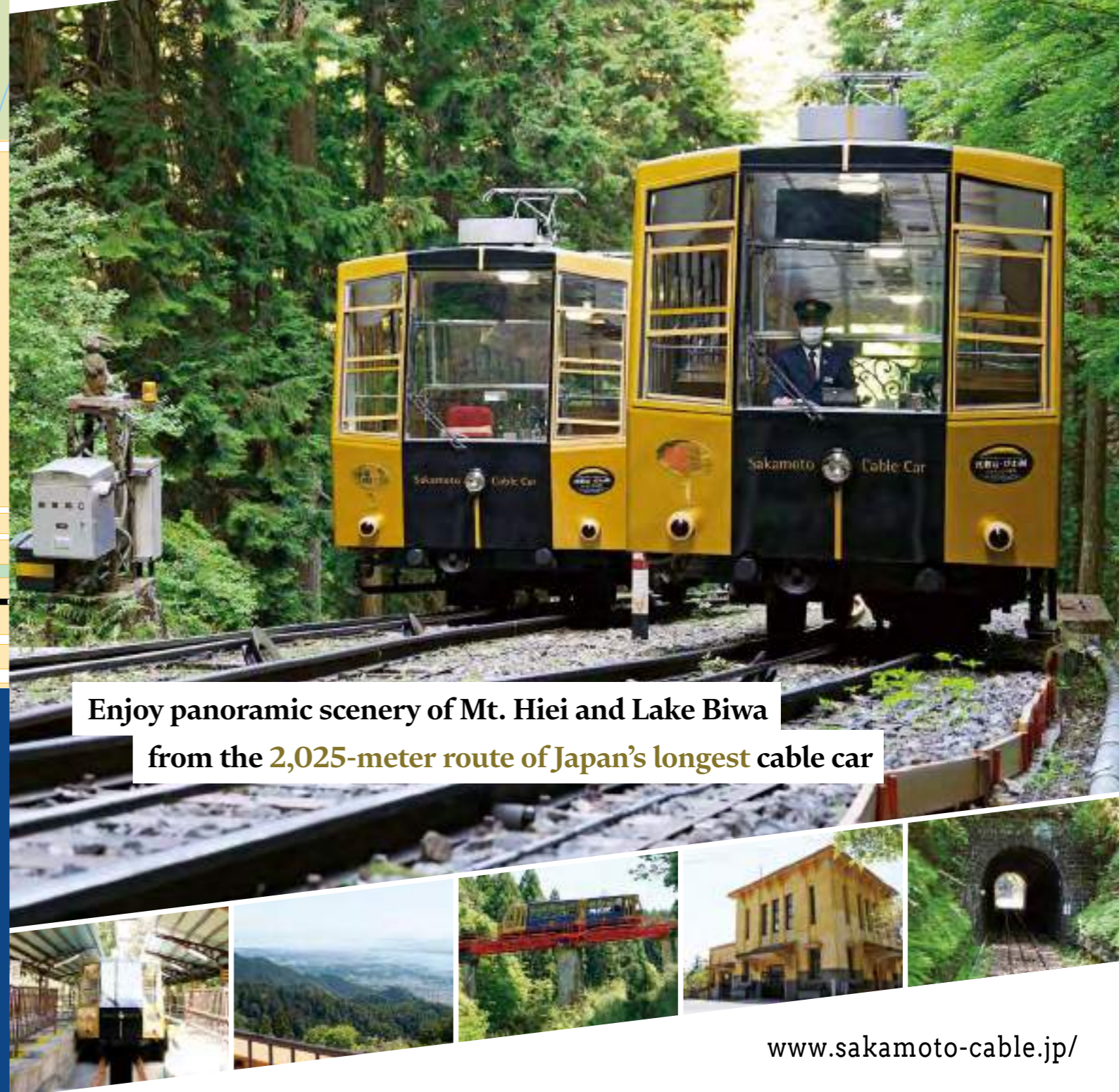
SAKAMOTO CABLE CAR

2025m

The longest length in Japan



# Sakamoto Cable Railway



Enjoy panoramic scenery of Mt. Hiei and Lake Biwa

from the 2,025-meter route of Japan's longest cable car

## Information

Route Connecting Cable Sakamoto Station with Cable Enryakuji Station (about 2.0 km) Travel time 11 min. Capacity 140 passengers

### Schedule

Dates	First departure	Departure times	Last departure
March through November	8:00 AM	Every hour on the hour and at 30 past	5:30 PM
December through February	8:30 AM	(With additional departures as passenger volume warrants)	5:00 PM

### Group discounts

Group size	Normal groups	School groups		
		Junior high school	High school	Other
5 to 7	School trip discount	25% off	15% off	—
8 to 24	10% off	25% off	15% off	10% off
25 to 99	15% off	30% off	20% off	20% off
100 to 299	20% off	40% off	30% off	30% off
300 or more	30% off	50% off	40% off	40% off

\*Complimentary service: For groups of 25 to 99 passengers, one passenger rides free of charge. For groups of 100 or more, one additional passenger rides free of charge for every additional 50 passengers.

### Regular fares

Adults: ¥960 (one way) / ¥1,830 (round trip)  
Children: ¥480 (one way) / ¥920 (round trip)

Scan to purchase a digital ticket



### Access

- Located about 2 km from the Shigasato Ramp on the Nishi-Otsu Bypass.
- Shuttle bus service is available from Hieizan-Sakamoto Station on the JR Kosei Line (which is served by special rapid service) and from Sakamoto-hieizanguchi Station on the Keihan Ishiyama-Sakamoto Line.

### Shuttle bus service

- Located 7 min. from Hieizan-Sakamoto Station on the JR Kosei Line (25 min. on foot).
- Located 3 min. from Sakamoto-hieizanguchi Station on the Keihan Ishiyama-Sakamoto Line (about 15 min. on foot).

Availability: No service is available on April 13 and 14 due to the Sanno-sai Festival. Times: Twice hourly service is available from about 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

## Hieizan Railway Co., Ltd.

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Supported by the Hieizan Sakamoto Tourist Association

Official website



Information current as of April 2026

www.sakamoto-cable.jp/

From the station, from the railcar, and from accessible outdoor areas, there's plenty to photograph as you travel via Japan's longest cable car.



Sakamoto Cable, which opened in 1927 as Japan's longest cable car route, travels 2,025 meters from Sakamoto to Hieizan Enryakuji in 11 minutes. With views of Lake Biwa from the cable car's windows as it travels through a mountain valley, views of the cable cars themselves as they travel through the route's beautiful, mountainous setting, and Taisho-style station buildings that are registered Tangible Cultural Properties, you'll find plenty to photograph! Enjoy a leisurely journey by cable car as picturesque scenery unfolds around you.

▼ There's even a vantage point from which you can view cable cars in profile.

Sightseeing destinations near Enryaku-ji Temple  
ENRYAKUJI AREA



Enryaku-ji Temple

Garden Museum Hiei

## Cable Enryakuji Station



Housed in a two-story, Western-style, steel-reinforced structure, Cable Enryakuji Station, which like Cable Sakamoto Station was built in 1925, features an interior and exterior that evoke the history of the Taisho period. The building is registered with the Japanese government as a Tangible Cultural Property, and it has been chosen as one of the Kinki region's 100 most appealing stations.

Check out the view of Lake Biwa from the station's roof!



### Motate Yama Station

Located partway up the mountain, this intermediate station, which features a steeply sloped platform and lies along a trail up Mt. Hiei, has a reputation for being secluded and relatively unexplored. The tomb of Ki no Tsurayuki, the Heian-period poet who wrote the *Tosa Nikki* ("Tosa Diary") and who admired Motateyama's picturesque landscape, is located nearby.

The route steepens after a long tunnel.

Just past Horaioka Station, the route passes through a tunnel surrounded by a stand of trees on the way up Mt. Hiei.



Midway point

Watch for both cars passing each other as they go opposite directions!

## Turnout



Since ascending and descending cable cars share the same track, there's an intermediate "turnout" that lets them pass each other. Don't miss the moment that *En-go* and *Fuku-go* pass through the turnout going opposite directions.

Panoramic view/

## Mountain Terrace

On the roof and second floor of Cable Enryakuji Station you'll find two Mountain Terraces, which offer panoramic views stretching from the summit of Mt. Hiei to Lake Biwa. On clear days you can even see Chikubu Island in the distance.



Both the Taisho-style station and the route's cable cars look great in photos!



The platform offers head-on views of the cable car.



The station's interior features retro-style colors and a nostalgic Taisho vibe.

## Cable Sakamoto Station

Board the cable car in Sakamoto, which flourished in the vicinity of Enryaku-ji Temple. The Western-style station, which occupies a two-story wooden building built in 1925, gained popularity for its adoption of what at the time was the most recent Western architecture style. The building was registered with the Japanese government as a Tangible Cultural Property in 1997.



A sign bearing the station's original name can be seen at the entrance.



### Horaioka Station

This intermediate station is located on the Sakamoto end of the route. A number of stone Buddha figures dug up at the time of the station's construction can be seen here. They are said to memorialize people who lost their lives when Oda Nobunaga lay siege to Mt. Hiei in the 16th century.



Stone Buddha figures (Horaioka Jizo statues)

## Sightseeing destinations near Sakamoto

SAKAMOTO AREA



Hiyoshi Taisha Shrine



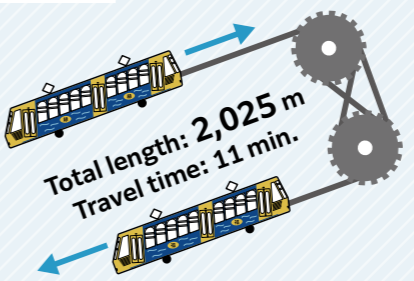
Kyu Chikurin'in Garden



Saikyo-ji Temple

## How the cable cars work

Cable cars, which are staffed by conductors rather than drivers, are hauled up the steep slope using the "well-bucket" method. Drivers operate the cable cars from Cable Enryakuji Station at the summit. Seen from the sides, the cable cars look like parallelograms due to the steep slope. Both the cars and the platforms incorporate steps to make it easier for passengers to accommodate the incline.



This hoist lies at the heart of the cable car system. Power from the motor is transferred to pulleys to reel in the cable.



The hoist is controlled from the operator's room.



En-go (Car 1)



Fuku-go (Car 2)