

A long time ago 3 towns on the map, Honkatata, Imakatata, and Kinugawa were called [Katata bay] and the people living there were called Katata lake traders.

They were at their most powerful in the middle ages. They were based in Izu shrine and had a monopoly and became wealthy. They maintained a thriving peaceful city. They are thought to have had their own navy too.

A lot of temples and shrines were built about this time. A young zen priest trained at Shouzuiji temple in Katata and became the famous priest Ikkyu and another priest called Rennyo received support and became famous in Katata too.

In the Civil War era, the war lords named Nobunaga Oda and Hideyoshi Toyotomi needed and relied on the lake traders for their power. Katata became a main harbour for transportation, fishing industry and ship building. The war lords supported and protected the lake traders businesses.

In the Edo period, Katata bay was split into two villages, Haonkatata and Imakatata but they continued their

businesses together on the lake.

The Haiku poet Basho, the tea artist named Yoken Hujimura and other artists visited Katata and at the end of the Edo period, Katata bay's scenes became well known through Hiroshige Utagawa's paintings Eight views of Omi [Katata no Rakugan]

In the lake traders town Katata, many old temples, shrines, moats along the lake fishing port and the historical sites still exist as they were in former times.

There are sad stories of Otose and princess Koutonaiishi (Lord Yoshisada Nitta's wife) and a legend of grilled carp with a secret message, the traditional lake fish presentation for Kyoto's Aoi festival, the priest Rennyo's memorial events, and Haiku poets Basho's Izayoi moon viewing party are carried out while the local festivals all year round.

Please enjoy a walk around the lake side town.

Katsuragawa • Ikadathi • Mano • Manokita • Katata • Ogi • Oginosato The north Otsu "Nanamatimeguri" Series

There are various "town" in lakeside!!!
Lake Biwa • Katata
(the lake trader's town)

Kozoku no sato vol.

Guide map

Welcome to this historical and cultural town of Katata!

Katata is known as the lake trader's town with a lot of historic and ancient sites.



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