



Omi Jofu Traditional Kogei Center

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Opening Hours / 10:00 to 17:00

Closed day / Mondays, national holidays, year-end and
New Year holidays, and summer holidays

Parking / Free



WEB



Web store



Instagram



Youtube



Access

●By Car

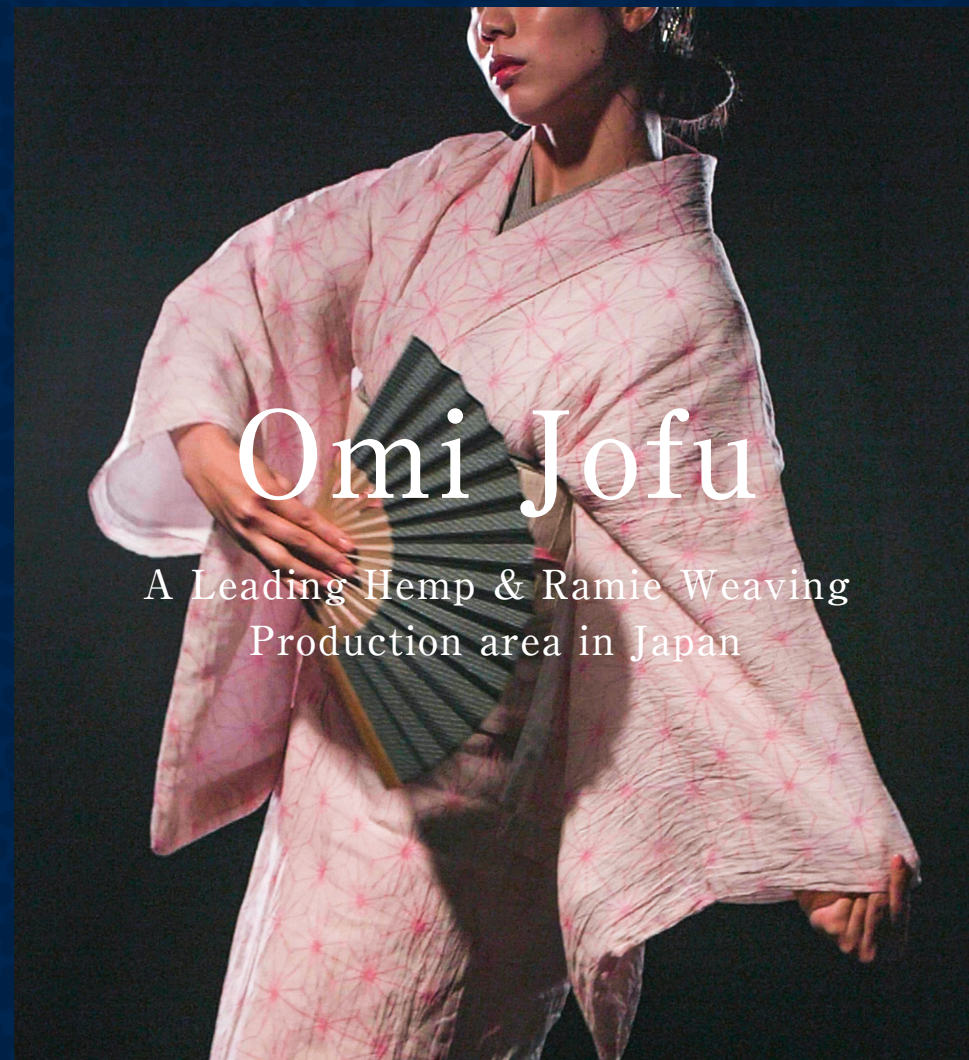


●By Public Transport



Operated by Shiga Hemp and Ramie Fabric Industry Cooperative

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS Working on SDGs since Jan 2022



What's Omi Jofu?

Omi Jofu is a high-quality hemp and ramie fabrics, handwoven in the Koto region of Shiga Prefecture to the east of Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan, where the high humidity and abundance of clean water led to the development of hemp and ramie fabric in this region.



History

- **Muromachi period (1333-1573 CE)**
Became a center of hemp and ramie fabric production in Japan.
- **Edo period (1603-1868 CE)**
Developed following promotion of Omi hemp and ramie by the Hikone clan.
- **Meiji period to Present**
Through technological innovation and the establishment of a production organization that accompanied modernization, the area has continued to develop as a production center hemp and ramie fabric. In 1977, "Omi Jofu" was designated as a national traditional craft.



*This mark is an approval mark for traditional crafts designated by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Omi Jofu "Kibira"

Kibira is a plain weave, woven by hand with hand looms using ramie threads for the warp and teumi hemp, handspun yarn of true hemp, for the weft.

Teumi means spinning the yarn by hand. Tearing the hemp fibers by hand to create very fine fibers and then twisting them together to form a single thread without knots over the time.

Jibata is a hand loom that fixes the warp threads at the waist, loosens the warp threads as soon as the treadle is stepped on, and pulls the warp threads to open the warp threads as soon as they are released. It is a rare loom that is rarely used today, even in traditional weaving production areas in Japan.



Omi Jofu "Kasuri"



Kasuri is a handwoven fabric, with ramie threads that have been colored using combs and a paper stencil dyeing technique, to create a kasuri pattern in the fabric when woven together.

There are two types of thread dyeing: comb-pressing dyeing and a paper stencil dyeing. In comb-pressing dyeing, the warp threads are dyed by pressing a comb-like tool, while in the paper stencil dyeing, the weft threads are wound around a frame the same width as the cloth and dyed using a paper stencil in advance.

The weaver's individuality comes out in the finished product, as the pattern varies depending on the weaving technique.



《Efforts in inheritance》

Weaver Training Program

Although the succession of traditional craft skills has become very difficult due to a variety of factors, Omi Jofu Traditional Kogei Center launched a program in 2014 to foster successors. Starting with training program of weaver of Kibira at first, and then training program of weaver of Kasuri since 2016. In addition, we have started a training program of weavers for the shuttle loom since 2018. We flexibly respond to those who wish to acquire skills through various training courses.



《Experience & Learning》 Language Support: Japanese only (other languages on request)

Omi Jofu Traditional Kogei Center welcomes visitors, students, and various groups to learn more about hemp weaving. The precious hand-weaving loom is always open in the center and offers a wide variety of hands-on activities such as hand-weaving.

Experience programs using Hemp

Experience of weaving on Handloom

Experiences of waving Omi Jofu Kibira such as coasters using handspun yarn of hemp. Omi Jofu Traditional Kogei Center is the only place in Japan where you can experience weaving using handlooms.

Experience spinning yarn of hemp by hand

Tearing hemp fibers and spinning them yarn by hand.

June to August only

Experience using Ramie

Experience using ramie grown by Omi Jofu Traditional Kogei Center. Experience only available during the limited time of year when ramie is grown.



《Contemporary Omi-Jofu》

Our hemp fabric production area, which has been in existence for about 600 years, has accumulated experience, technology, and wisdom.

Omi Jofu, an original brand of Omi Jofu Traditional Kogei Center, offers handwoven and machine-woven hemp products that show the creators of the products, based on product planning for modern life, while making the most of traditional qualities. The appeal of hemp, a natural material, is that it absorbs water, dries quickly, and is clean to use. The more you use hemp, the softer it becomes and the more comfortable it becomes. We offer the comfort that can only come from a leading hemp production area that knows hemp inside and out.



Hemp (Cannabaceae)

- Natural antimicrobial properties.
- Prevents the growth of bacteria and prevents the source of odor.



Ramie (Urticaceae)

- Texture with cool feeling and a sharpness
- It does not stick to the skin, even when sweaty, and can maintain comfortability.



Linen (Linaceae)

- Supple texture similar to cotton.
- The more you use it, the softer and more comfortable it becomes.

A common characteristic: Excellent moisture absorption and wicking properties.