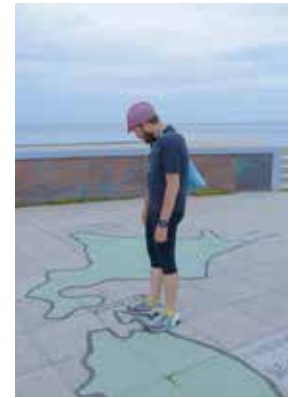




01



02



03



04



05



06

01/ The right amount of undulation along the Hamanasu Line makes the ride even more enjoyable. 02/ Crossing the ocean from Aomori City to Saimura on the high speed sea liner *Polar Star*. It's a fantastic ride and extremely comfortable. 03/ Standing on Oma Peninsula, the northernmost point of Honshu. The land visible across the ocean is Hokkaido. 04/ The Original Squid Race where energetic squids race effortlessly, and others don't move at all. 05/ Riding on the cool Shimokita breeze while staring into the deep blue of the Tsugaru Straights. Cresting the hill and heading into downtown Mutsu City. 06/ Mention of Oma brings tuna to mind. An extravagant bowl of tuna on rice. The flavor spreads through the entire mouth.

Course 6 SHIMOKITA

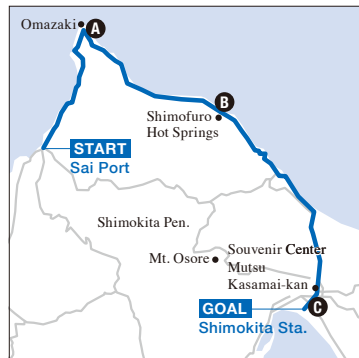
Blue Sea & Forest Ride

Taking a gourmet seafood detour - crossing to Shimokita Peninsula from Aomori City by boat

6

- A Kaikyosou**
Omadaira17-734, Oma-machi
TEL.0175-37-3691
www6.ocn.ne.jp/~oma12
- B Live Squid Stockpiling Center**
127, Shimofuro, Kazamaura-mura
TEL.0175-36-2112
- C Yoshida Bakery**
9-25, Shinmachi, Mutsu-shi
TEL.0175-23-0148

Distance: 67 km Duration: 4.5 hours



With the bicycles safely stored in the cargo hold, we board the high speed *Polar Star* departing from Aomori Port. Our sea journey begins. From inside the spotless boat, passengers can watch a video showing the attractions of Shimokita Peninsula, read a book, stare at the ocean through the window, or just laze about. On the day we crossed the sea was calm with very little rocking. After a pleasurable journey lasting two-and-a-half hours, we arrive at Sai port our final stop.

Then it's back in the saddles and off toward Oma Peninsula, the northernmost point of Honshu.

Mention of Oma brings to mind pole-and-line fishing for tuna. Suddenly our attention goes to the tuna for sale outside some of the restaurants. At the campsite next door, a bunch of riders are busy pitching their tents.

From Oma Peninsula we head south down National Highway 279, also known as the Hamanasu Line, with only light traffic. In Kazamaura-mura, after playing in a game of the "Original Squid Race," we then enjoyed some of the delicious transparent squid as sashimi, prepared at the race track.