## Nature 自然

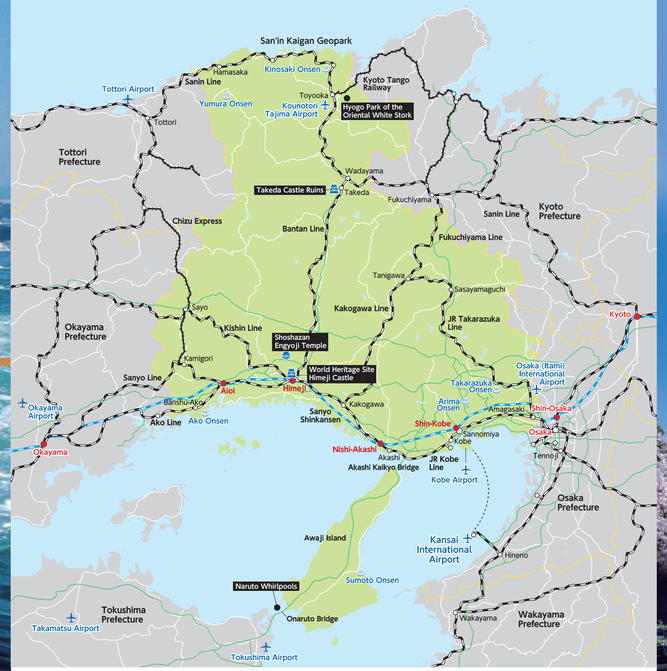
You can experience the history of the earth through the expressive oceans, magnificent mountains, and beautiful and dynamic landscapes created by nature.

### San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark

The Sea of Japan was formed when the Japanese archipelago was a part of the Asian continent; it has various geological features and topography even to this day. You can understand the culture and history of the people in the past who lived in these various geological features.

### Oriental White Stork

The oriental white stork once went extinct in Japan in 1971, but thanks to the reintroduction project that took place in the Tajima area where the last stork was seen, you can see them flying in the skies today.



**Hyogo Prefecture is located in the center of Japan, where the 135th meridian east and the 35th parallel north intersect, the point that is the basis for Japan Standard Time.**

## Access

### ◆Kansai International Airport

| | |
|---|---|
| By Train | Kansai International Airport to JR Sannomiya Staion: approx. 1 hr 20 mins |
| By Limousine Bus | Kansai International Airport to Sannomiya: approx. 1 hr 20 mins |
| By High-speed Ferry | Kansai International Airport to Kobe Airport: 30 mins |

### ◆By Shinkansen

Tokyo Station to Shin-Kobe Station: approx. 2 hrs 45 mins

Tokyo Station to Himeji Station: approx. 3 hrs 5 mins

### ◆By Plane

Haneda Airport to Osaka International Airport: approx. 1 hr 10 mins

Haneda Airport to Kobe Airport: approx. 1 hr 20 mins

*Travel times may vary depending on the day and train service used, Changes of train may be required en route,

Hyogo Tourism Bureau

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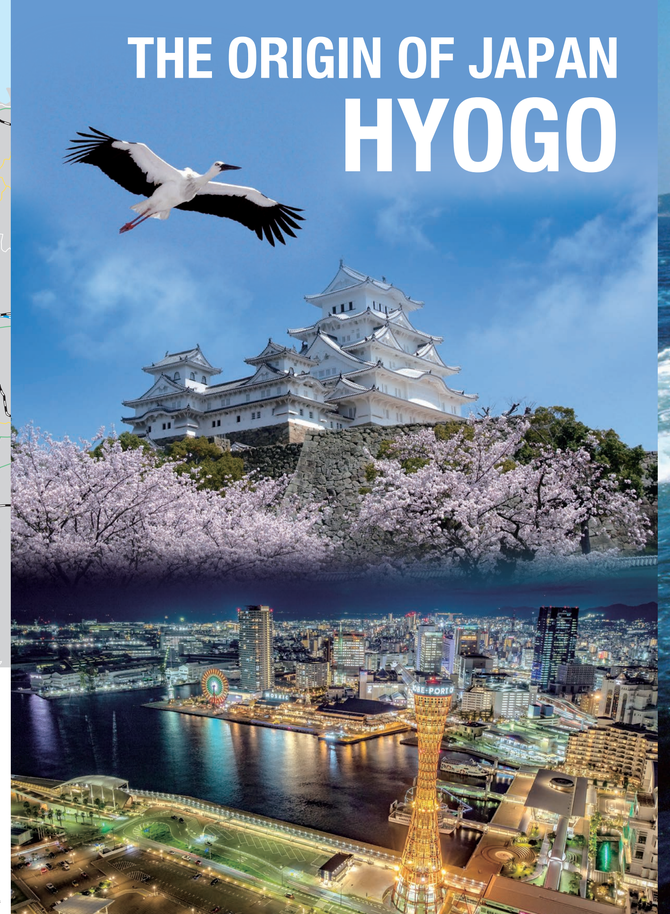
# THE ORIGIN OF JAPAN HYOGO




# THE ORIGIN OF JAPAN HYOGO


According to Japan's oldest history book, written over 1300 years ago,
the Japanese archipelago was created by a god and a goddess who descended onto the ocean.
The first island they created was the Awaji Island of Hyogo.
Hyogo had a great influence over those in power because of its proximity to Japan's ancient capitals, Nara and Kyoto.
Enjoy Hyogo, where many famous tourist attractions featuring nature, food, and hot springs originated, with a rich history and culture from ancient times.

### Naruto Uzushio Whirlpools

"Uzushio" is a natural phenomenon that occurs when there is a violent tidal current in the Naruto Strait at the southern tip of Awaji Island, considered to be Japan's first island according to Japanese mythology. The diameter of the whirlpools can become up to 30 meters, making them one of the largest whirlpools in the world.

## Takeda Castle Ruins

A mountain castle was built at the peak of Mt. Kojo at an altitude of 353.7 meters. These stone wall ruins are one of Japan's major ruins that still completely remain. It is also called "Castle in the Sky" or "Machu Picchu of Japan" because it seems as if it is floating in the sea of clouds.

Photo by Toshihisa Yoshida

## Denkansho-bushi (Traditional Folk Songs)

Denkansho-bushi is originated from the folk songs of the Edo period and has been around for 200 years. People have been singing and passing down denkansho-bushi, folk songs depicting the local climate, human nature, famous sights, and specialties of the area of the time.

# 歴史・伝統・文化

History, Tradition & Culture

Hyogo Prefecture not only boasts its large surface area and various topography but also has a rich history and culture that you can explore through its countless historical attractions.

## Shoshazan Engyoji Temple

An old temple of the Tendai sect, opened by Shoku Shonin in 966, is called "Mt. Hiei in the West." It is well-known as the film location of "Last Samurai," the very first work from Hollywood featuring "Bushido spirit."

## Awaji Puppet Theater

Awaji Ningyo Joruri is a traditional performing art that has been handed down from the mid-Edo period to the present and designated as an Intangible Cultural Property. At the Awaji Puppet Theater, you can watch these delicate and powerful performances.

## Naginata (Japanese Martial Art)

In a dojo with over 230 years of history, you can wear a hakama and experience the old-style Naginata, "Tendo-ryu," which provides a foundation for modern-style Naginata.

# 体験

Experience

Traditional performing arts and culture, local industries cultivated through craftsmanship, sports that spread across the nation from Hyogo, and much more, you can experience it all here in Hyogo.

## Ski

Hyogo has the greatest number of ski resorts in western Japan with plenty of beginner-friendly courses, fun ski parks, and slopes for families.

## Golf

In 1903, Japan's first golf course was built in Hyogo, making it the "birthplace of Japanese golf." Hyogo has many excellent golf courses due to its locations in the suburbs of Osaka and Kobe and the topography suitable for golf courses.

## Tajima Beef

Tajima cattle is known as the breeding cattle for various brands of beef, such as Kobe beef and Matsusaka beef, both are renowned in the world. It is a purebred cattle that has been thoroughly managed to maintain its pedigree. Selective breeding is done to protect the excellent quality, which has been improved over the years.

## Japanese Sake

In Hyogo, there are approximately 70 sake breweries in each region; this includes Itami, the birthplace of sake in Japan. The king of the sake rice, Yamada Nishiki, was also created in Hyogo.

# Cuisine 食

Savor the taste of Hyogo where famous Japanese sake, brands of beef, and many of Japan's culinary attractions originated.

## Tamba Chestnuts

Chestnuts from the Tamba area have made a name for themselves in the oldest Japanese history book and are characterized by their large fruits. The elegant sweetness and soft texture are unforgettable once you taste them.

## Matsuba Snow Crab

The finest crabs are harvested from the Sea of Japan, especially between the San'in region and the Hokuriku region, where the environment is blessed for delicious crabs to grow since the past.

## Oyster

The oysters harvested in the Seto Inland Sea are blessed with nutrients from small and large rivers, as well as the Kuroshio Current. You can enjoy the rich taste of the juicy and plump oyster meat, which does not shrink as much even when cooked.

## Arima Onsen

This onsen town representing Japan is one of the Three Ancient Springs and the three most famous hot springs in Japan. You can enjoy two types of hot springs, *kinsen* (golden hot spring) with red spring water due to the oxidization of rich iron minerals and *ginsen* (silver hot spring) with carbon and radium spring water. The atmosphere of the traditional onsen town adds to the pleasure of visiting the town.

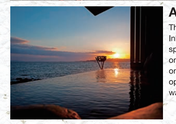
# 温泉

Hot Spring (Onsen)

There are many renowned hot springs in Hyogo, among which is Arima Onsen, one of the Three Ancient Springs in Japan.

## Kinosaki Onsen

In the town where it is like a "large onsen ryokan hotel," you can slip back in time with one of the attractions, the outdoor bath tour, where guests can go around the seven quaint outdoor baths (communal baths) wearing yukata.



## Ako Onsen

The Ako Onsen, located in the Seto Inland Sea National Park area, has a spectacular view of Shikoku Island on a sunny day. There are many onsen ryokan hotels with an open-air bath, from where you can watch the sunset over the sea.

## Yumura Onsen

An onsen-town famous for its ancient hot springs, which is said to have been discovered about 1150 years ago. With its temperature of 98 degrees Celsius, the spring water called *arayu* gushes up to 470 liters per minute and famous for beautifying the skin.

## Takarazuka Onsen

Conveniently located from urban areas yet has a peaceful atmosphere, the onsen has a view of the Mukogawa River against the backdrop of the luscious greenery of the mountains. You can enjoy two types of hot springs: *kinhosen*, which contains a lot of iron, making the water brown, and *ginhosen*, which is clear and has a milder effect on the skin.

## Sumoto Onsen

The largest onsen resort on Awaji Island, overlooking the Osaka Bay area and the Kansai International Airport across the Kitan Strait. There are many quaint ryokan hotels with open-air baths facing the sea.