Explore Himeji Castle with Augmented Reality

**AR locations**
1. Ote Mon (Front Gate)
2. San-no-Maru Goten (3rd Bailey Palace)
3. Armor
4. Shiramashine (Princess Shiramashine)
5. Commemorative Photo
6. Tale of Princess Sen
7. Defense Systems
8. The Livelood of a Lady-in-waiting
10. Earthen Wall at the south side of Ha-no-Mon
11. Ni-no-Mon Gate
12. Ushagahishi (Hand Mill Stone of the Elderly Lady)
13. The Main Keep
   - Basements: The east and west large pillars
   - 1st Floor: Stone-drops
   - 2nd Floor: Weapon vaults
   - 3rd Floor: The west large pillar, and legend of Hasegawa’s Whipping out the Ghost
   - 4th Floor: Stone-throwing platforms
   - 6th Floor: “Hidden windows” and trampoline of mustard-seeds around the castle
14. Carpenter Gnome
15. Legend of Rambu Sanyoshiki
16. Kagamishiki

**How to Use the “AR”**

1. **Download**
   - Download through App store or Google Play.

2. **Activate**
   - When you find the AR marker as shown on the left, press start and focus on it.

3. **Enjoy**

**Notice**
- CSF must be activated in order to use the app.
- Shadow version 4.0 or later is required, and the app might not function properly on older smartphones.
- Users are responsible for communication for downloading or using the app.

**Admission Fees**
- **Adults**: 1,000 yen
- **Children**: 300 yen
- **Senior Citizens (65 and over)**: 800 yen
- **Children (6 and under)**: Free

- **Hours**: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (gates close at 5:00 pm)
- **Closed**: December 25th and 31st

**Access from major stations by Shinkansen**
- **Kyoto**: 41 min.
- **Nagoya**: 3 hr.
- **Tokyo**: 3 hr.

**By local train**
- **Osaka Int. Airport**: 20 min.
- **Kansai Int. Airport**: 40 min.
- **Kobe Sannomiya**: 10 min.
- **Kobe Shinkansen to Himeji**: 20 min.
- **Kobe Sannomiya to Himeji**: 50 min.

**From airports**
- About 2 hr from Kansai International Airport by Airport Limousine Bus
- About 1 hr 20 min from Osaka International Airport by Airport Limousine Bus
- About 1 hr from Kobe Airport by Port Liner and JR

**Congestion forecasts for Himeji Castle**
http://www.himejicastle.jp/en/
World Heritage and National Treasure

Himeji Castle

Himeji Castle was registered as Japan’s first UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site, in December, 1993. The entire castle, including its Main Keep, comprises an unparalleled complex of wooden buildings. It symbolizes Japan’s culture of wood craftsmanship and artistry. IKEDA TERUMASA began its construction about 400 years ago, and it has never been attacked. The current castle provides an almost completely intact example of the state of castle architecture at that time.

Restoration of the White Heron Castle Keep

Himeji Castle is characterized by its soaring majesty. Due to the similarity of its overwhelming ambience to a white heron taking flight, it is also known as the White Heron Castle. Because the structure is made of wood, it requires periodic repair and restoration. A five-year project was recently undertaken to preserve the Main Keep, and ensure that this invaluable World Heritage and National Treasure can be passed on to future generations with its beauty intact. As part of it, the structure’s plaster walls were repainted, and its roof tiles were replaced, for the first time in 30 years. The completion of this work was celebrated with a grand reopening in March, 2015. Don’t miss this chance to gaze at Himeji Castle, now that its blazing white brilliance has been restored.

Noteworthy Features

Beauty

Design features such as the castle’s white plaster walls and Main Keep, and an overlapping layout that causes the three small keeps to highlight the presence of each other. Also, the use of chidori and kara bargeboards gives the complex a brilliant appearance. This was a decorative feature of gable roof construction, used in Japanese castle architecture. Note the combination of majestic scale and delicate detail.

Hishi Gate

Hishi Gate is the castle’s largest gate. It is named for the carved wooden water chestnut (hishi) cross at the top of its columns. The gate is distinguished by design features such as kuro-kake (five-pointed windows), which give the structure an elegant ambiance.

White Plaster Exterior Walls

In this style, a wooden base is covered with plaster (made by mixing glue with slaked lime), so that it no longer visible. The material was chosen to protect against fire, including fires sparked by concord attacks from matchlock guns. These had become widely used around the time of the construction of this castle.

Impregnability

Himeji Castle incorporates numerous battle-related design features. Its interior is so complex that it resembles a maze, to preclude incursions by large numbers of soldiers. It also has a variety of defensive works. By observing the site from the perspective of a would-be attacker, you can gain an appreciation of its effectiveness as a defensive fortress.

Machiolations

Openings known as machiolations enabled defenders to drop stones on enemies scaling the castle’s stone walls, or shoot at them with guns. In addition to the keeps, the walls and turrets at Himeji Castle also have numerous machiolations.

Paths

Paths inside the castle complex form a sort of maze. Various features were designed to prevent enemies from easily reaching the Main Keep. These features include branching paths, narrow gates with iron doors, and narrow gates that barely allow a single-file line of men to pass through.

Himeji Castle by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Treasures</th>
<th>National Important Cultural Properties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eight structures: Main Keep, East, Northwest, and West small keeps, and Jiki, Ha, and Ni corridors.</td>
<td>Total of 74 structures: 27 turrets and corridors, 15 gates, and 32 earthen walls.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Architectural style: Flatland-mountain castle
Site: Inner compound: 0.23㎢ / 57ac
Outer compound: 2.33㎢ / 575ac
Height of Main Keep: 91.0 m above sea level
Structure of Main Keep: 7 stories, with 5 exterior roofs
Year of Registration as a World Heritage Site: 1993

Fan-shaped Curve

The angle of the castle’s stone walls increases towards the top, creating a curved shape that resembles the contour of an opened folding fan. In addition, the shape is believed to have been used to make it difficult for attackers to scale the walls.