

### 10 Shoshazan Engyoji Temple

MAP B/B-5

Visit a sacred place of Buddhism to purify your mind, one which was also featured in the Hollywood movie "The Last Samurai." Shoshazan Engyoji Temple, one of the three training centers of the Tendai sect, is known as the 27th pilgrimage site in Saigoku (the Kinki and Chubu regions). Visitors can see the main building, Manden, that is built in the Butai-zukuri (stage-like) style, located halfway up the mountain. Also see the Daikodo great lecture hall, and the Gohodo worship hall, where the famous warrior monk Benkei is said to have studied, etc. About four minutes from Sanroku Station, via Ropeway. Admission: 500 yen



Shoshazan Ropeway runs 8:30 - 17:00  
Subject to change according to season.  
Adults: 600 yen (One-way), 1000 yen (Round-Trip)  
Children (6 years old or Elementary School students): 300 yen (One-way), 500 yen (Round-Trip)

Enjoy shopping for Shosha specialties and drinking amazake, sweet sake

Reservation compulsory for Shojin Ryori (vegetarian cuisine)

The approach to the temple with Kannon statues for pilgrimage

Shoshazan Ropeway

This board introduces the historic figures related with Engyoji Temple such as Shoku, founder of the temple, Izumi Shikibu, female poet in the mid-Heian era, Emperor Goshirakawa and so on.

Three Halls (Daikodo, Jikido and Jogyodo)

Ceremony to exorcise the devil

### 11 Himeji City Shosha Art & Craft Museum

The tiled roof and red pillars of the museum create a beautiful appearance with the bamboo greenery. Nostalgic folk toys and traditional craftsworks, as well as works by the former head priest of Todaiji Temple, Abbot Shimizu Kosho, are displayed. Visitors can also enjoy Himeji papier-mâché painting.



### 12 Enzan Memorial Museum of Art & Crafts

Experience the tranquil garden and serene architecture. You can appreciate fine Japanese crafts, feeling the aesthetics of "space" in the elaborately designed ins and outs of the Japanese architecture, which embody an environmentally friendly lifestyle.



### 13 Taiyo Park

Stroll around the two areas and savor the feeling of a world tour in a single day. The Arc de Triomphe, Terracotta Army, Great Wall of China, and Neuschwanstein Castle are all must-see attractions.



### 14 Himeji Central Park

Safari, swimming pool, and amusement park! Experience 200% full enjoyment! This amusement park offers both a safari and exciting rides. Going around the "Drive Through Safari" in your car is recommended. A swimming pool in summer, and skating rink in winter are also available.

Opening hours: 10am-5pm (entry until 4pm) (subject to seasonal change)  
Admission: Adults 3,500yen, Elementary School students 2,000yen, Preschoolers (3 years and over) 1,200yen  
Closed: Please inquire regarding temporary closings  
Access: 30min bus ride from Himeji Sta., and short walk from the terminal



### 15 Around the Sakurayama Hills

Try observation of the stars and insects in the Sakurayama Hills, which are rich in nature! Lush greenery spreads out around the Sakurayama Reservoir, west of Himeji City. Visitors can enjoy many facilities for children.

Himeji Science Museum "Atom no Yakata"

Hoshinoko Yakata' Himeji Municipal Accommodation Facilities Center

Hyogo Prefectural Kodomo no Yakata (Children's Center)

Himeji City Nature Observation Forest

#### Himeji Science Museum "Atom no Yakata"

Many original display devices offer various types of experimentation, and actual materials provide a genuine experience in the permanent exhibition, as well as in science shows and fossil touching. The planetarium in the large dome is also spectacular.

#### "Hoshinoko Yakata" Himeji Municipal Accommodation Facilities Center

Accommodation facility for children to stay, study and play. Have an immersive astronomical observation experience with the large telescope on the top floor.

#### Hyogo Prefectural Kodomo no Yakata (Children's Center)

Training sessions and workshops concerning child rearing are offered here. A playroom for families, and a children's library are also available.

#### Himeji City Nature Observation Forest

Take a walk along this 8km path for observation of nature, such as plants, insects, and wild birds, etc. Feel free to question nature guides at any time.



### 16 Japan Toy Museum

MAP B/D-5

This museum consists of six white-walled storehouses, displaying an extensive collection (approx. 90,000 pieces) of local or modern toys of Japan, and toys or dolls from 160 countries. Special exhibits are held in each season in buildings No. 1 and No. 6. See one of the leading toy museums in Japan with your own eyes.



### 17 Shiota Hot Springs

MAP B/C-4

Located in the upper reaches of the Yumesaki River, this hot spring area has long been cherished by countless people, and is known as the "Annex of Himeji". Since its discovery about 300 years ago, this area has been famous for its efficacious healing spas.



### 18 Mt. Seppiko

MAP B/B-1

Selected as one of the 100 Scenic Spots in Japan, Seppiko-san is a popular destination for rock climbing.



### 19 Shikagatsubo

MAP B/B-1

Starting at the Green Station Shikagatsubo camping site, you will no doubt enjoy hiking around and water sliding at the Shikagatsubo Waterfall.



### 20 Ieshima Islands

MAP B/A~E-9, 10

Escaping from the noise of the city, you can enjoy water sports and fresh seafood.



### 21 Boze Fisherman's Market

MAP B/C-B

You can buy, barbecue, and eat fresh seafood from the local Ieshima Islands.



## Transportation Information

—Transportation around Himeji—  
Japan Railways (JR), Sanyo Electric Railway, and Shinki Bus and taxis are all available. JR is the largest railway company in Japan; its service network covers almost all areas of the country. Taking the Shinkansen bullet train can significantly shorten your travel time to major Japanese cities, which needs an additional charge for the express service except for Japan Rail Pass holders. Sanyo Electric Railway links Himeji and Sannomiya (Kobe). Shinki Bus covers all of Himeji. Japanese trains and bus are mostly operated punctually as a clean convenient transportation.

#### 1 JR

There are three lines operating in Himeji: Sanyo Honsen (main line), Kishin Line, and Bantan Line. **<Sanyo Honsen>** Shinkaisoku (Special Rapid Service) is the most convenient way to go from/to Kobe, Osaka, and Kyoto. Stopping only at major stations, Shinkaisoku links Himeji and Sannomiya (Kobe) in about 40 minutes, Osaka 60 minutes, and Kyoto 90minutes. Meanwhile, there are local trains that stop all stations and also Kaisoku (Rapid Service) trains that stop at more stations than the Shinkaisoku (Special Rapid Service) trains.

#### Shinkansen bullet train

Himeji has a Shinkansen Station. All Kodama and Hikari trains stop at Himeji. Please note that some Nozomi, Mizuho, and Sakura train do not stop at Himeji. You must buy a Shinkansen limited express ticket in addition to the regular train ticket.

#### <Buying a Shinkansen ticket>

To purchase a ticket for Shinkansen or any other limited express train (there are reserved and non-reserved seats), ask at "midori-no-madoguchi" ticket window. You can use major credit cards, and are recommended to reserve your seat in advance as trains are sometimes fully booked.

#### 2 Sanyo Electric Railway

Himeji station of Sanyo Electric Railway is located in the northwest JR Himeji station. The entrance and platforms are on the second floor of Sanyo Department Store.

#### 3 Buses

Shinki Bus with two-tone orange provides the service throughout the city. **<How to use the bus>**  
1. Board from the rear and exit from the front.  
2. When boarding, be sure to obtain a boarding ticket (small strip of the paper) from the dispenser.  
3. Press the button to get off the bus at the nearest bus-stop.  
4. As you leave, pay the fare depending on the number shown on your ticket with the exact amount. Changing machine is located up front for your convenience.  
5. Children's fare for elementary school students is half of the adults', and 5 yen is rounded up to 10 yen. For example, when adults' fare is 210 yen, children's fare is not 105 yen but 110 yen.

#### Inquiries regarding transportation

JR-WEST Customer Center TEL.0570-00-2486  
Sanyo Electric Railway Sanyo-Himeji Station TEL.079-222-0570  
Shinki Bus Information Office TEL.079-285-2990

# Himeji

## Tourist Guide & Map



## Access to Himeji



## Information

Himeji City Tourist Information Center TEL.079-287-0003

Himeji Convention & Visitors Bureau TEL.079-222-2285

For more information, visit our website <http://www.himeji-kanko.jp/en/>





# Himeji Castle

Himeji Castle was built at the beginning of the 17th century, when Japan's unique castle architectural techniques had reached their peak. It was the first site in Japan to be registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in 1993. It was also designated a National Treasure, in 1951. It is called Hakuro-jo ("White Heron Castle") because of its brilliant white exterior, and is thought to resemble a white heron taking flight.



## Beauty of Overall Structure

It retains the complete form of the combined keeps, with the Main Keep being connected to the three small keeps by means of four connecting corridors. The gables and roof layers create a brilliant structural beauty, in combination with the flawless appearance of the exterior, covered entirely in white plaster.

## What are Japanese Castles?

The keep was a symbol of authority and power for the Lord. At the same time, Japanese castles built during the Warring States Period were infused with the wisdom and techniques required for use as military facilities. Despite its graceful external appearance, Himeji Castle was built with a robust structure that also thoroughly considered defensive and offensive aspects. Please enjoy to the fullest every detail of its powerful and magnificent appearance.

## Sites to see in the castle



**Hishi Gate (Hishi-no-Mon)**  
The largest gate on the site appears just inside the castle entrance. The name "Hishi" comes from the water chestnut crests carved on the crossbar of the gate. "Katomado" (see photo enlargement) enhance the beauty of the gate. They are elaborate bell-shaped decorations that often appear in Zen Buddhism.

**Stone Wall, Fan-shaped Curve (Ogi-no-Kobai)**  
This stone wall is named Ogi-no-Kobai ("Fan-shaped Curve") due to its curved shape, which resembles an open fan. The lower part of the wall has a gentle slope, but it becomes steeper toward the top, to prevent invaders from climbing it. Various means of fortification can be found in the castle, such as this wall. Please take a close look at this historic castle.

**Main Keep and Pillars**  
The Main Keep appears to be five stories tall, but is actually seven stories, including the basement. Two main pillars, almost one meter across, hold up this massive building. Although the west pillar was replaced entirely during restoration (1956-64), the east pillar retains the original material, as only the lower part in the basement was replaced.

**Stone Walls Built by Strategist Kanbei Kuroda**  
Known not only as a military strategist, but also as a master of castle construction, Kuroda Kanbei constructed the stone wall located on the eastern side of the Hishi Gate. The technique of stacking stones differs throughout the ages; you can see the oldest method here.

## Admission Fees

Category	General Admission	Group Admission	Himeji Castle and Kokoen Garden Combination Ticket	Remarks
Adult	1,000yen	800yen	1,040yen	18 years and over
Child	300yen	240yen	360yen	Elementary, Junior and Senior High School students

\* Admission is free for children who have not yet entered Elementary school  
 \* Children fee applies to 18 year-old Senior High School students  
 \*\* Opening hours: 9am-5pm (entry until 4pm, seasonally extended)  
 \*\* Closed: 12/29-30 (may vary)

## Numbered Tickets for Entry to Main Keep

To ensure the safety of visitors and protection of cultural properties, numbered tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis if 15,000 visitors are anticipated in a single day. This limit applies only to the Main Keep, not the site. For information regarding congestion, visit the website at:

<http://www.himejicastle.jp/en/>



Drone flights are prohibited over Himeji Castle.



## Princess Sen's Story

Among the persons who lived in Himeji Castle, there was one woman of a rare beauty who decided to live faithfully to herself, even if the turbulent times she was living in were extremely hard to live for women. This woman is Princess Sen. After Princess Sen was saved from a burning castle, and on her way back to Edo, she fell in love at first sight with Honda Tadatoki who would later become the lord of Himeji Castle. It is one of rare marriage based "true love that took place during the Warring-States period. After that marriage, Princess Sen lived in Himeji Castle, and it is said that she spent her time there in happiness.

## The places associated with Princess Sen



## Himeji City Tourist Information Center (TIC)

Located just on the concourse of Himeji Station, English-speaking representatives welcome you and offer detailed and comprehensive information about Himeji and vicinity. Opening hours: 9am-7pm Closed: 12/29 and 30 TEL: +81 (0) 79 287 0003

## Himeji Castle Loop Bus

Operating hours: weekdays 9am-4:30pm and Weekends 9am-5pm Operation: Daily from March to November, but only on Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays at other times Day Pass: Adults 300 yen, Children 150 yen \*Day Pass can be purchased at the Shinki Bus Information Center \*\* Only Day Pass holders can get special rates for admission to Himeji Castle, Kokoen, Museum of Art, Museum of Literature, and Museum of History

## 2 Kokoen Garden

Kokoen, one of the leisure spots in Himeji City, is composed of nine variously-sized traditional Japanese gardens. It is located on an Edo Period site where a Lord's mansion and the houses of his samurai formerly stood. Visitors can enjoy seasonal changes in the gardens, such as Oyashiki-no-niwa, which has a pond with carp swimming in it, the Tsukiyama Chisen-no-niwa, which has a mound and pond, and the Nagare-no-niwa, which has flowers blooming along a stream. Matcha is served in the Soju-an Tea Room for an additional charge of 500 yen.

Opening hours: 9am-5pm (entry until 4:30pm)  
 Admission: Adults 300 yen, Children 150 yen  
 Combination ticket with Himeji Castle: Adult 1,040yen, Child 360yen  
 Closed: 12/29-30 (tea ceremony is not available on 12/21-1/5)  
 Access: 10min walk from the castle, 15min walk or 5min bus ride, and 3min walk from Himeji Sta.



## 3 Himeji City Zoo

It is located inside the castle site, and is rich in greenery. You can stroll around observing the various animals, such as elephants and giraffes, with a total of 390 animals of 110 species. There is also the Fureai Hiroba ("Petting Zoo") where you can pet creatures such as guinea pigs, miniature pigs, and sheep.

Opening hours: 9am-5pm (entry until 4:30pm)  
 Admission: Adults 200 yen, Children 30 yen  
 Closed: from December 29th to January 1st  
 Access: 3min walk from the castle, 15min walk or 5min bus ride, and 3min walk from Himeji Sta.



## 4 Himeji City Museum of Art

A beautiful red brick building, built in 1905, is now being used as the museum. Collections feature paintings ranging from local artists to those of modern Belgian artists such as Paul Delvaux, René Magritte, and others. The forecourt, with its view of Himeji Castle, offers visitors a place to relax.

Opening hours: 10am-5pm  
 Admission for Permanent Exhibition: Adults 200 yen, University or High School students 150 yen, and Junior High and Elementary School student 100 yen  
 Admission for Special Exhibition: may vary  
 Closed: Mondays (may vary on national holidays), and 12/25-1/5  
 Access: 10min bus ride from Himeji Sta. \* Closed from August 2018 to February 2019 for renovation



## 5 Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History

This museum features the history of Hyogo Prefecture and Himeji Castle. The life of people from ancient to modern times is on display in the 'History of Himeji' section. Information on the castle, collected from all over Japan, is available in the 'Castle and Town' section. Along with these permanent exhibitions, you can also watch various videos, or try on a 12-layered court kimono and samurai armor. Tange Kenzo, the famed architect, designed this museum.

Opening hours: 10am-5pm  
 Admission for Permanent Exhibition: Adults 200 yen, University students 150 yen, and High School students 100 yen  
 Admission for Special Exhibition: may vary  
 Closed: Mondays (may vary on national holidays), and 12/28-1/4  
 Access: 10min bus ride from Himeji Sta.



## 6 Himeji City Museum of Literature

Ando Tadao, the world-renowned architect, designed this museum. The region known as 'Harima' is centered on Himeji City. The north building features materials and works of local literati, and a history of Himeji Castle that is shown on panel displays and by projected images. The south building has a café and a library, as well as a special memorial room about the noted author, Shiba Ryotaro, where his life and works are on display.

Opening hours: 10am-5pm (entry until 4:30pm)  
 Admission: Adults 300 yen, University and High School students 200 yen, and Junior High and Elementary school 100 yen  
 Closed: Mondays (may vary on national holidays), and 12/25-1/4  
 Access: 7min bus ride and 3min walk from Himeji Sta.



## 7 Around Tegarayama

### A Himeji City Aquarium

This rare hill-top aquarium exhibits aquatic life such as penguins and turtles, and has a 'Touch Pool' which visitors can make contact with starfish, hermit crabs, and so on. Opening hours: 9am-5pm (Entry until 4:30pm)  
 Admission: Senior High School students and over 510 yen, Junior High and Elementary School students 200 yen.  
 Closed: Tuesdays (may vary on national holidays), and 12/29-1/1  
 Access: 10min walk from Tegara Sta.

### B Himeji Tegarayama Amusement Park

This park features a swimming pool in summer, and has coin-operated rides, bicycles, a fun house, etc., throughout the season. Opening hours: summer: 9:30am-6pm (entry until 5:30pm), and the other seasons 10am-5pm (entry until 4:30pm)  
 Admission for summer: Junior High School students and over 1100 yen, and 4 years old to Elementary School students 500 yen  
 Admission for the other season: 4 years and over 100 yen  
 Closed: Tuesdays (may vary on national holidays), and 12/29-1/1  
 Access: 15min bus ride from Himeji Sta.

### C Himeji City Tegarayama Botanical Garden

120 families, 1,500species, and 25,000plants are displayed. Opening hours: 9am-5pm (entry until 4:30pm)  
 Admission: High School students and over 200 yen, and 6 years old to Junior High School students 100yen  
 Closed: Fridays (may vary on national holidays), and 12/29-1/1  
 Access: 10min walk from Tegara Sta.

### D Himeji Historical Peace Center

This museum exhibits the horror of war and the importance of life, by means of experiencing air raids through images, sounds, and a diorama, to pass this on to future generations. Opening hours: 9:30am-5pm (entry until 4:30pm)  
 Admission: Senior High School students and over 200 yen, and Junior High and Elementary School students 50 yen  
 Closed: Mondays (may vary on national holidays), and 12/28-1/5  
 Access: 12min walk from Tegara Sta.

### E Cenotaph for the City Air-raid Victims of the Pacific War

This cenotaph commemorates the approximately 510,000 non-combatants killed by aerial bombardment in Japan during the Pacific War. The central tower represents a sword stuck into the ground, to express a pledge for no more war. Opening hours: 9:30am-5pm (entry until 4:30pm)  
 Admission: free  
 Closed: Tuesdays, and 12/29-1/1  
 Access: 15min walk from Tegara Sta.

### F Tegarayama Exchange Office

Monorail, used to run between Himeji station and Tegarayama in 60s, is exhibited on the second floor, and you can climb aboard the retro-spec. Opening hours: 9am-5pm  
 Closed: Tuesdays, and 12/29-1/1  
 Access: 10 min walk from Tegara Sta.

## 8 Nagoyama Stupa

As a symbolic building located on Nagoyama Hill, it has a pure and solemn atmosphere. It enshrines some ashes of Buddha, which were presented by former Indian Prime Minister Nehru. In spring, the whole area overflows with colorful cherry and azalea blossoms, which is a must-see. Opening hours: 8:40am-4:30 pm  
 Admission: 13 years old or over 200 yen and 5 to 12 years old 100 yen  
 Closed: 12/29-31  
 Access: 15min bus ride and 15min walk from Himeji Sta.

## 9 Himeji City Archaeological Research Center

(Displays in Japanese only) This center researches local buried cultural properties, and also mounts special seasonal exhibitions. (Unfortunately, only in Japanese) Opening hours: 10am-5pm (entry until 4:30pm)  
 Admission: free  
 Closed: Mondays (may vary on national holidays), and 12/28-1/4  
 Access: 25min bus ride and 3min walk from Himeji Sta.



## Mimi-chan - Nishimatsuya Chain Hime-Chari

This is a bike rental system with "Cycle Stations" where bikes can be rented and returned at Himeji Station and other locations around Himeji Castle. Hours: 7am - 8 pm (24-hour return)  
 Additional fees: ¥100 for every 30 minutes over the initial 60 minutes (If you return the bike within 60 minutes, you can use it that day as many times as you like for just 100 yen.)  
 Rental return location: any Cycle Station (see map) Target users: middle school students and older  
 Payment: Credit card or cash + cell phone registration card

## Hime-Chari Office

Information: Hime-Chari Office 050-3786-5055 (open 9am - 6 pm) (<http://interstreet.jp/himeji/>)