

About Himeji -1-

Himeji

Himeji is located at the center of the Harima Plain in the southwestern part of Hyogo Prefecture. Surrounded by mountains and the Seto Inland sea. Himeji has developed as a transportation hub of western Japan. Blessed with a mild climate and natural beauty, the city has realized excellent cultural characteristics through its long history as a castle town. Since Himeji became a city in April 1889, its population has increased together with expansion of the city area, and now currently exceeds 540,000, including more than 10,000 international residents. While evolving as a center for economics, culture and education in the Harima region, the city now comprises a large economic and cultural block in the region.

Himeji Castle -World Heritage-

In 1993 Himeji Castle was designated as Japan's first World Cultural Heritage site. It is the finest surviving example of early 17th-century Japanese castle architecture, comprising 83 buildings with highly developed systems of defense and ingenious protection devices dating from the beginning of the Shogun period. It is a masterpiece of construction in wood, combining function with aesthetic appeal, both in its elegant appearance unified by the white plastered earthen walls and in the subtlety of the relationships between the building masses and the multiple roof layers. The castle is also called Shirasagi-jo (White Egret Castle) because of its beautiful white exterior.

TOURIST SPOT



TOURIST SPOT



Koko-en Garden

Koko-en, the Nishi-Oyashiki-ato garden, opened in 1992 and shares the landscape with the World Cultural Heritage Himeji Castle. It is a traditional round-the-pond style Japanese garden, designed to make the best use of the layout of the Nishi-Oyashiki-ato, former samurai residences and paths discovered by archeological excavation. Each time you pass through a gate or cross a moat, one of the nine different gardens presents itself. It is a popular location for shooting historical Japanese dramas. Sojuan teahouse in the Tea Garden, built in the sukiya architectural style, offers matcha tea for ¥500 per person.

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Shoshazan Engyoji Temple

Shoshazan Engyoji Temple is an ancient Tendai sect temple, established by the priest Shoku in 966. The complex of buildings is at the top of Mt. Shosha approximately 25 minutes by bus from Himeji Station. The mountain summit can be reached by either a one-mile hiking trail or Mt. Shosha Ropeway, and it is often visited by pilgrims. Scenes from The Last Samurai were filmed here.

TOURIST SPOT



TOURIST SPOT



Nearby islands

The Ieshima are a collection of 44 islands just off the coast of Himeji City in the Seto Inland Sea. Of the islands, just four are large enough to be inhabited, and of these, Ieshima is the largest.

The Ieshima Jukkei is a collection of ten scenic spots that can be found across the islands. Spots include the site of old castle ruins on Ieshima and other Edo-period remains. The islands can be accessed by a ferry from Himeji Port.

GOURMET

Himeji Cuisine

There are many local cuisines you can enjoy in Himeji. Try out some "Himeji Oden" with ginger soy sauce and Japanese Sake made by the selected sake-brewing rice such as Yamada Nishiki and Hyogo Yume Nishiki.

