

## Feel the transitions of the seasons and time of day Photos of the famed castle

### Spring

Approximately 1,000 sakura and weeping cherry trees are planted on the castle ground. The scenery of these trees against Main Keep and white walls has been named one of the 100 best cherry blossom viewing points in Japan. The blossoms peak in early April.



### Summer

In deep summer, the trees of Himeyama Hill turn a deep green, highlighting the brilliant white of Main Keep. Combination with the pine trees is one of the typically nuanced Japanese sceneries.



### Autumn

The castle is decorated in the tone of the changing leaves, creating an enchantingly beautiful play of color. The fall foliage usually peaks around the end of November.



### Winter

As the trees drop their leaves, the castle becomes a show of black and white. On snowy days, the branches and stone walls are covered in a blanket of snow to create a fabulous sight.



### Morning

In the morning, enjoy a rare view of Main Keep and three small keeps from Otokoyama Hill to the west of Himeji Castle. The silhouette of the castle against the backdrop of the morning sun will take your breath away.



### Night

Himeji Castle is lit up year-round in the evening, creating a magical sight where Main Keep appears to float in the air. Have fun of "Himeji Castle Cherry Blossoms at night" in spring.



## Fun in the castle town 01 Himeji cuisine



### Himeji oden himeji-oden (Japanese hotpot)

Himeji-style oden is eaten with grated ginger and soy sauce. There are many restaurants in the downtown area providing this delightful dish.



### Hand-stretched noodles tenobe-somen

Try these noodles—a tradition dating back some 600 years—of the Banshu region, former name of Himeji area. The brand name "Ibo-no-ito" has come to be known around the nation since the Meiji period onward.

### Local sake jizake

The area around Himeji is known for being the home of the Yamada Nishiki rice used to make Japanese sake. Himeji is also known as a treasure trove of Japanese sake.



### Maedore local fish maedore

This dish, featuring local fish caught in the sea near Himeji, is a source of pride in the region for its freshness and varieties. The conger eel is especially well-known for its incredible flavor.

## After enjoying every inch of Himeji Castle, tour the castle town. There are tons of fun things to do!



## Fun in the castle town 02 A souvenir of the castle



### Himeji leatherware himekawa-zaiku

This traditional craft, made only in Himeji, features white tanned leather. It turns whiter and whiter in the sun. Popular items include wallets, bags and glasses cases decorated with bright patterns of engraving or drawing.

### Myochin Hibashi wind chime myochin-hibashi-turin

Myochin Hibashi wind chime is made of special iron tongs tempered with traditional techniques. Its refreshing clear sound is a masterpiece of craftsmanship.



## Himeji Castle is conveniently located near the station Take a walk around the town

There was once an outer moat on the north side of Himeji station. Today, you get a full view of the castle right in front of you as you step out of the station. Enjoy a walk through the town and explore a series of ruins on the former castle territory.

### 1 Castle View

This spot features an observation point on the North Exit of Himeji station. Snap a photo of the beautiful town of Himeji!



### 2 Egret Himeji

This shopping facility sits in close proximity to Himeji Castle. The view from the roof observation deck is a must-see! (The deck is open from 8:30 to 18:00).



### 3 Karo Yashikiato Park

The view of Himeji Castle from the main road dating back 150 years is spectacular.



## 4 "Power spot" of the castle town! Harima-no-Kuni Soshia, Itatehyozu-jinja Shrine

Located to the southwest of Himeji Castle, this shrine has long been known as the place where the local Shinto deity of Harima is enshrined. It has repeatedly been a subject of veneration including the gift of a torii gate from a lord of Himeji Castle. It is also popular for its luck of matchmaking.



## 5 A variety of Himeji souvenirs Bansankan

This gift shop, located right in front of Himeji station, offers a variety of specialty goods of the Himeji and Nishi-harima areas. Gift selections include locally-made Japanese-style sweets and sake.



Hours: 9:00-19:00  
Closed: Dec. 29-Jan. 3

## The Bus: Reasonable way to tour the castle town

The loop bus, which starts at Himeji station, is convenient not only for touring Himeji Castle but also various sightseeing spots in the area.

### ● Himeji Castle loop bus



This bus runs from Himeji station to the Ote-Mon Gate of Himeji Castle, to sights around the castle, and back to the station. Purchase a day pass to ride as many times as you like for the day, and also receive discounts on admission to Himeji Castle, Koko-en, Himeji City Museum of Art, etc.

Fare: Adult: 100 yen; Child: 50 yen

Day pass: Adult: 300 yen; Child: 150 yen

Hours: Daily in Mar.-Nov.; Sat., Sun. and holidays in Dec.-Feb.  
(may be no operation at end-of-year/New Year holiday)



### 7 Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History

Learn about the history and festivals of Himeji Castle and Hyogo Prefecture.



### 6 Himeji City Museum of Art

This beautiful red brick museum exhibits the works of local and world-famous artists.

## To the suburbs by bus



### ● Shoshazan Engyo-ji Temple

This historic temple, built in the year 966, has gained popularity as the set for the Hollywood film "The Last Samurai" and more. Ride on a ropeway, with the combination ticket for ropeway and round-trip bus (from Himeji station). The temple is located 28 minutes by bus from the No. 10 bus stop at the North Exit of Himeji Station. Get off at Shoshazan ropeway.

## Tourist information!

### ● Himeji City Tourist Information Center (Himeji Kanko Navi Port)

In addition to sightseeing information and pamphlets, this center also offers free bicycle rentals, wheelchair lending service, mobile phone charging service (fees apply). Located near the Himeji Station North Exit.

Tel: 079-287-0003

Hours: 9:00-19:00 (registration until 16:00)

Closed: Dec. 29 and 30



### ● Accommodation in Himeji

There is a variety of accommodation in Himeji City, particularly around Himeji station. Check info here!

