Explore Himeji Castle with Augmented Reality

HIMEJI Wi-Fi Free

AR locations



Hi! I am Shiromaruhime, and I will be your guide to the wonders of the castle.



❶Ote Mon (Front Gate)
❷San-no-Maru Goten (3rd Bailey Palace)
❸Armor
❹Shiromaruhime (Princess Shiromaru)
❺Commemorative Photo
❻Tale of Princess Sen
❼Defense Systems
❽The Livelihood of a Lady-in-waiting
❾Nishi-no-Maru Goten (West Bailey Palace)
❿Earthen Wall at the south side of Ha-no-Mon (Gate)
⓫Ni-no-Mon (Gate)
⓬Ubagaishi (Mill Stone of the Elderly Lady)
⓭The Main Keep
Basement : The east and west large pillars
1st floor: Stone drops
2nd floor: Weapon racks
3rd floor: The west large pillar, and Legend of Musashi's Wiping out the Ghost
4th floor: Stone-throwing platforms
6th floor: "Hidden windows", and telescope of must-see spots around the castle
⓮Carpenter Genbei
⓯Legend of Banshu Sarayashiki
⓰Kagamiishi



Castle & Beyond

Walk the Living History of Himeji with a local expert guide "Himeji Tourism Concierge Guides"

Castle & Beyond HIMEJI TOURISM CONCIERGE 姫路観光コンシェルジュ

Not Just a Visit—A Deeper Understanding of Himeji

Himeji Castle, Mt. Shosha, Koko-en Garden and local walks — discover another side of Himeji with our concierge guides.



What's concierge?

Book here!

◎Admission Fees

	Himeji residents aged 18+*1	Non-residents aged 18+	Under 18s*2
Individual	1,000 yen	2,500 yen	Free
Himeji Castle+Kokoen Garden combined ticket	2,600 yen		
Annual ticket	5,000 yen		

* 1 Requires presentation of a valid ID. (My Number Card, Driver's License, etc.)
* 2 Visitors aged 18 or younger are eligible for under 18s admission until the first March 31st after their 18th birthday.

◎Hours

9:00 am to 4:00 pm (gates close at 5:00 pm)
* Hours may be extended on a seasonal basis.

◎Closed

December 29th and 30th



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

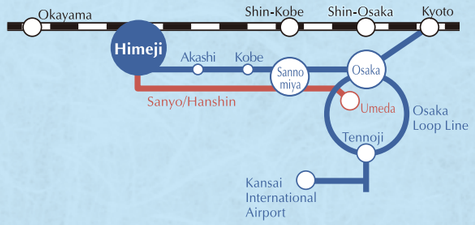
Access from major stations by Shinkansen

Kagoshima-Chuo	Hakata	Hiroshima	Okayama	Himeji	Shin-Osaka	Kyoto	Nagoya	Tokyo
3 hr 52 min	2 hr 10 min	61 min	20 min		29 min	45 min	1 hr 22 min	3 hr 4 min

By local train

[JR Special Rapid]
- Osaka to Himeji 60 min.
- Kobe/Sannomiya to Himeji 40 min.

[Sanyo/Hanshin Electric Railway]
- Umeda to Himeji 100 min.
- Kobe/Sannomiya to Himeji 60 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

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World Heritage and National Treasure

Himeji Castle

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 resurfaced, and its roof tiles were replaced, for the first time in 50 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.



Major repair project undertaken during the *Showa* Era (around 1960)





Repair project undertaken during the *Heisei* Era

◆Himeji Castle by the Numbers

National Treasures
Eight structures: Main Keep, East, Northwest, and West small keeps, and *I, Ro, Ha, and Ni* corridors

National Important Cultural Properties
Total of 74 structures: 27 turrets and corridors, 15 gates, and 32 earthen walls

Architectural style	Flatland-mountain castle
Site	Inner compound: 0.23㎢ / 57ac Outer compound: 2.33㎢ / 575ac
Height of Main Keep	91.9 m above sea level
Structure of Main Keep	7 stories, with 5 exterior roofs
Year of Registration as a World Heritage Site	1993

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.

Combined-keep Layout



Small keeps were positioned to the East, West, and Northwest, to protect the Main Keep. Corridors connect them, so Himeji Castle provides an intact example of a style of castle architecture known as combined-keep layout.

Hishi Gate



Hishi Gate is the castle's largest gate. It is named for the carved wooden water chestnut (*hishi*) crests at the top of its columns. The gate is distinguished by design features such as *kato-mado* (fire-shaped windows), which give the structure an elegant ambience.

White Plaster Exterior Walls

In this style, a wooden base is covered with plaster (made by mixing glue with slaked lime), so that it is no longer visible. The material was chosen to protect against fire, including fires sparked by concerted 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.

Loopholes







The castle's turrets and earthen walls incorporate rectangular loopholes from which defenders could unleash arrows, as well as round, triangular, and square loopholes for use with matchlock guns. Thanks to their regular spacing, these defensive works give the castle a beautiful appearance.

Machicolations



Openings known as machicolations 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 machicolations.

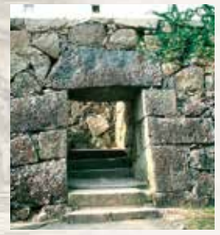
Paths



Gates



"Buried" Gates



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 routes, strong gates with iron doors, and narrow gates that barely allow a single-file line of men to pass through.

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.