

Kobe & Himeji

A trip through Japan's traditions
and modern beauty



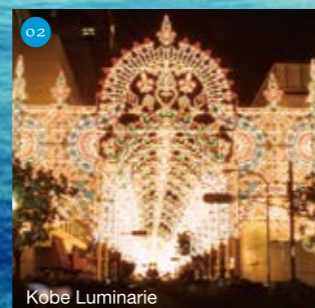
Modern architecture and cuisine
in a relaxing, elegant port city

Kobe



The spirit that supported recovery from disaster

Kobe suffered extensive damage after the Great Hanshin earthquake. With the passion of its citizens and the support of the world, Kobe has recovered and now is a bustling city that shows no signs of the prior damage. In memory of the city's recovery and rebuilding, an illumination event called Kobe Luminarie is held each December. A visit will light up your spirit and remind you of those who helped make Kobe what it is today.



Kobe Luminarie

Legend Location Phone number Hours Closed Price (JPY) Website

The neighborhood alive with modern Western culture



It has been 150 years since the opening of the port of Kobe. To enjoy the vestiges of that time period, head over to Former Foreign Settlement or Kitano Ijinkan, where the western-style 19th-century architecture remains. The mansions built by these early foreign residents line the streets, and provide an opportunity to see modern western culture in this Japanese port city. The waterside, meanwhile, offers its own variety of sightseeing spots. Shop in the bustling and fashionable Kobe Harborland center, or take unforgettable photos at Meriken Park - the unique shapes of Kobe Port Tower and Kobe Maritime Museum make for stunning subjects.

Kitano Ijinkan Weathercock House 3-13-3 Kitano-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe ☎ 078-242-3223 🕒 9:00 - 18:00 (last entry at 17:45)
📅 First Tuesday of June and Feb. (or the following day, if Tuesday is a holiday) 💰 500 yen
🌐 <http://www.kobe-kazamidori.com/kazamidori/>

Kobe Port Tower 5-5 Hatoba-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe ☎ 078-391-6751 🕒 Mar. - Nov.: 9:00 - 21:00 (last entry at 20:30)
Dec. - Feb.: 9:00 - 19:00 (last entry at 18:30) 📅 Open year-round 💰 700 yen 🌐 <http://www.kobe-port-tower.com/>

Beautiful gourmet dishes nurtured by cultured Kobe citizens



The port of Kobe served as the gateway of foreign culture and entertainment for the city's early international residents; the spread of coffee, western-style desserts, movies, jazz, soccer, and more throughout Japan was made possible thanks to Kobe. Even the now-internationally renowned Kobe beef, with its intense marbling and hint of sweetness, is said to have been "discovered" by a foreign resident at that time. Kobe is also famous throughout Japan for its sweets and breads; walking through the city, you're sure to see numerous unique bakeries and cake shops with lines out the door. Take your time strolling through Kobe, and enjoy corner cafes and the stunning arrays of desserts in a city that incorporated 19th century western culture in its own special way. Happiness awaits in Kobe!



Kobe sweets



Nurture body and soul surrounded by nature and hot springs



06



Arima Hot Spring

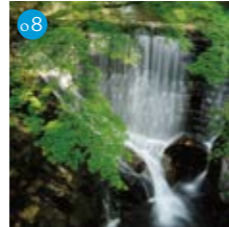


Arima baskets - made from bamboo by skilled artisans

Mt. Rokko & Arima Hot Spring

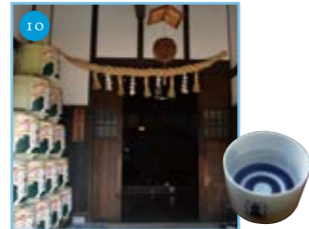
Mt. Rokko range, the backdrop to Kobe's cityscape, is the perfect place to experience farms, ropes adventure, and other outdoor activities. An observation deck offers stunning panoramas of the Kobe skyline, with the Seto Inland Sea in the background. The night view from Mt. Rokko is famous throughout Japan - city lights sparkle like diamonds you will never forget.

Arima Hot Spring, connected to Mt. Rokko via ropeway, is one of the Japan's oldest hot spring towns. It appears in historical texts as far back as the 7th century, and is itself a slice of history, having hosted numerous powerful figures. The best way to enjoy this town and its rows of traditional houses is via a stroll in your yukata.



Just a five-minute walk from JR Shin-Kobe Station, Nunobiki Falls was named one of the 100 Waterfalls of Japan

Nada Sake Breweries

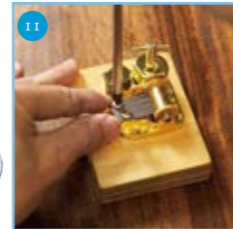


The Nada area of Kobe has been home to numerous sake breweries for around 600 years, and is still Japan's top sake-producing region. The fresh and clear spring water from Mt. Rokko results in a sake that can't be tasted anywhere else.

Around 1900, meanwhile, during the peak of the music box's popularity in the West, many international residents of Kobe spent their days off listening to the familiar tones of these boxes and reminiscing about their home countries. At Rokko International Music Box Museum, you can learn about their history and even make your own music box.

Rokko International Music Box Museum
 4512-145 Kita-rokko, Rokkosan-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe
 078-891-1284 (FAX:078-891-0111) 10:00 - 17:00 (last entry at 16:20)
 Thursdays from late Nov. to mid-Mar.; Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 1,030 yen
<https://www.rokkosan.com/museum/>

Music box making



Akashi Kaikyo Bridge

With a total length of 3,911 meters, Akashi Kaikyo Bridge is well known as the world's longest suspension bridge. Visitors can walk Maiko Marine Promenade, or even take a tour to the top of one of the towers. It is also known as the Pearl Bridge for the 28 dazzling light patterns that illuminate the bridge like a jewel.

A convenient way to see all of Kobe's best sights **City Loop Bus**

Use a day pass to see all the central Kobe attractions, from the port of Kobe to Kitano Ijinkan. The pass allows you to ride the Loop Bus as many times as you like during a single day, and will even get you discounts on entrance fees and more.

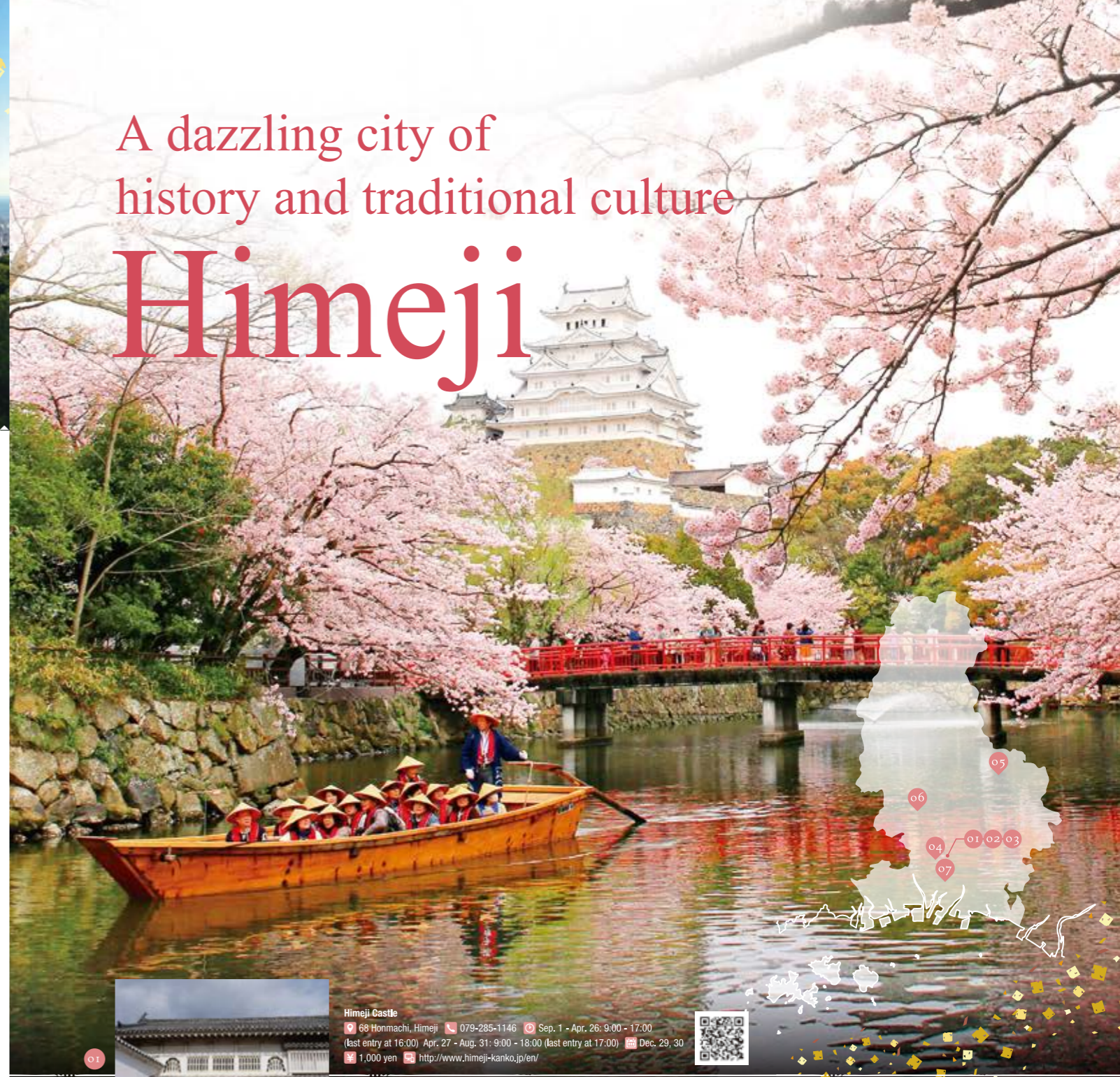
Hours of Operation Weekdays 9:00 - 17:34 (last departure from Nakatottei); Sat., Sun., and Holidays 9:00 - 19:00 (last departure from Nakatottei)
Fares Adults (middle school and older) 260 yen; Children (elementary school and younger) 130 yen
 [Day Pass: Adults (middle school and older) 660 yen; Children (elementary school and younger) 330 yen]

Inquiries 078-304-2226 (Kobe City Transportation Promotion Co., Ltd. Port Island Office) **URL** <http://www.kctp.co.jp/outline/car/cityloop/41/>

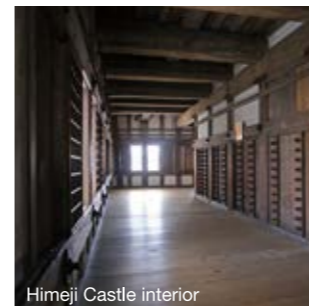


A dazzling city of history and traditional culture

Himeji



Hishi-no-Mon (Hishi Gate)



Himeji Castle interior

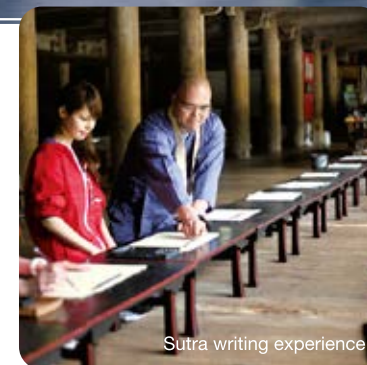
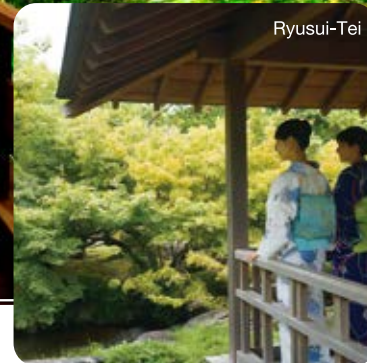
Himeji Castle
 68 Honmachi, Himeji 079-285-1146 Sep. 1 - Apr. 26: 9:00 - 17:00 (last entry at 16:00) Apr. 27 - Aug. 31: 9:00 - 18:00 (last entry at 17:00) Dec. 29, 30
 1,000 yen <http://www.himeji-kanko.jp/en/>



Exploring history at Himeji Castle

With over 400 years of history, Himeji Castle is indisputably one of Japan's most famous castles. Visitors here will see an excellent example of Japan's unique castle structure in near-entirety. The beauty of the wooden construction is unlike anything else in the world, and it has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Himeji Castle hides a number of tricks designed to protect the keep. To confuse enemies, for example, the castle grounds there are three complicated, sprawling layers of walls and moats creating a labyrinthine complex that is rare even among Japanese castles. The centrally located main keep (Daitenshu) has five layers but houses six floors plus a basement, rises 92 meters above sea level; three small keeps face east, west, and northwest and boast their own layered roofs. Because the gleaming white of the expansive castle walls is said to resemble a heron spreading its wings, the castle is also commonly known as the "White Heron Castle." Parts of the castle, notably the two pillars of the main keep, are built entirely with wooden materials intricately fitted together using some of the most advanced woodworking techniques of the period. Every visitor should be sure to climb to the top of the main keep and take in the wondrous views of the city of Himeji.

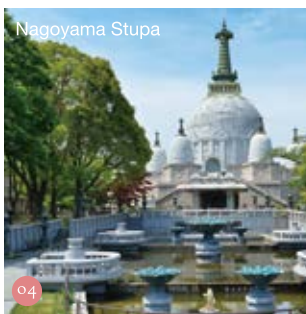
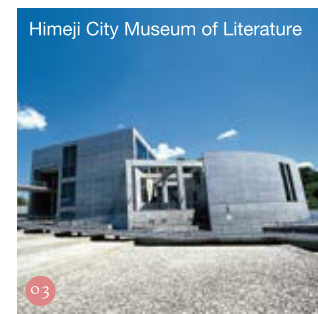
Understand the soul of Japan through cultural experiences



Kokoan Garden

Located in short walking distance from Himeji Castle, Kokoan Garden allows visitors to see an historical Japanese aesthetic sense up close without leaving the city center. It is comprised of nine large and small gardens, such as the Oyashiki-no-Niwa with its tranquil pond, Nagare-no-Hiraniwa with its beautiful river. There are tree-lined paths and plazas, and the garden in beautiful year-round: cherry blossoms in spring, tender greens in summer, and deep red leaves in autumn. A teahouse offers a matcha tea experience for 500 yen. You can even easily rent a kimono nearby and enjoy the garden in traditional wear.

Kokoan Garden
 68 Honmachi, Himeji ☎ 079-289-4120
 Sep. 1 - Apr. 26: 9:00 - 17:00 (last entry at 16:30) Apr. 27 - Aug. 31: 9:00 - 18:00 (last entry at 17:30)
 Dec. 29, 30 ¥ 300 yen 🌐 http://himeji-machishin.jp/ryokka/kokoan/download/images/pamph/foreign_language.pdf



Himeji Castle Surrounding Area

About ten-minute walk from Himeji Castle, Himeji City Museum of Literature was designed by world-renowned architect Ando Tadao. On display inside are works of local authors and scholars. Nagoyama Stupa houses ashes of the Buddha - a gift to the city from former Indian Prime Minister Nehru as a wish for eternal peace for humankind. In addition to the striking exterior, the inside houses rows of seated statues of Buddha well worth a look. At Japan Toy Museum, which is home to over 90,000 artifacts, visitors can actually try their hand at games inside.



Himeji City Museum of Literature
 84 Yamanoi-cho, Himeji ☎ 079-293-8228 🕒 10:00 - 17:00 (last entry at 16:30) 📅 Mondays (open when a holiday), the day following a holiday (open when a Sat. or Sun.), Dec. 25 - Jan. 4 ¥ 300 yen 🌐 <http://www.himeji-kanko.jp/en/>
Nagoyama Stupa
 14-1 Nagoyama-cho, Himeji ☎ 079-297-5030 🕒 8:40 - 16:30 📅 Dec. 29-31 ¥ 200 yen 🌐 <http://www.himeji-kanko.jp/en/>
Japan Toy Museum
 671-3 Kodera-cho Nakanino, Himeji ☎ 079-232-4388 🕒 10:00 - 17:00 📅 Wednesdays (open when a holiday), Dec. 28 - Jan. 2 ¥ 600 yen 🌐 <http://www.japan-toy-museum.org/english/index.htm>

Himeji Castle Loop Bus

This retro-style bus is the convenient way to see the area around Himeji Castle. Show Day Pass to get discounts at certain spots.

Availability
 Daily from Mar. to Nov.
 Sat., Sun., and Holidays only Dec. to Feb.

Hours of Operation
 Weekdays 9:00 - 16:30
 Sat., Sun., and Holidays 9:00 - 17:00

Fares
 Adults (middle school and older) 100 yen
 Children (6 years old and younger) 50 yen [Day Pass]
 Adults (middle school and older) 300 yen
 Children (6 years old and younger) 150 yen

Inquiries
 079-287-0003 (Himeji City Tourist Information Center)

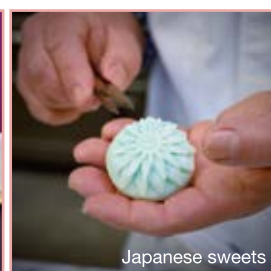
URL
<http://www.himeji-kanko.jp/en/information/>




Shoshazan Engyoji Temple

Boasting more than 1,000 years of history, Shoshazan Engyoji is one of western Japan's most prominent temples. A visit here will give you a rare opportunity to see precious historical structures, from the impressive Maniden hall nestled in the mountainside of Shoshazan to the Jogyodo, registered as an Important Cultural Property of Japan. The area has long been known as a site for ascetic training, and thus has a deep, solemn atmosphere that is ideal for experiencing ancient traditions such as zazen meditation or sutra writing. You can even dine on shojin ryori, a type of cuisine made without the foods that monks are prohibited from eating, such as fish and meat. Lastly, take the ropeway that takes you to the peak of Shoshazan to take in colorful and ever-changing panoramas of the city of Himeji.

Shoshazan Engyoji Temple ☎ 2968 Shosha, Himeji ☎ 079-266-3327 🕒 500 yen / Sutra-copying experience (petal copying): 300 yen; Zazen meditation experience: 500 yen (reservations required 3 days in advance) 🌐 <http://www.shosha.or.jp/>
Shoshazan Ropeway 🕒 1199-2 Shosha, Himeji ☎ 079-266-2006 🕒 8:30 - 17:00 (varies seasonally) 📅 Closed for a few consecutive days (Make an inquiry in advance) ¥ 900 yen (roundtrip price) 🌐 <http://www.mt-shosha.info/>
Juryo-in Temple & Shojin Cuisine ☎ 079-266-3327 (*Reservations required; minimum 5 persons; available Apr. - Nov.) 📅 Thursdays

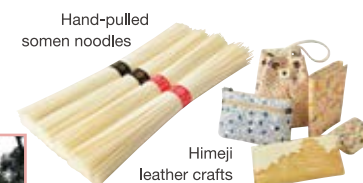


Himeji cuisine

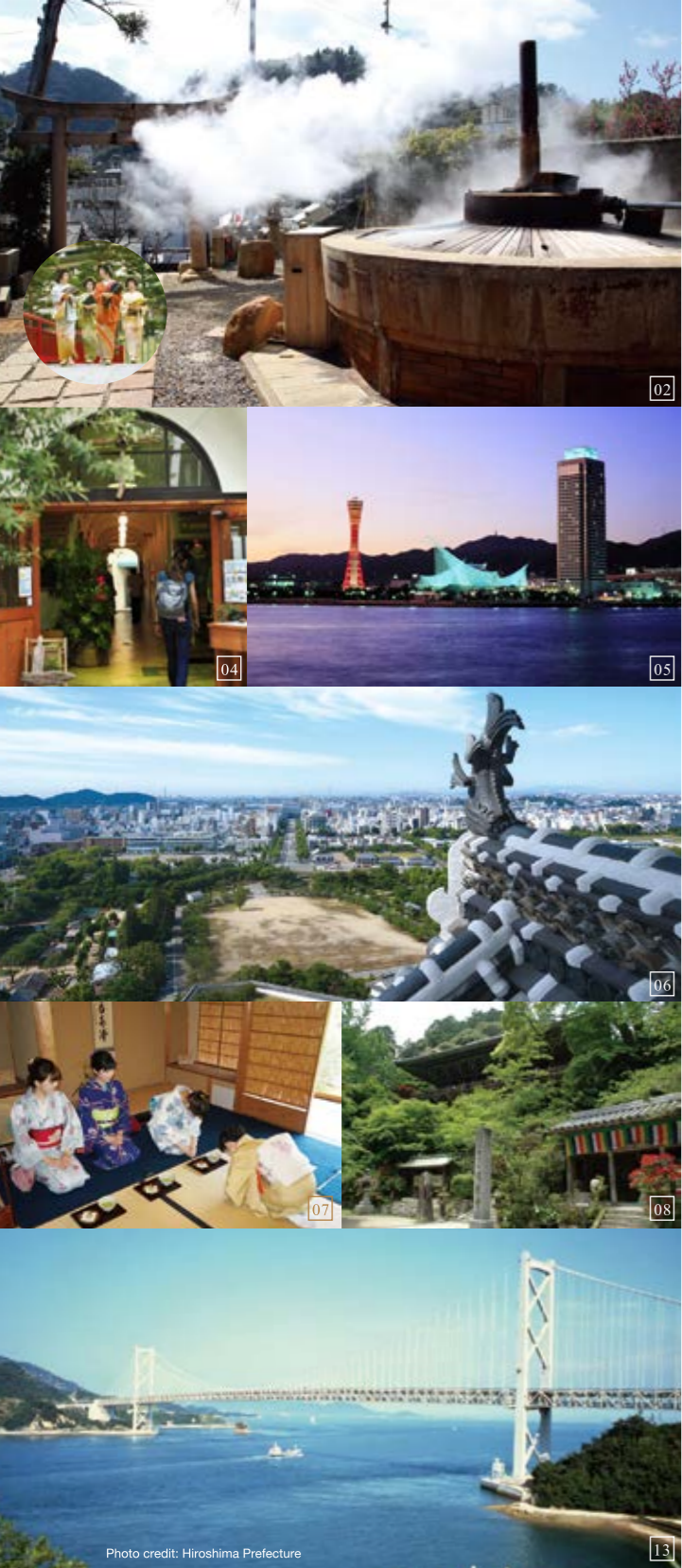
To enjoy the best of Himeji's cuisine, visitors should try local oden dipped in ginger soy sauce. The area around the city is the largest producer of Yamada Nishiki rice (the preferred rice for sake-making), and thus considered the birthplace of Japanese sake and home to a treasure trove of local varieties. And since the successive family heads of Himeji Castle have had an affinity for tea ceremonies, it's also a great place to bring home souvenirs of traditional Japanese sweets.

Himeji souvenirs

There are many great options for Himeji souvenirs, such as unique, milky-white cowhide leather crafts, or somen noodles hand-pulled according to techniques passed down for about 600 years.



Bansankan
 123 Minamiekimae-cho, Himeji
 ☎ 079-289-2835
 🕒 9:00 - 19:00
 📅 Dec. 29 - Jan. 3



Legend

- On foot
- Shinkansen
- Local Train, etc.
- Bus
- Ferry, etc.

Times are approximate.

Course 1 The beauty of Japan, past and present

{ 6 nights, 7 days in Kansai International Airport out Fukuoka Airport }

Walk through Kobe, the port town responsible for cultivating modern Japanese culture, then explore traditional Japan at Himeji Castle and other Himeji spots. After that, complete your exhilarating trip by seeing the modern art on the island of Naoshima, Itsukushima Shrine with its 1,400 years of history, and other sights along the coast of the Seto Inland Sea.

Day 1

01 Kansai International Airport → 02 Arima Hot Spring and explore town → 02 Stay overnight at Arima Hot Spring

Day 2

02 Arima Hot Spring → 03 Kitano Ijinkan → 04 Former Foreign Settlement

Relax with some coffee, jazz, or sweets while you wander the city

05 Harborland/Meriken Park → Stay overnight in Kobe city (Kobe beef)

Day 3

Central Kobe → Kimono experience → 06 Himeji Castle

→ 07 Koko-en Garden (Matcha (green tea) Experience) → 08 Shoshazan Engyoji Temple

Ropeway 5 min. → Stay overnight in Himeji city (Himeji oden)

Day 4

Central Himeji → Okayama Prefecture Uno Port

→ 09 Naoshima Art House Project & Chichu Art Museum → Stay overnight in Takamatsu city

Day 5

Central Takamatsu → 10 Kotohira-gu Shrine (Udon) → 11 Matsuyama Castle → 12 Stay overnight at Dogo Hot Spring

Day 6

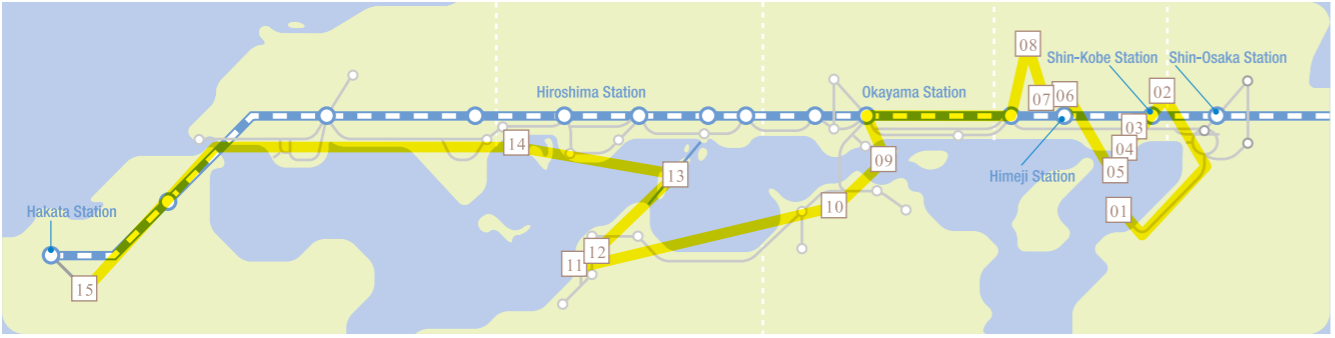
12 Dogo Hot Spring → Imabari

→ 13 Shimanami Kaido ~ Omishima Islands Oyamazumi Shrine (Cycle around the island)

→ Fukuyama → Stay overnight in Hiroshima city (Okonomiyaki)

Day 7

Central Hiroshima → 14 Itsukushima Shrine → 15 Fukuoka Airport



Course 2 World Heritage Site Himeji Castle and other traditional culture

{ 3 nights, 4 days in Kansai International Airport out Kansai International Airport }

After enjoying Kobe's culinary delights, put on a kimono, wander Himeji Castle, and enjoy matcha tea at Koko-en Garden. This itinerary involves other traditional Japanese cultural experiences, such as practicing zazen meditation or eating Shojin Ryori (vegetarian cuisine) at one of western Japan's many temples.

Day 1

Kansai International Airport → 01 Kitano Ijinkan → 02 Former Foreign Settlement → 03 Harborland/Meriken Park (Sweets)

Stay overnight in Kobe city (Kobe beef)

Day 2

Central Kobe → Kimono experience → 04 Himeji Castle

→ 05 Koko-en Garden (Matcha (green tea) Experience) → 06 Himeji City Museum of Literature

→ 07 Nagoyama Stupa → Stay overnight in Himeji city (Himeji oden)

Day 3

Central Himeji → 08 Japan Toy Museum

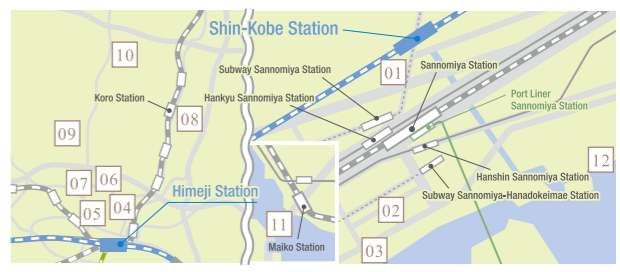
Ropeway 5 min. → 09 Shoshazan Engyoji Temple (Zazen meditation experience, Shojin Ryori, Sutra writing experience)

Ropeway 5 min. → 10 Stay overnight at Shiota Hot Spring

Day 4

10 Shiota Hot Spring → 11 Akashi Kaikyo Bridge

→ 12 Nada Sake Breweries → Kansai International Airport (Brewery tour, Tasting)



Course 3 A leisurely walk through Kobe

{ 3 nights, 4 days in Kansai International Airport out Kansai International Airport }

After bathing in Japan's oldest hot springs, enjoy sweets, Kobe beef, and other popular dishes famous throughout Japan in downtown Kobe, a center of modern Japanese culture. Also, don't miss out on local sake tasting in Japan's top sake-producing region.

Day 1

Kansai International Airport → 01 Kobe's Nankinmachi Chinatown → 02 Arima Hot Spring and explore town → 02 Stay overnight at Arima Hot Spring (Japanese sweets & traditional crafts)

Day 2

02 Arima Hot Spring → 03 Kitano Ijinkan

→ 04 Nunobiki Falls → 05 Former Foreign Settlement

→ 06 Harborland/Meriken Park → Stay overnight in Kobe city (Sweets & night view)

Day 3

Central Kobe → 07 Mt. Rokko Observatory

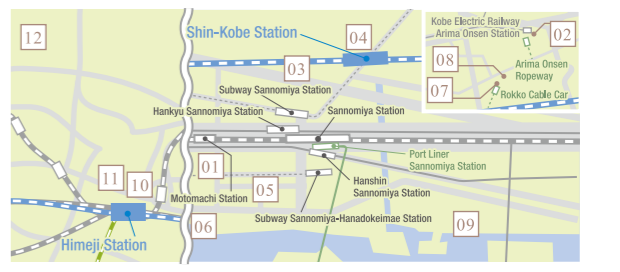
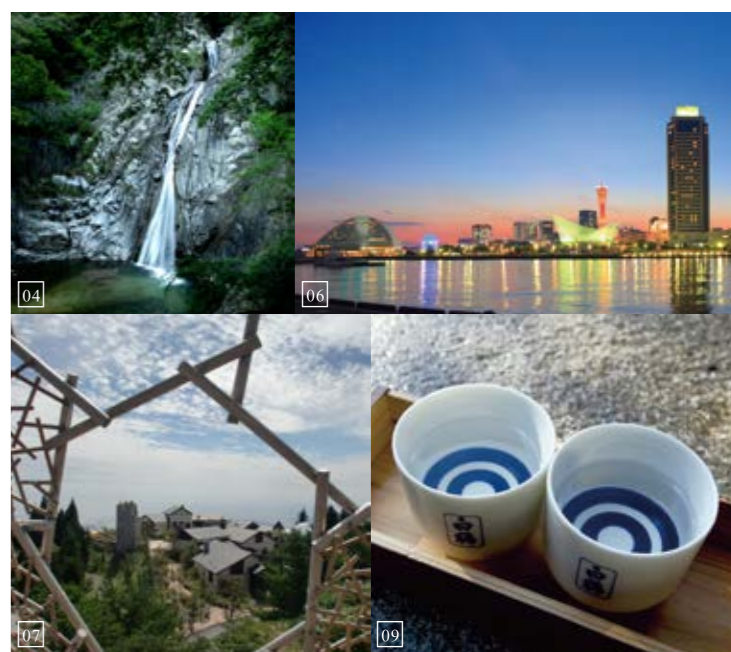
→ 08 Music Box Museum → 09 Nada Sake Breweries (Brewery tour, Tasting)

Kobe beef → Stay overnight in Himeji city

Day 4

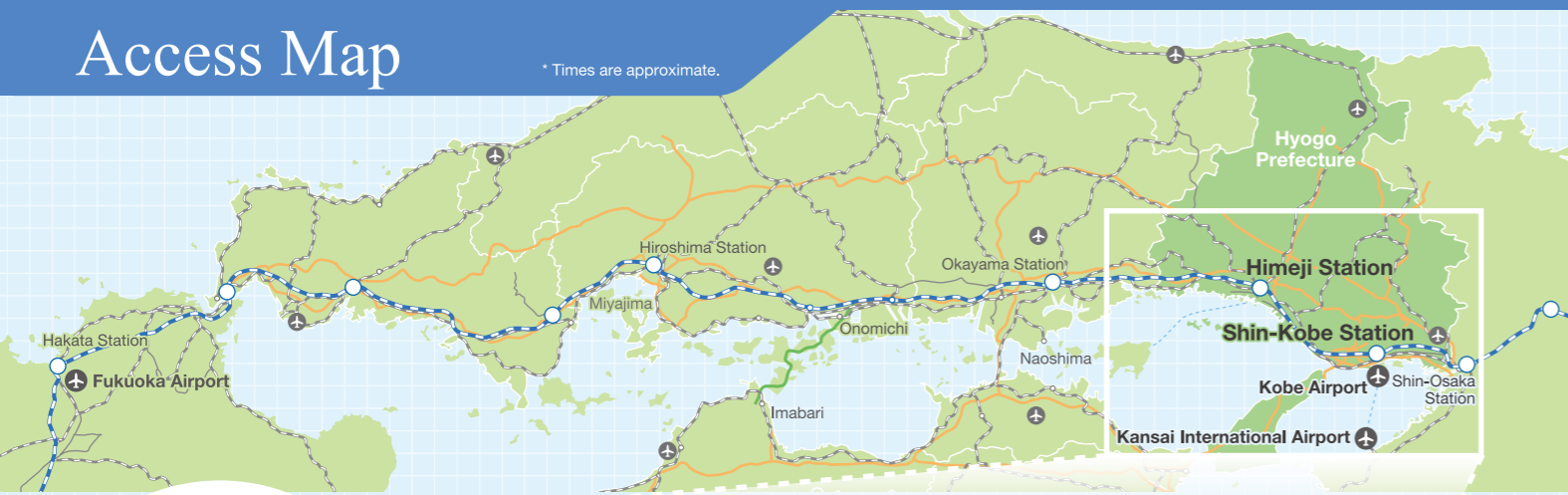
Central Himeji → Kimono experience → 10 Himeji Castle → 11 Koko-en Garden (Matcha (green tea) Experience)

→ 12 Shoshazan Engyoji Temple → Kansai International Airport (Ropeway 5 min., 30 min., 30 min., 50 min.)



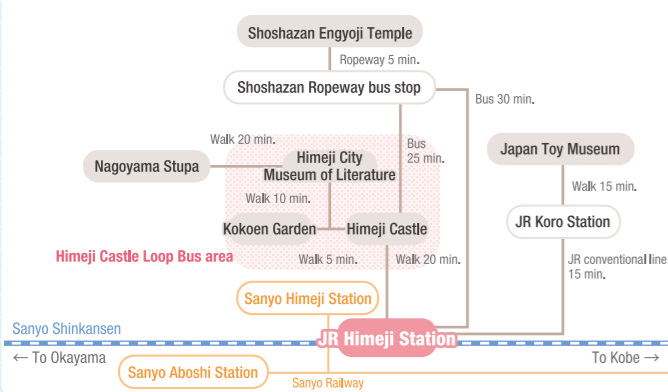
Access Map

* Times are approximate.

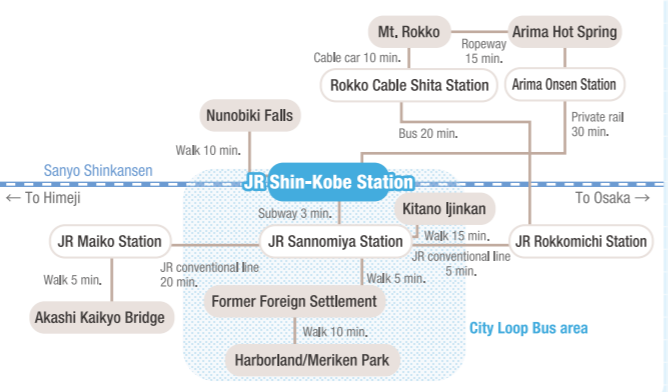


- JR Shinkansen
- JR (Local Train)
- Non-JR private lines
- Sea routes
- Expressways
- Shimanami Kaido Express way

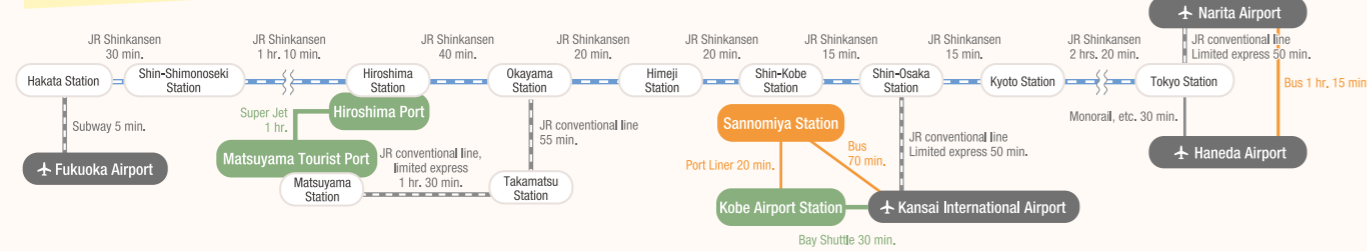
Sightseeing around Himeji Station



Sightseeing around Shin-Kobe Station



Travel Times via Public Transportation



Useful Travel Information

● **Setouchi Area Pass** <https://www.westjr.co.jp/global/en/ticket/setouchi/>

Travel far and wide across the Seto Inland area on JR lines, ferries, and more!
Get greater discounts by combining it with a bus and ship pass.

Validity Period	5 continuous days	
Price	When purchased abroad Adults (12 and older):	17,000 yen
	Children (6 to 11):	8,500 yen
Price	When purchased in Japan Adults (12 and older):	18,000 yen
	Children (6 to 11):	9,000 yen



Participating Organizations This pass offers unlimited rides with the following transportation agencies within the coverage area.

JR Lines | Non-reserved seats on Sanyo Shinkansen (Shin-Osaka – Hakata) and on Limited Express, rapid service, and local service trains within the coverage area.

Bus / Passenger ship | Okayama Electric Tramway (Tram), Okaden Bus (Okayama Sta. – Shin-Okayama Port), Ryobi Ferry (Shin-Okayama Port – Shodoshima (Tonosho Port)), Shodoshima Ferry (Takamatsu Port – Shodoshima (Tonosho Port)), Setouchi Kanko Kisen (Hinase Port – Shodoshima (Obe Port)), Onomichi Bus "Shimanami Cycle Express" (Onomichi Ekimae / Shin-Onomichi Eki – Imabari Ekimae / Imabari Sanbashi), Chugoku JR Bus (Hiroshima Sightseeing Loop Bus "Meipuru-pu"), Ishizaki Kisen or Setonaikai Kisen "Super Jet" (Hiroshima Port – Kure Port – Matsuyama Kanko Port), JR West Miyajima Ferry (Miyajimaguchi – Miyajima)

*Cannot be used for reserved seating on Sanyo Shinkansen or on Limited Express trains. *This pass cannot be used on conventional lines within Kyushu (Shimonoseki – Hakata). *A separate basic fare ticket and reserved seat ticket are required for passage on "SL Yamaguchi."

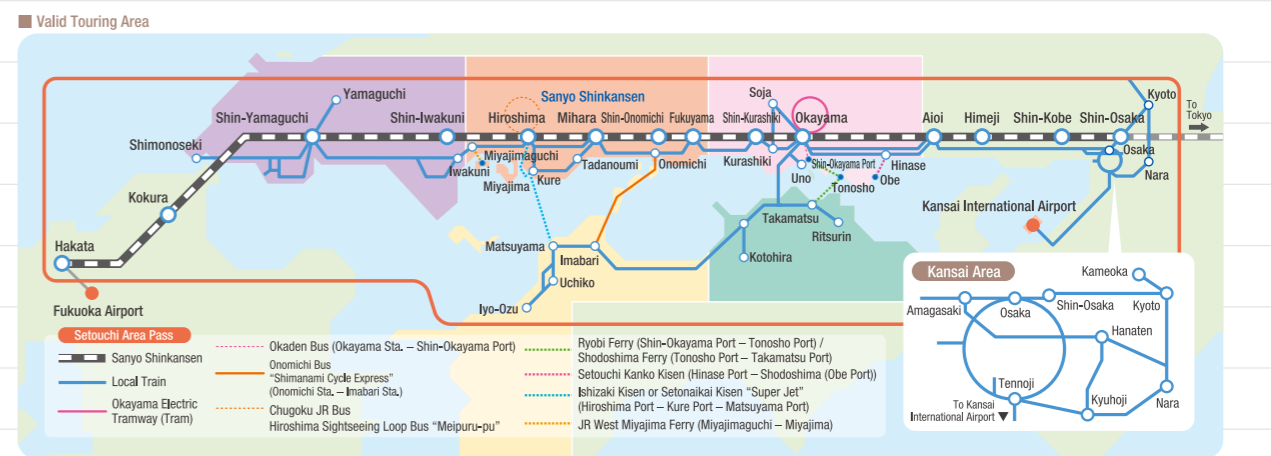
Purchasing / Eligibility Purchasing and use of this pass is limited to customers with a non-Japanese passport and those who have entered Japan with a "Temporary Visitor" visa.

How to Purchase Passes can be purchased from overseas or directly from JR stations or Warp branches (Travel Center).

- When purchasing overseas: Exchange orders (MCO) can be purchased at any travel agency outside Japan. Upon entering Japan, the exchange order can be exchanged for a pass at any of the following JR West and JR Shikoku locations. Both the exchange order for a rail pass and a passport must be presented to receive the pass.
- When purchasing in Japan: Passes can be purchased at any sales location in Japan. *Presentation of a passport is required. *Contact the travel company in the departure country for details.

Exchange and Purchase Locations in Japan | [West Japan] Kansai-Airport Sta., Shin-Osaka Sta., Osaka Sta., Okayama Sta., Hiroshima Sta., Hakata Sta. [Shikoku] Takamatsu Sta., Matsuyama Sta., Warp Takamatsu Branch, Warp Matsuyama Branch

*Refunds are offered only for unused passes within the validity period from the point of exchange or sale. (A 220-yen refund fee will be applied.) *Refunds will not be offered after the validity period. In addition, refunds will not be offered as a result of non-availability of train or boat services. *Lost tickets cannot be reissued.



● **Himeji Tourist Pass** <http://www.sanyo-railway.co.jp/global/en/touristpass.html>

The Himeji Tourist Pass is a special pass combining a one-way ticket from Kansai-Airport Station to Namba Station on the Nankai Electric Railway, and a 1-day pass for unlimited travel between Osaka-Namba Station and Sanyo-Himeji Station. The Himeji Tourist Pass also offers special discounts at certain tourist spots including Himeji Castle.

Pass Validity	Nankai Railway one-way ticket (Kansai-Airport Station - Namba Station) + Sanyo Railway/Hanshin Railway 1-day pass (Osaka Namba Station - Amagasaki Station - Sanyo Himeji Station/Sanyo-Aboshi Station)	Price	2,000 yen
Available at	[Kansai Tourist Information Center] http://www.tourist-information-center.jp/kansai/en/		



About Free Wi-Fi

● **JR-WEST Free Wi-Fi**
<https://www.westjr.co.jp/global/en/wifi/index.html>

Settings and other details Here ↓



Use Wi-Fi at major stations to effectively plan your sightseeing.

Wi-Fi is also available within the cities of Kobe and Himeji.



<http://plus.feel-kobe.jp/wi-fi/>



- Inside Himeji Castle
- Himeji City Tourist Information Center



..... Tourism Information & Inquiries

Kobe Tourist Information Center
Tel.078-322-0220

8 Kumoi-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe
 (South side of JR Sannomiya Station East Exit)
 Open 9:00 - 19:00
 Open year round (limited hours at year-end and New Year's)

Himeji City Tourist Information Center
Tel 079-287-0003

210-2 Ekimae-cho, Himeji
 (Northwest side of JR Himeji Station central concourse)
 Hours 9:00 - 19:00
 Closed Dec. 29, 30

..... Official Tourism Websites

Kobe Official Tourism Site:
Feel KOBE+
<http://plus.feel-kobe.jp/>



Himeji City Official Tourist Site:
Himenomichi
<http://www.himeji-kanko.jp/en/>



SETOUCHI Finder
<http://setouchifinder.com/en/>

