

KOBE  
神戸

# Uncover Local Hidden Gems in Japan

- To five seaside cities in Hyogo -

KAKOGAWA  
加古川

AKASHI  
明石

TAKASAGO  
高砂

HIMEJI  
姫路

# ACCESS GUIDE to 5 cities



Start your tour of five unique cities from Kobe or Himeji. Kobe is accessible by airplanes or Shinkansen. Himeji is conveniently accessible by Shinkansen.

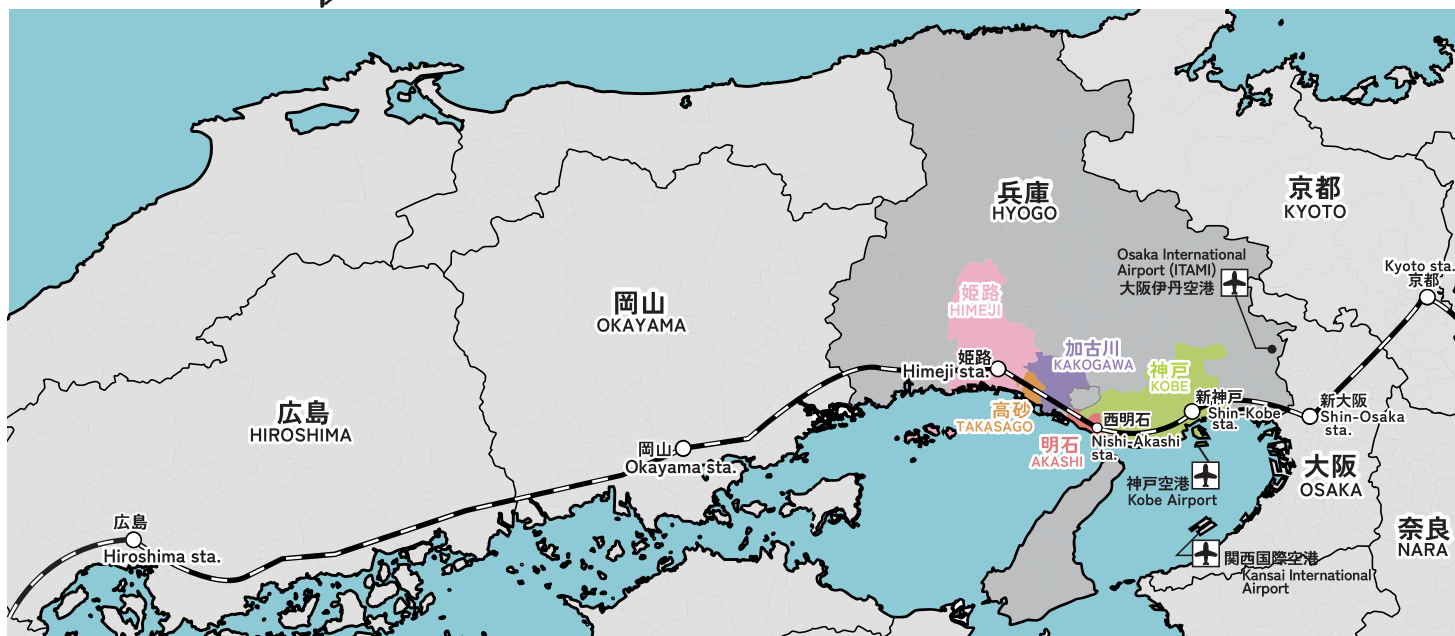
From each city of Japan **Airplane**

**Sapporo**  
(Sinchitose) ▶▶▶ About 110 minutes ▶▶▶ **Kobe**

**Tokyo**  
(Haneda) ▶▶▶ About 70 minutes ▶▶▶ **Kobe**

**Okinawa**  
(Naha) ▶▶▶ About 130 minutes ▶▶▶ **Kobe**

Check here for flight information and flight schedules from other cities.



## ACCESS from neighboring cities

### KOBE

#### Train

##### From Osaka

Shinkansen ▶▶ Shin-Osaka Sta. - Shin-Kobe Sta. (12minutes)  
Local train ▶▶ Osaka Sta. - Sannomiya Sta. : Kobe city center (27 minutes)  
Train ▶▶ Osaka Umeda Sta. - Kobe Sannomiya Sta. (30 minutes)

##### From Hiroshima

Shinkansen ▶▶ Hiroshima Sta. - Shin-Kobe Sta. (1 hour and 15 minutes)

#### Bus

##### From Kansai International Airport

Airport Shuttle Bus ▶▶ Sannomiya Sta. (1 hour and 5 minutes)

### HIMEJI

#### Train

##### From Osaka

Shinkansen ▶▶ Shin-Osaka Sta. - Himeji Sta. (30 minutes)  
Local train ▶▶ Osaka Sta. - Himeji Sta. (1 hour and 2 minutes)  
Train ▶▶ Osaka Umeda Sta. - Sanyo Himeji Sta. (1hour and 40minutes)

##### From Hiroshima

Shinkansen ▶▶ Hiroshima Sta. - Himeji Sta. (59 minutes)

#### Bus

##### From Kansai International Airport

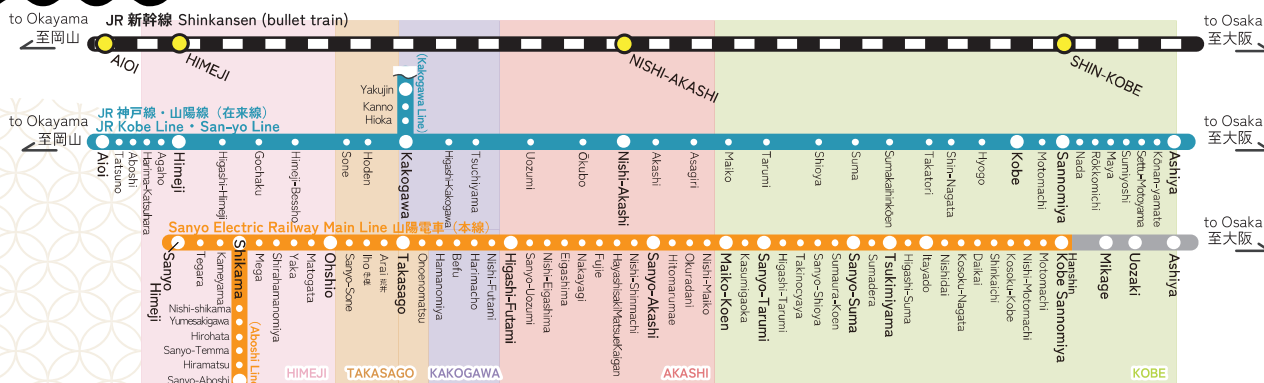
Airport Shuttle Bus ▶▶ Himeji Sta. (2 hour and 20 minutes)

## ACCESS

### Between five cities

Travel between the five cities is convenient by rail, which runs along the coast.

The JR Shinkansen, JR local train, and Sanyo Railway are available for travel between the five cities.





# Route Ideas by topics

The five coastal cities facing the Seto Inland Sea each have their own unique characteristics, and the area is easy to travel between the cities.  
From tourist attractions to local spots, you can enjoy yourself whether you stay for half a day or stay overnight.

## Half-day Course

### 1. 3-hour course to fully enjoy the old townscape of Japan Around Takasago -shrine visit, old traditional house cafe experience, and Japanese-style accessories shopping

#### START

Takasago Sta. (Sanyo Electric Railway)

15 minutes walk

Kuraku Matsuemon Old Residence

Short walk

MUSUBING Tourist Information

Short walk

Traditional house cafe Kokage

5 minutes walk

Takasago Shrine

10 minutes walk

Hobyosan Jurinji Temple

15 minutes walk

Takasago Sta. (Sanyo Railway)

GOAL



**Kuraku Matsuemon Old Residence**  
Former residence of Kuraku Matsuemon, who engaged in shipping and harbor construction during the Edo period. The main building is a two-story wooden structure with a tile roof, retaining the atmosphere of the Edo period.



#### MUSUBING Tourist Information

Marked by a tapestry written by a calligrapher from Takasago. You can purchase Matsuemon-Ho sailcloth items and Houden-yaki pottery.



#### Traditional house cafe Kokage

Renovated merchant house built over 100 years ago. Take a break in the quaint Japanese architecture.



#### Takasago Shrine

The sacred "Aioi Pine" pine tree is considered a symbol of match-making and marital harmony, and is constantly visited by people to pray. The beautiful Noh stage is also a must-see!



#### Hobyosan Jurinji Temple

Ancient temple with a magnificent wooden statue of Kongorikishi at the temple gate.



### 2. Enjoy architecture and art! Tour of two major museums in Kobe and Himeji.



#### Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art

An art museum built by Tadao Ando. In addition to exhibiting art works, the building functions as a place for the fusion of various art fields.



#### Himeji City Museum of Art

About 30 modern French paintings are on display at all times. Visitors can appreciate French art from the 19th to 20th century, from the Impressionists Monet and Pissarro to Matisse, who showed the way to modernism.



#### START

Sannomiya Sta. (JR)

2-minute train ride to Nada Sta.  
10 minutes walk

Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art

10 minutes walk to Nada Sta. (JR)  
50-minute train ride on JR local train  
(Nada Sta. to Himeji Sta.)  
20 minutes walk or 5-minute bus ride from Himeji Sta.

Himeji City Museum of Art

20 minutes walk or 5-minute bus ride  
to Himeji Sta.

Himeji Sta. (JR, Sanyo)

GOAL

## 3. To the world of traditional Japanese architecture

### Learn the skills of masters and visit a temple, castle, and garden.

## START

Shin-Kobe Sta. (JR)

5 minutes walk

## Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum

5 minutes walk to Shin-Kobe Sta.  
15-minute train ride (Shinkansen)  
(JR Shin-Kobe Sta. to Himeji Sta.)  
15 to 20 minutes walk from Himeji Sta.

Himeji Castle  
(World Heritage Site / national treasure)

10 minutes walk

## Himeji Castle Nishi-Oyashiki-Ato Garden KOKOEN

15 to 20 minutes walk to Himeji Sta.  
10-minute ride on JR local train  
(Himeji Sta. to Kakogawa Sta.)  
15 minutes walk from Kakogawa Sta. and 8-minute bus ride

## Kakurinji Temple

15 minutes walk and 8-minute bus ride

Kakogawa Sta. (JR)

\*10 minutes to Himeji Sta. and 30 minutes to  
Sannomiya (Kobe) Sta. by JR local trains.

GOAL



**Himeji Castle**  
(World Heritage Site / national treasure)

This beautiful castle has never been destroyed by war in the 400 years since its construction. The beautiful white castle towers are breathtaking.



**Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum**

The only museum in Japan specializing in carpentry tools. Visitors can learn about Japanese wooden architecture techniques and the differences between Japanese and overseas carpentry tools. After visiting, you may be able to appreciate temples, shrines, and castles from a different perspective.

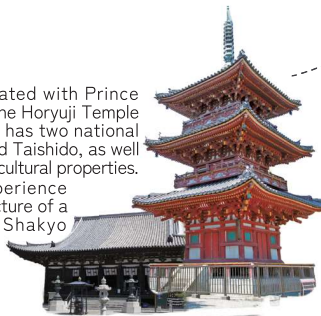


**Himeji Castle Nishi-Oyashiki-Ato Garden KOKOEN**

A Japanese garden that features a path around a pond. The tea room in the tea garden offers green tea ceremony service, and the restaurant is also available, where visitors can enjoy a meal while viewing the garden.

## Kakurinji Temple

This temple is associated with Prince Shotoku and is called the Horyuji Temple in Harima. The temple has two national treasures, Main Hall and Taishido, as well as many other valuable cultural properties. Visitors can also experience Shabutsu (tracing a picture of a Buddhist image) or Shakyo (transcribing a sutra).



## 4. Must-visit for sake lovers.

### A casual tasting of local Japanese sake and food.



**Hakutsuru Sake Brewery Museum**

Nada Gogo is the most famous sake brewing area in Japan. The museum displays traditional sake brewing tools and provides information about sake brewing. Sake tasting is also available.



**Nadagogo Sakedokoro**

You can enjoy sake from 26 breweries in Nada Gogo. Enjoy sake pairings with local delicacies. Open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.



**Akashi Sake Brewery and Kaikyo Distillery Visitor Center**

Japanese whiskeys and craft gins made in Akashi can be enjoyed at the distillery's paid tasting bar. Tours of the distillery (irregular) are also available.



**Japanese Sake Bar - Kokoromi -**

A Japanese sake standing bar operated by Koumyou Kanemitsu Honten, a wholesaler of alcoholic beverages and foods. Enjoy Hyogo's local sake as you like in a space with a wall display of Hyogo sake. Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.



Route MAP



## START

Sumiyoshi Sta. (Hanshin)

5 minutes walk

Nada Gogo  
Hakutsuru Sake Brewery Museum

5 minutes walk

## Nadagogo Sakedokoro

36 minutes by Hanshin / Sanyo train  
(Mikage to Okuradani) or  
40 minutes by Hanshin / JR train (Mikage to Asagiri)  
5 to 10 minutes walk

Akashi Sake Brewery  
and Kaikyo Distillery Visitor Center

36 minutes by Sanyo train (Okuradani to Himeji) or  
40 minutes by JR local train (Asagiri to Himeji)  
Short walk from Himeji Sta.

## Japanese Sake Bar -Kokoromi-

Short walk

Himeji Sta. (JR, Sanyo)

GOAL

## START

Akashi Sta. (JR, Sanyo)

7-minute taxi ride or 20 minutes walk

Akashiura Fishery Cooperative Association  
Auction tour and sushi lunch

7-minute taxi ride or 20 minutes walk  
17 minutes by JR local train (Akashi to Motomachi)

## Kobe city strolling and Kobe beef dinner

10 to 20 minutes walk

Motomachi Sta. or Sannomiya Sta.

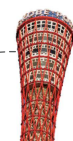
GOAL



**Akashiura Auction Tour and Sushi Lunch**

It is famous for auctioning live fish to keep them fresh. After observing the fish tanks and lively singing at the auction, you will be impressed by the exquisite sushi.

## 5. The must-try gourmet experience route



**Kobe City Strolling and Kobe Beef Dinner**

From Akashi, get off at Motomachi Station. After strolling around Nankinmachi and Meriken Park, enjoy Kobe beef at Ikuta Road.



**Kobe Mouriya Honten**





# 6. Let's enjoy an active trip! 2 days to get in touch with nature from the mountains to the sea.

1.5 to 2 Day Course

## START

### Shin-Kobe Sta. (JR)

- ✓ Nunobiki Waterfalls (Ontaki Fall): 15 minutes walk
- ✓ Garden: short walk and ropeway (15 minutes)

### Nunobiki Waterfalls Kobe Nunobiki Herb Gardens

Kobe City Subway (Shin-Kobe to Sannomiya)

- ✓ Strolling around Sannomiya

13 minutes by JR local train  
(Sannomiya Sta. to Sumakaihinkoen Sta.)  
5 minutes walk from Sumakaihinkoen Sta.

### Kobe Suma Sea World

### Stay at Suma Sea World Hotel

- ✓ 10 minutes walk to Tsukimiyama Sta. (Sanyo Railway)
- ✓ 45 minutes by Sanyo Railway (Tsukimiyama Sta. to Sone Sta.)

### Hikasayama Mountain Hiking

- ✓ 40 minutes by JR local train (Sone Sta. to Asagiri Sta.)
- ✓ 5 minutes walk from Asagiri Sta.

### Okura BBQ ZAZAZA

- ✓ 2 minutes walk

### Asagiri Sta. (JR)

## GOAL

\*40 minutes by JR local train from Asagiri Sta. to Himeji Sta.  
26 minutes to Sannomiya (Kobe) Sta.

### Kobe Nunobiki Herb Gardens

A 10-minute walk from Shin-Kobe, take the ropeway to the Herb Garden on top of the mountain with a panoramic view of the city of Kobe.

### Nunobiki Waterfalls

Nunobiki is the collective name for four waterfalls: Ontaki, Mentaki, Meotodaki, and Tsutsumigadaki. Otaki Falls, the most famous of the four, is 43 meters high and takes 15 minutes one way from Shin-Kobe Sta.

### Kobe Suma Sea World

The aquarium opened in 2024 on Suma Beach, a beach in Kobe. The "Life of Water" themed exhibit is an attractive feature of the aquarium. This is the only place in western Japan where you can see orca performances! Visitors who stay at the hotel adjacent to the aquarium will receive free admission for two days.

### Hikasayama Mountain Hiking

Low mountain hiking route from Sanyo Sone Sta. to JR Sone Sta. A stop at Sone Tenmangu Shrine just near Sanyo Sone Sta. is also recommended. Hikasayama Park is also known for its cherry blossoms.

### Okura BBQ ZAZAZA

A barbecue facility located in Okura Kaigan Park, where you can see a full and magnificent view of the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge. You can also enjoy it with no tools. Open daytime and nighttime.

# 7. A closer look behind the scenes of food in Japan Discover Japan's Food Story

## START

### Higashi-futami Sta. (Sanyo)

- ✓ 10-minute taxi ride or 30 minutes walk from Higashi-futami Sta.

### Asahi Soft Drinks Akashi factory

- ✓ 10-minute taxi ride or 30 minutes walk to Higashi-futami Sta. 30 minutes by Sanyo train (Higashi-futami Sta. to Arai Sta.)
- ✓ 13 minutes walk from Arai Sta.

### Kikkoman Corporation Takasago Factory

- ✓ 13 minutes walk to Arai Sta.
- ✓ 25 minutes by Sanyo train (Arai Sta. to Himeji Sta.)

### Stay overnight at Himeji

15 to 20 minutes walk from Himeji Sta.

### Azuki Museum

- ✓ 15 to 20 minutes walk

### Himeji Sta. (JR,Sanyo)

## GOAL



### Asahi Soft Drinks Akashi factory

The Akashi factory produces one of the largest production volumes of Asahi Soft Drinks in Japan. Visitors can observe the manufacturing process of products. There is also a museum where visitors can learn about the history of Mitsuya Cider while having fun, and a gift store. Reservations are required for factory tours.



### Azuki Museum

Japan's first museum specialized in azuki red beans. Azuki is a familiar food to Japanese people. It is also an essential food for annual events. The museum introduces azuki beans from various perspectives as a base for the exploration, transmission, and creation of "azuki culture". You can enjoy azuki red bean dishes at the restaurant in the museum.



### Kikkoman Corporation Takasago Factory

One of the largest production factory of soy sauce in Japan. Visitors can learn about the process of making soy sauce. Visitors can also see how Moromi (state during fermentation) is made. Reservation required.

## Route MAP



## Others

### Touring Historic Ancient Towns and Streets

Arima Onsen ~ Kakurinji Temple area ~ Takasago (Kuraku Matsumon Old Residence and surroundings) ~ Himeji Castle area



### Absolute Must-See, The 5-City Golden Route

Himeji Castle / Kokoen ~ Takasago (Kuraku Matsumon Old Residence and surroundings) ~ Kakurinji Temple ~ Sushi dinner at Akashi ~ Kobe city strolling ~ Kobe beef lunch ~ Mt. Rokko



### Healed by Nature and Hot Springs Japanese Healing Journey

Mt. Rokko ~ Arima Onsen (stay overnight) ~ Shoshazan Engyoji Temple ~ Himeji Castle



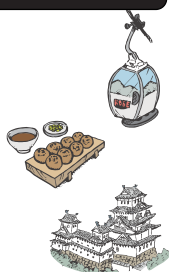
### Touring Japanese Local Markets

Suidosuji Shopping Street ~ Uontana Shopping Street ~ Miyuki Street ~ Himeji Maedore Market



### Touring Spectacular Views ~Night Views and Illuminations~

Mt. Rokko / Mt. Maya ~ Maiko Park (Akashi Kaikyo Bridge) ~ Night view of factories ~ illuminated Himeji Castle





# 神戸 KOBE



Kobe is a port city with an international atmosphere, surrounded by the sea and mountains. From the port of Kobe, you can watch beautiful sunsets, and if you climb Mt. Rokko, you can enjoy a panoramic view while feeling the fresh air. The Kitano Ijinkan area is lined with historical buildings and has an exotic atmosphere. It is also a good idea to enjoy shopping, including Kobe shoes, or try the world-famous Kobe beef. Arima Onsen, a short distance from the city center, has long been famous for its hot springs and is known as a therapeutic bath.

## ACCESS

### From Osaka area

- 21 minutes from JR Sanyo Main Line Osaka Sta. (Special Rapid) to Sannomiya Sta.
- 12 minutes from Shinkansen (Bullet train) Shin-Osaka Sta. to Shin-Kobe Sta.

### From Chugoku and Kyushu area

- 2 hours and 15 minutes from Shinkansen Hakata Sta.
- 1 hour and 12 minutes from Shinkansen Hiroshima Sta.

### From Tokyo area

- 2 hours and 44 minutes from Shinkansen Tokyo Sta.
- 1 hour and 15 minutes from Haneda Airport to Kobe Airport by airplanes (SKYMARK, ANA)

### From airports to city

- 1 hour and 5 minutes from Kansai International Airport to Kobe Sannomiya by Airport Shuttle Bus
- 40 minutes from Itami Airport to Kobe Sannomiya by Airport Shuttle Bus
- 25 minutes from Kobe Airport to Sannomiya Sta. by Port Liner
- \*High Speed Boat Bay Shuttle available between Kansai International Airport and Kobe Airport (about 30 minutes)



### Meriken Park & Harborland Area

This is a seaside area where you can feel the atmosphere of a port town. There are many attractions in the area, including Port Tower, the symbol of Kobe, the Maritime Museum, a sightseeing ship pier, and the Mosaic Ferris Wheel "Shinko-cho", with its aquarium and food hall, is another new area that is attracting attention!

**Address:**  
[Meriken Park Area]  
Around Hatoba-cho, Chuo-ku  
[Harborland Area]  
Around Higashikawasaki-cho, Chuo-ku  
[Waterfront area]  
Around Shinko-cho, Chuo-ku



### Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum

The only museum in Japan specializing in carpentry tools. Visitors can learn about Japanese wooden architecture techniques and the differences between Japanese and overseas carpentry tools. After visiting, you may be able to appreciate temples, shrines, and castles from a different perspective.

**Address:** 7-5-1 Kumochi-cho, Chuo-ku  
**Opening hours:**  
9:30 to 16:30 (last admission 16:00)  
**Closed on:** Mondays (The following weekday when Monday falls on a national holiday), New Year's Holiday  
**Admission fee:** 700 yen for adults



### Nunobiki Waterfalls Kobe Nunobiki Herb Gardens

This famous waterfall can be visited within a 15-minute walk from Shin-Kobe Sta. If you take the ropeway from Shin-Kobe to the top of the mountain, you can see the waterfalls and Kobe city below. There is herb gardens on the mountain. The footbath while enjoying the view is well worth the experience.

**Kobe Nunobiki Herb Garden**  
**Address:** 1-4-3 Kitano-cho, Chuo-ku  
**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 17:00  
\*Night time operation is available depending on the season.  
**Closed on:** no holidays \*temporary closure may occur during winter season.  
**Admission fee:** 2,000 yen (including a round ticket of ropeway)



### Arima Onsen hot springs

Arima Onsen is one of the three most famous and oldest springs in Japan. The town retains the atmosphere of an Edo period townscape and is ideal for strolling. It is also known as the only area in Hyogo prefecture where Geiko still exists. It is not that far from the city center, so you can also enjoy bathing and dining on a day trip.

**Address:**  
Around Arima-cho, Kita-ku, Kobe  
**Access:** 48 minutes by bus from JR Shin-Kobe Sta. 33 minutes by bus from JR Sannomiya Sta. About 34 minutes by train. \*Ropeway available between Rokko Sanjo and Arima Onsen



### Mt. Rokko

Mt. Rokko stretches from the west to the north of the city of Kobe. On top of the mountain, there are various enjoyable facilities such as a ranch, a botanical garden, and an observatory.

**Address:** Rokkosan-cho, Nada-ku  
**Opening hours:** vary depending on facility and season  
**Access:** City Bus Route 16 from Hanshin Mikage Sta., JR Rokkomichi Sta., or Hankyu Rokko Sta. → Rokko Cable Shita Sta. → Rokko Sanjo Bus from Rokko Sanjo Sta. → Each facility on the mountain top



### Mt. Maya

You can enjoy a beautiful night view from the mountain top Kikuseidai observatory. A visit to Tenjoji Temple, a mountain temple with beautiful sunsets, is also recommended.

**Address:** 4-3-1 Minooka-dori, Nada-ku  
**Opening hours:** first departure of Maya Cable at 10:00, last departure time depends on the season  
**Access:** City Bus Route 18 from JR Sannomiya Sta., Shin-Kobe Sta., or JR Rokkomichi Sta. → Maya Cable Shita Sta. → Maya Cable and Maya Ropeway → Mountain top



### Nadagogo Sake Breweries in Nada

Nadagogo in Kobe is a major sake production area. There are many facilities where visitors can observe the sake brewing process and brewing tools, making it possible to enjoy a tour of sake breweries. (Hakutsuru Sake Brewery Museum, Sakura Masamune "SAKURAEN", Kikumasa Sake Brewery Memorial Museum, Sawanotsuru Museum, Kobe Shushinkan, etc. can be visited.)

**Address:**  
Nada-ku/Higashinada-ku, Kobe Hanshin Railway, among Oishi and Fukae Stations  
**Opening hours:**  
vary depending on each facility  
**Admission fee:** free for visits



### Suma Beach Area

The beach is crowded with numerous visitors in summer. The beach is designed to protect the beautiful natural environment and not to spoil the surrounding residential area. The park area next to the beach is lined with Kobe Suma Sea World and cafes where visitors can enjoy the seaside.

**Kobe Suma Sea World**  
**Address:** 1-3-5 Wakamiya-cho, Suma-ku  
**Opening hours:**  
vary depending on the dates  
**Closed on:** no holidays (temporary closure for maintenance may occur)  
**Admission fee:** 3,100 to 3,700 yen for adults  
Suma Beach is open for 24 hours. Free of charge.



### Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial)

This museum is dedicated to share the experiences and lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake with the world. Visitors can learn about a wide range of disasters through a diorama model of the city as it was immediately after the earthquake, as well as through experimental equipment to learn about disaster prevention and disaster mitigation.

**Address:**  
1-5-2 Wakihamakaigan-dori, Chuo-ku  
**Opening hours:**  
9:30 to 17:30 (last admission 16:30)  
**Closed on:** Mondays (The following day when Monday falls on a national holiday), New Year's Holiday  
**Admission fee:** 600 yen for adults





## Sightseeing Ship Cruise

Enjoy Kobe from the sea! From a casual 40-minute cruise around the bay to a cruise that includes refreshments or dinner. You can choose the cruise that best suits your needs.

**Address:**  
**Cruise Terminal (Kamomeria)**  
 7-1 Hatoba-cho, Chuo-ku  
**Cruise with meals (Concerto)**  
 1-6-1 Higashikawasaki-cho, Chuo-ku  
 Kobe Harborland umie Mosaic first floor  
**Opening hours:**  
 vary depending on the ship  
**Price:** from 1,600 yen



## Create Your One-of-a-Kind Pearl Accessory in Kobe!

Kobe is a renowned pearl city, where 70% of the world's pearls are sorted and processed. Choose from over 100 different parts, including genuine Akoya pearls and charms, to create your own unique necklace or bracelet. Enjoy a wonderful time with your friends and family while crafting a special accessory just for you!



**PELMOIR**  
**Address:** 2-10-23 Sannomiya-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe  
**Opening hours:** 11:00 to 19:00  
**Closed on:** Wednesdays  
**Price:** from 1,980 yen  
**Contact:** 078-393-2251

## Food



### Kobe Beef

Pure-bred Tajima beef is raised in Hyogo Prefecture. Among them, only those that have passed all the strict certification standards for meat quality and weight are called "Kobe Beef". It is truly the king of Japanese beef. It is a must-try gourmet food in Kobe.



### Bread

Since foreign bakers opened bakeries when the port of Kobe opened, bread culture has taken root in the city, and there are many high quality bakeries even today. Kobe is famous for bread in Japan.



### Western-style confectionery

Like bread, Western culture such as confectionery took root in Kobe when the port was opened. Mr. Morozoff and others brought the authentic western confectionery to Kobe, and from these origins, the western confectionery culture has developed in a unique way in Kobe.



### Bokkake

Bokkake is the soul food of Nagata-ku, Kobe. Beef tendon and konjac root are stewed in a sweet and spicy sauce to create a homey taste of downtown Kobe. It is sometimes served with Udon or Yakisoba noodles.

## Events



### Kobe Matsuri Festival

A citywide participatory festival held every year in May. The main parade is held in the Sannomiya and Motomachi area, and events are also hosted in each ward. This is one of Kobe's major festivals.



### Minato HANABI

This fireworks event is held at the Kobe Port waterfront area. From 2022, fireworks are displayed every day during the festival period. The event is usually held in October.



### Rokko Meets Art Art Walk

A contemporary art festival held every autumn on Mt. Rokko. More than 470 artists have participated so far in this event to enjoy art together with the nature of the mountain.



### Kobe Luminarie

With the aim of passing on the memories of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake to future generations, Kobe's hopes are expressed through illumination. Each year, lights of a different design illuminate Kobe in winter.

## Souvenirs



Kobe Tartan Items

Sake from Nada



Kobe-style Gaufre



Kobe Sweets



Kobe Motomachi Shopping-Street

**Opening hours:**  
 vary depending on stores  
 (Many stores are open until 20:00 and are closed on Wednesdays)



Entrée Marché Shin-Kobe-branch

**Opening hours:**  
 6:30 to 21:30







# 明石 AKASHI

Facing the Seto Inland Sea, Akashi has a coastline of 15.6 km from east to west. Akashi is known as a "Strait Town" with scenic views of the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, one of the world's longest suspension bridges. Akashi is also famous for its fresh seafood, such as Akashi sea bream and Akashi octopus, and the lively local fishermen can be seen at the fishing port. At the 400-year-old "Uontana Shopping Street", visitors can enjoy octopus dishes such as Akashi-yaki, which is believed to be the origin of tako-yaki.

## ACCESS

### From Osaka area

- 40 minutes from JR Sanyo Main Line Osaka Sta. (Special Rapid) to Akashi Sta.

### From Chugoku and Kyushu area

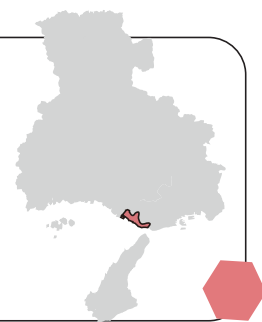
- 2 hours and 30 minutes from Shinkansen (Bullet train) Hakata Sta.
- 1 hour and 10 minutes from Shinkansen Hiroshima Sta.

### From Tokyo area

- 3 hours and 27 minutes from Shinkansen (Hikari) Tokyo Sta. to Nishi-Akashi Sta.

### From airports to city

- 1 hour and 30 minutes from Kansai International Airport by JR Kansai Airport Line Express
- 1 hour from Itami Airport by JR Sanyo Main Line
- 1 hour from Kobe Airport by Port Liner and JR Kobe Line



**Akashi Castle**  
(Akashi Park)

The castle is one of the 100 most famous castles in Japan with a history of about 400 years. The rare three-story Yagura tower is still in existence. Visitors can enjoy a boat ride on the park's pond and admire the seasonal plants. The park is also one of the 100 best cherry blossom viewing spots in Japan.

**Address:** 1-27 Akashi-Koen  
**Opening hours:** vary depending on the facilities in the park  
**Closed on:** no holidays  
**Admission fee:** free  
**\*Fee is required to use the facilities.**



**Okura-kaigan**  
**Seaside Park**

This park is a large, open park that faces Akashi-kaikyo Bridge and Awajishima Island. In summer, the beach opens and is crowded with many people. There are also BBQ facilities in the park, where visitors can enjoy BBQ all year round while viewing the bridge and Awaji Island.

**Address:** Okurakaigan-dori, Akashi  
**Opening hours:** 24hours  
**Access:** 2 minutes walk from JR Asagiri Sta. 15 minutes walk from Sanyo Electric Railway Okuradani Sta.  
**Parking lot available (charged)**



**Uontana**  
**Shopping Street**

This shopping street has a history of about 400 years as the kitchen of Akashi. About 100 stores line the street selling Akashi sea bream, Akashi octopus, and other fresh seafood, as well as fish cakes, souvenirs, and other items. The fish caught on the same day are incredibly fresh!

**Address:** 1-1-16 Honmachi  
**Opening hours:** vary depending on the stores (many stores close at 18:00)  
**Closed on:** vary depending on the stores (many stores are closed in Thursdays)  
**Access:** 3 minutes walk from Akashi Sta. (JR/Sanyo)



**Kyu Hatozaki Torodo**  
(old lighthouse)

Built in 1657, it is the second oldest existing stone lighthouse in Japan. It is a city-designated cultural asset and a valuable historical heritage that continues to be loved by citizens. It has also been used as a location for TV dramas.

**Address:** around 2-9 Minato-cho  
**Opening hours:** 24 hours  
**Access:** 15 minutes walk to the south of Akashi Sta. (JR/Sanyo)  
**Other information:** no parking lot



**Akashi Sake Brewery**  
**and Kaikyo Distillery**  
**Visitor Center**

The distillery offers a wide selection of items such as Seishu AKASHI-TAI, whiskey, craft gin, and Akashi souvenirs. A bar is also available for tastings for a fee. Tours of the brewery and distillery are available on an irregular basis. Reservations are required for the tours.

**Address:** 1-3 Okurahachiman-cho  
**Opening hours:** 11:00 to 17:30 (tasting until 17:00)  
**Closed on:** Tuesdays, second and fourth Wednesdays, New Year's Holiday  
**Admission fee:** free  
**\*Sake brewery and distillery tours are available for an additional fee.**



**Akashi Municipal**  
**Planetarium**

Located on the 135 degree meridian of Japan Standard Time, the Akashi Municipal Planetarium is a place where visitors can learn about time and space. The building is a registered tangible cultural property, and the tower clock showing the Japanese standard time is a symbol of Akashi. It also has the oldest planetarium in operation.

**Address:** 2-6 Hitomaru-cho  
**Opening hours:** 9:30 to 17:00 (last admission 16:30)  
**Closed on:** Mondays and second Tuesdays, New Year's Holiday  
**Admission fee:** 700yen for adults



**Sumiyoshi Shrine**

The shrine was built in 464 and has been worshiped as the god of seaways since ancient times. It is also a famous flowering spot, filled with Japanese wisteria in spring and hydrangea in early summer.

**Address:** 1031 Nakao, Uozumi-cho  
**Opening hours:** 24hours  
**Access:** 5 minutes walk to south from Sanyo Electric Railway Uozumi Sta.



**Asahi Soft Drinks**  
**Akashi factory**

The Akashi factory produces one of the largest production volumes of Asahi Soft Drinks in Japan. Visitors can observe the manufacturing process of products through glass, and there is also a museum and a gift store. Reservations are required for factory tours.

**Address:** 1-33 Minamifutami, Futami-cho  
**Tour hours:** 9:30 to 15:00  
**Closed on:** New Year's Holiday and factory holiday  
**Admission fee:** free \*Reservation must be made at least one day in advance.





## mogu ticket

A special coupon for enjoying Akashi's specialties while strolling around the Uontana Shopping Street and its neighborhood. You can choose from 18 products such as Akashi-yaki, prepared seafood products, sweets, etc.

### Sales Location:

Akashi Information Center

Address: 1-1-23 Oh-Akashi-cho, Akashi  
Inside Piolet Akashi West Bldg.

Opening hours: (weekdays) 9:00 to 19:00  
(Weekends and holidays) 9:00 to 18:00



## Fish Auction Tour

The fishing association has a huge fish tank facility of a scale that is rare in Japan. Visitors can tour the facility and the live fish auction market, which takes place from noon, under the guidance and commentary of a fishing association staff member. Visitors can watch live fish being auctioned from the same viewpoint as brokers.

Address: 33-1 Misaki-cho, Akashi

Tour hours: from 10:40 or 11:10  
(vary depending on the season)

Closed on: Wednesdays and Sundays

Fee: 1,500 yen

Contact: 078-918-5080

(Akashi Tourism Association)

\*Reservations required at least 8 days in advance; visitors who don't speak Japanese must be accompanied by an interpreter.

# Food



## Akashi Sea Bream

Maturing in the fast currents and nutrient-rich sea water of the Akashi Strait, Akashi Sea Bream is one of the finest sea bream in Japan. Even today, Akashi sea bream is a specialty of Akashi that is appreciated as a gift for celebratory occasions.



## Akashi Octopus

The Akashi Octopus is characterized by its short and stout tentacles matured in the fast moving currents of Akashi Strait and has a chewy texture. You can enjoy a variety of octopus-based specialties such as dried octopus, octopus rice, and rice crackers, as well as sashimi, tempura, and other dishes.



## Sushi

Akashi is blessed with a variety of seafood. There are many sushi restaurants in the city, and skillful chefs bring out the best of the seasonal seafood to create unique sushi. Sushi made with the freshest seafood caught on the same day is a must-try!



## Akashi-yaki

Akashi-yaki is the signature dish of Akashi, and said to be the origin of Tako-yaki (octopus balls). Fluffy dough containing chopped chewy Akashi octopus is served with a bowl of dipping soup. There are about 70 Akashi-yaki stores in Akashi city and each store offers its own special taste.

# Events



## Cherry Blossom Viewing in Akashi Park

There are about 1,400 cherry trees in the park, and the best place to view them is around Gonoike Pond, from which you can enjoy a 360-degree view of the cherry blossoms. The view from a rental boat on the water is also spectacular. Buy your Bento lunch and enjoy the cherry blossoms!



## Toki no Week (Time Week)

An event related to "Time" held around June 10, "Time Memorial Day". In addition to the distribution of "meridian crossing commemorative certificates", there will be gunfighting demonstrations, stage performances, food and drink booths, and other activities for both children and adults to enjoy.



## Hyogo Townscape Garden Show in Akashi

One of the largest flower and greenery festivals in the Kansai region. The main venue is Akashi Park, where garden competition entries are exhibited and various workshops are held.



## Akashi Park Chrysanthemum Exhibition

The chrysanthemum is the city flower of Akashi. This annual chrysanthemum exhibition has long been popular as an autumn tradition in Akashi. Visitors can enjoy viewing elaborate pots of large chrysanthemums and Bonsai chrysanthemums.

# Souvenirs



## Fujieya Bundai Assortment of three Akashi Monaka

(wafers filled with sweet red bean paste)



## Japanese Whiskey

Eigashima Sake Brewery Akashi

Akashi Sake Brewery Hatozaki



## Eirakudo Akashi Octopus rice cracker



## Kagisho Akashi-Nori seaweed



## Akashi Information Center

Address: 1-1-23 Oh-Akashi-cho, Inside Piolet Akashi West Bldg.

Opening hours:

weekdays/ 9:00 to 19:00

weekends and holidays/9:00 to 18:00

Closed on: Dec.31 and Jan.1





# 加古川 KAKOGAWA

Kakogawa City is located in the center of the Higashi-Harima region of Hyogo Prefecture, on the lower stream of the clear Kakogawa River, facing the Harima Sea. Kakogawa has been associated with Prince Shotoku since ancient times, and has flourished as a post town along the road crossing the Kakogawa River. It is also known as the origin of the local specialty "Katsumeshi", and tourist attractions such as Kakurinji Temple and Hiokayama Park are also worth visiting. Please visit Kakogawa City, where mountains and rivers, nature and history are in harmony.

## ACCESS

### From Osaka area

- 53 minutes from JR Sanyo Main Line (Special Rapid) Osaka Sta. to Kakogawa Sta.

### From Chugoku and Kyushu area

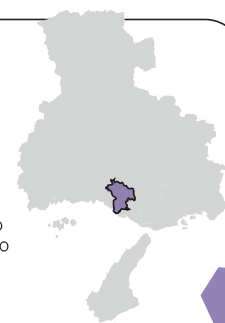
- 2 hours and 20 minutes from Shinkansen (Bullet train) Hakata Sta. / 1 hour from Shinkansen Hiroshima Sta. to Himeji Sta., → 10 minutes from JR Sanyo Main Line (Special Rapid) Himeji Sta. to Kakogawa Sta.

### From Tokyo area

- 2 hours and 30 minutes from Shinkansen Tokyo Sta. to Shin-Osaka Sta., 1 hour from JR Main Line (Special Rapid) Shin-Osaka Sta. to Kakogawa Sta.

### From airports to city

- 1 hour and 5 minutes from Kansai International Airport to Kobe Sannomiya by Airport Shuttle Bus / 40 minutes from Itami Airport to Kobe Sannomiya by Airport Shuttle Bus → 30 minutes from JR Sanyo Main Line (Special Rapid) Sannomiya Sta. to Kakogawa Sta.
- 1 hour from Kobe Airport by Port Liner and JR Sanyo Main Line (Special Rapid) (including transfer at Sannomiya Sta.)



### Totasan Kakurinji Temple

By Prince Shotoku's instruction, Kakurinji Temple was built as a Buddhist center for spreading Buddhism. Many cultural assets remain, including a national treasure "Main Hall", "Taishido", and "Bronze Statue of a standing Kannon". Visitors can also experience Shabutsu (tracing a picture of a Buddhist image) or Shakyō (transcribing a sutra).

**Address:** 424 Kitazaike, Kakogawa-cho  
**Opening hour:** 9:00 to 17:00 (entry to the mountain until 16:30) **Closed on:** no holiday  
**Admission fee:** entrance fee 500 yen / 500 yen for admission to the Treasure House. Free admission for elementary school students and younger.



### Takiyama Western House (Akagane House)

The luxurious four-story Western-style house was built by Kumejiro Taki, the founder of Taki Chemical, to welcome guests. The roof and exterior walls are covered with copper plates, and it is a nationally registered tangible cultural property. Tours are held twice a month and reservations are required.

**Address:** 174 Higashimachi, Befu-cho  
**Opening hours:** Tours inside house must be reserved in advance./Group tours can be arranged outside of the tour schedule.  
**Admission fee:** 500yen  
**Contact:** 079-437-8176 (office inside Befu Kindergarten)



### Former employees' residence of The Japan Wool Textile Co., Ltd.

A variety of buildings, including Western-style buildings and row houses used as residences of foreign engineers, still exist in the area. The streets are full of retro atmosphere, which is rare even in Japan. Many of these buildings have been used as filming locations. There are many cherry blossom trees on the site, making it a great cherry blossom viewing spot.

**Address:** Honmachi, Kakogawa-cho  
**Opening hour:** none **Closed on:** no holiday  
**Admission fee:** free



### Mitoro Hill Mitoto Fruit Farm

Mitoro Hill offers accommodation and agricultural experiences. There is an observatory from which you can see as far as the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, and there is also a cafe and restaurant. The adjacent fruit farm offers a fruit-picking-experience throughout the year (charged).

**Mitoro Hill (Mitoto Fruit Park)**  
**Address:** 845-16 Mitoto, Kamiso-cho  
**Opening hours:** Weekdays 9:00 to 18:00  
Saturdays, Sundays, national holiday 8:00 to 22:00 **Closed on:** December 29 to January 3  
**Admission fee:** free (charged for use of facilities and experiences) (Please ask for details about the fruit farm (079-428-2133))



### Mt. Takamikura

Located on the border between Kakogawa and Takasago, this mountain is also called "Mt. Fuji in Harima". The mountain is about 304 meters high, and still carries the legacies of mountain worship, in which the entire mountain was used as the deity. Takamikura Shrine is located at the summit, and the view from the top of the mountain is outstanding. Sometimes you can see as far as Awaji and Shikoku in the distance. There are several climbing routes, allowing climbers to choose the route that best suits their fitness level.

**Address:** Narui, Shikata-cho, Kakogawa  
**Access:** Narui / Tsuji trailhead  
Kako Bus Mini (Shikata Nishi Route) from JR Hoden Sta. to "Narui" Frosch Mae" or "Tsuji" bus stop, 5 minutes walk from bus stop



### Mt. Masuda

A 105-meter-high mountain adjacent to the Kakogawa River. The eastern ridge is called "Yaso no Iwabashi" (Yaso Rock Bridges). This stone bridge is said to reach the heavens and that many gods traveled between the heavens and earth. The view of Lake Heiso from the summit is also beautiful. Guide chains are available for the steep rocky areas, and a parking lot is available at the trailhead.

**Address:** Masuda, Higashikanki-cho  
**Access:** Masuda trailhead  
Shinkai Bus Route 51 (for Miyakodai) from JR Kakogawa Sta. to "Masuda" bus stop



### Hiokayama Park

The area is called Hiokayama burial mound group and there are five ancient burial mounds that are square in the front and round in the back. The vast site includes a sports center and a martial arts hall as well. In spring, about 1,000 cherry trees are in full bloom, making it the largest cherry blossom viewing spot in the city. Cherry blossoms can also be enjoyed at night when paper lanterns are lit. There is a cafe in the park.

**Address:** 1682 Ono, Kakogawa-cho  
**Opening hours:** park can be accessed 24 hours / ON THE HILL (cafe in the park)  
Weekdays 11:00 to 18:00 / Saturdays, Sundays, national holiday 8:00 to 18:00 (closed on Tuesdays) **Access:** 5 minutes walk from JR Hioka Sta.



### Kakogawa Rowing Center

This is a facility where visitors can become familiar with the water using the surface of the water upstream of the Kakogawa River weir. Regatta tournaments are held depending on the season, and it has become a popular event of the Kakogawa River. Boats are also available for rent, allowing visitors to casually experience boating and canoeing.

**Address:** 361-3 Inokuchi, Kamiso-cho  
**Opening hours:** 9:30 to 17:00 (last admission 16:00) **Closed on:** Mondays (the following day when Monday falls on a national holiday), December 29 to January 3  
**Fee:** Boat rental will be charged.  
**Access:** about 30 minutes walk from JR Yakujin Sta.



## Shakyo (transcribing a sutra) and Shabutsu (tracing a picture of a Buddhist image) Experience at Kakurinji Temple



You can experience Shakyo and Shabutsu in a room on the site. Why not spend such a special time to think about history, calm your mind, and face yourself? Zazen (sitting meditation) is also available (reservation in advance required).

### Kakurinji Temple

Address: 424 Kitazaike, Kakogawa-cho  
Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:00  
(entry to the mountain until 16:30)  
Closed on: no holiday (some days are not available due to events, etc.)  
Admission fee: 800 yen for Shakyo/Shabutsu, 500 yen for Zazen \*Entrance fee 500 yen is required separately.  
Contact: 079-454-7053 (temple office)

## Let's paddle on the Kakogawa River! Boat / Canoeing Experience



Let's experience canoeing and boating on the Kakogawa River, the symbol of the Kakogawa City. You can easily start in an open space away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Beginners are also welcome. Enjoy the best river experience!

### Kakogawa Rowing Center

Address: 361-3 Inokuchi, Kamiso-cho  
Opening hours: 9:30 to 17:00  
(last admission 16:00)  
Closed on: Mondays (the following day when Monday falls on a national holiday), December 29 to January 3  
Fee: boat rental from 500 yen for an hour (the fee varies depending on activities)  
Contact: 079-428-2277

# Experience

## Food



### Kakogawa Wagyu Beef

Tajima cattle born in Hyogo Prefecture are raised for more than 12 months by designated registered producers in the city. The meat is high-quality, with a good balance of lean meat and fat, and can be enjoyed at yakiniku restaurants in the city.



### Shikata Fig

Fig cultivation in the Shikata area began in the 1960s, and was certified as a "Hyogo Recommended Brand" in 2006 because of its low use of agricultural chemicals. They are excellent for their color, brightness, and high sweetness.



### Katsumeshi

Katsumeshi is a soul food of Kakogawa City, the city of meat. It is made by pounding beef cutlet and putting it on rice, and served with demi-glace sauce over it. There are more than 100 restaurants serving this dish in the city and nearby areas.



### Kakogawa-style spaghetti

Spaghetti made exclusively from "Setodur", the first durum wheat variety registered in Japan. All domestic durum wheat is produced in Hyogo Prefecture, with Kakogawa City being the largest production area. It is characterized by the fresh aroma of wheat and its chewy texture. There are restaurants in the city that serve Kakogawa pasta.



### Hiokayama Park Bonbori (paper lanterns) Illumination

This park is one of the most famous cherry blossom viewing spots in the prefecture. The view of approximately 1,000 Someiyoshino cherry trees in full bloom is truly spectacular. At night, about 300 Bonbori lanterns are lit (late March to early May), and visitors can enjoy the lovely night cherry blossoms. The adjacent Hioka Shrine is famous as a god of safe childbirth.



### Citizens' Regatta

Regatta is one of the most popular summer sports in Kakogawa. The boats are stable knuckle four type, so it is easy to handle for first-timers.



### Shikata Higashi Cosmos Festival

This festival began with the planting of cosmos in fallow fields. Today, visitors can enjoy vast cosmos fields as far as one can see. Agricultural products are sold at each site, and harvesting workshops are also held. The festival is held for about a week from middle to end of October.



### Kakurinji Temple Shushoue (demon chasing)

This New Year's ceremony is held to correct bad deeds of the previous year and pray for good fortune for the new year. The "Oni-oi" (demon chasing) is performed during this ceremony. When the imps beat a rhythm with a stick in their hands, the two demons, one red and the other blue, appear, jump in between the visitors, and go on a rampage. In the end, the demons are reformed by the power of Buddha, become good demons, and drive away the bad luck of the people.

# Events

## Souvenirs



### Socks

Kakogawa is one of the leading sock production areas in Japan. You can choose from various kinds of socks at the store called "Kips" right in front of Kakogawa Station.

### Okada Honke Local Sake "Seiten"



Local sake made from 100% Kakogawa River water and Hyogo rice.



### Ohnoizumiya Ayu sweetfish Monaka, Taishi Monaka (wafers filled with sweet red bean paste)

A sweetfish from the clear Kakogawa River is imitated in Ayu sweetfish-shaped Monaka. Monaka in the shape of Taishido of Kakurinji Temple is also popular.



### Harima Foods Katsumeshi sauce

Easy to prepare just by pouring it on. Kakogawa's cuisine Katsumeshi can be enjoyed at home! Special demi-glace based sauce.



### Kakogawa Tourism Association

800 Mizonokuchi, Kakogawa-cho,  
1F Kakogawa Plaza Hotel  
Opening hours: 8:45 to 18:15/  
8:45 to 17:00 on Saturdays and  
national holiday  
Closed on: Sundays





# 高砂 TAKASAGO

Facing the Harima Sea at the mouth of the Kakogawa River, Takasago is a small port town located in the center of the Harima Plain. It has flourished as a trading port since ancient times and has historical landmarks such as Takasago Shrine and Sone Tenmangu Shrine. The Machiya Street is a must-see, with many traditional wooden townhouses and warehouses remaining that give a sense of the Edo period. You can also enjoy fresh local seafood and Japanese sweets, as well as festivals such as the Takasago Manto-sai Festival and Kangetsu Noh in autumn. This is an area where you can relax and experience Japanese culture.

## ACCESS

### From Osaka area

- 1 hour and 23 minutes from Hanshin Railway Osaka Umeda Sta. to Takasago Sta.

### From Chugoku and Kyushu area

- 2 hours and 20 minutes from Shinkansen (Bullet train) Hakata Sta. / 1 hour from Shinkansen Hiroshima Sta. to Himeji Sta., → 14 minutes from JR Sanyo Main Line (Rapid) Himeji Sta. to Hoden Sta., or 16 minutes from Sanyo Railway (Direct Express) Himeji Sta. to Takasago Sta.

### From Tokyo area

- 3 hours and 10 minutes from Shinkansen Tokyo Sta. to Himeji Sta.  
→ 14 to 23 minutes from Sanyo Railway or JR Himeji Sta.

### From airports to city

- 2 hours and 15 minutes from Kansai International Airport to Takasago Sta. via JR Express and JR Sanyo Main Line (including transfer at JR Osaka Sta.)
- From other airports (Itami or Kobe), 40 to 51 minutes from Sannomiya Sta. by Sanyo Railway (Hanshin Electric Railway) or JR local train



**Kuraku Matsuemon  
Old Residence**

This is the former residence of Kuraku Matsuemon, who engaged in shipping and harbor construction during the Edo period. The main building is a two-story wooden structure with a tile roof. The Kuraku family donated the building in the late Edo period, and the original architectural style has been restored as much as possible.

**Address:** 531 Imazu-machi, Takasago-cho  
**Opening hours:** 9:00 to 18:00  
**Closed on:** New Year's holiday  
(December 29 to January 3)

**Admission fee:** free  
**Access:** 10 minutes walk from Sanyo Electric Railway Takasago Sta.



**Takasago Shrine**

It is the birthplace of the famous Noh song "Takasago". "The Jotoba" (Takasago dolls) that appear in "Takasago" are considered lucky charms of longevity and marital harmony, and are essential for marriage ceremonies. This story was born from the sacred pine tree "Aioli Pine" located on the temple grounds. The shrine is visited by many people who come to pray for happy marriage.

**Address:** 190 Higashimiya-machi, Takasago-cho, Takasago  
**Opening hours:** 9:00 to 18:00  
**Closed on:** no holiday  
**Admission fee:** free  
**Access:** 15 minutes walk from Sanyo Electric Railway Takasago Sta.



**Takasago  
Seaside Park**

Takasago Seaside Park, with its white sand, green pines, and artificial islands floating in the blue sea, is a perfect place for visitors to enjoy playing in the water, fishing, walking, and other activities throughout the year. In the adjacent Mukojima Park, baseball fields and tennis courts are also available.

**Address:** 1710 Mukojima, Takasago-cho  
**Opening hours:** 24 hours  
**Admission fee:** free  
**Access:** 30 minute walk southeast from Sanyo Electric Railway Takasago Station



**Hobyosan  
Jurinji Temple**

It is said that the temple was founded in 815 by Kobo Daishi by imperial order. Many cultural assets remain, including "Kenpon Chakushoku Gobutsuson-zo". The sail-shaped grave of Kuraku Matsuemon, the founder of sailcloth manufacturing, is located in the temple.

**Address:** 1074 Yokomachi, Takasago-cho  
**Opening hours:** 24 hours  
**Admission fee:** free  
**Access:** 10 minutes walk from Sanyo Electric Railway Takasago Sta.



**Ohshiko Shrine  
Ishi-no Hoden  
(Stone Treasure Hall)**

A huge stone structure weighing approximately 500 tons is located behind the Ohshiko Shrine. Even today, no one knows why this stone structure, called "Ishi no Hoden", was erected, nor what it is. It is counted among the three wonders of Japan.

**Address:** 171 Ohshiko, Amida-cho  
**Opening hours:** 6:00 to 20:00  
**Closed on:** no holiday  
**Admission fee:** entrance fee 100 yen  
**Access:** 25 minutes walk from JR Hoden Sta.



**Kashima Shrine**

Kashima Shrine is known for "Ichigan-Joju" which means "only one wish is fulfilled". It is said that if one makes one's wish and makes a sincere prayer, the wish will surely be fulfilled. A large number of people visit the shrine from all over Japan. A climbing route from Sone Station to Mt. Takamikura via the shrine is also popular.

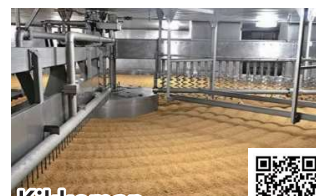
**Address:** 279 Jitoku, Amida-cho, Takasago  
**Opening hours:** 24 hours  
**Closed on:** no holiday  
**Admission fee:** free  
**Access:** 25 minutes walk from JR Sone Sta.



**Sone  
Tenmangu Shrine**

Sone Tenmangu Shrine is known as a shrine dedicated to Sugawara no Michizane, the god of academics. It is known for its autumn festival and the "Sone no Matsu" (Sone pine tree), a natural treasure. Beautiful plum blossoms can be seen from late February to middle of March.

**Address:** 2286 Sone-cho, Takasago  
**Opening hours:** 24 hours  
**Closed on:** no holiday  
**Admission fee:** free



**Kikkoman  
Corporation**

One of the largest production factory of soy sauce in Japan. Visitors can learn about the process of making soy sauce through videos and exhibits. Visitors can also see how Moromi (state during fermentation) is made, and experience the color and aroma of soy sauce. A facility where visitors can enjoy learning about the manufacturing process.

**Address:** 1-1-1 Shinham, Arai-cho  
**Opening hours:** 9:30 to 15:00  
(except 11:00 to 13:00)  
**Closed on:** Saturdays, Sundays, national holiday, and New Year's holiday  
**Admission fee:** free  
\*Reservation required at least one day before (contact: 079-442-2150)





## Sailcloth Item Making Experience

The sailcloth "Matsuemon-Ho" was developed by Kuraku Matsuemon, a native of Takasago City, for use on sailing ships. You can make small items using the oldest sailcloth in Japan. For your travel memories!

### Mikageya

**Address:** 510 Imazu-machi, Takasago-cho,  
**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 16:00  
**Closed on:** Bon holiday, New Year's holiday  
**Fee:** 500 yen  
**Time required:** about an hour  
**Contact:** 079-441-8076 \*Reservation required



## Mizuhiki Workshop

Mizuhiki is made by twisting Washi Japanese paper into a string, dipping it in water glue, and harden it. It is used for decoration. As an experience typical of Takasago, Mizuhiki craft workshops are held at Takasago Mizuhiki Zaiku "Chiwa".

### Takasago Mizuhiki Zaiku Chiwa

**Access:** 1416-1 Kajiya-machi, Takasago-cho, Takasago  
**(venue: Takasago)**  
**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 14:00 of every Friday  
**Fee:** vary depending on the event

# Food



## Nikuten

Takasago-style okonomiyaki is made by spreading a thin layer of dough, topping it with sweet and salty simmered potatoes, tendon meat, konjac root, cabbage, etc. The pancake is grilled, topped with sweet sauce, folded into half, and topped with more sauce.



## Grilled conger eel

Takasago is famous for grilled conger eel. Surrounded by a rich fishing area from the Harima Sea to the Akashi Strait, the area is blessed with abundant catches of fatty conger eels. The savory aroma, rich flavor, and soft texture...Once you try it, you will never forget it!



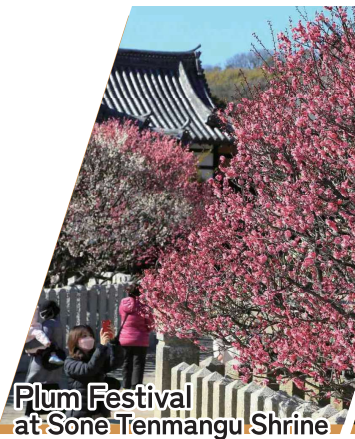
## Kashiwa Mochi

It has been sold on the approach to Kashima Shrine since ancient times. It is said that people used to make and dedicate Kashiwa mochi from the high-quality sticky rice available in the area, making it a food of good luck. Visitors to the shrine, climbers, and many others enjoy eating mochi while turning over an oak leaf that wraps mochi.



## Takamikura

Takamikura is a well-known confectionary loved by the local people. It is named after the symbolic mountain of Takasago, which is also known as Mt. Fuji of Harima. Butter cream is sandwiched between crispy biscuits.



## Plum Festival at Sone Tenmangu Shrine

Sone Tenmangu Shrine is known as one of the best plum blossom viewing spots in Hyogo Prefecture, with the best season from late February to early March. On the first weekend of March, a plum festival is held. You can enjoy about 150 plum trees of about 40 varieties.



## Manto-sai Festival

This event started when Takasago-cho was designated as Structures of Landscape Importance district. Almost the entire Takasago-cho area is used as the venue. About 6,000 candles lit in the alleys illuminate historical buildings. Many people look forward to the event every year, saying, "It's like stars are falling on the town".



## Banshu Autumn Festival

Autumn festivals are held in mid-October at shrines in Takasago City. The highlights of the festival are the futon yatai floats of Sone Tenmangu Shrine and the Niwaka-daiko drums of Arai Shrine, a heroic and elegant performance by dancers, yatai float riders, and carriers.



## Night Fantasy Illusion

Night Fantasy Illusion is a fireworks show held at Takasago Marine Park that decorates the night sky with light, music, and fireworks. It is the only fireworks show in Hyogo Prefecture that combines "fireworks" with "music" and "laser light". Held in winter.

# Souvenirs



## Fukusukedo Soy Sauce Manju

Manju (steamed sweet buns) typical of Takasago, the town of soy sauce

**Address:** 2-15 Wakamiya-machi, Arai-cho  
**Opening hours:** 9:00 to 20:00  
**Closed on:** Second and Fourth Thursdays



## Jika-tabi shoes from Takasago Sangyo

A pop and fashionable Japanese traditional footwear, Tabi Shoes. They are also very comfortable to walk in.

**Available at MUSUBING (Takasago Tourist Information)**  
**Address:** 533-1 Imazu-machi, Takasago-cho  
**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 17:00  
**Closed on:** December 29 to January 3



## Matsushita Stoneworks Tatsushita Stone Golf Marker

Golf marker made of Tatsuyama stone in Takasago City created about 100 million years ago.

**Address:** 546-1 Uohashi, Amida-cho  
**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 16:00  
**Closed on:** Sundays, national holidays



## Mikageya Matsuemon-Ho items

Please get small items made of Matsuemon-Ho sailcloth!

**Address:** 510 Imazu-machi, Takasago-cho, Takasago  
**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 17:00  
**Closed on:** no holiday





# 姫路 HIMEJI



A city with a population of about 530,000, famous for "Himeji Castle", a World Heritage Site and a national treasure. The centuries-old castle, also known as Shirasagi (literally meaning white heron) Castle, captivates visitors with its chalk-white beauty and magnificent wooden architecture. In the adjacent Kokoen Garden, visitors can enjoy the beauty of a traditional Japanese garden. There are also many historical attractions such as Shoshazan Engyoji Temple, the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History and the Himeji City Museum of Art, and from Himeji Port facing the Harima Sea, you can go for an island trip to the Ieshima Islands. Enjoying local sake and seafood cuisines of Harima is also an enjoyable experience.

## ACCESS

### From Osaka area

- 57 minutes from JR Sanyo Main Line (Special Rapid) Osaka Sta. to Himeji Sta.
- 28 minutes from Shinkansen (Bullet train) Shin-Osaka Sta.
- 1 hour and 40 minutes from Hanshin Osaka Umeda Sta. to Himeji Sta. (Direct Limited Express)

### From Chugoku and Kyushu area

- 2 hours and 3 minutes from Shinkansen Hakata Sta.
- 1 hour from Shinkansen Hiroshima Sta.

### From Tokyo area

- 3 hours and 10 minutes from Shinkansen (Nozomi) Tokyo Sta. to Himeji Sta.

### From airports to city

- 2 hours and 10 minutes from Kansai International Airport by Airport Shuttle Bus
- 1 hour and 20 minutes from Itami Airport by Airport Shuttle Bus
- 1 hour from Kobe Airport by Port Liner and JR Sanyo Main Line (Special Rapid) (including transfer at Sannomiya Sta.)



**Himeji Castle**  
World Heritage Site,  
national treasure

The castle has never been destroyed by war in the 400 years since its construction, and it is the first castle in Japan to be registered as a World Cultural Heritage Site. Many structures, including the beautiful white castle towers, that are why it is called Shirasagi (literally meaning white heron) Castle, can still be seen today.

**Address:** 68 Honmachi, Himeji  
**Opening hours:** 9:00 to 17:00  
(last admission 16:00)

**Closed on:** December 29, 30  
**Admission fee:** 1,000 yen for adults  
Combo ticket including admission of Kokoen Garden: 1,050 yen



**KOKOEN**  
Himeji Castle  
Nishi-Oyashiki-Ato Garden

A Japanese garden that features a path around a pond. With Himeji Castle in the background, the garden has been used as a filming location. Souju-an is a sukiya-style tea house, which offers green tea ceremony service (500 yen), and the restaurant Kassui-ken is also popular, where visitors can enjoy a meal while viewing the garden.

**Address:** 68 Honmachi, Himeji  
**Opening hours:** 9:00 to 17:00  
(last admission 16:30)  
**Closed on:** December 29, 30  
**Admission fee:** 310 yen for adults  
Combo ticket including admission of Himeji Castle: 1,050 yen



**Shoshazan**  
Engyoji Temple

Located on top of Mt. Shosha at an elevation of 371 m, this is an ancient temple of the Tendai sect of Buddhism. The temple has many nationally designated cultural assets, including the Maniden (Mani Hall), a hall similar to that of Kiyomizu-dera Temple in Kyoto, and a large lecture hall and dining hall.

**Address:** 2968 Shosha, Himeji  
**Opening hours:** 8:30 to 17:00 (winter)  
8:30 to 18:00 (spring to autumn, extended hours on Sundays and national holiday)

**Closed on:** no holiday (The ropeway is closed during the inspection period.)

**Admission fee:** entrance fee 500 yen / special entrance fee 1,000 yen (including bus on the mountain top)



**Shosha**  
Art & Craft Museum

The museum has a permanent exhibition of works and personal belongings of Mr. Kosho Shimizu, the former chief monk of the Todaiji Temple. Visitors can see traditional Himeji crafts and local toys from all over Japan. On Sundays and holidays, demonstrations by craftsmen of Himeji Hariko, Himeji Koma (spinning top), and Himeyama dolls are held.

**Address:** 1223 Shosha, Himeji  
**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 17:00  
(last admission 16:30)  
**Closed on:** Mondays (the following day when Monday falls on a national holiday), New Year's holiday  
**Admission fee:** 300 yen for adults



**Himeji City**  
Museum of Art

This red brick museum standing with Himeji Castle in the background was used as an army facility before the war. After the war, the building was used as a city hall. There are three exhibition spaces (permanent, temporary, and gallery) and a library that can be accessed free of charge. There are 13 sculptures in the garden.

**Address:** 68-25 Honmachi, Himeji  
**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 17:00  
(last admission 16:30)

**Closed on:** Mondays (the following day when Monday falls on a national holiday), Dec.28 to Jan.3

**Admission fee:** 210 yen for adults  
(for permanent exhibition)

\*Admission fees for special exhibitions vary depending on the event.



**Japan**  
Toy Museum

This toy museum was awarded two stars in the Michelin Green Guide. The museum consists of six buildings. The buildings were built in the style of a warehouse with white walls. 5,000 toys and dolls from Japan and 160 other countries are on display. It is a place where both children and adults can enjoy themselves.

**Address:** 671-3 Nakanino, Kodera-cho  
**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 17:00  
(last admission 16:00)

**Closed on:** Wednesdays (the following day when Wednesday falls on a national holiday), Dec.28 to Jan. 2

**Admission fee:** 600 yen for adults



**Himeji**  
Maedore Market

The Bose Fisheries Cooperative sells seafood caught in the Harima Sea directly. In addition to fish sales, this large-scale fish mall offers a wide range of souvenirs such as processed products and seasonal seafood dishes. There is also a cafeteria and a barbecue corner. You can enjoy seafood in a variety of dining styles.

**Address:** 912-18 Shirahama-cho, Himeji  
**Opening hours:** [weekdays] 10:00 to 15:00, [Saturdays and national holidays] 9:00 to 16:00, [Sundays] 7:30 to 16:00, Cafeteria (last call 14:30), BBQ(reservations required, last call 14:00)

**Closed on:** Wednesdays, second and fourth Tuesdays



**Himeji**  
Central Park

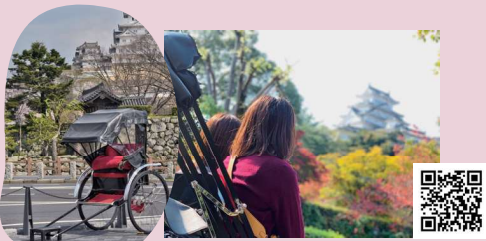
A combination of an amusement park and a safari park, this facility has 1,200 animals of 190 species. There is a drive-through safari where visitors can enter by car, and a walking safari where visitors can see the animals closely. Visitors can also enjoy swimming pools in summer and ice skating in winter.

**Address:** 1434 Kodani, Toyotomi-cho  
**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 17:30  
(10:00 to 16:30 during winter season)

**Closed on:** Wednesdays (irregular) / no holidays during school vacations (spring, summer, winter), September to November, and on national holiday

**Admission fee:** 3,500 yen for adults





## Pulled Rickshaw

There are many sightseeing spots in Himeji. Why not take a pulled rickshaw for an easy tour? There are a variety of courses, from short to long rides, so please choose the course that best suits your preference.

## Tengashaya Himeji Branch

**Address:** Doihigashi BLD, 113 Nishinikiai-machi, Himeji  
**Opening hours:** 10:30 to 18:30  
**Closed on:** no holiday  
**Fee:** from 3,000 yen per person (10-minute ride)  
**Contact:** 079-269-9957  
 If available, you can board directly from in front of the Himeji Castle.



## Kimono Wearing Experience

Why don't you take a walk in Himeji wearing Kimono? You can also wear armor, female warrior, princess, or monk costumes.

## Wabisuke

**Address:** 19 Nikai-machi, Himeji  
**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 18:00  
**Closed on:** no holiday  
**Fee:** 4,400 yen for rental  
**Contact:** 090-9979-4141  
 \*Reservation required by phone or through the website.



## Wagashi (Japanese sweets) Making Experience

Kineya has a history of more than 114 years and offers a wide variety of Himeji's famous sweets. Visitors can experience making Japanese sweets while learning about the unique culture of the castle town.

**Address:** 95 Nikaimachi, Himeji  
**Hours available for experience:** 8:00 to 17:00 (Same-day reservations available) Time required: about 40 minutes  
**Fee:** 2,800 yen **Contact:** 079-285-3509 (reception 9:00 to 18:00) Language Support/ English and Japanese  
 \*Reservations possible from one person

## Kineya

# Food



## Himeji Oden

Oden is a Japanese dish made by simmering various ingredients in dashi broth and what is unique about Himeji Oden is that it is served with ginger soy sauce. It is a regional way of eating oden, mainly in Himeji. It is believed to have originated in the Hamate area of Himeji, where people ate salty-sweet Kanto-style simmered dishes with ginger soy sauce to adjust the taste.



## Wagashi (Japanese sweets)

As the Sakai clan, the succession of families that governed Himeji in the late Edo period, preferred tea ceremony, the confectionery culture under the Himeji Castle developed greatly. Even today, there are many Japanese sweets stores in the city. Along with the spread of the tea ceremony, the culture spread throughout the Banshu area, and deep-fried confections are known throughout the country as "Banshu dagashi" (Banshu sweets).



## Maedore

The Harima Sea, facing Himeji, is a fishing ground that offers a diverse environment in the calm Seto Inland Sea, where delicious seafood can be caught throughout the year. The name "mae-dore" (literally meaning "caught in front of you") comes from the fact that you can taste fish caught in the sea right in front of you, and fresh seafood is served at restaurants in the city.



## Hinepon

Hinepon is a local cuisine of Himeji. It is seared hime-dori chicken dressed with soy sauce and citrus juice. The chewy "hine-dori chicken" is used, and the more you chew, the more flavor comes out. This chicken dish has been handed down in Banshu from ancient times and is perfect as an appetizer for sake.

# Events



## Himeji Castle Cherry Blossom Viewing Festival

The Himeji Castle Cherry Blossom Viewing Festival is a popular spring event. The event features brilliant performances of the koto (Japanese harp) and dynamic taiko drumming. There are stores which sell local Harima sake and Himeji oden, and there is also a tea ceremony.



## Himeji Yukata (summer kimono) Festival

The Himeji Yukata Festival is held at Osakabe Shrine at the beginning of summer. The festival includes children's yukata parade and a stage for community interaction in Jonan Park. Come wearing your yukata and join in the festivities!



## Shoshazan Maple Festival

The Shoshazan Maple Festival is held every year in November at Shoshazan, a famous autumnal leaves viewing spot. Important cultural properties that are normally closed are specially opened to the public, and the autumn leaves are illuminated at night. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful colors of the leaves.



## Himeji Otemae Street Illumination

A new seasonal tradition in Himeji. Approximately 250,000 LED bulbs will illuminate the large area from in front of Himeji Station to Himeji Castle. There are also many photo spots that will look great on social media!

# Souvenirs



## Leather Products

Himeji City and Tatsuno City are major production districts of leather materials. Using these high quality materials, there are many unique and high quality leather products from traditional crafts and young creators.



## Local Japanese Sake

The Himeji and Nishi-Harima areas are blessed with clear, low-iron underground water from the Ichikawa, Yumesakigawa, and Ibogawa Rivers, and the Yamada-Nishiki rice harvested in the Banshu Plain is considered to be one of the best sake brewing rice. Excellent sake can be made only in a region blessed with water and rice.



## Sweets

The sweets companies in Himeji exhibit at the National Confectionary Exposition held every four years and have won many awards, including the Honorary President's Award. Deep-fried sweets such as karinto, known as "Banshu dagashi" (Banshu sweets), account for approximately 60% of the national market share of dagashi.



## Bansankan souvenir store

123 Minamiekimae-cho, Himeji  
**Opening hours:**  
 weekdays 8:30 to 20:00  
 Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays 9:00 to 19:00  
**Closed on:** Dec.29 to Jan.3



# Transport PASS

## Japan Rail Pass

Jointly offered by six JR group companies, this great deal ticket is convenient and suitable for train travel throughout Japan. You can also use Shinkansen (bullet train) with this ticket.



## Kansai Railway Pass

This convenient pass allows you to board trains of 19 companies (excluding JR) in the Kansai area. It can be used in a wide range of areas including Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Wakayama, Kobe, Himeji, and Shiga, and can also be used from Kansai International Airport.



## Bay Shuttle

High-speed boats connect Kansai International Airport to Kobe Airport in 35 minutes. A special discount is available for foreign tourists, who can use the 1,880 yen one-way trip for only 500 yen.



## Hanshin-Sanyo Seaside 1Day Ticket

This ticket allows you to freely get on and off between Osaka (Hanshin Osaka-Umeda Station and Osaka-Namba Station) and Himeji (Sanyo-Himeji Station). This ticket is recommended for tours around the five cities of Kobe, Akashi, Kakogawa, Takasago, and Himeji.



## Tourist Information for Each City

### Kobe Information Center

Located on the first floor of JR Sannomiya Station, it is the gateway for sightseeing around Sannomiya. Tourist information is available at the counter and guide maps and monitors are also available. Tickets for the City & Port Loop Bus, which travels around the city, can also be purchased.

**Opening hours:** 9:00 to 18:00

**Closed on:** December 31, January 1

(shorter hours on December 30 and January 2)

**Official website:** official travel guide of Kobe Feel KOBE



### Himeji City Tourist Information Center Himeji Sightseeing Navi Port

Located in the station building just outside the ticket gates of JR Himeji Station, this information center provides a variety of brochures and video tourist information as a base for sightseeing in Himeji. If you have any questions about sightseeing in Himeji, please feel free to stop by.

**Opening hours:** 8:30 to 18:30

**Closed on:** December 29 and 30, Facility inspection date

**Official website:** official travel navi of Himeji Himenomichi



### Akashi Tourist Association Akashi Information Center

We are happy to help you with enjoying "walking around Akashi". The Information Center is equipped with a "Restroom for Everyone" as well as a nursing room, a diaper changing place, and a children's restroom. Umbrellas and wheelchairs can be rented free of charge. Please feel free to contact us anytime.

**Opening hours:** weekdays 9:00 to 19:00

Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays:

9:00 to 18:00

**Closed on:** December 31 and January 1

**Official website:**

Akashi Tourist Association



### Kakogawa Tourism Association Kakogawa Tourist Information Center

Located inside JR Kakogawa Station, we will be happy to answer various inquiries about sightseeing information, as well as about famous places and facilities in Kakogawa city, seasonal attractions and ways to enjoy them, and to show you what the city has to offer! Please feel free to visit us.

**Opening hours:** 9:30 to 18:00

**Closed on:** December 29 to January 3

**Official website:**

Kakogawa Tourism Association



### Takasago Tourist Information MUSUBING

This information center is located on a street that retains the traditional atmosphere of Takasago-cho. The surrounding area is dotted with old traditional house cafes. The facility is filled with a wide variety of souvenirs and sightseeing brochures unique to the Takasago city. There is another tourist information center in front of Takasago Station (Sanyo Electric Railway).

**Opening hours:** 10:00 to 17:00

**Closed on:** December 29 to January 3

**Official website:** TAKASAGO City Tourism & Visitors Bureau



阪神・山陽 シーサイド1dayチケット

## Hanshin-Sanyo Seaside 1Day Ticket



### Osaka to Himeji One-day Open Ticket

Hanshin-Osaka-Umeda &  
Osaka-Namba stations



Sanyo-Himeji station

**Publisher:** Council of 5 cities located west of Kobe for visitor attraction promotion projects

**Month of issue:** January 2025

**Cooperation:** Kobe Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Akashi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kakogawa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Takasago Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Himeji Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Some photos courtesy of : ©KOBE TOURISM BUREAU, Himeji city

\*This information is as of Jan.2025, please check the website for the latest information.