

HYOGO in 9 COLORS

Uncover Local Hidden Gems in Japan



KOBE



AKASHI



KAKOGAWA



TAKASAGO



HIMEJI



TATSUNO



AIOI



AKO



TOYOOKA

ACCESS GUIDE

to the 9 cities of HYOGO

Hyogo Prefecture is home to cities with diverse charms. It boasts three airports—Kobe, Itami, and Tajima—and offers excellent access from Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Tottori and Okayama. The Shinkansen runs east to west, ensuring smooth travel from across Japan and easy city-to-city connections.

From cities across Japan **Airplanes**

For flight schedules,
scan here. ↓ ↓ ↓



Kobe Airport

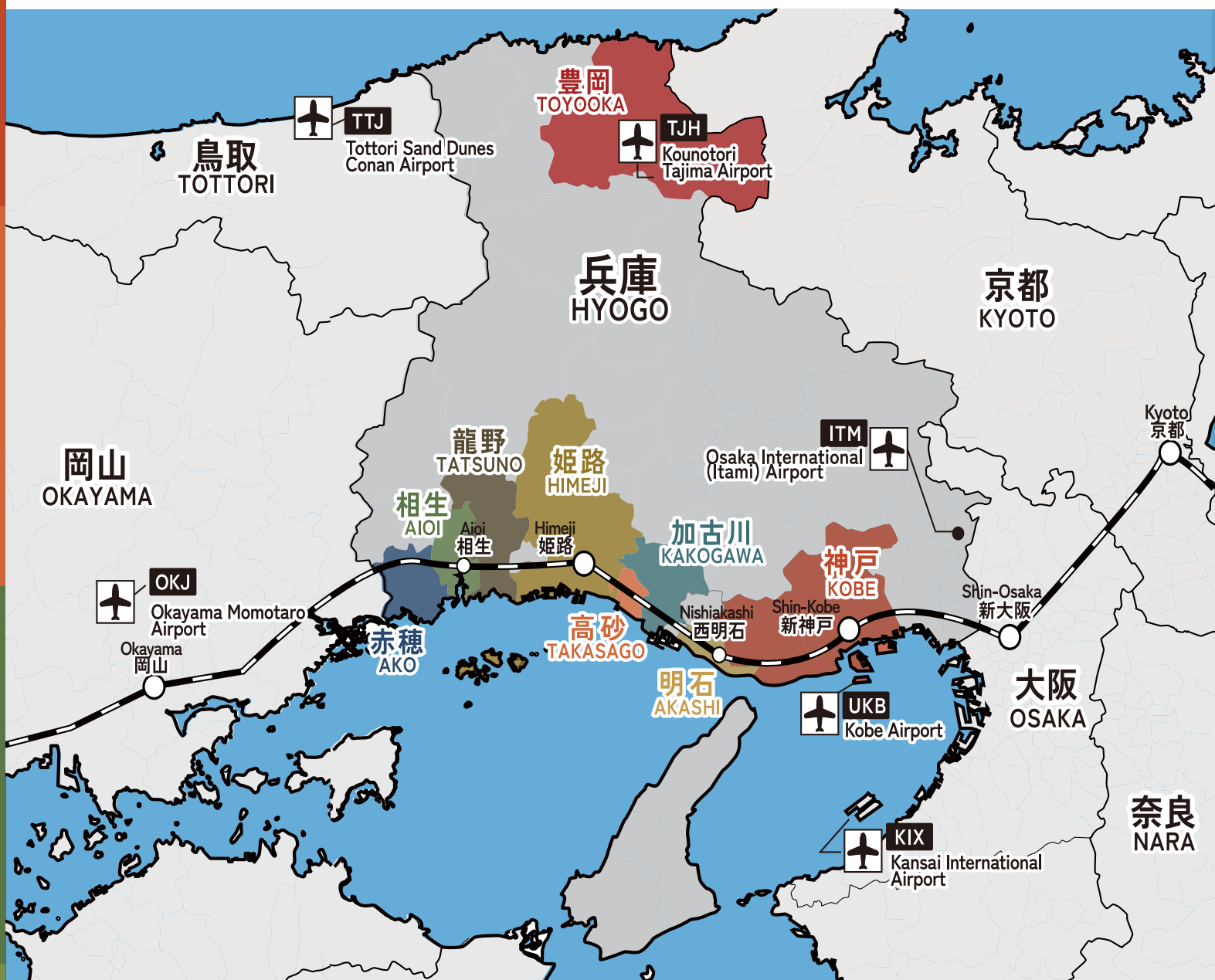
Access to 9 cities is convenient from Kobe Airport! You can reach the main station in about 20 minutes. Regular international charter flights are also available.



Osaka International
(Itami) Airport

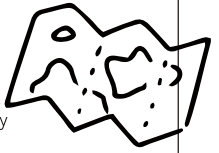


Kounotori Tajima Airport



Major transportation hubs in each city

ACCESS



P.9-10

Kobe Sannomiya Stations (various lines available), JR Shin-Kobe Station, Kobe Airport

- 21 minutes from Osaka, 52 minutes from Kyoto by train
- 2 hours and 40 minutes from Tokyo by Shinkansen (bullet train), or about 1 hour and 15 minutes by plane.

P.11-12

Akashi JR / Sanyo Akashi Sta., JR Nishi-Akashi Sta.

- Shinkansen stop (JR Nishi-Akashi Sta.) available.
- 40 minutes from Osaka and 15 minutes from Sannomiya (Kobe) via JR regular line.

P.13-14

Kakogawa JR Kakogawa Sta.

- 60 minutes from Osaka and 30 minutes from Sannomiya (Kobe) via JR regular line.

P.15-16

Takasago Sanyo Takasago Sta.

- 80 minutes from Sanyo Electric Railway / Hanshin Umeda Sta.
- 15 minutes from Sanyo Himeji Sta.

P.17-18

Himeji JR / Sanyo Himeji Sta.

- Shinkansen stop (JR Himeji Sta.) available.
- Shinkansen: 28 minutes from Shin-Osaka, 15 to 20 minutes from Shin-Kobe, 20 minutes from Okayama.
- 60 minutes from Osaka and 37 minutes from Sannomiya (Kobe) via JR regular line.
- 1 hour and 27 minutes from Hanshin Umeda Sta. (Osaka) via Sanyo Electric Railway

P.19-20

Tatsuno JR Hon-Tatsuno Sta.

- 90 minutes from Osaka Sta. via JR regular line (including transfer at Himeji Station)
- 20 minutes from Himeji Sta. via JR regular line (Kishin Line)

P.21-22

Aioi JR Aioi Sta.

- Shinkansen stop (JR Aioi Sta.) available.
- Shinkansen: 50 minutes from Osaka, 10 minutes from Okayama
- 90 minutes from Osaka, 20 minutes from Himeji, 65 minutes from Okayama via JR regular line.

P.23-24

Ako JR Banshu-Ako Sta.

- 31 minutes from Himeji Sta., 70 minutes from Okayama via JR regular line (Ako Line)

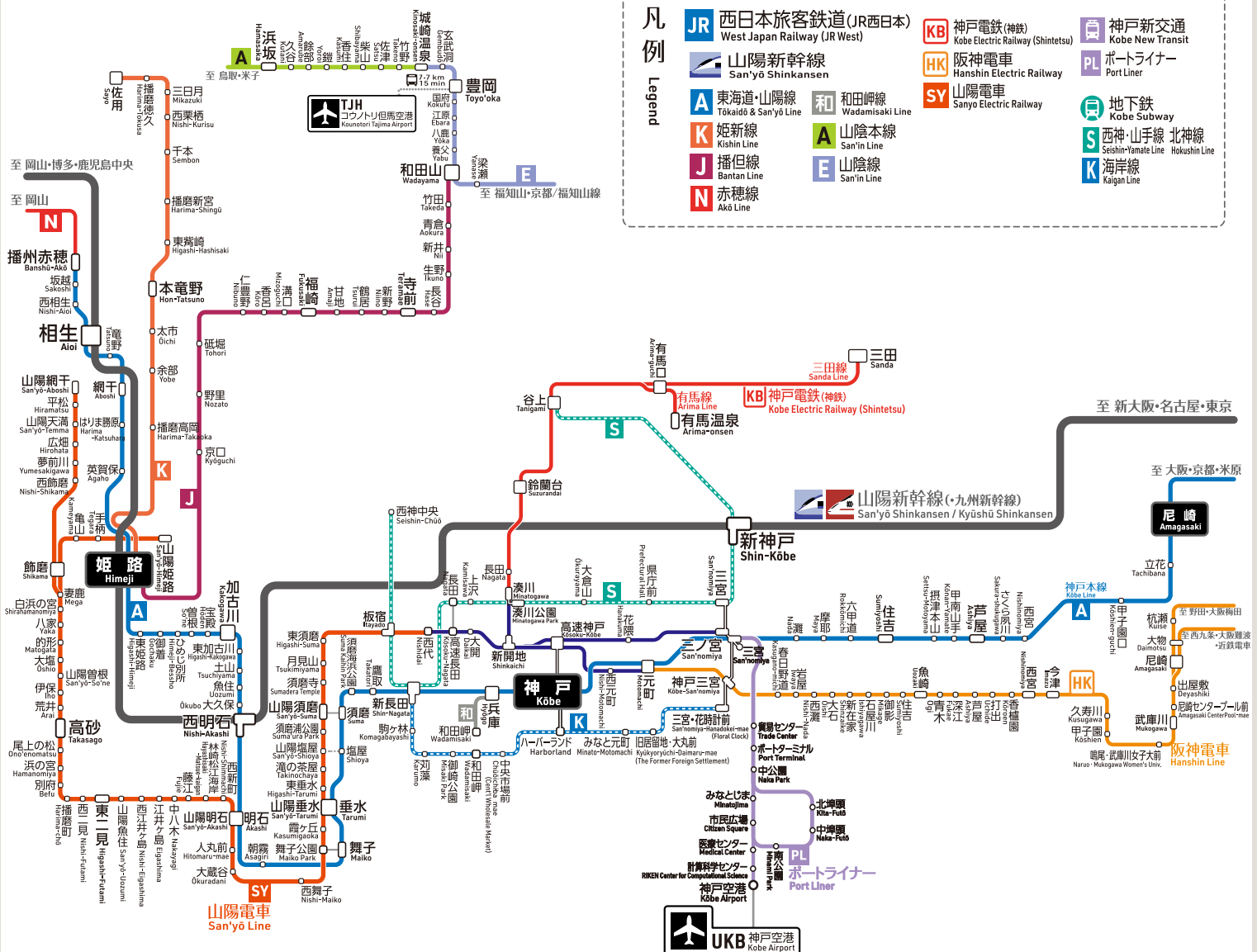
P.25-26

Toyooka JR Toyooka Sta., Kounotori Tajima Airport

- 90 minutes from Himeji via JR regular line (using Limited Express), 2 hours and a half from Osaka or Sannomiya (Kobe) including transfer
- 40 minutes from Osaka International (Itami) Airport to Kounotori Tajima Airport

Covering 9 Cities
Major

Route Map



Route Ideas

Touring 9 Cities in Hyogo



Hyogo's nine cities facing two seas: the Seto Inland Sea and the Sea of Japan. With diverse characteristics and atmospheres, from castle towns and port cities to hot spring resorts, they offer a wide range of experiences, from short day trips to extended stays.

To the World of Traditional Japanese Architecture
Learn the skills of masters
and visit a temple, castle, and garden.

START

JR Shin-Kobe Sta.
Shinkansen (bullet train)



5 minutes walk

SPOT 01

Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum

Japan's only museum dedicated to carpentry tools. You can learn about traditional Japanese construction methods. After your visit, you might see castles and temples in a different perspective.



5 minutes walk to Shin-Kobe Sta. 15 minutes by Shinkansen (JR Shin-Kobe Sta. to Himeji Sta.), 15 to 20 minutes walk from Himeji Sta.

SPOT 02

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

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



Provided by: Himeji City



10 minutes walk

SPOT 03

**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.



Provided by: Himeji City



15 to 20 minutes walk to Himeji Sta. 24 minutes by Sanyo Electric Railway (Sanyo Himeji to Onoenomatsu), 15 minutes walk from Onoenomatsu Sta.

SPOT 04

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 (Buddha tracing) or Shakyō (Sutra copying).



15 minutes walk and 8 minutes bus ride

JR Kakogawa Sta.

GOAL



Route MAP

This route might help you appreciate the castles and temples you visit afterward even more!



Explore Japan's Old-Fashioned Townscape in 3 Hours

Shrine visit, old traditional house cafe experience, and Japanese crafts shopping



Route MAP

START

Sanyo Electric Railway Takasago Sta.



15 minutes walk

SPOT 01 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.



Short walk

SPOT 02 Tourist Information MUSUBING

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



Short walk

SPOT 03 Traditional house cafe Kokage

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



5 minutes walk

SPOT 04 Takasago Shrine

The sacred "Aioi 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!



10 minutes walk

SPOT 05 Hobyosan Jurinji Temple

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



15 minutes walk

Sanyo Electric Railway Takasago Sta.

GOAL

2 Days of Learning Japanese Craftsmanship

Setouchi craft experience stay



Route MAP

START

JR Aioi Sta.



13 minutes by Shinku bus bound for SPRing-8 to "Uryu Higashi" bus stop, followed by 15 minutes walk

SPOT 01 Kikyo Hayamitsu Swordsmith

One of the few modern swordsmiths offering a glimpse into the world of Japanese swords. Guided by the master swordsmith, visitors can tour the factory and enjoy a special experience forging a small knife.



15 minutes bus ride (Shinku bus) to Aioi Sta., West Shinku bus from Aioi Sta. to "Manyo-no-Misaki" bus stop

SPOT 02 Manyo Cape

A scenic spot offering a 180-degree view of the Seto Inland Sea. On clear days, the view stretches to the ridgelines of Shikoku and Shodoshima Island. The sunset is truly spectacular.



30 minutes bus ride (Shinku bus) to Aioi Sta., 11 minutes from JR Aioi Sta. to JR Banshu-Ako Sta., 15 minutes free bus ride (free shuttle bus offered by hotel)

SPOT 03 Ako Onsen Ginpaso

A popular hotel featuring open-air baths with breathtaking views overlooking the Seto Inland Sea. Enjoy Ako's famous oysters alongside seasonal cuisine at their restaurant.



Short walk

SPOT 04 Kirakira Saka slope and surrounding areas

A path with ceramic tiles leading to the beautiful sea. The area is lined with stylish cafes and craft studios.



25 minutes walk or bus ride from "Misaki" bus stop to "Higashi Misaki" bus stop

SPOT 05 Momoi Museum

Create your own leaf-shaped plate through a Unka-yaki pottery experience. You can also view and purchase artwork.



20 minutes route bus ride from "Higashi Misaki" bus stop to JR Banshu-Ako Sta.

JR Banshu-Ako Sta.

GOAL

Tracing Japan's Tastes in Harima. Make and savor: a food experience route.



Route MAP

START

JR Higashi-Hashisaki Sta.



15 minutes walk

SPOT 01 Ibonoito Somen Museum

Under the guidance of a craftsman, you can experience the process of dividing and stretching somen noodles. At the museum, you can learn about the manufacturing process and the history of Tatsuno specialty, the hand stretched somen noodles "Ibonoito".



15 minutes walk to Higashi-Hashisaki Sta. Train ride to Hon-Tatsuno Sta. (JR Kishin Line), 20 minutes walk

SPOT 02 Tatsuno Castle Town and surrounding areas

A preserved district featuring Edo-period samurai residences and townhouses. There are many attractions such as the Usukuchi Soy Sauce Museum, Nyoraiji Temple, and Tatsuno Castle, creating a charming townscape.



Both appearance and taste are truly impressive. Historic Japanese confectionery shops are scattered throughout.



Short walk

SPOT 03 Fermentation Lab Coo

Tatsuno, a town where fermentation culture has thrived since ancient times. At this facility in the castle town, you can create your own soy sauce by adding your favorite ingredients. Perfect as a souvenir.



20 minutes walk to JR Hon-Tatsuno Sta. 20 minutes train ride to Himeji Sta. (JR Kishin Line)

SPOT 04 Stay in Himeji

Stay in Himeji

Check accommodations in Himeji via the QR code on the right. Search for "Visit Himeji Accommodations" !



5 minutes walk

SPOT 05 Kineya Nikaimachi Honten

Kineya, a wagashi shop with over 100 years of history, is the only one with a factory in the Himeji Castle town area. In its charming tea room, you can experience making wagashi while feeling the spirit of the castle lord, who was a tea master and feudal lord.



15 minutes walk

JR / Sanyo Electric Railway Himeji Sta.

GOAL

After the experience, entry to Himeji Castle is also recommended.

Must-Visit for Sake Lovers A pleasant time touring Hyogo's sake-producing regions



Route MAP

START

Hanshin Sumiyoshi Sta.



7 minutes walk

SPOT 01 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.



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6 minutes walk

SPOT 02 Nadagogo Sakedokoro

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



10 minutes walk to Hanshin Mikage Sta. 45 minutes train ride by Hanshin / Sanyo Railway (Mikage to Okuradani / including transfer), 6 minutes walk

SPOT 03 Akashi Sake Brewery and Kaikyo Distillery Visitor Center

Enjoy Japanese whisky and craft gin made in Akashi at the paid tasting bar inside the facility. Distillery tours are also available.



12 minutes walk along the coast to JR Asagiri Sta. 32 minutes train ride (Asagiri to Himeji / transfer at Nishi-Akashi) on JR Kobe Line

SPOT 04 Stay in Himeji

Stay in Himeji

Check accommodations in Himeji via the QR code on the right. Search for "Visit Himeji Accommodations" !



From Himeji Sta., 25 minutes walk or 5 minutes taxi ride, or Sanyo Electric Railway (Himeji to Tegara) and 5 minutes walk

SPOT 05 Himeji Nadagiku Sake Brewery

Himeji Nadagiku Sake Brewery

Built in 1910, this sake brewery retains its original earthen walls, pillars, and beams. Visitors can tour the brewery and also indulge in their excellent dining options. The original cotton candy beef hot pot is one of the popular menu items.



25 minutes walk (or 5 minutes taxi ride) to Himeji Sta., or Sanyo Electric Railway (Tegara to Himeji)

JR / Sanyo Electric Railway Himeji Sta.

GOAL

3 Days of Unforgettable Hyogo Cuisine and Relaxing Hot Springs



Route MAP

START

JR Kinosakionsen Sta



5 to 15 minutes walk

Winter is the best time to visit!

Crab fishing in Kinosaki starts November 6! Oysters are in season from mid-November.

SPOT 01 Kinosaki Onsen Town Strolling and hot spring hopping

A hot spring town filled with Japanese charm, where people in yukata stroll along the riverside lined with willow trees and Taikobashi bridge. Enjoy bathing at seven public bathhouses known as "soto-yu."

Sato no Yu is currently closed until further notice.



5 to 15 minutes walk or free shuttle bus from Kinosakionsen Sta.

SPOT 02 Stay in Kinosaki Onsen

From historic ryokan established in the Edo period and those beloved by renowned literary masters to family-friendly inns, a diverse range of accommodations are available. At every accommodation, you can enjoy fresh Matsuba crab. Crab dishes, known as the king of winter flavors, are a must-try.



Winter Delicacies Savoring exquisite crab dishes



2 hours and 30 minutes train ride (Limited Express Hamakaze) from JR Kinosakionsen Sta. to JR Sannomiya Sta.

SPOT 03 Strolling Kobe To Motomachi, Nankinmachi, and waterfront area

Kobe is a walkable city where you can easily stroll from Sannomiya to Motomachi and the waterfront area. It's a great idea to wander the streets as you feel like it, sampling Kobe's local delicacies like bread, Western-style sweets, and pork buns.



30 minutes direct bus ride from Sannomiya (Arima Express)



30 minutes train ride by Kobe City Subway and Kobe Electric Railway (Sannomiya to Arima Onsen / including transfer)



SPOT 04 Stay in Arima Onsen

One of Japan's three oldest hot springs, this historic destination offers two types of spring waters: golden and silver. Its rich natural surroundings and charming streetscape are captivating. Many accommodations serve dinner featuring Kobe beef, along with kaiseki cuisine made with local ingredients.

Enjoy Kobe beef with kaiseki style



30 minutes direct bus ride from Arima Onsen to Sannomiya, or 30 minutes train ride by Kobe Electric Railway and Kobe City Subway (Arima Onsen to Sannomiya / including transfer)

Choose your favorite!



15 minutes train ride from JR Sannomiya Sta. to Akashi Sta. 20 minutes walk or 7 minutes taxi ride from Akashi Sta.



35 minutes from JR Shin-Kobe Sta. to JR Aioi Sta. by Shinkansen 17 minutes shuttle bus ride from JR Aioi Sta. (reservation required)

SPOT 05 Fish Auction Tour by Akashiura Fishing Cooperative Association and sushi lunch

Visitors can watch live fishes being auctioned. After touring the fishing cooperative's fish tanks and watching the lively auction, savour exceptional sushi.



20 minutes walk or 7 minutes taxi ride

JR / Sanyo Akashi Sta.

GOAL

SPOT 05 HOTEL ManyoMisaki

Set on a hill overlooking the Seto Inland Sea, this hotel offers beautiful seasonal views of the Kanegasaki Cape. Known as a gourmet inn, it serves fresh seafood and seasonal local ingredients. In winter, guests can enjoy regional specialties such as oysters.



17 minutes shuttle bus ride (reservation required)

JR Aioi Sta.

GOAL



Castle Town, Hot Springs, and Activities

A route to fully experience Tajima area's charms in Toyooka



Route MAP

START

JR Toyooka Sta.

Access to Toyooka Sta.
Limited Express Hamakaze from Kobe and Himeji
Limited Express Kinosaki from Kyoto
Limited Express Kounotori from Osaka



30 minutes bus ride (Zentan bus) from Toyooka Sta.

SPOT 01

Exploring Izushi castle town area and Izushi soba lunch

The castle town is dotted with historic attractions like the symbol of the town, the Shinkoro Clock Tower, castle ruins, the former residence of the chief retainer, and the Eirakukan, the oldest theater in the Kansai region. Its charming streets are perfect for strolling, offering plenty to see even in a 1-2 hour walk. For lunch, savor the local specialty, Izushi soba, served in small portions on Izushi-yaki ceramic plates.



30 minutes bus ride (Zentan bus)

SPOT 02

Park of the Oriental White Stork Kaban (bag) Artisan Avenue

A park dedicated to the conservation, breeding, and reintroduction of storks. Visitors can observe storks up close at the park's observation facilities. Also, in the shopping district "Kaban (bag) Artisan Avenue" unique to Toyooka, Japan's largest bag-producing region, you can enjoy bag-themed elements everywhere—from bag vending machines to benches.



30 minutes bus ride (Zentan bus)

SPOT 03

Stay in Kinosaki Onsen

With over 1,300 years of history, Kinosaki Onsen is also famous for its outdoor bath hopping. The charming hot spring town is lined with long-established ryokans, souvenir shops, and cafes. It's a relaxing destination where you can enjoy local Tajima delicacies like Tajima beef and Matsuba crab depending on the season.



10 minutes bus ride from JR Kinosaki Onsen Sta. (Zentan bus, Kinosaki Toyooka Genbudo Line), or 10 minutes taxi ride from Kinosaki Onsen Sta.

SPOT 04

Genbudo Park Genbudo Museum

A scenic spot renowned for its striking columnar jointing rock formations. Visitors can enjoy the dynamic landscapes created by basalt up close. At the Genbudo Museum near the park entrance, exhibits of rocks, minerals, and gemstones are on display. The attached restaurant offers dishes featuring Tajima beef and local specialties.



10 minutes train ride (Kinosaki Onsen to Takeno) on JR Sanin Main Line, 20 minutes walk from Takeno Sta.



27 minutes train ride (Kinosaki Onsen to Ebara) on JR Sanin Main Line
30 minutes bus ride (Zentan bus, Kannabe Kogen Line) from Ebara Sta.

Direct buses from Kinosaki Onsen may be also available during the winter season. Please check Zentan bus website for details.

SPOT 05



For summer Takenohama Beach



Takeno Beach, facing the Sea of Japan, is a beautiful beach with crystal-clear waters. Visitors can enjoy activities like marine adventure courses and SUP experiences. The swimming area is open from early July to late August. Relaxing at the simple, old fashioned beach hut, where you can unwind on a traditional straw-mat floor with a breeze flowing through, is also popular.



20 minutes walk

JR Takeno Sta.

GOAL



For winter UP Kannabe Ski Resort



The Toyooka and Kannabe alpine area, known for its heavy snowfall, boasts numerous ski resorts. At Up Kannabe Ski Resort, many slopes feature gentle inclines, allowing beginners to enjoy skiing, snowboarding, and snow play. It's also convenient that it's accessible by public transportation.



30 minutes by Zentan bus

JR Ebara Sta.

GOAL



Get Recharged by Nature

A journey through Hyogo's mountains and sea scenery



Route MAP

START

JR / Sanyo Electric Railway Himeji Sta.



30 minutes bus ride to the terminal (Shinki bus bound for Mt. Shosha Ropeway) Mt. Shosha Ropeway to Sanjo Sta.

SPOT 01 Shoshazan Engyoji Temple

The tranquil temple grounds spread across the mountain top, dotted with dignified temple buildings including the nationally designated Important Cultural Property "Maniden Hall", surrounded by an atmosphere of solemn grandeur. A renowned temple of the Tendai sect, harmonizing with nature.



Return to Himeji Station via the same route. 13 minutes train ride (Himeji to Hoden) on JR Kobe Line, 20 minutes bus ride (Kako Bus Mini) from JR Hoden Sta. to "Narui (Frosch Mae)" bus stop

SPOT 02 Mt. Takamikura

Hiking the low mountains of Harima Fuji

Beginners can climb it easily. At an elevation of about 304 meters, it takes about 30 minutes to reach the summit from the Naruiguchi trailhead. Along with dynamic views, you can experience both thrills and a sense of accomplishment.



Return to Hoden Station via the same route, 35 to 50 minutes train ride (Hoden to Sannomiya) on JR Kobe Line

SPOT 03 Akashi Kaikyo Bridge

From the train window heading to Kobe, you might catch a glimpse of the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge at twilight or illuminated at night. If you have time, stop by Maiko Park to see the suspension bridge up close.



SPOT 04 Stay in Kobe

Choose from diverse areas: the Meriken Park area with its port town atmosphere, the Kitano area full of international charm, and the conveniently accessible downtown area.



The nighttime cityscape is also stunning!



15 to 30 minutes walk from Shin-Kobe Sta., or 10 minutes ropeway ride

SPOT 05 Nunobiki Waterfalls

Nunobiki Herb Gardens

Take the ropeway to the herb gardens atop the mountain, enjoying panoramic views of Kobe's cityscape. You can also hike from Shin-Kobe to Ontaki Fall in about 15 minutes one way. Enjoy a relaxing forest bath.



15 to 20 minutes walk

JR Shin-Kobe Sta.

GOAL

Seaside Retreat

A day of well-being in Ako, Misaki



Route MAP

START

JR Banshu-Ako Sta.



15 minutes bus ride (Shinki bus) to Misaki bus stop, short walk from bus stop

SPOT 01 Iwatsuhime Shrine

This historic shrine, recorded as the foremost of three shrines in Ako district since the Heian period, enshrines the goddess Iwatsuhime-no-Okami. One of its highlights is the view of the sea visible beyond the torii gate. Popular items include exclusive goshuin stamps and lucky charms that are prayed over for match-making.



Short walk

Kirakira Saka

Just beside the shrine, Kirakira saka is a beautiful spot with tiles in various patterns. Look for cafes and shops where you can relax and unwind.

SPOT 02 Misaki Glass Studio

At the back of the shop where works by numerous glass artists are displayed, there is a studio with a splendid view where the sound of waves can be heard. Visitors can enjoy stained glass experiences using imported glass bottles and plate making workshops. Take home a one-of-a-kind, original piece as a souvenir.



Short walk

SPOT 03 Umi-to-Saka-to

A seaside cafe on Kirakira saka. The space, renovated by the cafe owner from a 70-year-old traditional house, features antique furniture that creates a calm atmosphere. All items including the popular seasonal parfaits, are handmade.



Short walk

SPOT 04 Misaki Coast Promenade

A seaside promenade overlooking the Seto Inland Sea. While the views are spectacular on sunny afternoons, you can also enjoy beautiful sunsets in the evening. Take a moment to relax.



15 minutes bus ride from Misaki bus stop to JR Banshu-Ako Sta.

JR Banshu-Ako Sta.

GOAL

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 the beautiful sunset, 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 that are local specialties, 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

- JR Osaka Sta. ▶ (21 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Sannomiya Sta.
- JR Shin-Osaka Sta. ▶ (12 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Shin-Kobe Sta.
- Hankyu / Hanshin Osaka-Umeda Sta. ▶ (27 minutes) ▶ Hankyu / Hanshin Kobe-sannomiya Sta.

From Chugoku area

- JR Okayama Sta. ▶ (35 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Shin-Kobe Sta.
- JR Hiroshima Sta. ▶ (1 hour and 15 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Shin-Kobe Sta.

From airports

- From Kansai International Airport (KIX)** Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (1 hour and 5 minutes) ▶ Kobe Sannomiya
- From Itami Airport (ITM)** Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (40 minutes) ▶ Kobe Sannomiya
- From Kobe Airport (UKB)** Port Liner Kobe Airport Sta. ▶ (20 minutes) ▶ Sannomiya Sta.
- *High Speed Boat Bay Shuttle available between Kansai International Airport and Kobe Airport (about 30 minutes)
- From Okayama Momotaro Airport (OKJ)** Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (30 minutes) ▶ JR Okayama Sta.
- ▶ (35 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Shin-Kobe Sta.



Waterfront Area

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This is a seaside area where you can feel the atmosphere of a port town. The TOTTEI area features the GLION ARENA KOBE, home to the Kobe Storks basketball team. There are many other attractions, including Port Tower, the symbol of Kobe, the Maritime Museum, a sightseeing ship pier, a giant Ferris wheel, and an aquarium!

Address:
[Waterfront Area]
Between Shinko-cho and
Higashikawasaki-cho of Chuo-ku, Kobe



Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum

The only museum in Japan that exhibits carpentry tools. Visitors can learn about Japanese wooden construction techniques and the differences between Japanese and foreign 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, Kobe
Opening hours: 9:30 to 16:30
(last admission 16:00)

Closed on: Mondays (The following day when Monday falls on a national holiday), New Year's Holiday
Admission fee: 1000yen 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 are herb gardens on the mountain. The footbath while enjoying the view is well worth the experience. Lavender soft serve is also popular.

Address: 1-4-3 Kitano-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe
Opening hours: 10:00 to 17:00 (Park opening hours)
(*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)

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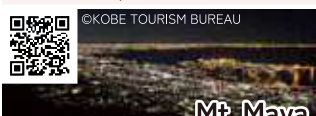
Arima Onsen is one of the three most famous and oldest springs in Japan. The town retains the atmosphere of an Edo period townscape and is ideal for strolling. It is also known as the only area in Hyogo prefecture where Geiko still exists. It is not that far from the city center, so you can also enjoy 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 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, Kobe
Opening hours: vary depending on the season
Access: City Bus Route 16 from JR Rokkomichi Sta., or Hankyu Rokko Sta. → Rokko Cable Shita Sta. → Rokko Sanjo Sta. → Rokko Sanjo Bus → Each facility on the mountain top



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, Kobe
Opening hours: first departure of Maya Cable at 10:00, last departure time changes depending 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



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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, Kobe
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

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, Kobe
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 preference. Enjoy Kobe's cityscape from the sea.

Address:

Cruise Terminal (Kamomeria)
7-1 Hatoba-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe
Cruise with meals (Concerto)
1-6-1 Higashikawasaki-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe
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, the pearl city that sorts and processes 70% of the world's pearls. Enjoy a delightful time with friends and family as you freely combine over 100 types of parts, including genuine Akoya pearls and charms, to create your own necklace or bracelet ♪

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



©KOBETOURISM BUREAU

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 wagyu beef. It is a must-try gourmet food in Kobe.

Bread



©KOBETOURISM BUREAU

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



©KOBETOURISM BUREAU

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



©KOBETOURISM BUREAU

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 also served with Udon or Yakisoba noodles.



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.



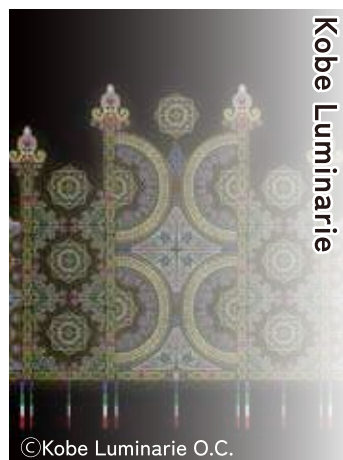
Kobe Port Nights

Fireworks and illumination events are held in the Kobe Port Waterfront Area. Weekend fireworks are held regularly throughout the year, along with the annual Minato HANABI around October, Christmas drone shows, music events, etc.



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.

Events

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 said to be the origin of tako-yaki.

ACCESS

From Osaka area

- JR Osaka Sta. (40 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Akashi Sta.
- Hanshin Osaka-Umeda Sta. ▶ (1 hour by Ltd Exp) ▶ Sanyo Akashi Sta.

From Chugoku area

- JR Okayama Sta. (45 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Nishi-Akashi Sta.
- JR Hiroshima Sta. ▶ (1 hour and 10 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Nishi-Akashi Sta.

From airports

From Kansai International Airport (KIX) and Itami Airport (ITM)

- (KIX) Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (1 hour and 5 minutes) ▶ Kobe Sannomiya
- (ITM) Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (40 minutes) ▶ Kobe Sannomiya
- *Transfer to JR, JR Sannomiya Sta. ▶ (15 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Akashi Sta.

From Kobe Airport (UKB)

- Port Liner Kobe Airport Sta. ▶ (20 minutes) ▶ Sannomiya Sta., transfer to JR, JR Sannomiya Sta. ▶ (15 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Akashi Sta.

From Okayama Momotaro Airport (OKJ)

- Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (30 minutes) ▶ JR Okayama Sta. ▶ (45 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Nishi-Akashi Sta.



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, Akashi
Opening hours: vary depending on the facilities in the park
Closed on: no holidays
Admission fee: free (fee is required to use the facilities.)
Access: 5 minutes walk from JR / Sanyo Electric Railway Akashi Sta.



Okura-kaigan Seaside Park

Okura-kaigan Seaside 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 seeing the stunning view.

Address: Okurakaigan-dori, Akashi
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, Akashi
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: 5 minutes walk from Akashi Sta. (JR / Sanyo)



Kyu Hatozaki Tiorodo (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, Akashi
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, New Year's Holiday
Admission fee: free *Sake brewery and distillery tours are available for an additional fee.
Access: 5 minutes walk from Sanyo Electric Railway Okuradani Sta.



Beach promenade

A roughly 8 km walking path along the coast from the west side of the Akashi River to Eigashima Beach. This course, offering views of the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge and Awajishima Island while passing fishing ports and the Akashi Elephant Fossil Excavation Site, is recommended not only for hiking but also for cycling.

Address: 1-1 Minamioji-cho, Akashi (east entrance)
Access: east entrance: 10 minutes walk to the south from Sanyo Electric Railway "Nishishinmachi Sta.", west entrance: 10 minutes walk to the south from Sanyo Electric Railway "Eigashima Sta."
Other information: rest area and bicycle racks available



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: 24 hours
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.
Access: 30 minutes walk from Sanyo Electric Railway Higashi-futami Sta.





A special coupon for enjoying Akashi's specialties while strolling around the Uontana Shopping Street and its neighborhood. You can choose from 17 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



Akashiura Fishing Cooperative Association 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
(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.



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.

Events

Souvenirs



Fujieya Bundai Assortment of three Akashi Monaka (wafers filled with sweet red bean paste)



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

• JR Osaka Sta. (53 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Kakogawa Sta.

From Chugoku area

• JR Okayama Sta. (20 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. (10 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Kakogawa Sta.
• JR Hiroshima Sta. ▶ (1 hour and 10 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. (10 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Kakogawa Sta.

From airports

From Kansai International Airport (KIX) and Itami Airport (ITM)

• (KIX) Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (1 hour and 5 minutes) ▶ Kobe Sannomiya
• (ITM) Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (40 minutes) ▶ Kobe Sannomiya
*Transfer to JR, JR Sannomiya Sta. ▶ (30 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Kakogawa Sta.

From Kobe Airport (UKB)

Port Liner Kobe Airport Sta. ▶ (20 minutes) ▶ Sannomiya Sta., transfer to JR, JR Sannomiya Sta. ▶ (30 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Kakogawa Sta.

From Okayama Momotaro Airport (OKJ)

Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (30 minutes) ▶ JR Okayama Sta. ▶ (20 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ (10 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Kakogawa Sta.



Totasan Kakurinji Temple

Prince Shotoku built Kakurinji Temple 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 (Buddha tracing) or Shakyō (Sutra copying).

Address: 424 Kitazaike, Kakogawa-cho, Kakogawa
Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:00 (entry to the mountain until 16:30)
Closed on: no holiday

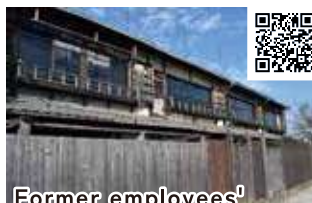
Admission fee: entrance fee 500 yen, admission to the Treasure House 500 yen (Free admission for elementary school students and younger)
Access: 15 minutes walk from Sanyo Onoematsu Sta.



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 hours: none **Closed on:** no holidays
Admission fee: free
Access: 18 min walk from JR Kakogawa Sta.



Mitoro Hill Mitoro 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 (Mitoro Fruit Park)
Address: 845-16 Mitoro, 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 bridges are 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
Shinki 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 min walk from JR Yakujin Sta.





Shakyo (Sutra copying) and Shabutsu (Buddha tracing) 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



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.



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.



Kakogawa Two-day March

A walking event featuring the Harima Route, where rich nature, history, and culture harmonize. Enjoy the diverse expressions of Kakogawa—the colors of the wind, the sounds of water, and the scents of nature. The joy of walking, along with encounters between nature and people, spreads wide.



Kakurinji Temple Shushou (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: 9:00 to 17:15

Closed on: Sundays and New Year's Holiday



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 evoke the atmosphere 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

• Hanshin Electric Railway Osaka-Umeda Sta. (1 hour and 23 minutes) ▶ Takasago Sta.

From Chugoku area

• JR Okayama Sta. (45 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ (transfer to Sanyo Electric Railway, 16 minutes by Ltd Exp) ▶ Takasago Sta.
• JR Hiroshima Sta. ▶ (1 hour and 10 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ (transfer to Sanyo Electric Railway, 16 minutes by Ltd Exp) ▶ Takasago Sta.

From airports

From Kansai International Airport (KIX) and Itami Airport (ITM)

• (KIX) Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (1 hour and 5 minutes) ▶ Kobe Sannomiya
• (ITM) Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (40 minutes) ▶ Kobe Sannomiya
*Transfer to Sanyo Electric Railway (Hanshin Electric Railway), Kobe-Sannomiya Sta. ▶ (50 minutes by Ltd Exp) ▶ Takasago Sta.

From Kobe Airport (UKB)

Port Liner Kobe Airport Sta. ▶ (20 minutes) ▶ Sannomiya Sta., transfer to Sanyo Electric Railway (Hanshin Electric Railway), Kobe-Sannomiya Sta. ▶ (50 minutes by Ltd Exp) ▶ Takasago Sta.

From Okayama Momotaro Airport (OKJ)

Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (30 minutes) ▶ JR Okayama Sta. ▶ (20 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ transfer to Sanyo Electric Railway ▶ Himeji Sta. ▶ (16 minutes by Ltd Exp) ▶ Takasago Sta.



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: 532 Imazu-machi, Takasago-cho
Opening hours: 10:00 to 17:00
Closed on: Tuesday, New Year's holiday (December 29 to January 3)
Admission fee: free
Access: 15 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 "Aioi Pine" located on the temple grounds. The shrine is visited by many people who come to pray for happy marriage.

Address: 190 Higashimiyama-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, Takasago
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
Access: 3 minutes walk from Sanyo Electric Railway Sone Sta.



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 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)
Access: 15 minutes walk from Sanyo Arai Sta.



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: Takasagoya)
Opening hours: 10:00 to 14:00 of every Friday
Fee: depends 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 confectionery 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.

Events

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 online



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 holidays



姫路 HIMEJI

A city with a population of about 510,000, 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 Koko-en 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

- JR Osaka Sta. ▶ (57 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Himeji Sta.
- JR Shin-Osaka Sta. ▶ (28 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta.
- Hanshin Osaka-Umeda Sta. ▶ (1 hour and 40 minutes by Ltd Exp) ▶ Sanyo Himeji Sta.

From Chugoku area

- JR Okayama Sta. (20 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta.
- JR Hiroshima Sta. ▶ (1 hour by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta.

From airports

From Kansai International Airport (KIX) and Itami Airport (ITM)

- (KIX) Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (2 hours and 10 minutes) ▶ Himeji Sta.
- (ITM) Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (40 minutes) ▶ Himeji Sta.

From Kobe Airport (UKB)

Port Liner Kobe Airport Sta. ▶ (20 minutes) ▶ Sannomiya Sta., transfer to JR, JR Sannomiya Sta. ▶ (45 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Himeji Sta.

From Okayama Momotaro Airport (OKJ)

Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (30 minutes) ▶ JR Okayama Sta. ▶ (20 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji 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 Koko-en 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 holidays (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)



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.



Hyogo Prefectural
 Museum of History

The museum opened with the aim of deepening citizens' understanding of local history and contributing to academic and cultural development. Designed by the late Kenzo Tange, the building offers a spectacular view of Himeji Castle reflected in its glass facade.

Address: 68 Honmachi, Himeji
Opening hours: 10:00 to 17:00 (last admission 16:30)
Closed on: Mondays (the following weekday when Monday falls on a national holiday)
Admission fee: 200 yen for adults, 150 yen for university students, 100 yen for 70 years old and older, free for high school students and younger



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 ways.

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: 4,000 yen for adults
 *Prices vary by date.

Recommended spots

Experience



Wagashi (Japanese sweets) Making Experience!

Kineya, a wagashi shop with over 100 years of history, is the only one with a factory in the Himeji Castle town area. In its charming tea room, you can experience making wagashi while feeling the spirit of the castle lord, who was a tea master and feudal lord.

Kineya

Address: 95 Nikaimachi, Himeji
Experience Schedule: 11:00~, 13:00~, 15:00~
 (Afternoon sessions: same-day booking available)
Time required: Approximately 1 hour
Fee: From 2,800 yen
 (Reservations accepted from 9:00 to 18:00)
Contact: 079-285-3509 (reception 9:00 to 18:00)
 Language/ English and Japanese
 *One person is more than welcome.

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 4,000 yen per person (10-minute ride)
Contact: 079-269-9957, 090-3169-4376
 If available, you can board directly from in front of the Himeji Castle.



Mochi Pounding Experience

Experience authentic mochi pounding and immerse yourself in Japanese traditional culture! Enjoy freshly pounded, chewy mochi with 10 different sauces. International guests are also more than welcome!

Mochiya

Address: second floor, 102 Konikai-machi, Himeji
Opening hours: 9:00 to 20:00
Fee: from 8,000 yen
Time required: 1 hour *Reservation required
Contact: 090-9988-0936
 670mochiyamochiko@gmail.com



Himeji Convention & Visitors Bureau

Himeji City offers a variety of experience programs to help you discover new ways to enjoy Himeji Castle and fully appreciate the city's other attractions.

"Motto Himeji Tabi", "Chotto Himeji Tabi"

Scan here for details



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).

Boze mackerel



Boze Mackerel, raised in the rich waters of the Harima Sea, is a premium fish known for its rich, mellow flavor. Though cultivated, it retains the natural taste of wild fish while ensuring consistent quality, making it perfect for sashimi, shabu-shabu, and various other dishes. Its best season runs from autumn through winter.

Hinepon



Hinepon is a local cuisine of Himeji. It is seared hine-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 pairs well with sake.

Himeji Castle Cherry Blossom Viewing Festival



Provided by: Himeji City

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 sake and Himeji oden, and there is also a tea ceremony.

Himeji Yukata (summer kimono) Festival



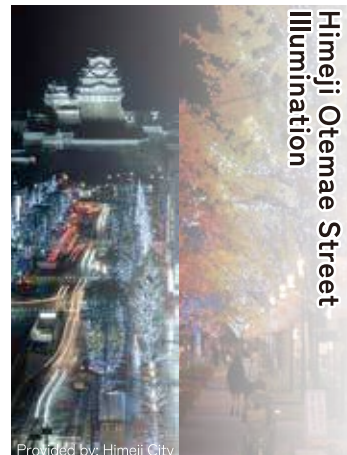
The Himeji Yukata Festival is held at Osakabe Shrine at the beginning of summer. The festival includes children's yukata parade and a stage for community interaction in Jonan Park. Come wearing your yukata and join in the festivities!

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 Otomae Street Illumination



Provided by: Himeji City

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!

Various other events are held throughout the year!



Scan here for details

Events

Souvenirs



Local Japanese Sake

The Himeji and Nishi-Harima areas are blessed with clear, low-iron underground water from the Ichikawa, Yumesakigawa, and Itoigawa 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 Confectionery 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) are popular.



Leather Products

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

Perfect place to buy souvenirs



Bansankan

123 Minamiekimae-cho, Himeji
Opening hours: 10:00 to 18:00
Closed on: Tuesdays,
 December 29 to January 3

Scan here for souvenir shop information



龍野 TATSUNO

Tatsuno City is a charming castle town often called “Little Kyoto of Harima.” Centered around historic Tatsuno Castle, white-walled storehouses and samurai residences remain beautifully preserved. Simply strolling through its quiet streets captivates visitors with traditional Japanese townscapes. Furthermore, the entire castle town area has been designated as a Traditional Buildings Preservation District, carefully preserving its valuable streetscape featuring townhouses and warehouses built from the Edo period through the early Showa era. Long renowned as a major production area for soy sauce and hand-stretched somen noodles “Ibonoito”, visitors can tour factories and even participate in experiences.

ACCESS

From Osaka area

- JR Osaka Sta. ▶ (1 hour by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ (25 minutes by JR Kishin Line) ▶ JR Hon-Tatsuno Sta.
- JR Shin-Osaka Sta. ▶ (30 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ (25 minutes by JR Kishin Line) ▶ JR Hon-Tatsuno Sta.

From Chugoku area

- JR Hiroshima Sta. ▶ (1 hour and 20 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ JR Hon-Tatsuno Sta.

From airports

From Kansai International Airport (KIX)

- Nankai Electric Railway / JR Kansai Airport Rapid Service ▶ (1 hour and 15 minutes) ▶ JR Osaka Sta. ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ JR Hon-Tatsuno Sta.

From Osaka Itami Airport (ITM)

- Airport limousine bus ▶ (30 minutes) ▶ JR Osaka Sta. ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ JR Hon-Tatsuno Sta.

From Kobe Airport (UKB)

- Port Liner ▶ (20 minutes) ▶ JR Sannomiya Sta. ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ JR Hon-Tatsuno Sta.

From Okayama Momotaro Airport (OKJ)

- Airport limousine bus ▶ (30 minutes) ▶ JR Okayama Sta. ▶ (25 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ JR Hon-Tatsuno Sta.



Tatsuno castle

Tatsuno Castle, Tatsuno's symbol, is a famous cherry blossom viewing spot and many events are held. It consists of two sections: a mountain castle atop Keirozan mountain overlooking Tatsuno city and a flatland castle at its base. The main keep palace, white plaster walls, Tamon Yagura tower, and buried gate have been restored. The Tatsuno City Tatsuno History and Culture Museum is also located within the site.

Address: Kamikajo, Tatsuno-cho, Tatsuno
Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:00
Closed on: Mondays (the following day when Monday falls on a national holiday)
Admission fee: free



Usukuchi Tatsuno Soy Sauce Museum

It opened in 1979 as Japan's first soy sauce museum. The building is registered as a National Tangible Cultural Property. Though constructed of wood, its exterior presents a Renaissance style resembling brickwork.

Address: 54-1 Ote, Tatsuno-cho, Tatsuno
Opening hours: 9:30 to 17:00 (last admission 16:30)
Closed on: Mondays (the following week day when Monday falls on a national holiday), New Year's Holiday
Admission fee: 10 yen



Shuntei

The highlight is the architecture modeled after the Momoyama period's shoin zukuri style and the autumn leaves. It features a tea room where tea ceremonies are occasionally held. Surrounding the buildings are strolling or viewing gardens, all connected to form a unified landscape.

Address: 6 Nakakajo, Tatsuno-cho, Tatsuno
Opening hours: 9:30 to 16:30
Closed on: Mondays (the following week day when Monday falls on a national holiday), New Year's Holiday
Admission fee: free



Nyoraiji Temple

Established in 1533. Its white walls and waterways are frequently used as filming locations. The site features Rofu Miki's brush monument, rare trees, and the scales of King Yama, offering ample sights to see. The surrounding area is rich in historic sites and landmarks, making it ideal for strolling.

Address: 65 Ote, Tatsuno-cho, Tatsuno
Opening hours: 10:00 to 16:00
Access: 15 minutes walk or 5 minutes taxi ride from JR Kishin Line "Hon Tatsuno Sta."



Recommended spots



Shoyu no Sato Taisho Roman-kan

A modern Western-style building evoking the atmosphere of Taisho-era romanticism, serving as a vital hub showcasing the history of Tatsuno's soy sauce industry. Together with the former factory on the same grounds, it is registered as a National Tangible Cultural Property. This beloved building is now utilized as a new hub for tourism and exchange.

Address: 126 Kamikajo, Tatsuno-cho, Tatsuno
Opening hours: 10:00 to 17:00
Closed on: Mondays (the following week day when Monday falls on a national holiday), New Year's Holiday, other temporary closures may occur.
Admission fee: free



Ido koji Manufacturing

A specialty store dedicated to koji. Their koji, carefully crafted using the same traditional methods since the company's founding, is used by many restaurants in the city and attracts fans who travel from outside the prefecture. You can also purchase homemade koji products such as miso, yuzu citrus miso, and amazake. It's a must-visit spot when exploring the castle town.

Address: 39-1 Shimokawahara, Tatsuno-cho, Tatsuno
Opening hours: 10:00 to 18:00
Closed on: irregularly
Admission fee: free



Kura Terrace Tatsuno

This stylish restaurant, renovated from a Taisho-era soy sauce brewery, offers locally produced meals. Popular lunch meal sets feature daily-changing main dishes paired with side dishes and somen noodles made with local pesticide-free vegetables. The cafe menu items are also extensive, including gelato made with soy sauce and koji, and amazake. The adjoining shop sells souvenirs, and various workshops such as soy sauce making workshop are held.

Address: 126 Kamikajo, Tatsuno-cho, Tatsuno
Inside Shoyu no Sato Taisho Roman-kan
Opening hours: cafe 10:00 to 16:30 lunch 11:30 to 14:00
Closed on: Mondays



Experience



Make Your Own Soy Sauce

Tatsuno, a town where a 400-year-old soy sauce brewery remains and a unique fermentation culture lives on today. Here, you can learn about fermentation culture, as well as taste it and even create it. This is a place where you can experience it all. Experience their extensive fermentation programs, including personalized soy sauce making with your choice of ingredients, miso ball making, soy sauce and miso brewing, fermentation cooking classes, and dashi, essential for Japanese cuisine, making classes.



Fermentation Lab Coo

Address:
22-2 Shimokawahara, Tatsuno-cho, Tatsuno
Opening hours: 10:00 to 17:00
Fee: 2,200 yen (making your own soy sauce)
Closed on: Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Contact: 090-4292-5917



Kimono Wearing Experience

Tatsuno City, designated as an Important Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings, boasts a well-preserved old townscape. Nearby, the seaside retains the atmosphere of the ancient times, while the surrounding mountains add seasonal colors throughout the year. Many visitors come for photography, and the town, where kimono look especially beautiful, is popular for portrait shoots. Why not explore the town wearing kimono?

Tatsuno Kimono Salon Hare

Address:
22-2 Shimokawahara, Tatsuno-cho, Tatsuno
Opening hours: 10:00 to 17:00
Fee: 6,000 yen
Contact: 080-4978-2272



Somen Noodle Making (portioning process)

Under the guidance of a craftsman, you can experience the process of dividing and stretching a 50 cm noodle strand into approximately 1.3 meters. Learning the delicate hand movements and trying it yourself, you can't help but be amazed by the difficulty. At the museum, you can observe the manufacturing process through models and a theater, and learn about the history of the hand stretched somen noodles "Ibonoito."

Ibonoito Somen Museum

Address: 56 Okumura, Kamioka-cho, Tatsuno
Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:00
Experience Tour:
600 yen per person (approx. 60 minutes)
Contact: 0791-65-9000 (reservations required)



Food Tatsuno soy sauce



The rich wheat of the Harima Plain, the high-quality soybeans produced in the mountainous regions, and the readily available, superior Ako salt—blessed with the pure waters of the Ibo River and a mild climate—nurtured the local soy sauce. Particularly, the iron-poor water of the Ibo River was well-suited for making light soy sauce, which developed under the protection of the Wakisaka domain.



Somen noodles



Tatsuno city is a town renowned for its flourishing somen noodle production. Its history is quite ancient, dating back to the Muromachi period. Actually, many somen noodles are produced in the Banshu region, where Tatsuno City is located.



Tatsuno Sakura Festival and Samurai Parade

"Sakura Festival" is held in Tatsuno Castle Town and the surrounding Tatsuno Park area, famous for its cherry blossoms. As the main event, Samurai will parade through the streets.



Tatsuno Hina Festival / Hina Nagashi (floating Hina dolls)

Hina dolls from the Edo period to modern times are displayed in approximately 60 townhouses and shops throughout Tatsuno Castle Town. Enjoy the arrival of spring alongside the "Tatsuno townscape, where hina dolls look so fitting". You can also experience making nagashi-bina (floating dolls).



Tatsuno Fireworks Festival

This major summer event, held annually on the first Saturday of August at Chidorigahama Park along the Ibogawa River, dazzles the night sky over Tatsuno with a harmonious display of light and sound. Creatively designed fireworks delight the audience's eyes.



Autumn Festival in Tatsuno

Held annually in November against the historic cityscape of Tatsuno castle town. Stroll through the charming streets lined with preserved samurai residences, temples, and storehouses while enjoying concerts, exhibitions, and other events at a relaxed, casual stroll.

Events

Souvenirs



Hand-stretched somen noodles "Ibonoito"



Tatsuno soy sauce



Soy(sauce)manju (steamed bun)



Tatsuno Tourist Information Center

Address: 144 Shimokawahara, Tatsuno-cho, Tatsuno
Closed on: Mondays (the following day when Monday falls on a national holiday)

相生 AIOI

This charming town enjoys a mild climate throughout the year and possesses a unique culture as a port city. The peaceful Aioi Bay carries the history of its shipbuilding heritage, offering views of factories spread across the bay and the picturesque scenery of the beautiful Seto Inland Sea. To the north, serene farmland and green mountains stretch out, offering abundant spots for relaxation. These include the sunset views from Manyo Cape and the beautiful seasonal scenery of Rakan Village. Unique cultural experiences found only here are also attractive, such as the traditional event "Aioi Peron Festival" and the opportunity to experience sword forging at a forge.

ACCESS

From Osaka area

- JR Osaka Sta. ▶ (1 hours and 30 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Aioi Sta.
- JR Shin-Osaka Sta. ▶ (45 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Aioi Sta.

From Chugoku area

- JR Hiroshima Sta. ▶ (1 hour by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Aioi Sta.
- JR Okayama Sta. ▶ (20 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Aioi Sta.

From airports

From Kansai International Airport (KIX)

- Nankai Electric Railway / JR Kansai Airport Rapid Service ▶ (1 hour and 15 minutes) ▶ JR Osaka Sta. ▶ JR Aioi Sta.

From Itami Airport (ITM)

- Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (30 minutes) ▶ JR Osaka Sta. ▶ JR Aioi Sta.

From Kobe Airport (UKB)

- Port Liner ▶ (20 minutes) ▶ JR Sannomiya Sta. ▶ JR Aioi Sta.

From Okayama Momotaro Airport (OKJ)

- Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (30 minutes) ▶ JR Okayama Sta. ▶ (20 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Aioi Sta.



Manyo Cape

A scenic spot offering a 180-degree view of the Seto Inland Sea. It's also a popular rest stop for drivers. With the ancient Manyoshu landscapes stretching from Awaji Island to the Ieshima Islands and Ushimado as its backdrop, Karaka island and Muronoura before your eyes preserve the scenery from over a thousand years ago, conveying the spirit of the Manyoshu. On clear days, the view stretches east to the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, south to the ridgelines of Shikoku, and west to Shodoshima Island. The sunrise and sunset viewed from the observation deck are truly spectacular.

Address: 5321 Kanegasaki, Aioi, Aioi
Access: 20 minutes by car from Sanyo Expressway "Tatsuno Nishi IC" (parking lot available)



Toomiyama Park

From the park, you can enjoy a panoramic view of the southern urban area of Aioi City and Aioi Bay. The path from the parking lot to the observation deck is a short hiking course taking about 15 minutes to reach. Cherry trees line both sides of the course, transforming it into a beautiful walking path in spring.

Address: Azakakudanisoto, Aioi, Aioi
Access: Shinkai Bus from JR Aioi Sta. to "Nose" bus stop, 15 minutes walk from the bus stop to the entrance (free parking lot available)



Aioi Fisheries Market

Sand eel in spring, conger eel and octopus in summer, swimming crabs and oysters from autumn to winter—fresh, seasonal seafood with exceptional quality fills the display. At the adjoining BBQ corner, you can grill seafood purchased at the store over charcoal. In the dine-in area, the seafood bowl overflowing with ingredients is the most popular item!

Address: 6 Aioi, Aioi
Opening hours: 9:30 to 16:00
Closed on: Wednesdays, first Tuesday
Access: 10 minutes by car from Aioi Sta., or 10 minutes by bus bound for Aioi Port to "Fuso Dentsu Nagisa Hall Mae" bus stop followed by 5 minutes walk



Aioi Peron Kaikan Museum

In addition to the Peron boat house that stores 12 wooden Peron boats, it features a boarding area for trial rides, changing rooms, and shower facilities. From the second-floor observation lobby, visitors can enjoy a panoramic view of the powerful Peron boats and the tranquil Aioi Bay. This is the hub for Peron activities.

Address: 6-7 Aioi, Aioi
Opening hours: 10:00 to 16:00
Closed on: Wednesdays
 Open only on Saturdays, Sundays and national holiday from November to March.
Admission fee: free (*Experiences will be charged.)



Roadside Station/ Sea Station
 Aioi Peron Castle

There are facilities such as natural hot springs with open-air baths, restaurants, and specialty product shops. It is popular as a rest stop for drivers and a place of relaxation for citizens. The specialty product shop offers a wide selection of goods from Aioi and West Harima, including vegetables, fruits, and flowers from local farmers. Access from the sea is also convenient, and it operates as a sea station.

Address: 8-55 Minamihonmachi, Naba, Aioi
Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:30 (specialty product shop) 10:30 to 22:00 (Peron hot spring)
Closed on: Tuesdays (Peron hot spring only) (the following day if Tuesday falls in a national holiday)



Wakasano Tenman Shrine

Also known as "Hydrangea Shrine". Many visitors come seeking peaceful moments among the hydrangeas in the quiet mountains. Known as the "Tenjin (a deity known for warding off evil)" due to hydrangeas' power to banish evil, many visitors travel from far away for a "warding-off pilgrimage" to feel nature's seasonal changes, quietly confront themselves, and purify inner demons. The subsidiary shrine, Ryuo Shrine, garners deep reverence for the powerful divine spirit of the Dragon God.

Address: 1190 Nono, Wakasano-cho, Aioi
Access: 3.5 km to the west (toward Okayama) on National Route 2 from JR Aioi Station (about 10 minutes by car)



Rakan Sekibutsu (stone Buddha statues)

Within a rock cave in the Uryu district of Yano-cho, Aioi, forest-covered mountains stand. A statue of Shaka Buddha stands at the center, surrounded by statues of Monju Bosatsu, Fugen Bosatsu, and the Sixteen Arhats. These Buddha figures possess remarkably expressive faces. While it is said they were erected to commemorate fallen samurai, the details remain unclear. Rumor has it that if a liar passes by, the cave collapses!

Address: 28 Rakanguchi, Uryuji, Yano-cho, Aioi
Access: 13 minutes by Shinkai bus bound for SPing8 from JR Aioi Sta. to "Uryu Higashi" bus stop, followed by 15 to 25 minutes walk



Rakan no Sato

This park belongs to Seiban Kyuryo Prefectural Natural Park and utilizes its natural, historical, and cultural assets, including camping grounds, a relaxation plaza, children's forest, and the Kanjosan Castle Ruins. Through camp, children can learn while having fun through experiences they wouldn't encounter in their daily lives. Facilities such as a cooking area, rest area, and creative center are available, allowing visitors to spend a fulfilling day in the open natural surroundings.

Address: 28 Rakanguchi, Uryuji, Yano-cho, Aioi
Access: 13 minutes by Shinkai bus bound for SPing8 from JR Aioi Sta. to "Uryu Higashi" bus stop, followed by 15 to 25 minutes walk



Peron boat ride experience

Visitors can experience the traditional "Peron" boat races, a 100-year-old tradition in Aioi City. In addition to the Peron boat house that stores 12 wooden Peron boats, it features a boarding area for trial rides, changing rooms, and shower facilities.

Aioi Peron Kaikan Museum

Address: 6-7 Aioi, Aioi
Experience period: April to October
Time required: 90 minutes (9:00 to 15:00)
Fee: from 1,500 yen per person
Contact: 0791-23-7133



Knife making workshop

Observing the authentic sword-making process using Tamahagane steel is extremely popular among foreign tourists visiting Himeji Castle. With a reservation, you can experience making your own paper knife or small knife.

Kikyō Hayamitsu Swordsmith

Address: 28 Rakanguchi, Uryuji, Yano-cho, Aioi
Open on: Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays
Fee: 12,000 yen (steel course)
 48,000 yen (Tamahagane steel course)
Contact: 090-8358-4748
E-mail: kikyohayamitsu.com *Reservation required



Stone Oven Bread Baking Experience

Create your own original bread. You can also bring your own ingredients! Enjoy fluffy bread baked in a stone oven with the pleasant aroma of wood.

Rakan no Sato

Address: 28 Rakanguchi, Uryuji, Yano-cho, Aioi
Fee: 6,600 yen (including ingredients for about 30 servings)
Contact: 0791-29-0900



Food

Yuzu citrus



Ogo district of Yano-cho cultivates yuzu citrus due to its suitable geological conditions, processing it into various specialty products. Among these, the "Yuzu Daifuku" is a popular item that sells out as soon as it's made. Other recommended products include marmalade and chiffon cake.

Melon



"Yano Melons" are carefully cultivated using only organic fertilizer in the fertile soil of mountainous regions. Harvested at peak ripeness, they deliver the melon's true flavor. Renowned for their sweetness and juiciness, the Yano brand is now incredibly popular in the market.

Oyster



Aioi oysters are said to have been cultivated as early as the Edo period. Seeded in the calm waters of Aioi Bay and grown in the Harimanada Sea, these oysters boast large, plump bodies. This specialty product is highly popular for its excellent taste.



Aioi Peron Festival

The major event held in Aioi Bay on the last Sunday of May, welcoming early summer to the Banshu region. It begins with the sea fireworks festival on the eve, followed by the Peron boat races and a land parade, all adding color to the town of Aioi.



Rakan no Sato Maple Festival

Held annually during the second week of November at Rakan no Sato in Uryu, Yano-cho. Along an 800-meter scarecrow road, approximately 1,000 handmade scarecrows full of creativity are displayed, along with food and drink booths and fun stage events.



Aioi Oyster Festival

Enjoy Aioi's famous "one-year-oyster" to the fullest. Every year, 15,000 visitors come to savor fresh oysters straight from the sea and enjoy the famous grilled oyster barbecue corner. You can also indulge in plump, juicy Aioi oysters at various food stalls offering oyster soup, fried oysters, oyster rice, and more.

Events

Souvenirs



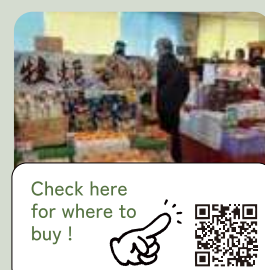
Minato Suisan Umaika



Yuzu citrus products



Ise Seika Kaminari Mangetsu



Check here for where to buy!



赤穂 AKO Misaki area

The Ako-Misaki area is embraced by the soft light and sea breezes of the Seto Inland Sea. White stone pavements, blue seas, and terrace seating where the sea breeze feels delightful. It evokes a small Mediterranean resort. Escape the everyday life and embark on a journey felt through all five senses. Savoring homemade sweets at a seaside cafe, indulging in authentic oven baked pizza, or experiencing handmade crafts at a small atelier along the way. The gently passing time in Misaki is filled with quiet inspiration. Sea, breeze, and a moment of calm. In Ako and Misaki, embark on a healing journey for yourself.

ACCESS

From Osaka area

• JR Osaka Sta. or Shin-Osaka Sta. ▶ (1 hour and 40 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Banshu-Ako Sta.

From Chugoku area

• JR Okayama Sta. ▶ (Ako Line, 1 hour and 10 minutes) ▶ JR Banshu-Ako Sta.
• JR Hiroshima Sta. ▶ (1 hour by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ (Sanyo Main Line, 30 minutes) ▶ JR Banshu-Ako Sta.

From airports

From Okayama Momotaro Airport (OKJ)

• Okayama Airport ▶ (30 minutes by Airport Shuttle Bus) ▶ JR Okayama Sta.
▶ (Ako Line) ▶ JR Banshu-Ako Sta.

From Kansai International Airport (KIX)

• Nankai Electric Railway / JR Kansai Airport Rapid Service ▶ (1 hour and 15 minutes)
▶ JR Osaka Sta. ▶ (Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Banshu-Ako Sta.

From Itami Airport (ITM)

• Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (30 minutes) ▶ JR Osaka Sta. ▶ (Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Banshu-Ako Sta.

From Kobe Airport (UKB)

• Port Liner ▶ (20 minutes) ▶ JR Sannomiya Sta.
▶ (1 hour and 15 minutes by Special Rapid Service) ▶ JR Banshu-Ako Sta.

Misaki area can be accessed by route bus (Misaki line, etc.) (20 to 25 minutes) from JR Banshu-Ako Sta.



Kirakira Saka

A path lined with ceramic tiles leading to the beautiful sea

Momoi Museum

Located on the hillside of Ako Misaki Park, offering panoramic views of Ako Misaki. Spring brings cherry blossoms in full bloom, summer bustles with the beach, autumn offers vibrant foliage, and on clear winter days, you can see the islands floating in the Seto Inland Sea. After enjoying watching Unka-yaki pottery, relax at the open-air cafe inside the building while watching the sunset over Ako Misaki, selected as one of Japan's best 100 sunset spots. The grounds also feature a swing called Angel's Swing.

Address: 634 Misaki, Ako
Opening hours: 9:00 to 16:00
Closed on: Tuesdays (the following day when Tuesday falls on a national holiday)
Access: 20 minutes by bus from JR Banshu-Ako Sta. bound for "Kamenoi Hotel Ako" to "Higashi Misaki" bus stop



Iwatsuhime Shrine

This historic shrine, recorded as the foremost of three shrines in Ako district since the Heian period, enshrines the goddess Iwatsuhime-no-Okami. One of its highlights is the view of the sea visible beyond the torii gate. Popular items include exclusive goshuin stamps and lace-type Nagomi Mamori lucky charms that are prayed over for a peaceful life as serene as the sea at Misaki.

Address: 2 Misaki, Ako
Opening hours: 24 hours
Office opening hours: 9:00 to 12:00, 13:00 to 16:00
Access: 15 minutes by bus from JR Banshu-Ako Sta. to "Misaki" bus stop, 2 minutes walk from bus stop



AMAMI TERRACE

A cafe operated by Ako Kasei Co., Ltd., a company with salt-making techniques dating back to the Edo period. The food items featuring seafood and local ingredients are popular. Inside, you can also participate in salt-making workshops. Enjoy your meal while taking in the view of Iwatsuhime Shrine and the Seto Inland Sea.

Address: 2-1 Misaki, Ako
Opening hours: 10:00 to 17:00 (last call 16:30)
Lunch: 11:00 to 14:00
Closed on: irregularly
Instagram: @amami_terrace



Misaki Glass Studio

At the back of the shop where works by numerous glass artists are displayed, there is a studio with a splendid view where the sound of waves can be heard. Visitors can enjoy stained glass experiences using imported sheet glass and plate-making workshops. Take home a one-of-a-kind, original piece as a souvenir.

Address: 2-1-1 Misaki, Ako
Opening hours: 10:00 to 17:00
Open days: Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays (for weekday opening, please check their website calendar)
<https://glass-days.com>



Ichimainoe

Every seat offers ocean views, letting you savor their home-roasted coffee, lunch, and sweets while enjoying the breathtaking scenery spread out in front of you. The terrace projecting out over the sea feels like a Mediterranean resort. Spend a relaxing time in this prime seaside spot.

Address: 2300-3 Maruyama, Osaki, Ako
Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:00
Closed on: Wednesdays (the following day when Wednesday falls on a national holiday)
Instagram: @ichimaino_e



Umi-to-Saka-to

A seaside cafe on Kirakira saka. The space, renovated by the cafe owner, also a licensed architect, from a 70-year-old traditional house, features antique furniture that creates a calm atmosphere. All items including the popular seasonal parfaits, are handmade with a gentle flavor. They pair perfectly with coffee.

Address: 2-1 Misaki, Ako
Opening hours: 11:30 to 17:00
Closed on: every other Wednesday (please check their Instagram for details)
Instagram: @umitosakato



SAKURAGUMI

A popular restaurant serving authentic Napoli-style pizza and seafood dishes made with fresh fish caught in Misaki and vegetables from Ako. It's also renowned as the first restaurant in Japan certified by the Neapolitan Pizza Association. Reservations are required for course meals. Experience the authentic taste of Naples created with ingredients from Ako.

Address: 2-1 Misaki, Ako
Opening hours: Lunch 11:30 to 16:00 (last call 15:30)
Dinner 18:00 to 21:00 (last call 19:30)
Closed on: Tuesdays (the following day when Tuesday falls on a national holiday), third Monday, first and third Wednesdays



Ako Onsen Ginpaso

A popular hotel featuring open-air baths with breathtaking views overlooking the Seto Inland Sea. This hot spring hotel offers 100% natural flowing spring water and at a restaurant, Ako's famous oysters alongside seasonal cuisine are served. Day-use bathing is also available.

Address: 2-8 Misaki, Ako
Opening hours: [day-use bathing] 11:30 to 14:30 / 18:00 to 20:00 (last admission 19:00)
Closed on: irregularly (closed on December 31 and January 1 for day-use bathing)
Bath fee: 2,300 yen for adults, 1,500 yen for children, 800 yen for small children, free for 2 year-old and younger *During New Year holidays (December 29 to January 5), an additional 500 yen will be charged.





Stained Glass Making

You can make hand-sized ornaments, mirrors, and more. The themes change with the seasons, so you can enjoy them year-round.

Misaki Glass Studio

Address: 2-1-1 Misaki, Ako

Opening hours: 10:00 to 17:00

Fee: from 5,500 yen per person (about two hours)*You can take your completed work home with you on the day.

Contact: <https://glass-days.com>

(Reservation in advance required)



Salt Making Experience

Experience learning about Japan legacy, salt making in Ako. This plan includes a special lunch featuring rare fish.

AMAMI TERRACE

Address: 2-1 Misaki, Ako

Opening hours: 10:00 to 17:00

Experiences are held on weekdays starting at 10:30.

Fee: 5,690 yen

Contact: reservation required on the website "otonami"



Ako Dantsu Rugs Weaving Experience with Small Looms

They offer experience of creating Ako Dantsu (a unique Japanese woven fabric featuring various patterns, used on top of tatami mats) items and tour of the factory. Your finished piece will be delivered to you at a later date.

*Reservations in advance required. Please see their website for details.

Ako Dantsu Gijutsu Kenshu Kobo "Tsumugu"

Address: 2073-4 Kariya, Ako

Opening hours: 10:00 to 16:00

Workshops are held during weekday opening hours. Closed on Tuesdays and during year-end and New Year holidays.

Fee: 6,000 yen per person (including shipping)

Contact: ako.dan.tsuu@gmail.com

(reservation in advance required)



Unka-yaki Pottery Experience

Create your favorite plate with the legendary Unka-yaki pottery.

Momoi Museum

Address: 634 Misaki, Ako

Opening hours:

9:00 to 16:00 Workshops are held during weekday opening hours

Closed on Tuesdays

Fee: 3,850 yen (excluding shipping)

Contact: 0791-56-9933

(Reservations required at least 3 days in advance)



Food

Sakoshi oysters



Oysters cultivated in Ako Sakoshi Bay are characterized by their exceptionally rich and creamy flavor. Benefiting from the waters of the Chigusa River, selected as one of Japan's best 100 water, and the natural forest of Ikushima, a designated Natural Monument, these oysters mature in just one year and are called "one-year oysters."

Ako Oyster Plump Steak



Grown to plump perfection in just one year, Ako oysters are shucked and grilled, then seasoned with each restaurant's original blend to create the beloved "Ako Oyster Plump Steak," served at many dining spots.

Ako salt



Natural salt with an excellent mineral balance. A wide variety, including mild tasting roasted salt, as well as blended types like kelp salt and shiso salt are offered.

Ako mandarin orange



Characterized by a rich flavor with a well-balanced sweetness and acidity. Grown on south-facing slopes facing the Seto Inland Sea, these oranges thrive in an ideal location, soaking up abundant sunlight and the mineral-rich sea breeze, resulting in many large fruits.



Ako mandarin orange picking

At the mandarin orange orchard nestled on a mountainside overlooking the city, you can savor the delicious taste of freshly picked fruit right there. Enjoy all-you can-eat Ako mandarin oranges, known for their strong citrusy flavor, high sugar content, and rich taste. (Note: event period in 2025: November 1 to November 24)



Ako Misaki Machinaka Art

Held annually in autumn (around November) in the Misaki area. Contemporary artists and local artists display their works. An urban art event where the sea, breeze, and craftsmanship are harmonized. Various workshops are also held.



Sakoshi Boat Festival

Every October, a traditional event takes place in Sakoshi, Ako City. Centered around a ceremonial boat carrying a portable shrine, a colorful fleet navigates Sakoshi Bay in this magnificent maritime festival. Designated as an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Asset of Japan, its powerful scenery is a major attraction.



Ako Gishi Festival

The largest event in the city, held every December 14th in Ako, the setting of the Chushingura story. The highlight is the "Genroku Emaki Parade," where people dressed in Genroku-period samurai costumes parade through the town. Enjoy the day with a local products fair featuring nearby specialties and events held throughout the city.

Events

Souvenirs



Shioimi Manju (salty sweet steamed bun)



Ako Unka-yaki Pottery



Seishu Chushingura



Ako Dantsu

豊岡 TOYOOKA

Toyooka, a town rich in nature in northern Hyogo Prefecture, home to Sanin Kaigan National Park. Known as the site for the reintroduction of oriental white stork, a Special Natural Monument, encountering these birds soaring through the sky is a unique charm of this area. It boasts Japan's renowned hot spring Kinosaki Onsen, the crystal-clear waters of Takenohama Beach, and abundant seasonal delicacies including winter's Matsuba crab and Tajima beef. As a cultural town where theater and traditional events thrive, it offers visitors diverse attractions. Toyooka, where history, nature, cuisine, and culture harmonize, is a travel base where the essence of Japan remains.

ACCESS

From Osaka and Kyoto area

- JR Osaka Sta. or Shin-Osaka Sta. ▶ (2 hours and 30 minutes by Limited Express Kounotori) ▶ JR Toyooka Sta.
- JR Kyoto Sta. ▶ (2 hours and 10 minutes by San'in Main Line Limited Express Kinosaki) ▶ JR Toyooka Sta.

From Chugoku area

- JR Okayama Sta. ▶ (40 minutes by Sanyo Shinkansen) ▶ JR Himeji Sta. ▶ (1 hour and 40 minutes by Limited Express Hamakaze) ▶ JR Toyooka Sta.

From airports

From Kounotori Tajima Airport (TJH)

- Itami Airport to Tajima Airport (40 minutes by JAL) ▶ (10 minutes by car from airport to JR Toyooka Sta.)

From Kansai International Airport (KIX)

- Nankai Electric Railway / JR Kansai Airport Rapid Service ▶ (1 hour and 15 minutes) ▶ JR Osaka Sta. ▶ (Limited Express Kounotori) ▶ JR Toyooka Sta.

From Osaka Itami Airport (ITM)

- Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (30 minutes) ▶ JR Osaka Sta. ▶ (Limited Express Kounotori) ▶ JR Toyooka Sta.

From Kobe Airport (UKB)

- Port Liner ▶ (20 minutes) ▶ JR Sannomiya Sta. ▶ (2 hours and 30 minutes by Limited Express Hamakaze) ▶ JR Toyooka Sta.

From Tottori Sand Dunes Conan Airport (TTJ)

- Airport Shuttle Bus ▶ (20 minutes) ▶ JR Tottori Sta. ▶ (Limited Express Hamakaze, 1 hour and 30 minutes) ▶ JR Toyooka Sta.



Hyogo Park of the Oriental White Stork

A park dedicated to the conservation, breeding, and reintroduction of storks. Visitors can observe storks up close at the park's observation facilities. The park also features educational facilities promoting stork reintroduction and a museum conveying the natural history of the Toyooka Basin. It serves as a place to learn about the history of citizens' efforts toward stork reintroduction, stork habitat, and the environment of Toyooka.

Address: 128 Shounji, Toyooka
Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:00
Closed on: Mondays (the following day when Monday falls on a national holiday), New Year's Holiday
Access: Zentan bus from JR Toyooka Sta. to "Kounotori no Sato Koen" bus stop



**Genbudo Park
Genbudo Museum**

A park where you can feel the mysteries of nature from about 1.6 million years ago. The cooled and solidified magma has created beautiful fissures. The Stone Museum at the base introduces various stones from around the world and the traditional industry "Toyooka Kiryu (willow) Crafts," offering rock and gemstone workshops as well as basket weaving workshops.

Address: 1347, 1362 Akashi, Toyooka
Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:00 (last admission 16:30)
Closed on: New Year's Holiday (December 29 to January 3)
Admission fee: 500 yen for adults, 300 yen for students, free for junior high school students and younger



**Kaban (bag)
Artisan Avenue**

Toyooka City, one of Japan's largest bag producing regions, is home to the unique shopping street "Kaban (bag) Artisan Avenue". Bag-themed elements are everywhere—from bag vending machines to benches and mailboxes. Nearly half the shops on the street specialize in bags.

Address: 7-23 Chuomachi, Toyooka
Opening hours: vary depending on the shops
Closed on: vary depending on the shops
Access: 10 minutes walk along Daikai Street from JR Toyooka Sta.



Kinosaki Marine World

An aquarium that goes beyond your expectations. Alongside the main tank with a depth of 12 meters, you can enjoy penguin walks, dolphin and sea lion shows, and the spectacular steller's sea lion dives—all packed with the wonder of the ocean. Popular attractions include interacting with creatures during fish lunchtime, fish dances, and horse mackerel fishing.

Address: 1090 Seto, Toyooka
Opening hours: 9:30 to 16:30 (last admission 16:00)
Closed on: irregularly
Admission fee: 2,800 yen for adults, 1,400 yen for children, 700 yen for small children



Kinosaki Onsen

With over 1,300 years of history since its founding, it has been cherished since the Nara period. It is also renowned for its hot spring hopping, and strolling around in yukata is highly recommended. Hot spring ryokans line the streets, and you can enjoy the charming atmosphere as evening lights illuminate the willow trees along the Otanigawa River.

Address: Yushima, Kinosaki-cho, Toyooka
Opening hours: each hot spring facility is open until around 23:00
Access: from Osaka / Kyoto via JR Limited Express, a short walk from JR Kinosaki Onsen Sta., or approximately 40 minutes by bus from Kounotori Tajima Airport.



**Izushi Castle Ruins
and Castle Town**

Built in 1604 by Yoshihide Koide at the foot of Arikoyama mountain, this is a hilltop castle. Izushi, known as the Little Kyoto of Tajima, was developed alongside the construction of this castle and flourished as the center of a 58,000 koku domain. Shinkoro Clock Tower, a symbol of Izushi, is also located in this area and, together with the charming streetscape, is popular with tourists.

Address: Izushi-cho, Toyooka
Access: from Osaka / Kyoto area: take the JR Limited Express to JR Toyooka Sta., then transfer to the Zentan Bus bound for Izushi (about 30 minutes). Alternatively, from Tajima Airport, 45 minutes by bus including transfer at Toyooka Sta.



Izushi Eirakukan

A theater hall opened in the late Meiji period. It is considered the oldest theater hall in existence in the Kansai region. It hosted performances of kabuki, rakugo, and movies, flourishing as part of Tajima's popular culture. It is also a popular filming location for movies.

Address: 17-2 Yanagi, Izushi-cho, Toyooka
Opening hours: 9:30 to 17:00 (last admission 16:30)
Closed on: Thursdays, December 31, January 1
Admission fee: 400 yen for adults, 240 yen for students, free for junior high school students and younger



Tajima Ankokuji Temple

Tajima Ankokuji Temple, a famous autumn foliage spot in Aida, Tanto-cho. Every year around mid-November, the over 100-year-old Japanese enkianthus trees in the back garden burst into vivid autumn colors. The view of them seen beyond the main hall and across the tatami room is truly spectacular. It is a quiet, peaceful space where you can feel the changing seasons.

Address: 327 Aida, Tanto-cho, Toyooka
Opening hours: weekdays during November public open days 8:00 to 17:00 (last admission 16:30)
Closed on: Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays during the above period
Admission fee: 500 yen (free for junior high school students and younger)



Experience



Leather Goods Craft



In one of Japan's renowned craft districts for bags, learn a facet of traditional craftsmanship while creating original leather items that serve as both practical items and travel memories.

Toyooka KABAN Artisan Avenue

Address: 18-10 Chuo-cho, Toyooka
Opening hours: weekdays 11:00 to 17:30, Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 to 17:30
 *Closed on Wednesdays
 *No experience reservation accepted on Sundays and national holidays.
Fee: 3,300 yen to 8,800 yen per person (seven available courses)
Contact: 0796-34-8118 (reservation in advance required)

Skydiving

The only place in Western Japan where you can experience skydiving! If visibility is good, you might even catch a view of Amanohashidate, one of Japan's Three Scenic Views.

Skydiving Kansai

Address: 1598-35 Kodani, Iwai, Toyooka
Tajima Airport West Side Hangar
Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:00
Fee: 58,000 yen
Contact: 0796-430-1002 (reservation in advance required)



Sea activities

At Takenohama Beach facing the Japan Sea, enjoy sea activities like the "Takenotic Lagoon" water adventure course and SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard) experiences in the crystal-clear waters.

Experience Facilities: Takenohama Beach, Takeno Tourism Association, Takeno Children's Experience Village, etc.

Canoeing & SUP



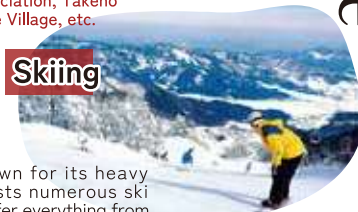
Across from Kinokuni Onsen, along the Maruyama River, a vast property stretches out with superb views. With a one-day pass, enjoy unlimited canoeing, SUP, and swimming in the pool! Parking is free.

Hyogo Prefectural Maruyamagawa Park

Address: 1163 Oshima, Toyooka
Opening period: March to November (open every day from May to November)
Contact: 0796-28-3085
 *Prior phone confirmation required



Skiing



Toyooka, known for its heavy snowfall, boasts numerous ski resorts. They offer everything from child-friendly courses to challenging advanced courses. The breathtaking views from the slopes are another major attraction.

Experience Facilities: Manba Ski and Snowboard Resort, UP Kannabe Ski Resort, Okukan Ski Resort, and more

Food

Tajima beef



Tajima Beef is renowned for its tender, perfectly marbled, premium beef rich in juices. Tajima cattle are a Japanese Black breed raised primarily around Toyooka, prized for their beautiful marbling and melt-in-your-mouth texture. They are also famous as the source cattle for Kobe Beef, representing the roots of Japanese wagyu beef.

Crab Cuisine



When it comes to Toyooka winter specialty, crab is a must. Whether boiled or grilled, it's an exquisite delicacy packed with sweetness and savory flavor in any dish. Among them, the "Tsuiyama Crab" landed at Tsuiyama Port is a brand renowned for its exceptional freshness. Its blue tag is proof of this, and once tasted, it's an unforgettable experience.

Soba (buckwheat) noodles



Flavors of Toyooka, nurtured by nature and history. Experience the distinct tastes of each: "Izushi Soba", rooted in Shinshu region; "Tokose Soba", with yam flavor; and the legendary 100% buckwheat soba noodle "Akahana Soba." Each flavor embodies the local climate and culture.

Fresh live squid



Almost transparent fresh squid is prepared right before your eyes. The sight of its moving legs and shiny body spreads wonder and delight—a masterpiece nurtured by the sea of Kasumi and Tajima. You'll be amazed when you see it, and delighted when you taste it! This photogenic delicacy is an incredibly popular specialty.



Tanto Tulip Festival

A field bursts with a million vibrant tulips in full bloom. The giant flower bed features floral art created with about 100,000 blooms, a popular attraction for visitors. (Located within Tanto Flower Park. Admission fee required during this period, usually for approximately 12 days starting mid-April.)



Willow Festival

A summer festival honoring the guardian deity of "Kiryu" (willow trees), which protects Toyooka's traditional willow craft industry. Held annually on August 1 and 2, it bustles with events like the Toyooka dance, mikoshi processions, and fireworks displays. Beginning after the shrine's reconstruction in 1935, it remains a beloved summer tradition cherished by the community.



Toyooka Theater Festival

An interactive theater festival that integrates with tourism and community development, using various locations throughout the city (theaters, hot spring districts, shrines, beaches, etc.) as stages. Domestic and international artists present diverse theater productions and performances. It has become one of Japan's largest performing arts festivals.



Izushi Castle Festival

The main attractions are the "Children's Daimyo Procession," where 100 children dressed in historical costumes parade through the castle town, and the "Adult Daimyo Procession Spear-Wielding," where adults dressed as samurai while brandishing spears. These events recreate the scenes of the Edo period's system of regional feudal lords reporting to the shogun.

Events

Souvenirs



Toyooka bag



Willow craft



Straw craft



Izushi-yaki pottery



Tajima Chirimen

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.

*Available only to visitors from abroad traveling to Japan for tourism purposes



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

Address: 8 Kumoi-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe
South of JR Sannomiya Sta. east exit
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



Akashi Tourist Association Akashi Information Center

Address: 1-23, Oh-Akashi-cho, Akashi
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

Address: 503-2 Mizonokuchi, Kakogawa-cho,
Kakogawa Inside JR Kakogawa Sta.
Opening hours: 9:30 to 18:00
Closed on: December 29 to January 3
Official website:
Kakogawa Tourism Association



Tourist Information MUSUBING

Address: 533-1 Imazu-machi, Takasago-cho,
Takasago
Opening hours: 10:00 to 17:00
Closed on: December 29 to January 3
Official website:
TAKASAGO City Tourism & Visitors Bureau



Himeji City Tourist Information Center Himeji Sightseeing Navi Port

Address: 210-2 Ekimae-cho, Himeji (JR Himeji
Sta., northwest side of the central concourse)
Opening hours: 8:30 to 18:30
Closed on: December 29, 30
(and facility inspection days)
Official website:
official travel guide "Visit Himeji"



Tatsuno Information

Address: 301-2 Nakamura, Tatsuno-cho,
Tatsuno Inside JR Kishin Line Hon-Tatsuno Sta.
Opening hours: 9:00 to 16:45
Closed on: New Year's Holiday
Official website: Tatsuno City Tourism
Association official website Tatsuno Tourism



Aioi Information Lounge

Address: 1-10 Hongo-cho, Aioi
Opening hours: 9:00 to 19:00
Closed on: none
Official website: Aioi Tourism Navigation



General Incorporated Association Ako Tourism Association

Address: 328 Kariya, Ako
second floor of Ako Station Building
Opening hours: 9:00 to 19:00
Closed on: none
Official website: Ako Kankou FEEL AKO TIME



Toyooka Tourism Association

Address: 3-2 Otemachi, Toyooka
Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:00
Closed on: Mondays
Official website: Rokumentai Toyooka



Explore Kansai from Kobe Airport!

Kobe Airport offers excellent access to the Shinkansen, trains, and buses, making it very convenient for trips to major sightseeing spots across Kansai and Chugoku-Shikoku regions.



KOBE AIRPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

*THE INFORMATION ON THIS PAMPHLET IS
AS OF NOVEMBER, 2025.
IT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE THEREAFTER.
*THE ESTIMATED TRAVEL TIMES ARE FOR WHEN
USING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
FROM KOBE AIRPORT.

