

HYOGO

A JAPAN IN MINIATURE

Culture
Food

Onsen
Nature



ABOUT HYOGO



Hyogo Prefecture is located in the Kansai region, and can be reached in less than an hour by train from Kyoto City, Osaka City, and the Kansai International Airport. The prefecture can also be reached by bullet train in 3-3.5 hours from Tokyo.

Hyogo is a great place to visit for culture, food, experiences, and adventures off the beaten track!

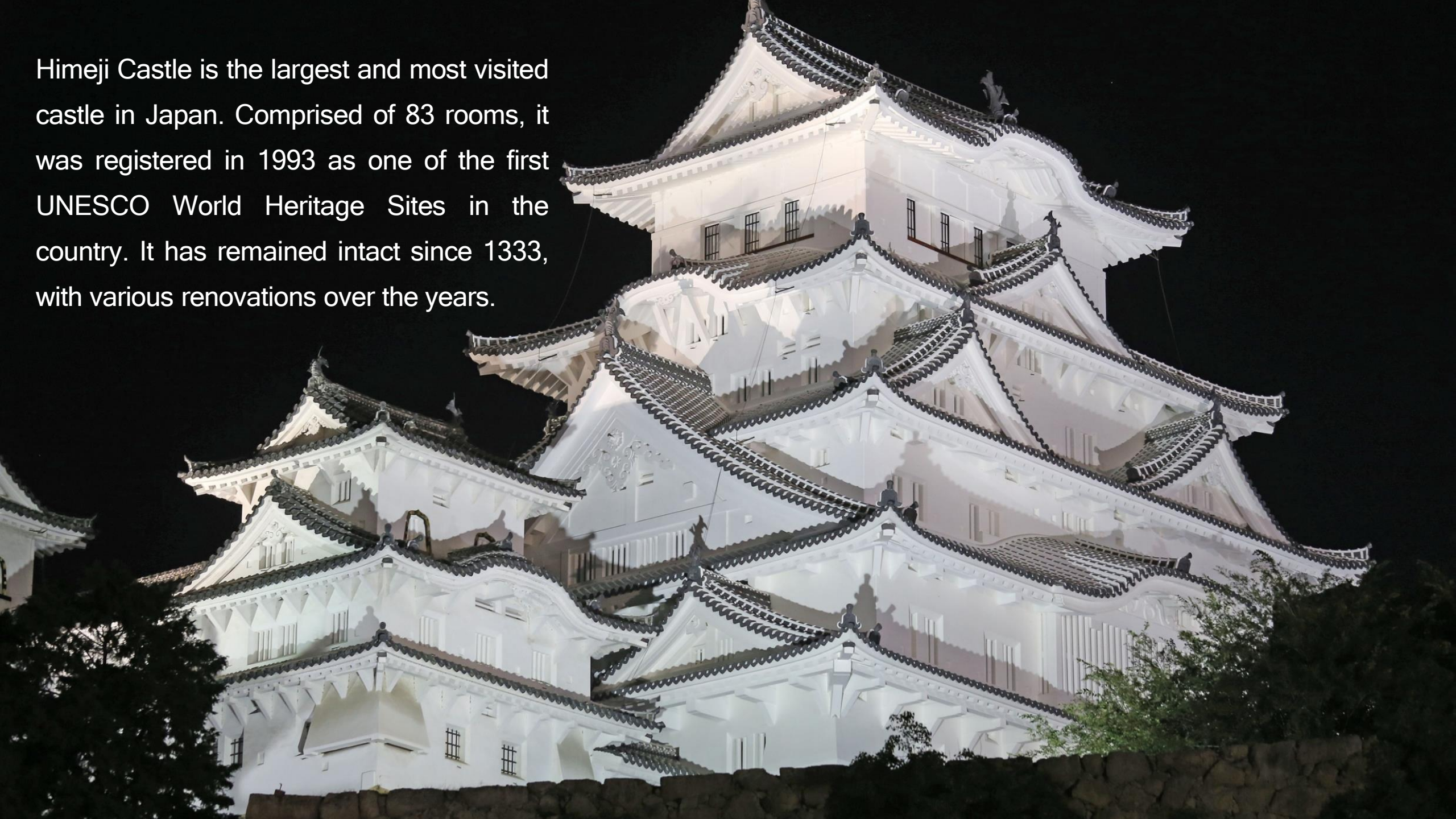
Learn more about transportation [to Hyogo from airports](#) & [around Hyogo](#).

A photograph of Himeji Castle, a white multi-tiered Japanese castle with black tiled roofs, situated on a hill. The castle is surrounded by blooming pink cherry blossoms. The sky is clear blue. The image is framed by a white banner at the top right and a white banner at the bottom left.

HIMEJI CASTLE

TRADITION & CULTURE

Himeji Castle is the largest and most visited castle in Japan. Comprised of 83 rooms, it was registered in 1993 as one of the first UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the country. It has remained intact since 1333, with various renovations over the years.



Culture



Tea Ceremony

The garden's [tea house](#) was designed under the supervision of the former 15th Urasenke Grand Tea Master. Visitors can participate in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony while enjoying a gorgeous garden and castle view.

Koko-en Garden

Located next to [Himeji Castle](#), consists of [9 separate gardens](#) designed in various styles reflective of Edo-period architecture. The gardens are designed to reflect the best of Japan's four seasons.





Koko-en Garden



A nighttime photograph of the Kobe City & Port area. The water in the foreground is dark with reflections of the city lights. In the middle ground, several boats are docked at a pier, including a large white and blue ferry. Behind the boats, a large, modern building with a curved, illuminated facade stands out. To the right, the iconic Kobe Port Tower is brightly lit with orange and red lights, its name 'Kobe Port Tower' visible at the top. Further right, a building with a green, illuminated, wave-like roof is visible. The background shows a dense urban skyline under a clear night sky.

KOBE CITY & PORT

FOOD & SAKE

Kobe is a port city that also serves as Hyogo's capital. It is known for its beautiful cityscape, delectable cuisine, refined sake, and stylish cafes.



Food

Stylish Cafes

Kobe is home to many unique and trendy cafes, including a [Starbucks](#) housed inside of an antique building in the Kobe's foreign settlement area. Another cafe is [Freundlieb](#), located in a renovated German church.

Kobe Beef

Wagyu beef from cattle raised in Hyogo Prefecture. It is considered a delicacy, valued for its flavor, tenderness, and fatty, well-marbled texture. There are [many places](#) in the city in which travelers can try it.



Steakland

Cafe & Meal Muji Kobe BAL



Starbucks



Tooth Tooth Garden Restaurant



Freundlieb



Sake

Sake Brewery

Hyogo Prefecture is #1 in the production of sake in Japan, with [over 60 breweries](#). In Kobe lives [Nada sake](#), made from breweries that together account for just over ¼ of the sake production in the entire country.

Museum & Tour

Several sake breweries in Kobe also have museums and/or tours in which visitors can get a feel for the tradition and inner-workings of sake-making. These include [Hakutsuru](#), [Kobe Shushinkan](#), and [Kiku-Masamune](#).





Hakutsuru Sake Brewery Museum



Kiku-Masamune Sake Brewery Museum

A nighttime photograph of Kinosaki Onsen. In the foreground, a stone bridge with a low railing spans a calm river. Two people are standing on the bridge, looking towards the background. The river reflects the warm lights from the buildings and the street lamps. On the left, a stone wall runs along the riverbank. In the background, traditional Japanese buildings with tiled roofs are visible, partially obscured by the branches of weeping willow trees. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

KINOSAKI ONSEN

ONSEN & RYOKAN

For a relaxing experience in onsen (hot springs) and ryokan (traditional Japanese inns), travelers can make their way up north to Kinosaki Onsen. This 1300-year-old town has a charming atmosphere, along with seven public hot spring bathhouses.

Guests can check into a ryokan, receive a pass to visit all seven bathhouses, and stroll through town in yukata to go onsen-hopping.



Onsen

Hot Springs

Kinosaki Onsen is home to seven public bathhouses, each with natural hot springs and their own charm. With both indoor and outdoor baths, visitors can soak in as many as they want with [a ryokan-issued pass](#).

Luxurious Ryokan

Guests have [over 80 ryokan](#) to choose from for their stay in town. The traditional ryokan rooms are known for being beautifully simple and elegant. A stay in one often comes with a [luxurious multi-course meal](#) for dinner.



Nishimuraya Honkan



Multi-course ryokan dinner



AWAJI ISLAND

Awaji is an island located south of Kobe and Himeji, and also acts as a gateway to Shikoku. Guests can check into a ryokan, receive a pass to visit all seven bathhouses, and stroll through town in yukata to go onsen-hopping.

Awaji has many fascinating places packed into a small island, each of which can be reached by bicycle. Guests can try fun activities ranging from cycling and zipling to watching a puppet show and glamping.

NATURE & CYCLING



Nature

Awaichi Cycling

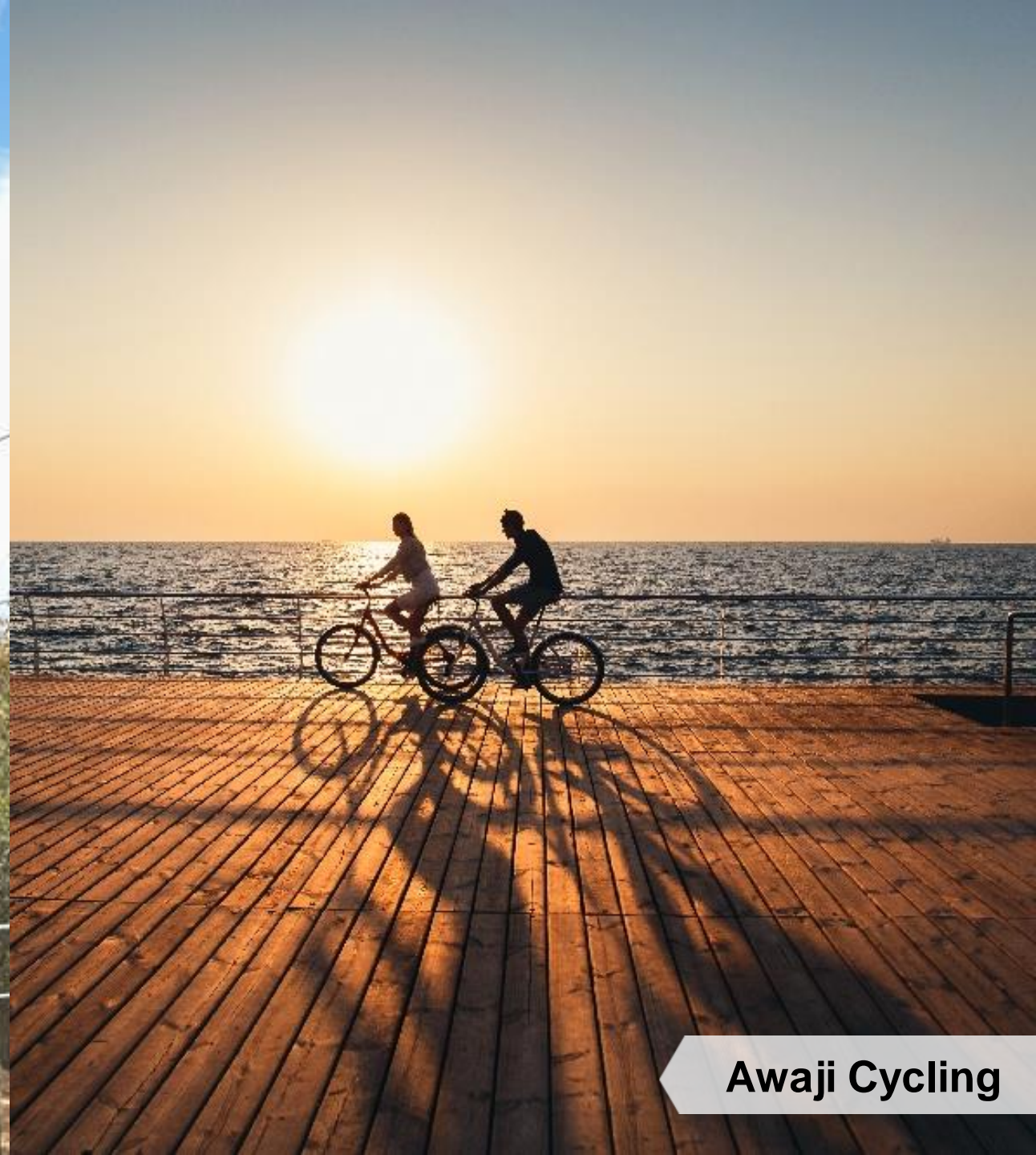
The island is known for [Awaichi](#), which is cycling around Awaji's entire perimeter. Less experienced cyclists and those who want to focus more on sightseeing can choose from a number of routes of varying difficulty.

Natural Phenomena

Awaji Island is home to many interesting spots, including the [Naruto Whirlpools](#), various [flower parks](#), and [Eshima Island](#). Visitors can rent a bicycle from a number of [rental shops](#) throughout the island to explore.



Godzilla Zipline (Nijigen no Mori)



Awaji Cycling

SAMPLE ITINERARIES



Himeji

Day 1

- Arrive in Himeji City
- Visit Koko-en Garden
- Tea ceremony experience

Day 2

- Explore Himeji Castle
- Depart for next destination



Awaji
Island

Day 1

- Arrive in Awaji Island
- Go cycling
- Spend the night in a hotel or at a glamping site

Day 2

- Continue cycling, visit flower fields
- Go on Naruto Whirlpool cruise
- Depart for next destination



Kobe

Day 1

- Arrive in Kobe
- Explore Kobe's port area
- Eat Kobe Beef for dinner

Day 2

- Tour a sake brewery
- Explore Kitano-cho, Kobe's foreign settlement
- Depart for next destination

TRANSPORTATION



Big Cities

Himeji

- 🚆 50 min from Osaka
- 🚆 1 ½ hours from Kyoto

Kobe

- 🚆 15 minutes from Osaka
- 🚆 30 minutes from Kyoto



Hidden Spots

Kinosaki Onsen

- 🚆 2 ½ hours from Osaka
- 🚆 2 ½ hours from Kyoto

Awaji Island

- 🚌 1 hour from Osaka
- 🚌 2 ½ hours from Kyoto





TRANSPORTATION

Combined Trips with Awaji

Option 1

	Osaka	1 hour	Awaji
	Awaji	30 minutes	Kobe
	Kobe	1 hour	Himeji
	Himeji	15 minutes	Kyoto





Option 2

	Osaka	1 hour	Awaji
	Awaji	30 minutes	Kobe
	Kobe	1 hour	Himeji
	Himeji	1 hour 15 min	Hiroshima



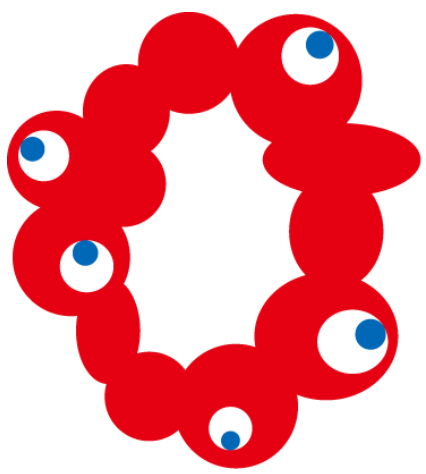
Combined Trips with Kinokuni

Option 1

	Kyoto	2 ½ hours	Kinokuni
	Kinokuni	1 hour 50 min	Himeji
	Himeji	50 minutes	Kobe
	Kobe	15 minutes	Osaka

Option 2

	Kyoto/Osaka	15-30 min	Kobe
	Kobe	2 ½ hours	Kinokuni
	Kinokuni	1 hour 50 min	Himeji
	Himeji	1 hour 15 min	Hiroshima



OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN EXPO 2025



Designing Future Society for Our Lives

- Schedule: April 13 – October 13, 2025
- Venue: Yumeshima, Osaka

SAY 'KONNICHIWA' TO KOBE

Home / Destinations / Asia Cruises / Kobe, Japan

CRUISE TO KOBE, JAPAN

Perched on a hill sloping down to the sea, Kobe is a maritime gateway to one of Japan's most metropolitan cities. Mt. Rokko dominates the skyline — from the summit, you can glimpse one of the best views in all Japan. Of course, Kobe's also famous for breeding Wagyu cows that produce some of the highest-quality beef in the world. The stuff is so delicious that almost every restaurant in the area stocks it. Cruise to Japan and make your visit a full foodie mission and stop off at Osaka to indulge in the local tradition of kuidaore — "eat until you drop."

NATIONAL LANGUAGE
JAPANESE
CURRENCY ACCEPTED
JAPANESE YEN (JPY)

Cruises



Port of Kobe

Kobe is a home port for cruise ships such as [Princess Cruise Line](#), [Royal Caribbean](#), and [Holland America Line](#). Located at the base of beautiful Rokko Mountains, the harbor provides a great place to stop on one's cruise journey. The port has worked for 100 years as the one of the oldest harbors. Ahead of many other ports of the world, the Port of Kobe continues to modernize as international travel grows.

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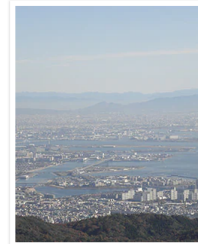
Select a Destination

Select

Then Select Port of Call

Select

View Details



Kobe, Japan

[View cruises with Kobe, Japan](#)

Kobe is the fifth-largest city in Japan and is the capital city of Hyogo Prefecture on the southern side of the main island of Honshu. Its name comes from "kanbe", an archaic title for supporters of the city's Ikuta Shrine. With a population of about 1.5 million, the city is part of the Keihanshin (Keihanshin) metropolitan area along with Osaka and Kyoto.

The earliest written records regarding the region come from the Nihon Shoki, which describes the founding of the Ikuta Shrine by Empress Jingū in AD 201. For most of its history the area was never a single political entity, even during the Tokugawa Period, when the port was controlled directly by the Tokugawa Shogunate. Kobe did not exist in its current form until its founding in 1889.

Kobe was one of the cities to open for trade with the West following the end of the policy of seclusion and has since been known as a cosmopolitan port city. While the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake diminished much of Kobe's prominence as a port city, it remains Japan's fourth busiest container port. The city is the point of origin and namesake of Kobe beef as well as the site of one of Japan's most famous hot spring resorts, Arima Onsen. Kobe is also your gateway to Kyoto, Japan's ancient imperial capital and the nation's cultural and spiritual center.

[Show Less](#)

Points of Interest

- Golden Pavilion (Kyoto)
- Ryoanji Temple (Kyoto)
- Nijo Castle
- Kitano-cho (Kobe)
- Mt Rokko
- Sake Brewery Museum
- Awajishima Island
- Ishiyama-dera Temple

[Learn about these Points of Interest](#)

More Information



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