

Hyogo Heritage Route

# Starting Points

A trip along the Hyogo Heritage Route will take travelers from Himeji to Kinosaki Onsen. Hop on a rent-a-cycle and embark on an enjoyable tour of these quaint cities! After a relaxing stay at one of the area's comfortable inns, hop on a JR train and get off at any station along the way, as each station offers a variety of fun day-trip courses. The Hyogo Heritage Route also offers convenient access to surrounding destinations including Osaka and Kyoto in the Kansai area or Okayama.

\*Recommended courses from individual stations can be found starting on P. 23.



Kyoto	2 hrs 20 min by JR Limited Express	Kinosaki-onsen
Osaka	2 hrs 40 min by JR Limited Express	Kinosaki-onsen
Kyoto	1 hr 30 min by special rapid services	Himeji
Osaka	1 hr by special rapid services	Himeji
Okayama	20 min by Nozomi Shinkansen	Himeji

\*All travel times are approximate.



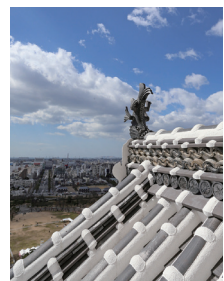
Glide along the tracks aboard the diesel-powered Limited Express Hamakaze. For those heading to the Kinosaki area from Osaka, the Hamakaze is the only regular-service limited express train that operates on the Bantan Line. Passengers will be treated to stunning views of both the sea and mountains as the train travels from the Seto Inland Sea to the Sea of Japan.



## HIMEJI

### Enjoying Himeji Castle and the castle-town atmosphere to the fullest

Boasting Japan's largest existing castle architecture, Himeji Castle was built in the Keicho era and is said to have been the most complete castle at the height of Japan's unique building techniques. With its massive-yet-beautiful structure and grouped castle towers, the structurally beautiful Himeji Castle is said to contain every aspect that makes Japanese castles so appealing. The castle is built atop a spiral-type layout that includes stone walls built by Kanbei Kuroda and features highly decorative katomado windows. The castle's main tower offers a panoramic view of the castle town, Himeji, and must have been a familiar site to Hideyoshi Toyotomi and Kanbei Kuroda. The area around the castle includes various locations where visitors can enjoy historical and cultural sites including Koko-en Garden, the Himeji City Museum of Literature (designed by the architect Tadao Ando), and Shoshazan Enkyo-ji Temple—a location made famous by its use in such films as "The Last Samurai"—just a short trip away.



View from main tower

**Himeji-jo Castle World Heritage Site and National Treasure**  
Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, this beautiful castle is also known as "Shirasagi-jo" (White Heron Castle) for its completely white stucco walls and elegant appearance. Following five and a half years of restoration work under the Heisei Renovation project, the famous chalk-white castle reopened to the public in March 2015. This definitely is a must-see sight. Address: 68 Hon-machi, Himeji City | Castle hours: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (gates close at 5:00 pm) / Summer hours (Apr. 27 – Aug. 31): 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (gates close at 6:00 pm) | Closed: December 29, 30 | Tel.: 079-285-1146 (Himeji-jo Castle Management Office) | Admission: Adults (18 and over): 1,000 yen; Children (elementary, junior high, and high school students): 300 yen; Groups of 30 or more: 800 yen (adults) / 240 yen (children) | Web: <http://www.city.himeji.lg.jp/guide/castle/>



## KINOSAKI ONSEN

### Relax body and mind in Kinosaki's hot springs

The spa town of Kinosaki lies along the Otani River, a distributary of the Maruyama River. Boasting a history beginning some 1,300 years ago, Kinosaki Onsen offers visitors a variety of exciting experiences, such as touring the area's seven hot springs (public baths) including Otori-no-yu and Mandala-yu. A beloved hot spring destination for literarians, the city became known throughout Japan as the setting of Naoya Shiga's "At Cape Kinosaki."




"Matsuba" snow crab, one of Kinosaki Onsen's most famous products




**Footbaths**  
Kinosaki Onsen offers free footbaths in five locations. ① In front of Sato no Yu ② In front of Kinosaki Literary Museum ③ In front of and on the side of Yanagi Yu ④ On the side of Ichi no Yu ⑤ On the side of "Yakushi Izugen" Kinosaki HotSpring Tourist Information Center: 0796-32-3663






**"Himeji Kanko Navi Port," Himeji City Tourist Information Center**  
① Consisting of three "zones"—a welcome zone, an information zone, and a communication zone—the "Himeji Kanko Navi Port" information center handles tourism bicycle rentals and wheelchair lending in addition to providing tourist information and accommodation guidance. Location: West side of JR Himeji Station's central concourse | Hours: 9:00 am – 7:00 pm | Closed: December 29 and 30, and facility inspection days | Tel.: 079-287-0003




**"Hime-chari Bicycle Sharing System" Rent-a-Cycle**  
② With lending facilities called "Cycle Stations" established at Himeji Station and around Himeji Castle, the "Hime-chari" bicycle rental system allows users to rent or return bicycles at any participating location. Location: 16 locations throughout Himeji (Visit <http://interstreet.jp/himeji> for details.) | Tel.: 050-3786-5055 (9:00 am – 6:00 pm)





**Bantan Line entrance inside JR Himeji Station**  
① To access trains bound for Kinosaki Onsen, follow the signs inside Himeji Station to trains bound for Teramae and Wadayama on the Bantan Line. Travel times to Kinosaki Onsen are 1 hr 40 min on Limited Express Hamakaze trains and 3 hrs on connecting conventional lines and local services. ② Trains bound for Teramae and Wadayama on the Bantan Line depart from platforms 1 and 2. ③ This is the ticket gate for the Bantan Line. Passengers coming from the Osaka area can put their tickets directly into the gate. ④ This sign shows directions to the Bantan Line platforms. Large signs are installed along the platforms to easily direct passengers.



**Rent-a-cycle**  
Michelin bicycles are available for rent at SOZORO. Fees are 500 yen for 2 hours and 200 yen per bicycle for every additional hour.

**JR West Kinosakionsen Station**  
The Kinosakionsen Station building underwent renovations in November 2016. The station's newly adopted touch panel information boards (including maps) offer information on various outdoor hot springs and sightseeing spots in English, Chinese, and Korean in addition to Japanese. At the station's souvenir shop, "Tajima/Tango Goods Shop," visitors will find various local products and specialties.



**Kinosaki Onsen Tourist Information SOZORO**  
The SOZORO general tourist information center is located in front of JR Kinosakionsen Station. In addition to information on surrounding tourist sights, SOZORO also offers information on buses, various ticket sales, and reservations for optional tours to neighboring tourist attractions. The information center also sells hot springs-related products, books on special products and hot springs in nearby Toyooka City, and more, including souvenirs and mementos to remember your trip by. Other services include free-to-use PCs and free Wi-Fi. Staff capable of foreign language support are also available. Address: 96 Kinosakicho Yushima, Toyooka City | Tel.: 0796-32-0013 (9:00 am – 6:00 pm) | Web: <http://kinosaki-info.com/>