

Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

Japan's most spectacular original samurai castle rises above a city that time treated kindly. Himeji Castle is not a reconstruction — it is the real thing, and it is extraordinary.

 Pier (Shikama Wharf)  Typical call: 8-10 hrs  Currency: Japanese Yen (¥)  Language: Japanese  UNESCO World Heritage Site

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier at Shikama Wharf, Port of Himeji (~8 km from castle)

Walk to Castle: Shuttle or taxi required from pier; 15 min walk from Himeji Station

Best For: History lovers, architecture, Japanese culture, photography

Don't Miss: Himeji Castle interior climb + Koko-en Garden combined ticket (¥2,600 non-resident)

 Getting around:  Taxi  ¥3,600–¥4,500 (~\$24-30 USD) ·  Rideshare  Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Himeji Castle** — Japan's finest original castle — not a reconstruction.
- **Koko-en Garden** — Nine walled gardens in Edo-period style sit right beside the castle.
- **Mt. Shosha & Engyoji Temple** — A 1,000-year-old temple complex clings to forested Mt.
- **Himeji City Museum of History** — Just a short walk from the castle, this excellent museum traces Himeji's samurai history and the castle's construction.
- **Himeji Oden & Local Sake Tasting** — Himeji-style oden is drizzled with sweet ginger-soy sauce — nothing like standard oden.

BEST WALKS

- **Otemae-dori Castle Walk** 1 km each way · Flat · 15 min · All abilities — From Himeji Station, walk the wide boulevard straight to the castle gates.
- **Castle to Koko-en Garden Loop** 0.5 km loop · Easy · 10 min walk · All abilities — After touring the castle, exit through the west gate and cross directly into Koko-en Garden.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 5:29AM–6:33PM · Jun 4:47AM–7:15PM · Aug 5:21AM–6:49PM · Sep 5:44AM–6:08PM · Oct 6:06AM–5:26PM  Currency: Japanese Yen (¥)	
Apr	64°	46°	10d		
Jun	77°	64°	14d		
Aug	87°	75°	15d		
Sep	81°	68°	14d		
Oct	71°	56°	8d		

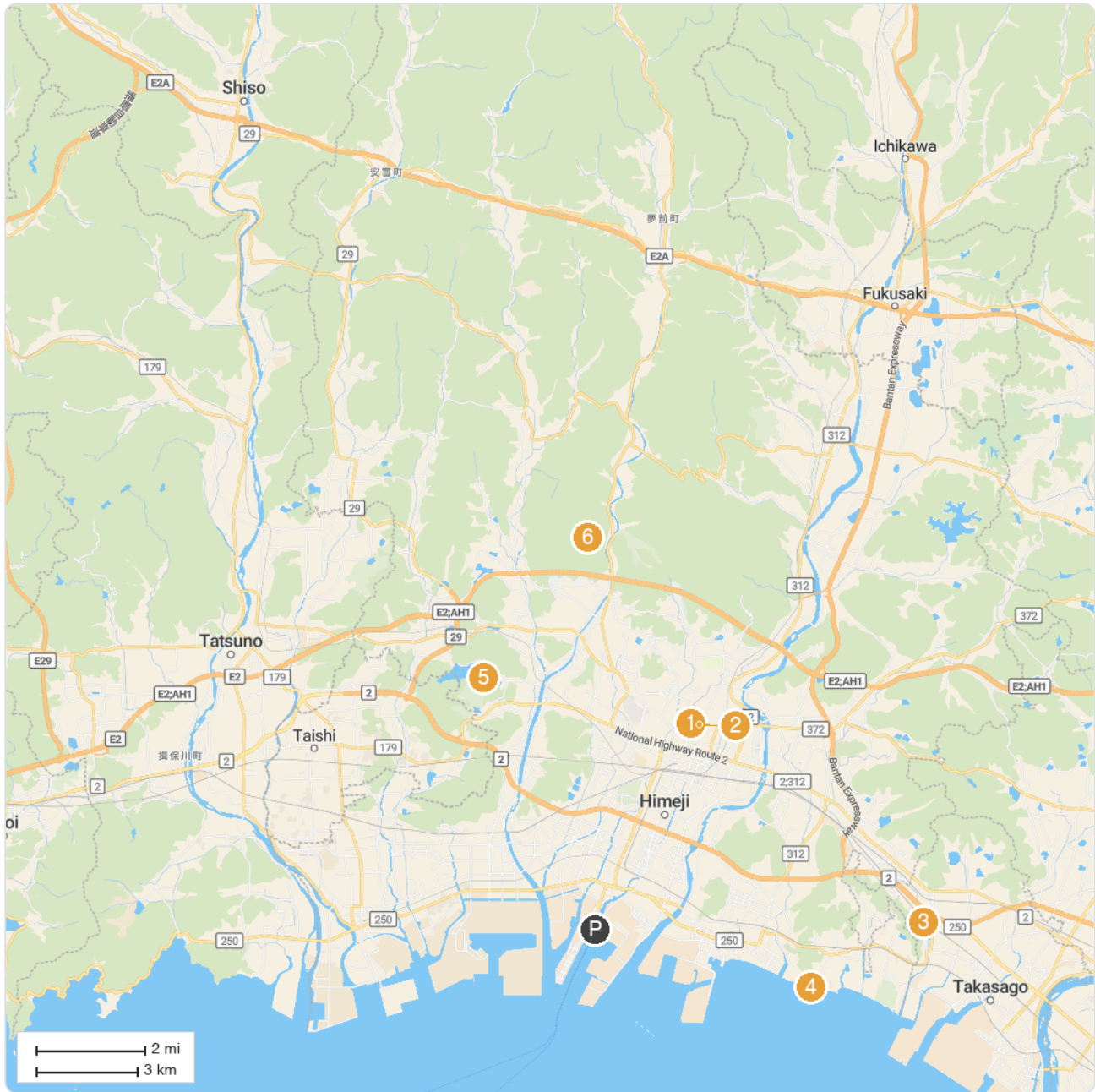
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring clean socks. You must remove shoes before entering the castle keep and carry them in a plastic bag. The wooden floors are cold and the stairs are steep (up to 54°). Slip-on shoes make the bag carry easier.
- Get the combined ticket. The castle + Koko-en Garden combo costs ¥2,600 for non-residents — just ¥100 more than the castle alone (¥2,500). Koko-en is worth every yen and immediately adjacent. Under-18s enter both free.
- Carry cash. The retro Loop Bus, local oden stalls, and smaller temple fees require yen. ATMs are available inside 7-Eleven convenience stores near the station.
- Look for free volunteer guides near the castle ticket booth. English-speaking locals offer free tours of the castle (tip appreciated). Their insider knowledge turns a solo wander into a memorable experience.
- Confirm shuttle departure times before you leave the ship. The pier is 8 km from the city — missing the last shuttle means a ¥3,000 taxi back.
- The castle keep is not accessible for wheelchairs or mobility-limited passengers — the stairs are original timber, very steep. However, the outer grounds, gardens, and Koko-en are fully flat and accessible.

Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1** **Himeji Castle** Japan's most beautiful, original feudal castle.
- 3** **Tenkawahigashi Park** Riverside park with walking paths and cherry blossoms.
- 5** **Himeji City Science Museum** Interactive science museum with a planetarium.
- P** **Cruise port / terminal**

- 2** **Himeji City Museum of Art** City art museum featuring Japanese and international works.
- 4** **Shosekiheki Park** Park featuring a unique rock wall formation.
- 6** **Engyōji** Historic mountaintop Buddhist temple complex.