

Kouko-en ★

MAP P35



A traditional Japanese garden with an area of over eight acres, Kouko-en is built around a large pond, and includes a restaurant Kassui-ken where guests can enjoy lunch, as well as Soju-an where traditional Japanese green tea is served.

Website: <http://himeji-machishin.jp/ryokka/koko/en/>
Tel: 079-289-4120

Hours: Late Apr – Aug 31: 9:00-18:00
Sept 1 – Mid Apr: 9:00-17:00

Date closed: 12/29, 12/30.

Admission: Adults ¥300, Elementary to Junior High School Students ¥150

Access: 15 minute walk from JR/Sanyo Himeji station.

Engyo-ji ★

Located 371 meters above sea level on top of Mt. Shosha in western Himeji, Engyo-ji is home to many Important Cultural Properties. Maniden, a beautiful wooden hall, Daikodo (main hall), Jikido (lodging and dining hall, now exhibiting temple treasures) and Jogyodo (gymnasium) are especially popular. It was selected as a filming location for the Hollywood movie *The Last Samurai* starring Tom Cruise.



Website: <http://www.shosha.or.jp/>
Tel: 079-266-3327
Hours: 8:30-17:00 Open year-round
Admission: ¥500

Junior High School Students and younger are free.
Access: Take the Shinki Bus for the Shosha Ropeway from JR/Sanyo Himeji station, and get off at the last stop.

Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History

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The museum showcases the history of Hyogo, folk performing arts, children's culture and Himeji Castle and its castle town through a virtual theatre. People chosen by drawing can experience wearing a traditional Japanese kimono and armor.

Website: <http://www.hyogo-c.ed.jp/~rekihaku-bo/>
Tel: 079-288-9011

Hours: 10:00-17:00 (Last entry 16:30) Closed on Mondays (The following day when Mondays falls on a national holiday) and New Year's holidays.

Admission: First floor is free, Second Floor: Adults ¥210, College students ¥150, High School Students ¥100, Free for Junior High School students and younger

Access: Take the Himeji Castle Loop Bus from Himeji station to Hakubutsukan-mae. (8 minutes)
Take the Shinki bus from Himeji station to Hakubutsukan-mae. (8 minutes)



Japanese Toy Museum ★★



The museum displays Japanese folk toys, modern toys and traditional dolls, as well as toys and dolls from some 160 countries around the world. Visitors can touch and play with some of the toys.

Website: <http://www.japan-toy-museum.org/>
Tel: 079-232-4388

Hours: 10:00-17:00 Closed on Wednesdays, except for national holidays. Also closed 12/28 to 1/2

Admission: Adult ¥600, high school /college students ¥400, children four and older ¥200. Groups of 20 or more: 20 percent discount. Advance reservations required for groups.

Access: From JR Himeji station, take the Bantan line five stations (about 15 minutes) to Kohro. Walk east 14 minutes

Filming locations for movies.



[Norwegian Wood] (2010)

Filming Locations: Tonomine Highlands and Mineyama Highlands in Kamikawa town, and Imagoura Senjojiki in Kasumi town

With over 10 million copies sold, and translated into 33 different languages, novelist Haruki Murakami's best-selling novel *Norwegian Wood* was made into a movie. The beautiful scenes have earned great acclaim at Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica. In the novel, the main character spent his high school days in Hyogo, and in the movie, places such as the Senjo-jiki structure of Imagoura Coast in Kasumi town, schools in Kobe city, and other areas were used for filming. The scene with the field filled with silver grass was filmed at Tonomine and Mineyama Highlands in Kamikawa town, and is one of the most important scenes from the movie.

For those of you who enjoy Murakami's work, come and visit his hometown. Grab his other popular book, *Henkyo/Kinkyō* and follow the footsteps of this great novelist.

Haruki Murakami

Haruki Murakami grew up in Ashiya city in Hyogo prefecture until he went to college. In one of his books, he mentioned that his hometown "was a comfortable place to spend childhood days." Debuting in 1979 with his first novel, *Hear the Wind Sing*, he has authored many best-selling novels. In 2005, *Kafka on the Shore* was chosen as one of *New York Times*' ten best books of the year, and he became internationally known. In 2010, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature.



Starring: Kenichi Matsuyama, Rinko Kikuchi
Director: Tran Anh Hung

[The Last Samurai] (2003)

Filming Location: Engyo-ji Temple on Mt. Shosha in Himeji

The film was created with the cooperation of three countries, the U.S., New Zealand, and Japan. The story takes place in the 1800s, and is about an American captain that comes to Japan and learns the ways of the samurai. Many of the scenes were filmed in Engyoji Temple on Mt. Shosha. The Daikodo (main hall), Jikido (lodging and dining hall, now exhibiting temple treasures) and Jogyodo (gymnasium) were used, giving the film a solemn and authentic feel. The scene with Tom Cruise and Ken Watanabe talking under the cherry trees in full bloom was filmed at the grave of the former lords that owned Himeji Castle. The room that Tom Cruise was using is now a tea shop that serves green tea and Japanese sweets.



Starring: Tom Cruise, Ken Watanabe
Director: Edward Zwick

[007: You Only Live Twice] (1967)

The filming was done in many popular tourist locations across Japan. Himeji Castle was used as a training ground for ninjas in the film. Himeji Castle has also been used for other films such as *Kagemusha* and *Ran* (1985) by Akira Kurosawa, and the TV series *Shogun* (1980) starring Richard Chamberlain.

Filming Location: Himeji Castle, Port of Kobe
Starring: Sean Connery, Donald Pleasence
Director: Lewis Gilbert

["Haruhi Suzumiya" Series] (2003)

This is a popular novel by Nagaru Tanigawa. Tanigawa's hometown of Nishinomiya is used as a model for the city where sets the story. The novel about high school students and their unusual school life became a huge hit, and it was made into a TV animation series, a comic, and a video game. Trains on the Hankyu Line, Shukugawa Station, Nishinomiya Kita-guchi Station, and popular Kobe sweets "Gaufre" are some of the Hyogo related things that appear in the series.

Location: Nishinomiya city



Kinosaki

A City of Onsen and Yukata

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Kinosaki is a historical hot spring town, famous for the seven hot springs in the area. Called Sotoyu-meguri, visiting these seven hot springs is a popular activity. With beaches in the summer, and delicious crab in the winter, Kinosaki receives quite a few tourists throughout the year.



Kinosaki Onsen ★★ Sotoyu-Meguri

Each of the seven Sotoyu has a unique story, as well as different guardian deities; therefore people believe that visiting all seven brings seven different types of luck.

Effective on nerve pains, muscle pains, bruises, digestive problems, fatigue, etc.
Water quality: Sodium and calcium chloride spring
Water Temperature: 42°C/107.6°F
Website: <http://www.kinosaki-hotsprings.com/>

*Schedule is subject to change



A Bath that Brings Good Fortune

Ichi-no-Yu

A rare cave-bath with a fun atmosphere.

Tel: 0796-32-2229
Hours: 7:00-23:00 Closed on Wednesdays.
Price: Adults ¥600, Elementary School and younger ¥300
Access: 8 minute walk from JR Kinosaki Onsen station.



A Bath of Beauty

Goshu-no-Yu

Enjoy this bath lying down while watching the dynamic waterfall right in front of your eyes.

Website: <http://www.kinosaki-spa.gr.jp/>
Tel: 0796-32-2230
Hours: 7:00-23:00 Closed on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.
Price: Adults ¥800, Elementary School and younger ¥400
Access: 8 minute walk from JR Kinosaki Onsen station.



A Bath of Salvation

Jizo-Yu

Named after a jizo (guardian deity) that was found at the site.

Tel: 0796-32-2228
Hours: 7:00-23:00 Closed on Fridays.
Prices: Adults ¥600, Elementary School and younger ¥300
Access: 5 minute walk from JR Kinosaki Onsen station.



A Bath that Brings Happiness

Ko-no-Yu

One of the oldest hot springs in Kinosaki.

Tel: 0796-32-2195
Hours: 7:00-23:00 Closed on Tuesdays.
Price: Adults ¥600, Elementary School and younger ¥300
Access: 20 minute walk from JR Kinosaki Onsen station.



A Bath of Friendship

Sato-no-Yu

Japan's largest hot spring within a train station

Tel: 0796-32-0111
Hours: 13:00-21:00 Closed on Mondays.
Price: Adults ¥800, Elementary School and younger ¥400
Access: In front of JR Kinosaki Onsen station.



A Bath that Grants One Wish

Mandara-Yu

An outdoor bath with a beautiful mountain view.

Tel: 0796-32-2194
Hours: 15:00-23:00 Closed on Wednesdays.
Price: Adults ¥600, Elementary School and younger ¥300
Access: 15 minute walk from JR Kinosaki Onsen station.



A Bath of Fertility

Yanagi-Yu

A deep, wooden bath with a nostalgic atmosphere of the Taisho period.

Tel: 0796-32-2097
Hours: 15:00-23:00 Closed on Thursdays
Price: Adults ¥600, Elementary School and younger ¥300
Access: 7 minute walk from JR Kinosaki Onsen station.

Make the most of your travel to Kinosaki!



Kiyamachi-Koji



This shopping complex is composed of ten stores and restaurants serving sweets and a relaxation facility. All ten stores have unique characteristics that will be sure to entertain you.

Tel: 0796-32-4411
Access: 10 minute walk from JR Kinosaki Onsen station.

(Fish Market)

Okesho Sengyo & Dining Room Kaichuen



Kaisen-don (seafood on rice) with eleven different kinds of seafood ¥1,890

The first floor is a fresh seafood market where you can purchase Matsuba crab, freshly caught fish, and souvenirs. The second floor is a restaurant where you can have some of the best tasting seafood in Japan.

Website: http://www.okesho.com/infoshop/info_us.html
Tel: 0796-32-2530
Opening Hours: 11:00-18:45 (Flagship restaurant) Closed on New Year's holidays.
Access: 3 minute walk from JR Kinosaki Onsen station.

Kinosaki Onsen Ropeway



Enjoy the greenery of spring and summer, leaves changing color in fall, and a snow covered landscape in winter. Enjoy the view of the Sea of Japan and the Maruyama River from the top of the mountain.



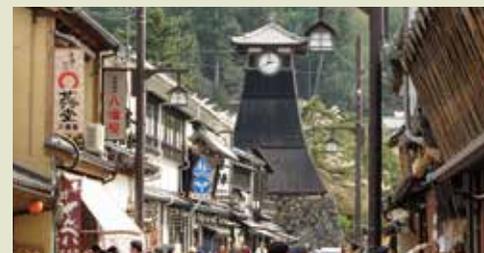
Website: <http://kinosaki-ropeway.jp/sp/en/>
Tel: 0796-32-2530
Hours: 9:10-17:10 (Last car leaves at 16:50)
Date closed: Every 2nd & 4th Thursday
Round ticket: Adults (Junior High School and older) ¥900, Children (6+) ¥450
Access: 20 minute walk from JR Kinosaki Onsen station.

Tajima

Only a short distance away



Izushi



Known as Little Kyoto of Hyogo, Izushi preserves its history and is designated as an Important Preservation District. Symbolic Shinkoro, the Karo Samurai Mansion and the Izushi Castle Ruins are must-see buildings in the town. For a local specialty, handmade Izushi soba Noodles are a standout option.

San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark



This natural park has rare geological and geographical features. The San'in Kaigan Geopark is

now a member of the Global Geoparks Network, and the museum offers a variety of displays and hands on activities.

Website: http://sanin-geo.jp/en/index_english.html
Tel: 0796-82-5222
Hours: 9:00-17:00 Closed on Tuesdays. Free entry.
Access: 20 minute walk from JR Hamasaka station.

Hyogo Prefectural Homeland for the Oriental White Stork



Japan's special natural monument, Oriental White Storks are protected, bred, and returned to its natural habitat here.

Website: www.stork.u-hyogo.ac.jp/
Tel: 0796-23-5666
Hours: 9:00-17:00 Closed on Mondays and 12/28-1/4. Free Entry.

Access: Take the Zentan Bus from Toyooka station to Konotori-no Sato-koen (15 minutes.)

