

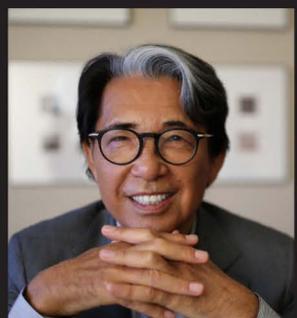
TAKADA KENZO

Colorer Paris, une révolution éternelle

Map of places related to Kenzo Takada

Kenzo Takada (1939-2020), the founder of "KENZO," the world-famous fashion brand, was born in Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture and lived there for about 18 years before moving to Tokyo and enrolling in Bunka Fashion College. Even after becoming famous worldwide as a fashion designer, he maintained his relationship with Himeji, his hometown, in various ways, such as holding fashion shows in Himeji.

Why don't you visit the places which have a strong connection with Kenzo in Himeji?



Profile

Born in 1939 in Himeji City, Hyogo Prefecture. Enrolled in Bunka Fashion College in 1958 and in 1960 was awarded the 8th Soen Award, the gateway to success for young designers. In 1970, five years after his move to France, Kenzo established his own brand in Paris. He shot to international prominence by breaking established fashion norms, winning enthusiastic accolades such as "Poet of Cotton" and "Magician of Colors" across the world. Even after leaving the KENZO brand in 1999, Kenzo continued his creative pursuits, collaborating with corporations, designing opera costumes, and establishing a new brand. He maintained a close bond with his hometown Himeji. He contributed in various ways, including holding exhibitions and fashion shows, designing the stage curtains for Himeji Caspa Hall and Arcree HIMEJI, and serving as a bridge in a sister castle relationship with Château de Chantilly in France and Himeji Castle. He passed away in 2020 at age 81. Himeji City awarded him honorary citizenship in 2021.

Kenzo Takada, 2016, photo by The Mainichi Newspapers



1 Nagoyama Cemetery



2 Hiyoshi Shrine



3 Former Nozato Highway



4 Keiunji Temple



5 Himeji Municipal Nozato Elementary School



6 Hyogo Prefectural Himeji Nishi Senior High School



7 Himeji Castle



7-1 San-no-maru Hiroba (Square)



7-2 Nishi-no-maru Bailey, Naga-tsubone/Hyakken Corridor



7-3 Okiku-ido Well



7-4 Osakabe Shrine



8 Junshinkai Headquarters (C.I.C.M.PROVINCIAL HOUSE)



9 Harimanokuni Sosha Shrine



10 Chikara Cafe



11 Tonahachi



12 Himeji Caspa Hall



13-1 Arcree HIMEJI (Grand Hall)



13-2 Arcree HIMEJI (Medium Hall)



14 Himeji Municipal Koryo Junior High School



15 Himeji City Museum of Art



16 Shoshazan Engyoji Temple



17 Ieshima



18 Photo studio ism

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Note: This map includes not only tourist sites but also schools and public facilities. Some places are closed to the public or entry is restricted to authorized people. Please check the actual operation of the facilities before visiting and behave in a way that does not inconvenience the local community.

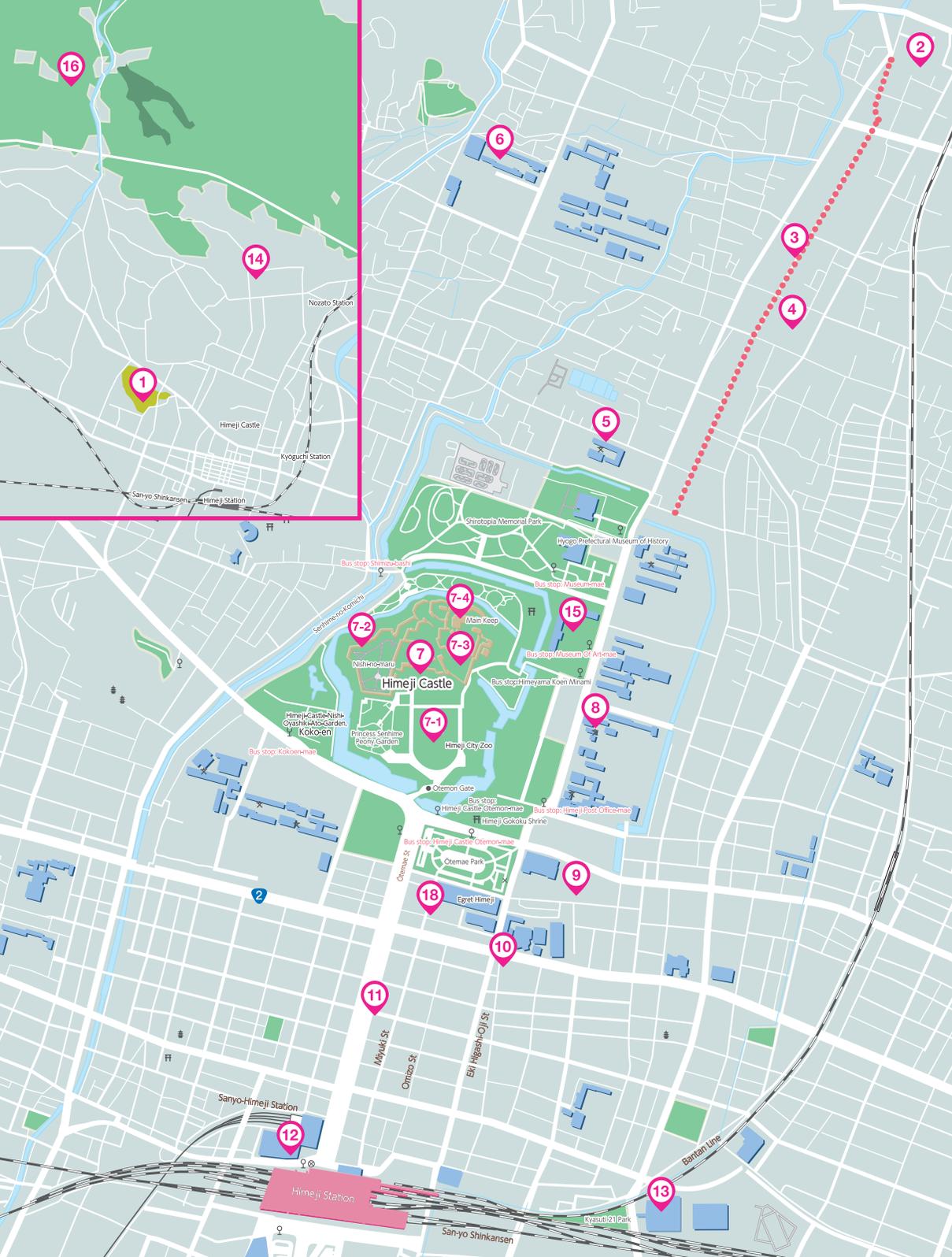
This map was created as part of the "TAKADA KENZO: Colorer Paris, une révolution éternelle" exhibition, which was held in 2025 as part of the "Japan Cultural Expo 2.0".

Produced by The Mainichi Newspapers (2025)

Image courtesy of Arcree HIMEJI, Ieshima Tourism Association, Chikara Cafe, Photo studio ism and Himeji City.



JAPAN CULTURAL EXPO 2.0



Memorable places and stories related to Kenzo Takada

- 1 Nagoyama Cemetery**
 Kenzo Takada's tombstone was erected in the zone for honorary citizens of Himeji City in 2020. His handwritten signature and family crest (a Chinese bellflower in a circle) are engraved on the headstone placed at the center. At the right side, his favorite word "Dream" is inscribed in his own handwriting along with his alphabet signature and anemone flowers which he loved. At the left side, a Japanese tree peony and rosehips are etched. The tombstone of Katsura Beicho, a rakugo storyteller and Living National Treasure, is next to the east side of his tomb.
- 2 Hiyoshi Shrine**
 Built in 840 as the guardian shrine of Zuiganji Temple on Mt. Masui of Tendai sect. Kenzo's nearby house was destroyed by fire during the war, and he lived in the shrine office for a while in childhood.
- 3 Former Nozato Highway**
 School route between Kenzo's house and Nozato Elementary School. It has flourished as a transport hub since ancient times. Many old town houses with a nostalgic atmosphere remain along the road.
- 4 Keiunji Temple**
 Built as a Tendai sect temple in 1443. It is currently a temple under Myoshinji school of the Rinzai sect. An English cram school used to be run there and Kenzo attended the English class for one year when he was a junior high school student.
- 5 Himeji Municipal Nozato Elementary School**
 Naturally good at drawing, his four-panel cartoon was serialized in the class newspaper and was very well received. His drawings were so popular classmates would queue during lunch break or after school for his illustrations.
- 6 Hyogo Prefectural Himeji Nishi Senior High School**
 He gave up club activities (biology club and art club) and studied hard when he was enrolled in this elite high school. Since he had a strong desire to live overseas, he aimed to enter Kobe City University of Foreign Studies. When he returned to Japan in 2000, he visited the high school and joined a talk show, which was titled "Welcoming Kenzo Takada, our alumnus -Nishi Senior High School COLLECTION 2000-,"
- 7 Himeji Castle**
Himeji Castle National Treasure Himeji Castle was registered as the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in Japan together with Horyuji Temple, Nara in December 1993. The castle is also known as "White Egret Castle" because of its graceful appearance like an egret with outspread wings. In 1989, Kenzo served as an intermediary to establish a sister castle relationship with Château de Chantilly, France and witnessed the signing.
7-1 San-no-maru Hiroba (Square) The first outdoor fashion show "KENZO IN HIMEJI" was held here in May 1989.
7-2 Nishi-no-maru Bailey, Naga-tsubone/Hyakken Corridor "I was scared because the inside was so dark and supposedly haunted by ghosts" Kenzo said later.
7-3 Okiku-ido Well He heard about the ghost story "Banshu Sarayashiki." He often tested his courage with his friends.
7-4 Osakabe Shrine The Osakabe Shrine is located on the top floor of the main tower. Since it was bad weather at the time of the outdoor fashion show, Kenzo visited the shrine to pray for a clear sky. The rain stopped the next day and the fashion show was a great success.
- 8 Junshinkai Headquarters (C.I.C.M.PROVINCIAL HOUSE)**
 Junshinkai(C.I.C.M.) is a Catholic monastery and the parent organization of Junshin Gakuin missionary schools. The headquarters was the residence of an army division commander before the war. Kenzo drew a picture of this building when he was a 6th grade student. He won the Mayor's Award for the picture which gave him great confidence for his future career.
- 9 Harimanokuni Sosha Shrine**
 Officially named Itatehyouzu Shrine, this is the shrine for the deity of Himeji, the guardian god of Harimanokuni. A movie theater was located inside the shrine and Kenzo and his younger brother watched foreign films such as "Little Women" and "Romeo and Juliet" after the end of school exams.
- 10 Chikara Cafe**
 The Chikara udon noodle shop, which was founded in 1953, reopened as Chikara Cafe in September 2023. Kenzo often used to eat udon noodles here after watching a movie with his younger brother.
- 11 Tonahachi**
 Long-established oden (Japanese hotpot) shop in business since 1932. Kenzo liked oden and often took out oden when returning from Paris.
- 12 Himeji Caspa Hall**
 Opened as a multipurpose hall of Himeji City in 1991. Kenzo designed the stage curtain of the hall, named "Reimei".
- 13 Arcree HIMEJI**
13-1 Grand Hall, 13-2 Medium Hall
 Opened in 2021 as Himeji Culture and Convention Center. Kenzo designed two stage curtains: "Sunrise" for the Grand Hall and "Sunset" for the Medium Hall.
- 14 Himeji Municipal Koryo Junior High School**
 Kenzo started learning English because of a desire to live overseas. He performed in an English play at the school performance.
- 15 Himeji City Museum of Art**
 Opened in 1983, the museum houses a fine collection of Japanese and foreign modern art including the works of artists who are connected to Himeji, such as Kenzo Takada. The red brick building was used as a clothing storage and an arsenal before the war and was used as a city hall after the war. Several exhibitions were held to introduce the achievements of Kenzo Takada, including the exhibition "TAKADA KENZO: Colorer Paris, une révolution éternelle" (2025). Visitors can see the lime tree which was planted in commemoration of a sister castle relationship with Château de Chantilly that Kenzo served as an intermediary to establish.
- 16 Shoshazan Engyoji Temple**
 Famous temple on the top of Mt. Shosha at an elevation of 371 meters, also known as Mt. Hiei Enryakuji Temple of West. Founded by Shoku Shinin, the holy priest, in 966. Kenzo visited the Maniden and the Mitsunodo when returning to Japan.
- 17 Ieshima**
 About 30 minutes by ferry from Himeji port, a beautiful island in the Seto Inland Sea, which is blessed with an abundance of seafood, which Kenzo often visited.
- 18 Photo studio ism**
 Ishida Studio founded in 1937 was opened as a casual photo studio in 2006. This studio hosts "HUGPHOTO x Shiawase Marche", a regional promotion event which is organized periodically. An exhibition to introduce Kenzo's achievements was held at the Honmachi shopping street in 2018. 10,000 people visited the exhibition. In memory of this event, peony flowers and signature were drawn in Kenzo's original handwriting on the wall of the studio.

Note: It is usually only possible to see the stage curtains mentioned in (12) and (13) on performance dates excluding special exhibitions.