

Friday 16 May

54th Himeji Castle Takigi Noh

Time : 18 : 00~21 : 00

Location : Sannomaru Square, Himeji Castle

TEL : 079-281-6800

HP : <https://himeji-takiginou.org>

Takigi Noh is an atmospheric style of Noh theatre performed at night with a lit bonfire and Himeji Castle in the background. Noh theatre was the first of its kind to be registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in Japan.

Program : Noh "Matsukaze"

Kyogen "Fumiyamadachi"

Noh "Shari"

Saturday 10~Sunday 18 May

Himeji Castle Festival 75th Anniversary Takigi Noh Exhibition

Free Entry

Time : 10 : 00~17 : 00

Location : Egret Himeji B1F Gallery 1 & 2

Open until 2pm on final day (5/18)

In celebration of the 75th Himeji Castle Festival, this exhibition displays the history of Himeji Castle Takigi Noh featuring photos and pamphlets, along with Noh masks created by craftsman Yasuo Tsutsui, paintings by Minoru Yokota, and costumes worn by 12th generation Himeji-based Noh actor Kinjiro Esaki.

Saturday 17 May

Traditional Culture Day

Himeji Castle Ambassador Presentation

Time : 10 : 00~10 : 45

Location : Otemae Park Stage

Otemae Park Stage Program

Time : 11 : 00~18 : 00

Location : Otemae Park Stage

Start	Organizations	Performances
11:00	Ise Elementary School	Unicycle performance
11:10	Tottori City Tourism Association	Shan shan umbrella dance
11:20	Fillies & Mares Cheerleading Team	Cheerleading
11:30	Little Fellows Baton Twirling Team	Baton twirling
11:40	Dosukoi ♣Which will win, the oiran or the rikishi?	meta Sarugaku
11:50	Ishinomaki City	PR
11:55	Ibaraki Prefecture Joso City	PR
12:00	DreamMonkeys	Cheerleading
12:10	Samurai stage combat	Stage combat
12:20	Anti Jamila	Belly dance
12:30	Harima Ryura Society	Conch shell performance
12:40	Omato Revitalization Project	Circle-dancing
12:50	Kobe Airport	PR
12:55	Himeji Youth Club	PR
13:00	Sakura-Sakura Company	Period drama musical
13:10	NEWWEST Country Dancing	Country line-dance
13:20	Osakabe Shrine Preservation Society	Dance
13:30	Victorina Himeji Volleyball Team	Special skill (calligraphy)
13:40	HAT - Robics JAPAN	Trampoline aerobics
13:50	Heart BEAT	Dance performance by children with Down syndrome
14:00	Izumi Childrens Taiko Drumming	Taiko drum performance
14:10	Shodojima Island	PR
14:15	Ieshima Island	PR
14:20	Hakuro Performers	Yosakoi dance
14:30	NYBallet School	Ballet dance
14:40	TAMOchannel	Song
14:50	HIMETOKU BKS	Dance
15:00	Shiso City	PR
15:05	Kamikawa Town	PR
15:10	Athletic Sports Harima Albion	Team introduction
15:20	SEVEN RASH	Dance
15:30	EiSho	Sword drawing
15:40	NEXTAGE	Dance
15:50	-saku- Taiko Drumming	Taiko drum performance
16:00	Himeji Castle Omotenashi Program	Lion dance
16:10	Nankin Tamasudare 「Harimagarakutaza」	Street performance
16:20	Annabelle	Hand bell performamnce
16:30	Little Angel Baton Twirling Team	Baton twirling
16:40	himeccoV	Song & dance
16:50	Community Intersection Sen Ballet	Ballet
17:00	Eisa Okinawa folk dance team with "Shachi"	Okinawan Eisa Dance
17:10	Wakatoyokai Edo-period traditional kappore dance	Kappore dance
17:20	Sarakasu☆	Vocal & piano performance
17:30	"Brighten Society Movement" Himeji City Promotion Committee	PR
17:40	Halau Na Maka Hulali	Hula dance

Saturday 17 May

Opening Ceremony

Time : 11 : 30~14 : 45

Castle Parade

Time : 11 : 30~14 : 45

Location : Otemae street area

The new Himeji Castle Ambassadors appear for the first time ever in an open car! This lively parade is full of variety, featuring a beautiful Shan-shan umbrella dance by Tottori City's tourism association, 120 participants performing in an Awa-odori dance by the Himeji Joto group, as well as marching processions and calligraphy performances.

【Caution】 Reserving viewing spots on public roadways (road, pedestrian walkways) is prohibited.

Start	Finish	Organizations	Performances
11:30	11:44	Himeji Fire Department Music Band / Himeji Castle Ambassadors	Marching
11:44	11:58	Himeji Shodo Kids	Calligraphy performance
11:58	12:07	Himeji Yosakoi Matsuri	Yosakoi dance
12:07	12:21	Nishihari shorinji kempo association	Shorinji kempo martial arts
12:21	12:30	Tottori tourism association	Shan-shan umbrella dance
Starting after Tottori City		Iwanami style Yusenkaï	Umbrella dance
12:30	12:44	Himeji Tyrannosaurus Executive Committee	Procession / dance
12:44	12:58	Nakaharima Human Rights Development Council	Marching band
12:58	13:12	Cheerleading Team WinningRex	Cheerleading
13:12	13:26	Samba Matrix	Samba dance & percussion
13:26	13:40	Himeji Joto-ren	Awa Odori dance
13:40	13:54	Himeji Castle Traditional Dance Preservation Society	Dance and taiko drum performance
13:54	14:08	Ichimon	Yosakoi dance
14:08	14:17	Konkokyo Fukuzaki Youth Marching Band	Marching band
14:17	14:31	KRD 8 ・ WT☆Egret ・ BABEL (Himeji Support Project General Incorporated Association)	Vocal & dance performance
14:31	14:45	∞ JAPAN® World Wide Japan	Dance

※Times are estimates and may vary

Historical Parade

Time : 14 : 45~15 : 40

Location : Otemae street

Akamatsu Yoroi-Kabuto Association's samurai procession and Engyoji temple speech are also a must-see!

Start	Goal	Organizations	Performances
14:45	14:59	Mount Masui Komuso Preservation Association	Shakuhachi flute performance
14:59	15:13	Mount Shosha Engyoji Temple	Warrior procession
15:13	15:22	Akamatsu Yoroi-Kabuto Association	Samurai procession
15:22	15:36	Himeji Princess Sen Appreciation Society	Dance parade

※Times are estimates and may vary

Himeji Daimyo Parade

Time : 15 : 40～16 : 20

Location : Otemae street

※There may be alterations to the organizations and order in which they appear.

Former professional baseball player Yoshio Itoi performs as an Edo period nobleman, along with a recreation of the the Himeji domain's luxurious daimyo procession.

Since 2021, the Daimyo procession at the Himeji Castle Festival has been recreated using period-accurate tools and clothing based on extensive background research. The movements and vocal cries are led by the Honmachi Sanchoume Daimyo Procession Preservation Society from in Ida City Nagano Prefecture.

Special Guest :

Himeji Daimyo Procession 'Nobleman' / Souodori

Former pro baseball player

Itoi Yoshio

Princess Sen's Wedding Parade & Children's Daimyo Parade

Time : 16 : 20~16 : 40

Location : Otemae street

Himeji Castle's Ambassadors and local children will be participating in Princess Sen's Wedding Parade!

Sou-odori Community Dance

Time : 17 : 00~18 : 00

Location : Otemae street

A total of approximately 1,000 people will perform the Banshu Danmon Ondo & Himeji Castle Dance.

On-the-day participation accepted!

Time : 14 : 00~16 : 30

Registration at the Ieya Yashiki Ru Park Tent

Special Guest : TV Personality

Nana Suzuki

Himeji Zoo at Night

Entry fee

Adul : 250 yen

Child : 50yen

※Reentry possible with daytime ticket

Time : 17 : 30~20 : 00

Location : Himeji City Zoo

※Last entry at 7.30pm

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Camp Himeji Military Equipment Exhibition

Time : 10 : 30~17 : 00

Location : Karo Yashikiato Park

Happiness in a whirl

TEL 079-281-0887

From today, you too are a spinning top fan!

Location Otemae Park Tent Booth

Paint your very own Himeji Koma spinning top, one of Himeji's traditional crafts.

Himeji spinning top painting experience

Time 10 : 00~17 : 30

Light-up of Spinning top

Time 18 : 30~20 : 00

Castle Gardens (Food & Drink Booth)

Time : 10 : 00~17 : 00

Location : Otemae Park Stage

PR Booths

Time : 10 : 00~17 : 30

Location : Otemae Park Stage

Sunday 18 May

Kids Festival

Time : 10 : 00~18 : 00

Location : Sannomaru Square, Himeji Castle

Become a samurai defending the Himeji Castle and challenge yourself with various training exercises!

24th Himeji Yosakoi Festival

Time 10 : 00~18 : 00

Location Otemae and Shiromidai park area

Yosakoi festival groups from around the country gather to send out good vibes from Himeji to the rest of the world through their dynamic performances. Let's get dance together at Otemae Park and Shiromidai Park!

Sound Festival 2025

Time : 12 : 00~17 : 00

Location : Shirotopia Memorial Park Outdoor Music Stage

Creating a new culture with 'sound' and 'bonding'! Enjoy performances by young local artists in reggae music and hip-hop.