

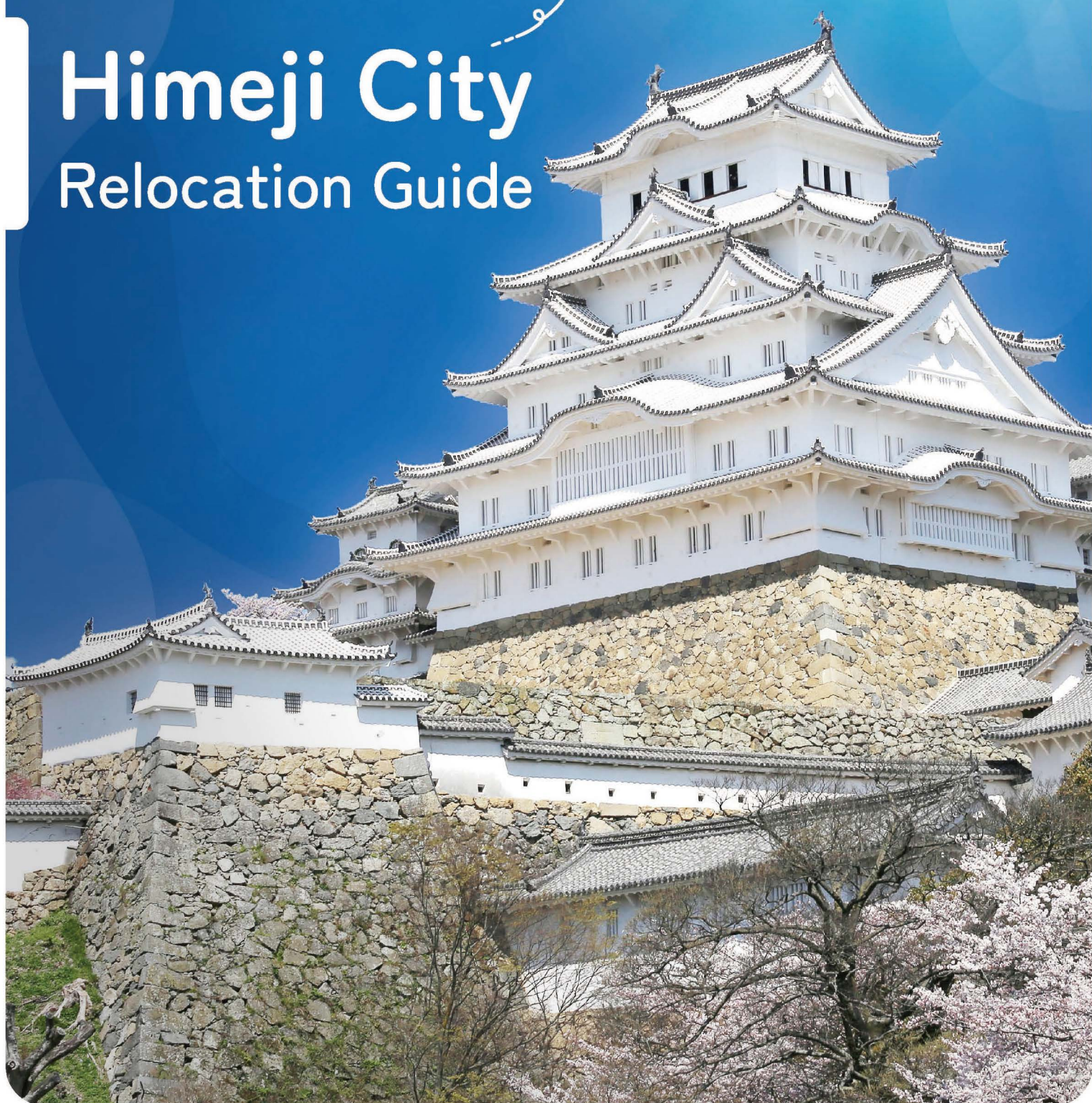


住むほどに
好きが深まる
姫のまち

Himeji's brand message and logo, chosen by a public vote in 2025

A city where everything
comes together—just right!

Himeji City Relocation Guide





住むほどに 好きが深まる 姫のまち

How
people outside
the city rate Himeji

**A great place to live.
Attractive and charming.**



**Best cities to buy
a home and live in**



Three years
in a row
2023-2025

Kansai
region

1st

LIFULL Co., Ltd.
"Ranking of cities where people
want to buy a home and live"



How
residents
rate the city

**Home to stay,
a city to recommend**



"I want to keep
living in Himeji."

85%

"I'd recommend Himeji
as a place to live."

78%



* The survey results are from a community workshop held in 2024

Since July 2024, a series of meetings
have been held to develop a brand message
highlighting Himeji's charm.



1. Reasons to live in Himeji

Safety and security

Supportive childcare

Seamless support from pregnancy to childbirth and parenting.



Local parenting support app "Himekko Notebook"

Track physical changes during pregnancy and your baby's growth with charts. Record memorable moments to share with family.



Newborn home visit program

Public health nurses visit families with infants up to 4 months of age, to check weight, answer childcare questions, and share useful parenting information.



Free medical care for children

When children aged 0–18 visit a healthcare provider, all out-of-pocket costs are fully covered, with no income limits.



Educational counseling and support by specialists

Counselors and social workers are placed in schools, and specialists offer consultations to support children and parents.



Nobinobi Plaza Mirale (children's play space)



Center of regional healthcare

The prefecture's largest hospital, specializing in advanced care, supports regional healthcare.

Hyogo Prefectural Harima-Himeji General Medical Center, with 33 departments and 736 beds, is the largest hospital in the Harima region (as of March 2025). Dedicated to providing safe, trusted, high-quality healthcare, the center delivers advanced treatment, emergency care, training for healthcare professionals, and clinical research.



2. Why you will love Himeji even more

Challenge and fulfillment

Fun that never gets old

Beyond Himeji Castle, a World Heritage site, there are plenty of places to explore.

Central Himeji hosts **627 events a year** (FY2023). At Himeji Station North Exit Plaza and Otemae Park, live music performances and fairs take place not just on weekends but on weekdays too. An hour's drive takes you to the mountains or the sea—perfect for leisure and fun.



A world of play and adventure!



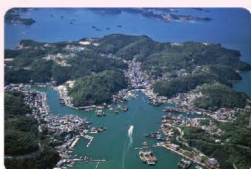
Travel back to the late Edo period and experience the daimyo procession—a historical parade of feudal lords.



At Himeji Central Park, enjoy a safari park together with rides and attractions.



Take the aerial ropeway up to Engyoji Temple on Mt. Shosha, known as the "Mt. Hiei of the West."



Just 30 minutes from Himeji Port, the Ieshima Islands are perfect for seaside fun.

Experiences that broaden your horizons

The largest cultural convention center in the region, hosting major performances and events.

The region's first and largest cultural convention center, Arcrea Himeji, features a 2,010-seat grand hall. It hosts world-class performances and international conferences, offering truly enriching experiences.



Performances

November 5, 2021

Wiener Philharmoniker (Vienna Philharmonic)

November 18, 2023

Berliner Philharmoniker (Berlin Philharmonic)

International conferences

October 25–29, 2021

72nd Session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for the Western Pacific

June 16–21, 2024

World Bank Understanding Risk Global Forum (UR2024)

Creating opportunities to take on challenges

Fostering global talent

Himeji works with local universities and companies to give high school and international students valuable learning experiences, helping them grow into global talent who will shape the community's sustainable future.



3. Why Himeji is the Princess City

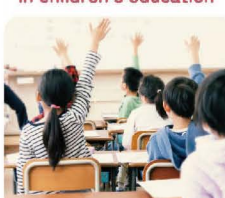
A city that embraces diversity

Promoting women's participation



A place where everyone can shine

Supporting innovations in children's education



Initiatives to welcome and support foreign professionals



Opportunities for lifelong learning



Northern Area



Northern Area



A plate of traditional Chinese food, likely a hot pot or stew, featuring a large piece of braised meat (possibly pork or beef) with a thick, golden-brown sauce, accompanied by various vegetables and mushrooms.

A collage of various Japanese dishes. At the top left is a bowl of ramen with chopsticks. Next to it is a plate of sashimi with salmon, tuna, and yellowtail. Below the ramen is a bowl of udon. To the right of the udon is a plate of tempura, including shrimp and vegetables. Further right is a bowl of miso soup with tofu and seaweed. At the bottom left is a plate of sushi, including nigiri and maki. To the right of the sushi is a plate of tempura, including shrimp and vegetables. At the bottom right is a bowl of miso soup with tofu and seaweed.

A large crowd of people, many wearing hats, are wading in shallow water, likely participating in a beach cleanup or a water-based activity.

Family fun with clam digging

Begin a new chapter in **Himeji** Loving it more every day.

Located in southwestern Hyogo, in the approximate center of the Harima Plain, Himeji is one of the region's core cities. Home to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Himeji Castle, the city preserves the charm of its historic castle town. Surrounded by seas, mountains, and rivers, and rich in diverse agricultural and marine products, Himeji has grown into the region's leading hub for commerce, industry, and manufacturing.

With urban conveniences and rural charm, Himeji is packed with countless attractions. The more you live here, the more you will come to appreciate its variety—and the more you will fall in love with this city.

So many great places to explore!

Himeji Station & Castle Area

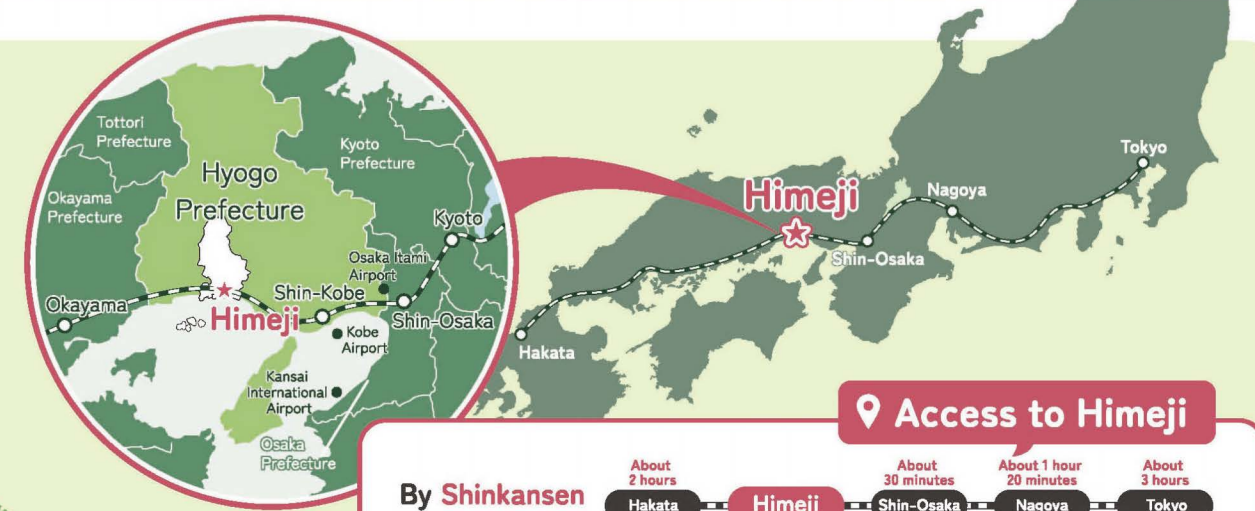
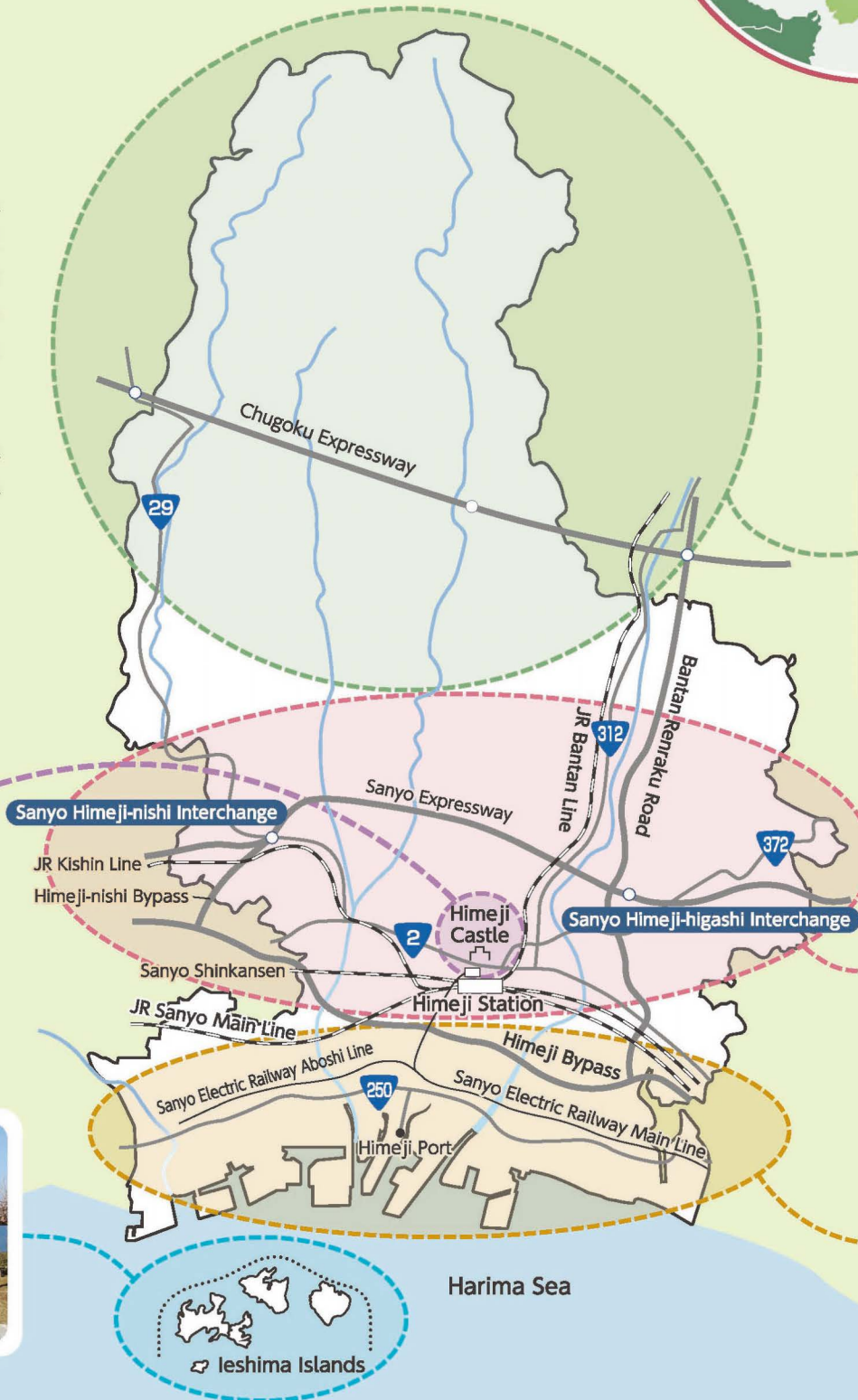
The area around Himeji Station and Himeji Castle is a bustling hub of commerce, filled with large shopping malls, department stores, and lively shopping streets. With inbound tourism recovering after the pandemic, Himeji Castle and other sightseeing spots are once again attracting growing numbers of visitors.



Relax and unwind

Ieshima Islands Area

Located offshore in the Harima Sea, the Ieshima Islands consist of over 40 islands of various sizes and have long thrived as a fishing hub. Now part of the Setonaikai National Park, their tranquil beauty has been celebrated in poetry since the era of the Manyōshū, Japan's oldest anthology.



Access to Himeji

By Shinkansen

About 2 hours	Hakata	Himeji	About 30 minutes	Shin-Osaka	About 1 hour 20 minutes	Nagoya	About 3 hours	Tokyo
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By JR (Special Rapid Service)

About 40 minutes	Himeji	Kobe / Sannomiya	About 1 hour	Osaka
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By car

About 3 hours	Hiroshima	About 1 hour 30 minutes	Okayama	Himeji	About 1 hour	Kobe	About 1 hour 30 minutes	Osaka
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* Travel times may vary depending on traffic, time of day, and transfers (as of October 2023).

Peace and tranquility

Northern Area

The northern area stretches along the Chugoku Mountains, where peaks such as Mt. Masui, Mt. Hiromine, Mt. Shosha, and Mt. Seppiko create a landscape alive with nature. The great rivers Ichikawa and Ibogawa run through the area, their pure waters nourishing fertile farmland. The area is also renowned as a producer of yuzu citrus and buckwheat.



An area with great convenience and comfort!

Central Area

The central area offers excellent transportation access. Working with neighboring cities—Takasago, Kakogawa, and Kasai to the east, and Tatsuno to the west—it has long supported the growth of the Harima region. The area, with the city's most expansive parks, theme parks, and lush natural surroundings, is especially popular among families with children.



A vibrant area full of life and fun

Southern Area

The southern area, known as the Harima Coastal Industrial Zone, is a thriving hub of industry. It played a leading role in Japan's period of rapid economic growth and continues to support Himeji through manufacturing today. Every autumn, local shrines come alive with the Banshu Autumn Festival, featuring processions of floats.





Key facts and figures

HIMEJI INSIGHTS

Population



519,390

(As of October 1, 2024)

The second largest population in Hyogo Prefecture

Area



534.56 km²

The fourth largest city in Hyogo Prefecture by area

Climate

Himeji is in the Seto Inland Sea climate zone, with mild weather and little rainfall. The city enjoys distinct seasonal changes, and is blessed with a pleasant climate. Snow rarely accumulates.



Annual rainfall

Compared with Tokyo

Himeji **1254.7mm** Tokyo **1598.2mm**



Hours of sunshine

Compared with Tokyo

Himeji **2034.4 hours** Tokyo **1926.7 hours**

* Average over 30 years through 2020



Housing More space, more comfort, more room to grow

Compared with Tokyo and Osaka, Himeji stands out with a higher homeownership rate and lower rents. This means a greater chance of owning your own home. Life planning is easier here as well.

Homeownership rate

Higher!

Himeji	65.9%
Osaka	54.5%
Tokyo	44.7%
National average	60.9%

Total floor area per owned home

Spacious!

Himeji	125.22 m²
Osaka	99.88 m ²
Tokyo	90.52 m ²
National average	118.25 m ²

Rent per tatami-mat unit in residential housing

Affordable!

Himeji	2,535 yen
Osaka	3,546 yen
Tokyo	5,699 yen
National average	3,403 yen



* Source: 2023 Housing and Land Survey



Economy

According to Toyo Keizai's City Data Pack 2023 Edition, which ranks 815 cities across Japan plus Tokyo's 23 special wards, Himeji scored particularly high in economic indicators, highlighting the city's thriving industries. The city's job openings-to-applicants ratio is also higher than the national average.

City data ranking (815 cities nationwide and Tokyo's 23 special wards)

Number of private businesses
30th
23,660

Number of private-sector employees
34th
244,970

Value of manufactured goods shipments
17th
1.99109 trillion yen

\\ From Himeji to the world! //

Leading companies based in Himeji with the top global share

Superabsorbent polymers for baby diapers (Nippon Shokubai Co., Ltd.)

Hammer felt for pianos (F&A Nonwovens Corporation)

Electric power steering systems (Mitsubishi Electric Corporation)

Cellulose acetate for LCD optical films (Daicel Corporation)

Coin and banknote recyclers for tellers (Glory Ltd.)

Projection exposure equipment for high-resolution printed circuit boards (Ushio Inc.)

Epoxy resin for semiconductor encapsulation (Nippon Kayaku Co., Ltd.)

(As of FY2024)



Shopping

The database of the Himeji Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Himeji Research Institute of Economy shows that Himeji has 107 supermarkets and 181 convenience stores spread across the city. Shopping here is easy and convenient.

2021 Economic Census for Business Activity (ranking among 62 core cities)

Restaurants
4th
2,297

Retail stores
3rd
3,951

Department stores and general merchandise stores
1st
8

* As of February 2024

Public facilities

Hospitals **34**

* As of March 31, 2023

Clinics **427**

* As of February 29, 2024

Elementary schools **69**

* As of March 31, 2023

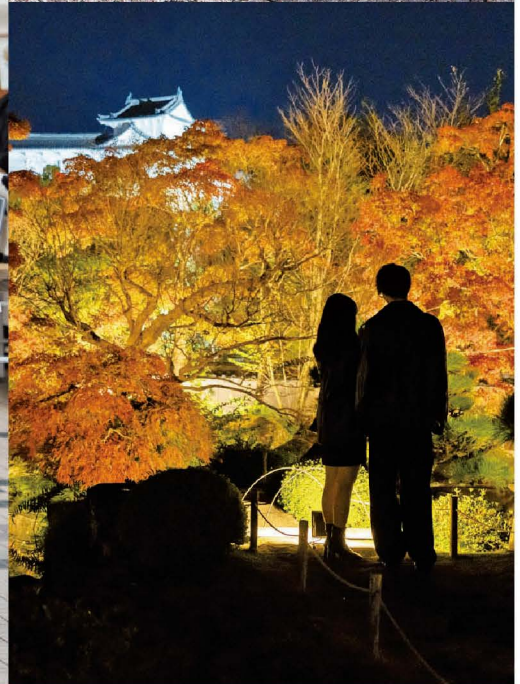
* Includes schools that cover grades 1-9

High schools **22**

* As of May 1, 2023

Municipal park area **9.17 m² per resident**

* As of April 2023



Himeji City Relocation
and Settlement Portal



Visit Himeji official Travel Guide