

Himeji Castle Historic Preservation Area

One of Japan's largest and best-preserved castles, Himeji is known for its soaring keep and white plaster walls. The castle was built in the early seventeenth century, but remains of older fortifications have been found on the site. The complex consists of fortifications surrounding a cluster of towers.

The historic preservation area roughly corresponds to the district within the middle moat: the inner castle town where samurai lived and the castle itself. Most of Himeji's inner and middle moats, ramparts, and stone walls are in their original state. The castle is designated a National Treasure and UNESCO World Heritage Site.