

## 1. World Heritage Property Data

### 1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Himeji-jo

### 1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

#### State(s) Party(ies)

- Japan

#### Type of Property

cultural

#### Identification Number

661


#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1993

### 1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Himeji-jo	34.833 / 134.7	107	143	250	1993
<b>Total (ha)</b>		<b>107</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>250</b>	

### 1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Map indicating the extent of the property	14/10/1992	

### 1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

#### Comment

The Agency for Cultural Affairs 3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959 TEL:+81-3-5253-4111 FAX:+81-3-6734-3822

### 1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- YASUMICHI MURAKAMI  
HYOGO-PREFECTURE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### 1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)
2. [Himeji City](#)

#### Comment

### 1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

## 2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

### 2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

#### Comment

Himeji-jo is the finest surviving example of early 17th-century Japanese castle architecture. It is located on a hill summit in the central part of the Harima Plain covering southwestern Hyogo Prefecture. The area around the property has been an important transportation hub in West Japan since ancient times. The property comprises 83 buildings with highly developed systems of defence and ingenious protection

devices dating from the beginning of the Shogun period. The complex of these structures is a masterpiece of construction in wood, combining function with aesthetic appeal, both in its elegant appearance unified by the white plastered earthen walls and in the subtlety of the relationships between the building masses and the multiple roof layers. Thus, Himeji-jo possesses Outstanding Universal Value.

### 2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(i)(iv)

### 2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Criterion (i) Himeji-jo is a masterpiece of construction in wood. It also combines its effective functional role with great aesthetic appeal, both in the use of white-painted plaster and in the subtlety of the relationships between the building masses and the multiple roof layers. Criterion (iv) It represents the culmination of Japanese castle architecture in wood, and preserves all its significant features intact.

### 2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

nothing in particular

### 2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

nothing in particular

## 3. Factors Affecting the Property

































### 3.14. Other factor(s)

#### 3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

nothing in particular

### 3.15. Factors Summary Table

#### 3.15.1 - Factors summary table

Name	Impact	Origin
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Buildings and Development</b>	
3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities	   	
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Transportation Infrastructure</b>	
3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure	  	
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	  	
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Services Infrastructures</b>	
3.3.5 Major linear utilities	  	
<b>3.9</b>	<b>Other human activities</b>	
3.9.2 Deliberate destruction of heritage	  	
<b>3.10</b>	<b>Climate change and severe weather events</b>	
3.10.1 Storms	   	
<b>3.13</b>	<b>Management and institutional factors</b>	
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities	  	
3.13.3 Management activities	  	
<b>Legend</b>	 Current	 Potential
	 Negative	 Positive
	 Inside	 Outside

### 3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

#### 3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
<b>3.9</b> Other human activities					
<b>3.9.2</b> Deliberate destruction of heritage	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	high capacity	decreasing

Prefecture, Himeji City, and private companies. The designated custodial body for managing the site is the City of Himeji, appointed under Articles 32.2 and 47.2 of the 1950 Law.

### 3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

#### 3.17.1 - Comments

nothing in particular

## 4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

### 4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

#### 4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is a buffer zone

#### 4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

#### 4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

#### 4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

#### 4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **known** by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

#### 4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

nothing in particular

## 4.2. Protective Measures

### 4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

Himeji-jo was designated an Historic Site in 1929, under the 1919 Law for the Protection of Historic Sites, Places of Scenic Beauty and Natural Monuments, and in 1931 it became a National Treasure under the National Treasures Preservation Law 1929. These statutes have been replaced by the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties 1950 (revised 1975). Of the 83 buildings, eight are now designated National Treasures and the remainder Important Cultural Properties. In addition, the whole complex is designated a Special Historic Site (Articles 17,19). As a result, any actions that may bring about changes in the existing structure require Government approval, through the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

All the designated buildings are owned by the national Government. Ownership of the remaining portions is divided between Hyogo

### 4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

### 4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

### 4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides an **adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity

### 4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **excellent** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property

### 4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

nothing in particular

## 4.3. Management System / Management Plan

### 4.3.1 - Management System

Management of the castle complex has been the responsibility since 1930 of the City of Himeji, which enacted a City Ordinance for its management in 1964. The work is in the charge of the Management Office for the Himeji-jo Area.

A Conservation management plan was prepared in 1969, with policies for future action. This now forms part of the Basic Management Plan for the Himeji-jo Historical Site (1986), the long-term aim of which is to enhance the value of the buffer zone by recreating vanished structures and the former atmosphere of the outer walled zone. The Himeji City Urban Design Ordinance of 1987 exercises control over the erection of high buildings around the Historic Site. In addition, there is control over the use of the area around the Historic Site, along with buildings-to-land and floor-area ratios, by means of the Himeji City Plan of 1973.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

Basic Plan for Maintenance of the Himeji Castle Special Historic Site

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is **excellent coordination** between all bodies / levels involved in the management of the property

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **most or all activities** are being implemented and monitored

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Good
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Good
Visitors	Good
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Good
Industry	Good

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities **directly contribute** to some decisions relating to management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

**No indigenous peoples** are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is **regular contact** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and /

or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone and **substantial co-operation** on management

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

nothing in particular

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

nothing in particular

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	
Governmental (National / Federal)	14%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	24%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	1%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	61%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	
Other grants	

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Comment

not applicable

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **sufficient** but further funding would enable more effective management to international best practice standard

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **adequate** equipment and facilities

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

**4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure**

nothing in particular

**4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)**

Full-time	87%
Part-time	13%

**4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)**

Permanent	87%
Seasonal	13%

**4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)**

Paid	100%
Volunteer	0%

**4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?**

Human resources are **adequate** for management needs

**4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines**

Research and monitoring	Fair
Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Fair
Interpretation	Fair
Education	Fair
Visitor management	Fair
Conservation	Fair
Administration	Fair
Risk preparedness	Fair
Tourism	Fair
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Fair

**4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines**

Research and monitoring	Low
Promotion	Low
Community outreach	Low
Interpretation	Low
Education	Low
Visitor management	Low
Conservation	Low
Administration	Low
Risk preparedness	Low
Tourism	Low
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Low

**4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?**

A capacity development plan or programme is **in place and fully implemented**; all technical skills are being transferred to

those managing the property locally, who are assuming leadership in management

**4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training**

nothing in particular

**4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects**

**4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?**

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient**

**4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?**

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

**4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?**

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

**4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report**

Himeji Center for Research into Castles and Fortifications, Efforts to Preserve Traditional Plastering Techniques at Himeji Castle(2008); Himeji Center for Research into Castles and Fortifications, World Heritage Site National Treasure: Factbook on Himeji Castle(2009); Himeji City Board of Education, Himeji Castle: Looking Back on the Restoration Work of the Showa Period, 3 vols .

**4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects**

nothing in particular

**4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building**

**4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?**

In **one location and easily visible** to visitors

**4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups**

Local communities / residents	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent

Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Excellent
Visitors	Excellent
Tourism industry	Excellent
Local businesses and industries	Excellent

**4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?**

There is a planned education and awareness programme but it only **partly meets the needs** and could be improved

**4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?**

World Heritage status has been an **important influence** on education, information and awareness building activities

**4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?**

There is **excellent presentation and interpretation** of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

**4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property**

Visitor centre	Not needed
Site museum	Adequate
Information booths	Adequate
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Excellent
Information materials	Excellent
Transportation facilities	Adequate
Other	Adequate

**4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building**

nothing in particular

**4.7. Visitor Management**

**4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years**

Last year	Minor Increase
Two years ago	Minor Increase
Three years ago	Minor Increase
Four years ago	Minor Increase
Five years ago	Minor Increase

**4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?**

Entry tickets and registries
Visitor surveys

**4.7.3 - Visitor management documents**

**Comment**

**4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?**

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is **effectively managed** and does not impact its Outstanding Universal Value

**4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?**

There is **excellent co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

**4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?**

The fee is collected and makes a **substantial contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

**4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property**

nothing in particular

**4.8. Monitoring**

**4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?**

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

**4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?**

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for defining and monitoring key indicators for measuring its state of conservation

**4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups**

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Excellent
Local communities	Average
Researchers	Excellent
NGOs	Average
Industry	Average
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

**4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?**

**No relevant** Committee recommendations to implement

**4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee**

nothing in particular

**4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring**

nothing in particular

**4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs**

**4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)**

Please refer to question 5.2

## 5. Summary and Conclusions

### 5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

#### 5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

	World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
<b>3.9</b>	<b>Other human activities</b>					
<b>3.9.2</b>	<b>Deliberate destruction of heritage</b>	Graffiti may be seen on a very limited portion of the white plaster walls classed in Selection Criterion(i)	To prevent graffiti within the property, management has installed surveillance cameras and is conducting regular patrols	Management administrative staff members are conducting patrols	Patrols within the grounds are conducted daily at regular times	Himeji City (Himeji Castle Disaster Prevention Center)  nothing in particular

### 5.2. Summary - Management Needs

#### 5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

Please select your top management needs in question 4.9 before filling in the summary table.



**5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property**

**5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity**

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been **preserved**

**5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity**

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

**5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value**

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

**5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values**

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

**5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property**

**5.4.1 - Comments**

nothing in particular

**6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise**

**6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas**

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	Very positive
Management effectiveness	Very positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Recognition	Very positive
Education	Very positive
Infrastructure development	No impact
Funding for the property	Very positive
International cooperation	Very positive
Political support for conservation	Very positive
Legal / Policy framework	Very positive
Lobbying	Not applicable
Institutional coordination	Very positive
Security	Not applicable
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

**6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status**

nothing in particular

**6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report**

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff
Non Governmental Organization

**6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?**

yes

**6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire**

nothing in particular

**6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities**

UNESCO	Very poor
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Fair

**6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?**

Most of the required information was accessible

**6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following**

Monitoring and reporting
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**6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities**

UNESCO	Excellent
State Party	Excellent
Site Managers	Excellent
Advisory Bodies	Satisfactory

**6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee**

**• Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance**

Reason for update: Himeji-jo is the finest surviving example of early 17th-century Japanese castle architecture. It is located on a hill summit in the central part of the Harima Plain covering southwestern Hyogo Prefecture. The area around the property has been an important transportation hub in West Japan since ancient times. The property comprises 83 buildings with highly developed systems of defence and ingenious protection devices dating from the beginning of the Shogun period. The complex of these structures is a masterpiece of construction in wood, combining function with aesthetic appeal, both in its elegant appearance unified by the white plastered earthen walls and in the subtlety of the relationships between the building masses and the multiple roof layers. Thus, Himeji-jo possesses Outstanding Universal Value.

**6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise**

nothing in particular