

# Himeji Castle

zichi Lorentz

Himeji Castle today is a beautiful Japanese castle located about one hour west from Osaka. More than 2 million visitors last year since it reopened in 2015 after being closed from 2009 for extensive restoration works on the main keep or bailey, mostly replaced the roof and external white plaster. In 2015, there were 2.87 million visitors compared with the local population of about 600,000. This has become the most popular castle to visit and probably the most visited tourist site within Japan. With more than 50% of the visitors foreigners from many European countries and the USA. The city of Himeji survives from the income generated by the tourism.

But lets not forget, these castles, like many others of the time in other countries are symbols of oppression and the life of the common person was one of poverty, sickness and hard labours in order to survive and pay those taxes to people like Lord Honda so he could build his fortress castle and live in splendour. So while we enjoyed the visit to Himeji in the time of the cherry blossom (sakura) blossoms and for awhile lost ourselves to a time in history, we were just as happy to return to our own period of existence with our iPhones and iPads etc.

Check out NHK World for VOD

<http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/vod/journeys/20151006.html>

and also

<http://www.himeji-kanko.jp/en/>





山  
水  
行  
記









左側通行  
KEEP LEFT

左側通行  
KEEP LEFT



化粧櫓入口

Entrance of  
Keishō Yagura  
(Cosmetic Tower)

百間廊下入口

Entrance of  
Hyakum Rōka  
(Long Corridor)





明治  
百年  
記念  
写真  
館











































