古代及び中世（8世紀～16世紀頃）の姫路

Himeji from Ancient Times to the Middle Ages (8th–16th Centuries)

人的・物的交流盛んな播磨国府の街の出現（8世紀）

8世紀の初め頃、現在の姫路城がある姫山の南東に播磨国府が設置される。姫路の旧城下町エリアに都市的な機能が出現するのは、このときが最初である。

播磨国は、現在の兵庫県の南西部一帯3,600㎢余を領域とした。朝廷の直轄地である畿内に隣接していたことから、畿内とも盛んな人的、物的な交流が行われていたことが、様々な史料から確認されている。畿内と九州を結ぶ古代最大の官道である山陽道が域内を東西に貫いて整備され、播磨国府もこの山陽道に隣接していたと考えられている。

国府周辺には古代条里制に基づいて整備された農耕地と村落が広がっていた。

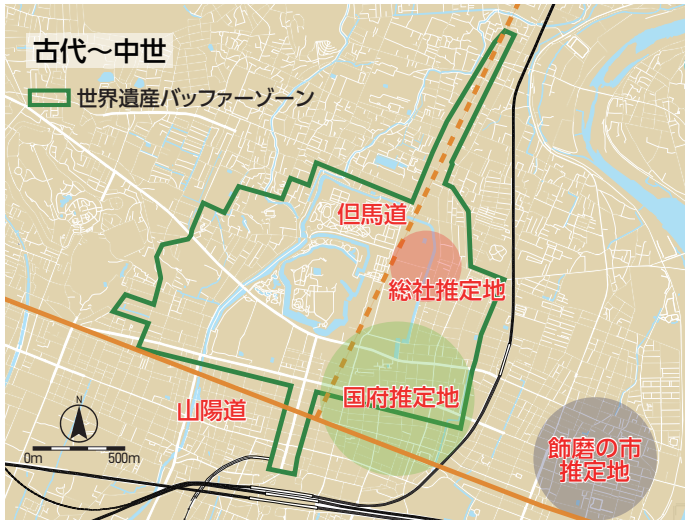
8th Century — The Provincial Government Office Was Established, and a Town of Trade and Transportation Emerged

In the early 8th century, the provincial government office of Harima Province was established southeast of Mount Himeyama, where Himeji Castle stands today. This marked the beginning of urban development in the area that later became the historic castle town of Himeji.

Because Harima was located close to Kinai, the region directly controlled by the imperial court, people and goods moved actively between Harima and Kinai. The Sanyo-do, the major ancient highway connecting Kinai with Kyushu, also ran from east to west through Harima Province. The provincial government office is believed to have been located near this important highway.

国府近傍に大規模な市が出現　播磨国総社が成立（12世紀）

10世紀頃には、飾磨の市と呼ばれた大規模な市が、国府の東方近傍に出現する。市の賑わいの様子は当時の都にも聞こえ、和歌の素材として頻繁に用いられた。12世紀には、播磨国内174座の神社を合祀する播磨国総社が、国府の北方近傍に成立した。現在より数百m北の場所といわれている。



10th–12th Centuries — A Large Market and the Harima-no-Kuni Sōsha (Grand Shrine of Harima Province) Were Established

Around the 10th century, a large market known as the Shikama Market appeared near the provincial government office to the east. The market was very busy, and news of its prosperity reached the capital. As a result, the lively market became a frequent subject of waka poetry.

In the 12th century, the Harima-no-Kuni Sōsha, a shrine complex that brought together and enshrined 174 shrines from across Harima Province, was established near the provincial government office to the north. It is said to have been located several hundred meters north of its current site.

野里・城東に初期城下町　姫山西方に龍野町（16世紀）

16世紀になると、古くから国府北方の野里を中心に活発な活動を展開してきた鋳物師集団が、在地土豪の芥田氏を中心として商圏を拡大し、町場を形成していった。

姫路城は14世紀に姫山に築かれた砦に始まるといわれるが、本格的に城としての機能を持ち始めるのは16世紀以降と考えられている。16世紀末に羽柴秀吉が姫路城主となると、姫路城が拡張整備され、野里など既に在地土豪による町場の形成が始まっていた姫山東方のエリアに初期の城下町が形成される。同じ頃、総社が現在地に移転し、その周辺にも町場が形成される。また、姫山西方のエリアでも、羽柴氏が攻め滅ぼした英賀城城下の住民を移住させて龍野町を形成したと伝えられており、江戸期の城下町につながる町場の形成が行われた。

16th Century — Towns Developed around Nozato and Joto, Laying the Foundations of Himeji Castle Town

In the 16th century, groups of Foundry workers became active around Nozato, north of the provincial government office. As the Foundry workers expanded their commercial activities, shops and residents gradually gathered together, forming an urban settlement.

Himeji Castle is said to have originated as a fort built on Mount Himeyama in the 14th century. However, it is thought that the site began to function as a full-scale castle from the 16th century onward. In the late 16th century, when Toyotomi Hideyoshi became lord of Himeji Castle, he carried out major improvements to the castle. At the same time, a castle town began to develop east of Mount Himeyama, including areas such as Nozato where local powerful families had already established settlements. Around this time, the Harima-no-Kuni Sōsha was also moved to its present location, and another settlement developed around it. A town was also established west of Mount Himeyama. It is traditionally believed that people who had lived in the castle town of Aga Castle, which had been defeated by the Toyotomi forces, were relocated there and formed a new area known as Tatsuno-machi.

In this way, by the end of the 16th century, the basic form of the town that would later become the Edo-period castle town of Himeji was gradually taking shape.

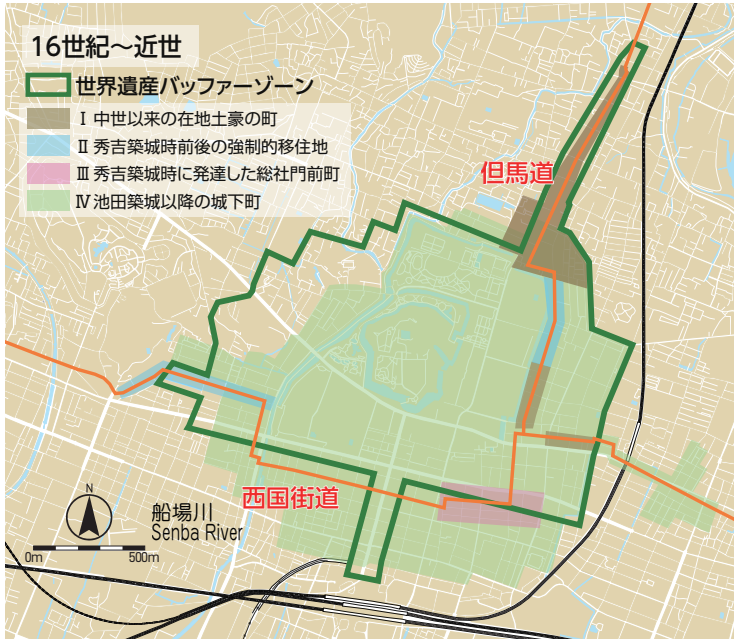
近世(17世紀～19世紀頃)の城下町姫路

Himeji as a Castle Town in the Early Modern Period (17th–19th Centuries)

姫路城大改修　現在につながる姫路城下町の整備（17世紀）

17世紀の江戸幕府成立とともに、姫路では新しい領主となった池田輝政による姫路城の大改修が行われ、現在につながる城下町の整備も進められた。城域を三重の堀で囲い、さらに東西及び南北の街道筋に沿って形成された町場を城下町の機構に取り込んだ。このとき新しく城下町に組み込まれたのが姫山南方のエリアであり、現在の姫路駅前から姫路城の間に広がる商業地である。また、城下町の外港として飾磨港が整備され、城下町と運河で結ぶ事業が着手されたが、領主の交代によってこの運河は未整備に終わった。

1617年に領主が池田氏から本多氏に代わると、城の西を流れる妹背川を改修して飾磨港と城下町の水運を開くとともに、妹背川西方の城下町の拡張が行われた。妹背川は船場川と名称を変え、船場川の西方一帯の城下町が船場と呼ばれるようになった。船場の南部では船場本徳寺が開創され、この周辺が門前町として賑わいを見せるようになる。こうして17世紀初頭に骨格が形成された姫路城下町は、19世紀の封建制崩壊まで大きく形を変えることなく存続した。



17th Century — Major Renovation of Himeji Castle and Development of the Castle Town

At the beginning of the 17th century, as the Tokugawa shogunate was established, Ikeda Terumasa, the new lord of Himeji, carried out a major renovation of Himeji Castle. Himeji Castle was surrounded by three layers of moats, and settlements along the major roads were incorporated into the castle town.The area newly incorporated into the castle town was the district south of Himeji Castle. The commercial area stretching between present-day Himeji Station and Himeji Castle developed as a result of this urban planning.

Shikama Port was also developed as an outer port for the castle town. A plan was started to connect the town with the port by a canal. However, because the lord of the domain was later replaced, the canal was never completed.

In 1617, the lord of Himeji changed from the Ikeda family to the Honda family. The new administration improved the Imose River, which flowed west of Himeji Castle. The river was developed as a water transportation route connecting Shikama Port with the castle town. The Imose River later became known as the Senba River, and the area west of the Senba River came to be called Senba. A temple known as Senba Honganji temple was established in the southern part of Senba. The area around the temple became busy as a temple town, attracting visitors and merchants.

By the beginning of the 17th century, the basic structure of Himeji Castle Town had been completed. The basic layout of the castle town remained largely unchanged until the end of the feudal system in the 19th century.

近現代の城下町姫路

Himeji in the Modern and Contemporary Period

城下町から近代商工業都市へ　市街地の拡大

封建制が崩壊し、廃藩置県が行われた当初、姫路には飾磨県の県庁がおかれたが、飾磨県は間もなく兵庫県に併合され、県庁は神戸に置かれることとなった。行政の中心機能を失った姫路では、藩主と武士団が不在となった姫路城内に陸軍が置かれ、軍の拠点都市となる。

民間の産業活動では、鉄道、電気などのインフラ事業が勃興するとともに、旧城下町内での商業活動の拡大、旧城下町郊外への紡績業等の工場の集積等により、市街地が拡大していった。

そうした中で、第二次世界大戦末期には姫路市内も空爆を受け、城南エリアを中心に市内の住宅の４割を焼失する被害を受ける。戦災で焼失したエリアでは姫路駅から姫路城内曲輪に至る大手前通りの新設など街路の再整備が行われた。市街地の整備拡張はその後も継続され、姫路市は、現在50万人余の人口と大規模な工業地帯を有する都市となっている。

From a Castle Town to a Modern Industrial and Commercial City — Expansion of the Urban Area

When the Edo period ended and the Meiji government introduced the abolition of the feudal domains and the establishment of prefectures, the prefectural government of Shikama Prefecture was initially located in Himeji. However, Shikama Prefecture was soon incorporated into Hyogo Prefecture, and the prefectural government was moved to Kobe. As a result, Himeji lost its role as an administrative center.

At the same time, after the lord of the domain and the samurai who had lived in Himeji Castle left, the Japanese Army was stationed there. This helped Himeji develop as an important military center.

Private industries also began to develop. Infrastructure such as railways and electricity was introduced, and commercial activity in the former castle town expanded. Factories, including textile mills, were built around the outskirts of the old castle town, causing the urban area to expand.

Himeji was also subjected to air raids toward the end of World War II. The areas south of the castle were particularly badly damaged, and about 40 percent of the city's houses were destroyed by fire.

After the war, the areas damaged by the air raids were redeveloped. One of the most important projects was the construction of Otemae Street, which runs directly from Himeji Station toward the inner castle area of Himeji Castle. The development of this street and other reconstruction projects helped create the foundation of the modern urban landscape of Himeji. Today, Himeji City has a population of more than 500,000 and has developed into a city with a large industrial area.

姫路城の世界遺産登録　城下町の歴史的市街地はバッファゾーンに

1993年に姫路城は世界遺産となり、空爆の被害を免れた旧城下町の歴史的市街地を囲むようにバッファゾーンが設定された。バッファゾーンでは、歴史的な町並み景観を維持するためのルールが導入されたが、エリア内の歴史的建造物は年々減少を続けている。一方では、2000年代以降、地域の歴史や景観の継承を目指して活動する団体の設立等の動きが活発化し、兵庫県によるヘリテージマネージャー（※p.3に解説）の養成も進められた。近年では、歴史的民家を再生して商店や住宅として活用する取り組みが活発化するなど、バッファゾーンの歴史的エリアとしての再評価が進んでいる。

Himeji Castle's World Heritage Status
The Historic Area of the Castle Town Buffer Zone Status

In 1993, Himeji Castle was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. And the historic urban areas that escaped destruction during the air raids around the Site, was registered as a Buffer Zone. Within the buffer zone, rules have been introduced to preserve traditional townscapes and the historic character of the area. At the same time, however, the number of historic buildings that have survived from the past has continued to decline.

Since the 2000s, organizations dedicated to protecting local history and historic landscapes and passing them on to future have been established. Hyogo Prefecture has also promoted the training of "Heritage Managers," specialists who investigate, preserve, and make effective use of historic buildings.

In recent years, efforts to restore old traditional houses and reuse them as shops or residences have also become increasingly active. These activities reflect a growing movement to make use of Himeji's historic townscape not simply by preserving it, but by incorporating it into contemporary life and commercial activities.

2-1. 世界遺産「姫路城」と「城下町姫路の歴史地区」*

2-1. Himeji Castle, a World Heritage Site, and the Historic District of Himeji Castle Town.

世界遺産姫路城の遺産区域は合計250ha
プロパティ（世界遺産資産）とバッファゾーン（緩衝地帯）で構成

The World Heritage property of Himeji Castle covers approximately 250 hectares. This area consists of the "Property" (World Heritage site) and the "Buffer Zone."

プロパティ（世界遺産資産）

姫路城内曲輪を中心とする城郭施設とその周辺の公有地107haであり、特別史跡として文化財保護法により厳格な管理が行われている。

バッファゾーンと「城下町姫路の歴史地区」

プロパティ（世界遺産資産）を保護するために利用や開発に一定の規制を行い資産と調和のとれた景観形成を図ることが求められるバッファゾーンは、プロパティの東部・北東部と西部に大きく張り出す形で設定されており、その広さは合計143haである。プロパティの南側に広がる市街地が第二次世界大戦の際に空爆被害を受けて殆ど全ての建物が焼失したのに対し、バッファゾーンのエリアでは市街地の多くが焼失を免れ、城下町当時の街区や構築物が比較的よく保存されている。ここでは、民家を中心に、江戸期のものを含む歴史的建築物が多数現存しており、日本の城下町における伝統的な生活空間に触れることができる。以下では、大手前通り沿道を除くバッファゾーンのエリアを「城下町姫路の歴史地区」として紹介する。

Property (World Heritage Site)

The Property covers approximately 107 hectares, including the castle structures centered on the inner bailey of Himeji Castle and the surrounding publicly owned land.

The area is designated as a Special Historic Site by the Japanese government and is strictly protected and managed in accordance with Japan's Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.

Buffer Zone and the "Historic District of Himeji Castle Town"

The Buffer Zone covers approximately 143 hectares on the east, northeast, and west sides of the Property. Within this zone, certain regulations are applied to building construction and land use in order to preserve a townscape that is compatible with and complement the castle.

The urban area south of the property suffered extensive damage during the air raids of World War II, and many buildings were destroyed. In contrast, the areas within the Buffer Zone suffered relatively little damage. As a result, many of the streets, town blocks, and buildings that date back to the castle town of the Edo period have survived to the present day. In particular, numerous traditional townhouses, including historic buildings dating from the Edo period, remain in the area.

For this reason, walking through this area allows you to experience the lifestyle and atmosphere of the former Himeji castle town firsthand.

In this document, the historic area surrounding Himeji Castle, excluding the area along Otemae Street, is introduced to as the “Historic District of Himeji Castle Town.”

