For anyone passionate about Japanese history – and especially castles - the World Heritage Site, Himeji Castle, in the southwestern part of Hyogo Prefecture is an unmissable trip. We will first visit the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History to learn about Japanese castles and the historical townscapes of the Edo period through miniature models on display, and then head to Himeji Castle which is famous for its dramatic, elegant appearance, and learn from an expert about the efforts to preserve the wooden buildings.

Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History: This museum was designed by contemporary architect, Kenzo Tange, and is located in the premises of Himeji Castle, a special historic site. The museum introduces Himeji Castle and other Japanese castles, while collecting and exhibiting artifacts related to the history and culture of the area.

Himeji Castle: Built about 400 years ago, Himeji Castle is one of the most famous castles in Japan. It is nicknamed “White Heron Castle” for its likeness to the elegant appearance of a heron with open wings. In 1993, the castle became Japan’s first World Heritage Site.