

Enjoy the beautiful
scenery of Kobe!

KOBE VIEW POINT

A guide to Kobe's scenic views

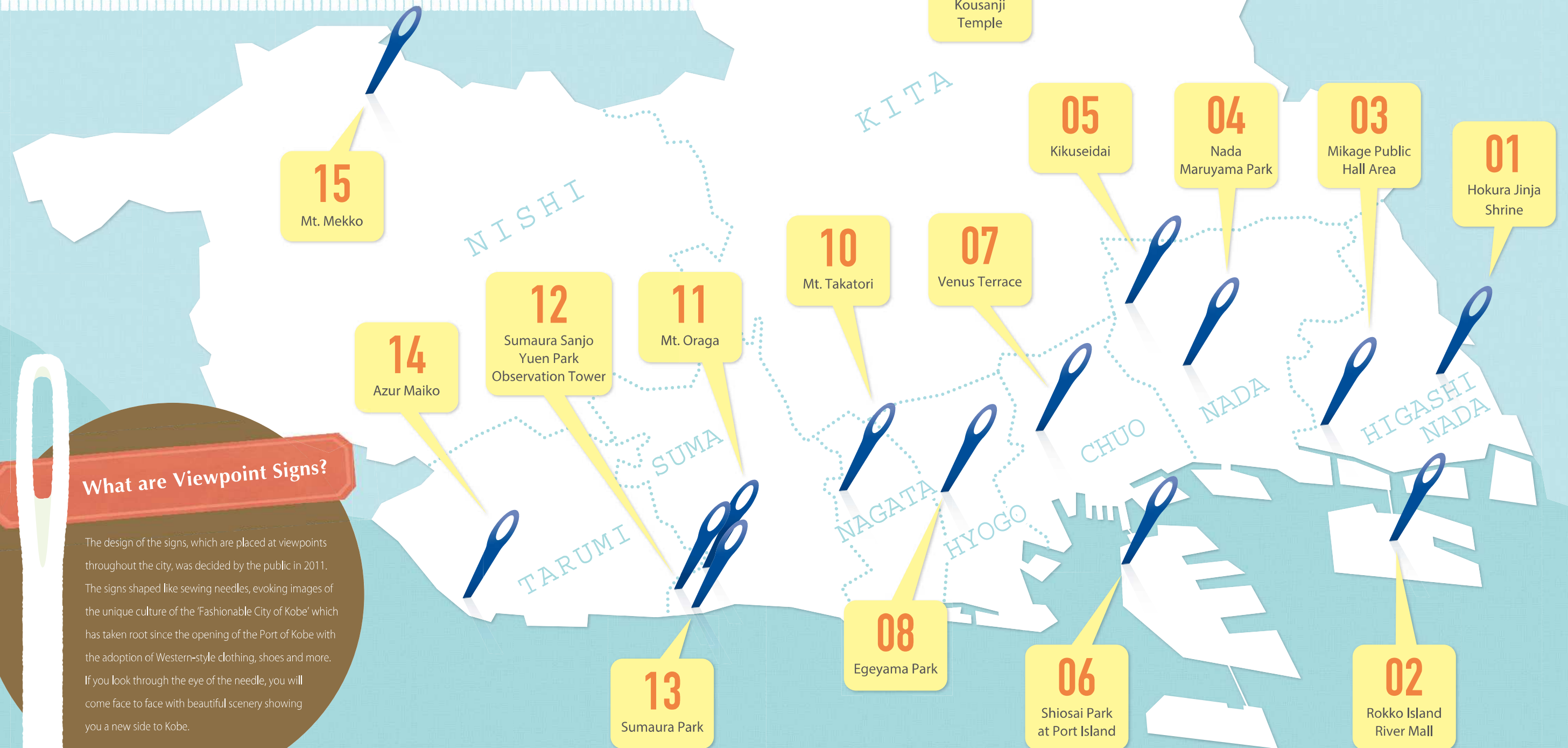


15 Viewpoints around Kobe

We asked residents of Kobe for their thoughts on the city's most special views, leading to the 'Top 50 and Top 10 Scenic views which capture the spirit of Kobe' being chosen in 2008.

At 15 of these locations, we have placed new 'Viewpoint Signs'.

So explore Kobe, find the needle-shaped Viewpoint Signs, and experience Kobe's breathtaking scenery for yourself!



What are Viewpoint Signs?

The design of the signs, which are placed at viewpoints throughout the city, was decided by the public in 2011. The signs shaped like sewing needles, evoking images of the unique culture of the 'Fashionable City of Kobe' which has taken root since the opening of the Port of Kobe with the adoption of Western-style clothing, shoes and more. If you look through the eye of the needle, you will come face to face with beautiful scenery showing you a new side to Kobe.

* Information panel only, no Viewpoint Sign.

Viewpoint Overview

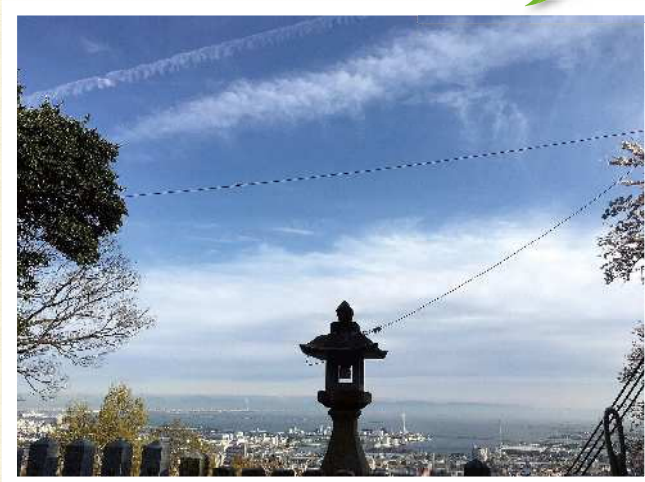
The photos shown here were entered into the 3rd Kobe Urban Design Award in the 'Charm of the City' category!

We held a digital photo contest with the theme being photos of these 15 viewpoints. The photos in this pamphlet were works which were entered into this competition.

01 Hokura Jinja Shrine

[Higashinada Ward Motoyama-cho]

See the City and the sea spread out before you!



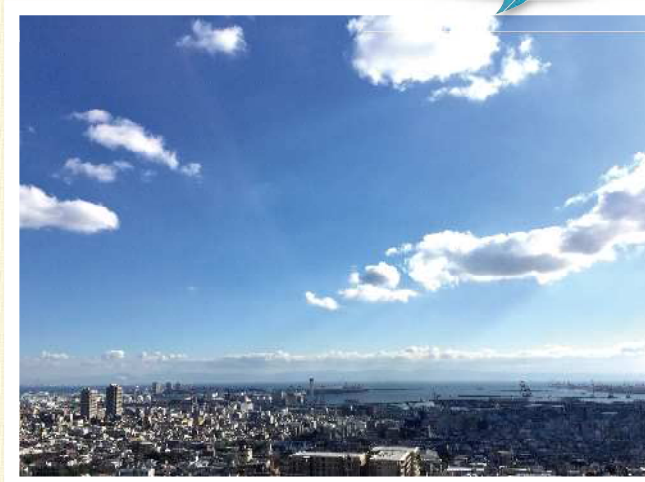
(Photographer: Kayo Puna)

A 30-minute walk from the closest train station, Okamoto station. From the path to the shrine, you can see urban centre of Kobe, Rokko Island, and the Osaka Bay area in the distance. The stone lanterns before the shrine's torii gate have from ancient times been used to wish for good luck upon sea voyages, and have served as a lighthouse for boats. The lanterns are known as "The Flame of Nada", and they continue to be lit every evening.

04 Nada Maruyama Park

[Nada Ward Gomō]

A relaxing spot to enjoy the scenery from high above



(Photographer: Yuri Maezono)

This park high up on the mountainside was originally a baseball field. From it, you can look out from the Osaka-Kobe area all the way to Suma, and Osaka Bay. Within the park there is a grassy open square, athletic and playground facilities and promenades. It has become beloved by Kobe's citizens as a place to relax. This park is also the place where cherry blossom trees were planted as a memorial to the victims of the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake.

05 Kikuseidai

[Nada Ward Mayasan-cho]



(Photographer: Hiroshi Oda)



(Photographer: Kazuki Yasuda)

Kobe's most iconic view!

Just 15 minutes with the Maya Viewline, which connects the summit of Mt. Maya with the foot of the mountain. The viewing point at the summit is called Kikusedai, where you can see the cityscape which stretches from Kobe City all the way to Osaka, and at the same time take in Osaka Bay. In particular, this spot is very popular for its night scenery, as it is said to be one of Japan's three most beautiful nighttime views. Each year on new year's day many people stay on the mountain to see the first sunrise of the new year.

02 Rokko Island River Mall

[Higashinada Ward Kōyō-cho]

Fantastically lit up at night!



(Photographer: Tadashi Goto)

From the man-made Rokko Island, you can face Kobe city centre and the Rokko Mountain range. Alongside the Rokko Liner which runs through the centre of the island, the river mall lines a charming waterway, which in summer is lively with children playing in the water. The atmosphere changes at night, with the lights all around giving the place an almost dreamlike atmosphere.

03 Mikage Public Hall Area (Ishiyagawa River)

[Higashinada Ward Mikageishi-machi]

Retro streets along a charming riverside



(Photographer: Hideo Okuda)

The Ishiyagawa riverside is lined with promenades and parks, with a view which stretches from Mt. Rokko in the North to the Sea-facing South. Alongside the national highway is the Mikage Public Hall, which was built before the Second World War and has survived both wartime aerial bombing and the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake. The building underwent renovation in April 2017, and remains a landmark of the town, which maintains the style of the time it was built in.

06 Port Island Shiosai Park

[Chuo Ward Minatojima]

Enjoy the beauty of Kobe from the sea!



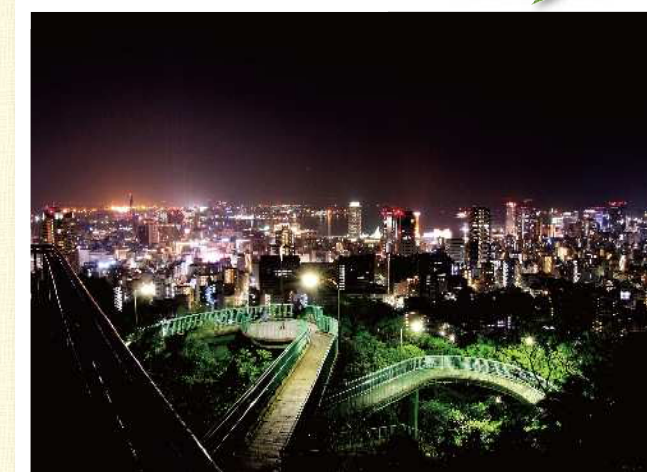
(Photographer: Masaru Yamamoto)

From this park on Port Island's western coast you can see the city area, Port Tower, and the Rokko Mountain range from the sea, enabling you to really feel the atmosphere of the Port City of Kobe. The view at night time has been selected as one of Kobe's Top 10 City Centre night views, and the spot is popular as a place to enjoy the large firework festival which takes place over the water each August.

07 Venus Terrace (Venus Bridge)

[Chuo Ward Kobeko Jikata]

A popular date spot close to the center of Kobe!



(Photographer: Akira Shintani)

The observation deck of Mt. Suwa looks out over the Osaka Bay area, as well as the Port of Kobe and the city. The area has a "Love Monument", where it is said that if a couple attaches a lock to the monument, their love will last forever. The spot is also home to "Venus Bridge", which is in the shape of a heart, making a perfect accompaniment to the Love Monument. You can also enjoy a stunning view of Port Tower through the eye of the View Point Needle.

08

Egeyama Park

[Hyogo Ward Egeyama-cho]

See Port Tower through the eye of the needle!



(Photographer: Chikako Okada)

From many places in this spacious park, you can look over the cityscape from Port Island to Hyogo Canal Town. In addition, you can feel the historic atmosphere surrounding the site, with a stone memorial marking the place where famous samurai leader Masashige Kusunoki led his army in the 14th century Battle of Minatogawa. Egeyama park is popular for its Cherry Blossom trees, and in spring the place is bustling with people who come to view the blossoms.

09

Kōsanji Temple

[Kita Ward Ōzō-cho]

See Kobe's rural landscape and the Tamba Mountains in the Distance



(Photographer: Mieko Yamada)

From the mountain summit, which has a Kannondō (a religious structure dedicated to Kannon, the Buddhist goddess of mercy), there is a rural valley with rice fields forming steps up the side of the mountains. In the distance the landscape changes, with the rural foreground contrasting with the far-away residential apartment complexes, fruit and flower parks. Kōsanji and its forest are well known as symbols of Ōzō-cho, and the local citizens play a big role in working together to maintain it.

12

Sumaura Sanjo Yuen Park Revolving Observatory

(Mt. Hachibuse) [Suma Ward Nishisuma]

A revolving observatory where you can enjoy views from Osaka all the way to the Akashi Suspension Bridge and Awaji!



(Photographer: Yujin Sakurai)

From this revolving observatory on top of Mt. Hachibuse, to the east the view stretches from Suma Marine Park to Osaka, and to the west to Shioya, Tarumi, Akashi Kaikyo Bridge and all the way to Awaji Island. The proximity of the sea, road and railways combine to create a scene which captures the essence of Suma. In the park which you can visit via ropeway, there is a botanical garden and amusement park, which makes it perfect for families.

13

Sumaura Park

[Suma Ward Ichinotani-cho]

A famous spot for cherry-blossom with connections to the Genpei War!



(Photographer: Yoshishige Kawamura)

From the spacious observation platform which sits high up facing the sea, surrounded behind by the green of Mt. Hachibuse, the vast sea stretches into the distance. The site is also known as the location of the Ichinotani Battle of the Genpei War in the 12th century. This spot is very famous for its cherry blossoms, having been chosen as one of Kobe's Top 50 flower viewing spots, and in spring many people visit to view the flowers.

10

Mt. Takatori

[Nagata Ward Takatorisan-cho]

A popular mountain climbing route close to the city!



(Photographer: Ayako Tomiyama)

Mount Takatori, with the main shrine of the Takatori-sect on its summit, has wonderful views of Kobe downtown, the Suma coast and Osaka Bay. On the approach to the shrine there are many small tea shops, making a great place for hikers to take rest on their way. Looking at the scenery through the Torii Gate, you can really feel the traditional Japanese atmosphere of Kobe, making it a wonderful spot to rediscover the charm of the city.

11

Mt. Oraga (Mt. Takakura)

[Suma Ward Nishisuma]

A relaxing spot which is on the route of the Rokko All-Mountain Traverse race!



(Photographer: Youshi Matsui)

From Mt. Takakura, known by its nickname of Mt. Oraga, the view stretches from Osaka all the way to Awaji island and the residential areas of Kobe's Suma and Tarumi Wards. Alongside the mountain path is a tea shop which has an observation deck with a panoramic view. Hiking from Sumaura Park to Mt. Oraga is also a popular activity.

14

Azur Maiko

[Tarumi Ward Kaigandori]

Be awed by the impressive Akashi Kaikyo Bridge!



(Photographer: Tomonao Kamigaki)

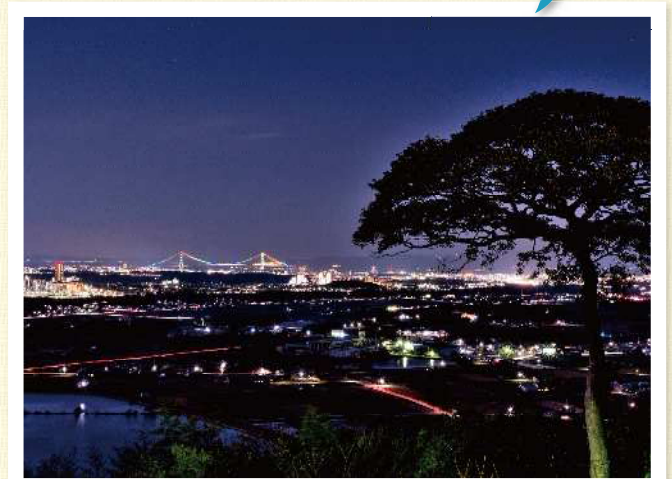
This park – a restored Maikonohama beach – is a beautiful scenic spot for white sand and green pine trees. Visitors can see a magnificent view stretching from Awaji Island to Osaka Bay, with the pine tree forests of Maiko Park in the background. A place where visitors can see both the setting sun as it sinks into the sea, and the nighttime illuminations of the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, it is a popular spot for photography. In addition, in summer many people visit to swim in the sea.

15

Mt. Mekko

[Nishi Ward Kande-cho]

A hidden spot for viewing the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge!

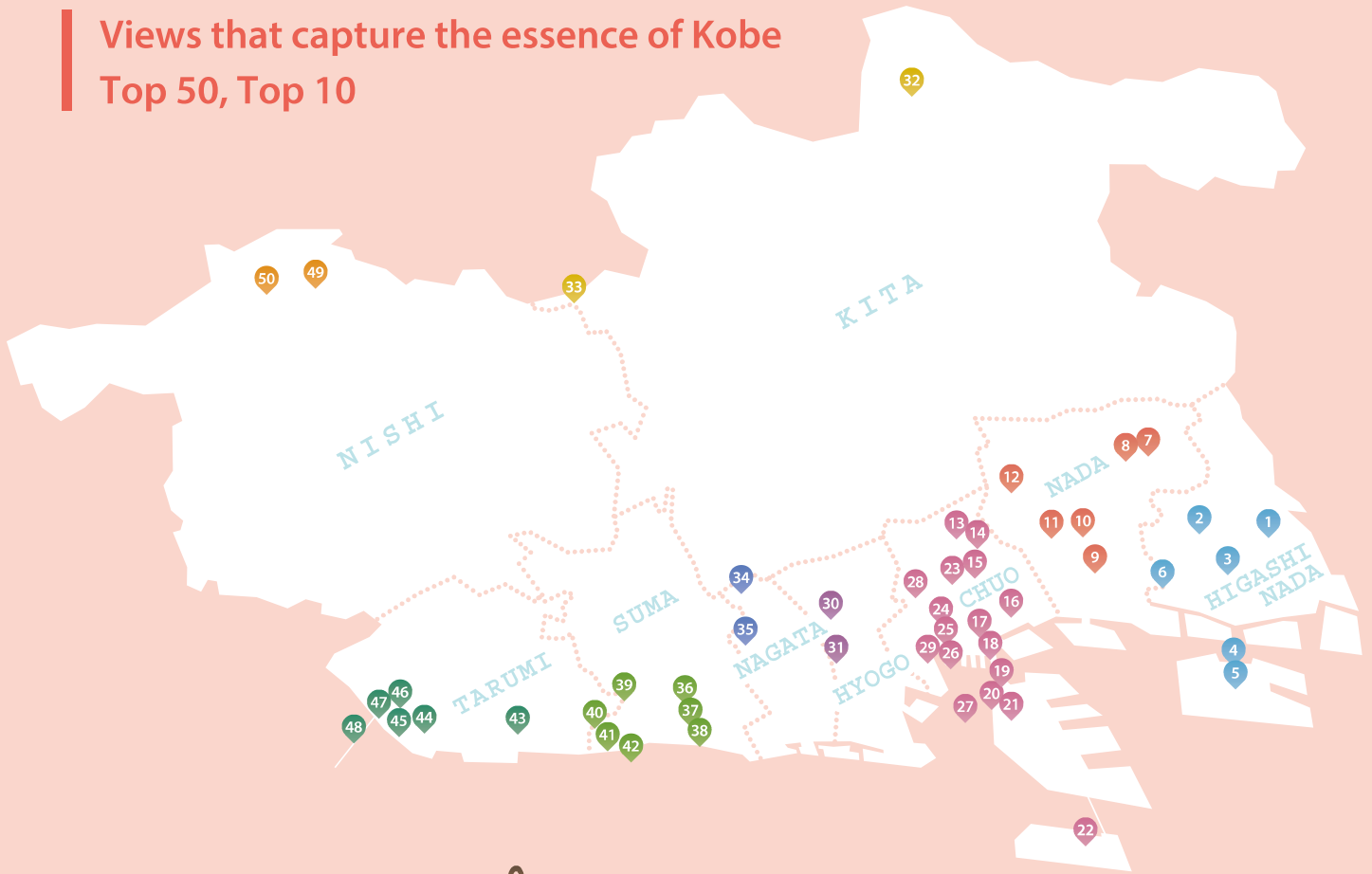


(Photographer: Shigeki Maenaka)

From the grounds of Kande Shrine on the summit of the mountain lies a rural scene with a lake used for irrigation; it even has a hidden night spot where you can look out over Seishin Newtown, the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge and Awaji Island. Sandwiching the irrigation lake to the East and West lie a twin pair of mountains that are like two peas in a pod. The mountains are called Mt. Mekko and Mt. Okko, with Mekko meaning 'female hill' and Okko 'male hill' in Japanese. The mountains are well known by the locals, who call them 'Mekko-san' and 'Okko-san'.

Views that capture the essence of Kobe

Top 50, Top 10



Top 10 : Top 10 Views that Capture the Essence of Kobe



: Places with a Viewpoint Sign

*The corresponding numbers on the map show the location

Higashinada Ward	1	Hokura Jinja Shrine	Top 10	
	2	Hakutsuru Art Gallery Area		
	3	Sumiyoshibashi Area (Sumiyoshi River)		
	4	Rokko Island Kita Park		
	5	Rokko Island River Mall		
	6	Mikage Public Hall Area (Ishiyagawa River)		
Nada Ward	7	Rokko Garden Terrace		
	8	Rokko Viewing Gallery (Rokko Cable Rokko Sanjo Station)		
	9	Shinohara Bridge Area (Togagawa River)		
	10	Nagaminesaka		
Chuo Ward	11	Nada Maruyama Park		
	12	Kikuseidai	Top 10	
	13	Kobe Nunobiki Herb Garden and Observation plaza		
	14	Kobe Nunobiki Ropeway		
	15	Shin Kobe Station		
	16	Hanshin Expressway No. 3 Kobe Route		
	7	Kobe City Hall Building 1 Observation Lobby		
	18	Flower Road		
	19	Port Island Kita Park		
	20	Port Island Shiosai Park	Top 10	
	21	Port Liner		
	22	Kobe Airport		
	23	Kitano Tenmangu		
	24	Motomachi 1 chome interstion area (Koikawasuji)		
	25	Kobe Port Tower		

Chuo Ward	26	Nakatottei Chuo Terminal		
	27	Kobe Port Cruise Boats		
	28	Venus Terrace (Venus Bridge)	Top 10	
Hyogo Ward	29	Mosaic		
	30	Himuro-cho Area		
Kita Ward	31	Egeyama Park	Top 10	
	32	Kosanji Temple	Top 10	
Nagata Ward	33	Tsukuhara Lake		
	34	Hiyodorigoe Forest Park		
Suma Ward	35	Mt. Takatori	Top 10	
	36	Suma Rikyu Park		
	37	Rikyu michi		
	38	Suma Kaihin Park		
	39	Mt. Oraga (Mt. Takakura)		
	40	Sumaura Sanjo Yuen Park Revolving Observatory (Mt. Hachibuse)	Top 10	
	41	Sumaura Park		
	42	Suma Marine Fishing Park		
	43	Iue Memorial Hall		
	44	Tomb of Goshikizuka		
Tarumi Ward	45	Azur Maiko	Top 10	
	46	Maiko Villa		
	47	Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall		
Nishi Ward	48	Maiko Marine Promenade		
	49	Mt. Mekko	Top 10	
	50	Kande Bypass		

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