



# KOBE

After the Port of Kobe opened to the world in 1868, local people enthusiastically adopted cosmopolitan lifestyles. Kobe went on to become an international trading hub shaped by historical and cultural diversity. The city is also blessed with the natural beauty of the Seto Inland Sea, the mountains of Rokko, and traditional satoyama rural areas. Having battled back after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, Kobe is a leader in disaster reduction. First-hand knowledge is harnessed to contribute to greater global safety.



Hyogo Pref.  
**5.43** million people

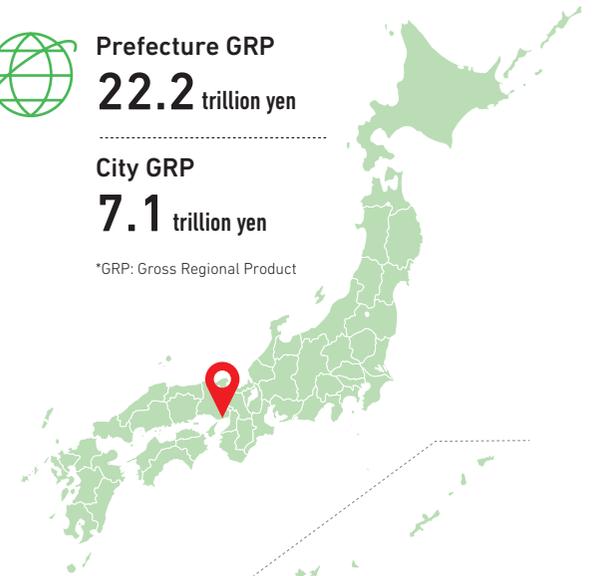


Prefecture GRP  
**22.2** trillion yen

Kobe City  
**1.51** million people

City GRP  
**7.1** trillion yen

\*GRP: Gross Regional Product



## STRENGTHS

### Advantages and Characteristics



#### A city that overcame an earthquake

- Kobe's culture of kindness and compassion is one of its great strengths. With international support, it battled back from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, and the city continues to support reconstruction and revitalization in affected communities.
- Lessons learned at the time of the earthquake are shared with citizens so that they are better prepared for disaster. Citizens, companies, and administrators are working together to improve self-reliance and to promote disaster prevention and reduction.



1.17 Gathering  
Because the tragic earthquake hit on January 17, 1995, January 17 was established as Civil Disaster Prevention Day. Experiences and lessons learned from the earthquake are shared, and participatory activities contribute to disaster preparedness.



#### Local agriculture and fisheries

- Kobe is on the Seto Inland Sea. With urban and rural areas in close proximity, the area produces and ships high-quality agricultural and fishery products. Because Kobe flourished mainly as a port city, its culinary traditions are both diverse and distinct.
- One key aim is for the city to be known as Food Capital Kobe, a world-class and sustainable food community. New businesses linked to local agriculture and fisheries are being nurtured as part of the process of developing a sustainable food culture.



#### Major Events

- The 17th International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics World Congress (ISPO), 2019 (4,600 participants)
- 13th International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine World Congress (ISPRM), 2019 (2,800 participants)
- G8 KOBE Environment Ministers Meeting, 2008
- The 2nd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2005 (40,000 participants)

## STRATEGIES

### Sustainability Strategies and Plans

#### SDGs Strategy

##### Kobe's vision for 2025

- Kobe has a vision for 2025, and has set out the measures that will be taken to achieve it. The aim for Kobe, a city nestled between land and sea, is to cultivate local seeds of global contribution.
- The city's many strengths include a rich natural environment, community diversity and multiethnicity, and distinct art and culture. Having recovered from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, people in Kobe seek to harness the city's advantages and experiences to foster a spirit of mutual aid. Kobe also promotes environmental conservation and other forms of community development that contribute to a better world. The goal is for Kobe to be a city where every citizen can feel safe, secure, and happy.

##### 2050 Carbon Neutral Declaration

- Kobe has declared a net zero carbon emissions target for 2050.

#### Basic Objectives

1. Economic growth through job creation and collaboration between industry and academia
2. Enhanced child support and special educational environments
3. Diverse culture, art, and attractions
4. A safe social system reflecting the lessons of disasters and infectious diseases
5. Safe, healthy, comfortable lifestyles
6. Sustainable urban spaces and infrastructure
7. Revitalizing local communities through diversity and participation

#### Economy

- Kobe is revitalizing existing industries and promoting new ones.
- The city promotes the Rokko Sanjo Smart City Vision and the Satoyama Rural Area Revitalization Vision.
- Fresh efforts are being made to revitalize agriculture and fisheries, and the Food Capital Kobe concept is being harnessed to promote Kobe's food to the world.

#### Society

- Kobe is working to provide seamless support for childbirth, parenting, and education so that all citizens who wish to raise children can do so with peace of mind.
- In the context of disasters and infectious diseases, support is being offered to those. A multimedia communication system is being built that everyone, Japanese and foreign alike, can understand.

#### Environment

- Kobe's decarbonization efforts focus on expanding the use of renewable energy, with the ultimate aim of building a sustainable society.
- The city is raising funds from SDG bonds and loans to implement projects that contribute to environmental and social sustainability.

### Disaster reduction activities established after the earthquake

Disaster reduction activities following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995 led to Kobe's being chosen as the venue for the 2nd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in 2005.

Kobe supports the Disaster Prevention Welfare Community, a voluntary organization formed after the earthquake whose outputs are being disseminated internationally. Initiatives that raise awareness of disaster preparedness include the field trial of a disaster information system that makes use of social media.

Hyogo Prefecture established the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution to share experiences and lessons relating to the earthquake, and to highlight the importance of disaster preparedness. The institution's educational program enables participants to relive the experience of the devastating earthquake. International visitors, too, can learn about this aspect of Kobe history and become better prepared for disaster.



Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution

### Passing down traditional food culture

Situated between the mountains and the sea, Kobe has access to a wide range of agricultural and fishery products. It has fostered a diverse food culture as a port that is open to the world. Through food, traditions are passed down and Kobe's distinct appeal is communicated.

The Nadagogo sake breweries, which are certified as Japan Heritage, offer Incentive programs that incorporate traditional food culture. Participants can compare not only different types of sake but also different cuts of Kobe beef. Kobe Shushinkan, one of the Nadagogo breweries, was the first company in the world to sell sake that generates zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the manufacturing process.



Sake produced and selling in Kobe Shushinkan

Sake brewery

### Decarbonization

Kobe is cooperating with other countries in an effort to realize a decarbonized society. It is the only Japanese municipality in the World Energy Cities Partnership (WECP).

#### Hydrogen Smart City Kobe Initiative

The aim of the Hydrogen Smart City Kobe Initiative is to expand the use of hydrogen. Industry, academia, and the city government collaborated to construct a hydrogen supply chain at Kobe Port. In April 2018, a gas turbine power generation system became the first in the world using 100% hydrogen fuel to successfully supply heat and electricity to surrounding facilities. The Kobe International Exhibition Hall has also successfully tested power supplied from a hydrogen power generation demonstration facility.



Hydrogen power generation demonstration facility

#### Decarbonization Initiatives

Initiative	Results
Power generation using heat from waste incineration	Power generation: 220 GWh/year (2021) (annual electricity consumption of approx. 60,000 households)
Use of digestion gas from sewage treatment	85% of the digestion gas is used as fuel for power generation (2021)
Creation of blue carbon	Issuance of 9.3 t-CO <sub>2</sub> of J Blue Credits* (Kobe Airport Island in 2022)



The sea around Kobe Airport

\* A carbon credit system established and operated by the Japan Blue Economy Technology Association (JBE)

### Resource circulation in agriculture

Kobe has an initiative to promote the resource circulation of phosphorus, a component of fertilizer required for food production.

While Japan relies almost exclusively on imports, in Kobe phosphorus is collected from sewage.

This phosphorus is used to produce an organic compound fertilizer called Kobe Harvest, which is supplied to farmers in the city. Kobe SDGs Fertilizer, meanwhile, is sold to the general public as a horticultural fertilizer. Recovered phosphorus has contributed to raising public awareness of resource recycling initiatives and the SDGs.



Kobe SDGs Fertilizer

### Protecting marine resources and Japan's food culture

In 2022, a cooperative agreement was signed by Kobe City, the Kobe City Fisheries Cooperative, and city hotels with the aim of protecting Kobe's marine resources and food culture. The city is developing processed products made from "Less Popular Fish"\* and promoting them internationally.

Since June 2021, the Kobe Kitano Hotel has been offering an SDGs Sustainable Menu featuring Less Popular Fish. Sustainable seafood activities of this sort will be expanded so that Less Popular Fish can be served in meals at business events.



Sustainable seafood

\* Fish that are not often eaten because they're low value, small, unfamiliar, unpopular, or from a catch too small to be commercialized.

### Cultural properties and museums

Many of Kobe's cultural properties are protected by national laws and ordinances. In addition, the city has independently designated many locations of historic and cultural value as Kobe Historical Heritage. Great efforts are made to look after and make use of Kobe's cultural assets, and to share the city's heritage with future generations.

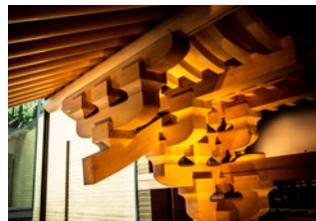
Sorakuen Garden, a Kobe Historical Heritage property, is a registered monument of Japan. Offering the atmosphere of a large garden in the 19th century, it is used as a venue for business events.

The Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum is very popular with international visitors. The museum offers demonstrations of traditional techniques associated with valuable old Japanese buildings. Visitors can even have a go themselves at a traditional woodworking class for beginners.



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Sorakuen Garden



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Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum

### Diverse history and culture in a truly exotic city

Kobe developed as an international port. It has a long history and a diverse community. Its special visitor resources include Nankinmachi, a well-known Chinatown.

Another example is Kobe Kitano Ijinkangai, a neighborhood where Japanese lived alongside foreigners who arrived after the port opened in 1867. Its well-preserved traditional buildings offer visitors a window on the history of Japan's engagement with the West. The Former Rein Residence is a unique venue available for events.



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Former Rein Residence



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Nankinmachi