



The "White Egret" Castle in Himeji

## Shachihoko

The “shachihoko” of the tenshu (main tower of the castle) or the roof ornament on the ridges of the roof of the castle are abstract representation of fish in the sea. The ornament is a charm to guard against fire and ward off disaster. These shachihoko are replicas of the ones on the castle.

Shachihoko were on the streets of Himeji as well.

Replica shachihoko.



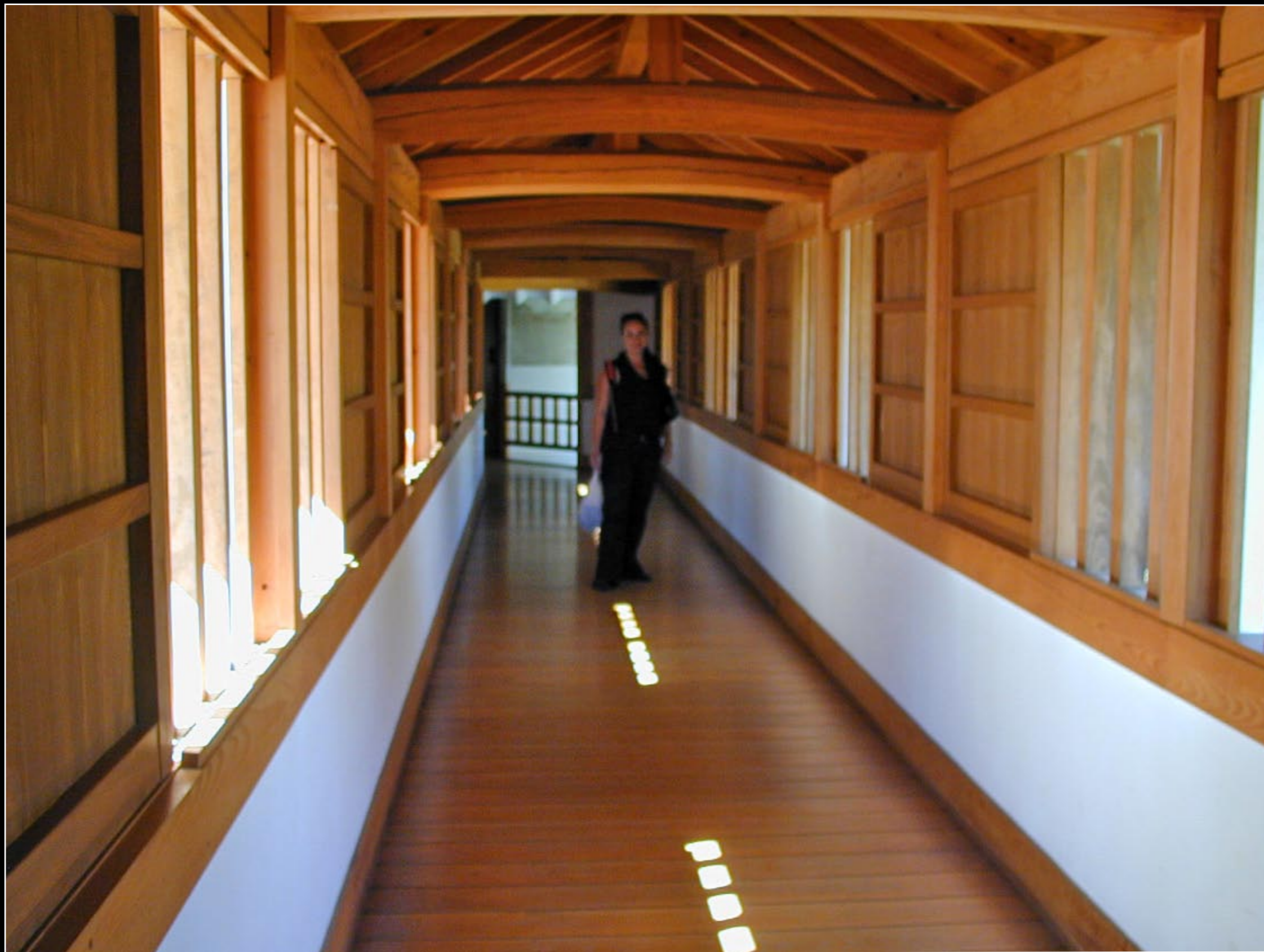




Green houses below the castle growing Chrysanthamums.



Many places require no shoes. The women's gallery in this case.



Hallway along the gallery.



Family crests are on the end cap tiles on the eaves.

On our way up the castle.





A family crest tile.



400+ year old wall made from clay, sand, and boiled rice water.





Himeji as viewed from the castle top.



Shachihoko viewed from the top floor of the castle.



What Himeji used to look like.





Train platform with car signage we never really figured out.





Inside a shinkansen, a.k.a. bullet, train.



Colorado cafe in Kyoto. It turns out it was Colorado, Brazil!



Yummy treat, but P unknowingly burned her finger on the "ice."



"Yanqui" boys complete with bleached hair and cell phones.