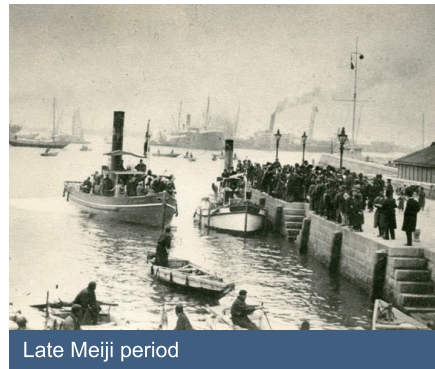


## History of the Meriken Pier



Mid-Meiji period



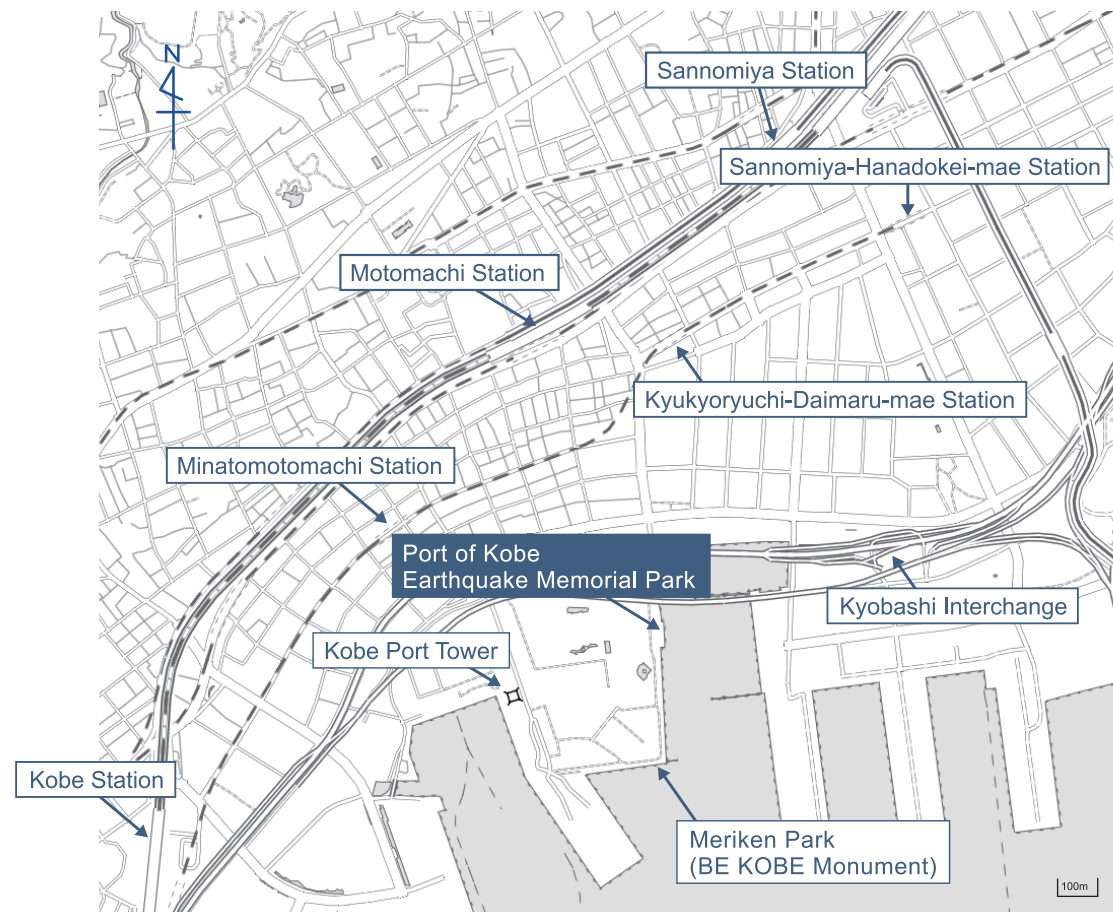
Late Meiji period



Circa 1929

Following the opening of the Port of Kobe on January 1, 1868, a small pier measuring 18.2 m in length and 10.9 m in width was built at the mouth of the Koikawa River on May 23, 1868, and was named Pier No. 3. Located right next to the US Consulate, the pier eventually came to be known as the Meriken ("American") Pier. At one point it was also called the Bankoku Pier, and this name has been etched into a monument at the land-side entrance to the pier. The approximately 16 ha between this pier and the Naka Pier was reclaimed to construct Meriken Park, which opened in 1987.

## Area Map



Source: Geospatial Information Authority of Japan website (maps.gsi.go.jp/vector)

# Port of Kobe Earthquake Memorial Park

## Exhibition Renewal, January 2025



On January 17, 1995, a magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck in the southern part of Hyogo Prefecture, with its epicenter near the Akashi Strait.

Port of Kobe Earthquake Memorial Park was established in July 1997 to preserve approximately 60 meters of the Meriken Pier in its damaged state. Its purpose is to pass down to future generations the lessons of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the importance of the port, and the efforts made by many people both in Japan and abroad who worked together to restore and rebuild the Port of Kobe, focusing on the damage the port suffered and the process of recovery.

In January 2025, marking the 30th anniversary of the earthquake, the exhibition was renewed while preserving the original concept of the park's construction.

**BE KOBE**  
震災30年を  
未来につなぐ

Address: 2 Hatoba-cho, Chuo Ward, Kobe City

Access: 10 minutes on foot from JR/Hanshin Motomachi Station or take the Port Loop Bus or City Loop Bus from the Sannomiya Ekimae bus stop, and get off at Meriken Park.

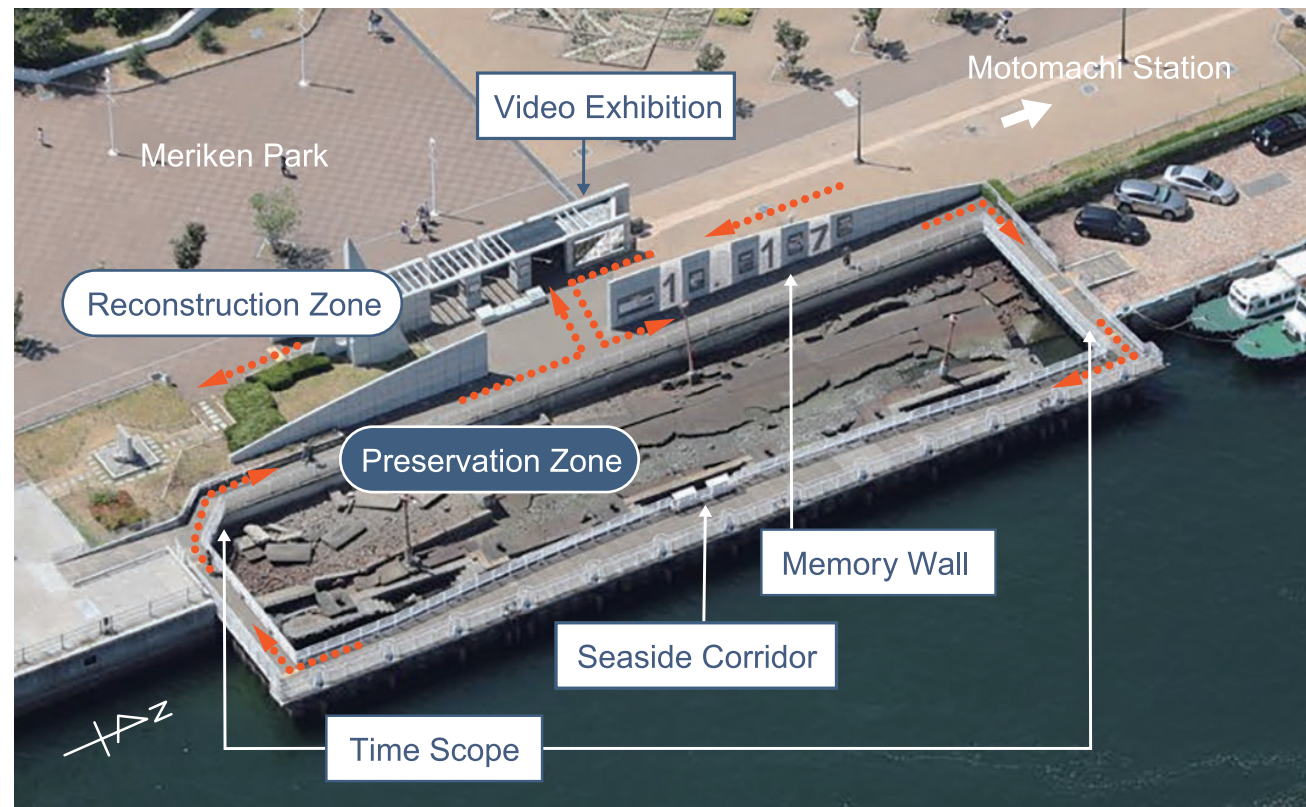
Opening hours: Open at all times

Admission: Free

**KOBE**  
CITY of DESIGN



## ■ Exhibition Layout



.....▶ Recommended route

### Preservation Zone

This zone preserves the scale of the damage to the Port of Kobe in visible form and conveys the conditions at the time of the disaster.

A monument symbolically designed with the date and time of the earthquake introduces the significance of the Memorial Park. Part of the damaged Meriken Pier has been preserved, and a seaside promenade allows visitors to walk around and experience firsthand the stark reality of the port's devastation.

### Reconstruction Zone

This zone conveys the scale of the earthquake's impact on the Port of Kobe through photographs, videos, and other materials, while also presenting the process of reconstruction. It highlights the port's role at the time of the disaster, the path from devastation to restoration, and the present as well as the future vision of the Port of Kobe.

The powerful reconstruction of the Port of Kobe and its new departure are symbolized by a monument in the shape of a ship's sail.



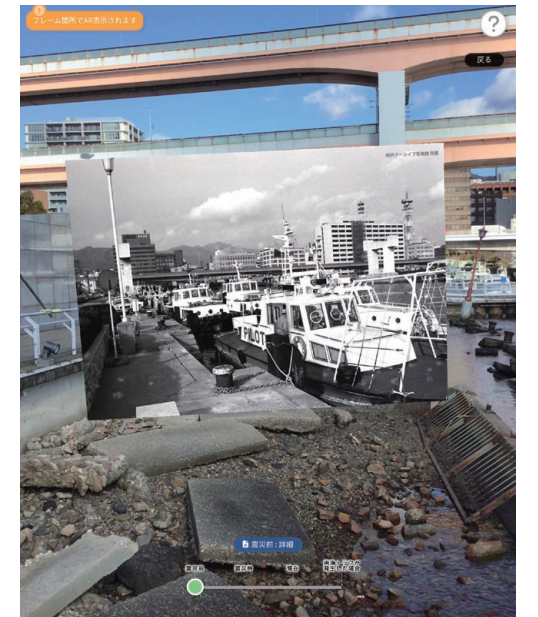
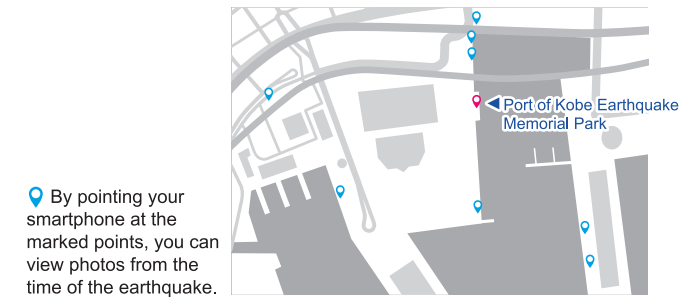
## ■ Memory Wall

As a reminder of the earthquake, the date of the disaster, "1995.1.17," is symbolically displayed. At night, a lighting display projects graphics that evoke the colors of a dawn sky.



## ■ Time Scope (AR)

This AR (augmented reality) content allows visitors to visually grasp the scale of the earthquake's damage by comparing photos from before, during, and after the disaster on their smartphones. The experience can be accessed via a QR code located in the Preservation Zone, and views of the earthquake's impact are also available at eight locations around the Memorial Park.



## ■ Video Exhibition: "The Port of Kobe Rebuilt Two Years after the Earthquake"

This exhibit presents the damage caused by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the restoration efforts at the Port of Kobe, which was reconstructed in just two years.

