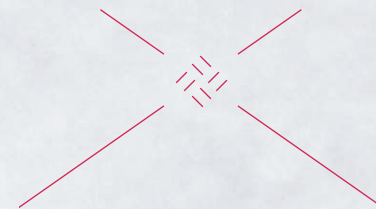




Japan. Endless Discovery.



English



THE  
FLOWER  
OF  
JAPAN  
KANSAI

美の伝説



SHIGA / KYOTO / OSAKA  
HYOGO / NARA / WAKAYAMA  
FUKUI / TOTTORI / TOKUSHIMA



# A TRIP TO REAL JAPAN

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### CONCEPT OF THE BOOK

## WABI-SABI & KANO MUSUBI

Wabi-sabi is the Japanese aesthetic for appreciating and accepting imperfection and the beauty of the spirit.

In "The Flower of Japan, Kansai," the heart of Wabi-sabi is found in the splendid scenery formed over the years that has been recorded in these pages.

The book you now hold was inspired by the concept of wabi-sabi and features a cover decorated in traditional Japanese colors to highlight this.

The cover's white tone is known as Unohana-iro in Japanese.

Unohana is a small white flower long used to represent the color white.

This whiteness is symbolic of the pure heart's admiration of "The Flower of Japan, Kansai," and the crimson lettering on the cover uses the same traditional hue as that on that Japanese flag.

Last, the motif of this book is Kano Musubi, an auspicious knot considered to bring good fortune.

With this knot, we pray that your discovery of "The Flower of Japan, Kansai" will be a fulfilling one.





# 美の伝説

THE FLOWER OF JAPAN, KANSAI

## EXPERIENCE THE TRUE SOUL OF JAPAN

Kansai, the former capital of Japan, has forever remained at the center of the country's historical development. A trip to the region offers the visitor a glimpse into a 1,400 year heritage rich in art, history and culture. This guide book presents an exploration of 12 areas of cultural significance and includes five World Heritage Sites, a journey to Japan's spiritual heartland and seven spectacular scenic views. By exploring these areas you'll gain a unique insight into the spirituality, beauty and aesthetics of the Japanese way of life. Visit Kansai and experience the true soul of Japan.



# KANSAI AREA MAP

- ..... Shinkansen
- Airport
- Shinkansen Station
- Ferry Terminal



- 5 WORLD HERITAGE SITES
- 7 SPECTACULAR VIEWS
- 12 AREAS FOR EXPLORATION



# 5

## WORLD HERITAGE SITES

1. Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities)
2. Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara
3. Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range
4. Himeji-jo Castle
5. Buddhist Monuments in the Horyuji Temple Area







5

## WORLD HERITAGE SITES

The Kansai area of Japan boasts a rich cultural heritage and contains a number of prominent UNESCO World Heritage Sites that should be on everyone's must-see list. From the stunning Himeji-jo Castle to the serene temples of Kyoto and Nara, there are countless historical treasures to explore.

11  
11



BYODOIN TEMPLE (UJICITY)



### 1 Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities)

A total of 17 temples, shrines and gardens are included in Kyoto's World Heritage listing. From the exquisite Golden Pavilion at Kinkakuji Temple to the tranquility of the Zen garden at Ryoanji Temple, Kyoto is a treasure trove of ancient history.

① P P  
21 \_ 22



### 2 Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara

Nara was the ancient capital of Japan between 710 to 784 and is home to some of the must-see UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Kansai, including Kofukuji Temple, Horyuji Temple and Todaiji Temple, home to the magnificent 15m-high seated bronze Buddha.

⑪ P P  
41 \_ 42



THE GREAT BUDDHA HALL AT TODAIJI TEMPLE





3

### Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

The Kii Mountains have been a mecca for pilgrims since the Heian-era and include the three sacred mountains of Yoshino-Omine in Nara Prefecture; Koyasan (Mt. Koya) and Kumano in Wakayama Prefecture.

12 P P  
43\_44



KUMANO KODO (PIGRIMAGE ROUTES)



HIMEJI-JO CASTLE



HORYUJI TEMPLE

4

### Himeji-jo Castle

With a major restoration project completed in 2015, Himeji-jo Castle has been restored to its former, brilliant white glory. Also known as the White Egret Castle due to its passing resemblance to a bird taking flight, Himeji-jo Castle is one of the most beautiful castles in Japan.

5

### Buddhist Monuments in the Horyuji Temple Area

Horyuji Temple, founded in 607 by Prince Shotoku, is acknowledged as the oldest existing wooden structure in the world. Its numerous structures are registered as a World Heritage Site, including the 32m-high five-story pagoda, the main hall built from 28 massive wooden pillars and its central gate.

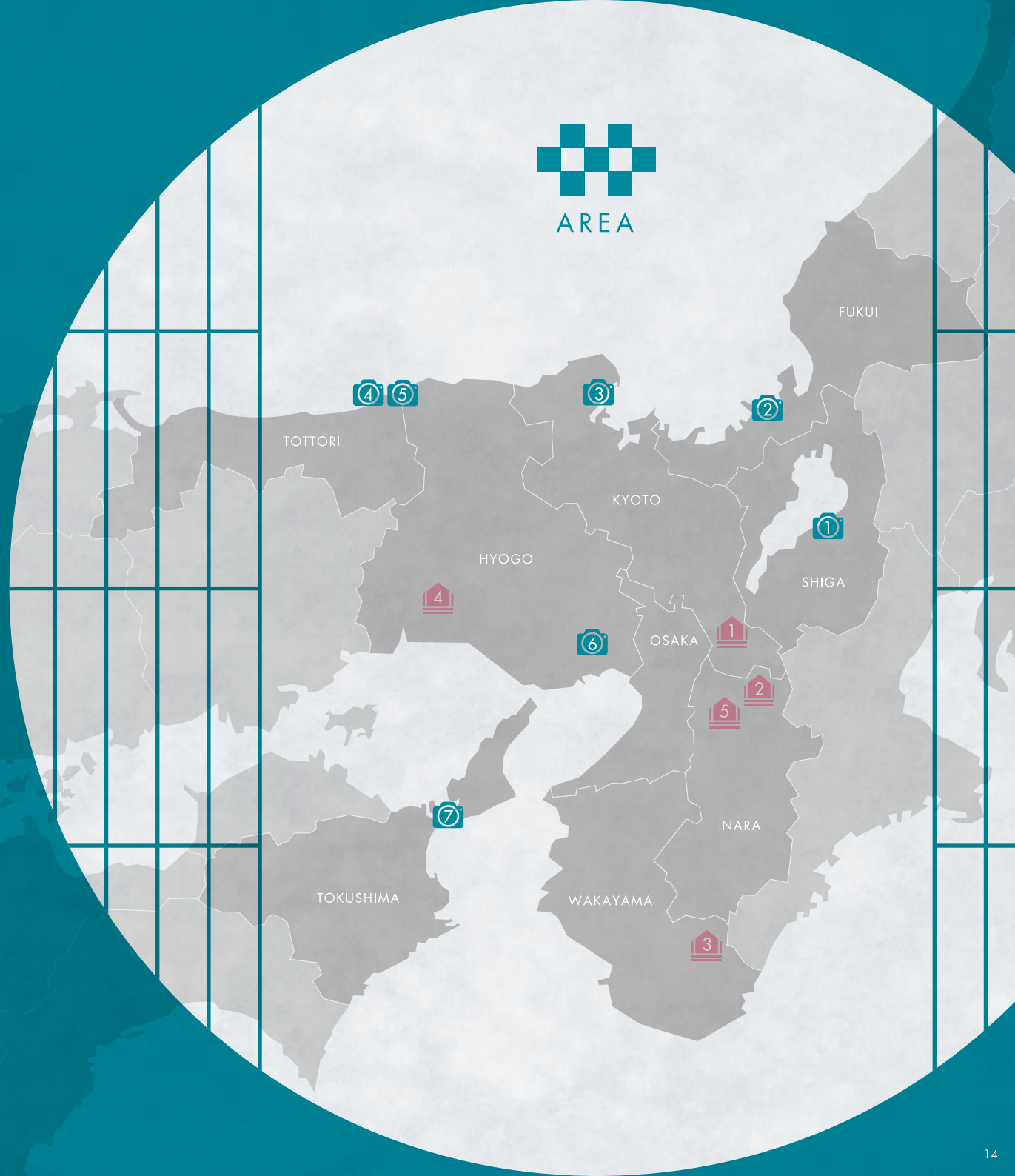
11 P P  
41\_42



# 7

## SPECTACULAR VIEWS

1. Hikone-jo Castle
2. Mikatagoko (Mikata Five Lakes)
3. Amanohashidate
4. Tottori Sand Dunes
5. San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark
6. The Night Views over Osaka and Kobe
7. The Whirlpools of Naruto







7

## SPECTACULAR VIEWS

Picture-perfect lakes,  
wind-swept dunes,  
seaside panoramas...  
away from the hustle  
and bustle of the cities  
are some areas  
of outstanding natural  
beauty that deserve  
to be included in any  
Kansai itinerary.



### Hikone-jo Castle

A picturesque castle offering  
commanding views over Lake  
Biwa in Shiga prefecture.  
Designated a National  
Treasure, Hikone-jo Castle  
was constructed in the 1600s  
by the Ii clan.

② P P  
23\_24



HIKONE-JO CASTLE



MIKATAGOKO  
(MIKATA FIVE LAKES)



### Mikatagoko (Mikata Five Lakes)

A beautiful wetland area in Fukui prefecture, consisting of five  
interconnected lakes, each with its own unique water qualities.  
The area is surrounded by some 80,000 plum trees that  
blossom magnificently in the early spring.



### Amanohashidate

Renowned as one of the three most beautiful sights in Japan,  
Amanohashidate is a natural 3.6km sandbar on the Tango Peninsula that  
when viewed upside down between your legs, resembles a bridge to heaven.

④ P P  
27\_28



AMANOHASHIDATE





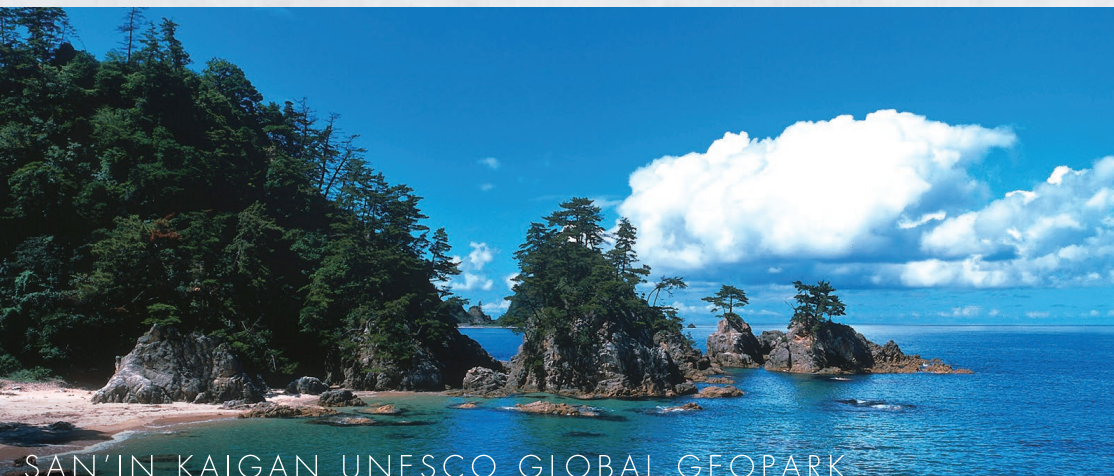
TOTTORI SAND DUNES

#### ④ Tottori Sand Dunes

These ancient, naturally occurring dunes along the coast of the Sea of Japan are breathtaking for their sheer size alone. They are Japan's only large scale dune system, and part of the San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark.



⑥ P P  
31\_32



SAN'IN KAIGAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

#### ⑤ San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark

Spanning the rugged Sea of Japan coast between Tottori and Northern Kyoto, this UNESCO Global Geopark is of significant geological importance since it holds the key to understanding the formation of the Sea of Japan, some 20 million years ago.

⑥ P P  
31\_32



THE NIGHT VIEWS OVER OSAKA AND KOBE

#### ⑥ The Night Views over Osaka and Kobe

Hike up, bike up or take the cable car – the views from the top of Mt. Rokko across Osaka Bay are spectacular any time of day, but are truly magical after dark and locally known as the 10 Million Dollar View.

⑦ P P  
33\_34



THE WHIRLPOOLS OF NARUTO

#### ⑦ The Whirlpools of Naruto

The tidal whirlpools in the Naruto Strait between Naruto and Awaji Island are some of the most famous in the world. During the spring tides, some of the whirlpools can reach 20m across.

⑧ P P  
35\_36





# 12

## AREAS FOR EXPLORATION

Explore the following 12 Kansai areas, some well-known tourist hubs, others off the beaten path, yet each with its unique cultural heritage.

Discover the treasures of ancient Kyoto and Nara, the spiritual heartland of Kumano, or the geothermal hot springs of the Sea of Japan.

Kansai offers something for everyone.

1. Historic Monuments of the Ancient Kyoto Area
2. Hikone-jo Castle and Castle Town Area
3. Obama and Wakasa Area
4. Amanohashidate Area
5. Toyooka Area
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10. Mozu-Furuichi Kofun, Ancient Tumulus Clusters and Takenouchi Highway Area
11. Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara
12. Kumano Area

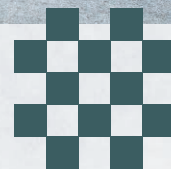






NIJO-JO CASTLE

## ① Historic Monuments of the Ancient Kyoto Area



A major feature of the city, Kyoto's Cultural Properties consist of 17 sites selected from a long list of choices that speak to the many layers of the ancient capital's history. Centering on architectural structures and gardens and based on criteria befitting World Heritage status, these properties were chosen according to their excellent state of preservation, with factors such as possession of high-ranking National Treasures (for structures) or Places of Scenic Beauty (for gardens) and overall designation as a Historic Site taken into consideration.



### ACCESS

Train or Subway
 Boat or Ferry
 Walk  
 Car or Taxi
 Bus

From Kansai International Airport  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 hr 20 min or 1 hr 25 min or 1 hr 30 min

From JR Osaka Station  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 30 min or 50 min

### The 17 Cultural Properties of Ancient Kyoto

From JR Kyoto Station			
1. Kozanji Temple	35 min	10. Kamigamo-jinja Shrine	30 min
2. Tenryuji Temple	30 min	11. Shimogamo-jinja Shrine	25 min
3. Saihoji Temple	25 min	12. Ginkakuji Temple	30 min
4. Ninnaji Temple	30 min	13. Kiyomizu-dera Temple	15 min
5. Ryoanji Temple	30 min	14. Daigoji Temple	30 min
6. Kinkakuji Temple	25 min	15. Ujigami-jinja Shrine	35 min
7. Nijo-jo Castle	10 min	16. Byodoin Temple	35 min
8. Honganji Temple	10 min	17. Enryakuji Temple	50 min
9. Toji Temple	10 min		

※ Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

## Nijo-jo Castle

The castle was constructed in 1603 by the Tokugawa shogunate as protection for the old Kyoto imperial palace and as a residence for the shogun in the capital. The Ninomaru Palace at its center is representative of traditional samurai-style residential architecture, with each room painstakingly and spectacularly decorated.



KIYOMIZU-DERA TEMPLE

## Kiyomizu-dera Temple

It's said that in 778 the monk Enchin enshrined Kannon at the Otowa waterfalls, which was then followed by Sakanoue no Tamuramaro establishing a Buddhist temple there in 798 on the orders of Emperor Kanmu. The Hondo (main hall), also known as the "Kiyomizu Stage," forms the center of the temple and was rebuilt in 1633 in the Kake-zukuri style. It's a splendid construction of closely gathered tall pillars, intersected with crosspieces. As well as each of the buildings within the grounds, there is also the Jojuin Garden that uses early Edo period Shakkei landscaping techniques.

## Byodoin Temple (Uji City)

This was originally a villa for Fujiwara-no-Michinaga. His son Yorimichi converted it into a temple in 1052, in the late years of Heian Period. The Hoodo, an image of which is featured on the 10-yen coin, represents the Land of Happiness which noblemen dreamt of. Its elegant figure is very famous and tells us the prosperity of the Fujiwara family.



BYODOIN TEMPLE (UJICITY)



RYOANJI TEMPLE

## Ryoanji Temple

This Zen temple opened when Hosokawa Katsumoto reconstructed the old villa of the Tokudaiji family in 1450. It is renowned for its rectangular white-sand Karesansui-style garden that stretches from east to west, in which 15 rocks of various sizes are laid out. However, all 15 rocks can never be seen at once. This represents the teaching of Zen – to not always seek perfection. The interpretation of this theme relating to the garden may vary depending on the viewer's thoughts and emotions.

## INSIDER TIPS

### Ninja footsteps

Can you pass undetected along the corridors of Nijo-jo Castle? Likely not, since the unique Nightingale floorboards are designed to creak under foot to warn of intruders.

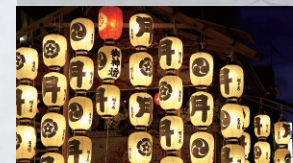
## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

### SPRING



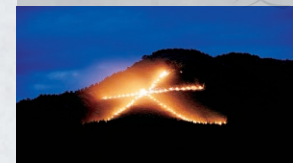
Cherry Blossoms in Maruyama Park  
Maruyama Park

### SUMMER



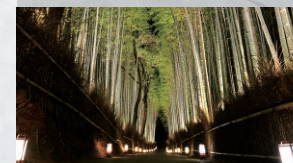
Gion Matsuri  
Yasaka-jinja Shrine and Others

### SUMMER



Gozan no Okuribi (Mountain Bonfires)  
Kyoto City Wards

### WINTER



Kyoto Arashiyama Hanatouro (Light and Blossoms Pathway)  
Saga Arashiyama Area

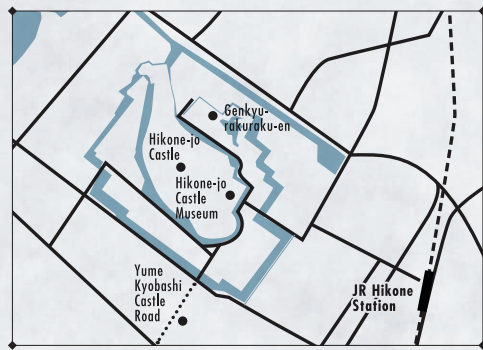




HIKONE-JO CASTLE

## ② Hikone-jo Castle and Castle Town Area

Hikone-jo Castle is a delightful castle and a National Treasure. It features a daimyo lord's residence at its base and offers picturesque views all year round. Enjoy its cherry blossoms in spring, its verdant greens of summer, its crimson leaves in fall or its snow-covered beauty during winter. The area surrounding the castle evokes a feeling of the town in ancient times, when it was once prosperous with the castle at its center, and provides visitors with a fun shopping experience. Look out for Hikone's uber-popular mascot character "Hikonyan" – a samurai cat. He can often be seen in Tenshu-mae Square or at the Hikone-jo Castle Museum.



ACCESS		Train or Subway	Boat or Ferry	Walk
		Car or Taxi	Bus	
From Kansai International Airport		2 hr 20 min or 2 hr 10 min		
From JR Osaka Station		1 hr 20 min or 1 hr 40 min		
From JR Hikone Station				
1. Hikone-jo Castle	5 min	or 15 min		
2. Hikone-jo Castle Museum	5 min	or 15 min		
3. Yume Kyobashi Castle Road	5 min	or 20 min		
4. Genkyu-rakuraku-en	5 min	or 15 min		

※ Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

## Hikone-jo Castle

One of only five Japanese castles designated as National Treasures, Hikone-jo Castle was the seat of the Ii clan. It has a three-story keep of stone walls with beautifully curved roofs.



HIKONE-JO CASTLE MUSEUM

## Hikone-jo Castle Museum

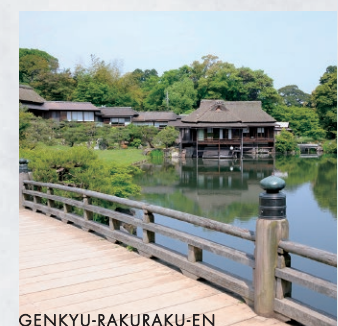
A restoration of the Omote Goten (front hall) that used to be both the chief office of the domain and the official residence of the daimyo. Here you can find many craft products, archives, arms and famous treasures kept by the successive Ii family lords on display. During spring and fall, Noh plays are also performed on the Noh stage.

## Yume Kyobashi Castle Road

A shopping street that extends from Kyobashi bridge, which crosses the inner moat of Hikone-jo Castle. Designed to make you feel like you're back in the castle town with its Edo period machiya townhouses, it is lined with souvenir shops and places to try local Shiga cuisine and also offers hands-on workshops to try making candles, kotoyaki ceramics and Japanese washi paper lanterns.



YUME KYOBASHI CASTLE ROAD



GENKYU-RAKURAKU-EN

## Genkyu-rakuraku-en (Genkyu-en Garden)

This park consists of the daimyo lord's residence at the foot of the castle and the daimyo's garden (Genkyu-en), a beautiful example of a traditional Japanese garden and designated site of National Scenic Beauty. It's also listed as part of a newly recognized Japan Heritage Site under the title "Lake Biwa and the Surrounding Scenery – The Water Heritage of Prayer and Living."

## INSIDER TIPS

### Yakatabune

Take a boat trip around the moat in a traditional Edo-era Yakatabune. The 50-min leisurely cruise provides a wonderful perspective of the castle and gets you up close and personal with the local wildlife. Particularly beautiful during the cherry blossom season. ¥1,300 for adults, ¥600 for elementary school students and younger. (Free for children of age 3 and under.) The fee for adults is ¥1,500 when the cherry blossoms are in bloom.



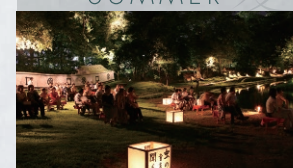
## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

### SPRING



Hikone-jo Castle Cherry Blossom Festival  
Hikone-jo Castle

### SUMMER



Listening to Insects in Genkyu-en Garden  
Genkyu-rakuraku-en

### FALL



Hikone Yumetouro (Light and Dream Pathway)  
Hikone-jo Castle

### WINTER



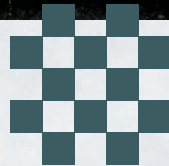
Hikone Illuminations  
Yonbancho Square, Yume Kyobashi Castle Road



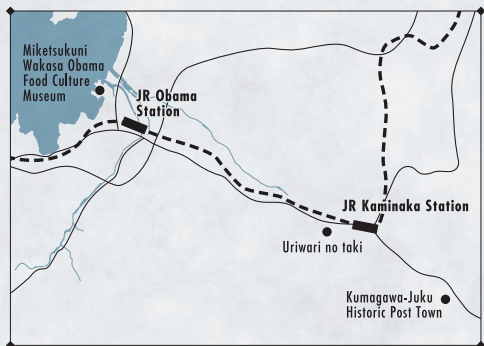


URIWARI NO TAKI (BREAKING WATERFALL)

## ③ Obama and Wakasa Area



Since ancient times Wakasa has been known as the "land of food" as it supported the food cultures of ancient Nara and Kyoto with an abundance of fresh produce. It's also the point where sea routes from the continent join land routes to the capital. Over a long history of comings and goings, the ports, castle towns and inns along this highway prospered, and the festivals, entertainment and Buddhist culture of those passing through led this area to develop in a unique way. This group of highways that start in Obama City are commonly referred to as "Saba Kaido" (Mackerel Road) and feature townscapes and a bustling merchant culture reminiscent of its ancient heritage.



### ACCESS

Train or Subway   Boat or Ferry   Walk  
 Car or Taxi   Bus

From Kansai International Airport

3 hr 30 min or 3 hr

From JR Osaka Station

2 hr 30 min + or 3 hr 5 min or 2 hr 10 min

From JR Obama Station

1. Uriwari no taki (Breaking Waterfall) 20 min   
or 15 min > Kaminaka Sta. > 20 min
2. Kumagawa-Juku Historic Post Town 25 min   
or 15 min > Kaminaka Sta. > 11 min > Shimo Shinmachi Bus stop > 5 min
3. Miketsukuni Wakasa Obama Food Culture Museum 5 min or 20 min

※ Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

### Uriwari no taki (Breaking Waterfall)

This is a waterfall that comes from spring water bubbling from the Tentokuji Temple grounds along the ex-Wakasa Highway. The surrounding area is called the "Water Forest", where water bubbles up noisily even during the summer and travelers once came to quench their thirst. It was considered sacred ground and has long been a training ground for monks following mountaineering ascetic. A statue of Fudo Myoo is also enshrined here.



KUMAGAWA-JUKU HISTORIC POST TOWN

### Kumagawa-juku Historic Post Town

This logistical relay point on Saba Kaido (Mackerel Road) was once a post-station town developed for military and strategic needs. Today, the preserved traditional architecture stretching along the ex-Kumagawa Highway consists of painted merchant houses and storehouses of varying shapes and sizes and offers a glimpse of the area's former activity. It has also been designated part of a National Important Preservation District for Groups of Historical Buildings.



MIKETSUKUNI WAKASA OBAMA FOOD CULTURE MUSEUM

### Miketsukuni Wakasa Obama Food Culture Museum

A facility dedicated to showcasing the history of the area's food culture, largely through incredibly realistic plastic replicas. Here you can discover 30 different ways to prepare mackerel and learn about the Edo-era techniques used to preserve locally caught flounder.

### INSIDER TIPS

#### The Isaza Experience

Obama is a picturesque port town along the Mackerel Road and a good place to spend a few hours, if not only to try the local delicacy – eating live isaza fish. Isaza are the young of "ice goby" fish and are caught during March and April. At just 4cm long and translucent, they are swallowed whole with just a little soy sauce or ponzu for taste. The dancing sensation of the tiddlers in your mouth is not for the fainthearted, but makes for a great story to share with friends back home.

## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

### SPRING



Obama Park  
Cherry Blossom Festival  
Obama Park

### SUMMER



Wakasa Marine Pier Festival  
Hamakaze-Odori Shopping Arcade,  
Mermaid Beach

### FALL



Hoze Matsuri  
Throughout Obama City

### WINTER



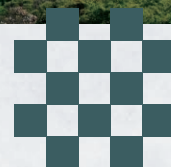
Omizuokuri  
Jinguji Temple





AMANOHASHIDATE VIEW LAND

## 4 Amanohashidate Area



Along with Matsushima (Miyagi Prefecture) and Miyajima (Hiroshima Prefecture), Amanohashidate is known as one of the three most beautiful sights in Japan. Viewing the natural 3.6km sandbar from a distance, with its white sandy beaches and pine trees, does not disappoint. The annual events: Aoi Matsuri – the oldest festival in the Tango region – Defune Matsuri and the Miyazu Toro Nagashi Fireworks draw large crowds, but the area is generally bustling with people all year round.



### ACCESS

Train or Subway
 Boat or Ferry
 Walk  
 Car or Taxi
 Bus

From Kansai International Airport  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 hr 20 min or 2 hr 40 min

From JR Osaka Station  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 hr 20 min or 2 hr 50 min or 2 hr

- From Kyoto Tango Railway Amanohashidate Station
1. Amanohashidate View Land \_\_\_\_\_ 10 min
  2. Motoise Kono-jinja Shrine  
 5 min > Amanohashidate Sightseeing Boat > 12 min > Ichinomiya Dock  
 > 2 min
  3. Kasamatsu Park  
 5 min > Amanohashidate Sightseeing Boat > 12 min > Ichinomiya Dock  
 > 5 min > Amanohashidate Cable Car Fuchu Terminal > 4 min in Cable Car
  4. Chionji Temple \_\_\_\_\_ 5 min

※ Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

## Amanohashidate View Land

Take the chair lift or monorail to the hilltop 130 meters above sea level. If you look at Amanohashidate from here, it looks like a dragon ascending to the heavens, so it's also known as "Hiryukan" (flying dragon view).



MOTOISE KONO-JINJA SHRINE

### Motoise Kono-jinja Shrine

An old shrine of the greatest standing in the Tango region and home to the National Treasure, the "Genealogy of the Amabe Clan" in addition to the Important Cultural Property the "Shinzen Komainu Stone Guardian Dogs." The five-colored suedama motif on the rails can only be seen here and at Ise Shrine.

### Kasamatsu Park

A famous place reached by cable car or chair lift for observing Amanohashidate by bending over and peering between your legs (mata-nozoki). By looking from between your legs, the land and sky get flipped upside down, and the sand bar looks like a bridge to the heavens.



KASAMATSU PARK



CHIONJI TEMPLE

### Chionji Temple

Known as a sacred ground for the Buddhist deity Monju Bosatsu, it is one of the three Monju temples in Japan. It has the largest temple gate in the Tango region and houses many Important Cultural Properties including a two-story pagoda.

### Chienowa Wisdom Ring Lantern

Erected in the early 18th century to protect the boats traversing the canal, this Buddhist stone monument is said to grant wisdom to anyone that passes their head through the ring three times.



CHIENOWA WISDOM RING LANTERN

### INSIDER TIPS

#### Rent a bike

A visit to Amanohashidate is best enjoyed as a day trip from a base in Kyoto. Take the Hashidate Express from Kyoto Station (2 hrs) and enjoy the beautiful green, mountainous scenery along the way. Rent a bike (approx. ¥400 for 2 hrs) and cycle across the sandbar for a truly unique experience.

## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

### SPRING



Aoi Matsuri  
Motoise Kono-jinja Shrine

### SPRING



Miyazu Matsuri  
Miyazu City

### SUMMER



Defune Matsuri  
Chionji Temple

### SUMMER



Miyazu Toro Nagashi Fireworks  
Miyazu Bay on the Shimasaki Park Coast



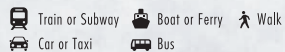


## ⑤ Toyooka Area

Toyooka is located in the northern part of Hyogo Prefecture and is the main city in the area and the biggest city in terms of surface area in the prefecture. It's known as the last remaining wild Oriental White Stork (Konotori) habitat in Japan and at the forefront of projects to protect, breed and reintroduce these endangered birds back into their natural habitat. As well as storks, it's home to many sightseeing and leisure spots including the Takenohama Swimming Beach, the Kannabe Plateau Camping Grounds, skiing areas and the famous Kinosaki Onsen (hot springs). It's also known as an area that produces bags.



### ACCESS



#### From Kansai International Airport

3 hr 35 min or 3 hr 20 min

#### From JR Osaka Station

2 hr 35 min or 2 hr 40 min

#### From JR Toyooka Station

1. Kinosaki Onsen 15 min or 11 min > Kinosakionsen Sta. > 1 min
2. Genbu Cave 10 min or 11 min > Kinosakionsen Sta. > 5 min
3. Oriental White Stork Park 10 min
4. Izushi-jō Castle Town 25 min or 30 min > Izushi Bus stop > 5 min

※ Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

## Kinosaki Onsen (Hot Springs)

Well loved since ancient times by artists and writers, these are the most famous hot springs in the Kansai area. It has seven open air baths, each with their own histories and origins.



GENBU CAVE

### Genbu Cave

A geological heritage site formed by the solidification of lava that flowed from volcanic activity that took place approximately 1.6 million years ago. The hexagonal basalt rock that looks like clusters of pillars is a geographical feature of this site that makes for some impressive natural art. You can see five caves that have names associated with the four Chinese gods including Byakko and Seiryu.



ORIENTAL WHITE STORK PARK

### Oriental White Stork Park

The first facility of its kind devoted to increasing the number of wild storks in Japan and offering a chance to observe storks in their natural habitat.



IZUSHI-JŌ CASTLE TOWN

### Izushi-jō Castle Town

Standing among the quiet mountains, Izushi, known for its history and sara soba noodles, is a castle town with a historic atmosphere that is mentioned in the ancient "Kojiki" and "Nihon Shoki" books.

### INSIDER TIPS

#### Local brews

Be sure to check out Gubigabu in Kinosaki and sample one of the four local craft beers on tap. Their Tajima Beef hamburgers are also highly recommended.

#### Retro fun

Along the backstreets of Kinosaki you can find some wonderfully retro shooting galleries (the cork variety) where you can try your hand at shooting boxes of candies off little shelves at point blank range. The assortment of pinball and other mechanical games are a wonderful way to kill a few hours before the giant dinner feast awaiting you in your ryokan.

## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

### SPRING



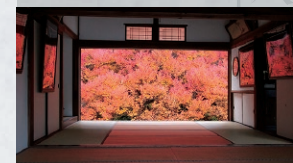
Nighttime Cherry Blossoms  
Kinosaki Onsen,  
Kiyamachi Street

### SUMMER



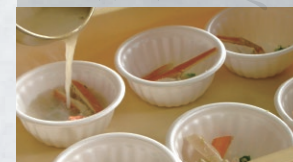
Summer Fairytale Dream Fireworks  
Kinosaki Onsen

### FALL



Dodan-tsutsuji Fall Leaves  
Tajima Ankokuji Temple

### WINTER



Toyooka Tsuiyama Port Crab Festival  
Oshima Quay near  
Tsuiyama Port



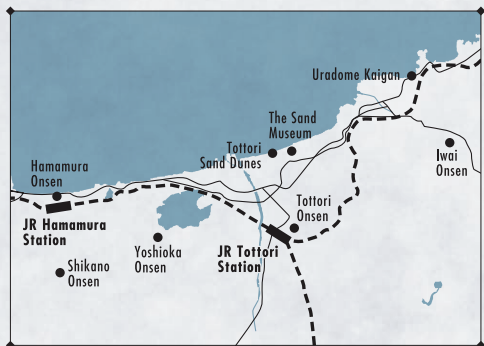


THE SAND MUSEUM

## 6 Tottori Sand Dunes and San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark Area



The San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark offers an insight into the history and culture of the people that have lived alongside the Sea of Japan since its formation. Its unique coastline and geological features include the impressively large Tottori Sand Dunes and the scenic beauty of Uradome Kaigan with its caves, white sand and mysteriously shaped rock formations. The area is famous for its bountiful seafood, geothermal hot spring resorts and lush natural settings.



### ACCESS

Train or Subway   Boat or Ferry   Walk  
 Car or Taxi   Bus

#### From Kansai International Airport

\_\_\_\_\_ 3 hr 30 min or 3 hr 20 min

#### From JR Osaka Station

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 hr 30 min or 2 hr 40 min

#### From JR Tottori Station

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. The Sand Museum    | _____ 15 min  or 20 min  > Tottori Sakyu Bus stop |
| 2. Tottori Sand Dunes | _____   |
| 3. Uradome Kaigan     | _____ 30 min                                      |
| 4. Iwai Onsen         | _____ 30 min                                      |
| 5. Tottori Onsen      | _____ 10 min                                      |
| 6. Yoshioka Onsen     | _____ 20 min                                      |
| 7. Shikano Onsen      | _____ 35 min                                      |
| 8. Hamamura Onsen     | _____ 35 min  or 23 min  > Hamamura Sta. > 2 min  |

※ Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

## The Sand Museum

The Sand Museum was founded in 2006 as an exhibition facility for the display of sand sculptures and is the first of its kind on the world. The basic concept of the museum is "A World Tour through Sand" and themes are switched in and out every year.



TOTTORI SAND DUNES

### Tottori Sand Dunes ④

The enormous Tottori Sand Dunes are designated as a National Natural Monument. The wind-blown patterns covering the dunes are examples of the art of nature and can be enjoyed alongside the adjacent "The Sand Museum" which exhibits unique man-made sand sculptures.

## Uradome Kaigan ⑤

If you want to enjoy the sea, try a pleasure cruise, and if you want to enjoy the beach, take a stroll down the promenade that runs along the coastline. Viewing the beauty of this place up close is a the best part of coming here. With its crystal clear waters, Uradome Kaigan is a popular swimming beach during the summer and a great place for sea kayaking or snorkeling.



URADOME KAIGAN



TOTTORI ONSEN

## Hot Springs

You can enjoy lots of charming hot springs in the Geopark area including the Iwai Onsen – the oldest baths in ancient Inaba Province with a 1,200 year history – and the Tottori Onsen, whose waters bubble up from the main city in the prefecture.

## INSIDER TIPS

### Sweet souvenirs

For souvenirs, the Kotobuki Castle of Sweets has a great selection of Japanese wagashi sweets on offer. The whole building has been built to resemble the ancient Yonago-jo castle. You can climb the keep and get a great view across the town.

### Award-winning beer

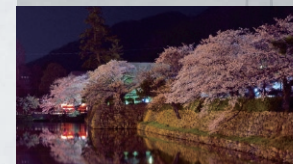
Daisen Brewery produces some fantastic craft beers that have been picking up awards left, right and center. Try them for yourself at their brewpub "Bier Hof Gambarius" located at the foot of Mt. Daisen.

### Manga Kingdom Tottori

Tottori is a haven for manga fans. Both Shigeru Mizuki, famous for his "Gegege no Kitara" characters, and Gosho Aoyama, creator of "Conan the Detective," lived and worked here.

## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

### SPRING



Cherry Blossoms in Kyusho Park  
Tottori-jo Castle Ruins

### SUMMER



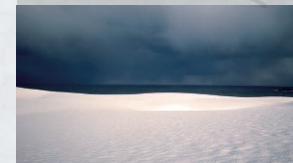
Tottori Shanshan Festival  
Tottori City Streets

### SUMMER



Inaba no Kasa Odori (Umbrella Dance of Inaba)  
Inaba Manyo Historical Museum, Folklore Museum

### WINTER



Winter Dunes  
Tottori Sand Dunes

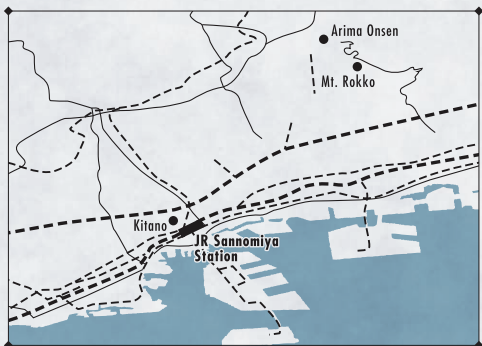




MT. ROKKO'S "10 MILLION DOLLAR NIGHT VIEW"

## 7 Rokko, Arima and Kitano Areas

Kobe is a port town sandwiched between Mt. Rokko and the ocean. The city soon gives way to the slopes of the mountain, where you can find the historical Kitano district – home to Kobe's first foreign merchants and some classic examples of western period architecture. The mountain itself affords spectacular views across the bay and just over the other side is Arima Onsen – one of the three oldest hot springs in Japan.



### ACCESS

Train or Subway  
 Boat or Ferry  
 Walk  
 Car or Taxi  
 Bus

#### From Kansai International Airport

1 hr 20 min or 1 hr 5 min or 1 hr 20 min

#### From JR Osaka Station

20 min or 45 min

#### From JR Sannomiya Station

1. Mt. Rokko \_\_\_\_\_ 40 min   
 2. Arima Onsen \_\_\_\_\_ 30 min   
 3. Kitano \_\_\_\_\_ 5 min or 10 min

\* Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

## Mt. Rokko's "10 Million Dollar Night View" 6

Make your way to the top of Mt. Rokko and enjoy a spectacular view that extends from Kobe towards the Osaka Bay area. It's an impressive sight anytime of the day, but best known as a romantic night spot and nicknamed the "10 Million Dollar Night View." Access Rokko Mountain itself from either Arima Onsen (hot springs) or Kobe City via a combination of bus and cable car (between Kobe and Rokko) or ropeway (between Arima and Rokko). The view on the way up/down is well worth the effort. Once on top of the mountain, there are a number of things to explore, including an Alpine Botanical Garden, observation deck and Rokko Garden Terrace, where you can grab a bite of lunch and take in the 10 Million Dollar view for yourself.



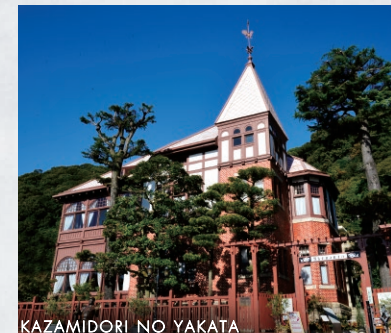
ARIMA ONSEN

### Arima Onsen (Hot Springs)

A charming village only 30 minutes from the heart of Kobe, Arima Onsen is one of Japan's oldest hot spring towns, with over 1,300 years of history. Emperors, revered monks and daimyos have been visiting Arima since the 6th century, seeking rejuvenation in its famed mineral springs. For today's visitors, the most popular activity is still to enjoy a soak in the numerous hot spring baths dotted across town including the Kin no Yu (Golden spring) and Gin no Yu (Silver spring) baths and to explore its quaint, though often crowded backstreets.

### Kitano

Since opening up its port to foreign traders in the late 19th century, Kobe attracted wealthy foreign settlers that made their home in the Kitano district. They constructed European style homes and adopted an ex-pat lifestyle that exists to this day. Kitano is a wonderful place to explore on foot with its international vibe, hipster coffee shops and jazz bars.



KAZAMIDORI NO YAKATA

### INSIDER TIPS

#### Pick up a bargain

In Arima, make sure you visit the tourist information office to pick up the Kobe Welcome Coupon brochure, which contains excellent discounts for many of Arima's services.

#### Nostalgic toys

Directly opposite Kin no Yu, the Arima Toys & Automata Museum (9:30am-6pm, ¥500, up to 50% discount with coupon) is a wonderland of European wooden toys that kids will love.

## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

### SPRING 春



Kobe Festival  
Throughout Kobe City

### SUMMER 夏



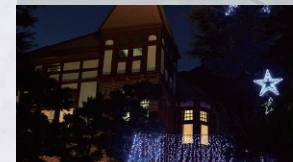
Minato Kobe  
Fireworks Festival  
Meriken Park

### FALL 秋



Arima Great Tea  
Ceremony  
Arima Onsen

### WINTER 冬



Kitano Ijinkan  
Illuminations  
Kitano



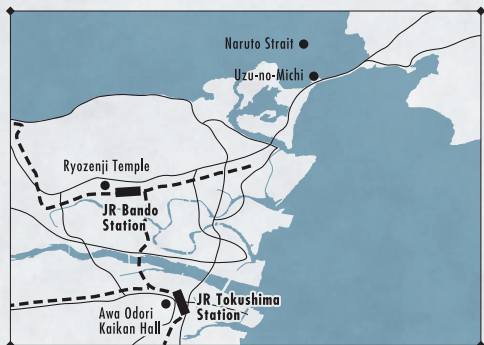


RYOZENJI TEMPLE TEMPLE 1 OF THE SHIKOKU 88 TEMPLE PILGRIMAGE

## ⑧ Naruto and Tokushima Area



The Whirlpools of Naruto that form naturally in the Naruto Strait are said to be some of the fastest in Japan and also comprise one of the three largest tidal currents in the world. Observing the whirlpools from the Onaruto Bridge or from a special sightseeing boat is popular among tourists. Tokushima's greatest attraction however is the Awa Odori (Awa Dance) Festival, held every August for the past 400 years. Awa Dance is famous worldwide and can be placed Alongside the Rio Carnival as one of the largest dance events in the world. The streets of Tokushima City, the focal point of the festival, turn into a giant dance floor.



### ACCESS

Train or Subway Boat or Ferry Walk  
 Car or Taxi Bus

From Kansai International Airport  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 hr 45 min or 2 hr 45 min

From JR Osaka Station  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 hr 30 min or 2 hr 15 min

From JR Tokushima Station  
 1. Ryozenji Temple \_\_\_\_\_ 30 min or 27 min > Bando Sta. > 9 min   
 2. Uzu-no-Michi \_\_\_\_\_ 1hr 20min > Naruto Koen Bus stop > 5 min   
 3. Awa Odori Kaikan Hall \_\_\_\_\_ 10 min

※ Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

## Temple 1 of the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage – Ryozenji Temple

The Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage is under petition to become a World Heritage Site and Ryozenji Temple is the first temple of this pilgrimage. Tokushima is home to the first 23 temples and the 66th temple of the pilgrimage. The "Pilgrimage Experience Program" where visitors can participate in a walk to the first few temples is very popular.



THE WHIRLPOOLS OF NARUTO

## The Whirlpools of Naruto

The Naruto Strait, between the city of Naruto and Awaji Island, is where the Seto Inland Sea meets the Kii Channel. The difference in height between the ebb and flow of the tides and the speed of the currents form some of the world's greatest whirlpools. You can see the whirlpools from above via the Uzu-no-Michi walkway located under the Onaruto Bridge or up close via the sightseeing boats.



AWA ODORI KAIKAN HALL



AWA ODORI (AWA DANCE)

## Awa Odori Kaikan Hall

During August 12–15, there will be Awa Odori (Awa Dance) Festivals going on throughout the prefecture, but you can see the Awa Dance all year round at the Awa Odori Kaikan Hall. At the hall, not only will you have the chance to see the dance but you will also be given a chance to participate.

### INSIDER TIPS

#### Wonder Naruto

To get the best view of the whirlpools, take a ride on the "Wonder Naruto" boat where you can enjoy a full view of the raging currents from its upper first-class deck for an additional charge. For the biggest whirlpools, visit during spring, when the tides are at their largest. During spring, whirlpools of up to 20 meters in diameter will form.

## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

### SPRING



Funakubo  
Rhododendrons  
in bloom  
Funakubo Azalea Park

### SUMMER



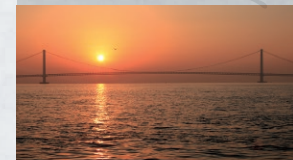
Naruto Sunflower  
Festival  
Naruto Uchinoumi Park  
and Others

### SUMMER



Awa Odori (Awa Dance)  
Throughout Tokushima

### WINTER



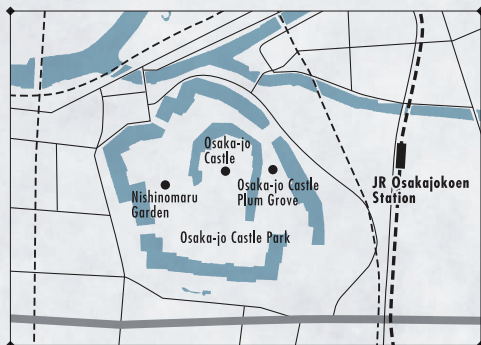
First Sunrise of the Year  
Uzu-no-Michi Walkway





## 9 Osaka-jo Castle Area

The Osaka-jo Castle area is located in the center of the city and offers visitors a fascinating insight into the history of Osaka.



### ACCESS

Train or Subway  
 Boat or Ferry  
 Walk  
 Car or Taxi  
 Bus

From Kansai International Airport

50 min or 1 hr or 1 hr

From JR Osaka Station

10 min or 20 min

From JR Osakajokoen Station

- |                               |        |  |
|-------------------------------|--------|--|
| 1. Osaka-jo Castle Park       | 10 min |  |
| 2. Osaka-jo Castle            | 15 min |  |
| 3. Osaka Castle-jo Plum Grove | 12 min |  |
| 4. Nishinomaru Garden         | 20 min |  |

※ Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

### Osaka-jo Castle Park

The inner citadel of Osaka-jo castle contains not only the existing castle keep (reconstructed in 1931), Kishu Palace Garden (a kaiyu strolling-style garden) and carved stone plaza, but also 13 structures that are protected as Japanese Important Cultural Properties, including the Otomon Gate, the Tamon Yagura Turret and the gunpowder storehouse. The whole area is designated the "Osaka-jo Castle Ruins Special Historical Site" and affords the visitor a fascinating insight into the castle's history.

In addition to the castle itself, there is a lushly green city park featuring the Nishinomaru Garden, well known as a place for cherry blossom viewing, and a plum grove packed with beautifully colored flowers in the spring. It is a site where you can feel close to nature even in the midst of the urban sprawl.

In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the summer campaign of the Siege of Osaka, the original stone walls of the castle, long since lost deep underground, are being re-dug in a public project. If successful, the park will offer visitors the chance to get a feel for this period of dynamic Japanese history by being able to compare firsthand the re-dug castle walls of Hideyoshi Toyotomi's "castle unmatched in 3 countries" with the current, albeit replica "best stone-walled castle in Japan" as rebuilt by the Tokugawa Shogunate.



### INSIDER TIPS

#### Photogenic experiences

In the main keep you can pose for photos wearing a replica of Hideyoshi Toyotomi's armor, helmet and battle surcoat, and during New Year celebrations, you can also try a footbath and traditional sake.

#### Morning exercise

Osaka-jo Castle Park is very popular with all manner of dog walkers, joggers, cyclists and fitness lovers. It is also a great place to witness scores of elderly locals doing their daily "rajio taiso" (radio broadcast workouts). Get up early and join in, or watch sometimes up to as many as 500 people perform their daily workouts in the inner bailey. It is a sight to behold.

### SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

#### SPRING



Osaka-jo Castle  
Cherry Blossom  
Festival

Osaka-jo Castle Park

#### SPRING



Osaka-jo Castle  
Tower Opening  
Hours Extension  
in Golden Week

Osaka-jo Castle Tower

#### SUMMER



Tenjin Matsuri

Osaka Tenmangu Shrine

#### WINTER



Osaka-jo Castle Park  
Plum Groves

Osaka-jo Castle Park



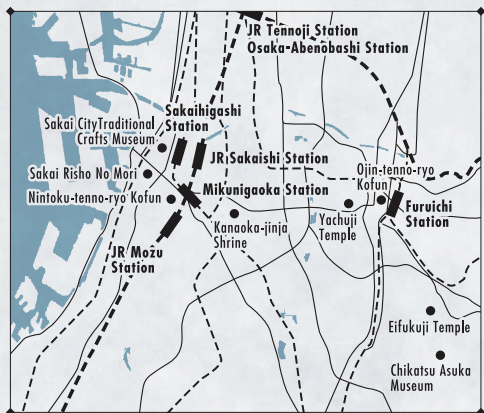


NINTOKU-TENNO-RYO KOFUN

## 10 Mozu-Furuichi Kofun, Ancient Tumulus Clusters and Takenouchi Highway Area



Mozu-Furuichi Kofungun, Ancient Tumulus Clusters, are ancient burial mounds constructed between the late 4th century and the early 6th century and include the tombs of Emperor Nintoku and Emperor Ojin, as well as other ancient tombs of varying sizes, and are looking to be awarded World Heritage Site status. Nearby is the oldest highway in Japan, the Takenouchi Highway, along which you will find historical establishments such as temples connected to Prince Shotoku.



ACCESS		Train or Subway	Boat or Ferry	Walk
		Car or Taxi	Bus	
From Kansai International Airport		45 min	or 50 min	
From JR Osaka Station		30 min	or 40 min	
From JR Sakaishi Station		15 min	or 30 min	
1. Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun	15 min	or 3 min	> Mozu Sta. > 5 min	
2. Ojin-tenno-ryo Kofun	40 min	or 8 min	> Tennoji Sta. > 3 min	> Osaka-Abenobashi Sta. > 15 min
3. Sakai City Traditional Crafts Museum	15 min	or 40 min	or 1 min	> Mikunigaoka Sta. > 2 min
4. Sakai Risho No Mori	10 min	or 40 min	or 1 min	> Mikunigaoka Sta. > 2 min

※ Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

## Mozu-Furuichi Kofungun, Ancient Tumulus Clusters: Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun, Ojin-tenno-ryo Kofun

Next to King Khufu's Pyramid and the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor, Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun is one of the three largest tombs in the world. Constructed in the mid 5th century, it is 486m long and is the largest keyhole-shaped tumulus in Japan. At Sakai City Museum, in the adjacent Daisen Park, you can experience its grandeur on a 200-inch-large screen. In the Furuichi Kofungun, Ancient Tumulus Clusters, there are many graves of varying sizes scattered around, including the second largest tumulus in Japan that belongs to Emperor Ojin. In the nearby Osaka Prefectural Chikatsu Asuka Museum, there are many artifacts on display, including earthenware and haniwa terracotta figures that were buried in the tomb. In the future, the Mozu-Furuichi Kofungun Burial Grounds hope to be awarded World Heritage Site status.



TAKENOUCHI HIGHWAY

## Takenouchi Highway – Japan's Oldest Highway

The Takenouchi highway was a road that brought the rich culture of China and the Korean Peninsula – including foreign envoys – to ancient Asuka (modern day Nara), which was said to be an ending point of the Silk Road.

## Sakai City Traditional Crafts Museum

Here you can learn about Sakai's traditional industries including incense, chusen cotton, rugs, kelp, bicycles and Japanese confectionery and pick up some rare items and souvenirs from the gift shop. The facility also houses the Sakai Hamono (Knife) Museum where various rare and professional knives and scissors forged from famous Sakai steel are on display.



SAKAI CITY  
TRADITIONAL CRAFTS MUSEUM



SAKAI RISHO NO MORI

## Sakai Risho No Mori – Sakai Plaza of Rikyu and Akiko

The museum promotes the charm of Sakai's culture and history through an exhibition of the life and work of two of its most famous figures, tea ceremony master Sen no Rikyu and the mother of modern Japanese literature, Akiko Yosano.

## INSIDER TIPS

### Tower Knives

Sakai is best-known for its knives (and before that, its swords). Chefs from around the world covet the quality of the steel produced here. Try out some knives yourself at the English-speaking knife shop Tower Knives and take home your own little slice of Sakai.

## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

FALL



Moon Viewing Festival  
Mozu-hachimangu Shrine

FALL



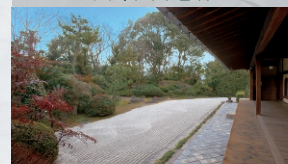
Sakai Festival  
Oshoji-suji Street,  
Nanshuji Temple,  
Daisen Park, Xavier Park  
and Others

FALL



Fall Leaves  
in Daisen Park  
Daisen Park

WINTER



Rikyu Memorial  
Tea Ceremony  
Nanshuji Temple



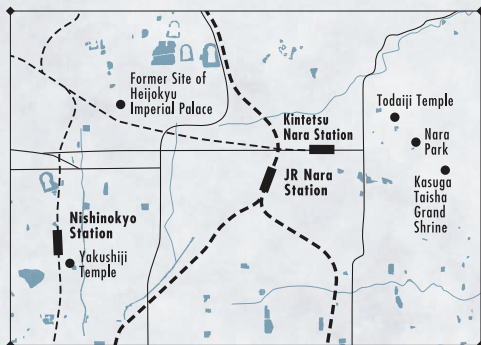


## NARA PARK

11

### Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara

The area surrounding Nara Park is a World Heritage Site registered as the Cultural Property of the ancient Japanese capital of Nara. This area beautifully preserves the delicate harmony of the traditional wooden temple architectural style of the Nara period, found in places such as Todaiji Temple, Kasuga Taisha Grand Shrine and the Kasugayama Primeval Forest, with its natural surroundings within the mountains and other forests of the region. Traditional annual events and ceremonies are also carried on to this day through its deep-rooted spiritual association with Japanese Shinto and Buddhism.



#### ACCESS

Train or Subway  
 Boat or Ferry  
 Walk  
 Car or Taxi  
 Bus

#### From Kansai International Airport

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 hr 20 min or 1 hr 25 min or 1 hr 20 min

#### From JR Osaka Station

\_\_\_\_\_ 50 min or 40 min

#### From JR Nara Station

1. Nara Park \_\_\_\_\_ 10 min or 30 min
2. Kasuga Taisha Grand Shrine \_\_\_\_\_ 10 min or 20 min
3. Yakushiji Temple \_\_\_\_\_ 15 min   
or 15 min > Kintetsu Nara Sta. > 10 min > Nishinokyo Sta. > 5 min
4. Former Site of Heijokyu Imperial Palace \_\_\_\_\_ 10 min or 40 min

※ Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

### Nara Park

Stretching over an enormous 660 hectares, Nara Park encompasses Todaiji Temple, Kofukuji Temple and Kasuga Taisha Grand Shrine, all places that hold the precious historical and cultural legacy of Japan. The wild deer that live in the park are also designated as a National Protected Species.



KASUGA TAISHA GRAND SHRINE

### Kasuga Taisha Grand Shrine

2

This ancient shrine, established at the foot of the sacred Mt. Kasuga and Mt. Mikasa to pray for the prosperity and happiness of the nation, is home to 13 National Treasures, including the four buildings of the main shrine built in the ancient 1,300 year-old Kasuga-zukuri architectural style, and ancient Koshinpo treasures. The shrine is carefully restored every 20 years in a Shikinen Zoutai ceremony.

### Yakushiji Temple

2

This temple was built at Fujiwara-kyo palace in the year 697 by Emperor Tenmu to pray for the recovery of the Empress from illness. With the transfer of the ancient capital to Nara in 710, the temple was also moved to its current location in 718. It possesses nine National Treasures including the Yakushi Nyorai (Buddha of Medicine) and Sho Kannon (Avalokitesvara) statues and three-storied pagoda with pent roofing that remains from the temple's founding.



YAKUSHIJI TEMPLE



FORMER SITE OF HEIJOKYU IMPERIAL PALACE

### Former Site of Heijokyu Imperial Palace

2

The ancient ruins of the Former Site of Heijokyu Imperial Palace are located on the northern edge of the center of ancient Nara, a city which once flourished as the capital for over 70 years from 710. The Council Hall in the Imperial Palace, where Japan's politics and ceremonies were carried out, was painstakingly restored in 2010. It was also designated as a Special Historic Site in 1952, as well as being the first example of an archaeological site being registered as a World Heritage Site in Japan.

#### INSIDER TIPS

##### Deer snacks

Enjoy feeding the wild deer with the readily available Shika Senbei crackers, but be careful with small children. While not aggressive by nature, the deer will stop at nothing to get a nibble of any unprotected snacks.

## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

### SPRING



#### Emperor Shomu Festival

The Great Buddha Hall at Todaiji Temple

### SUMMER



#### Nara Tokae Festival

Nara Park

### FALL



#### Shosoin Repository Exhibit

Nara National Museum

### WINTER



#### Burning of Mt. Wakakusa

Mt. Wakakusa, Nara Park





KUMANO NACHI TAISHA GRAND SHRINE AND NACHI FALLS

## 12 Kumano Area

Registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004, Kumano brims with an overwhelming natural power and is part of the Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes of the Kii Mountain Range. This sacred area carries a long history of worship and spiritual devotion, with the "Kumano Pilgrimage" – connecting the three main Kumano shrines – offering a popular route for pilgrims to enjoy a millennium of history. Highlights include Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine – the head shrine of all the Kumano shrines in Japan, which total over 3,000 in number – and Nachi Falls, the tallest uninterrupted waterfall in Japan.



### ACCESS

Train or Subway Boat or Ferry Walk  
 Car or Taxi Bus

#### From Kansai International Airport

4 hr 5 min or 3 hr 20 min

#### From JR Osaka Station

4 hr 10 min or 3 hr 45 min

#### From JR Shingu Station

1. Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine 40 min
2. Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine 5 min or 15 min
3. Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine 40 min
4. Nachisan Seigantoji Temple 40 min
5. Fudaraksanji Temple 20 min
6. Kumano Hongu Onsen Village 50 min
7. Katsuura Onsen 25 min

#### From JR Shirahama Station

1. Shirahama Onsen 10 min

\* Travel times are provided as a guide only. Actual travel times may differ.

## Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine and Nachi Falls <sup>3</sup>

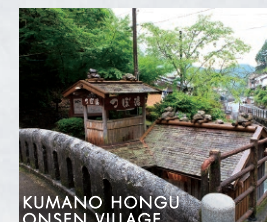
Mt. Nachi is a sacred site of Kumano faith that includes Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine – one of the Kumano Sanzan – and Nachisan Seigantoji Temple. Nachi Falls has the highest direct drop in Japan, and the water falling through primeval forest looks divine. This area was designated as a World Heritage in 2004.

## Kumano Kodo <sup>3</sup>

This is a series of religious routes that lead to Kumano, Japan's largest sacred site. Along with the three Kumano Shrines, this site was awarded three stars by Michelin's Japanese travel guide "Michelin Green Guide Japan," further underlying its must-see status. Walking the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage routes and trying on Heian-period clothing are popular activities among foreign visitors.



KUMANO KODO



KUMANO HONGU ONSEN VILLAGE

## Kumano Hongu Onsen Village (Hot Springs)

The Kumano Hongu Onsen Village is an area home to "Yunomine Onsen (hot springs)" – discovered over 1,800 years ago – the "Kawayu Onsen," where hot water bubbles up from the river, and the "Wataze Onsen" with its large open-air rotenburo bath.

## Katsuura Onsen (Hot Springs)

Katsuura Onsen boasts a large volume of hot water that comes from over 100 sources. Its famous open-air bath that has been formed in a cave looking over the Pacific Ocean as well as its quiet bay-facing open-air bath are very popular.



KATSUURA ONSEN



SHIRAHAMA ONSEN

## Shirahama Onsen (Hot Springs)

Shirahama Onsen is one of the three oldest hot spring resorts in Japan and is even mentioned in the ancient "Manyoshu" and "Nihon Shoki" books. Nowadays, it is lined with many ryokan-style inns, hotels and minshuku guesthouses and is the resort spot of choice in the Kansai area.

### INSIDER TIPS

#### Kumano Tourism Bureau

Check out the Tanabe City Kumano Tourism Bureau website, which provides comprehensive information about Tanabe City and Kumano in English, French, Spanish, Chinese and Korean. Their excellent online reservation system facilitates easy booking of accommodation, tours, activities and travel services.

## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

### SPRING



#### Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine Annual Festival

Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine, Tanabe City

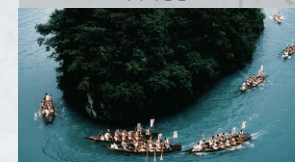
### SUMMER



#### Nachi Fire Festival

Around Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine, Nachikatsuura Town

### FALL



#### Mifune Festival

Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine, Shingu City

### WINTER



#### Sennin-buro River Bath

Kawayu Onsen, Tanabe City

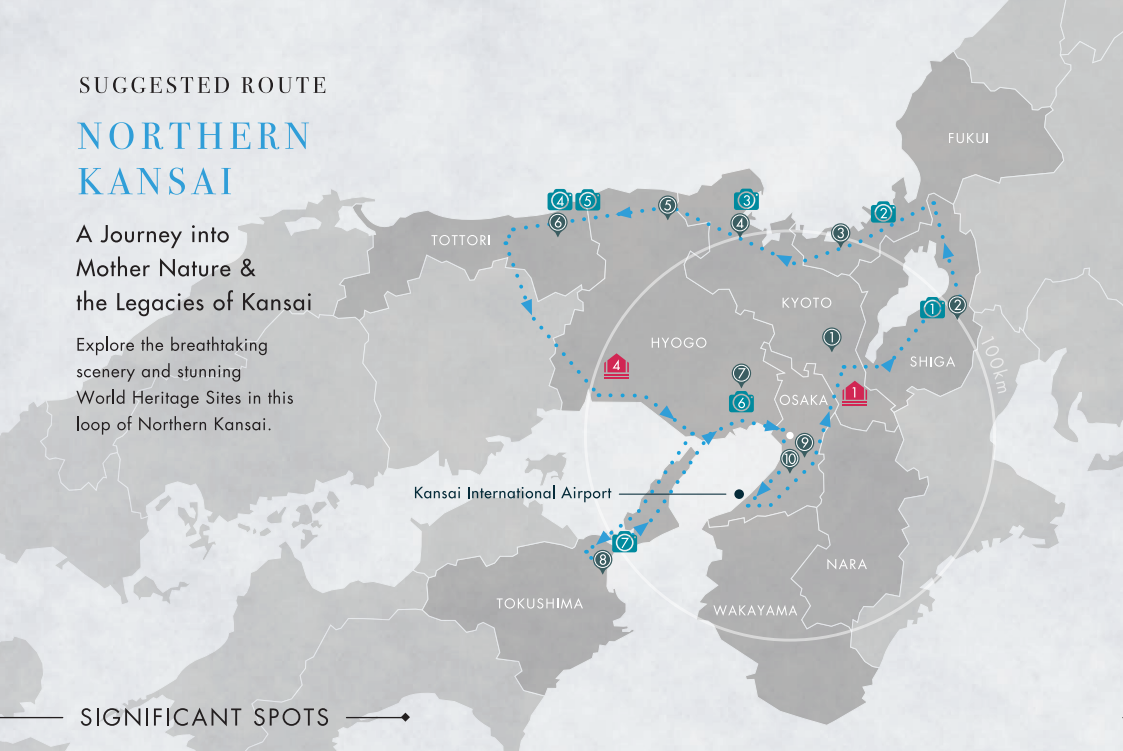


SUGGESTED ROUTE

NORTHERN KANSAI

A Journey into Mother Nature & the Legacies of Kansai

Explore the breathtaking scenery and stunning World Heritage Sites in this loop of Northern Kansai.



SIGNIFICANT SPOTS



1 Kiyomizu-dera Temple



2 Hikone-jo Castle



3 Miktagoko (Mikata Five Lakes)



4 Koyasan (Mt. Koya)



5 Nachi Falls



6 Hashigui-iwa Rocks



7 Amanohashidate



8 Tottori Sand Dunes



9 The Whirlpools of Naruto



10 Todaiji Temple



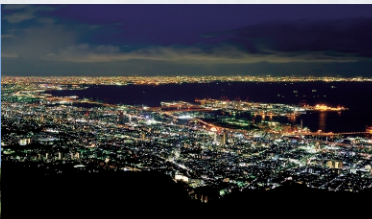
11 Horyuji Temple



12 Inabuchi Terraced Rice Fields (Asuka Region)



13 Himeji-jo Castle



14 The Night Views over Osaka and Kobe



For more details

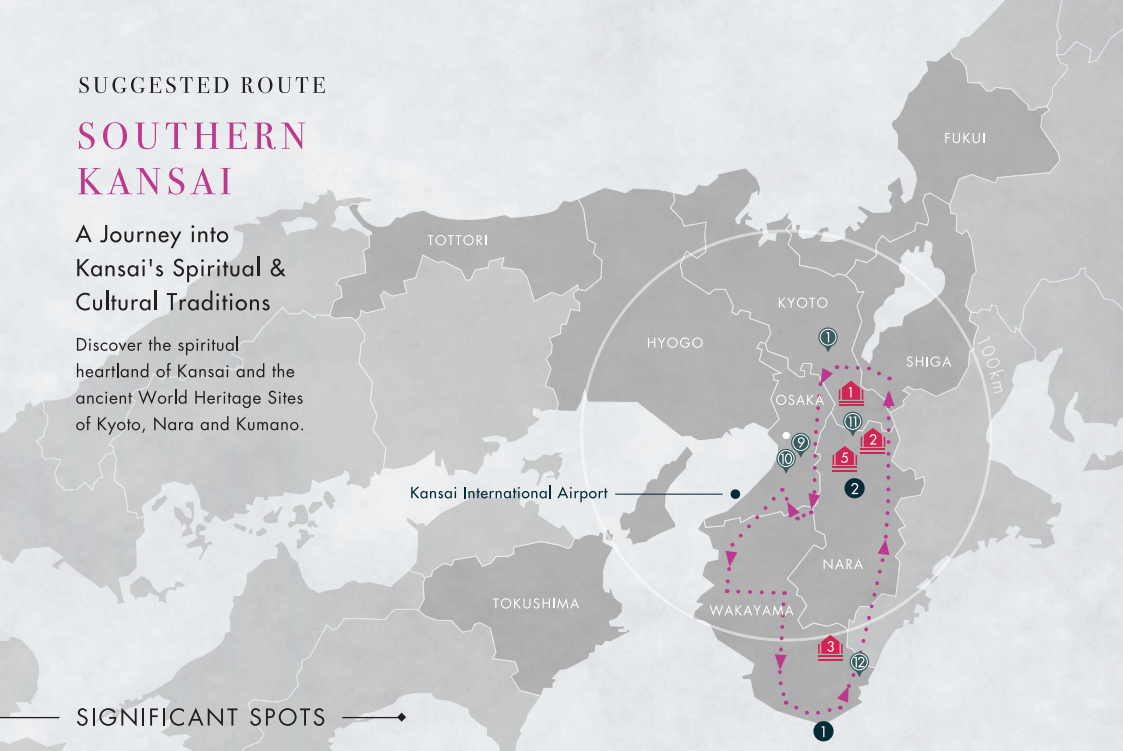
NORTHERN KANSAI

SUGGESTED ROUTE

SOUTHERN KANSAI

A Journey into Kansai's Spiritual & Cultural Traditions

Discover the spiritual heartland of Kansai and the ancient World Heritage Sites of Kyoto, Nara and Kumano.



SIGNIFICANT SPOTS



1 Koyasan (Mt. Koya)



2 Nachi Falls



3 Hashigui-iwa Rocks



4 Todaiji Temple



5 Horyuji Temple



6 Inabuchi Terraced Rice Fields (Asuka Region)



7 Osaka-jo Castle



8 Mozu-Furuichi Kofungun, Ancient Tumulus Clusters



For more details

SOUTHERN KANSAI



# KANSAI AREA TRANSPORT PASSES

※ Card design may change without notice.

## KANSAI ONE PASS (¥500 for deposit included)



©Tezuka Productions

Foreign visitors only.  
With a KANSAI ONE PASS, you can smoothly make connections with any major trains in the Kansai region without buying tickets each time.  
What's more, by showing it at the sightseeing spots, you may receive discount services.  
Check the KANSAI ONE PASS Mobile site with your smartphone for more details.

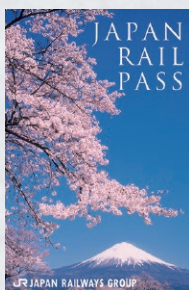


## JR PASS



### JR-WEST RAIL PASS (KANSAI WIDE AREA PASS)

Kansai WIDE Area Pass (JR-WEST RAIL PASS) lets you access the JR-WEST area. Passes are available in a variety of different configurations to support the needs of those traveling for comparatively short periods of time. There are great deals for rail passes offering wider access from the Kansai area and the special early-bird discount. For more details, see the JR-WEST website.



### JAPAN RAIL PASS

The JAPAN RAIL PASS, a joint offering of the six companies comprising the Japan Railways Group (JR Group), is the most economical means of travelling throughout Japan by rail. There are some restrictions on use: for example, JAPAN RAIL PASS cannot be used for travel on NOZOMI and MIZUHO trains on the Tokaido, Sanyo and Kyushu Shinkansen lines.

There are two types of JAPAN RAIL PASS: Green (for superior-class Green cars) and Ordinary. Each of these types is available as a 7-day, 14-day or 21-day pass.

## KANSAI THRU PASS



This ticket enables you to ride on subways, private railways and buses throughout the Kansai district. As well as enabling you to tour Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto, it lets you visit Nara, Wakayama and Koyasan.  
Purchasing the economical KANSAI THRU PASS that comes in two types – 2-day and 3-day – will let you enjoy a more value-for-money holiday.

[ Spring / Summer Edition ] Sales period: April 1 – September 30 of each year  
Valid period: April 1 – October 31 of each year

[ Fall / Winter Edition ] Sales period: October 1 of each year – March 31 of the following year  
Valid period: October 1 of each year – April 30 of the following year

## AVAILABLE AREA & PRICE

KIX. Kansai International Airport 1. Kyoto 3. Obama & Wakasa 5. Toyooka 7. Rokko & Arima 9. Osaka 11. Nara  
2. Hikone 4. Amanohashidate 6. Tottori 8. Naruto & Tokushima 10. Senshu 12. Kumano

LINE	NAME OF PASS	DURATION	TYPE	FARE FOR ADULT	KIX	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
JR & others incl subway	KANSAI ONE PASS	unlimited	rechargeable	¥2,000	●	●	●					●		●	●	●	
JR	Kansai WIDE Area Pass	5 days	unlimited	¥9,500	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●
		7 days	unlimited	¥29,110	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●
		14 days	unlimited	¥46,390	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●
		21 days	unlimited	¥59,350	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●
Private railways, subways & buses	KANSAI THRU PASS	2 days	unlimited	¥4,000	●	●						●		●	●	●	
		3 days	unlimited	¥5,200	●	●						●		●	●	●	
KINTETSU	KINTETSU RAIL PASS	1 day	unlimited	¥1,500		●								●		●	
		2 days	unlimited	¥2,000		●								●		●	
	KINTETSU RAIL PASS WIDE	5 days	unlimited	¥5,860	●	●								●		●	
HANKYU	HANKYU TOURIST PASS	1 day	unlimited	¥700		●								●			
		2 days	unlimited	¥1,200		●								●			
KEIHAN	KEIHAN KYOTO-OSAKA SIGHTSEEING PASS	1 day	unlimited	¥700		●								●			
		2 days	unlimited	¥1,000		●								●			
NANKAI	NANKAI ALL LINE 2day Pass	2 days	unlimited	¥2,000	●									●			

※ The railway fare for children is usually half of the adult fare.

Details and rules are different depending on the passes. Please check each website for details.

as of September, 2017

## FREE Wi-Fi

Use the app to enjoy free Wi-Fi and conveniently travel around the Kansai area.

**FREE**

No charges for download and use



**KANSAI**  
**Wi-Fi** (Official)

**28,000**  
**SPOTS**

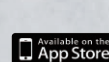
Excellent area coverage in 8 prefs.  
(Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nara, Wakayama, Tottori and Tokushima)

**SIMPLE**

Easily connect with one tap

For details or search in the app store.

kansai wi-fi



Step 1 Install the app and register for use.

Step 2 Tap the "Connect" button and complete the internet connection.

Step 3 Enjoying sightseeing information!





TENRYUJI TEMPLE

#### Photo Credit

**Wakayama Tourism Federation** Cover, P6, P12\_\_Kumano Kodo / P44\_\_Kumano Hongu Onsen Village, Katsuura Onsen, Shirahama Onsen, Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine Annual Festival, Nachi Fire Festival, Mifune Festival, Sennin-buro River Bath / P46\_\_Koyasan

**Byodoin** Cover, P6, P10, P22\_\_Byodoin Temple

**Tottori Prefecture** P5, P17\_\_San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark / P32\_\_Tottori Sand Dunes, Uradome Kaigan, Tottori Onsen Cherry Blossoms in Kyusho Park, Tottori Shanshan Festival, Inaba no Kasa Odori

**Biwako Visitors Bureau** P24\_\_Listening to Insects in Genkyu-en Garden, Hikone Yumetouro

**Hikone Sightseeing Association** P24\_\_Hikone Illuminations

**KOBE CONVENTION & VISITORS ASSOCIATION** P34\_\_Arima Onsen, Arima Great Tea Ceremony, Kitano Ijinkan Illuminations

**Yoshitaka Yamazaki** P40\_\_Takenouchi Highway

**Eibun Kuwabara** P42\_\_Kasuga Taisha Grand Shrine

**Akihiko Kimura** P42\_\_Emperor Shomu Festival

**Nara National Museum** P42\_\_Shosoin Repository Exhibit

**Nara Visitors Bureau** P46\_\_Inabuchi Terraced Rice Fields

#### ENGLISH Ver.

## THE FLOWER OF JAPAN, KANSAI

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#### Publisher

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#### Disclaimer

All information contained in this brochure is based on data as of December 2017, and is subject to change without notice.

