KANSAI, JAPAN TOURIST GUIDE





PDF ver. here!









EXPO2025 + KANSAI Tourism! Visit Kansai, Hunt Treasures.





An area with Miketsukuni (land of imperial provisions) that once provided exquisite food to the Imperial Court,

An area blessed with rich nature, such as deep mountains, pilgrimage routes, Japan's largest lake and clear waters.



An area where timeless traditional cultures such as tea ceremony and zen have been nurtured.

What is Kansai?

Kansai is the region where Japan's capital used to be placed for over 1,000 years. Consequently, timeless traditional culture is passed on in many locations. Almost a quarter of World Heritage sites registered in Japan cluster here in Kansai, a repository of numerous national treasures and important cultural assets. You can trace back to the origins of samurai culture, garden culture, zen, tea ceremony and other traditions in Japan. Kansai is also the birthplace of Japanese food beloved in the world. Here, four Miketsukuni (land of imperial

provisions) provided superior food to the Imperial Court. Even now, abundant food ingredients gather up throughout four seasons. A variety of Japanese food, transformed from Shojin (vegetarian), Honzen (formal), and Kaiseki (tea ceremony) cuisines will be memorable highlights in your trip. Surrounded by rich nature with six national parks, this region will soothe the souls of visitors. In essence, Kansai is the treasury of tourism resources that travelers seek. Enjoy finding your own treasure here in Kansai.

Here in Kansai, where "EXPO2025 Osaka, KANSAI, Japan" will be held, search for treasure. Enjoy your trip.

Discover something new about the world and yourself!

Attractions and highlights of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai





Period: April 13, 2025 - October 13, 2025

Venue: Yumeshima artificial island in Osaka. Osaka Prefecture

Theme: Designing Future Society for Our Lives

Sub-themes: • Saving Lives • Empowering Lives • Connecting Lives

Concept: People's Living Lab

© Expo 2025 The official character MYAKU-MYAKU

The venue is "Yumeshima" artificial island to feel the "sky" and "sea" that connect with the world.





Pavilions Envisioning the Aspects of "Future Society Where Life Shines"

- The Signature Pavilion by 8 leading figures from various fields in Japan
- Pavilions from 160 countries depicting a future society with the SDGs reached
- Pavilions created by 13 private companies and groups to envision Japan's future society
- "Osaka Healthcare Pavilion: Nest for Reborn" for a chance for personal transformation
- The Kansai Pavilion to discover the charms of little-known places
- The Japan Pavilion to transform social issues into personal matters

The Grand Roof (Ring)

a symbol of "diversity, yet one"





Amazing entertainment experiences such as aquashows. projection mapping, traditional performing arts, and pop culture



More info about EXPO2025 https://www.expo2025.or.jp/ **EXPO 2025 Transportation Information**

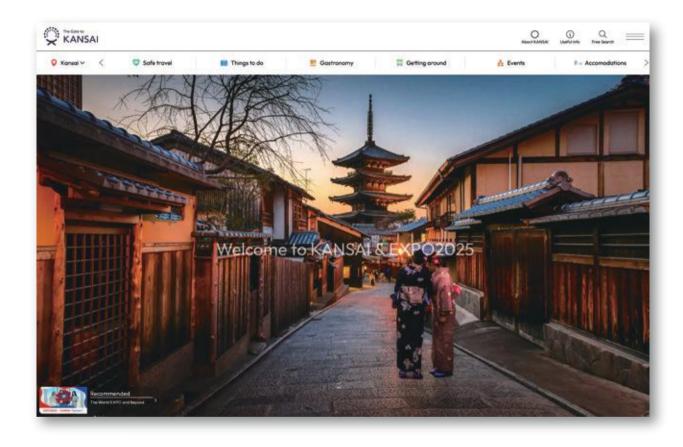
Important Notice: Large Carry-on Baggage https://www.transport.expo2025.or.jp/notes/baggage.html

Unlock the Best of KANSAI. Your Journey Starts Here!

All about Wonderful Time in Kansai

The Gate to KANSAI





CONTENTS

Useful info Helpful for transportation systems, etc.

Safe travel Tips for your reliable, comfortable journey.

Things to do Must-see, must-watch spots in each area.

Gastronomy Culinary delights and restaurants.

Getting around Best deals for discount tickets and tour passes.

Events Updates on local festivals and events.

Accommodations Hotels, inns, guesthouses and other lodgings.

Souvenir Suggestions for local souvenirs and tokens.

What's New KANSAI Up-to-date information about Kansai.

Map Kansai region at a glance.

Let's amp up Kansai travel with



#truekansai

Japan's treasures and encounters await you on the journey into the origins of Japanese culture. Wouldn't you like to set aside some time to spend amid the beautiful scenery of each season? So, experience the treasures of Japan in KANSAI.



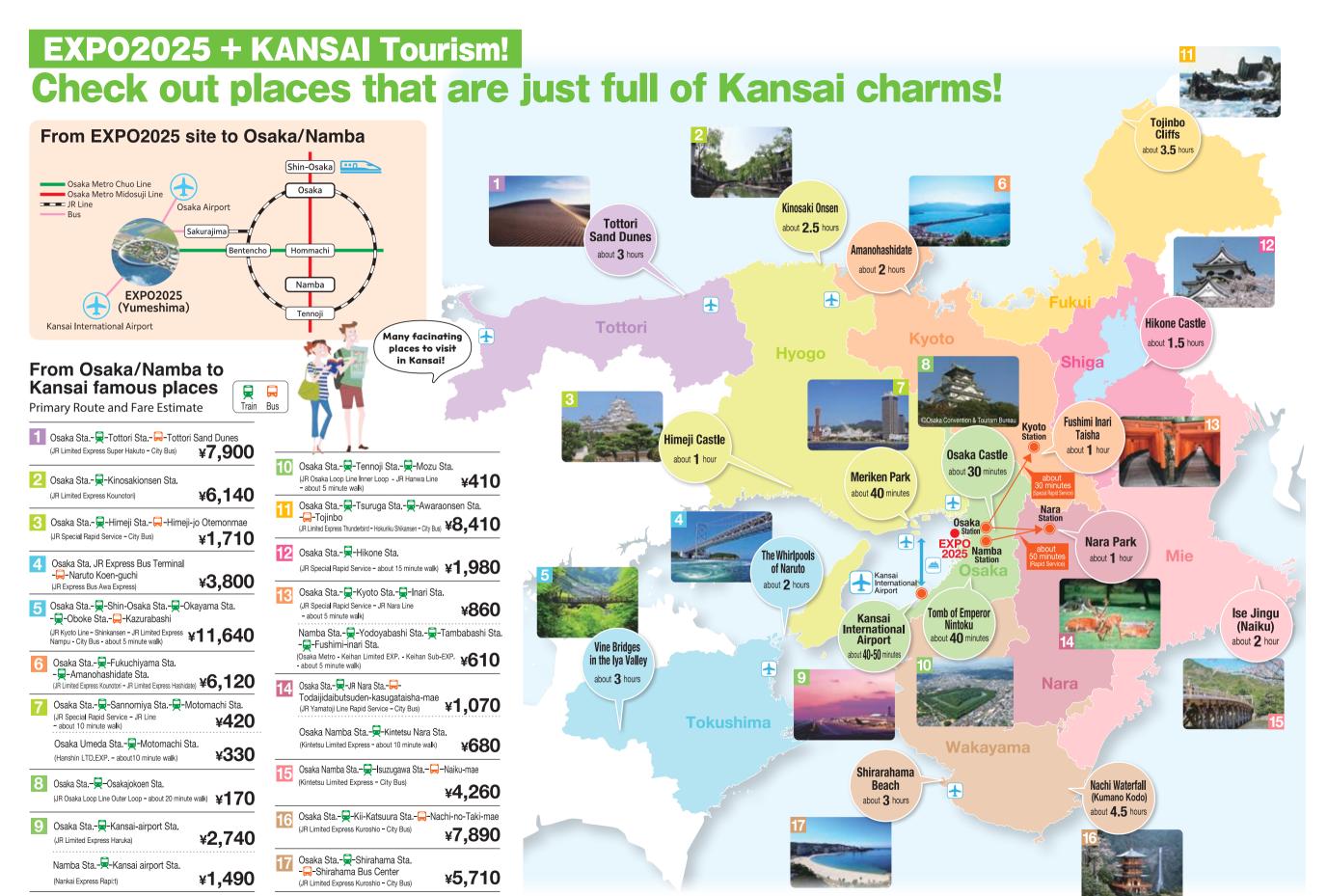
The KANSAI Guide





#realjapankansai





The fares above are subject to change based on the season. Please confirm beforehand.

Visit the undiscovered Kansai attractions that will enchant you.



In addition to the key cities like Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe and Nara, the Kansai region has many other appealing destinations. There, you can experience

the traditions, myths, artistic and food cultures, etc. that local people have been fostering and promoting over a long period of history. Make little side trips to stay there and enjoy hands-on experiences and local specialties as well as to find out something new and different. We hope you will know more about Japan. Here are eight

locations of charm to invite you and excite you.







Kanazawa

Kansai's four big cities ingrained in traditions and cultures

Osaka

Thanks to its water transportation system, the water capital progressed economically and became a gateway, both domestic and international, and a big commercial town.



In the Kansai region with some former capitals for longer than 1000 years, various things traditional and cultural are still preserved. In the ancient capital Kyoto and mercantile city Osaka as well as another ancient capital Nara and port town Kobe, you can relish the charms of Kansai. As tourist destinations, they have lots of attractions to draw many people.

Kobe

For its trade-oriented economy from old times, the port town is also famous for trendy appeals blended sophisticatedly with things Western.















For more than 1000 years, the city flourished as the ancient capital of Japan. You will find, here and there, Japanese unique aesthetics. For more than 1000 years, the city flourished



Being an eighth-century capital full of historical and romantic elements, the city preserves many world-class Buddhist buildings and other cultural assets.























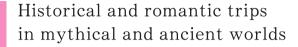


KII PENINSULA

Wakayama / Nara / Mie

ISE & NARA

Nara / Mie



The area includes sites from Ise, where the highest Shinto shrine Ise Jingu is located, to Nara, where you will find a large number of venerable Buddhist temples. Follow in the steps in mythical, ancient and medieval ages. Many other things historical are ancient tombs, sumo wrestling, sake, female divers, etc.

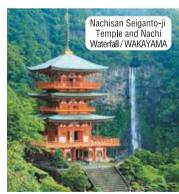




Kumano Kodo for religious pilgrimage to spiritual roots

This peninsula has some of Japan's spiritual places. The pilgrimage route Kumano Kodo leads to Kumano Hongu Taisha shrine, which lots of people visited for salvation. Why don't you follow the footsteps of ancient pilgrims to experience the mystical force?













https://www.the-kansai-guide.com/en/exciting/05/





Hasedera Temple / NARA

WEST LAKE BIWA & FUKUI Shiga / Fukui

FUKUI, EAST LAKE BIWA & MIE Shiga / Mie/ Fukui

Take your time for waterscape with many lakes and mountains

Japan's largest lake Biwa and the mountains west of the lake provide people with plenty of spring water. Water has been backing up sake brewing and fermented food. The lakes and mountains are still important for religious pilgrimage. Experience the magnificent view of Lake Biwa and local people's life.









Trip to the ancient samurai land and current craftsmanship sites

Close to Kyoto, lots of samurai warriors came and went. Some ninja communities are still known and conserved. Armor, ceramics, Japanese paper, knives and other traditional crafts were developed and currently glasses and other modern goods are produced. Enjoy the craftmanship country with a long period of history.





https://www.the-kansai-guide.com/en/exciting/03/









HARIMA, SETTSU

Hyogo

Look at the elegant Himeji Castle and down the road to Kyoto

Now 400 years old, the castle is still graceful. Also known as the Egret Castle, the fortress protected the strategic spot for its roads to the capital and the sea routes to the port. Along the highroads where samurai warriors swaggered about, swordsmiths and sake brewers boosted their business. Experience rich culture of the country.

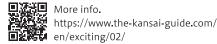




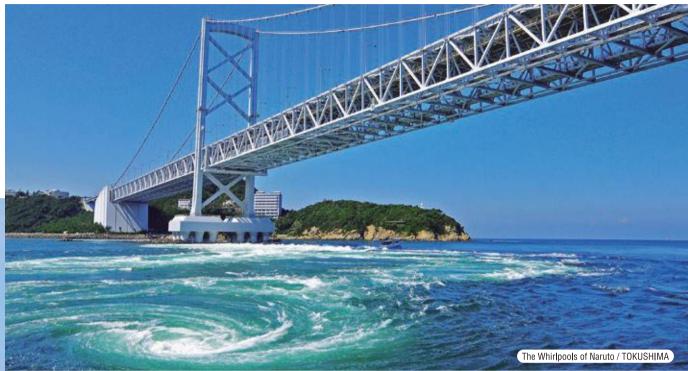








KOBE, AWAJI ISLAND & TOKUSHIMA Hyogo / Tokushima / Wakayama

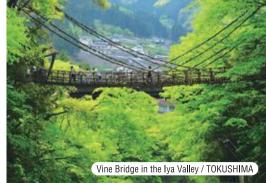


Cross the bridge onto the island from which Japan was born

According to legend, Japan was built, starting with the birth of Awaji Island. The surrounding waters get whirled and the landscape changes face dramatically. The world's longest suspension bridge serves to connect the main island with Shikoku. Joruri, the Japanese–style puppet play, was also handed on to the next generations. Get to Japan's first–born island.











More info. https://www.the-kansai-guide.com/ en/exciting/06/

TAMBA

Hyogo / Kyoto



Take an excursion for the land of harvest

This country is blessed with Mother Nature for agricultural activities. Crops with the name "Tamba" are available even today. Kyotamba served the ancient capital with its produce and lumbers, whereas the castle town Tamba–Sasayama was prosperous for transport. You will find prototypic Japanese landscape also for soothing and bountiful nature.





DECEMBER OF THE PARTY OF THE PA



Hohokabe Shrine Gion Festival / HYOGO

SAN'IN COAST

Tottori / Hyogo / Kyoto

Go for an outing to the shoreline's beauty and bounties

With the highland just close the sea and the intricate terrain, the landscape looks beautiful. It includes a large dune. The harvest from the sea makes for a fishing industry and a unique cuisine culture. Peaceful life continues with spectacular nature. Join us for quiet hours and days.

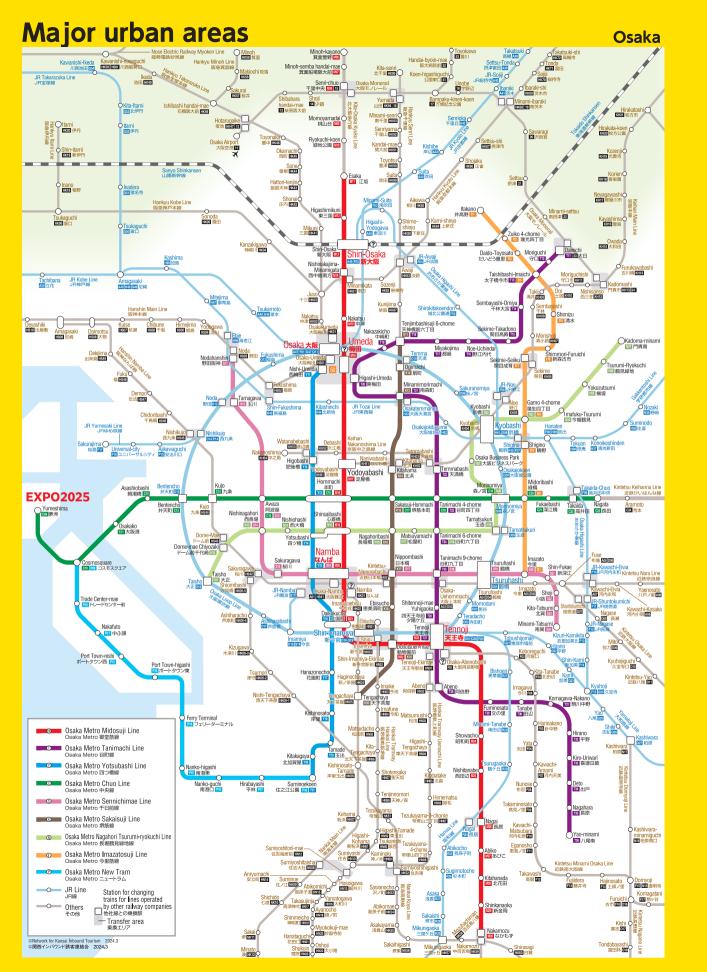


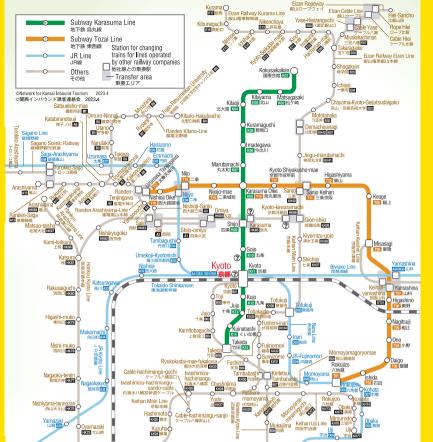
















OSAKA

Kyoto

► Kansai Tourist Information Center Kansai International Airport

Central 1F, Terminal 1 Building

► Tourist Information SHIN-OSAKA

Travel Service Center SHIN-OSAKA, Concourse. 3F, JR Shin-Osaka Station

▶ Osaka Metro & City Bus Information & Inquiries Hotline

Tel. 050-3355-8208 * Telephone enquiries only

► Tourist Information OSAKA

Travel Service Center OSAKA, Central Concourse, 1E JR Osaka Station

► Tourist Information NAMBA

Nankai Namba Station, 1F, North Exit

► Hankvu Tourist Center, OSAKA-UMEDA 1F. Hankvu Osaka-umeda Station

► Kintetsu Department Store Main Store Abeno Harukas Foreign Customer's Salon 3.5F, Wing Building, Kintetsu Dept. Store

күото

► Kyoto Tourist Information Center (Kyo Navi) 2F, Kyoto Station Building

► KANSAI TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER KYOTO

► Hankyu Tourist Information Center, Kyoto Kawaramachi

B1, Hankyu Kyoto-kawaramachi Station Karasuma

B1, Hankyu Karasuma Station

KOBE

► Kobe Information Center

The South of JR Sannomiya Station East Gate, and downstairs of Port Liner Sannomiva Station

► Hanshin Railway Service Center

B1. Hanshin Kobe-Sannomiya Station

NARA

► Nara City Tourist Information Center

► Kintetsu-Nara Station Tourist Information Center 1F, Kintetsu-Nara Station

► NARA Visitor Center & Inn

3 Ikeno-cho, Nara City

10 minutes walk from Kintetsu Nara Station

For the latest information, visit the website or contact the local Information Center.

©2025 Network for Kansai Inbound Tourism * No information in this document may be reprinted or copied without prior consent. 21



Features of railways in Japan

- To board trains, you need to buy a paper ticket or an IC card with a sufficient balance of cash value added in advance.
- On some limited express trains, you must have a limited express ticket in addition to the regular boarding ticket.
- On some limited express trains, all seats are reserved. The seat number and car number are noted on the reserved seat ticket

About IC cards

By adding enough cash value to the card for your rides in advance you can ride trains subways, buses, and certain other means of transport with the IC card. It is very convenient, because you simply pass it over the IC card reader when boarding and exitina.

Buy a ticket (boarding ticket) or an IC card

There are two ways to buy tickets or IC cards: purchase from station staff at the window, or purchase using the ticket vending machines.

How to use the ticket vending machines

OBuying a ticket

- 1. Check the fare to the destination station on the fare schedule posted above the vending machines.
- 2. Put enough cash for this fare into the machine, and push the button indicating the fare to the destination. Don't forget to take any change for

OBuying an IC card (In case of ICOCA)

- 1. Messages will appear in English if you push the "English" button on the screen.
- 2 Push "IC card purchase" on the screen
- 3. Insert 2,000 yen in cash. There is a deposit charge of 500 yen for the card. You can use the balance of 1,500 yen as e-money.
- * The deposit (500 yen) is returned when the card is returned.

Going through the ticket gate



In almost all stations, the ticket gates are automatic. You can go through them by inserting the paper ticket into the slot or passing the IC card over the reader

How to add value to your IC card (using a machine)

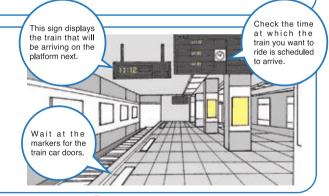
- 1.Insert your card into the card holder on the upper right part
- 2. Select the desired additional amount of value from the amounts displayed on the
- 3. Insert cash for the amount you
- 4. Take the card with the amount

The procedure may differ with the machine. Please ask the staff if you have any problems.



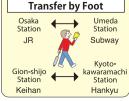
Go to the right platform for the train you want to ride

On the train information panel, etc., check the number of the platform for your train and the number of the boarding door, and stand in line at the corresponding place. When the train arrives, let all of the people exiting go out first, and then board in single file, in the same order as the line.



point Transfer Trivia: Station Names

Stations with similar names may actually be far apart, and there are stations with different names that are within walking distance of each other.



Transfer by Train Shin-Osaka Station JR Station Station Hankvu JR

Types of trains

Japanese trains have different designations depending on the railway company. They include "limited express," "rapid " and "express " In addition, even trains going in the same direction may stop at different stations. In the case of some limited express trains, you must pay an extra charge in addition to the regular fare. If you have any doubts, please check with the station staff.

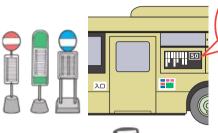


Features of Japanese buses

- To board a bus, you must have cash, a ticket, or an IC card. (IC cards cannot be used on some bus lines.)
- ●Do not attempt to pay the bus fare with big-denomination bills (5,000 or 10,000 yen). Some buses do not give change for fare payments. You can pay more smoothly if you prepare sufficient small change
- The fare schedule differs with the area and bus company. Some apply a uniform fare, and others, a zone-based fare. Similarly, passengers pay when boarding in some cases and when exiting in others.
- There are generally different service schedules for weekdays, Saturdays, and holidays. Make sure that you are not looking at the wrong schedule for the day in question.

Points when boarding buses

In bus boarding areas, the boarding spot (bus stop) varies with the destination. The bus line number is displayed above the driver's seat and on the side of the bus. Make sure that the bus you are boarding will go to your destination. One door is used only for boarding, and the other, only for exiting. The location (front or rear) depends on the bus.



The number displayed on the front and side of the bus is the bus line

Depending on the bus, the passengers pay either when boarding or when exiting. If a numbered ticket is dispensed when you board, take it. If you plan to pay the fare with an IC card, pass it over the reader when you board. If you pay with cash, first put the cash into the fare box and then the numbered ticket.

Points when exiting buses

When your bus stop is next, notify the driver of your intention to exit by pushing the exit button by your seat or on a railing. If passengers pay when they exit, check the fare for the number on the ticket you received when boarding, and prepare the amount of cash to pay it. When exiting, put the cash and numbered ticket into the fare box. If you are paying by IC card, hold it over the reader. Get off the bus slowly in order,, and keep your place in the line of passengers waiting to exit.



If no passenger pushes this button, the bus will not stop at the next bus stop.

If a numbered ticket is dispensed check the fare for the number on the ticket you have.



Learn Japanese etiquette!



In public transport facilities

Avoid talking on a mobile phone or conversing in a loud voice on trains or buses.





Restaurants

In buffet service. take no more food than you can eat.

In Japan, you do not have to tip. It is not customary either for wait staff to accept tips.



Hot springs and public baths

Wash vour whole body off before getting into the bath.

Do not put vour towel into the water in the bath.







Features of taxicabs in Japan

- Cash and credit cards are accepted for payment of the fare. Some credit cards may not be accepted by some companies. Please check with the driver when boarding.
- ●There is a flat fare for a ride up to a certain distance (e.g., 640 yen for the first 2 kilometers). You must pay this fare even if you ride for a shorter distance.
- In Japan, you do not have to tip the driver.

Points when boarding taxicabs

Many taxicabs are lined up waiting for customers in the vicinity of stations and by hotels, etc. You may also hail a taxicab going down the street. In Japan, taxicabs come in different automobile models and colors. They can be spotted by the light on the roof. If the light is on, it means the taxicab is empty.

The driver operates the taxicab doors, which open and close automatically. Normally, the passenger sits on the left side of the back seat. If there are many passengers, one may sit in the front seat, next to the driver. The door for the front seat is opened by hand.



Points when exiting taxicabs

The fare is indicated on the meter. Once you pay it by cash or credit card, the door on the left side will automatically open. Do not open the door on the right side, from which it would be dangerous to exit. Get off the taxicab slowly and carefully. Before exiting, make sure you do not forget anything.



Names and marks for restrooms

Learn Japanese etiquette!



Restrooms

Do not get up on the toilet seat.

After using toilet paper, flush it down the toilet. Throw any other rubbish into the bin in the restroom.













The mark on signs ndicating restrooms is generally as shown at left, but there are other types of marks as well.



Safe trip | App and Web site



Safety tips

Free applications for notification of emergency earthquake information, tsunami information, volcanic eruption bulletins, and information on other meteorological phenomena

For Android

For iPhone





Web site

For your safe travel



Browse the following website for any news that may cause delays in transportation services in the Kansai area or affect vour travel plans.





Emergency telephone number

Check contact information in advance so you can calmly take action in emergencies.

Telephone number to call an ambulance In case of illness or injury

Telephone number to call the police In case of crimes, accidents, etc.

Telephone numbers for notification of lost credit cards

Credit card companies

American Express **0120-020-120**

0120-074-024 Diners Club

0120-794-082 JCB

MasterCard

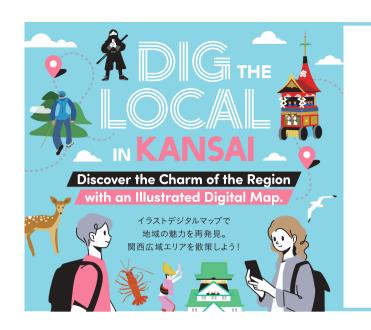
00531-11-3886

Visa Card

00531-11-1555

UnionPav

0034-800-800-287



Let's Read the





EXPO2025 Plus KANSAI Tourism Promotion Project

EXPO2025 Plus KANSAI Tourism Promotion Project Organizations

Members

Shiga Prefecture / Kyoto Prefecture / Osaka Prefecture / Hyogo Prefecture / Nara Prefecture / Wakayama Prefecture / Tottori Prefecture / Tokushima Prefecture / Fukui Prefecture / Mie Prefecture / City of Kyoto / City of Osaka / City of Sakai / City of Kobe / Union of Kansai Governments / Kansai Economic Federation / Airbnb Japan Inc. / Osaka Metro Co.,Ltd. / Kansai Innovation Center / Kansai Airports / Kintetsu Group Holdings Co., Ltd. / West Japan Railway Company / Hankyu Corporation / Hanshin Electric Railway Co., Ltd.

Observers ·

Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition /

Secretariat of the Headquarters for the World Expo 2025, Cabinet Secretariat / Kansai District Transport and Tourism Bureau / Kinki Regional Development Bureau / Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry / Osaka Regional Taxation Bureau / Japan National Tourism Organization(JNTO) / H.I.S. Co., Ltd. / KNT-CT Holdings Co., Ltd. / Keihan Holdings Co., Ltd. / JTB Corp. / All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd. / Nankai Electric Railway Co., Ltd. / Japan Airlines Co., Ltd. / Nippon Travel Agency Co., Ltd. / Hankyu Travel International Co., Ltd. / BRIDGE MULTILINGUAL SOLUTION, INC.

Supporters

Recruit Co., Ltd. / Rekishi Kaido Promotional Council

KANSAI Tourism Bureau

Smart Transport Services Application to Go Around in Kansai **KANSAI MaaS**





Find the

Get smart, get moving in the 7 Kansai prefectures. From route planning to must-see places.

Info on

along-the-









Use KANSAI MaaS

for travel around

Kansai, easy and

https://www.kansai-maas.

comfy.

WEB

ip/lp/

IC card type ticket with special benefits



To be used for travel on JR, subways, private railways and buses.

Just touch the card at the ticket gate and you're ready to go!

Ultimate

itineraries to fully enjoy Kansai







website. https://kansai onepass.com

Check our



