

GUEST GUIDEBOOK

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	6
HOW TO CONTACT ME	7
Direct Contact	7
Social Media	7
APARTMENT LOCATION & INSIDE THE APARTMENT	8
Apartment Location Google Maps Links	8
Building address	8
Apartment Number.....	8
Items provided in the apartment	8
TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS, DESTINATIONS, AND ROUTES	11
ShinFukae Subway Station	11
Kintetsu Fuse Station	11
Visiting Nara	11
Visiting Kyoto	12
Nearest JR Station	12
Popular Destinations & Routes	12
Shinkansen (Bullet Train) Schedules & Routes	14
Taxis	16
NEARBY SUPERMARKETS, DRUG STORES, DON QUIJOTE, ETC	17
MEGA Don Quijote ("Donki") Fukaebashi Location	17
ShinFukae "Life" Supermarket	17
Fuse "Aeon" Supermarket	17
Sun Plaza Fuse Supermarket (サンプラザ布施店)	18
Midoribashi "Seiyu" 24 Hour Supermarket	18
Sigma Drug Store ShinFukae	18
Welcia Drug store Fukaeminami	18
Closest Post Office	18
Fuse (Large) Post Office	18
FamilyMart Convenience Store	19
MONEY, ATMs, AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE.....	20
Foreign Currency Exchange Upon Arrival	20
Foreign Currency Exchange During Your Stay	20
ATMs in Japan	21
KANSAI ATTRACTION INFORMATION	22

Osaka City	22
Kansai Scene Magazine	22
Japan Guide.....	22
Kyoto	22
Nara	23
Himeji Castle	23
Hikone Castle In Shiga	24
Kobe	24
Mt Koya In Wakayama	25
Ise Grand Shrine In Mie	25
HyperDia Notes	25
NAMBA / MINAMI / DOTONBORI	26
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS JAPAN (USJ)	27
Express Passes	27
If you don't have an express pass... ..	27
How to get to USJ	27
HyperDia Train Routes to and from USJ	28
SHOPPING	29
Namba/Shinsaibashi Area	29
Osaka/Umeda Station Area Shopping	30
CameraShops.....	31
Outlet Shopping Mall	32
WI-FI / INTERNET ACCESS	33
TRAIN PASSES	35
Japan Rail Pass	35
Kintetsu Rail Pass	35
Kansai Thru Pass	35
Prepaid IC Cards	35
Osaka Amazing Pass	36
OSAKA CASTLE and OSAKA CASTLE PARK	38
Osaka Castle by Bicycle	38
Osaka Castle By Train	38
HOW TO USE A JAPANESE PUBLIC PHONE (PAYPHONE)	39
ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: FROM KANSAI AIRPORT (KIX).....	40
Important Notes	40
Directions	41

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: FROM TOKYO by SHINKANSEN	43
Important Notes	43
Directions after Arrival at Shin-Osaka	43
ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: FROM NARITA AIRPORT BY TRAIN	46
Important Notes	46
Directions	46
ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: FROM KYOTO	49
Important Notes	49
Directions	49
ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: JR TRAIN VIA SHIN OSAKA	51
Important Notes	51
Directions	51
ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: LATE EVENING ARRIVAL AT KANSAI AIRPORT (KIX)	53
Last Nankai Train Details	53
Later Departure Options	53
Car, Passengers, Luggage	54
LATE EVENING OPTION 1: KIX to TAMATSUKURI	55
Important notes	55
Tickets	55
Directions	55
LATE EVENING OPTION 2: TENNOJI LATE NIGHT PICKUP	57
Important Notes	57
Tickets	57
Directions	57
LATE EVENING OPTION 3: NIGHT BUS TO NANKAI NAMBA	59
Important notes	59
Night Bus Details, Schedule, Bus Stop Locations	59

DEPARTURE: HOW TO GET TO KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (KIX)	60
Daytime And Evening Departures	60
Important Notes	60
Directions To KIX (Daytime / Evening)	61
Early Morning KIX Departures (Special Notes)	62

INTRODUCTION

Greetings from Osaka and thank you very much for your reservation! We realize you have a large selection of places to choose from and we are deeply grateful that you have chosen to stay in our apartment!

Receiving this booklet from us means that your reservation is confirmed and that there are no problems with your booking.

This booklet contains information about the apartment, surrounding area, Osaka, and the greater Kansai region. We created this in PDF format because PDFs are easy to view on almost every portable device as well as on all computers.

Please forward the download link for this PDF to all members of your group! There is a tremendous amount of helpful information in this booklet and you will get the most from it if everyone in your group has a chance to read the contents.

I hope you find the information useful and I look forward to meeting you when you arrive!

Cheers,

Rik

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Email: rik@bestrooms.jp

Telephone for check-ins or urgent contact:

From Japanese Domestic Phones: 090-3164-5413

From International Phones, including international mobiles in Japan: +81-90-3164-5413

HOW TO CONTACT ME

DIRECT CONTACT

Domestic mobile phone number: 090-3164-5413

Mobile phone number if calling from an international phone: +81-90-3164-5413

Email: rik@bestrooms.jp

APARTMENT LOCATION & INSIDE THE APARTMENT

APARTMENT LOCATION GOOGLE MAPS LINKS

Google Maps pin for the apartment building location:

<https://goo.gl/maps/8oUtqNRZFst>

BUILDING ADDRESS

Addresses in Japan are mostly meaningless to those who don't already know the neighborhood so the Google Maps links above are likely much more useful than the address. However, for reference here is the apartment address in both Japanese and English:

〒577-0058

大阪府東大阪市

足代北1-15-1

HATA マンション

Hata Mansion

1-15-1 Ajirokita

HigashiOsaka-shi, Osaka

577-0058

APARTMENT NUMBER

For easy reference your apartment number will have been included in the message that also delivered this PDF file download link.

The apartment number is also included at the end of the listing name for the apartment you have booked. If the listing name includes #15, you are in apartment 105. If the listing name includes #83 then you are in apartment #803. Just put a zero between the two numbers that are at the end of the listing name.

ITEMS PROVIDED IN THE APARTMENT

Internet

All our rooms have in room Wifi.

Bedding & Towels

Sheets

Quilts & quilt covers (appropriate warmth for the season)
Pillows & pillow cases
One large bath towel per guest
One small hand/face towel per guest

Kitchen

Two burner gas stovetop
Fridge
Basic microwave
Toaster oven
Electric kettle
Rice cooker
Plates, bowls, mugs, glasses, cutlery
Frying pans, pots
Basic cooking utensils
Small Tupperware-style set for leftovers
Paper towels
Liquid dish soap
Liquid hand soap

Washing Machine

Japanese style automatic washing machine
Space to hang clothes to dry
Hangers & clothespins
Powdered laundry soap is provided (usually located under the kitchen sink or near the washing machine)

Bathroom

Western style sit-down toilet
Toilet paper is provided
Please note, in Japan toilet paper is flushed down the toilet, not disposed of in garbage

Shower:

Towels are provided (1 bath towel & 1 hand towel per guest)
Shampoo, conditioner, and liquid body wash are all provided

Other Items

Hair dryer
Iron & small ironing board
Makeup mirrors (2)
Full body mirror

Building Notes

Building has an elevator
24-hour access, no restrictions or curfew
Two keys to the apartment are provided
Apartment is 100% private, never shared. You are the only guests during your stay

Bicycle Notes

We have four (4) bicycles available for guests to borrow
There is no charge to borrow our bikes
Bikes are shared by all guests, there is no reservation system
The lock combination for each bike is 7878 (all are the same)
Be sure to turn on the bike's headlight at night or the police may stop you
Do not park bikes near train stations for extended periods as the city sometimes collects bikes parked stations.
Bicycles are used at your own risk. Please ride carefully and responsibly.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS, DESTINATIONS, AND ROUTES

There are two stations near the apartment, both within walking distance. The closest is ShinFukae Station (S21) on the Osaka City "Sennichimae" (pink) Subway line. The other station is Fuse Station on the Kintetsu Railway Nara & Osaka Lines.

Using these two stations it is possible to easily get to just about anywhere in the Kansai Region. Please find below some notes on the stations, walking maps to them, and optimized routes to many popular destinations.

SHINFUKAE SUBWAY STATION

The closest station to the apartment is ShinFukae on the Osaka City Subway Sennichimae (pink) subway line. Exit #4 of ShinFukae station is 400m from the apartment.

Here are Google Maps links that show routes between the station and the apartment:

<https://kans.ai/ToShinFukae>

<https://kans.ai/FromShinFukae>

KINTETSU FUSE STATION

About 800m from the apartment is Fuse station on the Kintetsu Nara & Osaka Lines. Fuse is the largest station in this area of Osaka and is surrounded by shops and dozens (60+) restaurants. If you are looking for a big selection of restaurants within walking distance of the apartment then Fuse is the place to go! Lots of great places to eat and drink with good prices!

Here is a Google Maps link on how to walk from the apartment to Fuse Station:

<https://kans.ai/ToFuseStation>

There are slightly more direct routes to walk but the above route will take you along the covered Fuse Shopping Street which is a great example of a traditional covered Japanese Shopping Street.

VISITING NARA

If you wish to visit Nara Park, Todaiji Temple, and the Daibutsu ("Big Buddha") then the best way is to go from Fuse.

From the apartment to Fuse Station is about 800m and you can use the following Google Maps link: <https://kans.ai/ToFuseStation>

Once in Fuse you need to take the Kintetsu Nara line, ideally an Express train. The express trains have small orange signs on them. (Kintetsu "Local" trains have blue signs and stop at every stop. They will take much longer to arrive and should be avoided.)

From Fuse to Nara by Kintetsu Express is about 30 minutes and costs 490yen per person. Trains leave from track #6 which is located on the 4th (top) floor of Fuse Station.

Kintetsu Nara is an underground station and there is a tourist information center on the ground level beside the main road.

To check the train schedule from Fuse to Nara you can use the following link. This link sets the departure time based on when you click on the link and will provide the next 5 trains:

<https://kans.ai/FuseToNara>

For your return to Fuse from Nara you can use the following link. As with the above the departure time is set based on when you click the link and the next 5 trains are provided:

<https://kans.ai/NaraToFuse>

The Kintetsu Nara line also passes through the JR Osaka Loop Line (Tsuruhashi Station) and continues all the way in to Namba should you wish to spend part of the day in Nara and part of the day elsewhere.

Finally, it is also possible to travel directly between Nara and Kyoto on Kintetsu Railway. This might be something to consider if you wish to spend part of the day in Nara and part in Kyoto. A half day in Kyoto is only enough to get a small taste of the city but depending on your schedule it may be of interest: <https://kans.ai/NaraKyotoKintetsu>

VISITING KYOTO

There are multiple options to travel from Osaka to Kyoto including JR, Hankyu, Keihan, and Kintetsu railways.

From your apartment traveling by Kintetsu will be the fastest and most comfortable way as long as you plan the route carefully.

You can travel from Fuse Station all the way to Kyoto Station with only one train change and a total travel time of ~70 minutes:

<https://kans.ai/FuseToKyoto>

Also, if you wish to spend the morning in Nara and then the afternoon in Kyoto it is possible to travel directly between the two on Kintetsu as well. An afternoon in Kyoto is only enough to get a small taste of the city but depending on your schedule it may be of interest:

<https://kans.ai/NaraKyotoKintetsu>

For information on Kyoto attractions and help in planning a Kyoto itinerary please see our "Kansai Attraction Information" email.

NEAREST JR STATION

The JR station closest to the apartment is Tsuruhashi on the JR Osaka Loop Line.

It is not possible to walk to Tsuruhashi from the apartment, you must either go by Kintetsu train from Fuse or by Sennichimae (pink) Subway from ShinFukae. In either case when you arrive at Tsuruhashi station just follow the signs for a JR transfer.

POPULAR DESTINATIONS & ROUTES

Here is a list of popular destinations with the suggested station to use. The HyperDia Route links will return results based on the date & time that you click the link:

Universal Studios Japan (USJ)

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 36 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeToUSJ>

Osaka Aquarium "Kaiyukan"

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 28 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeToAquarium>

Osaka Castle

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 15 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeMorinomiya>

Osaka Dome

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 22 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeOsakaDome>

Use Exit #1 for Osaka Dome

Namba / Minami / Dotonbori District

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 9 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeNamba>

Use Exit #14 for the Dotonbori area.

Use Exit #25 and walk North for Amemura.

Shinsaibashi / America Mura (Amemura)

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 15 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeShinsaibashi>

Use Exit #5 or #6 for the shopping street and/or Daimaru Department Store.

Use Exit #7 for OPA and/or Amemura.

Nipponbashi / "DenDen Town" (Similar area to Akihabara in Tokyo)

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 8 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeNippombashi>

Use Exit #5 or #10 and walk South for DenDen Town.

Umeda ("Kita") Area

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 24 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeUmeda>

ShinOsaka JR Shinkansen (Bullet Train) Station

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 30 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeShinOsaka>

Tennoji

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 14 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeTennoji>

Shin-Sekai District

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 16 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeEbisucho>

Use Exit #3 at Ebisucho Station

Kobe (via Osaka by JR)

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 50 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeKobeJR>

Kobe (via Umeda by Hankyu Railway)

From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 58 minutes

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeKobePR>

Kobe (via Namba by Hanshin Railway)
From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 60 minutes
<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeKobeHanshin>

Kyoto (by JR)
From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 60 minutes
<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeKyotoJR>

Kyoto (by Hankyu railway via Umeda)
From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 77 minutes
<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeKyotoPR>

Kyoto (by Kintetsu railway)
From: Fuse Station, 75 minutes
<https://kans.ai/FuseToKyoto>
This is an interesting way to get to Kyoto that is often overlooked. You will pass through parts of Nara and arrive at Kyoto Station which Kintetsu shares with JR.

Nara (by Kintetsu railway)
From: Fuse Station, 30 minutes
<https://kans.ai/FuseToNara>

Nara (by JR)
From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 69 minutes
HyperDia Route: <https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeNaraJR>

Himeji (by JR)
From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 95 minutes
<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeHimejiJR>
It is also possible to visit Himeji using the Shinkansen. However, the most time saved is 6 minutes and the number of Shinkansen per hour is lower than regular trains. Therefore, we do not recommend using the Shinkansen to visit Himeji from Osaka, even if you have a JR pass.

Hikone (by JR)
From: ShinFukae Subway Station, 109 minutes
<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeHikone>

Ise Grand Shrine (by Kintetsu)
From: Fuse Station
Standard Express: <https://kans.ai/FuseIseExp>
(130 minutes. Slower, requires one or two transfers, no reserved seating, cheaper.)
Limited Express: <https://kans.ai/FuseIseLtdExp>
(101 minutes. Fastest option, direct train with no transfers, has reserved seats, costs 1320yen extra)

SHINKANSEN (BULLET TRAIN) SCHEDULES & ROUTES

HyperDia works perfectly for checking Shinkansen (bullet train) schedules as well.

If you have a JR pass you will want to make sure the "NOZOMI / MIZUHO / HAYABUSA (SHINKANSEN)" option is turned OFF as JR pass holders are not able to use these trains free of charge.

Here is a HyperDia link that will lead you to a page with SHIN-OSAKA set as the start station and all settings made correctly for JR Pass holders:

<https://kans.ai/FromShinOsakaJRPassShinkansen>

Here is the same HyperDia link but with all types of Shinkansen enabled:

<https://kans.ai/ShinOsakaAllShinkansen>

When using HyperDia for Shinkansen schedules please carefully check the results for the travel times. There are some Shinkansen trains that are MUCH slower than others! For example, a Kodama from ShinOsaka to Tokyo is 4 hours while a Hikari is only 3 hours! HyperDia is generally very good but it is not quite perfect. It is important to check the results carefully to make sure it has proposed an efficient and reasonable route.

Important Note:

There is an English website that claims to show Shinkansen timetables (shinkansen.co.jp). However, in our experience this site is often out of date and shows INCORRECT TIMES. Please do not use this site! (As of this writing they last updated the schedule information 4 years ago! Shinkansen schedules typically change several times per year.)

TAXIS

Taxis in Japan tend to be a bit expensive but can be very useful at times when the trains are not running (late night) or if you have a lot of shopping you don't wish to carry on the train!

You can flag a taxi on the street as you would expect, but most drivers do not speak much (or any) English. If you are in the downtown Osaka area you can take a taxi back to the apartment for around 2000yen from the Namba area and around 3000yen from the Umeda area. If your driver does not speak English you can show him this:

地下鉄千日前線の新深江駅までお願いします。

It says, "Please take me to ShinFukae station on the Sennichimae Subway Line." You may be able to communicate to the driver (or just mime!) that you wish to go a bit past the station but it will really depend on the driver. In any case, it is just a 400m walk to the apartment from ShinFukae.

NEARBY SUPERMARKETS, DRUG STORES, DON QUIJOTE, ETC

This section contains some information on supermarkets and other shops around the apartment.

MEGA DON QUIJOTE ("DONKI") FUKAEBASHI LOCATION

Business Hours: 9:00am to 5:00am

Google Maps Link: <https://kans.ai/AjiroAptToDonki>

Fukaebashi Location Info: <https://kans.ai/FukaebashiDonki>

Wikipedia page: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Quijote_\(store\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Quijote_(store))

Notes: Don Quijote (generally called "Donki") is quite an interesting chain of discount stores in Japan. From Wikipedia, "Don Quijote is a discount chain store that has over 160 locations throughout Japan as well as three stores in Hawaii. It carries a wide range of products, from basic groceries to electronics to clothing. The store is well known in Japan and is often referred to by its shortened name "Donki". Distinctly, Don Quijote tends to keep very late hours for Japanese retailing (to 3 or 5am, or even 24 hours) and it packs its goods from ceiling to floor in a distinct merchandising strategy encouraging the customer to "discover treasure" and possibly return to the store to find a remembered item."

(Donki does have basic groceries and lots of snacks & drinks, but it isn't the best option if you are specifically looking for a supermarket.)

SHINFUKAE "LIFE" SUPERMARKET

Business Hours: 9:00am to 10:00pm

Google Maps Link: <https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeLife>

1st Floor

Notes: This supermarket is the closest to ShinFukae station so if you wish to go to a supermarket when you are already at ShinFukae then this is the best option. It is 300m from ShinFukae station and 700m total from the apartment. The quality is good and the prices are okay for Japan.

FUSE "AEON" SUPERMARKET

Google Maps Link: <https://kans.ai/FuseAeon>

Business Hours: 9:00am to 11:00pm

B1 Floor (first underground floor)

Notes: This is the largest supermarket within walking distance of apartment, 650m or about an 8-minute walk. This supermarket is also very close to Kintetsu Fuse Station so if you wish to visit Nara you can use these same instructions to get to Fuse where you can take train directly to Nara. The quality of Aeon is good and the prices are also pretty reasonable. Please note that the Aeon supermarket is on the B1 floor so you must go downstairs to find it.

SUN PLAZA FUSE SUPERMARKET (サンプラザ布施店)

Google Maps Link: <http://kans.ai/SunPlazaFuse>

Business Hours: 9:00am to 8:00pm

1st Floor

Notes: This is a smaller supermarket but it is the closest to the apartment (just 200m!) and the cheapest supermarket in the area. This supermarket is a bit more focused on restaurant owners as customers but everyone is welcome and many families shop here.

MIDORIBASHI "SEIYU" 24 HOUR SUPERMARKET

Business Hours: Open 24 hours

Google Maps Link: <https://kans.ai/24hrSeiyu>

1st Floor

Notes: This supermarket is a bit bigger than Life but a bit smaller than Aeon. It is open 24 hours. Prices are sometimes a bit lower than the other two large supermarkets but overall the difference is not so big. This supermarket is too far to walk to from the apartment (2km) so you need to use the bikes we have available. The lock combination for both bikes is 7878. There are four bicycles available, they are parked together in the car parking area, separate from all the other bikes.

SIGMA DRUG STORE SHINFUKAE

Business Hours: 9:00am to 10:00pm

Google Maps Link: <https://kans.ai/SigmaDrugStoreShinFukae>

1st Floor

WELCIA DRUG STORE FUKAEMINAMI

Business Hours: 7:00am to 11:00pm

Google Maps Link: <https://kans.ai/WelciaDrugstoreFukaeminami>

1st Floor

Notes: This drugstore opens the earliest and closes the latest of all the drugstores near the apartment.

CLOSEST POST OFFICE

Higashinari FukaeMinami Post Office

Business Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am to 5:00pm

Google Maps Link: <https://kans.ai/FukaeMinamiPostOffice>

Google Street View Link: <https://kans.ai/FukaeMinamiPostOfficeGoogleStreetView>

1st Floor

FUSE (LARGE) POST OFFICE

Fuse Post Office

Full Post Office Business Hours:

Mon-Fri 9:00am to 7:00pm

Saturday 9:00am to 3:00pm
Sunday & Holidays: Closed
After Hours Counter:
Mon-Fri: Open until 11:00pm
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays: Open until 9:00pm
Google Maps Link: <https://kans.ai/FusePostOffice>

Notes: This is the largest post office in the area of the apartment but it is too far to comfortably walk. You are welcome to use the bicycles of course! If you have a package delivered by Japan Post and need to pick it up at the post office, this is the post office your package will be kept at. You can pick your package up at the after-hours desk if necessary. Be sure to take the "undelivered item slip" left by the post office, your ID, and the address of the apartment.

FAMILYMART CONVENIENCE STORE

There is a 24hour FamilyMart convenience store located about 100m from the apartment. It is between the apartment and ShinFukae Station making it very convenient. FamilyMart has a great selection of snacks, drinks, prepared "bento" lunch boxes, and many daily use goods (toothbrushes, soap, pens, etc.) FamilyMart also has a copier that you can use to print boarding passes or other documents that you may need to print. If you can put the documents onto a USB stick or memory card it will be no problem to print them for a small fee per sheet.

MONEY, ATMS, AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Most large stores and large chains (convenience stores, supermarkets, etc., etc.) accept major credit cards but there are still many small shops in Japan that accept only cash. Most cash-only places will only accept Japanese Yen so it is important to have some on hand.

If you plan to use your credit or debit card in Japan we recommend you contact your bank prior to departure to inform them of your travel plans. Some banks will block overseas purchases on cards that have not been used overseas before as an anti-fraud measure. If you let your bank know your plans before you depart you can probably avoid having this happen to you when you arrive.

FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE UPON ARRIVAL

You can exchange currency in your home country before you come to Japan or in many cases you can exchange currency once you arrive here. We suggest you check the exchange rates offered at your local bank and/or currency exchange shop and then compare them with what is offered here.

If you are arriving at Kansai International Airport (KIX) the airport-owned "Kansai Airport Foreign Exchange Shop" typically offers the best rates, and they publish their rates online daily. If you are selling foreign currency to buy JPY then you will be using their "Buying Rate":

<http://www.kaakix.co.jp/exchange/rate.html>

You can see where the various currency exchange counters are located at KIX on this page, which also includes floor map links:

<http://www.kansai-airport.or.jp/en/service/money/>

FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE DURING YOUR STAY

Within Osaka City there are many options for currency exchange, and the situation is quite fluid with places opening and closing regularly. With this in mind, it isn't possible for us to give a complete list of foreign exchange locations to use during your stay. However, there are a few large chains that have multiple locations and regularly updated web sites:

World Currency Shop

Website: <http://www.tokyo-card.co.jp/wcs/wcs-shop-e.php>

Rates: <http://www.tokyo-card.co.jp/wcs/rate.html>

Travelex

Website: <http://www.travelex.co.jp/JP/Home>

Store Locations: <http://www.travelex.co.jp/JP/Stores-By-Region>

Rates: Rates to purchase JPY are not currently published online

Banks

Larger bank branches also provide currency exchange services but Japanese banks tend to be quite slow and the rates are generally not enough better than the currency exchange shops to justify the additional waiting and the typical lack of English speaking staff.

Other Options

You will find many smaller currency exchange shops around as well, and some non-currency shops are now also offering on-site currency exchange.

Most businesses in Japan are honest but we advise checking online rates (the KIX link and the World Currency Shop link above are good places to check) to get an idea what is "normal" for the day's rates so you can judge how good or bad an independent shop's rate might be.

Rural Areas

Please note that if you are traveling to rural areas you will likely not find anywhere that can do currency exchange and you will find many shops & restaurants that do not accept credit or debit cards. Be sure to plan accordingly!

ATMS IN JAPAN

7-Eleven Convenience Stores & 7-bank

In Japan 7-Eleven is everywhere, and they own their own bank, called SEVEN BANK. All ATMs in 7-Eleven stores are from SEVEN BANK and happily SEVEN BANK accepts most international debit cards. You can read more about which cards here:

<http://www.sevenbank.co.jp/intlcard/index2.html>

Japan Post Bank

The other common option for international travelers is JAPAN POST BANK. Especially if you are traveling in rural areas it is likely you will find a post office (and a post office ATM) in even quite small locations, and they will often provide a way to withdraw cash from your foreign bank account. Their English web site is here:

http://www.jp-bank.japanpost.jp/en/ias/en_ias_index.html

General ATM Notes

Both 7-Eleven and Japan Post are reasonable with their fees, but depending on your card there may be a fee charged. We have no way to advise you of if this will happen or how much it will be, only that based on past feedback both of these banks are reasonable.

You should contact your bank before you come to Japan and make sure that your debit (and credit!) card(s) can be used internationally, and let them know you will be visiting Japan. This helps avoid your card(s) being flagged for unusual use when you first start using it in Japan.

You should ask your bank what exchange rate they will provide you and what service fees they will charge for international transactions.

It is likely that you will not be able to check your account balance from a Japanese ATM, only withdraw funds.

You will NOT be able to deposit funds in Japan.

KANSAI ATTRACTION INFORMATION

Please find below a collection of useful information and links about popular destinations around Osaka and the Kansai region.

For transportation information to these (and more!) destinations please see our "TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS, DESTINATIONS, AND ROUTES" section.

OSAKA CITY

Osaka City has a great page about Osaka & Osaka Attractions. You can find it here:
<http://www.osaka-info.jp/en/>

KANSAI SCENE MAGAZINE

Kansai Scene is Osaka's free English language magazine. They generally have information about upcoming events and plenty of ads for bars/clubs/restaurants in the Kansai area. We try to have recent issues (and some back issues) in each apartment and you can check their web site here:
<http://www.kansaiscene.com/>

JAPAN GUIDE

For general information about the Kansai area and for sample plans for Kyoto etc. we suggest checking out Japan Guide. In the sections below we will also include links to specific Japan Guide pages.

Japan Guide Main Page:
<http://www.japan-guide.com/>

Kansai/Kinki page with many destination ideas:
<http://www.japan-guide.com/list/e1105.html>

KYOTO

Kyoto is far larger than most people expect and careful planning is required to make the best use of your time in this ancient city. The top destinations are spread out throughout the city so you will need more than one day if you wish to comfortably visit the most popular places.

As noted in the Japan Guide sample itineraries, it is best to plan your time in Kyoto by area of the city rather than just making a list of things to see each day. Kyoto has a bus system and a limited subway system so getting from one area of the city to another can be time consuming.

Here are some suggested Kyoto itineraries from Japan Guide:
<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3950.html>

Kyoto Attractions:
<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2158.html>

NARA

Nara Park ("the deer park"), Todaiji Temple, and the Daibutsu (huge Buddha statue) within Todaiji are the most popular destinations in Nara, and the easiest to get to by train.

Nara Attractions:

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2165.html>

HIMEJI CASTLE

400-year-old Himeji Castle is the best original castle in Japan as well as the largest original castle. A multi-year restoration project was completed in 2015 so the castle is in amazing condition!

Downsides

There are two downsides to Himeji:

1. It's popular and can get very busy. We strongly recommend that you arrive at the castle at opening time (9:00am in the summer) so that you can avoid some of the crowds.
2. Visiting the castle will cost you most of one day of your time in Japan. It's a bit far from Osaka and the castle & grounds are quite large. It's really worthwhile in my opinion but of course it does depend on how interested you are in Japanese castles!

Himeji Castle Official Homepage

<http://www.himejicastle.jp/en>

Please be sure to check this site to see expected congestion levels as well as opening times.

Himeji Castle Details

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3500.html>

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/661>

<https://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/regional/hyogo/himejijo.html>

Mount Shosha and the Engyoji Temple Complex

If you are interested in ancient Japanese temples or if you're a fan of the Last Samurai movie you may also wish to visit Mount Shosha and the Engyoji temple complex:

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3503.html>

<https://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/spn/himeji/mtshosha.html>

Getting to Himeji

Train route & schedule based on the time you click on the link:

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeHimejiJR>

Himeji 8:30am Arrival

Using normal JR (make sure you have the correct date set, weekends/holidays are different from weekdays!):

Cost: ~1840yen

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeHimejiJR0830>

Using the Shinkansen:

Cost: ~4020yen

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeHimejiShinkansen0830>

NOTE: Arriving at 8:30 gives you enough time to get to the castle by 9:00am. Visitors arrive by both train and bus so even if there does not seem to be many people there may be people arriving by bus that are not visible.

On weekdays, the Shinkansen does not save much time. However, on weekends it saves about 40 minutes when you wish to arrive by 8:30am. Therefore, on a weekend visit you may wish to consider using the Shinkansen.

HIKONE CASTLE IN SHIGA

Hikone Castle is much smaller than Himeji Castle but is one of the few other original (~400-year-old) castles in Japan. Hikone overlooks Lake Biwa (Japan's largest lake) and is located in a more scenic location than Himeji which is surrounded by a fairly urban environment outside the moats.

From Osaka, the time to Hikone is about the same as the time to Himeji and overall I would recommend Himeji over Hikone to most guests. If you are already in Kyoto and don't have a JR pass then going to Hikone (60~70 minutes from Kyoto) will be faster than going to Himeji. If you do have a JR pass however you can take the Shinkansen (bullet train) from Kyoto to Himeji which makes this quite a manageable trip.

Hikone Castle:

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e7000.html>

KOBE

Outside Japan Kobe is most famous for Kobe Beef and the 1995 Hanshin Earthquake. Kobe has quite a bit to offer and is a destination you may wish to combine with a trip to Himeji Castle to the west. For example, you may wish to use the Shin-Kobe ropeway to get an evening view over the Kobe/Osaka area on your way back from a day in Himeji!

Kobe Official Visitor Site:

<http://plus.feel-kobe.jp/>

Kobe Attractions on Japan Guide:

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2159.html>

MT KOYA IN WAKAYAMA

Koyasan has quickly become a popular destination for those who are interested in traditional Japan or Japanese Buddhism. It's a beautiful area and certainly worth considering a visit or even staying a night!

Japan Guide Page:

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e4900.html>

Official Website:

<http://eng.shukubo.net/>

Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) Page:

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/regional/wakayama/koyasan.html>

Wikitravel:

http://wikitravel.org/en/Mount_Koya

ISE GRAND SHRINE IN MIE

Ise Grand Shrine is the most sacred & important Japanese Shinto Shrine. The shrine and nearby traditional village of Oharai (Oharaimachi) are beautiful and interesting to anyone interested in traditional Japan.

Japan Guide:

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e4310.html>

Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ise_Grand_Shrine

Ise Shrine Official Site:

<http://www.isejingu.or.jp/en/index.html>

Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) Page:

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/spot/shritemp/isejingugeku.html>

HYPERDIA NOTES

As mentioned in the "TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS, DESTINATIONS, AND ROUTES" section, HyperDia is an excellent source for train schedules, fares, and routes:

<http://www.HyperDia.com/en/>

In the "TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS, DESTINATIONS, AND ROUTES" section we have many pre-made HyperDia routes that we have carefully created to be the easiest way from the apartment to many destinations.

NAMBA / MINAMI / DOTONBORI

Namba station is the main station for the Namba / Minami / Dotonbori district. This is one of Osaka's biggest areas for dining, entertainment, clubbing, bars, and of course shopping! You should definitely visit the Dotonbori area at least once during your time in Osaka. It's a busy, bustling district that is a great representation of the heart of Osaka. In the evenings, it is one of the main entertainment districts and a great place to dine and people-watch!

To get to Namba from the apartment is very easy:

ShinFukae to Namba

Sennichimae (pink) Subway Line

9 minutes

240yen

When you arrive in Namba the best exit to use is #14. This is close to Sennichimae Namba station and is the best exit to use to get into the center of the Dotonbori area. Once you go out exit #14 you should do a U-turn and walk ~50m until you find yourself on a large bridge over the Dotonbori Canal. Look to your right and you will see the Dotonbori area including the huge Glico Man sign.

If you are out at night the last Sennichimae train that goes to ShinFukae departs at 12:00 midnight.

The last Kintetsu train that goes to Fuse departs at 12:25am (0:25). If you are using HyperDia to check schedules the name of Kintetsu's Namba station is Osaka-Namba.

If you miss the last train and wish to take a taxi back to the apartment it will cost between 2000yen and 2500yen.

The driver will not speak English but you can show him this:

地下鉄千日前線の新深江駅までお願いします。

It says, "Please take me to ShinFukae station on the Sennichimae Subway Line." You may be able to communicate to the driver (or just mime!) that you wish to go a bit past the station but it will really depend on the driver. In any case, it is just a 400m walk to the apartment from ShinFukae Station.

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS JAPAN (USJ)

If you wish to visit USJ here is some information you may find useful:

First, the USJ web site is here:

<http://www.usj.co.jp/e/>

The above link will take you to the English site, there are other languages you can select at the top of the page.

EXPRESS PASSES

Besides the general admission pass you may be interested in purchasing an Express Pass. Express Passes allow you to bypass much of the waiting for designated attractions and can save you a substantial amount of time.

There are a few different Express Pass options, you can read about them here:

<http://www.usj.co.jp/e/ticket/>

In some countries, it is possible to purchase USJ Express Passes in advance from certain travel agencies. You can find a list of these agencies on the USJ site here:

<https://www.usj.co.jp/e/travel/>

It may be possible to purchase from other countries and agencies not listed as well. We don't have specific knowledge about this as it varies from country to country. However, you might try calling large travel agencies or travel agencies (such as JTB) that specialize in travel to Japan.

Please note that there are a limited number of Express Passes sold each day and they often sell out. If you have not been able to purchase one prior to arrival in Japan you may be able to purchase one directly at the park if you arrive early. It is advisable to arrive before the park opens if you wish to purchase on the day of your visit.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN EXPRESS PASS...

If you choose to not purchase Express Passes (or if they are already sold out when you arrive at the park) then it is best to prioritize the attractions you wish to visit. If you wish to visit the most popular attractions then it is best to visit them as early in the day as possible. Currently the most popular attraction is Harry Potter so it is best to go directly to this attraction as soon as USJ opens. You can then visit your other desired attractions, hopefully choosing ones with shorter lines as much as possible.

HOW TO GET TO USJ

Here is how to get to USJ from the apartment:

ShinFukae to Tsuruhashi
Sennichimae Subway Line
4 minutes
180yen

Change Trains in Tsuruhashi
(Follow signs for JR)
6 minutes

Tsuruhashi to Nishikujo
JR Loop Line, Track #1
~20 minutes
190yen

Change trains in Nishikujo
~5 minutes

Nishikujo to Universal City Station
JR Yumesaki Line
4 minutes

Totals:
39 minutes
370yen
2 Train Changes

Notes: Sometimes your train will terminate at Osaka Station. If this happens everyone will disembark from the train but no one will get on! Just wait at Osaka Station (same track) for the next train to come and you can continue your trip to Nishikujo. Occasionally there will be trains that leave from Tsuruhashi or Osaka station that are bound for Universal City. In this case, you will not need to change trains at Nishikujo.

HYPERDIA TRAIN ROUTES TO AND FROM USJ

Here is a HyperDia route that should follow exactly the above recommended route. This link will show you trains departing based on the time you click on the link:
<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeToUSJ>

For the return from USJ to ShinFukae here is the reversed HyperDia route. This link will show you trains departing based on the time you click on the link:
<https://kans.ai/USJtoShinFukae>

SHOPPING

Some past guests have asked about popular shopping areas for clothing/fashion, electronics, and cameras. Some specific details are provided in the sections below.

I also recommend you check out Japan Guide's "Osaka Shopping Guide" page as it has lots of information and links to foreign language pages about Osaka's shopping areas:

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e4013.html>

NAMBA/SHINSAIBASHI AREA

Please see the "NAMBA/MINAMI/DOTONBORI" section for directions on getting to the Namba area.

Shinsaibashi Shotengai Covered Shopping Arcade

There is a covered shopping arcade that runs from near Takashimaya Department Store in Namba to Shinsaibashi Station and then beyond to Honmachi Station. The Namba-Shinsaibashi segment (1.1km) is one of Osaka's top shopping destinations for clothing, shoes, and general fashion-related items. There are other types of shops as well but there is more fashion than anything else. Here is a Google Maps link that shows the Namba-Shinsaibashi segment:

<https://kans.ai/NambaShinsabashiShoppingArcade>

Popular "Fast Fashion" Retailers

Forever 21 Dotonbori

<https://kans.ai/Forever21Dotonbori>

H&M Dotonbori

<https://kans.ai/HandMDotonbori>

Zara

Somewhat more expensive than Forever 21, Uniqlo, or H&M

<https://kans.ai/ZaraShinsaibashi>

<https://kans.ai/ZaraShinsaibashiShoppingStreet>

GU in the Shinsaibashi Shopping Street

Uniqlo group company, somewhat lower prices than Uniqlo

<https://kans.ai/GUShinsaibashiShoppingStreet>

Uniqlo Shinsaibashi

<https://kans.ai/UniqloShinsaibashi>

H&M Shinsaibashi

<https://kans.ai/HandMShinsaibashi>

Bershka Shinsaibashi Shopping Street

Zara group company. Lower prices than Zara shops.

<https://kans.ai/BershkaShinsaibashiShoppingStreet>

Each of the above links is a Google Maps pin which pinpoints the shop's location.

Indoor Shopping Malls

There are also several indoor shopping areas in and around Namba.

Namba City

This is in part of the (very large) Nankai Namba station area. Their foreign language page is here:

<http://www.nambacity.com/foreign/>

Namba Parks

This is a multilevel shopping + dining center that is very popular. The floor map and restaurant guide is available in a few languages:

<http://www.nambaparks.com/global.html>

Namba Walk

This runs east/west underground from Namba to Nipponbashi Station. Their floor map and some other information is also available in English and some other languages. English is here:

<http://walk.osaka-chikagai.jp/en/>

Electronics Retailers in Namba

BIC Camera

<https://kans.ai/BICcameraNamba>

Yamada Denki

<https://kans.ai/YamadaDenkiNamba>

Both offer tax-free shopping to foreign tourists.

OSAKA/UMEDA STATION AREA SHOPPING

The Umeda district (around JR Osaka and the subway/Hanshin/Hankyu Umeda stations) also has a wide selection of shops.

Please be sure to check out the Japan Guide page specifically for this area:

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e4009.html>

Grand Front Osaka

Recently on the north side of Osaka Station there are several new & large buildings that are full of shops and restaurants. In particular, Grand Front Osaka has become a very popular destination with 260+ shops and restaurants: <http://gfo-eng.com/>

Osaka Station City

Osaka Station City is another popular destination in the Osaka/Umeda area, it is directly connected to JR Osaka station:

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e4020.html>

<http://osakastationcity.com/en/>

Yodobashi Camera Umeda

Yodobashi Camera in Umeda is a staggeringly large electronics store. They sell everything imaginable from cameras to watches to all types of audio equipment to toys to, well, just about everything you can imagine! They are a tax-free shop so most purchases will qualify as tax-free if you take your passport with you. Huge amounts of product are out on display where you can

try things out. It's a pretty unique shop in many ways and worth checking out if you are interested in electronics, cameras, watches, or technology in general.

Business Hours: 9:30am to 10:00pm

Midosuji (red line) Umeda Subway Station Exit #5 leads directly to Yodobashi Camera.

From JR Osaka Station follow the signs to Yodobashi Camera. It is on the north side of the station.

CAMERA SHOPS

Japan, home of Canon, Nikon, Sony, Pentax, Olympus, Fuji...and many more! If you're looking for used or new equipment there are plenty of options around.

The two largest chain shops in Osaka are Yodobashi Camera and BIC Camera, both covered in sections above. However, neither deals with used equipment and at times their prices can be higher than ideal.

Tokiwa Camera

Located near Nipponbashi station on the Sennichimae (pink) Subway Line. Tokiwa Camera is a small family owned camera shop that has been in business since 1928. If you are looking for a camera specialty shop with good prices and friendly staff this is a great choice! Both used & new camera equipment is available.

Business Hours:

Mon-Sat: 9:00am to 7:00pm

Sunday: 10:00am to 6:00pm

Closed: Third Sunday

Tokiwa is also a tax-free shop if you take your passport with you.

How to get there:

ShinFukae to Nipponbashi

Sennichimae (pink) Subway Line

8 minutes

240yen

Go out Exit #5. Walk down the large one way street, away from the overhead highway. (You are walking south and against the flow of traffic.) It's about 50m from Exit 5 and Tokiwa is on your right.

Here is a Google Maps pin drop on Tokiwa's location:

<https://kans.ai/TokiwaCamera>

Obayashi Camera

Obayashi is located in the Umeda area, south of Osaka Station, just past the Hilton Hotel. They carry both used and new items and sometimes have unusual or rare items on display. Friendly staff, and of course also tax-free if you have your passport.

Business Hours:

Mon-Fri: 9:30am to 8:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am to 7:30pm

Sunday & Holidays: 10:00am to 7:00pm
Closed: No regularly closed days.

Google Maps Pin:
<http://kans.ai/ObayashiCamera>

Tsukamoto Camera

Tsukamoto is also in the Umeda area, a short walk to the east from Obayashi Camera. Tsukamoto carries both used and new items. The store is a bit cramped but they sometimes have interesting things available that you might not find elsewhere.

Business Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00am to 7:00pm
Thursday, Saturday, Sunday: 11:00am to 6:00pm
Closed: First & Third Sunday of each month

Google Maps Pin:
<https://kans.ai/TsukamotoCamera>

OUTLET SHOPPING MALL

Recently quite a few guests have expressed interest in visiting an Outlet Shopping Mall. The best option in Osaka is the Rinku Premium Outlets that are located near Kansai Airport. At the time of writing this mall has 210 shops and it seems to grow pretty regularly.

Many shops in Rinku are tax-free if you take your passport with you so be sure to have it!

Rinku has an English website with shop information, their hours, and access information here:
<http://www.premiumoutlets.co.jp/en/rinku/>

WI-FI / INTERNET ACCESS

Starbucks Japan "at_STARBUCKS_Wi2" Free Wi-Fi

Registration: http://starbucks.wi2.co.jp/pc/index_en.html

Many Starbucks stores in Japan offer free Wi-Fi! Starbucks is very common in Japanese cities so this can be a really good resource in a lot of areas.

The signup page is in English and it's very straightforward.

7-Eleven "7 Spot" Free Wi-Fi

Registration Form: https://webapp.7spot.jp/internets/members/register_form

English Instructions for Registration:

http://www.7spot.jp/register_form_english/pc_out.gif

This service requires pre-registration and the page itself is in Japanese. However, 7-11 is so common in Japan that it is definitely worth signing up for their free Wi-Fi service!

LAWSON Convenience Store Free Wi-Fi

No registration required.

When you first connect, you will have to agree to their Terms of Service

After connecting, open any non-encrypted website (<http://www.lawson.co.jp/> is fine!) to see & accept the terms of service.

You can from choose various languages listed at the top of the Lawson page

Available at most but not all LAWSON 24-hour convenience stores.

Can be used up to five times per day for one hour each time.

Not available on Wednesdays from 1am to 5am for maintenance

Details: <http://www.lawson.co.jp/service/wifi/en.html>

McDonald's Japan Free Wi-Fi

You can register via an email address (requires confirmation before use) or by logging in with Google, Facebook, or Twitter credentials.

Details: http://www.mcdonalds.co.jp/shop/mcdwifi/utilization_en.html

Osaka Free Wi-Fi and Osaka Free Wi-Fi Lite

<http://www.osaka-info.jp/en/wifi/>

These services do not require pre-registration, you can sign up the first time you use it without having to verify your email address.

Kyoto Wi-Fi

<http://kanko.city.kyoto.lg.jp/wifi/en/>

You must get a guest code first by sending an email as described in the “How to use it” instructions on the page linked to above. Be sure to get guest codes for both KYOTO_WiFi01 and KYOTO_WiFi02. We suggest saving the instructions for reference once you are in Kyoto.

JR-West Free Wi-Fi Service

<http://www.westjr.co.jp/global/en/wifi/guide/guide.pdf>

This service is available at some JR West stations in the Kansai and general West Japan area. You must sign up and get a guest code before use and the code lasts for 8 days from when you first use it. If you will be in Japan for more than 8 days you can sign up with more than one email address. When one code expires simply start using the next code.

JR East Free Wi-Fi Service

The following PDF has full connection details and access point locations for JR East's free Wi-Fi hotspots:

https://www.jreast.co.jp/e/pdf/free_wifi_02_e.pdf

TRAIN PASSES

Various train companies and groups of train companies in Japan offer "unlimited use" train passes with validities ranging from 1 to 21 days. Your travel plans in Japan will determine which, if any, best suit your needs.

JAPAN RAIL PASS

This is the big one that almost everyone coming to Japan considers. You can purchase JR Passes that cover the entire country or ones for specific regions. The big catch with the JR Pass is that you MUST purchase it BEFORE you come to Japan! It is not possible to purchase this pass after you arrive. For more information as well as purchase & pricing details you can check this site:

<https://kans.ai/JapanRailPass>

KINTETSU RAIL PASS

The apartment is located near Kintetsu Fuse Station (~10-minute walk) and Kintetsu offers convenient access to many popular destinations. Namba, Nipponbashi, Nara, Kyoto, Ise-Shima, and Nagoya are all accessible with Kintetsu. Kintetsu offers 1-day, 2-day, and 5-day passes, you can read more about them here:

<http://www.kintetsu.co.jp/foreign/english/ticket/index.html>

Kintetsu Rail Passes can be purchased before you arrive or after you are in Japan. The 5-day passes are a little cheaper if purchased outside Japan. Purchase locations:

<http://www.kintetsu.co.jp/foreign/english/ticket/get.html>

Generally, the 5-day passes are of most interest and will be a good value for guests who expect to visit Kyoto at least twice and Nara at least once.

The main Kintetsu Rail Pass page is here:

<http://www.kintetsu.co.jp/foreign/english/index.html>

Japan Guide page:

http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2357_006.html

KANSAI THRU PASS

If you plan to be in Kansai for several days this can be a very good value. Once again Japan Guide has a detailed writeup on this:

http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2357_005.html

Here is the official Kansai Thru Pass page:

http://www.surutto.com/tickets/kansai_thru_english.html

PREPAID IC CARDS

Japan has multiple prepaid IC cards that allow you to use trains and busses without having to figure out the exact cost of each trip and buy tickets. Thankfully in 2013 the 10 largest cards were changed to be mostly compatible with each other which makes buying & using these cards much less complicated. If you will only be visiting Western Japan (Kansai and points further west) then you should purchase a JR ICOCA card as it will give you the best possible coverage.

If you will be visiting other areas of Japan as well the ICOCA card is probably still your best option if you arrive in western Japan first (it won't be sold in other areas of Japan as it is a JR West product.)

For full details and lots of information about cross-compatibility (and limitations!) please read this Japan Guide page:

http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2359_003.html

OSAKA AMAZING PASS

The "Osaka Amazing Pass" used to be called the "Osaka Unlimited Pass". The official page for it is here:

<http://www.osaka-info.jp/osp/en/index.html>

The Osaka Amazing Pass can be quite a good value if you wish to visit multiple attractions that it covers over a 1 or 2-day period. There are lists on the official page of places that offer free or reduced admission to pass holders. Please keep in mind that there are some differences in benefits between the 1 and 2 day passes. The 1 day pass is more expensive on a per-day basis and offers more benefits. Please see the official page for full details.

Some key places that many people use the pass for:

Free Entry

Osaka Sky Building "Floating Garden Observatory"

http://www.osaka-info.jp/en/facilities/cat10/post_294.html

Umeda "HEP FIVE Ferris Wheel"

http://www.osaka-info.jp/en/shopping/shopping_malls/post_5.html

Osaka Castle Museum

http://www.osaka-info.jp/en/facilities/cat11/post_269.html

Tempozan Giant Ferris Wheel

http://www.osaka-info.jp/en/facilities/cat10/post_230.html

Full List Here:

<http://www.osaka-info.jp/osp/en/facility/free.php>

Discounted Entry & Benefits

Discounted Entry:

<https://www.osaka-info.jp/osp/en/facility/privilege>

There are also shops and restaurants that offer discounts or gifts:

<https://www.osaka-info.jp/osp/en/facility/shop>

OSAKA CASTLE AND OSAKA CASTLE PARK

Osaka Castle is about 3.5km from the apartment. You can read more about the castle and park on these pages:

http://www.osaka-info.jp/en/facilities/cat11/post_269.html

<http://www.osakacastle.net/english/>

OSAKA CASTLE BY BICYCLE

We have four bicycles available for guest use (these bikes are shared by all guests so may not always be available).

The bikes are in the car parking area separate from all other bikes, and each bike has an "I love Osaka" sticker on it for easy identification. The bikes also all have basic cable locks with them, and the combination for all four bikes is 7878.

Bicycles are used at your own risk. Please ride carefully and responsibly.

Here is a Google Maps link on how to get to the park by bicycle:

<https://kans.ai/AjiroAptOsakaCastleBike>

OSAKA CASTLE BY TRAIN

It is also easy to visit the castle by train. We recommend using Morinomiya Station to access the castle though there are various train stations with exits near the park.

The best route is to take the subway from ShinFukae station two stops to Tsuruhashi Station. At Tsuruhashi change to the JR Loop line and travel two stops to Morinomiya. The total travel time is about 15 minutes.

The castle park is diagonally across from the station to the north west.

Train route & schedule link:

<http://kans.ai/ShinFukaeMorinomiya>

HOW TO USE A JAPANESE PUBLIC PHONE (PAYPHONE)

Coin(s) must be deposited after you lift the receiver but before you make a phone call.

You can deposit one or more coins. Coins that are not used will be refunded.

You can deposit more coins during your phone call to add more time.

Phones accept 10yen coins and 100yen coins.

Partial refunds for coins are not provided so if you deposit a 100yen coin there will be no refund, even if your conversation is very short.

You can purchase prepaid 500yen and 1000yen telephone cards at convenience stores if you expect to make multiple calls during your stay.

When calling mobile phones (numbers starting with 070, 080, 090), you will receive 11.5 seconds of talking time for each 10yen coin during weekday daytime hours. On evenings and weekends, you receive 15 seconds of talk time for each 10yen coin.

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: FROM KANSAI AIRPORT (KIX)

This is our recommended route from KIX to ShinFukae as it is the easiest way with the smoothest transfers.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Japanese trains do not run 24 hours. If you are arriving later in the evening you may need to use our "Late Evening" arrival details instead. The last train from KIX that you can comfortably take to ShinFukae departs at 22:25 on weekdays and 22:23 on weekends and holidays.

KIX has some areas with free Wi-Fi. If you can send a message from KIX when you arrive that would be great. Even better, if you can send a message once you know your train's departure time that is very helpful as we can estimate your arrival time at ShinFukae. Free public Wi-Fi is still rare here in Japan so after you leave KIX you will likely not have Internet access until after you get to the apartment.

Based on the experiences of past guests it is likely to take you 60 to 90 minutes to clear immigration, pick up your checked luggage, clear customs, and then make your way to the train station. This knowledge will help you estimate your train departure time once you have landed.

After you arrive in Japan you can check upcoming Nankai Airport Express train departure times with this link:

<https://kans.ai/NankaiKIXtoTengachaya>

The above link will show both "Nankai Airport Express" trains as well as sometimes show "Local" trains. Local trains stop at all stops and should be avoided for longer distance trips such as this one.

You can also preview the entire route from KIX to ShinFukae using this link:

<https://kans.ai/KIXtoShinFukae>

Below we provide separate links for each segment as HyperDia's estimated transfer times are often not quite long enough for those not yet used to the Japanese train system.

Please DO NOT change trains in Namba when coming from KIX. Nankai Namba Station and Sennichimae Namba Station are very far apart, it is a long walk that also requires many escalators or elevators. Almost all past guests who have tried to make this transfer have gotten lost. Namba is one of Osaka's busiest stations so the transfer is not comfortable. We have carefully chosen our recommended route because it is the fastest, easiest, and most comfortable way to get from KIX to ShinFukae.

DIRECTIONS

The following directions are very detailed but are easy to follow as they are separated into clear steps:

STEP 1

From KIX please take the Nankai Railways "Airport Express" to TENGACHAYA Station. You can find the full train schedule here:

<https://kans.ai/ScheduleFromKIX>

The weekday schedule is displayed first, please scroll down further to see the Saturday/Sunday/Holiday schedule if you will be arriving on a weekend or holiday. The "Airport Exp" trains are the best trains to take as they do not cost extra yet are still very fast.

You can also check the next few Nankai trains to depart from KIX with the following link:

<https://kans.ai/NankaiKIXtoTengachaya>

As mentioned above, this link will show both Nankai Airport Express trains and sometimes some "Local" trains. Local trains stop at all stops and should be avoided for this trip.

TICKET NEEDED: The cost from KIX to Tengachaya is 920 yen per adult (460 yen for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under). This fare must be paid in Japanese Yen cash. Credit cards are not accepted so be sure to have enough cash to cover your train fare.

TRANSIT TIME: The travel time for this segment is 40 to 45 minutes.

STEP 2

Once you arrive in Tengachaya please follow the signs for the Sakaisuji (brown) Subway Line. There is only one subway line in Tengachaya and this station is the final stop on the line. This makes the transfer easy and it means you are very likely to get a seat on the train rather than standing.

You will find elevators between all levels, please use them so that you don't have to carry your luggage on the stairs.

Sakaisuji Subway Trains depart from Tengachaya station every few minutes. All Sakaisuji trains departing from Tengachaya go in the same direction so you can take the first train to depart. (Sakaisuji line trains have a variety of destinations but all trains will stop at Nipponbashi Station so you do not need to worry about the train's final destination.)

This link will show you the times of the next few trains:

<https://kans.ai/TengachayaShinfukae>

TICKET NEEDED: The cost from Tengachaya to ShinFukae (your final destination) is 280yen per adult (140 yen for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under). As with the

Nankai tickets this fare must be paid in cash.

TRANSIT TIME: The travel time is about 8 minutes.

STEP 3

When you arrive at Nipponbashi Station you need to transfer to the Sennichimae (pink) Subway Line.

This is an INTERNAL transfer, you do not need to go out any ticket gates. (Should you go out a ticket gate by mistake you will need to purchase a 240yen ticket to complete your journey.)

You will arrive on Sakaisuji Track #2 and you need to go to Sennichimae Track #1. The Sennichimae tracks are below the Sakaisuji tracks so you will need to go down one level. There is an elevator you can use so that you do not need to carry your luggage on the stairs.

Trains that leave from Sennichimae Track #1 are bound for Minami Tatsumi. All trains leaving from Sennichimae Track #1 that are bound for Minami Tatsumi will stop at ShinFukae Station. Trains depart every 5 to 10 minutes.

**Please be sure to ride at the front of the Sennichimae train.
Exit #4 is close to the front of the train.**

TICKET NEEDED: None. (Ticket from STEP 2 continues to be valid if you do not go out any ticket gates during this transfer.)

TRANSIT TIME: The transit time for this segment of your trip is about 8 minutes.

STEP 4

When you arrive at ShinFukae you can take the elevator from the platform that says it goes to Exits 3&4. After taking the elevator from the platform you need to go out the ticket gates and follow the signs to Exit #4. Exit #4 also has an elevator so please use that for your comfort.

When you come out Exit #4 you will see there is a 7-Eleven Convenience Store just across the main road in front of you. The 7-Eleven is located slightly to your LEFT across the main road.

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: FROM TOKYO BY SHINKANSEN

This section contains detailed directions on how to get from Tokyo to ShinFukae Subway Station here in Osaka for your pick up & check in.

IMPORTANT NOTES

From Tokyo please travel to ShinOsaka using the JR Shinkansen (bullet train).

Please send me a message before you leave Tokyo so I know about what time you will arrive. If you can let me know your train's departure time that would be wonderful.

Depending on where you are in Tokyo you may wish to depart from Tokyo or Shinagawa Shinkansen stations.

If you DO NOT HAVE a JR pass you can see the JR Shinkansen schedule for upcoming departures using these links:

From Tokyo: <https://kans.ai/TokyoShinOsaka>

From Shinagawa: <https://kans.ai/ShinagawaShinOsaka>

If you DO HAVE a JR pass you can see the JR Shinkansen schedule for upcoming departures using these links:

<https://kans.ai/TokyoShinOsakaJRPass>

<https://kans.ai/ShinagawaShinOsakaJRPass>

JR Tokyo, Shinagawa, and ShinOsaka stations all have free Wi-Fi available.

JR East Free Wi-Fi Service (Tokyo, Shinagawa, etc.)

https://www.jreast.co.jp/e/pdf/free_wifi_02_e.pdf

JR-West Free Wi-Fi Service (Osaka/Kyoto/Kobe/etc. area)

<http://www.westjr.co.jp/global/en/wifi/guide/guide.pdf>

Once you arrive in ShinOsaka you will be transferring to the subway. Here is a HyperDia routing that will show you the exact subway route with a departure time based on when you click the link:

<https://kans.ai/ShinOsakaToShinFukaeSubway>

DIRECTIONS AFTER ARRIVAL SHIN-OSAKA

STEP 1

At ShinOsaka Station please transfer to the Midosuji (red) subway line. After you exit from JR you will see signs directing you to the subway. There is only one subway line in ShinOsaka so there will be no confusion. (Please note that ShinOsaka Station and Osaka Station are not the same stations. The Shinkansen arrives at ShinOsaka Station, please transfer to the subway at this station.)

The cost from ShinOsaka to ShinFukae is 280yen per adult (140 yen for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under), and you can check the next few departure times from

ShinOsaka with this link:

<https://kans.ai/ShinOsakaToShinFukaeSubway>

There are two tracks in Midosuji ShinOsaka station, track 1 and track 2. You can take any train that departs from TRACK 1.

My recommendation is to get on towards the rear of the train if possible, perhaps in the 3rd car from the back of the train.

Trains leave every few minutes so you do not need to rush, if you miss one train another will be along soon.

You need to take the Midosuji line to Namba station which takes about 15 minutes.

STEP 2

When you arrive in Namba you must change to the Sennichimae (pink) line. Be careful to NOT go out any ticket gates, this is an internal transfer.

You will find there is an elevator that goes down from the Midosuji line to the Sennichimae line.

When you arrive at the Sennichimae platform you will see there are trains going in two directions. Be sure to get on a train leaving from Track 1. Track 1 trains are bound for Minami Tatsumi and the next stop is Nipponbashi.

Trains leave every 5 to 10 minutes depending on the time of day.

ShinFukae is the 5th stop and the trip takes 9 minutes. All trains leaving Sennichimae Track 1 that are bound for Minami Tatsumi will stop at ShinFukae station.

I recommend you get on the train at the front car.

STEP 3

When you arrive at ShinFukae you can take the elevator from the platform that says it goes to Exits 3&4. After taking the elevator from the platform you need to go out the ticket gates and follow the signs to Exit #4. Exit #4 also has an elevator so please use that for your comfort.

When you come out Exit #4 you will see there is a 7-Eleven Convenience Store just across the main road in front of you. The 7-Eleven is located slightly to your LEFT across the main road.

There is a payphone also across the main road but is located slightly to your RIGHT. It is in a phone booth and the phone will be either green or gray.

You can use this payphone to call me for station pickup. The number to call is 090-3164-5413. (If you are calling using your international mobile phone you may need to dial +81-90-3164-5413.)

You will need to deposit at least 10yen to make this call. Each 10yen coin will give you ~10 seconds of talking time, which is enough if you are quick!

You are calling my mobile phone so it will always be me who answers. When I answer please state our name and that you are at ShinFukae Station for check in.

Once you have contacted me if everyone could wait in front of the 7-Eleven
Convenience Store that will make pickup easier.
If you have any questions please let me know, I look forward to meeting you when you arrive!

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: FROM NARITA AIRPORT BY TRAIN

This section contains detailed directions on how to get from Narita Airport to ShinFukae Subway Station here in Osaka for your pick up & check in.

IMPORTANT NOTES

You will find free Wi-Fi at Narita and also at major JR stations. Please use this when possible to keep me up to date on your progress.

Narita Airport Free Wi-Fi

https://www.narita-airport.jp/en/service/svc_33_wire

JR East Free Wi-Fi Service (Tokyo, Shinagawa, etc.)

https://www.jreast.co.jp/e/pdf/free_wifi_02_e.pdf

JR-West Free Wi-Fi Service (Osaka/Kyoto/Kobe/etc. area)

<http://www.westjr.co.jp/global/en/wifi/guide/guide.pdf>

In particular, if you can let me know about what time you will leave Narita and what time your Shinkansen departs from Shinagawa that would be very helpful.

DIRECTIONS

STEP 1

Take the Narita Express from Narita Airport to Shinagawa Station. Here is a HyperDia route and train schedule for this:

<https://kans.ai/NaritaExpressToShinagawa>

Please be sure to go to Shinagawa and NOT to Tokyo Station. The transfer at Tokyo is very long and very confusing. Shinagawa is closer to Narita and the transfer is MUCH easier.

STEP 2

Take the Shinkansen (bullet train) from Shinagawa to ShinOsaka.

If you DO HAVE a JR pass you can see the JR Shinkansen schedule for upcoming departures using this HyperDia link:

<https://kans.ai/ShinagawaShinOsakaJRPass>

If you DO NOT have a JR pass you can see the JR Shinkansen schedule for upcoming departures using this HyperDia link:

<https://kans.ai/ShinagawaShinOsaka>

Please use the free Wi-Fi mentioned above to send me a note and let me know your Shinkansen departure time.

STEP 3

At ShinOsaka Station please transfer to the Midosuji (red) subway line. After you exit from JR you will see signs directing you to the subway. There is only one subway line in ShinOsaka so there will be no confusion. (Please note that ShinOsaka Station and

Osaka Station are not the same stations. The Shinkansen arrives at ShinOsaka Station, please transfer to the subway at this station.)

The cost from ShinOsaka to ShinFukae is 280yen per adult (140 yen for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under), and you can check the next few departure times from ShinOsaka with this link:

<https://kans.ai/ShinOsakaToShinFukaeSubway>

There are two tracks in Midosuji ShinOsaka station, track 1 and track 2. You can take any train that departs from TRACK 1.

My recommendation is to get on towards the rear of the train if possible, perhaps in the 3rd car from the back of the train.

Trains leave every few minutes so you do not need to rush, if you miss one train another will be along soon.

You need to take the Midosuji line to Namba station which takes about 15 minutes.

STEP 4

When you arrive in Namba you must change to the Sennichimae (pink) line. Be careful to NOT go out any ticket gates, this is an internal transfer.

You will find there is an elevator that goes down from the Midosuji line to the Sennichimae line.

When you arrive at the Sennichimae platform you will see there are trains going in two directions. Be sure to get on a train leaving from Track 1. Track 1 trains are bound for Minami Tatsumi and the next stop is Nipponbashi.

Trains leave every 5 to 10 minutes depending on the time of day. ShinFukae is the 5th stop and the trip takes 9 minutes. All trains leaving Sennichimae Track 1 that are bound for Minami Tatsumi will stop at ShinFukae station.

I recommend you get on the train at the front of the train.

STEP 5

When you arrive at ShinFukae you can take the elevator from the platform that says it goes to Exits 3&4. After taking the elevator from the platform you need to go out the ticket gates and follow the signs to Exit #4. Exit #4 also has an elevator so please use that for your comfort.

When you come out Exit #4 you will see there is a 7-Eleven Convenience Store just across the main road in front of you. The 7-Eleven is located slightly to your LEFT across the main road.

There is a payphone also across the main road but is located slightly to your RIGHT. It is in a phone booth and the phone will be either green or gray.

You can use this payphone to call me for station pickup. The number to call is 090-3164-5413. (If you are calling using your international mobile phone you may need to dial +81-90-3164-5413.)

You will need to deposit at least 10yen to make this call. Each 10yen coin will give you ~10 seconds of talking time, which is enough if you are quick!

You are calling my mobile phone so it will always be me who answers. When I answer please state our name and that you are at ShinFukae Station for check in.

Alternatively, if you have mobile Internet access you can send me an iMessage or you can send me an Airbnb message. If sending an iMessage be sure to include your name so I know who is messaging me!

Once you have contacted me if everyone could wait in front of the 7-Eleven Convenience Store that will make pickup easier.

If you have any questions please let me know, I look forward to meeting you when you arrive!

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: FROM KYOTO

This section contains detailed directions on how to get to ShinFukae Subway station for your check-in.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Both JR Kyoto Station and JR ShinOsaka station have free Wi-Fi available.

You can see the locations here:

<http://www.westjr.co.jp/global/en/wifi/guide/guide.pdf>

Please send me a message before you leave Kyoto station so I know about what time you will arrive for check-in. This helps me make sure I am nearby when you arrive.

You can see the entire route on HyperDia with the following link:

<http://kans.ai/KyotoToShinFukaeJR>

At most times of the day it will take about 65 minutes from Kyoto Station to ShinFukae.

DIRECTIONS

Step 1

From Kyoto please travel to ShinOsaka station.

We recommend using the JR ShinKaisoku (新快速, JR calls it the "Special Rapid Service" in English) train from Kyoto Station. It takes about 30 minutes.

You can check the next train departure times from Kyoto with this link:

<https://kans.ai/KyotoShinOsakaJR>

STEP 2

At ShinOsaka Station please transfer to the Midosuji (red) subway line. After you exit from JR you will see signs directing you to the subway. There is only one subway line in ShinOsaka so there will be no confusion. (Please note that ShinOsaka Station and Osaka Station are not the same station. Osaka Station is large and confusing, we highly recommend transferring at ShinOsaka instead.)

The cost from ShinOsaka to ShinFukae is 280yen per adult (140 yen for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under), and you can check the next few departure times from

ShinOsaka with this link:

<https://kans.ai/ShinOsakaToShinFukaeSubway>

There are two tracks in Midosuji ShinOsaka station, track 1 and track 2. You can take any train that departs from TRACK 1.

My recommendation is to get on towards the rear of the train if possible, perhaps in the 3rd car from the back of the train.

Trains leave every few minutes so you do not need to rush, if you miss one train another will be along soon.

You need to take the Midosuji line to Namba station which takes about 15 minutes.

STEP 3

When you arrive in Namba you must change to the Sennichimae (pink) line. Be careful to NOT go out any ticket gates, this is an internal transfer.

You will find there is an elevator that goes down from the Midosuji line to the Sennichimae line.

When you arrive at the Sennichimae platform you will see there are trains going in two directions. Be sure to get on a train leaving from Track 1. Track 1 trains are bound for Minami Tatsumi and the next stop is Nipponbashi.

Trains leave every 5 to 10 minutes depending on the time of day. ShinFukae is the 5th stop and the trip takes 9 minutes. All trains leaving Sennichimae

Track 1 that are bound for Minami Tatsumi will stop at ShinFukae station.

I recommend you get on the train near the front, ideally in the second car.

STEP 4

When you arrive at ShinFukae you can take the elevator from the platform that says it goes to Exits 3&4. After taking the elevator from the platform you need to go out the ticket gates and follow the signs to Exit #4. Exit #4 also has an elevator so please use that for your comfort.

When you come out Exit #4 you will see there is a 7-Eleven Convenience Store just across the main road in front of you. The 7-Eleven is located slightly to your LEFT across the main road.

There is a payphone also across the main road but is located slightly to your RIGHT. It is in a phone booth and the phone will be either green or gray.

You can use this payphone to call me for station pickup. The number to call is 090-3164-5413. (If you are calling using your international mobile phone you may need to dial +81-90-3164-5413.)

You will need to deposit at least 10yen to make this call. Each 10yen coin will give you ~10 seconds of talking time, which is enough if you are quick!

You are calling my mobile phone so it will always be me who answers. When I answer please state our name and that you are at ShinFukae Station for check in.

Alternatively, if you have mobile Internet access you can send me an iMessage or you can send me an Airbnb message. If sending an iMessage be sure to include your name so I know who is messaging me!

Once you have contacted me if everyone could wait in front of the 7-Eleven Convenience Store that will make pickup easier.

If you have any questions please let me know, I look forward to meeting you when you arrive!

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: JR TRAIN VIA SHIN OSAKA

If you are arriving by train into Osaka, either by Shinkansen SuperExpress or by a regular JR express train, ShinOsaka is the best point to transfer from JR to the Osaka City Subway.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Please let me know where you will be departing from.

Before you depart for Osaka please send me a message and let me know your departure station and time. This helps me plan for your arrival so I can be nearby ShinFukae Station.

Be sure to transfer to the subway at ShinOsaka Station and not at Osaka Station. Osaka Station is a large and confusing station that is difficult to transfer at if you do not know the station well.

DIRECTIONS

STEP 1

At ShinOsaka Station please transfer to the Midosuji (red) subway line. After you exit from JR you will see signs directing you to the subway. There is only one subway line in ShinOsaka so there will be no confusion. (Please note that ShinOsaka Station and Osaka Station are not the same station. Osaka Station is large and confusing, we highly recommend transferring at ShinOsaka instead.)

The cost from ShinOsaka to ShinFukae is 280yen per adult (140 yen for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under), and you can check the next few departure times from ShinOsaka with this link:

<https://kans.ai/ShinOsakaToShinFukaeSubway>

There are two tracks in Midosuji ShinOsaka station, track 1 and track 2. You can take any train that departs from TRACK 1.

My recommendation is to get on towards the rear of the train if possible, perhaps in the 3rd car from the back of the train.

Trains leave every few minutes so you do not need to rush, if you miss one train another will be along soon.

You need to take the Midosuji line to Namba station which takes about 15 minutes.

STEP 2

When you arrive in Namba you must change to the Sennichimae (pink) line. Be careful to NOT go out any ticket gates, this is an internal transfer.

You will find there is an elevator that goes down from the Midosuji line to the Sennichimae line.

When you arrive at the Sennichimae platform you will see there are trains going in two directions. Be sure to get on a train leaving from Track 1. Track 1 trains are bound for Minami Tatsumi and the next stop is Nipponbashi.

Trains leave every 5 to 10 minutes depending on the time of day. ShinFukae is the 5th stop and the trip takes 9 minutes. All trains leaving Sennichimae Track 1 that are bound for Minami Tatsumi will stop at ShinFukae station.

I recommend you get on the train near the front, ideally in the second car.

STEP 3

When you arrive at ShinFukae you can take the elevator from the platform that says it goes to Exits 3&4. After taking the elevator from the platform you need to go out the ticket gates and follow the signs to Exit #4. Exit #4 also has an elevator so please use that for your comfort.

When you come out Exit #4 you will see there is a 7-Eleven Convenience Store just across the main road in front of you. The 7-Eleven is located slightly to your LEFT across the main road.

There is a payphone also across the main road but is located slightly to your RIGHT. It is in a phone booth and the phone will be either green or gray.

You can use this payphone to call me for station pickup. The number to call is 090-3164-5413. (If you are calling using your international mobile phone you may need to dial +81-90-3164-5413.)

You will need to deposit at least 10yen to make this call. Each 10yen coin will give you ~10 seconds of talking time, which is enough if you are quick!

You are calling my mobile phone so it will always be me who answers. When I answer please state our name and that you are at ShinFukae Station for check in.

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: LATE EVENING ARRIVAL AT KANSAI AIRPORT (KIX)

This section has information for guests who are arriving at Kansai Airport (KIX) later in the evening. If your plane lands after 9:00pm it will be a good idea to be familiar with these directions.

We generally find it takes most guests 60 to 90 minutes to get through immigration, luggage collection, & customs and then get to the train station for departure. Some people manage it in less time if the airport is not busy or if they already know KIX well.

Please note that Japanese trains depart ON TIME. Trains are almost never late in Japan and usually depart exactly on time, within a few seconds. Do not expect trains to be late.

LAST NANKAI TRAIN DETAILS

The very LAST TRAIN you can take from KIX to get to ShinFukae Station using the standard daytime / early evening directions DEPARTS at 22:48 on weekdays and 22:34 on Saturday, Sunday, or Holidays:

<https://kans.ai/KansaiAirportLastTrain>

Catching the very last train is NOT a good idea if you are not familiar with Japanese trains and the route to the apartment. You may not have enough time to successfully complete transfers and it is possible that trains could shut down for the night before you arrive.

The last train that you can comfortably take from KIX to the ShinFukae departs at 22:25 on weekdays, 22:23 on weekends and holidays:

<https://kans.ai/KansaiAirportLastTrainComfort>

LATER DEPARTURE OPTIONS

There are three options for later departures from KIX. I will summarize them here and then provide greater detail and directions below.

OPTION 1: If you catch the 23:09 JR (not Nankai!) "Kansai Airport Rapid Service" train you can come all the way to JR Tamatsukuri Station where I can meet you. This is by far the best option as it is the cheapest, easiest, fastest, and most comfortable. Route & Schedule:

<https://kans.ai/KansaiAirportTamatsukuriLast>

OPTION 2: If you miss the 23:09 JR "Kansai Airport Rapid Service" train you can take the 23:32 JR "Kansai Airport Rapid Service" train. However, in this case you can only get as far as Tennoji. You will arrive in Tennoji at 0:16 and there are no trains that leave Tennoji at this time. I can meet you in Tennoji. This is the second-best option.

Route & Schedule:

<https://kans.ai/KansaiAirportTennojiLast>

OPTION 3: If you miss both the above trains there are night bus options. There are two night buses that go from KIX to Namba, one that departs KIX Terminal 1 at 0:30am and another that departs at 01:30am. The night bus generally takes about 50 minutes from KIX to Namba. I can meet you in Namba. This is the 3rd and final

option. The bus is slower and more expensive than option #1 or #2. You can find night bus details here:

<https://kans.ai/KIXtoNambaNightBus>

CAR, PASSENGERS, LUGGAGE

My car can carry up to 4 passengers and 3 large pieces of luggage or ~4 carry-on size pieces of luggage. Additional small items such as handbags or day packs can be carried on your lap if you do not mind.

If it is not possible to fit everything into my car then splitting your group into two will be necessary. In this case part of your group can come in my car and part of your group can go by taxi. I will explain everything to the taxi driver in Japanese so there will be no communication issues. From Tamatsukuri Station (OPTION 1) a taxi will cost ~1200yen. From Tennoji (OPTION 2) a taxi will cost 2000~2500yen. From Namba (OPTION 3) a taxi will cost 2000~2500yen.

LATE EVENING OPTION 1: KIX TO TAMATSUKURI

If you manage to catch the 23:09 JR "Kansai Airport Rapid Service" train then these are the directions on how to get to the meeting point in Tamatsukuri.

IMPORTANT NOTES

KIX has free Wi-Fi, as does the KIX JR Station (near the ticket gates only). It is important that you contact me and let me know that you will be going to Tamatsukuri so that I know where to pick you up.

If possible please send a message from KIX and/or the JR station to let me know that you will be on the 23:09 station and will need pick up in Tamatsukuri. After you leave KIX you will likely not have Internet access until after you get to the apartment.

TICKETS

The cost from KIX to Tamatsukuri is 1060yen per adult, 530yen for children 5-12, and children under 5 are free.

You can purchase tickets from the JR ticket machines at the airport station. Be sure to purchase JR tickets and not Nankai Railway tickets.

These tickets must be purchased in CASH so be sure to have available Japanese Yen as credit cards are not accepted.

DIRECTIONS

STEP 1

Take the JR "Kansai Airport Rapid Service" express train from KIX to Tennoji. Travel time is about 55 minutes.

You can view upcoming departure times from KIX here:
<https://kans.ai/KIXtoTennojiJR>

The last train with connections to Tamatsukuri departs at 23:09:
<https://kans.ai/KansaiAirportTamatsukuriLast>

STEP 2

Exit the train at Tennoji station so you can transfer to the JR Osaka Loop Line. You do NOT need to go out any ticket gates in Tennoji as you are changing from JR to JR. If you do go out a ticket gate by mistake you will need to buy a 160yen ticket to get to Tamatsukuri from Tennoji.

JR Tennoji has quite a few platforms and tracks. To get from Tennoji to Tamatsukuri you need to take a train departing from track 11 or 12. These share a single platform with one track on each side. Loop line trains leaving from tracks 11 and 12 are all local

trains that stop at each station so there is no concern about getting on a train that won't stop at Tamatsukuri.

Please note that some trains may arrive at track 11 or 12 and retire. This will be easy to spot as everyone on the train will get off and no one waiting on the platform will get on! In this case you just wait for the next train.

Travel time is about 8 minutes.

You can view upcoming departure times from Tennoji here:
<https://kans.ai/TennojiTamatsukuriJR>

Be careful not to miss the last train!

STEP 3

Once you arrive in Tamatsukuri please take the elevator down from the train platform. Taking the elevator ensures you will get to the right part of the station. Taking different sets of stairs can lead to the wrong area which makes everything more complicated.

Once you are down from the platform there is just one set of ticket gates. Please go out these ticket gates and then go to the left. I will be parked out on the street next to the station.

My mobile phone number is 090-3164-5413. (You can also call me from your mobile if you prefer, you may need to dial +81-90-3164-5413 from an international mobile.)

After you have called me please wait in the area to the left of the station gates and I will find you there when I arrive.

I look forward to meeting you when you arrive!

LATE EVENING OPTION 2: TENNOJI LATE NIGHT PICKUP

If you catch the 23:32 JR "Kansai Airport Rapid Service" train then these are the directions on how to get to the meeting point in Tennoji.

IMPORTANT NOTES

You MUST contact me before you leave KIX if you will use this option.

If you do not contact me I won't know where or when to meet you! It takes about 20 minutes from my home to Tennoji so please be sure to contact me before you depart KIX.

Kansai Airport (KIX) has free Wi-Fi, as does the KIX JR Station (near the ticket gates only). You can use this free Wi-Fi to contact me, or you can just give me a call. My number is 090-3164-5413. From international mobiles, you may need to dial +81-90-3164-5413 instead.

You can check the next JR train from KIX after you arrive by using this link (it will forward you to HyperDia after adding the current time to the query):

<https://kans.ai/KIXtoTennojiJR>

TICKETS

The cost from KIX to Tennoji is 1060yen per adult, 530yen for children 5-12, and children under 5 are free.

You can purchase tickets from the JR ticket machines at the airport station.

Be sure to purchase JR tickets and not Nankai Railway tickets.

These tickets must be purchased in CASH so be sure to have available Japanese Yen as credit cards are not accepted.

DIRECTIONS

STEP 1

Take the JR "Kansai Airport Rapid Service" express train from KIX to Tennoji. Travel time is about 55 minutes.

You can view upcoming departure times from KIX here

<https://kans.ai/KIXtoTennojiJR>

The 23:32 train is the LAST train from KIX to Tennoji:

<https://kans.ai/KansaiAirportTennojiLast>

STEP 2

Exit the train at Tennoji Station

Proceed to the Central Gate (may be labeled as Central Exit)

Here is a photo from Google Maps of the inside of Tennoji Station. This photo was taken looking into the Central Ticket Gate, the gate you will come OUT of:

<https://kans.ai/TennojiJRCentralGate>

Go out the ticket gates at the Central Gate. Turn RIGHT and walk to the North Gate.

Here is a link to what you will see as you walk towards the North Gate:

<https://kans.ai/TennojiJRtoNorthGate>

I adjusted the angle of the second photo so you can see the ticket gates as well. You want to follow that yellow path down to the North Gate.

Here is a photo of the North Gate from outside the station

<https://kans.ai/TennojiOutsideNorthGate>

When you come out the North Gate however you will of course be looking the opposite direction. You will see the same wide crosswalk (the road itself is not so large but the crosswalk is very wide.)

I will be waiting across the crosswalk, either just to the left or just to the right, depending on where I can find a space to park. I will be driving a dark purple Suzuki Every Wagon, it looks like a small mini van..

I look forward to meeting you when you arrive!

LATE EVENING OPTION 3: NIGHT BUS TO NANKAI NAMBA

If you miss all train options there are still night buses! It is much better to take the train if possible but if the bus is the only option then we can make this work too.

IMPORTANT NOTES

You MUST contact me before you leave KIX if you will use this option! If you do not contact me I won't know where or when to meet you! It takes about 25 minutes from my office to Namba so please be sure to contact me before you depart KIX. Kansai Airport (KIX) has free Wi-Fi, as does the KIX JR Station (near the ticket gates only). You can use this free Wi-Fi to contact me, or you can just give me a call. My number is 090-3164-5413. From international mobiles, you may need to dial +81-90-3164-5413 instead.

NIGHT BUS DETAILS, SCHEDULE, BUS STOP LOCATIONS

The first night bus departs from KIX Terminal 2 at 0:15 and Terminal 1 at 0:30. You will probably be departing from Terminal 1 as currently only PEACH Airlines uses Terminal 2.

The first night bus arrives at Nankai Namba Station at 1:24am

The second night bus departs from KIX Terminal 2 at 1:15 and Terminal 1 at 1:30. You will probably be departing from Terminal 1 as currently only PEACH Airlines uses Terminal 2.

The second bus arrives at Nankai Namba Station at 2:24am

Bus Schedule:

<https://kans.ai/KIXtoNambaNightBus>

KIX bus stop locations:

<https://kans.ai/KateTerminal1BusStops>

The night bus will likely depart from bus stop #2, but please check the above link. The night bus costs 1550yen per person, which must be paid in Japanese Yen CASH. I look forward to meeting you when you arrive!

DEPARTURE: HOW TO GET TO KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (KIX)

This section contains information & detailed directions about how to get to KIX for your departure. I have split this information into two sections. The first has general information about how to get to KIX. The second has extra information for guests who have an early morning departure time.

DAYTIME AND EVENING DEPARTURES

This section contains the standard directions for people with daytime or evening departure times. If you need to be at KIX very early (before 7am) please check the extra notes in the second part of this section.

This trip requires two ticket purchases and two train transfers.

Entire route link:

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeToKansaiAirport>

Subway portion route link:

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeToTengachaya>

Nankai Railway portion route link:

<https://kans.ai/TengachayaToKansaiAirport>

IMPORTANT NOTES

HyperDia is an excellent resource but it is not perfect. Sometimes it will give very round-about routings that take a lot of time and make no sense from a human perspective. We try to minimize this by using careful pre-made routings in our links but please keep the following in mind:

1. When checking the subway portion of the above routing the results should show only the starting station (ShinFukae), the ending station (Tengachaya), and a single transfer point (Nipponbashi). If you see results with multiple transfers please ignore them.
2. When checking the Nankai railway portion of the above routing the results should show only the starting station (Tengachaya) and the ending station (Kansai Airport). There should be NO transfers and the train should be the "Nankai Airport Exp".
3. When checking the entire ShinFukae to Kansai Airport routing it should be a combination of notes 1&2. Start at ShinFukae, transfer at Nipponbashi, transfer at Tengachaya, final destination Kansai Airport. If you see results with more stations/transfers listed it is best to ignore them.
4. As you may have noticed during your time in Japan the estimated amount of transfer time is sometimes a bit optimistic. Especially if you have luggage it may take more time to transfer than HyperDia estimates. Please give yourself a little extra time by departing early.
5. Finally, please allow some extra time to walk to the station with luggage as it will likely take a bit longer than it has for your normal daily excursions during your stay.

DIRECTIONS TO KIX (DAYTIME / EVENING)

STEP 1

Take the Sennichimae (pink) subway line departing from ShinFukae Track #2. These trains are bound for Nodahanshin. You can take the first train that departs from Track #2 as all trains bound for Nodahanshin will stop at Nipponbashi station.

For the smoothest transfer please board the train in the last or second to last car.

TICKET NEEDED: The cost from ShinFukae to Tengachaya is 280yen per adult (140 yen for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under).

TRANSIT TIME: The transit time for this segment of your trip is about 8 minutes.

STEP 2

When you arrive at Nipponbashi Station you need to transfer to the Sakaisuji (brown) Subway Line. This is an INTERNAL transfer, you do not need to go out any ticket gates. (Should you go out a ticket gate by mistake you will need to purchase a 240yen ticket to complete your journey.)

You will arrive on Sennichimae Track #2 and you need to go to Sakaisuji Track #1. The Sennichimae tracks are below the Sakaisuji tracks so you will need to go up one level. There is an elevator you can use so that you do not need to carry your luggage up the stairs. Trains that leave from Sakaisuji Track #1 are bound for Tengachaya. Tengachaya is the final stop on the Sakaisuji line and all trains leaving from Sakaisuji Track #1 will go to Tengachaya station. Trains depart every few minutes.

For the smoothest transfer in Tengachaya please board towards the back of the train.

TICKET NEEDED: None. (Ticket from STEP 1 continues to be valid if you do not go out any ticket gates during this transfer.)

TRANSIT TIME: The transit time for this segment of your trip is about 8 minutes.

STEP 3

When you arrive at Tengachaya Station you need to transfer to the Nankai Railway "Nankai Airport Express" train that is bound for Kansai Airport. You must exit the underground subway station and follow the signs to the above ground Nankai line. There are elevators between all levels, please use them so you do not need to carry your luggage on the stairs.

Nankai Airport Express trains depart from Track #3 of Nankai Tengachaya Station. There are other trains that depart from Track #3 that DO NOT go to Kansai Airport. Therefore, please be very careful that you board a Nankai Airport Express train bound for Kansai Airport!

You can check the upcoming departure times for Nankai Airport Express trains with the following link:

<https://kans.ai/TengachayaToKansaiAirport>

HyperDia is generally excellent but will sometimes return "extra options" that require transfers. Make sure the times you are seeing are marked as "Nankai Airport Exp" in HyperDia.

TICKET NEEDED: The cost from Tengachaya to KIX is 920 yen per adult (460 yen for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under).

TRANSIT TIME: The transit time for this segment is 40 to 45 minutes.

EARLY MORNING KIX DEPARTURES (SPECIAL NOTES)

Please find below some special notes for guests who have an early morning departure time. If you are departing during the day or evening you do not need the information in this section.

6:38am Arrival at KIX

The earliest it is possible to get to KIX from the apartment without using a taxi for part of your route is 6:28am on weekdays (Mon-Fri) and 6:38am on weekends or holidays.

Here is a HyperDia routing for the earliest possible arrival at KIX. It should show a 6:28 arrival if you click this link on a weekday or a 6:38 arrival if you click it on a weekend:

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeToKIXearly>

The routing is the same for both weekdays and weekends so you can check the route any time. The first train from ShinFukae departs at 5:15am and I recommend leaving the apartment at 5am sharp to make sure you have time to lock the door, drop off your garbage in the garbage room, put the keys in the mailbox, get to the station with luggage, and then purchase your tickets.

The directions are almost the same as the detailed directions I gave in the first section except there is one more train change required near the airport. Please check the "ShinFukaeToKIXearly" route link carefully.

7:00am Arrival at KIX

The earliest you can get to KIX without having to make the extra train change at Izumisano is 6:47am on weekdays and 6:57am on weekends.

Weekday routing link. Note that if you click on the following link on a weekend you will need to manually change the date to a nearby weekday date to view the correct routing:

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeToKIX0700>

Weekend routing link. Note that if you click on the following link on a weekday you will need to manually change the date to a nearby weekend date to view the correct routing:

<https://kans.ai/ShinFukaeToKIX0700weekend>

For the two routes linked to above the directions are exactly the same as the detailed directions provided in the first section of this message.

Extra Early Arrivals at KIX

If you need to arrive at KIX before 6:38am you will need to take a taxi to Nankai Namba Station to catch the Airport Express train.

The earliest Nankai Airport Express departure from Namba Station is 5:15am on weekdays and 5:10am on weekends. These trains arrive at 5:58am (weekdays) and 5:55am (weekends).

Here is the routing:

<https://kans.ai/NambaToKIXearly>

The above link will show the weekday schedule if clicked on a weekday and the weekend schedule if clicked on a weekend. You can manually change the dates as needed.

You should arrive at Namba Station 20 minutes before departure to make sure you have time to pay the taxi, get your bags, buy tickets (920yen each, cash only), and get to the platform.

Even early in the morning there are generally taxis passing by on the main road near the Family Mart. You can also walk out to the corner of the main intersection to have traffic passing in more directions.

Alternatively, you can try calling MK Taxi to schedule a taxi pickup. MK is one of the few taxi companies that has English speaking drivers and English speaking operators. You can find MK

Taxi's Osaka page here:

<http://www.mk-group.co.jp/en/osaka/>

Their English phone number is 050-3786-6001. Phone hours are from 9am to 5pm every day. Calling a few days in advance to ensure smooth scheduling is suggested but it is not always possible to schedule a taxi for early morning pickup, even calling in advance.

Be sure to tell the operator that you need to catch the Nankai Airport Express from Nankai Namba Station and tell them the time you want to be at Namba.

Explaining this to the Englishspeaking operator in advance will mean you don't have to explain it to the Japanese-speaking driver who picks you up.

From the apartment to Namba will take about 20 minutes by taxi so you should schedule the taxi pickup about 40 minutes before your train's departure.