

Destination Osaka



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RELO JAPAN

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Welcome To Osaka

Your Guide To Living In Osaka





While relocating to another country often turns out to be a wonderful, life-changing experience, there are always some traumatic obstacles and challenges that get in the way.

That is why the H&R Group is dedicated to being here for you every step of the way – while you prepare for your assignment, when you make the big move, during your time in Japan and as you prepare to go home. We love helping people get the most out of their “Japan Experience” and we are with you from beginning to end.

Our team of experienced, bilingual consultants are ready to help you with every aspect of your time in Japan. We offer support finding short or long term housing, relocation settling-in assistance and orientations, visa processing, immigration guidance, obtaining furniture, finding a car, helping you get a driver’s license and much more. Whatever you need to know about your time in Japan, we have a wealth of experience and knowledge to share. So, come and join the H&R Club!

The H&R Group believes in supporting the communities in which we work and live. Once you are settled in, I hope you can join with me in supporting some of the worthy charitable activities we are involved with. As we welcome you to our community, we hope that you will enjoy your time here by becoming part of it.

As we say at the H&R Group, we are “More Than Relocation” Thank you, and I hope you enjoy this book!

Warmest regards,

Steve Burson
President
H&R Consultants K.K.
ReloJapan K.K.

The History Of Osaka

Origins

With a population of over 2.7 million, Osaka is Japan's third largest city and has been a major industrial and commercial center throughout its tumultuous 1,400 year history.

Located at the confluence of a vast web of busy river and sea routes, including Naniwazu Port - the predecessor to the modern port of Osaka - the area naturally grew into a flourishing economic center and became the gateway to Japan for travelers and traders from all over Asia. These visitors brought with them knowledge and artifacts of advanced culture, and new technologies in ceramics, forging, construction, and engineering. They also brought with them a new religion, Buddhism, which very quickly began to spread to the rest of the country.

In 1496 Osaka was chosen as the site for the construction of

Ishiyama Hongan Temple and it began to develop and prosper as a temple town. In 1570 the temple and surrounding complex were subject to a siege - one of the longest in Japanese history - before succumbing in 1580 and being set aflame.

An Economic Hub

Toyotomi Hideyoshi, having unified all of Japan, chose the former temple site as the location for his castle and the city grew into a busy economic center as merchants set up around fortifications. This development was further encouraged by the Tokugawa shogunate, which adopted a hands-off approach to the city, allowing merchants to prosper unhindered by government interference.

When the political capital was moved north to present-day Tokyo during the Edo period from 1603 to 1867, Osaka quickly grew into a thriving economic hub. It became known as "Japan's kitchen" because essential goods including rice, the staple food of the East, were sent to Osaka from all over Japan for shipment to other parts of the country.





Opening To Foreign Trade

On January 1, 1868 Osaka was opened to foreign trade by the government of the Bakufu and the modern municipality was established in 1889. Initially the city comprised 15 square kilometers encompassing today's Chuo and Nishi wards. After three major expansions Osaka would ultimately reach its current size of 223 square kilometers. By 1925, Osaka was the largest city in Japan in terms of population and area, and the sixth largest in the world.

Modern Osaka

Continuous air raids by American bombers during World War II leveled almost one third of Osaka, destroying many of its commercial, industrial and public facilities. After the conflict, Osaka rebounded, experiencing economic prosperity unimagined before the war. In the modern period, Tokyo has usurped Osaka's position as the economic center of Japan, and

most of the companies formerly headquartered in Osaka have moved east. However, Osaka is still an economic powerhouse, and the city is ringed by factories churning out the latest in electronics and hi-tech products.

Osaka residents were once stereotyped in Edo literature as "*kamigata zeeroku*" - stingy, greedy, gluttonous, and lewd. To some degree Osaka residents are still stigmatized by Tokyo observers in much the same way, especially in terms of gluttony. As a famous saying has it, "*Osaka wa kuidaore*" - Osaka people eat 'til they drop!

Arriving with Unaccompanied Baggage

When relocating to Japan, it is necessary to fill out two copies of the “Customs Declaration” form in duplicate which will allow your personal effects to clear customs smoothly. With air shipment you may usually receive your shipment within a week or so after your arrival to Japan and submission of your custom forms. These custom forms are available from the flight attendant inside the airplane. Failure to submit these forms may delay the release of your personal belongings, and you will be required to provide additional paperwork.

The customs officer will stamp both forms and return one form to you which must be submitted to the local shipping agent so that when your shipment has arrived, it can pass the customs clearance process. Please be aware of importation quotas when sending medication, cosmetics, over the counter drugstore items, or contact lenses; even those

for personal use. For example, importing even one Tylenol containing codeine into the country would result in you being detained.

After retrieving your luggage, it is necessary to pass through the customs clearance counter. Once you exit customs, you will most likely transfer to either a bus or train to reach your final destination. One thing to keep in mind is that almost any transportation in Japan will require more walking than you think it will. Many people find that what they thought was a manageable size or amount of luggage will rapidly become a problem after arrival. After clearing customs, you may want to take advantage of one of the baggage delivery services located inside most major airports and avoid having to deal with carrying luggage all the way to your final Japanese destination. Baggage can be delivered as early as the following day for a nominal fee and is recommended when taking public transportation such as a shuttle bus or train, or when carrying a large amount of luggage.



Getting to and from Kansai International Airport

By Train:

The Nankai Rapid is the fastest way between KIX and Namba. It takes around 35 minutes, with two trains leaving per hour. The JR Haruka limited express runs 30 times in each direction each day, stopping at Shin-Osaka station, connecting to both the Shinkansen and Midosuji subway lines. The journey between the airport and Shin-Osaka takes around 50 minutes.

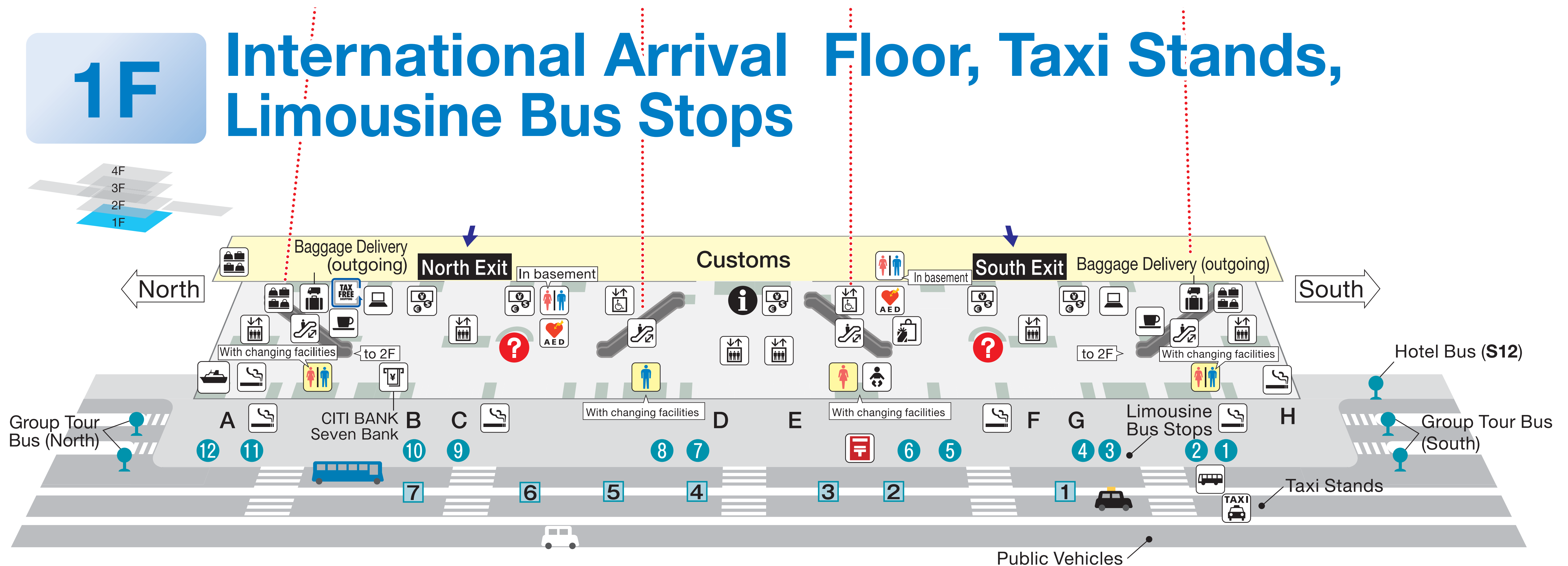
By Bus:

The Osaka Airport Limousine Bus offers a trip between the airport and major destinations in Osaka for between around ¥1,500 and ¥2,000 for an adult; the trip takes about an hour.

By Taxi:

Getting to central Osaka from KIX will cost between ¥14,000 and ¥17,000 depending on the time of day, and takes around an hour. For exact timetable information and departure points check www.okkbus.co.jp/en





- TAXI Taxi Stands**
- 1 Reserved taxis (South)
 - 2 Taxis for Wakayama
 - 3 Short distance taxis
 - 4 Handicapped only
 - 5 Long distance taxis
 - 6 Taxi vans
 - 7 Reserved taxis (North)

- Limousine Bus Stops**
- 1 Kansai Airport Observation Hall, Night Bus (Rinku Town/Izumisano)
 - 2 Senboku Newtown/Kongo/Kawachinagano, Sakaihigashi/Nakamozu, Awaji/Naruto/Tokushima Night Bus (Nankai Namba Sta.)
 - 3 Wakayama, Ibaraki, Nanko/Tenpozan/Universal Studios Japan™
 - 4 Amagasaki, Nishinomiya
 - 5 Osaka Sta./Chayamachi/Shin-Umeda City/Senri Newtown, Himeji/Kakogawa
 - 6 Kobe Sannomiya/Rokko Island

- 7 Kintetsu Uehommachi/Shinsaibashi/Osaka Business Park, Takamatsu, Abeno Harukas
 - 8 Osaka International Airport/Hotarugaike Sta., Kosoku-Kyotanabe/Kyoto Sta. Hachijo Gate
 - 9 Nara, Kintetsu Gakuenmae/Gakkentoshi, Yamato-yagi
 - 10 Keihan Moriguchi, Neyagawa/Hirakata/Kuzuha, Higashi-Osaka
 - 11 Namba (Osaka City Air Terminal), Okayama, Nagoya
 - 12 High-Speed Ferry Port Terminal, Night Bus (Rinku Town/Izumisano), Rinku Premium Outlets
- S12 Hotel Bus**

2F

Domestic Departure/ Arrival Floor

VIP Rooms

- 1 Oguri
- 2 Izumi
- 3 Senshu
- 4 Danjiri

Lounge (Air Line)

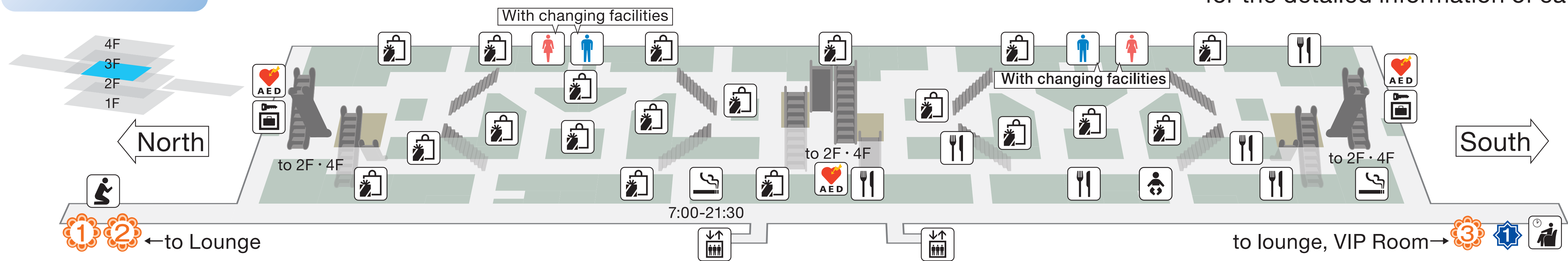
- 1 ANA LOUNGE
- 2 Sakura Lounge
- 3 KIX Airport Lounge



Note: Details of the Aeroplaza and Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport are available under "Aeroplaza and Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport Information" on page 11 ("Facilities Information").

3F Restaurants/Shops Area

*Note: Please refer to "Restaurant/Shops Guide" for the detailed information of each shop.



VIP Rooms

1 Namihaya

Lounge (Air Line)

1 KAL Lounge 3 JAL VIP Lounge

Lounge (Credit Card)

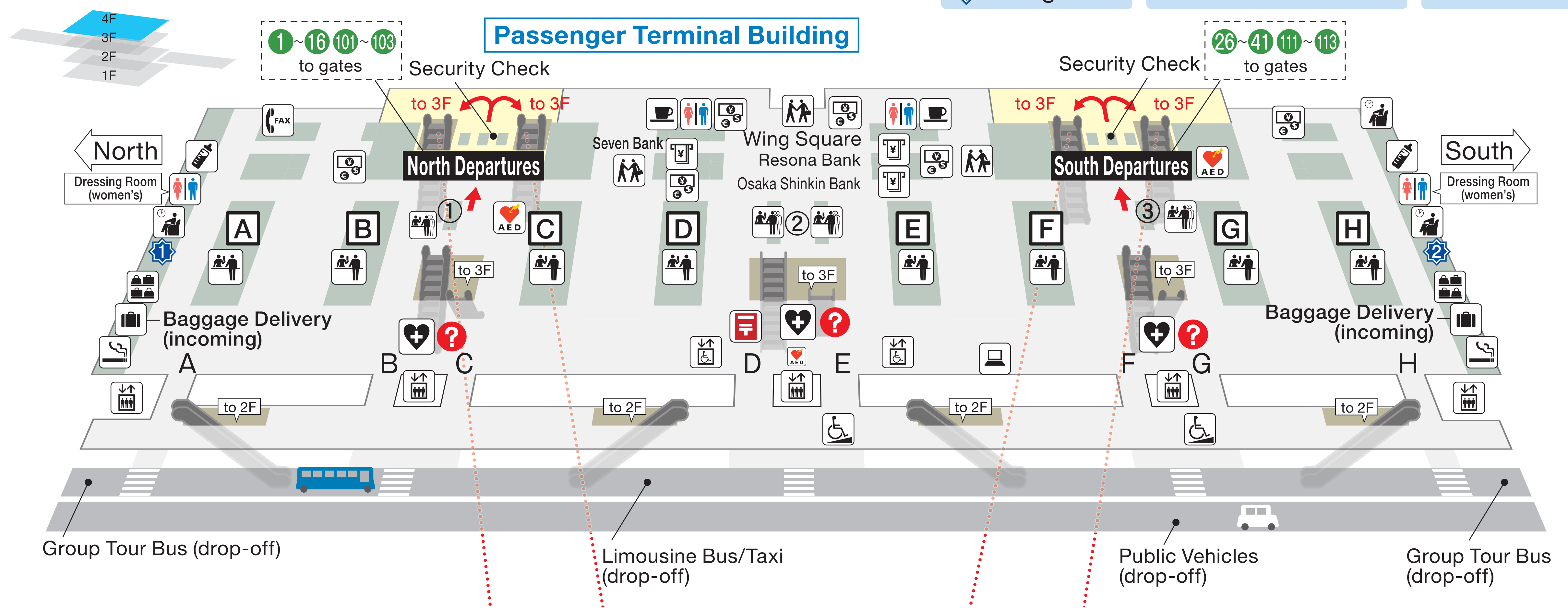
2 Hiei

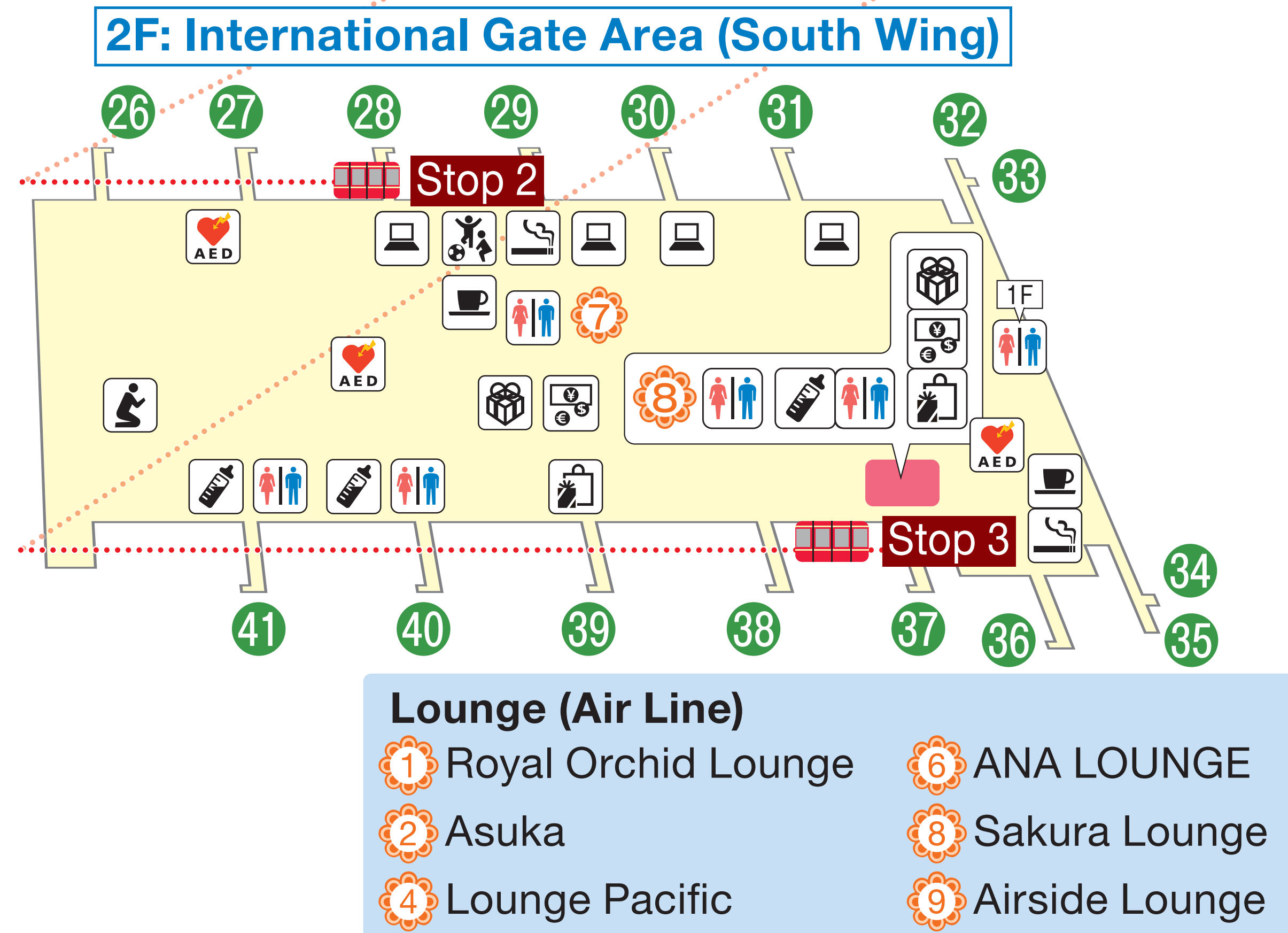
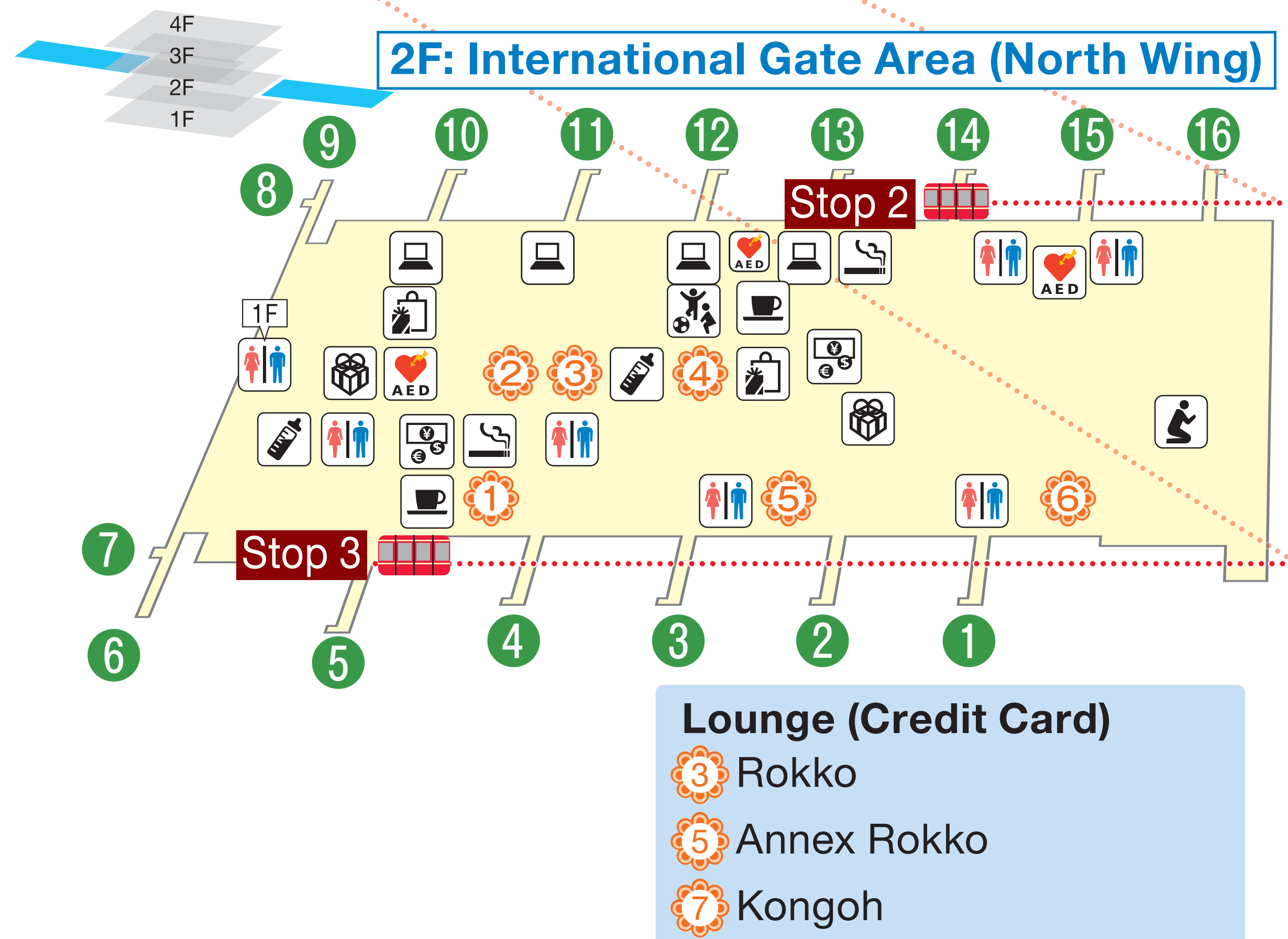
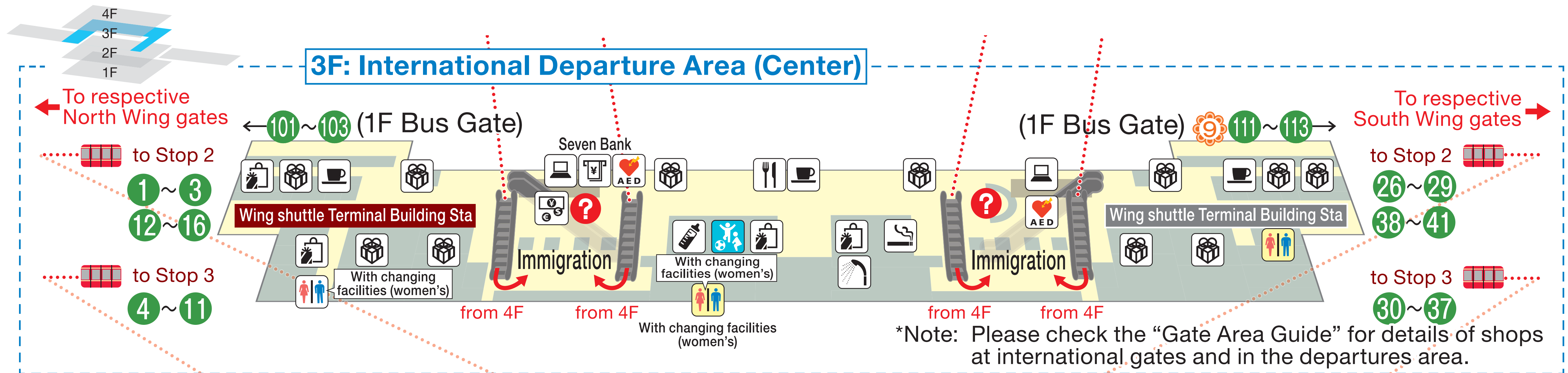
4F

International Departure Floor

*Note: There are no mail boxes beyond Immigration.

VIP Rooms	Group Tour Check-in	A-H:
① Naniwa (Entrance)	① North No. 36-46	Airline Check-in
② Kamigata	② Center No. 1-30	See reverse for details.
	③ South No. 61-85	





1F

International & Domestic Departure/Arrival Floor





Getting to and from Osaka International Airport (Itami)

By Train

The Osaka International Airport is served by a monorail which connects to the Hankyu Railway Takarazuka Line at Hotarugaike Station and the Osaka Municipal Subway Midosuji Line (via the Kita-Osaka Kyuko Railway) at Senri-Chuo Station. The Hankyu route takes a further 29 minutes to Umeda Station, while the latter takes 48 minutes from Senri-Chuo.

By Bus

The Osaka Airport Limousine bus departs the airport's north and south terminals regularly between around 7:00am and 9:00pm. It costs ¥640 for an adult and takes about 30 minutes to get to either Osaka Station (Umeda) or the Osaka City Air Terminal (OCAT) near Namba. For exact timetable information and departure points check www.okkbus.co.jp/en

By Taxi

A ride from central Osaka to the airport will cost you around ¥4500. The journey takes 20 minutes or so depending on traffic conditions.

Getting to Osaka by Rail

Between Osaka and Tokyo

The Shinkansen (bullet train) between Tokyo Station and Shin-Osaka Station takes around 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Between Osaka and Nagoya

The Shinkansen between Tokyo Station and Shin-Osaka Station takes a little over 50 minutes.

A cheaper option is to take the Kintetsu Urban Liner, which takes around 2 hours and 45 minutes and stops at Uehommachi Station, Tsuruhashi Station, and Osaka Namba Station on the Kintetsu Line.

Between Osaka and Kobe

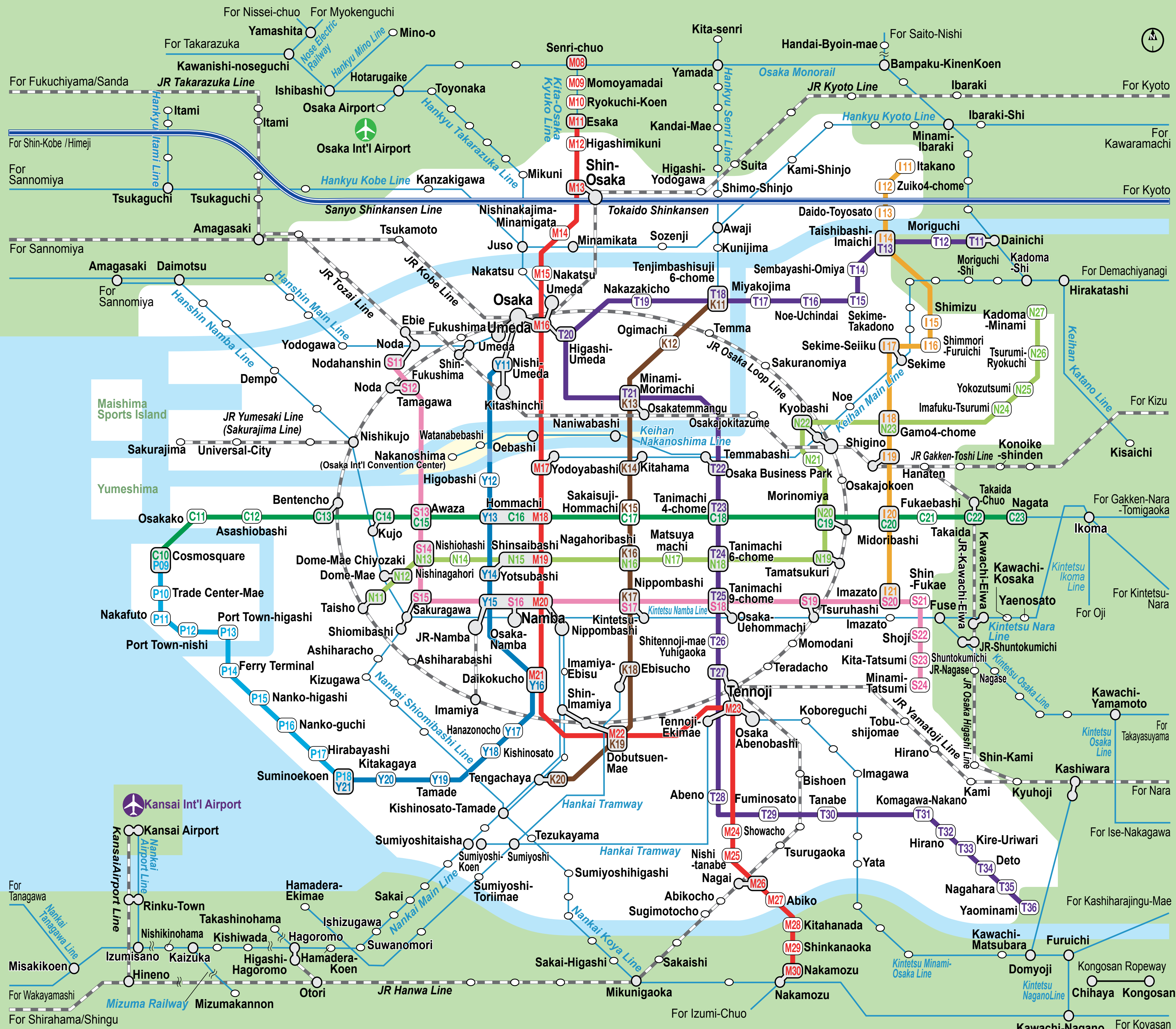
The JR (Osaka Station), Hankyu and Hanshin (Umeda Station) lines all take about 30 minutes to get to Sannomiya in central Kobe. The Shinkansen might seem like a faster option, but its destination of Shin-Kobe Station is a bit out of the way.

Between Osaka and Kyoto

The Shinkansen between Shin-Osaka Station and Kyoto Station takes only 15 minutes, and costs around ¥1,500.

The JR (Osaka Station) and Hankyu (Umeda Station) lines will get you to Kyoto Station in around 30 minutes.





Getting Around Osaka

The JR Osaka Loop Line: The JR Osaka Loop Line, with trains regularly departing from Osaka Station in one direction and Tennoji Station in the other is an easy way to get around the city. Tennoji Station connects to the Kansai Airport Line.

Subway Lines

- M Midosuji Line
- N Nagahori Tsurumi-ryokuchi Line
- T Tanimachi Line
- Y Yotsubashi Line
- S Sennichimae Line
- P Nanko Port Town Line (New Tram)

Rail Lines

- Shinkansen
- JR Lines
- Other Railway

Transfer Station

Subway

Osaka has an extensive municipal subway system, with eight different lines that run from 5:00 in the morning until around midnight. Fares range from ¥180-¥370 depending on the distance travelled. The main connecting stations are Namba and Umeda. Call 06-6582-1400 (English) with any inquiries you may have, or see online at

www.kotsu.city.osaka.lg.jp/foreign/english/subway.html

If you are going to be using the subway a lot in a single day, the “Enjoy Eco Card” allows unlimited use of subways and buses for a single day. It can be purchased at ticket vending machines or inside buses for ¥800 (adults) or ¥300 (children).







Where To Live In Osaka

Umeda / Osaka Station

Umeda is the business district of Osaka and has a number of tall buildings that are architecturally interesting. Yet despite all the concrete, the area around Umeda is remarkably pedestrian-friendly. Housing is primarily high-rise and this is an urban environment a more suitable for singles or couples who don't have children. Several high-end serviced apartments are also available in the newly completed Grand Front Osaka which also houses the InterContinental hotel on the north side of Osaka Station. Shopping is abundant in the newly renovated JR Osaka Station which is full of restaurants, shops, department stores, and movie theaters as well as gardens on top of the north and south gate buildings.

Access

Osaka Station and Umeda Station, are essentially part of the same complex and together constitute the busiest station in Western Japan, and the fourth-busiest railway station in the world. Umeda Station is serviced by the Hankyu Railway, Hanshin Railway (Main Line) and is a stop on the Midosuji Line of the Osaka Municipal Subway. JR Osaka Station is the city's main rail terminal in the north and is served by the JR Kobe and Kyoto Lines as well as the Osaka Loop Line.

Nishi-ku

This metropolitan area of Osaka sits slightly to the West of Shinsaibashi and contains a number of neighborhoods that have become quite hip places to live in the past ten years. Minami-Semba, Horie and the Utsubo Park area are all cosmopolitan yet maintain a low-rise neighborhood feel. This is the city life and everything is accessible by subway. Those with young children might find it a bit of a hassle as getting around by car can be a nuisance and school options are better elsewhere.

Access

Nishi-ku straddles several Osaka Municipal subway lines and stations including the Yotsubashi Line, The Midosuji line and the Nagahori Tsurumi-ryokuchi Line.





Chuo-ku

Chuo-ku stretches from the Osaka Castle Area in the North to the Namba area in the South and encompasses Shinsaibashi, one of the city's major nightlife districts. This area is busy and eclectic offering an almost limitless array of dining options with every cuisine imaginable. The area can get a bit gritty in places however, (imagine a cross between L.A. and New York) and things tend to go late in this part of town - very late.

Access

Several subway lines cross through this densely packed area including stops along the Midosuji Line, the Tanimachi Line, the Nagahori Tsurumi-ryokuchi Line, the Sakaisuji Line and the Sennichimae Line.



Namba

Located in the very center of Osaka, Namba is the entertainment and shopping hub of the city, and is a bustling area with a mixture of commercial and residential buildings which tend to be mostly low-rise and accessible. Namba has a very exciting urban vibe with eclectic shops, bars, restaurants, and the neon lights of a thriving nightlife. Namba can be a fun, if intoxicating place to live.

Like many areas of downtown Osaka, the lack of greenery may put some people off and the accommodation is at city prices and apartment sizes are small.

Access

With many private and public lines converging at Namba Station, it's easy to get around Osaka and a convenient departure point for surrounding areas. Namba is served by the Midosuji, Yotsubashi, and Sennichimae subway lines. JR Namba Station is a main stop on the Yamatoji (Kansai Main Line) and Namba is also a station on the Kintetsu Line to Nagoya and the Nankai line to Kansai International Airport.





Tennoji

Roughly ten minutes by train away from Namba at the southern end of Osaka city, Tennoji is a vibrant and bustling cityscape packed with department stores and shopping complexes. The area boasts a park, an art museum, a rather cramped zoo, and the historic Shitenno-ji Temple. The tallest building in Japan, the Abeno Harukas, is located here and contains the Marriott Hotel.

The station area has Kintetsu, a high-end department store and the Hoop shopping complex which features GAP, Muji and LOFT, a popular Japanese stationery and household-goods store.

Access

Tennoji station is a major transportation hub. It is a stop on the convenient Osaka Loop Line run by JR West, the Kansai Main Line (Yamatoji Line), The Hanwa Line and has as stop on the Midosuji and Tanimachi lines of the Osaka Municipal Subway.

North of Osaka

If you are looking to live in a more residential area then you might consider one of the three main bedroom communities (cities) which are situated in the hills to the north of Osaka. Senri, Suita and Minoh are easy commutes into town and offer more greenery and space for families to live. Minoh is especially attractive due to its proximity to the highly regarded Osaka International School.

Senri

Senri is about 25 minutes from Umeda Station via rail. Here you can find single family dwellings and apartments set in a greener, quieter environment.

Access

Senri-Chuo Station (also known as “Senchu”) is located on the Kita-Osaka Kyuko Railway, which links directly into the Osaka Municipal Subway Midosuji Line, and the Osaka Monorail located in Toyonaka.

Suita

This small city was the site of the 1970

World EXPO and The J-League soccer club Gamba Osaka plays at the EXPO Stadium, located on the site of the former World’s Fair.

Access

Suita is served by the Hankyu Railway, JR West and the Osaka Municipal Subway. The Osaka Monorail also passes through the area, connecting the city to Osaka, the Expo Commemoration Park and Itami Airport. It takes about 26 minutes via rail to Umeda Station.

Minoh

Minoh, Sometimes spelled as Minoo, is a relatively quiet part of Osaka Prefecture and the location of the highly regarded Osaka International School. It is also known for Meiji no Mori, one of Japan’s oldest national parks, which houses a large population of wild monkeys and has a picturesque waterfall.

Access

Minoh is just 30 minutes from Umeda via the Hankyu Railway.



Making Your Move!





Relocating With Relo Japan

Not knowing what you don't know is just one of the many travails you endure when moving abroad. Anyone who has decamped to another country will tell you that it is invaluable to have eyes and ears on the ground in advance in order to help you prepare for all the changes that are coming.

Relo Japan has over 20 years of experience in Japan relocations, and their multilingual consultants are ready with a wealth of information about your destination, allowing you to put your focus where it belongs, on your work and family. Relo Japan takes care of all the little details of your move including obtaining a visa, getting you orientated in your new location and arranging for the delivery of your things from your home.

Once you have chosen where you want to live Relo Japan goes about setting you up. From turning on the electricity and water to hooking up your cable and internet – they do it all. Relo Japan aims to go beyond what is expected, and furthermore they will be your first friends in Japan. Relo Japan offers the following:

- Professional and comprehensive support to meet all of your relocation needs
- The www.ReloJapan.com website, a vital source of information on Japan. A recent extension of our “Log-In Center” provides you with all the materials you need to relocate in a digitalized format
- Offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Kobe (Osaka)
- Japan-wide coverage through three offices and affiliates in many locations
- Access to all of the best properties available, through Japan Home Search, a multi-listing real estate agency
- Short-term accommodation arrangements in furnished or serviced apartments
- Settling-in services for individuals, couples and families
- Repatriation support leading up to departure
- Visa and immigration support, including local government compliance
- 24-hour Japan help line
- Tenancy management
- Expense management services, including payment of utilities



Finding a Home With Japan Home Search

While traditional real estate agents offer the vast majority of available properties in Japan, they are not all set up to be foreigner friendly.

Many landlords find renting to foreigners is simply too much of a hassle, especially to those who do not speak any Japanese at all. Japan Home Search is a real estate agency that caters specifically to expatriates relocating to Japan.

It is powered by JapanHomeSearch.com, a comprehensive, English-language property search engine. This popular site lists thousands of rental properties for a real-time snapshot of what is available on the market today.

The site features the “Pin Pointer” tool, which allows visitors to zoom in on the areas surrounding potential properties, and now also features a simplified web version for iPads and smart phones.

The Japan Home Search team prides itself on promptly answering all inquiries, and strives to find properties that meet each individual client’s needs.

The apartments and homes offered by Japan Home Search are pre-screened to allow foreign tenants, and unlike a traditional real estate agent, the entire rental process from start to finish is in English.

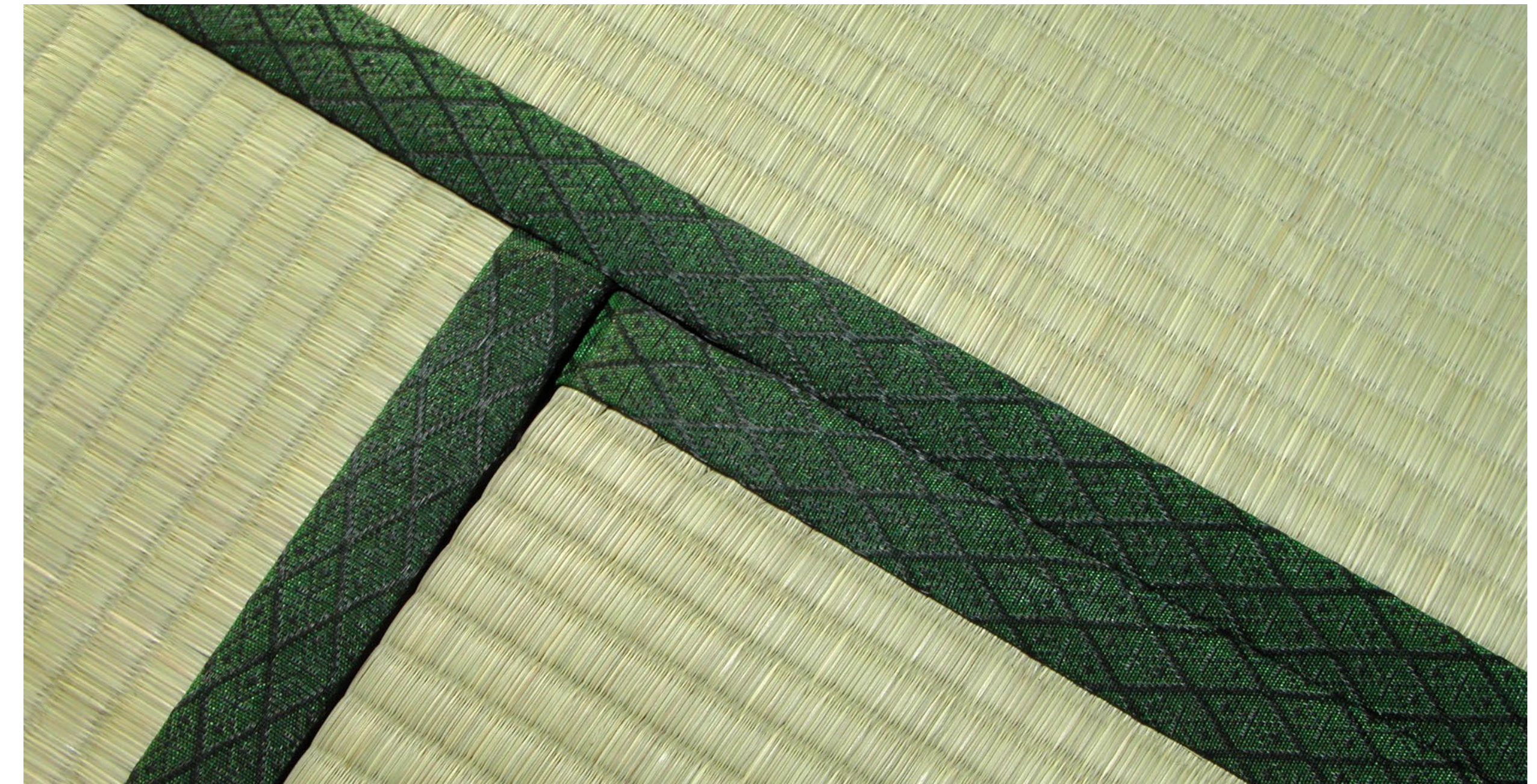
JapanHomeSearch.com offers the following:

- Multi-listing agent with access to thousands of rental properties
- Regularly updated “Hot Properties” featuring new and popular housing options
- User-friendly interface allowing visitors to search for several properties at once
- Comprehensive property details including features, interior and exterior photos, floor plans and much more
- Helpful information about popular expatriate areas
- Personalized support provided by bilingual real estate consultants
- Rent and condition negotiation to get you the best and most competitive deal
- Bilingual assistance at your “move-in” and your “move-out”
- On-going assistance with any maintenance issues
- Lots of advice on the rental process in Japan, and what you can and cannot do!

Renting a House or Apartment

Sometimes finding a place to live in Japan requires a willing suspension of disbelief from a western mindset. As with so much in Japan, or any other foreign country for that matter, things are simply done differently. And no experience in Japan quite compares to the unique way that the Japanese live and manage their living spaces.

For starters it bears repeating that space is at a premium. The more space you want, the more of something else you will have to give up: time, money or convenience. Choosing between renting an apartment or a house means deciding what kind of lifestyle you prefer. Want to be near the shopping and restaurants of the city? Space will be hard to come by. Want a bit more green and a larger place to live? Prepare for a commute. These choices are familiar to anyone who has lived in an urban area. However Japan tends to put a lot more of a premium on space. Even a big place in Japan might still seem small compared to what you are used to.



How Japanese Apartments and Houses are Measured

Japanese properties are typically measured according to how many tatami mats fit into each room. While modern Japanese apartments and homes are constructed with flooring and often do not have the traditional straw mats or tatami; the tatami standard of measurement is still used.

One jo means one straw tatami mat. The size of a tatami is roughly 85.5cm wide and 179cm (33.5" by 70.5") If the room is 6 jo, it will be about 8.6 square meters. (Tatami size varies according to whether it is used in a free-standing house or apartment and also varies in different locations of Japan.)

Tatami	Square Meters (ft ²)
4	5.8,62.4
6	8.6,92.6
8	11.6,124.9
10	14.5,156.1

Japanese Apartments

Japanese apartments can be notoriously small, especially in Tokyo, where even some high-end properties are as small as a den or even a large bathroom in many western countries. However, as Japan becomes more international, properties are becoming more and more “western,” and although space is limited, “open spaces” are now more popular than a number of tiny rooms, which is traditionally the case in Japanese homes.

The situation outside of Tokyo is relatively better. Most rental properties tend to be larger and are a better value. Apartments will generally not include utilities in the rent, although some do charge fees for water usage. Parking is usually an extra fee which normally runs somewhere between ¥5,000 to ¥30,000 per month, depending on location.

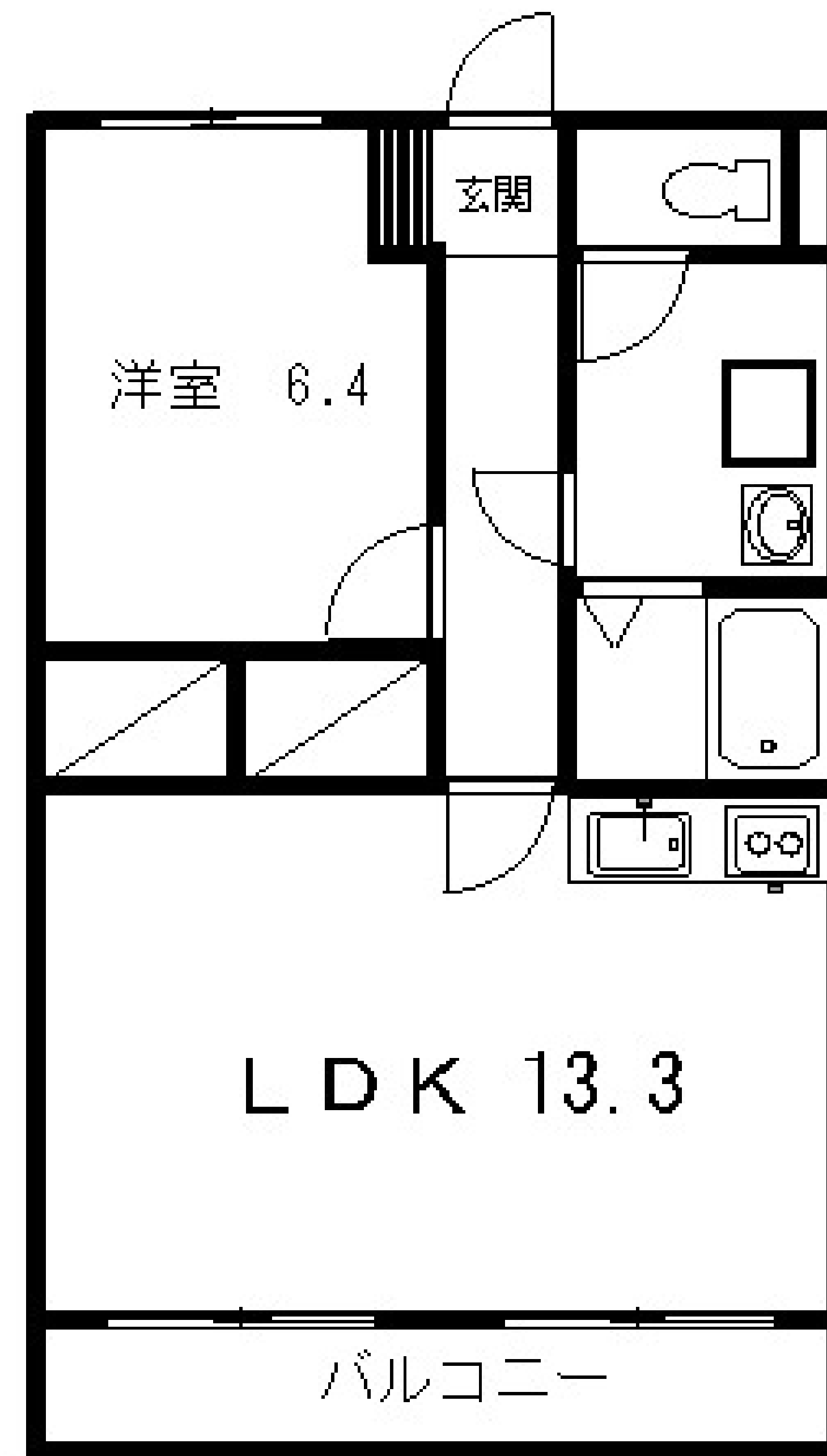
Common Apartment Configurations

Apartments come in many sizes, and Japan has a unique alphanumeric code for each type of apartment. For example a “1K” is a one room apartment with a kitchen. A 1DK is a one room apartment with a dining room with a joining kitchen. A 1LDK means that the apartment has an adjoining living area as well and one bedroom. Thus the more numbers an apartment has the more “rooms” it has. Just remember that LDK (living, dining, kitchen) is generally one room, not three! The difference from “K” to “DK” to “LDK” is the size of the room containing those areas.

[Here is a sample](#) of a 1LDK floor plan. As you can see, the “LD” portions occupy the same space.

[Here is a 2LDK floor plan.](#)

Larger apartments such as a 3LDK will often have one or more rooms with tatami flooring, and while these rooms often wouldn’t be considered by Westerners to count as an “additional bedroom”, they are counted as one bedroom amongst the three bedrooms in 3LDK.



Rental Houses In Japan

Houses in Japan tend to be smaller and simpler than those in other countries, and most foreigners residing in Japan for work tend to choose homes that could be described as “luxury” in the local market. These properties are generally western-style homes with a full suite of amenities not often found in Japanese houses. Clothes dryers, dish washers, central heating, and multiple bedrooms are all features that are now commonly available in upscale Japanese properties.

If the house comes with a garden it will be limited in scope, however high-value rental properties will be located in more spacious communities and often nearby a public park. The trade off is such houses are often not close to train or subway stations and therefore the use of a car is necessitated.

Expats with the benefit of a relocation company like Relo Japan, will have someone take

care of all the little details of the employee’s move, including finding them a house or apartment, sourcing furniture and, or cars for lease or purchase and arranging the delivery of the client’s belongings from their home country. Generally, the company will pay for these services, but a little bit of knowledge will help the employee get the most out of them.

Finding an apartment on your own in Japan can be a daunting task if you have never done it before. It seems like just about everything is a little harder in here, and if you do not speak Japanese your options are fairly limited. One of the first differences between Japan and the west is that apartments and houses are rented through real estate agents and the landlords designated “management company” or “representative”, rather than directly with the landlord. This is why you rarely see “for rent” signs in front of apartments, and when you do the contact information is a local real estate branch office.





Real Estate Agents: Japan Home Search

While traditional real estate agents offer the vast majority of available properties in Japan, they are not set up to be foreigner friendly. Many landlords are simply not willing to rent to foreigners in general, especially to those who do not speak any Japanese.

As one foreign resident has recounted: “I remember hearing the agent who helped me with mine say to my prospective landlords over and over again, “He is foreign, but he is from the United States and speaks Japanese. “ Usually, this was followed quickly by, “Oh, really? I understand, thank you for your

time.” I felt bad for him watching the list of properties he was able to show me get smaller, and smaller, until we were left with about 5; out of an original 25.” Getting a foreigner into housing can be a challenge in Japan.

JapanHomeSearch.com

specializes in serving the specific housing needs of foreign client’s. The apartments and homes they offer are pre-screened to allow foreign tenants, and unlike a traditional real estate agent, they can basically take you through the rental process from start to finish in English.

Fees and Policies

Key Money

Key money or *reikin* is a one-time fee that a tenant may be asked to pay a landlord when a lease contract is concluded. This is considered a gratuity for the conclusion of the lease contract. This business custom dates back to an old Japanese tradition whereby wealthy families in positions of power paid cash to a landlord as a gratuity. Unlike a deposit, this payment will not be returned at the termination of the contract. High rent property owners generally do not request key money and instead, charge deposit plus one month advance rent.

While the “key money” tradition seems overly exorbitant, one must understand that monthly rent is much lower in Osaka than other cities in Japan where key money is not so prominent, and there are no penalties to canceling contracts at any point during the housing contract. Contracts usually

automatically renew in Osaka, without any renewal fees, so the key money you need to pay up front is simply a “different system” and the overall situation should be considered when evaluating the initial costs of entering a new rental home.

Deposits

Deposits or *hoshokin* are standard for rental agreements and are collected in advance as collateral to cover potential arrears in rent and property damage and/or future cleaning fees at termination of the contract. Typically 2~6 months rent will be charged as deposit. As in most other countries, the deposit is in principle refundable. However, some landlords can be quite punitive in the damage they charge.

Rent

Rent or *yachin* is usually paid monthly, in advance to the owner. In some cases there is a late fee if payment is overdue.

Maintenance Fee

It is standard for the landlord to require *kyoekihi*, a monthly fee for general building maintenance, including grounds, electricity for the elevator and outside lighting as well as up-keep of the structure.

Agent Fees

Most properties are found through a real estate company. The realtor will charge an agent's fee *chukai tesuryo* as payment for acting as an intermediary, from the start of the home-finding process through conclusion of the house contract and move-in inspection. The ceiling of the fee, regulated by law, is 1 month's rent plus consumption tax.

Tenant Insurance

Housing contracts often stipulate the tenant to take out tenant insurance *jutaku hoken*. There are very reasonable comprehensive tenant insurance packages available which offer protection for the whole family providing personal liability and damages

caused fire, water leaks, theft, lightning and earthquake.

Repairs

The responsibility for repairs is usually clearly outlined in the housing contract. Owners are responsible for "general wear and tear" called "*shizen-shomo*" in Japanese, while tenants are responsible for any damage outside normal wear and tear. However, it is important to understand that in Japan all repairs are generally done by the owner's stipulated management company or repairman. You become responsible for the cost, but it is not custom in Japan that you conduct your own repairs.

Pets

Many rental properties don't allow pets, so having a pet is likely to reduce your rental options significantly. However, pets are now very popular in Japan, so we have seen relatively more properties in recent years that will take your poodle or your Siamese beauty. Even when properties are

labeled "pet friendly", it is common case-by-case permission must be obtained from the landlord.

Some properties, for example, will allow small pets, but not large dogs. Some places are OK with dogs, but don't allow cats. Sometimes, additional deposits or rent can be required and there

may be additional "cleaning" or "disinfection" charges at the end of the contract.

Big dogs and cats are very hard to find places to live with. Less than 20% of properties will allow pets generally, and only around 5% would allow a big dog or a cat.



Guarantor

Many companies act as lessee and enter into housing contracts on behalf of foreign employee or “tenant”. In these cases no guarantor is needed. However, if you enter into a private contract and will be the signatory, you will also need a guarantor. The guarantor can be a Japanese colleague or company established to provide just such services. Recently, many owners are using “guarantor companies” who will charge you a flat fee for this service. You will need to provide documents such as copies of your residence card and visa stamp and submit a Certificate of Employment from your company in order to enter into a contract with the “guarantor company” which in turn allows you to make a contract with the house property owner.

Contract Terms

Housing contracts in Japan are generally for a set two years and include clauses for

early termination and renewal. It is standard for contracts to automatically be extended unless a cancellation notice has been submitted. When your assignment in Japan has ended, it will be necessary to terminate the house contract and related services such as utilities. Most housing contracts require one-two months prior written notice of termination. There will be a final inspection when you move out at which time the owner, realtor and, or management representative will ascertain cleaning and damage fees to be deducted from the deposit.

In addition to standard two-year contracts, there are also fixed-term contracts that are common if the owner is planning to return to their property at some point in the future. Fixed term contracts cannot be renewed, so any extension of the initial contract would require a completely new contract. Fixed term contracts are normally for longer periods of four-five years, but the termination process remains the same as for standard two-year contracts.



Appliances and Furniture

When moving into a new apartment or house it is common that there will be little, if anything, in the way of furnishings and built-in appliances. Often you may be required to buy lights, air conditioners, curtains and other white appliance items that you might consider standard in rental properties elsewhere. Either way the utility of such devices and the way they work will need a little study to figure out.

Washing Machines

You should be aware that Japanese washing machines usually wash only with cold water, as there is not often hot water available for the laundry areas of Japanese housing. Japanese clothes dryers are often combination machines, or are separate units that are powered by electricity only, and therefore take hours to dry clothes fully. Powerful clothes dryers don't tend to be common because the Japanese usually dry their clothes outside on a line.

Kitchen Appliances

A Japanese kitchen will be set up quite differently from its western counterpart. An stand alone oven is uncommon and is usually part of an appliance that includes a microwave with an electric oven feature. A lot of people use only a toaster oven in their apartments, as even a smaller “full size” oven will simply not fit. Many stoves

burn propane gas, have two to four burners and include a fish grill that sides out from under the burners and operates as a small broiling oven.

In larger western-style properties, larger ovens and white appliances are available, but in typical Japanese properties even a small dishwasher is rarely included in the kitchen.



Toilets and Baths

Historically Japanese did not have a toilet in the bathroom and the two facilities had their own separately dedicated spaces. A traditional Japanese bath requires that most washing is done out of the bath, which is used primarily for soaking and relaxation. The bathing area was intuitively a “clean” space and the inclusion of a toilet effectively negated this concept. These days however you will find something called a “unit bath” in smaller apartments. A unit bath will have both a toilet and a bathtub with a shower attachment, effectively merging the two functions in a nod to the reality that space is at a premium and some traditions must be sacrificed.

Japanese Toilets

The American equivalent of the “bathroom” or “restroom” is referred to simply as “the toilet” (toire) in Japan, as in European countries. While you will still find standard “squatting” toilets in public facilities and older buildings,

most modern Japanese toilets are quite superior in technology and function to those you may have encountered in other countries. Most will have heated seats and it is also common to include both a bidet and “washlet” (posterior washing spray) functions utilizing warm water. Some will also feature “blow dry” modes to limit the amount of toilet paper that is used.

The Japanese Bath

As mentioned above, the Japanese have traditionally utilized the bath for relaxation. As the body is washed outside of the bath in a shower area, the water in the bath is often used by several people before it is let out. Modern baths will allow you to re-heat the water for later use. Showering is usually done sitting on a stool and for this reason you will find that it is hung lower than you might expect. Most shower heads are attached via a hose and can detach from the wall and be used separately from their normal position.



Furnishing Your Home

Depending on your situation and budget, there are many options for furnishing your home in Japan.

Shipping

If you are coming to Japan for an extended period of time, your company may ship your furniture to Japan and back for you. Being surrounded by familiar things is a great way to help you ease into life in a new country.

Be aware however that shipping can be a bit of a hassle and can take between six to eight weeks, not including any problems that may arise at customs. Additionally some things simply may not fit into a Japanese apartment or house, so keep in mind what types of things you are bringing and if they will suit your new place. Often the size of doorways and elevators in Japan are smaller than back home and so it is best to confirm whether things will fit or not before you send them. What can you

do with a refrigerator that won't fit in your house after all? For this reason it is a good idea to bring the measurements of any large items you plan on bringing with you on a home-finding tour.

If you do decide to ship your household items you will need to decide for what to do while you wait for everything to arrive. You may choose to stay in a hotel, or you could just make do living out of a suitcase on the floor. Alternatively Lease Japan offers a convenient short-term furniture rental service which can keep you comfortable during the interval between when you arrive and when your stuff does.

Buying New Furniture

Another option is to buy all new furniture. However you may find that the size and variety of furnishings available may not match your preferences. While western-style furnishings are increasingly common, the quality and price performance for what you get can often be disappointing to foreigners.

Buying Used Furniture

Like anywhere else, you can also purchase used furniture in Japan. One popular way of finding what you are after is to check “sayonara sales”, moving home sales by other foreign residents.

Sayonara sales are usually advertised by word of mouth, but you may find one by searching on the internet. If you get lucky, this is the cheapest method of furnishing your house, but there is no way to guarantee that you will get your home furnished with any sort of expediency. In addition running around and collecting things from people in a new city is a bit of a hassle.

Alternatively you can try one of the “recycle shops” which sells used items. Think of them as permanent garage sales. You never know what you might find in them, and the prices can be much higher than you would expect. Lastly there is the problem of ferrying things back to your residence. Some shops will deliver (depending on how much stuff you buy) but most will expect you to take what you buy home with you.

Most foreigners will tell you that sayonara sales are worth checking out if there is something you can't get elsewhere. Roughly the same goes for used stores, though they tend not to be of very good value.

Leasing Furniture

There are several reasons why leasing furniture is an attractive option for expats. One point to consider is that when it comes time to return home you will either have to ship it home or otherwise get rid of it in Japan. If you can't sell the things you have collected you will have to dispose of them which can be quite expensive and time consuming. If you wish to throw away large items you must reserve a pick up day and pay a fee for anything that cannot be placed in a standard garbage bag.

If you decide to lease furniture then it will be delivered and picked up at your convenience. This is especially useful for people who want to make a contract for the exact period of time that they will be in Japan. You can even have your residence furnished and ready for you before you arrive.

Lease Japan will furnish your home tastefully and quickly without investing a lot of cash up-front. They do the work for you so that you have time and energy to concentrate on getting settled in and acquainted with your new environs. Their English-language service is stress free and easy to use.

Here are some of the services that they provide:

- Tasteful furniture and appliances selected by you from their catalogue. Order piece by piece, or one of their convenient packages, specially selected to provide you with all the essentials.
- Delivery and installation of the items in your home.
- Continued support for maintenance and repair issues.
- Collection of furniture and appliances from your home at lease end.
- Service in English; including contracts and service documentation
- English appliance manuals, when possible.

For more information go to: www.leasejapan.com/furncatalogue.asp

Dealing with Garbage in Osaka

In Osaka, it is a requirement that you dispose of garbage using see-through bags. Bags can be bought at most supermarkets and other stores; unlike other cities Osaka does not provide “official” garbage bags. Regardless of the category, all trash must be put at a collection point by 9am on designated days, which vary depending on the ward you are living in.

Domestic Waste (collected twice per week)

This category includes most non-recyclables that you would think of as “trash”. Pour out any fluids, and wrap razors, broken glass, and other sharp objects in thick paper and write “kiken (danger)” on the outside. You’ll need to puncture spray cans and other aerosol containers to relieve the pressure.

Recyclable Waste (collected once per week)

This category includes things such as: empty cans, empty glass bottles,

PET bottles, and metal houseware (pots, etc.) squash cans and PET bottles; PET bottle wrappers and caps should be disposed of on plastics day (see below).

Plastic Containers and Packaging (collected once per week)

This category includes most plastic containers, like those for shampoo, cooking oil, egg cartons, plastic trays, and other plastic wrappers. Rinse them out and put them in a clear garbage bag at the collection point.

Oversized Garbage

Things with sides of over 30cm or over one meter long must be disposed of by calling 0120-79-0053 by landline or 06-6377-5750 by cellphone to arrange a pick up date.

They will help arrange a day and quote you a price, then you’ll need to purchase stickers (*soudaigomishoritesuuryouken*) of that value from a convenience store, post office, or supermarket and affix them to the outside of the things you want to have collected.



Purchasing or Leasing a Car in Japan

Purchasing a Car

First, the good news. You are spoiled for choice when purchasing a car in Japan. Used cars are an especially good option as the Japanese tend to be meticulous when it comes to maintaining and servicing their automobiles. No matter what brand or model you are after, there is a good chance you can find a car that suits your needs.

Naturally, purchasing a car involves registering the vehicle to get it on the road. There are also permits to obtain for parking, as well as fees, taxes and additional costs that will be added to that price you see on the windshield. All-in-all though, if you have dealt with your department of motor vehicles in your home country you can get through the hurdles required to have your own wheels in Japan - but there is a lot to be done!

The Basics

- First, register your inkan seal at city hall or your local ward office, and get an inkan shomeisho or Certificate of Seal Registration.
- Next, find a car you would like from an individual or a dealer.

Buying a Car from an Individual

Go to your local police station and ask for the following:

- *Hokan basho shomei shinseisho* (Police Parking Application Form)
- *Hokan basho shomei* (Certificate of Permission For Parking Space)
The owner of your parking place must fill out and stamp this form to prove you have a place to park the vehicle arranged.



Location of parking lot and space:

This can often be obtained from the real estate agent, building owner or building management company. You will need a map that shows your parking space in relation to other property, as well as show the dimensions of the space.

When you have completed the forms, take the documents and your inkan stamp to the police station and turn them in. You will have to pay a fee, usually around ¥2,000, and you will be advised when to pick the documents up again. Some departments will charge you a fee, usually ¥500, to collect the documents when they are completed.

Prepare forms to be signed by, or received from the seller. You will need to go to a vehicle registration office and ask for:

Meigi henkou
(Re-Registration Form)

Both forms must be stamped or signed by the previous owner.

A notarized signature is only valid for three months and cannot be renewed if the party has left Japan. The validity period for the certified stamp varies, but is generally also three months.

Required forms to get from the seller:

- *Ininjou* (Power of Attorney)
- *Joutou shomeisho*

(Certificate of Transfer/ Bill of Sale)
Both forms must be completed in Japanese, and all information must match the notarized signature form. This also applies to the seller's information.

- *Jidoushazei noufusho* (Certificate of Vehicle Tax Payment)

This receipt must be kept as proof of payment of taxes, and given to the buyer if the car is sold.

- *Shakken sho* (Vehicle Registration Certificate)

This certificate must be kept current and with the car. It must be given to the buyer if the car is sold.

Vehicle Registration

Once you have received your approved documents from the police, and had the documents stamped by the previous owner, take the car and all the documents to the kensa touroku jimusho (Inspection Registration Office).

Like any department of motor vehicles, everything at the Inspection and Registration Office is bureaucratic, and will take some time. In addition to the long lines, you will be sent to many different desks and windows as the process continues. Plan on spending at least a few hours, and bring a book.

Every location has different procedures, but in general you will need to submit the papers gathered previously, fill out some other forms, and pay any required fees, such as the following:

- Taxes on the vehicle.
- If the car is from another prefecture, you will need to buy

new plates.

After completing the procedures at the Inspection and Registration Office, the car will be registered to you, and a new shaken certificate issued in your name.

Buying a Car from a Dealer

The dealer should assist or instruct you on how to get the following forms:

- Hokan basho shomei shinseisho (Police Parking Application Form)
- Hokan basho shomei (Certificate of Permission For Parking Space)

Vehicle Registration

Again, the dealer should do all the registrations at the Vehicle Inspection and Registration Office for you, and provide the new Shaken Certificate in your name when they deliver the car to you. Some dealers may charge a fee for this service.



Leasing a Car

Because purchasing and registering a car in Japan can be complicated, you may decide to lease a car instead. Lease Japan offers a comprehensive service for foreigners who wish to obtain a car this way.

What is a Car Lease?

Automobile leasing means that you pay only the amount that a vehicle's value depreciates during the time you are driving it. Depreciation is the difference between a vehicle's original value and its value at lease-end (residual value), and is the primary factor that determines the cost of leasing. Basically, you pay for the part of the car value that you use up during the lease term. There are other costs that may be included in the lease fee. These include insurance, registration fees and the addition of other options such as GPS navigation systems.

The Advantages of Leasing with Lease Japan

- Fewer hassles
- Leases generally come with full service maintenance and full coverage insurance policies included in the monthly lease fee.
- The lease company will be there to assist from the time of delivery to the day the car is returned.
- Lease Japan specializes in providing services and contracts in English.
- At Lease Japan, all of our consultants are bilingual in English and Japanese and we boast a great mix of foreign and Japanese staff.

- **Lower Monthly Payments:** as you only pay for the portion of the car that you actually use, your monthly payments will be 30%-60% lower than a purchase loan of the same term.
- **Lower up-front cash outlay:** most leasing companies, including Lease Japan, require no down payment, which makes getting into a new car more affordable and frees up your cash for other things. We generally ask for the first and last month's lease payment in the first month, as we find this easier for the client, who will not have to make a payment for the last month of the lease (and probably the last month of being in Japan).

This means you will not need to worry about making sure you still have your bank account open to pay the last payment. You can focus on more important last minute things whilst still driving your car until the very last day.

- **More Car, More Often for new car leases:** Since your monthly payments are lower, you get more car for the same money and can drive a brand new vehicle every two to four years, depending on the length of your leases.
- **Fewer Maintenance Headaches:** most people like to lease for a term that coincides with the length, in months, of the manufacturer's warranty coverage so that if something goes wrong with their car, it is always covered. At Lease Japan, we also offer free 1/6/18/24 month maintenance checks on all new cars. We will collect the car from your place of work or residence at a time that suits you, take the car to have its maintenance check and return the car the same day.
- **No Car-Selling Hassles:** with leasing, the headaches of selling a used car are eliminated. When your lease ends, you simply return it back to the leasing company and walk away.

- **Bonus Service Bundles:** different companies make leasing even more attractive by bundling different services with their lease packages. At Lease Japan, we offer:
- **ETC Card (Electronic Toll Collection System):** get an ETC card without the hassles of a Japanese credit card. We will supply you with an ETC card without the need for applying for a Japanese credit card.
- **24,7 Emergency Help Line:** When you lease a car from Lease Japan, you will automatically be eligible for our 24/7 English Help Line Assistance Service. If you have an accident or have any problems with the lease car, you will be able to contact one of our native English speaking consultants for immediate assistance.

Easy Steps to Leasing a Car

- Request an estimate for your desired car type, grade, color, options, etc.
- An estimate is prepared and sent to you for verification. Changes and new estimates may be requested at this point.
- When everything is agreed upon, sign the estimate for your new lease car and return it.
- When the signed estimate is received, your contract will be mailed to you. At this point, the lease agent will begin ordering and registering the car.
- To register the car, the lease agent will need some things from you:
- A copy of your *jyuminhyo* (Residence Certificate)

- *Hokan basho shomei* (Certificate of Permission For Parking Space)
The owner of your parking place must fill out and stamp this form to prove you have a place to park the vehicle arranged.
- Your *inkan* seal on the registration paperwork

Types of Leases:

Closed-end Leases

Closed-end leases, sometimes called “walk-away” leases, are the most common consumer leases today. This type of lease allows you to simply return your vehicle at the end of the lease and have no other responsibilities. Closed-end leases are based on the concept that the number of miles you drive annually is fairly predictable (12,000 miles per year is typical), that the vehicle will not be driven in rough or abusive conditions, and that its value at the end of the lease (the residual) is therefore somewhat predictable.

Open-end Leases

Open-end leases in the west are used primarily for commercial business leasing. In this case the lessee, not the leasing company, takes all the financial risks, which a business will simply count as an expense. Annual mileage on a business lease is usually much higher and less predictable than a standard 12,000 miles-per-year non-business lease.

In Japan, however, the law forbids companies from taking out open-end leases so they are primarily used by individuals as an alternative method of financing a new car; like a car loan, but more complicated.

Open-ended leases are also popular with foreign ex-pats in Japan because they are not usually eligible for normal car loans or financing through Japanese banks.

In an open-end lease, the lessee (driver) is responsible for the difference between the estimated lease-end value of the car (the residual) and the actual market value of the car at the end of the lease. This could amount to a significant sum of money if the market value of your vehicle has dropped or you drive more miles than expected.

Often, the residual value for an open-end lease is set much lower than a non-business closed-end lease, which reduces your lease-end risk, but increases your monthly payment amount.

Lease Japan invites you to view our selection of new and used cars to buy or lease. We put you in the driver’s seat with comprehensive leasing, purchasing, and after care services.

Find out more at: www.LeaseJapan.com



LEASE JAPAN



Converting your Foreign License

Like all countries Japan has its own peculiar rules of the road. Signs, traffic laws and customary behavior are quite different from other countries. For this reason, you will have to pass through their regulatory system to drive legally. For some the path is wide and easy. For others it is a bit more narrow; this is one thing you do not want to do on your own.

Fortunately, Japan Driver's License has bilingual experts on hand to assess your place in the system and guide you through it. Essentially foreign license conversion in Japan can be divided generally into two groups, depending on what country issued the foreign license.

The Lucky Ones

The first group includes license holders able to convert their foreign licenses directly to a Japanese license. For this group, conversion is a shorter bureaucratic process that takes a couple of hours at the license center; if your license was issued in one of these countries:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Taiwan and South Korea

...and it is valid (not expired, etc.), and you can prove residency in that country for a minimum of three months after license issuance you are not required to take either the written test or road test to convert your license.

Let's Take A Test!

The second group includes license holders who require both a written and a driving test in order to get a Japanese driver's license.

Valid foreign license holders from countries not listed above - held by people who can prove a minimum of three months residency in the country that issued the license after it was issued - may be allowed to convert their license only after filing paperwork, taking a short written test, and passing a driving test on an enclosed course at the testing center in their prefecture. If you are not in either of these groups, then the Japan Driver's License consultants can advise you on the best way to go about being certified. If you do not speak Japanese it may be difficult to get through these steps, and most centers require that you bring someone with you who can speak Japanese.

Official Translation of Your Foreign Driver's License

To start the process, both groups of license holders need to obtain an official translation of their foreign driver's license from an approved source. This is most commonly done through the Japan Auto Federation (JAF).

Gather Required Documents

After you obtain your official translation, you must go to the licensing center that serves your area with the following documents:

Valid foreign driver's license – and previous licenses, if you have them; if the license does not show the date of issue, or if the license was recently renewed, it may be necessary to submit additional documentation.

- Japanese translation of foreign license, available from the Japan Automobile Federation: <http://www.jaf.or.jp/e/switch.htm> or sometimes at the embassy or consulate of the issuing country.

- Residence Card

- Jyuminhyo x2 (Certificate of Residence)

- Passport and any expired passports; these are required to prove that you were in the country that issued your license for at least three months after you obtained your license.
- One 3 x 2.4 cm photo; must be taken within the last six months.
- Previous Japanese license, if you have one.

There's a Sign For That!

Some of the road signs you will need to know when driving in Japan!



Applying at the Driver's License Center

The application procedure begins with an inspection of your documents to make sure that you have lived in the country that issued your license for at least three months after issuance, and that all of your documentation is up-to-date and complete.

Eye Test

Standard eye test; you will be required to point in the direction that the image is pointing (this will make more sense when you see it). Once you pass the eye exam:

- If you are in group one, you will usually receive your license that day and you will be finished.
- If you are in group two, once you pass the eye exam, you will take the written test. Carry on!

Written Test

The written test for license conversion is much simpler than that given to people getting their first license. The test itself is available in English; however, the instruction session just prior to the test will be in Japanese.

The main point of the Japanese explanation to understand is that in Japan X means false and O means true, and that when you have completed the test you may leave the room. The best way to study for the test is to read the Japan Auto Federation's English-language book, "Rules of the Road."

The Driving Test

This driving test is infamous. The test itself is not difficult, but there are many simple sequences and processes that the test proctors are looking for, and if you are not aware of them, you will not pass.

It is not uncommon for foreigners to take the driving test five times or more, simply for the lack of a little knowledge, rather than a lack of actual driving skills.

Considering that each attempt requires nearly a full day at the testing center, fees and lost wages can make converting your license on your own a time-consuming, expensive, and frustrating experience. The average pass rate unassisted is 20%. Japan Driver's License clients enjoy a greater than 70% first time pass rate, and 95% pass by the second try.

Once you pass the eye exam and written test, you will be scheduled for your driving test. The test is not offered on the same day you apply; you will have to come back to the testing center. Most likely; it will be a testing block period, rather than a specific time.

You may be able to change this schedule on the spot or over the phone later. You will usually also receive a map of the driving course, which you will be required to drive from memory on test day. Take the opportunity to walk the driving course before you leave if possible, it will help you to memorize it.

Depending on the driving center, you may be required to pay an additional car rental fee. Be prepared to spend a lot of time waiting. When your turn comes, you will be required to get in the car and drive the prescribed course with an examiner, who will speak only in Japanese. It is necessary to memorize all the turns and elements of the course in advance; you will not receive instructions from the proctor.

If you make a "major" mistake you will fail on the spot. Whether or not you passed, you will be instructed to go inside and wait for the results with the other test takers. If you were not successful, you'll be given a paper with your next scheduled opportunity to try again.

If you are successful, you should receive your new license that day. This will entail paying more fees, getting your picture taken, and filling out forms.

If you are going to drive in Japan, especially if you are here for more than one year, you must convert your license.

What To See And Do



Sumiyoshi-Taisha Shrine



This shrine is one of the oldest in Japan and was built prior to the influx of Buddhist architecture. As such it is entirely Japanese in design and style. The highlight is the iconic bright red barrel arched Taiko-bashi bridge.

2-9-89 Sumiyoshi, Sumiyoshi-ku
(06) 6672-0753
www.sumiyoshitaisha.net
[Map](#)

Nearest Stations
Sumiyoshitaisha Station on the Nankai Main Line

Shi-tennoji Temple



Built over 1,400 years ago, Shi-tennoji is the oldest temple in Japan. The temple is famous for its symmetrical design. One of the best times to visit is the monthly antique market.

1-11-18 Shitennoji, Tennoji-ku
(06) 6771-0066
www.shitennoji.or.jp
[Map](#)

Nearest Stations:
Tennoji Station on the Tanimachi and Midosuji Lines

Osaka Castle



While the current structure of Osaka Castle is a concrete replica containing a modern museum the castle and the associated park are a beautiful place to visit. The park grounds are meticulously maintained and are a great place to escape the city for a few hours.

1-1 Osaka-jo, Chuo-ku
(06) 6941-3044
www.osakacastle.net
[Map](#)

Nearest Stations:
Osakajokoen Station on the JR Osaka Loop Line
Tenmabashi Station on the Tanimachi Line

Osaka Aquarium



The Kaiyukan is a world-class aquarium which is home to over 30,000 creatures and 580 species from the “Ring of Fire”. Designed to make you feel as if you are underwater at times it is a spectacular feat of engineering. Great fun for kids young and old.

1-1-10 Kaigan-dori, Minato-ku
(06) 6576-5501
www.kaiyukan.com/language/eng
Map

Nearest Station
Osakako Station on the Chuo Line

Universal Studios Japan



This extremely popular theme park is equivalent to the Universal Studios in Hollywood and Orlando, and features shows, rides and restaurants based on famous movie themes like Harry Potter, Jaws, Back to the Future, Terminator and more.

2-1-33 Sakurajima, Konohana-ku
(06) 6465-3000
www.usj.co.jp/e/
Map

Nearest Station
Universal City Station on the
JR Yumesaki Line





Dotonbori



If you are looking for the wildlife of Osaka, feast your eyes on some epic people watching here. Neon, ramen, music and more. Walking the riverside boardwalk is a great way to acquaint yourself with the truly unique Osaka vibe.

Dotonbori, Chuo-ku
[Map](#)

Nearest Station
Shinsaibashi Station
on the Midosuji Line
Namba Station on the Midosuji,
Sennichimae and Yotsubashi Lines

Shinsekai (Tsutenkaku)



A visit to the Shinsekai area is like stepping back in time, in this case the 1960s. While there's not much to do other than going up in the area's iconic Tsutenkaku tower, the food stalls and kitsch ambience make it an interesting experience - especially at night.

Ebisuhigashi, Naniwa-ku
[Map](#)

Nearest Station
Ebisucho Station on the Sakaisuji Line

Nipponbashi Denden Town



If you want to gape in amazement at Osaka's take on otaku culture then this is the place. Billed as "Osaka's Akihabara" it is more than just a bunch of electronic shops and is also home to a full panoply of manga and hentai everything.

Nihon-bashi, Ebisu
www.denden-town.or.jp
[Map](#)

Nearest Station
Nipponbashi Station on the Sakaisuji
and Sennichimae Lines

Spa World



Drawing on natural spring water, Osaka's Spa World is one of the largest hot spring complexes in the world, featuring themed rooms modeled after spas around the world and a water theme park on the roof.

3-4-24 Ebisu-higashi, Naniwa-ku
(06) 6631-0001

www.spaworld.co.jp/english

[Map](#)

Nearest Station

Ebisucho Station on the Sakaisuji Line

Umeda Sky Building



The 173 meter tall Umeda Sky Building consists of two main towers which are connected by a "Floating Garden" at the 39th floor. The view is very impressive, and gives you an idea of the sheer scale of the city.

1-1-88, Oyodonaka, Kita-ku
www.kuchu-teien.com/english
[Map](#)

Nearest Station

Osaka Station on the JR Line

Umeda Station on the Midosuji Line

Instant Ramen Museum



Featuring ramen memorabilia going back more than half a century including a recreation of the wooden shack where instant ramen was invented. A really fun place. Audio guides in English (deposit required)

8-25 Masumicho, Ikeda
(072) 752-3484

www.instantramen-museum.jp

[Map](#)

Nearest Station

Ikeda Station on the Hankyu

Takarazuka Line





What To Eat

A popular Japanese saying holds that people from Kyoto will spend all their money on clothes, people from Kobe will spend it all on shoes, and people from Osaka will blow everything they've got on food.

This culture of *kuidaore* or "Eat 'til you drop!" means that the people in this city take their food very seriously. And while most foreigners spend their time and money eating in Kyoto or Tokyo, restaurants in Osaka must please the home crowd first - meaning that you are truly spoiled for choice when you get here. They don't call this place "Japan's Kitchen" for nothing.

So what to eat?

Well the city is home to five 3 Star Michelin restaurants, and pretty much any world cuisine has an Osaka outpost as well. But you simply can't (or shouldn't) leave Osaka without trying the top three street foods that originated in Osaka – *Kushikatsu*, *Takoyaki* and *Okonomiyaki*.





Kushikatsu

Kushikatsu, also known as *kushiage*, is a Japanese dish of seasoned, skewered and grilled meat. In Japanese, *kushi* refers to the skewers used while *katsu* means a deep-fried cutlet of meat.

Kushikatsu can be made with chicken, pork, seafood, and seasonal vegetables. These are skewered on bamboo *kushi*; dipped in egg, flour, and panko then deep-fried in vegetable oil. They may be served straight or with *tonkatsu* sauce (a kind of thick Worcestershire sauce.)

Where to Eat It?

Yaekatsu

Shinsekai, an old-fashioned neighborhood where time seems stuck in time has over 60 restaurants that specialize in kushikatsu; make sure you go to Yaekatsu. The long queues outside the restaurant are the best testament to the restaurant's popularity.

3-4-13 Ebisuhigashi, Naniwa-ku

(06) 6643-6332

<http://r.gnavi.co.jp/3117489>

[Map](#)

Takoyaki

Most people are probably familiar with *takoyaki*, since it is now widely available in many cities around the globe. However, not everyone knows that the dish actually originated in Osaka.

Takoyaki is a ball-shaped Japanese street food made of a wheat flour-based batter which is filled with diced octopus, pickled ginger, and green onion. Once the balls are cooked in a special griddle they are topped with dried bonito, and a douse of mayonnaise and takoyaki sauce.

Where to Eat It?

Creo-ru

The amazing variety of takoyaki is a testament to how popular (and cheap!) this wonderful street food is. Usually a shop is just set up on the side of the road. Creo-ru offers sit down eating as well as a variety of other Osaka favorites.

1-6-4 Dotonbori, Chuo-ku
(06) 6212-9195

[Map](#)





Okonomiyaki

For the uninitiated, *okonomiyaki* is a savory pancake containing a variety of ingredients. The name is derived from the word *okonomi*, meaning “what you like” or “what you want”, and *yaki* meaning “grilled” or “cooked”. Okonomiyaki is popular around Japan - but if you want the real deal you’re only going to get it in Osaka.

Where to Eat It?

Mizuno

Mizuno is famous for serving the best okonomiyaki in Osaka, and it dishes out a variety of pancakes to hungry patrons throughout the day. The most popular dish is a yam-flour okonomiyaki with scallops and roast pork. Go during off-peak hours, or be prepared to wait in line.

1-4-15 Dotombori, Chuo-ku

Tel: (06) 6212-6360

www.mizuno-osaka.com

[Map](#)



Hajime

Michelin 3 Stars

Small and relatively difficult to reserve, a meal at Hajime is still worth the effort (and money). The set menu is as much a feast for the eyes as it is for the palate - renowned as one of Japan's best restaurants.

1-9-11-1F Edobori, Nishi-ku

(06) 6447-6688

[Map](#)

Fujiya 1935

Michelin 3 Stars

Fujiya 1935 serves molecular food so it's very much a multi-sensory experience. Elaborately prepared food that defies categorization yet draws from both Japanese and European cuisines.

2-4-14 Yariyamachi, Chuo-ku

(06) 6941-2483

www.fujiya1935.com

[Map](#)



Hard Rock Cafe Osaka

Even if you shy away from American chain restaurants this outpost of in-your-face everything is an oasis of big plates of yummy food that you simply can't get elsewhere. Great English-speaking staff.

Ito Building 1F
Minamihonmachi, Chuo-ku
(06) 6120-5711
www.hardrock.com/cafes/osaka/
Map

Kuma Kafe

If you find yourself near the Osaka Aquarium you should do yourself a favor and drop in for pizza, burgers, sandwiches or any number of the super delicious menu items at this casual eatery. Outside seating.

4-4-15 Chikko, Minato-ku
Tel: (06) 6572-2450
www.ameblo.jp/kuma-kafe
Map





Outback Steakhouse Umeda

This extremely popular Australian-themed restaurant has big portions of steak, chicken, ribs, burgers and so much more.

2-1-24 Umeda, Kita-ku 1F

(06) 6457-7121

www.outbacksteakhouse.co.jp

[Map](#)

Lawry's The Prime Rib

The best cuts of prime rib, brought to your table, cut and cooked to order. Other menu items include seafood, lobster, spinning bowl salad, mashed potato and Yorkshire pudding.

2-2-22 Umeda, Kita-ku 5F

(06) 6343-3344

www.lawrys.jp

[Map](#)

Matsuzakagyu Yakiniku

Enjoy grilling some of the best and most highly sought after Japanese Matsuzaka beef at your table.

1-1-19, Namba, Chuo-ku

(06) 6211-2917

www.matsusaka-projects.com/english

[Map](#)

Wasabi

Wasabi redefines traditional kushikatsu by serving fine ingredients prepared with lighter oils. Their sommelier will help you pair wine with your meal. Not cheap.

1-1-17 Namba, Chuo-ku
(06) 6212-6666

[Map](#)

Tsuki no Odori

This welcoming restaurant specializes in chicken, offering plenty of non-threatening dishes like *yakitori* and spicy fried chicken wings. Other options satisfy more adventurous eaters, such as the chicken breast *sashimi*.

2F 24K Bldg. 1-1-11 Dotombori Chuo-Ku
(06) 6213-9988

[Map](#)

Ichiran (Dotonbori)

The Dotonbori home of the legendary ramen chain is open 24 hours and serves up tasty pork broth noodles in private single “booths”. Customize your ramen according to their English-language menu, but be prepared to wait in line for a seat.

7-18 Soemoncho, Chuo-ku
(06) 6212-1805

www.ichiran.co.jp/english

[Map](#)





The Little Clover Irish Pub

Great pub food, authentic Irish atmosphere, live music and very reasonable prices.

2F Misono Bldg. 2-3-9 Sennichimae, Chuo-ku

(06) 6563-9750

www.littlecloverosaka.com

[Map](#)

The Blarney Stone

The Umeda location of this popular Irish bar is now an institution. If you want to see what happens to lifer gaijin after a few pints you will enjoy the shenanigans here.

6F Sonezaki Center Bldg. 2-10-16 Sonezaki Kita-ku

(06) 6364-2001

www.the-blarney-stone.com

[Map](#)

St. Regis Bar

Ultra-posh and dripping in jet-set barflies who want a perfect martini. A stylish and sophisticated place to languidly drink the afternoon away into midnight.

St. Regis Hotel Osaka

3-6-12 Hommachi, Chuo-ku

(06) 6258-3333

www.stregisosaka.co.jp

[Map](#)

Cinquecento

Specializing in martinis with a twist Cinquecento entertains patrons before and after they head out to any number of local dance floors. Mostly though people come here for the convivial atmosphere.

1F Matsumiya Bldg.
2-1-10 Higashi-Shinsaibashi, Chuo-ku
(06) 6213-6788
[Map](#)

Bar SD Umeda

If it was an epic evening best left unremembered it has already happened here and it will probably happen here again. Dancing. Drinking.

4-15-19 Nishi-tenma, Kita-ku
(06) 7663-6689
[Map](#)





Malls and Outlets

Mitsui Outlet Park

Authentic outlet mall.

www.31op.com/english/#osaka

Mitsui Outlet Park Osaka Tsurumi
2-7-70 Matta Omiya, Tsurumi-ku
Tel: (06) 6915-3939

[Map](#)

AEON

One-stop shopping stores featuring general merchandise and food.

Amagasaki AEON
3-13-18 Tsugiyu, Amagasaki City
Tel: (06) 4960-5010

[Map](#)

Itami AEON
1-1-1-Fujinoki, Itami City
Tel: (072) 787-0500

[Map](#)

Osaka Dainichi AEON
1- 18 Dainichi Higashimachi,
Moriguchi City
Tel: (06) 4252-3900

[Map](#)

Costco

This American giant everything store has locations in Japan as well. You must purchase a membership to shop among the amazing selection of imported and Japanese goods. Low wholesale prices and bulk quantities. Ample parking.

Amagasaki Costco
3- 13-55 Tsugiyu, Amagasaki City
Tel: (06) 6496-1600

www.costco.co.jp/p/locations/amagasaki

[Map](#)

Supermarkets

Foodium

A 24 hour supermarket chain owned by Daiei

Foodium Dojima
1-1-5, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 6343-1147

[Map](#)

Ikari

A local well-established, upscale

supermarket chain offering many imported goods.

Ikari JR Osaka
3-1-1 Umeda, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 6348-2347

[Map](#)

Meidi-ya

A well-established food store selling a variety of imported food and liquors.

Osaka Nanba Store
Takashimaya B1F
5-1-5 Nanba, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 6633-4888

www.meidi-ya-store.com/english

[Map](#)

Seijo Ishii

High quality imported and domestic foods and beverages at reasonable prices. Online shopping is availablez.

www.seijoishii.co.jp

Seijo Ishii
Hankyu Umeda Station 2F
1-1-3 Shibata, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 6486-2960

[Map](#)

Seijo Ishii Hankyu
Umeda Station B2
1-1-3 Shibata, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 4802-5034

[Map](#)

Seijo Ishii Whity Umeda East Mall.
4-6 Komatsubara-cho, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 4709-7091

[Map](#)

Seijo Ishii Uehonmachi
6-1-55 Uehonmachi, Tennoji-ku
Tel: (06) 6771-3603

[Map](#)

Seijo Ishii Abeno
B1 Fl. Kintetsu Abeno Station.
1-1-43 Abenosuji, Abeno-ku, Osaka
Tel: (06) 6628-4303

[Map](#)

Jupiter

Coffee, imported food, cakes, cheese, wine, Italian and ethnic food.

www.jupiter-coffee.com

Jupiter Crysta Nagahori
2 Minamisenba, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 6282-2241

[Map](#)

Kaldi

Kaldi is a chain of small grocery shops that specialize in roasted coffee and a surprising selection of imported food and alcohol from around the world.

Kaldi Cocoe Amagasaki
1F, 1-3-1 Shioe, Amagasaki
Tel: (06) 6470-3290

[Map](#)

Kaldi Namba
Namba Marui B1, 3-8-9 Nanba,
Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 6646-1070

[Map](#)

Online Food Shopping

The Meat Guy

Excellent selection of gourmet meats at great prices. Whether you want the best steaks, sausages, bacon, cheese they have a lot to choose from.

www.themeatguy.jp

YoYo Market

Imported food from Costco and more. Order online and have it delivered.

www.yoyomarket.jp

FBC

Imported foods, beverages, cleaning products and educational items from the U.S.

www.fbcusa.com

Tengu Natural Foods

Natural and organic food store online

store.alishan.jp

Indojin Indian Food

Spices and specialty Indian ingredients.

www.indojin.com

Home Furnishings

IKEA

Home center originating in Sweden. Home furnishings at reasonable

prices. Delivery service available at nominal cost.

IKEA Tsuruhama
2-24-55 Tsurumachi Taisho-ku
Tel: (06) 6556-2700

www.ikea.com/jp/en/store/tsuruhama

[Map](#)

ACTUS

Reasonably priced and eclectic interior furnishings.

ACTUS Shinsaibashi Store
Midosuji Bldg. 1-2 F
1-4-5 Shinsaibashi, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 6241-1551

[Map](#)

BoCONCEPT

Upscale designer furnishings and more.

www.boconcept.com/ja-jp

BoCONCEPT Umeda
Herbis Plaza Ent. 2F
2-2-22 Umeda Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 6455-2750

[Map](#)

IDC

The largest furniture showroom in Western Japan. Parking available. Membership system.

IDC Otsuka
2-1-10 Nankou Kita, Suminoe-ku
Tel: (06) 6612-4321

www.idc-otsuka.jp/showroom/osaka

[Map](#)

MUJI

A “no brand” store. Natural and simply designed low priced clothing, furnishings and furniture.

www.muji.net

MUJI Grand Front
Grand Front Osaka Kitakan 4F
3-1 Ofukachou, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 6359-2171

[Map](#)

MUJI Namba
Namba Center Buiding B2-2F,
12-22 Sen-nichimae, Nanba, Chuo-ku

Tel: (06) 6648-6461

[Map](#)

MUJI Daimaru Shinsaibashi
Daimaru Kitakan 6F,
1-7-1 Shinsaibashisuji, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 4704-3007

[Map](#)

Nitori

A low-cost home furnishings and interior chain

www.nitori.co.jp/en/shop/osaka/index.html

Nitori Nishinari-ku
1-2-37 Deshiro, Nishinari-ku
Tel: (06) 6632-9933

[Map](#)

Home Centers

Home centers in Japan are usually very large stores, often located in suburban areas with large parking lots. They stock a combination of hardware store items, home furnishings, Do-It-Yourself (DIY) goods and may often sell plants and gardening supplies. Some of the larger stores also sell bicycles and have auto shops.

Home's Simachu

A hardware, DIY and furniture chain.

Home's Amagasaki
3-1-36 Shimosakabe, Amagasaki
Tel: (06) 4960-4585

[Map](#)

Home's Tsurumi
5-3-38 Tsurumi, Tsurumi-ku
Tel: (06) 6786-1511

[Map](#)

Tokyu Hands

Hobby, crafts, home improvement, novelty and lifestyle products available. The store appeals to foreigners looking to find a variety of products in one store.

www.tokyu-hands.co.jp/foreign

Tokyu Hands Umeda
Daimaru Umeda Building
10-12F, 3-1-1 Umeda, Kita-ku
(06) 6347-7188

[Map](#)

Tokyu Hands Shinsaibashi
3-4-12 Minami-Senba, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 6243-3111

[Map](#)

Electronics Shops

Labi Namba
2-11-35 Nambanaka, Naniwa-ku
Tel: (06) 6649-8171

[Map](#)

Edion Belfa Toshima
2-13-34 Tomobuchi-cho,
Toshima-ku,
Tel: (06) 6926-3980

[Map](#)

Edion Temmabashi
Keihan City Mall 5F, 1-1
Temmabashi Kyomachi, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 6940-2820

[Map](#)

Edion JR Amagasaki
1-1-50 Shioe, Amagasaki
Tel: (06) 4868-5101

[Map](#)

LAOX Duty Free
2-7-5 Nihonbashi, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 4397-6105

www.laox.co.jp

[Map](#)

Yamagiwa

Lamps and interior goods

Yamigawa Osaka Showroom
2nd Yuuraku Bldg. 1F, 4-1-7
Homomachi, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 7638-0085

www.yamagiwa-lighting.com

[Map](#)

BIC Camera

One of the top electronics and appliance chains in Japan

www.biccamera.co.jp

BIC Camera Namba
2-10-1 Sennichimae, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 6634-1111

[Map](#)

Yodobashi Camera

One of the largest electronics chains in Japan

www.yodobashi.com

Yodobashi Camera Umeda
Ofuka-cho, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 4802-1010

[Map](#)

Discount Stores

Don Quijote

www.donki.com

Don Quijote Umeda Honten
4-16 Komatsubara-cho, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 6360-6122

[Map](#)

Don Quijote Dotonbori
7-13 Soemoncho Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 4708-1411

[Map](#)

Don Quijote Uehonmachi
1-24 Uenomiyacho Tennoji-ku
Tel: (06) 4305-5021

[Map](#)

¥100 Shops

There is a proliferation of ¥100 shops all over Japan selling daily necessities, dry foods, drinks, make-up, toiletries, tools, stationery, kitchen items, clothing, toys, gifts and the list goes on!

Daiso

National chain. Lots of variety.

Daiso Whitey Umeda
Umeda Chikagai 3-5 East Mall,
Doyama-cho
Tel: (06) 6360-6384

[Map](#)

Daiso Keihan City Mall
6F, Keihan City Mall, 1-1 Temmbashi
Kyomachi, Chuo-ku,
Tel (06) 6920-4061

[Map](#)

Daiso Aming Shioe
Purasto Ikiiki Bldg. 2F,
1-4-5 Shioe, Amagasaki
(06) 6495-4162

[Map](#)

Babies and Kids

Toys R Us and Babies R Us

Toys, nursery items baby strollers, child safety seats etc. Worldwide chain store.

www2.toysrus.co.jp/store/en

Toys R Us Namba Parks
2-10-70 Nambanaka, Naniwa-ku
Tel: (06) 6633-7050

[Map](#)

Babies R Us Hankyu-Yamada
4-1-2, Yamadanishi, Suita-shi
Tel: (06) 4863-1190

[Map](#)

Akachan Honpo

Nursery items, toys, baby and kids clothing, baby strollers, child safety seats and more.

www.akachan.jp

Akachan Honpo Honmachi
3-3-21 Minami Honmachi,
Chuo-ku

Tel: (06) 6258-7300

[Map](#)



Living in Japan With Your Pet

Many people who will be in Japan for an extended period will think about bringing their pet with them. Importing a pet is a difficult decision so before you make it you need to consider how your dog or cat will fare on a long flight and a period of quarantine.

Importing Pets into Japan

Japan is a rabies-free island nation and it is particularly careful about importing animals that may introduce the virus to the domestic animal population. For this reason the Japanese government has implemented a fairly strict quarantine system for those who wish to bring animals into the country.

The Japanese Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) is the official source of information regarding the import and export of pets in Japan. The full procedure with timelines is outlined in their very helpful English website.

Essentially you must submit an advance notification of the planned date of arrival, the number of animals and other items to the AQS which has jurisdiction over your intended port of arrival. This must be completed at least 40 days prior to arrival in Japan. Note that you may be requested to change the date or place of import depending on the situation at quarantine facilities maintained by the AQS.

Animals coming from Taiwan, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii, and Guam have an easier time. If you have a certificate for the animal issued by the responsible government agency of the point of export containing information such as the microchip number for individual identification, the quarantine period will normally be completed within 12 hours.

However, for all other countries the situation is a bit more complex. If the aforementioned certificate, as well as dates of rabies vaccinations and rabies

antibody levels as well as a certificate stating that the animal underwent a period of isolation for 180 days in the country of export, the quarantine period will be completed within 12 hours. In all other cases the quarantine period can be up to 180 days.

The Animal Quarantine Service will issue an “Import Quarantine Certificate” on completion of the import quarantine. Anyone importing a dog is required to register their animal under the Rabies Prevention Law and may need to take the Import Quarantine Certificate to their local authorities once they have arrived.

It is the importer’s responsibility to take care of their animals during quarantine. The importation inspection which is carried out by the animal quarantine officers is free, but the importer must cover the cost of transportation, food, onsite veterinary treatment and other care. Bear in mind that veterinary treatment has to be done at the quarantine facilities of AQS during quarantine.

Note that the AQS is unable to grant exceptions and that animals which have not met all requirements as described on their website are subject to being held for extended periods of quarantine, or may possibly be deported back to the origin of the flight. Should the animal fail to successfully complete the quarantine, the importer is responsible for the return or disposal of their animal.

More information about how to import your cat or dog to Japan can be found at the [AQS website](#)

Registration

You must register a dog, but not a cat, at your local city ward office. If you brought your pet with you from overseas you will need to take the Quarantine Certificate that you were given at the port of entry with you. You only need to do this once in Japan, although if there is any change in status, for example, if the dog goes missing, dies, your address changes, or you plan to leave Japan, you must notify the ward office.



The Japanese Health Care System

While medical care in Japan is good, English-speaking physicians and medical facilities that cater to foreign expectations are expensive and not widespread. Japan has a national health insurance system which is available only to those

foreigners with long-term visas for Japan. National health insurance does not pay for medical evacuation. Medical caregivers in Japan require payment in full at the time of treatment or concrete proof of ability to pay before they will treat a foreigner who is not a member of the national health insurance plan.

Western-style and standard psychiatric care can be difficult to locate in major urban centers in Japan and generally is not available outside of Japan's major cities. Extended psychiatric care for foreigners in Japan is difficult to obtain at any price.

Foreign prescriptions are not honored in Japan, so if you need ongoing prescription medicine you should arrive with a sufficient supply for your stay in Japan or enough until you are able to see a local care provider. Certain medications, including some commonly prescribed for depression and Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), are not widely available.

Emergency Situations

There are two major emergency numbers in Japan:

110 will connect you with the police

119 will connect you with the fire department and ambulance service.

Throughout Japan, an emergency phone call can be made free of charge from any phone including public pay phones. In an emergency you may not be able to convey the exact nature of what is happening, especially if you do not immediately reach an English-speaking operator. However there are some basic things you can do in advance to help you in case of emergency.

Write the relevant numbers down near your phone so you will have them at the ready in case you need them

Be able to describe your address or location in Japanese. Have your address written down in roman characters so that you will be able to read it to the operator or enlist a friend who can do so.

Learn how to say your telephone number in Japanese

Here's how to deal with emergency calls for ambulance or fire in Japan.

First Steps

In case of emergency, dial 119
(may not work from cell phones)

In case of fire, say: *Kaji desu*
(There's a fire)

To call an ambulance, say:
Kyu-kyu desu (Please send an
Ambulance)
Do not hang up until the
dispatcher understands your
address and telephone number

Send someone out to the nearest
major intersection to meet the
ambulance or fire truck.

What May Happen During Your Call

Dispatcher: *Shou bou desu...*
Kaji desu ka? Kyu-kyu desu ka?
(Fire department... Fire or
ambulance?)

Caller: *Kyu-kyu desu* (Ambulance)

Dispatcher: *Dou shimashita ka?*
(What happened?)

Caller: (see vocabulary below)

Bleeding: *Shukketsu desu*

Broken bone: *Kossetsu desu*

Burn: *Hidoi yakedo desu*

Difficulty Breathing: *Kokuyuu
konnan desu*

Convulsions: *Keiren Desu*
Chest Pains: *Mune ga taihen
kurushii desu*

High Fever: *Kou netsu desu*

Injury: *Kega desu*

Poison: *Dokubutsu desu*

Sick: *Byouki desu*

Unconscious: *Ki fumei desu*

Giving Your Name, Number and Address or Location

My name is...*Watashi no namae
na* (say your name)... *desu*.

My telephone number is... *Denwa
bango wa* (say your telephone
number)... *desu*.

The emergency service people
need to know how to locate you in
order to help.

The dispatcher may say: *Jushyo
wa?* or *Nani ku, Nani machi, Nan
ban desu ka?*

Explaining Your Location

Since many Japanese streets
do not bear names and
house/building numbers are not
consecutive, it is very important
that you learn how to give
adequate directions to your
residence in case you need to
explain it to a dispatcher, usually
guiding them by way of major
landmarks. You can describe your
location relative to recognizable
landmarks using the following
vocabulary:

Front: *Mae*

Behind: *Ura*

Diagonally In Front: *Nana me mae*

Next to: *Tonari*

Intersection: *Koosaten*

One of the best tests to determine
if you have the capability to guide
someone to your residence is

being able to order a taxi, and not
from a company which has your
information already programmed
into its computer.

Japanese neighbors are a great
source of information - ask
them to tell you, word by word,
how they direct people to their
residences. Practice these
directions on a regular basis
and keep a cheat sheet by your
telephone for family, babysitters,
or friends to use in case of need.

Assuming you are not calling from
a mobile phone, just stay on the
line. Emergency operators at the
fire department in most major
urban centers have the ability to
trace calls to your location.

Going to the Doctor's Office

Japan has a number of large and
quite modern medical facilities.
However chances are that you will
never visit any of them unless you
have first been referred by a clinic.

While exceptions abound,
visiting a non-specialty clinic or
doctor's office does not require

an appointment. Simply present your insurance card to the receptionist upon arrival and you will be seen in turn, much like an emergency room. Wait times are usually less than an hour, but can be significantly longer at big hospitals. Specialists like dentists, psychiatrists, or OBGYN will more likely accept appointments.

Another difference to note is that clinics are not open every day of the week, and many big hospitals offer specific services only on set days. Additionally, the actual office hours will generally be divided into mornings and afternoons. Morning hours will generally run between nine and twelve. After morning hours the office will close until about two, and be open again from then until six. For these reasons it is especially important that you check the schedule before making your plans.

While many doctors speak some English their staff and paperwork is generally in Japanese. If you are not proficient in Japanese you may need to bring someone along to help you through the process.

Following is a list of what to expect when you visit a doctor or stay in a hospital along with a list of medical clinics in your area that will generally offer some sort of English service, though to what extent will vary.

What To Expect

Doctors in Japan, especially older practitioners, still subscribe to a “doctor knows best” philosophy that makes the relationship a bit different from what you might experience in other countries.

If you are going to a small neighborhood clinic you should understand that, especially with older doctors: Asking directly for a second opinion may be offensive. If you are unsatisfied with their diagnosis or treatment you should get one somewhere else.

They may determine the best course of action and go with it, rather than talking the options over with you.

They can be curt to the point of seeming dismissive. Most are

very busy, and though they have your best interest at heart they will want to hear the symptoms and diagnose; no chit chat.

For day to day ailments, the Japanese medical system is top notch. However If you have issues with a doctor you should stop going to them and find another.

What to Bring

If you are just going for a routine check-up, then all you need is your insurance information or national health system card. However if you are staying overnight or longer, you should bring your own towels, slippers, tooth brush, tissues, and sundries. These items are often available at the clinic or hospital, but are expensive.

Families often bring supplies to an admitted family member to keep costs down. If you are hospitalized for a lengthy period there will be a number of items that you will be expected to have provided for you by family or friends.



General Hospitals

Osaka Saiseikai Nakatsu Hospital

2-10-39, Shibata, Kita-ku

Tel: (06) 6372-0333

www.nakatsu.saiseikai.or.jp

[Map](#)

Osaka Central Hospital

Internal Medicine, Digestive Organs, Cardiology, General Surgery, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Dermatology, Urology, Gynecology, Radiology, Pain Management

3-3-30, Umeda, Kita-ku

Tel: (06) 4795-5505

www.osaka-centralhp.jp

[Map](#)

Osaka Iryo Center

Internal Medicine, Digestive Organs, Cardiology, Respiratory Organs, Psychiatry, Pediatrics, General Surgery, Cardiac & Vascular Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Pediatric Surgery, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Throat Specialist,

Dermatology, Urology, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Radiology, Pain Management, Allergy, Physical therapy, Dentistry, Dental & Oral Surgery

2-1-14, Houenzaka,

Chuo-ku, Osaka

Tel: (06) 6942-1331

www.onh.go.jp/mokuji/mokuji.html

[Map](#)

Osaka City Sumiyoshi Hospital

Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, Pediatrics, General Surgery, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Urology, Obstetrics & Gynecology

1-2-16, Higashikagaya,

Suminoe-ku

Tel: (06) 6681-1000

www.osakacity-hp.or.jp/sumiyoshi

[Map](#)

Osaka General Medical Center

Internal Medicine, Digestive Organs, Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Respiratory Organs, Neurology, Psychiatry, Pediatrics, General Surgery, Respiratory Organs,

Cardiac & Vascular Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Throat Specialist, Dermatology, Urology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Radiology, Pain management, Rheumatology, Dental & Oral Surgery

3-1-56, Mandaihigashi,

Sumiyoshi-ku

Tel: (06) 6692-1201

www.opho.jp

[Map](#)

Chuo Emergency Center

Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology

4-10-13 Shinmachi, Nishi-ku,

Osaka

Tel: (06) 6534-0321

www.kadoma.osaka.med.or.jp/cd/

kyu/tyuou.html

[Map](#)

Minoh City Hospital

Internal Medicine, Neurology, Psychiatry, Pediatrics, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology,

Dermatology, Urology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Radiology, Pain Management, Physical Therapy, Dentistry

5-7-1, Kayano, Minoh City

Tel: (072) 728-2001

www.minoh-hp.jp/en

[Map](#)

Clinics

Internal Medicine

Otoshi Medical Clinic

Internal Medicine

Hankyu Grand Bldg. 22F, 8-47 Kakudacho, Kita-ku

Tel: (06) 6315-7700

www.otoshi-medical-clinic.or.jp

[Map](#)

Kondo Clinic

Internal Medicine, Dermatology, Urology, Proctology

1-27, Chayamachi, Kita-ku

Tel: (06) 6375-2222

www.kondo-clinic.jp/umeda.html

[Map](#)

Taiyuji Tanimachi Clinic

Internal Medicine, Dermatology,
Allergies

Stellamate Bldg. 4F,
Taiyuji-cho, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 6364-4177
www.stellamate-clinic.org
Map

Ishigami Clinic

Internal Medicine

Nakanoshima Dai Building 26F, 3-3-
23, Nakanoshima, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 6131-4506
www.ishigamiclinic.com
Map

Yamamoto Internal Clinic

Internal Medicine, Endocrinology

3F, 2-3-5, Namba, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 6213-8250
Map

Sasaki Internal Clinic

Dialysis Treatment, Kidney Diseases
2-2-21, Kujo-minami, Nishi-ku

Tel: (06) 6585-2373
[www.sasaki-medical-clinic.info/
index.html](http://www.sasaki-medical-clinic.info/index.html)
Map

Asakawa Naika Clinic

Internal Medicine, Pediatrics
4-8-2, Motomachi, Suita
Tel: (06) 6381-2671
[www.myclinic.ne.jp/rei89yuk/pc/
index.html](http://www.myclinic.ne.jp/rei89yuk/pc/index.html)
Map

Okuda Clinic

1-7-13, Tarumi-cho, Suita
Tel: (06) 6170-1151
[http://website.infomity.net/
c8770000049/index.html](http://website.infomity.net/c8770000049/index.html)
Map

Ophthalmologists

Inaba Ganka Eye Clinic

Ophthalmology
1-3-1. Umeda, Kita-ku, Osaka
Tel: (06) 6343-2174
www.ganka.com/eguide.html
Map

Maeda Ganka

Ophthalmology
1-1-10, Uchihonmachi, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 6809-3488
www.maedaganka.e-doctor.info
Map

Takada Yoko Eye Clinic

Ophthalmology
3-2-17, Imabashi, Chuo-ku,
Tel: (06) 4706-5858
www.yoko-eye-clinic.jp
Map

Dentists

Ono Dental Clinic

Diamond Building 2F, 5-8,
Taiyuji-cho, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 6362-0648
www.onodental.com/welcome
Map

Umeda Clover Dental Clinic

Dental Implants
Osaka Ekimae Daisan Building 18F,

1-1-3, Umeda, Kita-ku
www.umeda-clover.com
Tel: 0120-305-418
Map

Abo Dental Clinic

1-8-11, Nishi Shinsaibasi, Chuo-ku
Tel: (06) 6271-8147
www.aboshika.com
Map

Gynecology

Minamimorimachi Ladies clinic

Gynecology
2-5-25, Tenjinbashi, Kita-ku, Osaka,
Osaka
Tel: (06) 6356-2824
www.mm-clinic.com
Map

Iwai Ladies Clinic

Gynecology
3F, 4-11-6, Tenjinbashi, Kita-ku
Tel: (06) 6882-8686
www.iwai-lc.com
Map



Pediatricians

Kawagoe Kodomo Clinic

Pediatrics

7-19-7, Toyosato,
Higashiyodogawa-ku
Tel: (06) 6170-2415
www.kawagoe-kc.com
[Map](#)

Kimura Children's Clinic

Pediatrics

11-41, Toyotsu-cho, Suita
Tel: (06) 6338-5050
www004.upp.so-net.ne.jp/kimura-clinic/english/english.html
[Map](#)

Echigo Clinic

Pediatrics, Cardiovascular medicine

4-33-12, Fujisirodai, Suita
Tel: (06) 6832-1230
www.myclinic.ne.jp/echigoclinic/pc/index.html
[Map](#)

International Schools

Osaka and Senri International Schools (OIS & SIS)

Grades
Kindergarten and Elementary
(Age 4-12) (OIS)
Junior high and high (SIS)

4-4-16 Onohara Nishi,
Minoh City
Tel: (072) 727-5050
www.senri.ed.jp
Map

Nearest Station
Kita-Senri Station
(Hankyu Line)

Osaka YMCA International School (OYIS)

Grades
Preschool (Age 3)
Kindergarten (Ages 4~5)
Elementary (Ages 6~)

1-2-2-800 Benten,
Minato-ku
Tel: (06) 6345-1661
www.oyis.org
Map

Nearest Station
Nakatsu Station (Hankyu Line)

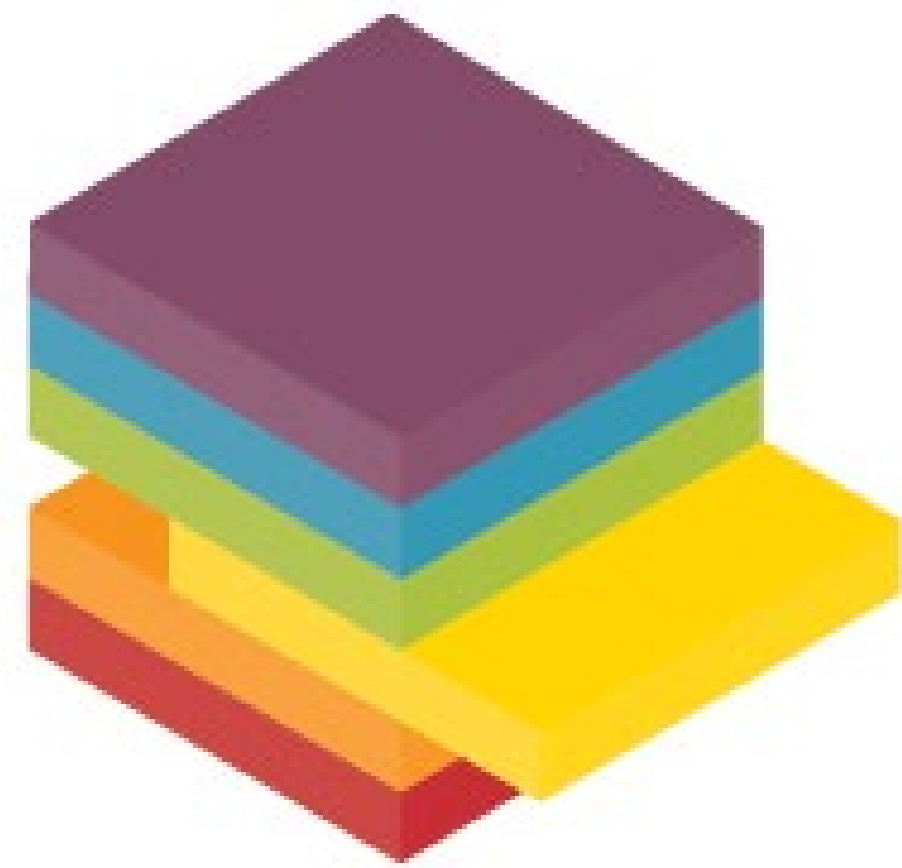
Kansai International School

Grades
Preschool to elementary
(Ages 1~12)

1-5-1 Nagata, Higashi Osaka
Tel: (06) 6784-0014
www.kansai-intlschool.jp/english
Map

Nearest Station
Nagata Station (Keihan Hanna Line)





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1-24-14 Ebisu, Shibuya-ku
Tokyo 150-0013 Japan
Tel: +81-(0)3-5449-7220
Fax: +81-(0)3-5449-5830

Nagoya Office

4F Nakato Marunouchi Bldg.
3-17-6 Marunouchi, Naka-ku
Nagoya 460-0002 Japan
Tel: +81-(0)52-973-3973
Fax: +81-(0)52-973-9293

Kobe (Osaka) Office

8F Shinkobe Bldg.
1-1-1, Sannomiya-cho,
Chuo-ku, Kobe 650-0021
Tel: +81-(0)78-325-3650
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