

TimeOut

OSAKA



OSAKA CONVENTION
& TOURISM BUREAU

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Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau

The hub of Kansai

20

Downtown of Japan

REASONS TO VISIT

OSAKA

Make Osaka your next meeting and event destination

As a key domestic and international hub for trade, exchange and innovation, Osaka has all the facilities to make your event an unforgettable success. Osaka has a vibrant culture, extensive infrastructure, excellent transportation and a diverse range of districts where you'll find the perfect venue for your event. Additionally, Osaka has considerable experience in hosting international events.



Top MICE facilities in Osaka

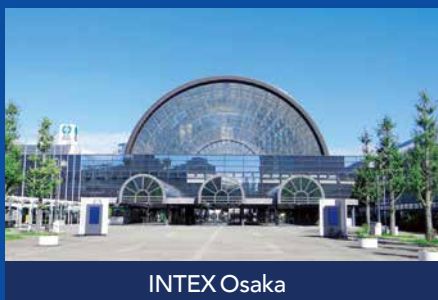
With resources for event planners and support for organizers, Osaka is ready to welcome you



Umeda South Hall



Osaka International Convention Center



INTEX Osaka



Osaka City Central Public Hall



Geihinkan Former Guest House

Some of the top MICE convention facilities and exhibition halls in Osaka include INTEX Osaka, Namba SkyO Convention Hall, Osaka International Convention Center and Umeda South Hall. Looking for a unique venue? Check out the Osaka City Central Public Hall, the Sumiyoshi Taisha Kisshoden and the Osaka Geihinkan Former Guest House.

For more information, visit: mice.osaka-info.jp/en



Inside

A special issue for
Osaka Convention &
Tourism Bureau

Osaka knows how to have a good time

You can expect a lot from Osaka, and not just because it's the hub of Japan's Kansai region. For starters, Osaka is well known for its amazing street food, from piping hot pops of joy known as takoyaki to the golden crispy skewers of kushikatsu. Then there's the diverse art and museum scene, the edgy architecture, the thumping nightlife, the friendly locals that love comedy, and the endless shopping options. Yet, there is also abundant greenery and nature just 30 minutes from the city center. In this issue, you'll discover that Osaka is a city of many wonders, and here are 20 reasons why you should put Osaka on your travel list.

↓ See your Osaka checklist on p6

Osaka 101

Interesting facts and
trivia about Osaka

PAGE 4

Osaka cares

How the city is making tourism
sustainable and accessible
to everyone

PAGE 12

Well connected

Mastering the public
transport system in Osaka

PAGE 13

Vision 2025

What you can expect from
Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

PAGE 14



Nakanoshima Museum of Art,
Osaka featuring 'Ship's Cat
(Muse)' by Kenji Yanobe

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Osaka at a glance

Osaka is renowned for its comedy

From Noh theater to Bunraku puppetry, Osaka takes pride in its long history of performing arts culture. Though you'll find a host of modern musicals and concerts performing in theaters throughout the year, the locals also have a special appreciation for traditional forms of entertainment like *rakugo* (traditional comedic storytelling).

Perhaps this is one of many reasons why Osakans are known for their sharp sense of humor.



The Abeno ward of Osaka, where you'll find Abeno Harukas, the city's tallest skyscraper



Kombu (kelp), a key ingredient of dashi broth

Osaka is affectionately known as the food capital of Japan

The city is not called 'the nation's kitchen' for nothing! Osaka has a long culinary history. It flourished during the Edo period (1603-1868) as one of Japan's centers of commerce, where merchants brought in a diverse array of produce and ingredients from different parts of Japan. Around this time, Osaka developed a gastronomy culture around the umami-packed stock known as dashi, where kelp from Hokkaido and bonito sourced from Wakayama, Kochi and Kagoshima were used to create what is now considered one of the fundamental elements of Japanese cuisine.



The bustling entertainment district of Dotonbori

Osaka is the most populated city in Western Japan

Osaka is not just the largest city in Western Japan – 2.75 million residents according to the World Population Review 2023 – it's also the travel hub for the Kansai region. Major tourist destinations such as Kyoto and Kobe are just a short train ride away, so you can easily use Osaka as the jump-off point to explore this fascinating part of Japan that is rich in culture, history, nature and city life.



Osaka is consistently ranked as one of the world's most livable cities

In the Safe Cities Index 2021 from The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Osaka was given an above-average score in all areas of security – notably in health security, where it ranked in the top five cities – making it the world’s 17th safest city. Osaka has also ranked among the top ten cities in the EIU’s Global Liveability Index every year since 2018, with impressive scores in stability, education, healthcare and infrastructure.



Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest

Some of the world's greatest luminaries were born and bred in Osaka

Several notable figures who have left an indelible mark on Japan and the world were born in Osaka. This distinguished group includes architect Tadao Ando (who designed the Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest pictured above), founder of Suntory Holdings Shinjiro Torii, and the creator of Astro Boy, Osamu Tezuka, to name a few.



Ikeda, Osaka is the birthplace of the world's first instant noodles

The ubiquitous instant noodles you're accustomed to seeing in the supermarket? You can thank Momofuku Ando for this invention. The founder of Nissin Foods created Chicken Ramen, the world's first instant noodles, in 1958, after a long process of trial and error, as a way to help the population recover from food shortages in the post-war era.

In 2022, Osaka opened its first Pride Center to support the LGBTQIA+ community

Osaka's Doyamacho district has long been known as a hub for the city's LGBTQIA+ community, with dozens of bars and nightclubs catering to gender and sexual minorities. And recently, the city opened its first Pride Center to support the community outside the realm of nightlife. Located in the Kita ward, the center offers counseling services and has a small library of LGBTQIA+ books. Everyone is welcome here, regardless of gender and sexuality. Come fall 2024, Osaka will be the first Asian city to host the International LGBTQ+ Travel Association's annual global convention, further cementing its commitment to equality and diversity.

20 REASONS TO VISIT OSAKA

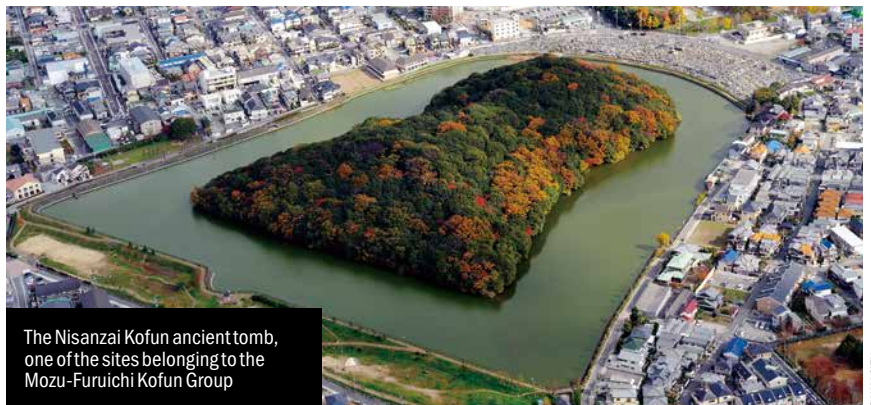


01

Osaka is the host of the 2025 World Expo

With the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai coming soon, now is the perfect time to explore the **Expo '70**

Commemorative Park. This park was formerly the site of the 1970 Expo and it still has some reminders of the event. The most famous is the Tower of the Sun installation, which was designed by the late Japanese artist Taro Okamoto. Inside the Expo Pavilion – another surviving structure from 1970 – you'll find photographs, videos and other exhibits about the world's fair. To get a bird's-eye view of the park, take a walk along the Sorado aerial promenade to look out over the trees and gardens that replaced most of the 1970 Expo buildings.



The Nisanzai Kofun ancient tomb, one of the sites belonging to the Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group

SAKAI CITY

The largest and most vibrant city in Western Japan offers some of the country's most unique attractions and exciting experiences. Here's why Osaka should be on your travel list



The lush and expansive Osaka Castle grounds

SEAN PAVONE / SHUTTERSTOCK

02 **Osaka has a rich history**
Osaka has a long history dating back around 1,600 years. It was once even the capital of Japan, so there's a lot to discover here. The ancient tomb clusters of **Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group** are a Unesco World Heritage Site. These burial mounds in Osaka prefecture's Sakai, Habikino and Fujiidera cities are where former emperors from around the late 4th to the early 5th century were laid to rest.

Osaka Castle, which was originally built in 1583 but is now preserved as a museum, tells the city's story through a collection of artifacts. Also, don't miss the view from the top floor. Across the road from the castle is the **Osaka Museum of History**, which has a life-size recreation of Naniwanomiya Palace's interior. Meanwhile, over at the **Osaka Museum of House and Living** in Tenjinbashi-suji Rokucho, you can travel back in time to the Edo era (1603-1868) via a faithfully recreated townscape of old Osaka.



Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka

© OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU

03 **Osaka boasts some of Japan's most impressive art exhibitions**

Osaka's thriving art scene offers a diverse array of works spanning multiple genres and art periods, from the traditional Japanese woodblock prints at the **Osaka Ukiyoe Museum** to the contemporary collections at the **Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka**. The latter is just one of several notable art institutions on Nakanoshima island. Standing guard right outside its striking black cubic building is a whimsical astronaut cat sculpture by Kenji Yanobe.

While opened rather recently in February 2022, the Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka took about 40 years of planning to build and amass its diverse collection. The museum's roughly 6,000 works cover a broad spectrum from art to design, representing both international and Japanese names like Amedeo Modigliani and Yuzo Saeki.

04 **No other city does street food like Osaka**

Stroll through Osaka's entertainment epicenter Dotonbori and you'll see that the city is obsessed with food – and that's not surprising considering Osaka is the birthplace of some of the world's most iconic street eats. The ubiquitous **takoyaki** (pictured below), a ball-shaped savory snack with a gooey center encasing chunky bits of octopus, is a joy to eat any time of the day.

So is **okonomiyaki**, a savory pancake cooked on a *teppan* grill right in front of you, stacked with any imaginable ingredients from seafood and pork to noodles and yam. It really is a dish where everything and anything goes. As for those deep-fried skewers of meat and vegetables known as **kushikatsu** – who could resist all that crispy golden goodness? Come to Osaka and forget your diet. Your appetite will thank you.



TANPONG WATANABE / SHUTTERSTOCK

05 Osaka's cityscape is made up of unique and iconic architecture

The imposing Osaka Castle might be the city's most recognizable landmark, but Osaka's skyline is punctuated with a host of architectural wonders.

Among them is the futuristic-looking **Umeda Sky Building**, distinguished by its pair of 40-story-tall towers connected at the top by a donut-shaped structure that is home to the Kuchu Teien Observatory.

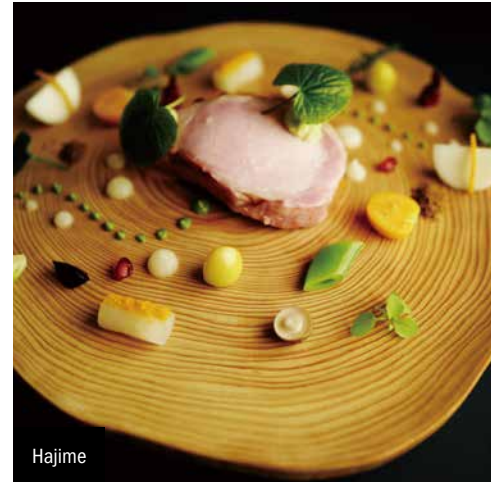
The **National Museum of Art, Osaka** is another modern example. Despite being a subterranean facility, the museum makes a grand statement with a stunning steel sculpture at its entrance above-ground. Designed by world-renowned architect César Pelli, the sculpture was inspired by the life force of bamboo.

For an eccentric take on religious architecture, the **Namba Yasaka Shrine** is a must-see attraction with one of its worship buildings made to look like a lion's head.



Namba Yasaka Shrine

© OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU



Hajime

Hajime

06 Some of the world's best restaurants are in Osaka

Osaka may

be known for its street food, but the city's fine dining scene is fast gaining a reputation in the culinary world. In fact, Osaka has the fourth highest number of Michelin stars in the world.

One of the most celebrated restaurants in the city, **Fujiya 1935** is awarded with two Michelin stars for its innovative take on Japanese produce using modern European cooking techniques. Then there's the three-Michelin-starred **Hajime**, whose immaculately plated dishes are inspired by nature and the seasons.

07 Osaka has a permanent teamLab museum set in a botanical garden

Osaka's nightlife extends far beyond its bars and clubs, with attractions like the sensational **teamLab Botanical Garden**. This one-of-a-kind after-dark museum harnesses cutting-edge technology to create artworks that enhance the site's natural splendor while showcasing the region's flora.

Captivating displays include the surreal camellia garden, where ovoid-shaped sculptures, which look reflective during the day, transform into a glowing spectacle come nightfall. In fact, the many interactive exhibits scattered across the expansive wooded grounds offer different experiences at different times of the year to reflect the seasonal changes of the garden.



TEAMLAB. RESONATING MICROCOSMS IN THE COMMON CAMELLIA GARDEN - SOLIDIFIED LIGHT COLOR, SUNRISE AND SUNSET © TEAMLAB

08 Osaka has a diverse drinking scene

Osaka has the most exciting drinking scene in Kansai with its sheer variety of bars. Leading the pack are **Bar Nayuta** and **Bible Club**, both featured in the World's 50 Best Discovery database. These two cocktail specialists each have a distinctive edge of their own: Bar Nayuta is a hidden bespoke cocktail den while the underground Bible Club is inspired by pre-Prohibition America.

For something more casual, Uranamba is filled with *tachinomi* standing bars frequented by locals. And over at America-mura, there is a multitude of one-of-a-kind experiences, such as **Space Station**, which stands out with its vintage collection of video games and consoles dating back to the '80s.

09 The clubbing scene in Osaka is booming

Osaka's nightlife is legendary, with locals embracing every opportunity to party till late, and there's no shortage of options to choose from. At one of the city's most popular nightclubs, **Pure Osaka**, the walls are decorated with faux deer head mounts and the music goes on until 5am.

No worries even if you have very specific music preferences, as new venues catering to diverse groups are constantly popping up in the city. The new kid on the block **Club Under**, for example, has already garnered a devoted following among techno and trance enthusiasts, thanks to its impressive roster of up-and-coming DJs.

10 Osaka has its own LGBTQIA+ district

Located just a ten-minute walk east of Umeda Station, **Doyamacho** is the undisputed heart of Osaka's LGBTQIA+ community. More importantly, the area provides a safe and inclusive environment where queer folks can relax and socialize without fear of discrimination or harassment.

Doyamacho is a lot of fun and naturally is popular among locals and international visitors with its welcoming karaoke bars and bilingual drag shows courtesy of **Haus of Kinki**. For the former, check out **Village** and then move on to **Explosion** for its shimmering disco ball and bright pink dance floor.



Super Nintendo World at Universal Studios Japan

11 Osaka has one of Japan's best theme parks: Universal Studios Japan

Affectionately known simply as USJ, Universal Studios Japan in Osaka is a fun-packed theme park that brings some of the world's most beloved movies and characters to life, including Hello Kitty, Pokémon and Minions. It is also the location of the world's first **Super Nintendo World**, an immersive attraction that transports visitors into a real-life Super Mario video game. Here, guests can complete side quests, unlock points and even punch yellow blocks, just like Mario and Luigi.

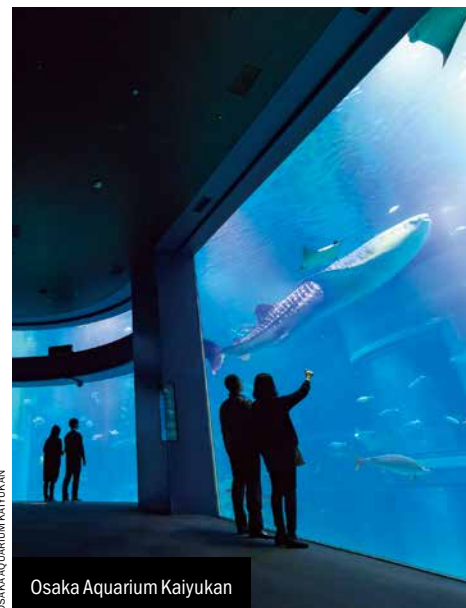
Although USJ is one of several theme parks around the world owned by NBCUniversal, it has unique thrills that set it apart from its international counterparts. In the past, these included seasonal events inspired by popular Japanese franchises like Sailor Moon, Doraemon and Demon Slayer.

12 Osaka is for the whole family

For the young'uns and those young-at-heart, Osaka is a whole lot of fun. There are even great indoor options for cold and rainy days, such as the **Legoland Discovery Center Osaka**. While there's a 4D cinema and VR ride, this attraction by the world's most iconic brick is all about fueling your kids' imagination, especially with the Model Builder's workshop.

The **Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan** is impressive, too, not least because of its resident whale sharks, the largest fish in the world. Here the exhibits spread out across six floors, taking you on a journey through the world's most biodiverse regions.

CupNoodles Museum Osaka Ikeda, which is dedicated to the life and achievements of instant noodles inventor Momofuku Ando, promises more unique experiences, especially the chance to create your own CupNoodles.



Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan



Cerezo Osaka

13 Osaka is crazy about sports

Osaka has an unwavering passion for sports. Whatever your game, you're sure to find a place to watch along with passionate fans. Soccer is huge, with two top-flight J.League teams in **Gamba Osaka** and **Cerezo Osaka**. Baseball fans should head to Kyocera Dome Osaka to catch an **Orix Buffaloes** match. Osaka's top division rugby team are the **Hanazono Kintetsu Liners**, who play at Hanazono Stadium, where you'll also find a free museum on match days.

14

The department stores and shopping malls are next-level

Whether it's designer fashion, traditional

kimono or home decor, Osaka's wondrous department stores and shopping centers have everything you could imagine. An Osaka institution with a history dating back to 1929, **Hankyu Department Store Umeda Main Store** offers 15 floors of retail therapy including one of Japan's largest cosmetics sections, all directly connected to Osaka Umeda Station. For *depachika*, Japan's world-famous food halls, the one at **Hanshin Department Store Umeda Main Store** will have you spoilt for choice.

Namba Parks, on the other hand, is no mere department store as the massive property features a lush terraced rooftop garden that stretches from the ground level to the 9th floor. Being one of Japan's largest department stores, **Abeno Harukas Kintetsu Main Store** could easily occupy your day. Located in the 300m-tall Abeno Harukas skyscraper, it offers 16 floors of shops and restaurants plus ample resting areas. The building itself also hosts an art museum and observatory.



Tenjinbashi-Suji Street

© OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU



Hanshin Department Store Umeda Main Store

© OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU

15

Shop till you drop with Osaka's myriad of shopping options

Osaka has endless options for retail therapy.

The city's *shotengai* (shopping arcades) offer a traditional experience, especially the 380-year-old **Shinsaibashi-Suji Street**, a 600-meter covered arcade known for fashion, including a selection of designer stores. **Tenjinbashi-Suji Street**, on the other hand, has everything from kitchenware to kimono along a 2.6km stretch, making it Japan's longest *shotengai*.

Osaka also has plenty of underground malls that are bustling come rain or shine. **Namba NanNan** is connected to Namba Station and has three different zones based on the type of stores, while **Crysta Nagahori** links up three central Osaka metro stations in Shinsaibashi and has around 100 shops. Back above ground, **America-Mura** is Osaka's youthful shopping district with trendy boutiques and street fashion.

16

Osaka is a festival city

Osaka is a lively city year-round, and it gets even more exciting in the summer when there are festivals abound. The **Tenjin Festival** is one of the biggest in the country and dates back over 1,000 years. It takes place annually in July, with floats parading from Osaka Temmangu Shrine through the streets and even aboard boats on the Okawa River. The **Aizen Festival** falls shortly after, in which you'll witness a geisha parading in a *hoekago* (literally means 'treasure basket') around the Aizendo temple.

In August, catch the **Naniwa Yodogawa Fireworks Festival** for a spectacular display along the Yodogawa River in front of the city skyline. Then there's **Summer Sonic** at Maishima Sports Island in the same month. This is one of Japan's biggest music festivals with major international and Japanese artists.

In fall, take a 25-minute train ride from Namba to Kishiwada for the **Kishiwada Danjiri Festival**, when a *danjiri* (massive wooden float) is pulled through the historic castle town. It takes place twice a year in late September and mid-October.

Back in the main city in November, **Suminoe Art Beat** brings art installations to Osaka's Kitakagaya district. Also, don't miss the **Festival of the Lights** held from November to January, where Osaka's most popular attractions are lit up in colorful illuminations, including Osaka City Hall and the famous Midosuji avenue.



Naniwa Yodogawa Fireworks Festival

© NANIWA YODOGAWA FIREWORKS FESTIVAL

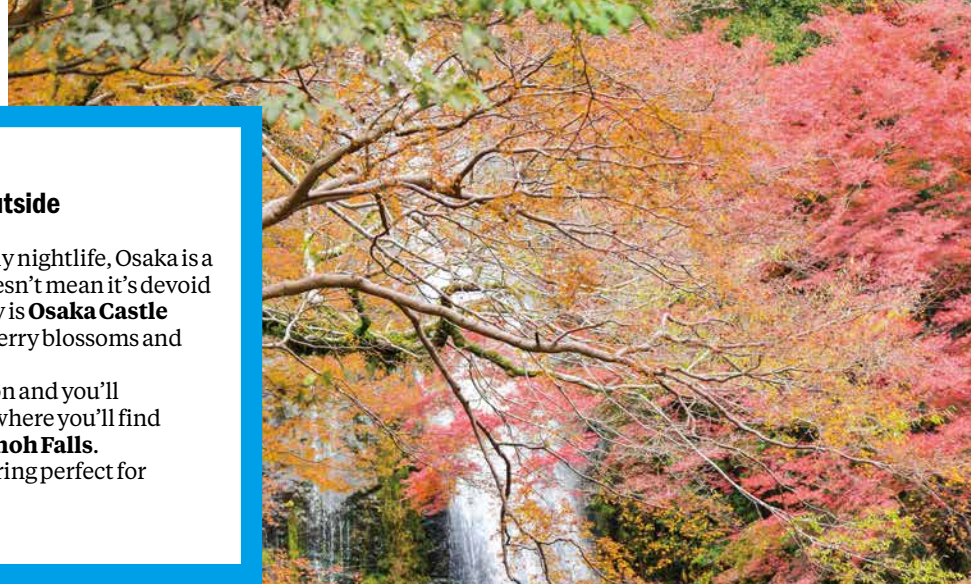
17

There's abundant nature in and outside the city

With its vibrant food culture and lively nightlife, Osaka is a popular city destination. But that doesn't mean it's devoid of nature. Right in the heart of the city is **Osaka Castle Park**, a famous spot to catch seasonal flowers such as cherry blossoms and hydrangeas against the backdrop of the striking castle.

Take a 30-minute train ride from Osaka-Umeda Station and you'll reach Minoh. This small city is known for **Minoh Park**, where you'll find **Ryuan-ji temple** and the gentle streams that lead to **Minoh Falls**.

Near the park is the **Minoh Onsen Spa Garden**, a hot spring perfect for unwinding after exploring the great outdoors.



18

Osaka produces a host of artisanal crafts that make for perfect souvenirs

With Osaka's rich history, it's not surprising that the city has been honing its arts and crafts for centuries. These days, the city's artisan community is still thriving, and they make some of the most unique (and practical) Japanese souvenirs. The hand-forged **Sakai knives** are trusted by professional chefs for their sharpness, variety and durability, so home cooks would be proud to have one in their kitchen.

Beautifully polished **Naniwa pewterware** such as sake cups and teapots are made from a stable metal that doesn't affect the delicate flavor of the drinks they hold. **Senshu towels**, on the other hand, are known for their high absorbency and softness. Even today, they are still colored using the Naniwa *honzome* hand-dyeing technique unique to Osaka.



Minoh Falls

KITTI/SHUTTERSTOCK

19

Osaka has a vibrant pop culture scene

Osaka's center of all things pop culture – anime and manga included – is **Den Den Town** in Nipponbashi. There are huge outlets of Yellow Submarine and Animate to explore, perfect for finding collectibles, books and DVDs. Den Den Town is also a great place to buy electronics, as it's the biggest 'electric town' in Western Japan.

For something more immersive, **Ninja-Do** in Shin-Imamiya lets you live out your ninja dreams (reservations required): you can put on the famous black outfit and try classic experiences like stealth walking and throwing a *shuriken* (star-shaped blade). Meanwhile, the **Pink Kawaii Cafe** in Dotonbori lives up to its name with cutesy food in a very pink space, where you can take photos with the staff dressed in Harajuku-style outfits.

20

Enjoy some of the most luxurious experiences in Japan

For an unforgettable splurge in Osaka, skip the bus tours and opt for an extravagant helicopter ride with Ogawa Air's **Osaka Sky Cruise**, which will take you up in the air for a jaw-dropping aerial tour of the city.

Prefer to immerse yourself in Osaka's unique culture? There are exclusive tours that will get you access to an intimate Noh performance at Osaka Temmangu Shrine followed by a tea ceremony. You could even spend a night at the luxurious forest retreat Otowa Sansou.



Den Den Town

© OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU

→ Note: please check the respective venues' and events' websites for the latest operating hours and program.

Osaka cares



Here are Osaka's plans for an inclusive and more sustainable future

OSAKA'S APPEAL GOES BEYOND its bustling urban landscape, impressive architecture and world-class culinary scene. What truly distinguishes the city is its unwavering dedication to becoming an environmentally advanced city that meets its sustainable development goals (SDGs).

While there is still much work to be done, Osaka has already made significant progress in creating a more accessible and sustainable future.

What's been done so far

Some changes the city has made so far include policies to reduce single-use plastics. Since 2019, businesses no longer provide shopping bags free of charge. At convenience stores, many ready-to-eat meals like bento lunch boxes and onigiri (rice balls) now come in biodegradable packaging.

As for reducing the use of bottled water, the city has joined the **MyMizu** initiative, which helps people locate places in the city where they can refill their water bottles for free. And it's all done through an app.

Engaging the community

Leave it to Osaka to demonstrate that there's an art to processing waste thoughtfully. Designed by Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, the **Maishima Incineration Plant** is a joint project between Osaka, Yao and Matsubara cities to encourage people to engage with the environment and contemplate the relationships between nature and urban living.

Recognizable for its colorful, eye-catching architecture, this state-of-the-art waste disposal facility will make you think about environment preservation and what it means to coexist with nature.

Looking ahead

Osaka has set more ambitious targets for combating pollution and creating a more sustainable future. By 2030, the city aims to reduce gas emissions by 30 percent compared to 2013 levels, with the ultimate goal of achieving a 'Zero Carbon Osaka' by 2050.

Additionally, as a port city, Osaka is working towards ensuring a clean water environment and zero marine pollution by 2050.

Barrier-free living

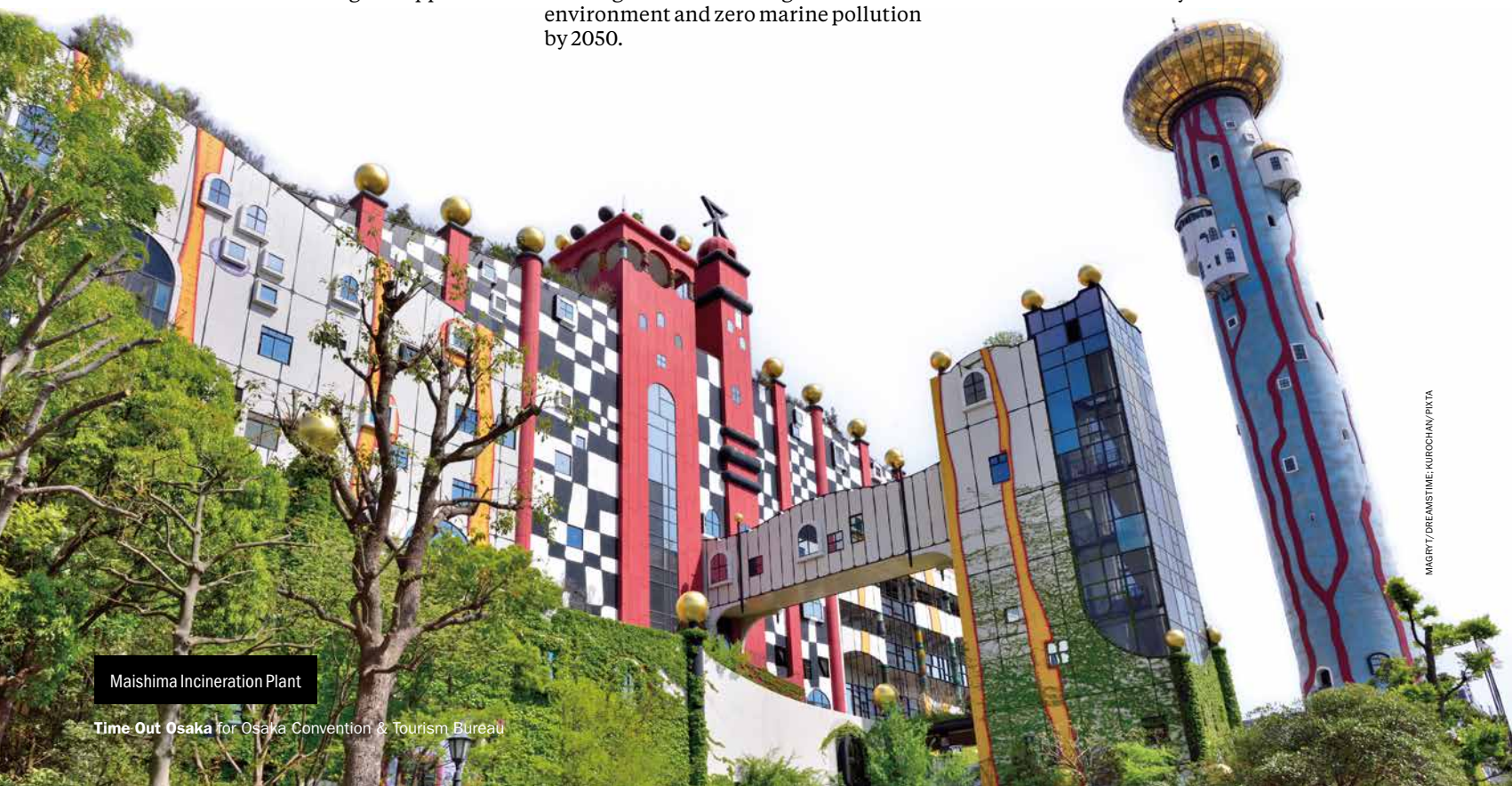
While walking along the streets of Osaka, you may have noticed that many pavements are lined with raised yellow tiles, otherwise known as tenji blocks. These blocks were first implemented in Japan in the 1960s to help visually impaired people navigate urban areas, but Osaka has since expanded its barrier-free designs to address a broader range of disabilities.

All 133 **Osaka Metro and New Tram stations**, for instance, have wheelchair-accessible transfer routes as well as assisted services for boarding and alighting trains. In addition, each train carriage has a priority seating zone for the elderly and those who are pregnant or physically disabled. During rush hour, passengers are asked to turn off their cellular devices to avoid disrupting pacemakers. Stations also feature multi-function toilets with wheelchair access while some even have nursing rooms.

Accessible tourism

Osaka isn't just looking to make the city more accessible for its residents, the government is also striving to improve barrier-free features for tourists. The Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau is working with the Osaka Universal Tourism Promotion Council alongside the government, transport companies and tourism businesses to ensure that everyone who visits Osaka feels welcome.

Moreover, there are tailor-made tourism services for people with disabilities, like the one by **Omakase** that offers private one-day tours of Osaka for wheelchair users. Other accessible tourism features implemented so far include audio guides for visually impaired travelers and sign language interpretation services, with more solutions on the way.



Maishima Incineration Plant

Getting Around

Ultimate guide to transportation in Osaka

Master Osaka's trains and busses from the moment you arrive, and save money with convenient transport passes

GETTING INTO OSAKA

Osaka has two airports. The biggest is Kansai International Airport, around 40km south of the city in Osaka Bay. The quickest way to the city center is the **Kansai-Airport Express Haruka**, which takes you to Tennoji (about 30 minutes) and Shin-Osaka (about 50 minutes) stations.

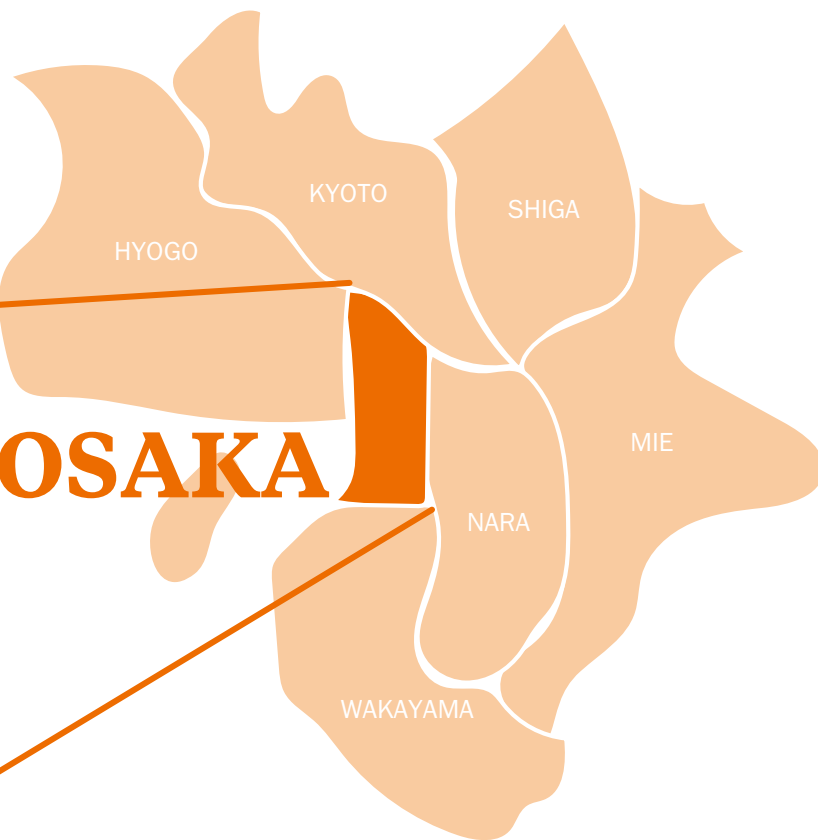
The **Kansai-Airport Rapid Service**, meanwhile, gets you to Osaka Station in 71 minutes. For Namba, it's a 45-minute ride on the **Nankai Line Airport Express**, or 35 minutes on the **Limited Express Rapid**. Those traveling to Osaka Station can now take the Express Haruka, which will get you there in 47 minutes.

Itami Airport, also known as Osaka International Airport, is closer to the city. To reach Hankyu Osaka Umeda Station, take the **Osaka Monorail** and transfer to the **Hankyu Takarazuka line** at Hotarugaike. The journey takes about 30 minutes.

If you're traveling in and out of Osaka via shinkansen, you'll be doing so at JR Shin-Osaka Station, the western terminus of Japan's high-speed rail. From here, you can jump onto local trains into the city center.

GETTING AROUND OSAKA

Subways and trains are the easiest way to get around Osaka. For convenience, get yourself an Icoca card. This prepaid IC transportation card is available at ticket vending machines in all JR West stations. You can also



load money onto your card at ticket machines.

Icoca isn't just for transportation, either, as it can also be used to make payments in many shops and restaurants around Osaka. Note that there's a ¥500 refundable deposit for each card.

Coming to Osaka from Tokyo? Pismo and Suica IC transportation cards can be used in Osaka, too.

MONEY-SAVING TRANSPORT PASSES

If you're planning to do a lot of sightseeing in one day, we recommend the **Osaka Amazing Pass**. For ¥2,800, it gets you unlimited rides on a selection of trains and busses, plus free entry at more than 40 major tourist attractions including the Osaka

Museum of House and Living, Umeda Sky Building Kuchuteien Observatory, Tombori River Cruise and Expo '70 Commemorative Park. The pass even offers discounts at over 40 shops and restaurants. One day not enough? There's also a two-day pass for ¥3,600. You can buy the Osaka Amazing Pass at Osaka tourist information centers.

Also consider the **Enjoy Eco Card**, which gets you unlimited rides on the Osaka Metro and Osaka City Bus (except for busses running to Ikea Tsuruhama, Universal Studios Japan, airport and on-demand busses) for one day. It's ¥820 for adults (¥620 on weekends and holidays) and ¥310 for children. You can buy the pass from Osaka Metro station ticket machines, commuter pass sales counters and selected shops.



Use an Icoca transport card to get around Osaka easily

EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI



All eyes on Osaka

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan takes place on the manmade island of Yumeshima at a site designed by starchitect Sou Fujimoto

OSAKA WILL MAKE HISTORY in 2025 as the first Japanese city to host the World Expo twice. It last staged the event in 1970, which holds the record as the best-attended Expo of the 20th century. With big plans in place, the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai is sure to be just as memorable.

World Expos have been taking place since 1851 and now occur every five years for up to six months at a time. These large-scale events bring together innovations from around the world and are often the first places to see new technology. Over the years, the likes of elevators, electric cars and AED devices have been unveiled at Expos. You can discover the innovations and culture of each participating country at its own pavilion during the event.

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai is Osaka's second and Japan's third World Expo, following the Aichi Expo in 2005. It takes place from April 13 to October 13 2025 on the manmade island of Yumeshima in Osaka Bay.

World-renowned architect Sou Fujimoto is in charge of bringing the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai site to life with a stunning

design. Fujimoto plans to include plenty of nature by incorporating green spaces throughout the site as well as ample seating and rest areas, similar to the design from the Expo 2020 Dubai. As a showpiece, the venue will feature an enormous ring-shaped roof that's 20m-tall and has a circumference of 2km. Visitors can walk along, inside as well as on top of this structure, which affords breathtaking views of the Osaka Bay.

Another key component of the Expo is its eye-catching mascot. **Myaku-Myaku** (pictured bottom left) is a shapeshifting water-like creature designed by graphic designer and illustrator Kohei Yamashita. Since Osaka is known as Japan's city of water, the mascot is presented as a shapeshifter that can take on many forms, just like water. The name 'Myaku-Myaku' is also meaningful, as it conveys something being passed down through generations, like how the 1970 Expo has influenced the 2025 event.



Yumeshima, the site of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

VISITING EXPO '70 COMMEMORATIVE PARK



The Osaka World Expo in 1970 was the first Expo to be held in Asia and it became a great success. The event took place at Senri Hills and featured 77 countries and regions, with more than 64 million people visiting during its six-month run. Today, the site of the event is preserved as the Expo '70 Commemorative Park and it's a great place to explore and learn about the historical event.

One of the highlights is the Tower of the Sun, an art installation that's about 70m-tall by the late avant garde artist Taro Okamoto. Built as part of the theme pavilion for the 1970 Expo, the tower was open to visitors during the event but closed after for renovations. However, it reopened in 2018 and you can now enter the tower on tours (priority for those with advance reservations, ¥720, or ¥310 for elementary school students, in addition to park entry fee). Inside, you can see the 41m-tall 'Tree of Life' installation, which was designed by Okamoto and tells the story of evolution.

There's much more to see and do in the park. You could spend a full day here checking out the Japanese Garden, Rose Garden for Peace, Japan Folk Crafts Museum and National Museum of Ethnology.

JAPAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE 2025 WORLD EXPOSITION; TOWER OF THE SUN BY OSAKA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT



6 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD STUDY IN OSAKA



Looking for a university, grad school, professional training college or Japanese language school? Osaka has plenty of options to help you further your studies. Here are a few reasons why you should make Osaka your number one choice for education.



Osaka is one of the world's most livable and Japan's most affordable cities



Day and night, Osaka is extremely safe



The locals are friendly and welcoming



There are many career opportunities after graduating



Osaka is attracting events and opportunities from around the world



Osaka is the perfect destination to immerse yourself in Japanese culture

Osaka is committed to becoming the No. 1 international student city in Asia

Osaka is home to some of the region's most prominent universities, vocational schools and language schools, where you'll find English-language programs and international support services. The city's top institutions include Osaka University, the Osaka College of Technology and the Osaka Japanese Language Education Center.

Start your new academic journey in Osaka here: studyinosaka.com

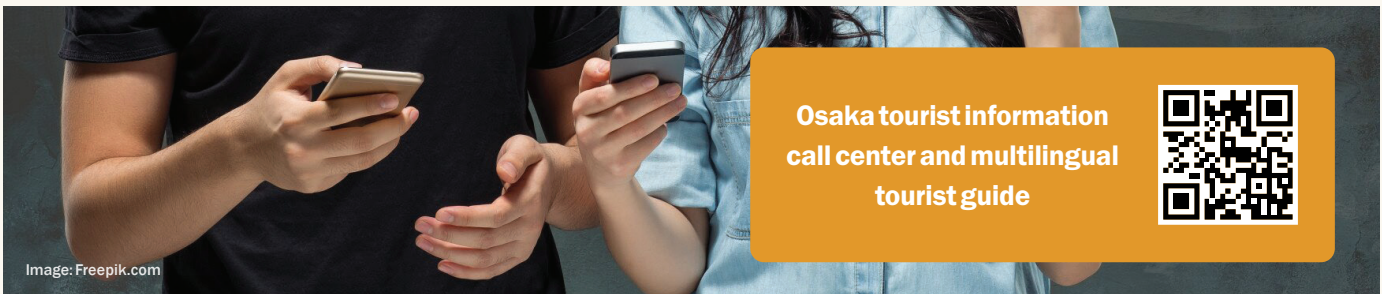


Welcome to Osaka

Established in 2003, the Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau is the official marketing organization for Osaka prefecture, it works on strategic tourism projects to help promote Osaka as a premier business, leisure and convention destination. The bureau's fundamental roles include expanding general tourism, promoting the city as an international hub for business, attracting domestic and international students to the city's prestigious educational institutions, and contributing to the region's urban and economic development.

Full steam ahead!

With the eyes of the world on Osaka ahead of the Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, the Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau is taking on a large role to help promote and foster momentum for the upcoming world's fair.



Osaka tourist information
call center and multilingual
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