

## Transportation Guide: Narita – Aizu-Wakamatsu

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**Short explanation:** <http://www.hyperdia.com> To find timetable, and all the details related to your trip, please type NARITA AIRPORT and Aizu-Wakamatsu. iPhone and Android versions of this application are available. They require the Internet connection.

### Suggestions:

1. At the arrival hall of the airport, stop by the Information desk and ask for the Tokyo map, Tokyo JR and subway maps, and for Free WIFI Card (<http://flets.com/freewifi/card.html>) (They are free of charge).
2. At the Aizu station, stop by the Information desk and ask for the English and Japanese maps of Aizu (free of charge); staff members speak English.
3. If you use iPhone or Android mobile phone, please pay attention to <http://www.nanika.net/Metro> (this software is free and very helpful; it does not require the Internet connection).
4. Free WIFI is available at the arrival hall of the airport. If you connect to the Internet, the airport home page is downloaded automatically. You may get the links to the useful applications for your mobile device while you are in Japan.

**Route covered by the University (for invited speakers or visiting researchers):** The cost for your travel is 11,020 (university pays 11,615 yen).

To get tickets:

1. Arrival hall of the airport, the counter of the KEISEI LINE: you should get the ticket for the first part of your trip: Narita –Ueno by Skyliner (Japanese phrase: Skyliner no kippu UENO made onegaishimasu) (you should pronounce it in German way, syllable by syllable) (2470 yen), All seats on these trains are reserved: you will be given a fixed seat on the train.
2. Airport, B1F, counter of JR lines: you should get the ticket for the rest of your trip: Ueno – Aizu-Wakamatsu. Make sure that departure station is Ueno for your JR tickets. Japanese phrase to order the ticket: Shinkansen no Kippu UENO kara Aizu-Wakamatsu, Fukushima ken made jiyu-seki onegaishimasu (One way non-reserved ticket from Ueno to Aizu-Wakamatsu, Fukushima prefecture (8550 yen). This ticket is valid for any shinkansen and train during the calendar day.
3. When you get off at the Aizu station (there is only one exit), EKIMAE FUJI GRAND HOTEL is in the square on the right, 50 meters. Toyoko-Inn Hotel is on the left, 100 meters. You may see the hotel logo on the top of the hotel building TOYOKO-INN, in blue light.
4. Smoking is not allowed on the trains.

**Note:** In order to pass through the ticket gates, enter all your tickets into the slot, walk through the gate and collect the tickets at the other side. When you get off at the final destination, tickets will be kept in the ticket gates.

**Simplest way to reach Aizu from Narita:** (Price: 11,840 yen) Airport, B1F, counter of JR lines: You should get ticket for Narita Express: Narita – Tokyo station, for shinkansen: Tokyo – Koriyama, and for the local JR train: Koriyama – Aizu-Wakamatsu. (Narita Express timetable: <http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/timetables/index.html>). Japanese phrase to order the ticket: Narita Express to Shinkansen no Kippu Aizu-Wakamatsu, Fukushima ken made jiyu-seki onegaishimasu (One way non-reserved ticket to Aizu-Wakamatsu, Fukushima prefecture by Narita Express and shinkansen)

### Detailed explanation:

Amount of money you need

- 1) Your trip will last 5 to 6.5 hours. On the train, you can get: a cup of coffee (500 yen), sandwich (500 yen), Japanese lunch box (obenta) 800 to 1500 yen (you will be given a chopstick, no forks), water 150 – 200 yen. To have dinner, you will spend 700 to 1500 yen in Aizu, or in Tokyo. At your hotel, it might be more expensive: ~ 2000 yen without alcohol drinks. There is Mosburger next to the station building: 550 to 800 yen to eat there. In the building next to the station, there is a Supermarket PIVOT. It is open until 8pm. Yogurt: 100

-140 yen; sandwich (European style): 180 – 250 yen; juice, 100 g.: 100 – 140 yen; lunch at the university: 400 – 600 yen. Breakfast at the hotel: ~700 yen.

- 2) I recommend you to exchange your money at the Narita Airport. From my experience, the rate (foreign currency to Japanese Yen) in overseas countries is significantly low. Credit cards are not common in Japan: you can pay using it at the airport for your tickets to Aizu and at the hotel. It will not be accepted on the way to Aizu. Exchange counters can be found in the arrival hall or departure hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor at the airport.

### **A piece of advice for your trip from Narita to Aizu**

1. Your luggage: Japanese people usually do not travel with big suitcases. There is no space on the train to put it. The best situation, if you have a suitcase (carry in size allowed to take into the cabin of the airplane). In the case of a large suitcase, I would suggest to send it to the hotel from the Narita airport: Delivery service is available at the airport. There are several counters in the arrival hall. Price is about 1600 yen. It will be at the hotel on the next day in the morning. Hotel address: EKIMAE FUJI GRAND HOTEL Ekimae 5-25, Aizu Wakamatsu City JAPAN 965-0041, phone: 0242-24111, <http://www.agoda.com/ekimae-fuji-grand-hotel/hotel/fukushima-jp.html>. Toyoko Inn Aizuwakamatsu Ekimae, address: 222-1, Byakkomachi Aizuwakamatsu-city, Fukushima Postal Code: 965-0024, Tel: +81-(0)242-32-1045 Fax: +81-(0)242-32-1046, [http://www.toyoko-inn.com/e\\_hotel/00177/index.html](http://www.toyoko-inn.com/e_hotel/00177/index.html)
2. During your trip, you have to change trains at Ueno station (Tokyo) and at Koriyama station. Ueno is the final stop of Skyliner. There is only one exit there. After passing the ticket gates, please turn left to the escalator. On the street, there is a train bridge in 100 meters to the left. The JR Ueno station is under the bridge. At Koriyama station, you should follow the signs Local Trains, and your platform is Platform 2. Koriyama and Aizu are final stops for the train you should take.
3. When you get in on the shinkansen at the Ueno station, please ask the staff member at the gates if it stops at Koriyama station (just show him your tickets). Just in case, Japanese phrase: Koriyama ni ikimaska? (Does it have a stop at Koriyama?) You can take any seat available in the cars 1, 2 and the last two cars on the other side of the train (the number of cars is different from train to train). Non-reserved cars are marked in English.
4. Time to travel:
  - [ Narita – Ueno: 1 hour;
  - [ Ueno – Koriyama: 1 h 20 min – 1 h 50 min (depends on the train);
  - [ Koriyama – Aizu: 1 h 10 min.
5. Toilets are available on the trains of every category.

About Aizu: <http://www.city.aizuwakamatsu.fukushima.jp/e/index.htm>

Weather in Aizu: <http://www.wunderground.com/global/stations/47570.html>

XXXXXX-san,  
Manager, International  
Relations,  
Phone: 0242-372767

Izumi-san,  
Foreign Personal Adviser,  
Office: 0242-37-2760

Vitaly Klyuev  
Phone number:  
office: 0242-37-2603