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1. Geographical location

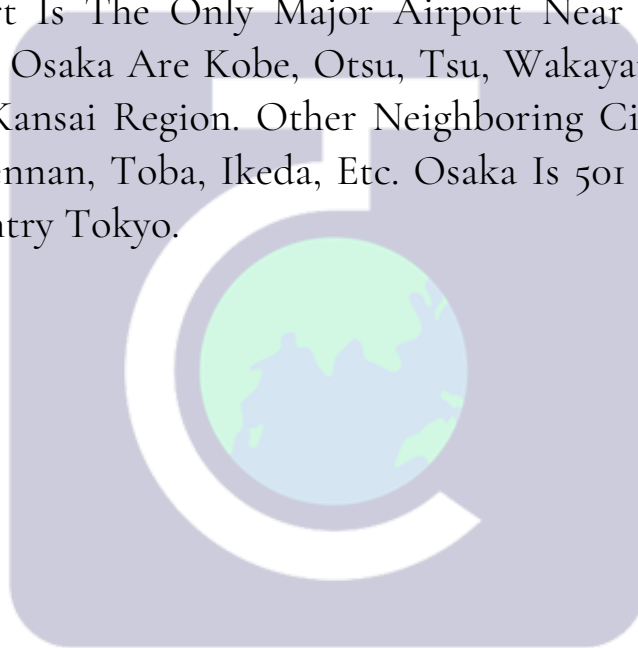
Situated at the mouth of the Yodo River, Osaka city is in the Kansai region of Japan on the Honshu Island and is the capital of the Osaka Prefecture. At an elevation of 4 m, the city covers an area of 223 square kilometers. At the western part of the city lies the Osaka Bay. The highest point in Osaka is in Tsurumi-ku at 37.5 m, and the lowest point at -2.2 meters is in Nishiyodogawa-ku. The city lies in the humid subtropical climate zone resulting in hot and humid summers, mild winters, and hot, humid, and wet spring seasons.



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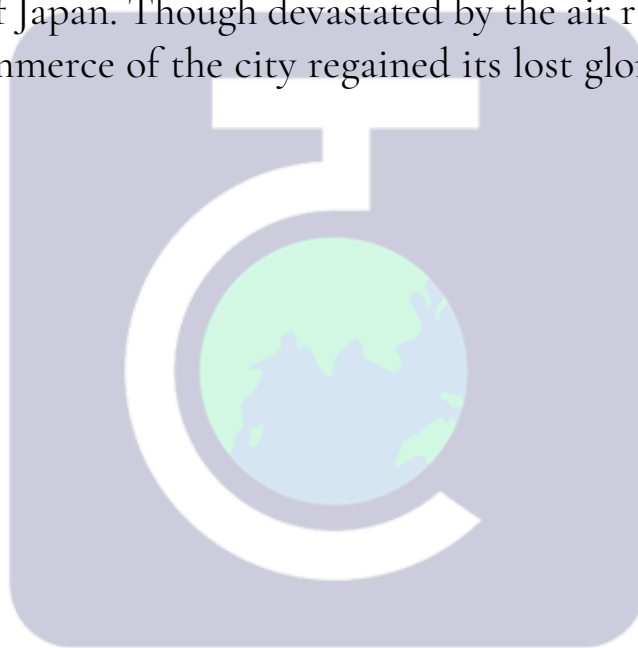
2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Ten Smaller Cities Of The Osaka Prefecture Surround Osaka. These Include Toyonaka, Suita, Settsu, Moriguchi, Kadoma, Daito, Higashiosaka, Yao, Matsubara, And Sakai. The Only City That Is From Another Prefecture Is The Amagasaki Of Hyogo Prefecture On The Northwest. The Nearby Towns Include Yoshino And Koya. Osaka Is Well Connected To Kyoto City As The Kansai International Airport Is The Only Major Airport Near Kyoto. Other Major Japanese Cities Near Osaka Are Kobe, Otsu, Tsu, Wakayama And Nara All Of Which Are In The Kansai Region. Other Neighboring Cities And Towns Are Izumi, Kashiwara, Sennan, Toba, Ikeda, Etc. Osaka Is 501 Km Away From The Capital Of The Country Tokyo.



3. Significance

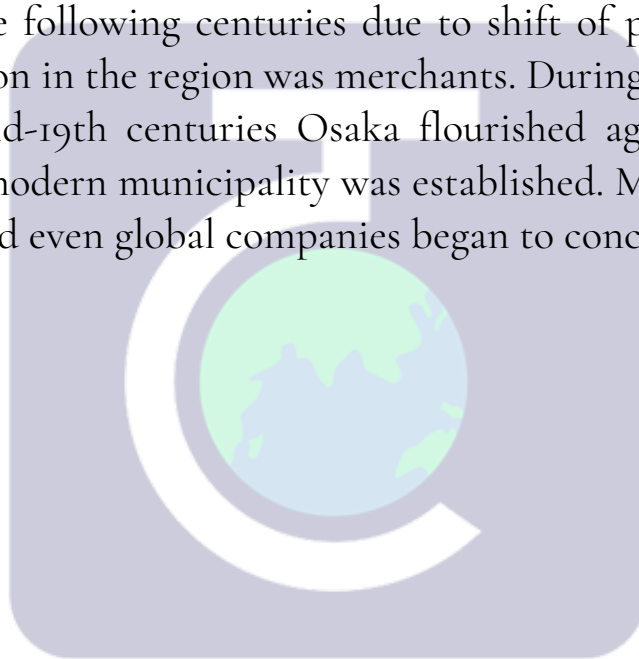
Osaka is the second largest metropolitan area in Japan and a major city in global economic scene. It also serves as the economic center of the country with many trades and industries. It was known as the 'nation's kitchen' had been a key player in rice trade in the past. Osaka has well developed urban characteristics which are only surpassed by Tokyo, the capital city. It is often called the second city and commercial capital of Japan. Though devastated by the air raids of World War II, the economy and commerce of the city regained its lost glory to become a global power.



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4. History

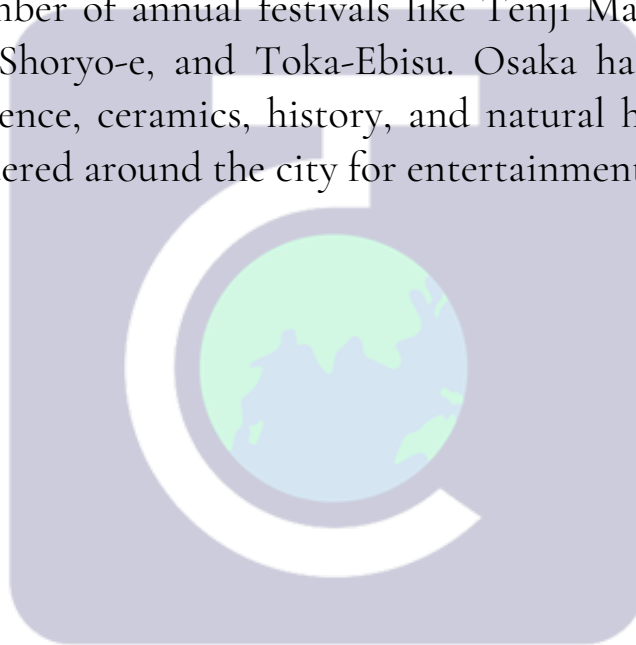
Earliest known human settlements in the area are believed to be as old as 5th or 6th centuries BCE. With wide spread rice farming, people settled on the region in the Yayoi period. The Kofun period saw the development of the area as a port center. With the construction of the Naniwa Nagara-Toyosaki Palace in 645 by Emperor Kotoku, Osaka became a politically important capital city though its glory subsided in the following centuries due to shift of power to other cities. Most of the population in the region was merchants. During the Edo period from the early 17th to mid-19th centuries Osaka flourished again as a commercial center. In 1889, the modern municipality was established. Many industries found its home in Osaka and even global companies began to concentrate on the city.



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5. Cultural identity

Osaka has a very commercial character with a large number of shops and businesses. The city boasts of the longest shopping street in the country that stretches up to 2.6 km. The cuisine culture of Osaka is renowned all over the world. Regional dishes like okonomiyaki, takoyaki, udon, etc. are attractions on their own. Sake made from the fresh water of the mountains is also very famous. The city hosts a number of annual festivals like Tenji Matsuri, Aizen Matsuri, Sumiyoshi Matsuri, Shoryo-e, and Toka-Ebisu. Osaka has many galleries and museums for art, science, ceramics, history, and natural history. Several stages and theaters are scattered around the city for entertainment and performing arts.



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6. Natural resources

Osaka is a major producer of cotton and textile industry remains an important part of its economy. The area beyond the city limits is blessed with the bounty of nature in the form of beautiful ravines, farms, and the like. A large part of the farming activities are now eco-friendly ventures using organic farming techniques. Several seasonal vegetables grow in these farms. The Osaka Bay has been a natural location for industries due to factors like availability of skilled workforce, port facilities, transport links, reclaimed land from the sea for expansion, etc. The city's natural landscape has been developed to create beautiful parks within the city.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Universal Studios Japan

Address : 2 Chome-1-33 Sakurajima, Konohana Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 554-0031, Japan

Zipcode : 554-0031

Location : 34.665442, 135.4323382

Contact : +81 570-200-606

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

Nearest Public Transport : Sakurajima Train Station

Entry Fee : 1 day pass – Adult (aged 12 or older) – 7,400 yen; Children (Ages 4 - 11) – 4,980 yen; Seniors (aged 65 or older) – 6,650 yen 2 day pass - Adult (aged 12 or older) – 12,450 yen; Children (Ages 4 - 11) – 8,420 yen;

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-21:00hrs

Time Required : 4

Expected Wait Time : 30 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan

Address : 1 Chome-1-10 Kaigandori, Minato Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 552-0022, Japan

Zipcode : 552-0022

Location : 34.65451819999999, 135.4289645

Contact : +81 6-6576-5501

Website : <http://www.kaiyukan.com/index.html>

Nearest Public Transport : Osakako Subway Station

Entry Fee : Over Aged 16 – 2,300 yen Over aged 60 – 2,000 yen Aged 7 – 15 – 1,200 yen Aged 4 – 6 – 600 yen Children under 3 – FREE A general group of 15+ foreigners and 20+ Japanese people – Adults (age 16+) – 2,000 yen Junior High School & Elementary students (7 to 15 years) – 1,000 yen Children (4 to 6 years) – 500 yen Student group of 15+ foreigners and 20+ Japanese visitors High School

students – 1,600 yen Junior High School & Elementary – 720 yen Preschool children – 320 yen

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.3. Osaka Castle

Address : 1-1 Osakajo, Chuo Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 540-0002, Japan

Zipcode : 540-0002

Location : 34.6873153, 135.52620130000003

Contact : +81 6-6941-3044

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

Nearest Public Transport : Morinomiya Subway Station (NR)

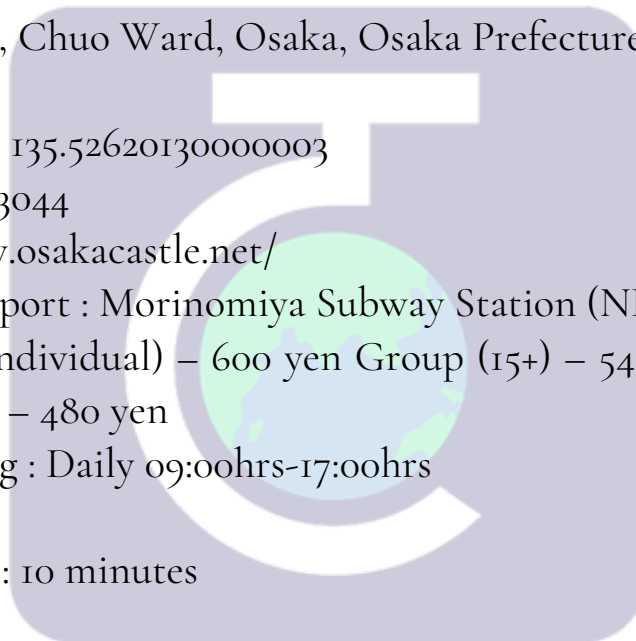
Entry Fee : Adults (individual) – 600 yen Group (15+) – 540 yen Group (100+) – 510 yen Group (200+) – 480 yen

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes



7.1.4. Floating Garden

Address : Japan, 〒531-6023 淀川区 1-1-88

Zipcode : 531-6023

Location : 34.705383, 135.489614

Contact : +81 6-6440-3901

Website : <http://www.skybldg.co.jp/convention/index.html>

Nearest Public Transport : Nakatsu Train Station (NR)

Entry Fee : Adult – 1000 yen Junior school students, High school students – 700 yen Elementary school students – 500 yen Kids (4 years and older) – 200 yen Senior (65 years and older) – 800 yen

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.5. Osaka Museum of Housing and Living

Address : Japan, 〒530-0041 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, Kita Ward, Tenjinbashi,



Zipcode : 530-0041

Location : 34.71042869999999, 135.51152739999998

Contact : +81 6-6242-1170

Website : <http://konjyakukan.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Tenjimbashisuji Rokuchome Subway Station

Entry Fee : General – 600 yen General (group 20+) – 500 yen High school students – 300 yen High school students (group 20+) – 200 yen

Open & Close Timing : Wednesday-Monday – 10:00hrs-17:00hrs; Tuesday Closed

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.6. Tempozan Ferris Wheel

Address : Japan, 〒552-0021 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, 〒552-0021

Zipcode : 552-0021

Location : 34.6562165, 135.43095330000006

Contact : +81 6-6576-6222

Website : <http://www.senyo.co.jp/tempozan/>

Nearest Public Transport : Osakako Subway Station

Entry Fee : 3 years and older – 800 yen

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.7. Tsutenkaku

Address : 1 Chome-18-6 Ebisuhigashi, Naniwa Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 556-0002, Japan

Zipcode : 556-0002

Location : 34.6524992, 135.50630580000006

Contact : +81 6-6641-9555

Website : <http://www.tsutenkaku.co.jp/>

Nearest Public Transport : Ebisucho Subway Station (NR)

Entry Fee : Adults – 600 yen University Students – 500 yen Junior and High school students – 400 yen Children – 300 yen

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-21:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.8. Museum of Oriental Ceramics

Address : 1-1-26 Nakanoshima, Kita Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 530-0005, Japan

Zipcode : 530-0005

Location : 34.69346, 135.505409

Contact : +81 6-6223-0055

Website : <http://www.moco.or.jp/en/>

Nearest Public Transport : Naniwabashi Train Station

Entry Fee : Adults (individual) – 500 yen Adults (group 20+) – 400 yen High school and University students (individual) – 300 yen High school and University students (group 20+) – 250 yen

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Sunday 09:30hrs-17:00hrs; Monday Closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 20 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.9. Kobe Oji Zoo

Address : 3-1 Ojicho, Nada Ward, Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture 657-0838, Japan

Zipcode : 657-0838

Location : 34.7099976, 135.21487879999995

Contact : +81 78-861-5624

Website : <http://www.kobe-ojizoo.jp/>

Nearest Public Transport : Ojikoen Train Station

Entry Fee : Individuals – 600 yen Group 30 – 90 – 540 yen Group 100 – 299 – 480 yen Over 300 people – 420 yen

Open & Close Timing : Thursday-Tuesday 09:00hrs-17:00hrs; Wednesday Closed

Time Required : 2.5

Expected Wait Time : 30 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.10. Osaka Science Museum

Address : 4-2-1 Nakanoshima, Kita Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 530-0005, Japan

Zipcode : 530-0005

Location : 34.691217, 135.491469

Contact : +81 6-6444-5656

Website : <http://www.sci-museum.jp/>

Nearest Public Transport : Watanabebashi Train Station (NR)

Entry Fee : Exhibition Hall – Adults (Individuals) – 400 yen; Adults (group 30+) – 320 yen; High school students, college and university (individuals) – 300 yen; High school students, college and university (group 30+) – 240 yen; Junior high school & elementary students – FREE Planetarium Hall – Adults (Individuals) – 600 yen; Adults (group 30+) – 480 yen; High school students, college and university (individuals) – 450 yen; High school students, college and university (group 30+) – 360 yen; Junior high school & elementary students (individuals) – 300 yen; Junior high school & elementary students (group 30+) – 240 yen

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Sunday 09:30hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 30 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.11. THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART

Address : 4 Chome-2-55 Nakanoshima, Kita Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 530-0005,

Zipcode : 530-0005

Location : 34.69176299999999, 135.49194179999995

Contact : +81-6-6447-4680

Website : <http://www.nmao.go.jp/en/index.html>

Nearest Public Transport : Watanabebashi Train Station

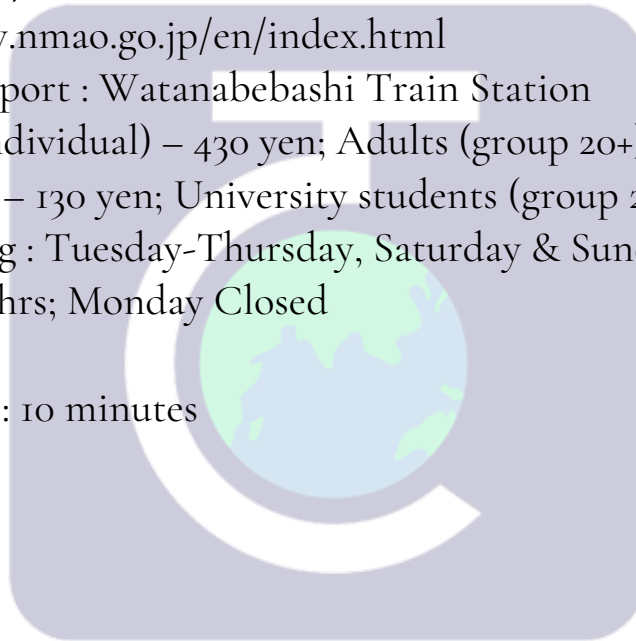
Entry Fee : Adults (individual) – 430 yen; Adults (group 20+) – 220 yen University students (individual) – 130 yen; University students (group 20+) – 70 yen

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Thursday, Saturday & Sunday 10:00hrs-17:00hrs; Friday 10:00hrs-19:00hrs; Monday Closed

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No



7.2. Free

7.2.1. Dotonbori

Address : 1 Chome-6 Dōtonbori, Chūō-ku, Ōsaka-shi, Ōsaka-fu 542-0071, Japan

Zipcode : 542-0071

Location : 34.6687223, 135.50136900000007

Contact : +81 6-6211-4542

Website : <http://www.dotonbori.or.jp/ja/>

Nearest Public Transport : Kintetsu Nippombashi Train Station (NR)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Shinsaibashisuji

Address : 1-2 Shinsaibashi-suji, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Osaka

Location : 34.6718457, 135.50159359999998

Contact : 06-6211-1114

Website : <http://www.shinsaibashi.or.jp/>

Nearest Public Transport : Shinsaibashi Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Mint Museum

Address : Japan, 530-0043 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, Kita Ward, Tenma, 1-1-1

Zipcode : 530-0043

Location : 34.6959158, 135.52173370000003

Contact : +81 6-6351-5361

Website : <http://www.mint.go.jp/>

Nearest Public Transport : Osakajokitazume Train Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 09:00hrs-17:30hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Shitennoji

Address : 1-11-18 Shitennoji, Tennoji Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 543-0051, Japan

Zipcode : 543-0051

Location : 34.65334660000001, 135.51649099999997

Contact : +81 6-6771-0066

Website : <http://www.shitennoji.or.jp/>

Nearest Public Transport : Shitennoji-mae Yuhigaoka Subway Station (NR)

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Tsutenkaku

Address : Japan, 556-0002 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, Naniwa Ward, Ebisuhashi,

Zipcode : 556-0002

Location : 34.6524992, 135.50630580000006

Contact : 06-6643-6322

Nearest Public Transport : Dobutsuen-Mae Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Different by each store

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Nakanoshima Park

Address : Japan, 530-0005 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka,

Zipcode : 530-0005

Location : 34.69243629999999, 135.50786649999998

Contact : +81 6-6312-8121

Website : <http://www.city.osaka.lg.jp/contents/wduoio/movie/ch4/nakanoshima/>

Nearest Public Transport : Naniwabashi Train Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. MINAMI

Address : 1-8-16 Namba, Chuo-ku, Osaka

Location : 34.66412220000001, 135.50096400000007

Contact : +81 06-6213-4500

Nearest Public Transport : Osaka-Namba Train Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Abeno Harukas

Address : 1-1-43 Abenosuji, Abeno Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 545-8545, Japan

Zipcode : 545-8545

Location : 34.645842, 135.51397139999995

Contact : +81 6-6624-1111

Website : <http://www.abenoharukas-300.jp/>

Nearest Public Transport : Osaka-Abenobashi Train Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-20:30hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Sumiyoshi Taisha

Address : 2 Chome-9-89 Sumiyoshi, Sumiyoshi Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 558-0045, Japan

Zipcode : 558-0045

Location : 34.6127972, 135.4929406

Contact : +81 6-6672-0753

Website : <http://www.sumiyoshitaisha.net/index.html>

Nearest Public Transport : Sumiyoshitorii-Mae Light Rail Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 06:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Tenjinbashi-Suji Shopping Street

Address : Tenjinbashi, Kita Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 532-0011, Japan

Zipcode : 532-0011

Location : 34.710555, 135.51124300000004

Website : <http://www.tenjin123.com/>


Nearest Public Transport : Nakazakicho Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Differ by shops

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Namba Parks

Address : Japan,  556-0011 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, Naniwa Ward, Nanbanaka, 2-10-70

Zipcode : 556-0011

Location : 34.6616083, 135.50193490000004

Contact : +81 6-6644-7100

Website : <http://www.nambaparks.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Nankai-Namba Train Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 11:00hrs-21:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Sannomiya Center-gai Shopping Street

Address : Japan, 〒650-0021 Hyogo Prefecture, Kobe, Chuo Ward, Sannomiyacho,



Zipcode : 650-0021

Location : 34.69221539999999, 135.1945614

Nearest Public Transport : Sannomiya-Hanadokei-Mae Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-21:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. Osaka International Peace Center

Address : 2-1 Osakajo, Chuo Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 540-0002, Japan

Zipcode : 540-0002

Location : 34.6818138, 135.52971049999996

Contact : +81 6-6947-7208

Website : <http://www.peace-osaka.or.jp/>

Nearest Public Transport : Morinomiya Railway & Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:30hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No



7.2.14. Nipponbashi

Address : Naniwa Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture 556-0005 Japan

Zipcode : 556-0005

Location : 34.6595943, 135.50514079999994

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.15. GRAND FRONT OSAKA

Address : Japan, 〒530-0011 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, Kita Ward, Ofukacho, 4-1

Zipcode : 530-0011

Location : 34.7041131, 135.4948306

Time Required : o

Buy Ticket : No



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8. Key sites sports & adventure

There are plenty of opportunities for adventure and outdoor sports for the visiting tourists in Osaka. Activities like cycling, hiking, river trekking, canyoning, etc. are some of the adventures that Osaka has to offer.

- **Shin-Kobe Ropeway and Nunobiki Waterfall -**

Address : Fukiaicho, Chuo Ward, Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture 651-0058, Japan

Location : 34.710077,135.19378

Nearest Public Transport : Shin-Kobe Train Station

Entry Fees : Shin – Kobe Ropeway – Admission to Herb Garden & Round – Trip - 1400 yen - Admission to Herb Garden & One Way – Trip - 900 yen – Round Trip after 17:00 hours – 800 yen Nunobiki Herb Garden – 200 yen

Open / Close Time : Shin-Kobe Ropeway Monday-Friday 09:30hrs-17:00hrs; Saturday & Sunday 09:30hrs-20:30hrs Nunobiki Waterfall – Monday-Friday 10:00hrs-17:00hrs; Saturday & Sunday 10:00hrs-20:30hrs

Time Required : 3.00

Wait Time : 30 minutes

9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Osaka is home to many professional sport teams. Orix Buffaloes and Hanshi Tigers are its baseball teams. The city's footballs clubs include Gamba Osaka and Cerezo Osaka, both J. League Clubs. Osaka Evessa is the home basketball team. Kintetsu Liners is a rugby union team. The Haru Basho is an annual professional sumo tournament held in Osaka. Osaka International Ladies Marathon and Osaka Grand Prix Athletics games are the other annual sporting events held in the city. Osaka is home to the Japan Bandy Federation.

- **Yanmar Stadium Nagai:**

Address : 1-1 Nagaikoen, Higashisumiyoshi Ward, Osaka, Osaka
Prefecture 546-0034, Japan

Location : 34.613917,135.5186208

Contact No : +8I 6-669I-2500

Website : <http://www.nagaipark.com/stadium/>

Open/Close time : Nagai Train Station

- **Osaka Nagai Second Stadium:**

Address : Japan, 546-0034 I-I

Location : 34.6138028,135.51962149999997

Contact No : +81 6-6691-2500

Website : <http://www.nagaipark.com/stadium/>

Open/Close time : Nagai Train Station

10. Spas and relaxation

- **Natural Hot Spring Naniwanoyu:**

Address : Japan, 〒531-0061 Ōsaka-fu, Ōsaka-shi, Kita-ku, 〒1
Chome-1-7-31

Location : 34.71505,135.51350300000001

Contact No : +81 6-6356-5600

Website : <http://hs-tenjinbashi.com/>

- **New Japan Umeda:**

Address : 9-5 Doyama-cho, Kita-ku | New Japan Bdg B1F, Osaka 530-0027
, Osaka Prefecture

Location : 34.703062,135.503695

Contact No : +81 6-6312-0610

Website : <http://www.umedasauna-newjapan.jp/>

- **Yoga Vini:**

Address : Japan, 〒531-0071 〒1
Location : 34.7094392,135.49597330000006

Contact No : +81 6-6147-6912

Website : <https://yogavinijapan.org/>

11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Festival of the lights @ Museum of light (1st -17th)

Enjoy the wondrous display of illuminations that will make your Osaka winter visit an unforgettable experience.

Seafood Show Osaka@ ATC Hall (22nd-23rd)

An event features exhibitions of seafood, products from the fisheries industry, poultry and other related products

Osaka Asian Film Festival @ National Museum of Art, Osaka (3rd-12th)

This event features entertaining performances and films that are very insightful of the Asian Culture.

Hachikenya Cherry Blossom Viewing Festa @ Kawanoeki Hachikenya, Osaka (late March-10th April)

Explore the great scene of Okawa river where cherries have fully blossomed to usher in the

spring season.

**Toy Car Expo, Tomica @ Osaka
Asia and Pacific Trade Centre
(28th April- 8th may)**

**Tamara Tomy Co. (world's
famous toy manufactures) will be
showcasing diverse and recent
models of toy cars.**

**Otaue Rice Planting Festival @
Sumiyoshi Taisha Shrine (14th)**

**This festival is characterized by
prayers for good rice harvest,
lifestyle performances, merry
songs and dances.**

**Summer Fiesta 2016-Festival of
Fire, Water and Light @ Meiji-no-
mori Mino Quasi-national Park
(Mino Waterfall) (16th July to
31st August)**

**The Mino waterfall, Mino Park
and the road leading to the
waterfall will be illuminated with
over 6,000 candles creating a
spectacular scene**

**Inagawa Fireworks Annual
Festival @ Ikeda city near the
Inagawa river (20th)**

**The 68th annual Inagawa
fireworks festival will feature
4,000 fireworks being set off as**

**tourists enjoy scenic reflections
in the Inagawa river.**

**Autumnal Higan-e Ceremony @
Shitennoji (19th-25th)**

**This ceremony happens for a
span of 7 days with the fourth
day being the autumnal equinox
(equal length of day and night)**

**Manpaku in Banpaku 2016 @
Bampakukoen (EXPO'70
Commemorative Park) (8th-17th)**

**Enjoy great product exhibitions,
food and alcohol at the Manpaku
restaurants during this rock
festival.**

**Shinnosai Festival @
Sukunahikona Jinja Shrine (1st
to 30th)**

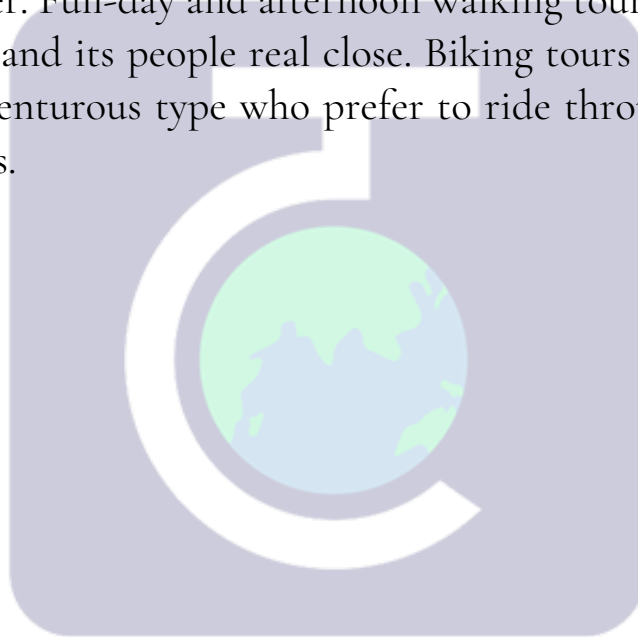
**This event is dedicated to the
founder of Chinese medicine,
Shinno, Osaka's medicine
district and the guardian god of
Doshomachi**

**Osaka Quilt & Stitch Show @
Osaka MyDome (15th -17th)**

**This event will showcase quilts,
stitches, machinery, textiles,
crafts, gifts and much more.**

12. Key local guides and tours

Osaka is a very big city with lots to see and do. It is always better to get the help of a professional guide to explore the most important sights and places in the city. Many travel and tour companies conduct private and group tours for the foreign visitors. River cruises are an exciting option for the tourists to enjoy the seasonal sights like autumn leaves or cherry blossoms. The landmarks of the city are best enjoyed from the river. Full-day and afternoon walking tours provide a chance to get to know the city and its people real close. Biking tours are also very popular among the more adventurous type who prefer to ride through the lesser known streets and back lanes.



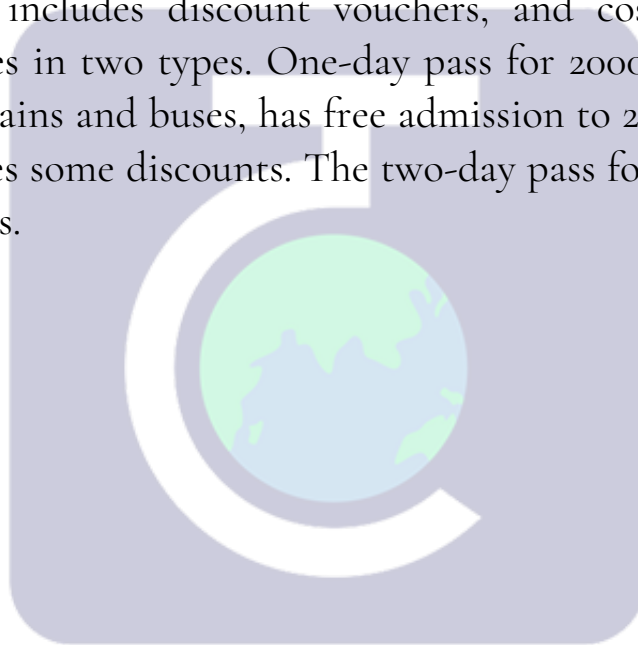
Index**13. Transportation hubs**

Osaka is served by two airports. The Kansai International Airport is 50 km away from the city centre which is accessible by train and bus. The JR Haruka limited express train takes about 50 minutes and costs 1300-2850 yen to the Shin-Osaka Station . JR Airport rapid train fare is 1030-1190 yen for a 70 minute ride. Limited express trains by Nankai Railways to Namba Station rates are 920-1430 yen and takes 35-50 minutes to reach. Limousine buses to central Osaka take 45-60 minutes and charge 1000-1550 yen. Domestic flights arrive at the Itami Airport or Osaka International Airport which is 10 km away from the city. Airport limousine buses cost 500-640 yen. The city has four major railway stations - JR Osaka Station , Umeda Station, Shin-Osaka Station , and the Tennoji Station .



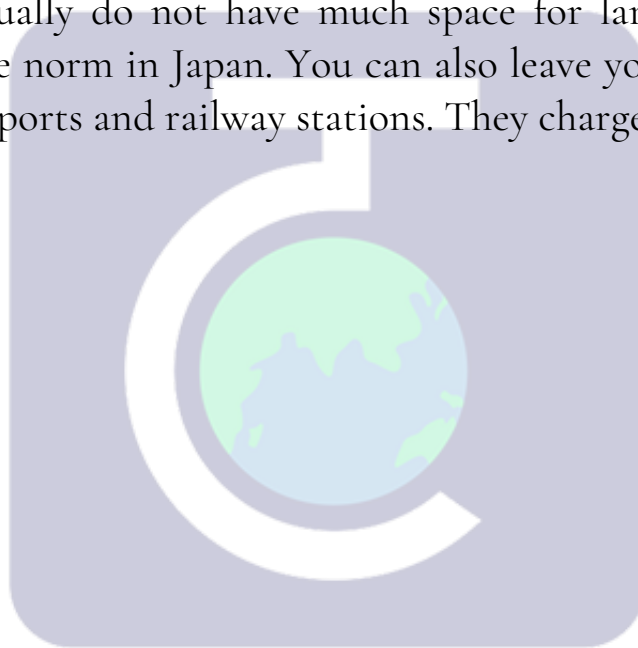
14. Transportation cost

There are many passes and special tickets available for use on public transport in the Kansai region. ICOCA Smart Card is used on rail, subway and bus networks and costs 2000 yen with 1500 yen travel credit and 500 yen refundable deposit. Unlimited Kintetsu Rail Pass for 3700 yen can be used for unlimited travel for 5 consecutive days. Wide Kintetsu Rail Pass covers more areas than the Unlimited Kintetsu Rail Pass, includes discount vouchers, and costs 5700 yen. Osaka Unlimited Pass comes in two types. One-day pass for 2000 yen can be used for unlimited rides on trains and buses, has free admission to 24 popular sightseeing facilities, and includes some discounts. The two-day pass for 2700 yen is only for subway and city buses.



15. Baggage allowance

Door-to-door luggage delivery services make your travel within Japan an easy affair. There is no need to carry heavy and huge pieces of luggage and travel uncomfortably on crowded trains and buses during rush hours causing inconvenience to other passengers. You can send your luggage to your next destination through the luggage delivery service for a fee per piece of baggage. Trains and buses usually do not have much space for large bags or suitcases. Travelling light is the norm in Japan. You can also leave your luggage at the left luggage lockers at airports and railway stations. They charge a fee of around 2000 yen.



Index**16. Must try food and local savouries**

Osaka serves the finest cuisine of all types. You can find many restaurants near the Nishi Ward.



17. Restaurant & Nightlife

Food -

- **Toki sushi:**

Address : Japan, 542-0075 Ōsaka-fu, Ōsaka-shi, Chūō-ku, Nanbasennichimae, 4,

Location : 34.6643521,135.50413520

Contact No : +81 50-5869-1188

Website : <http://www.tokisushi.jp/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday – 11:00hrs-14:00hrs; 17:00hrs-23:00hrs; Sunday – 11:00hrs-21:00hrs

- **Ramenyashichi:**

Address : 3 Chome-3-4-8 Toyosaki, Kita-ku, Ōsaka-shi, Ōsaka-fu 531-0072, Japan

Location : 34.7112968,135.49972060

Contact No : +81 6-6373-0035

Website : <http://www.noodle.co.jp/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 11:00hrs-16:00hrs; Saturday & Sunday Closed

- **Jonetsu udon Sanshu:**

Address : Japan, 531-0072 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, Kita Ward, Toyosaki, - -

Location : 34.711289999,135.50001599

Contact No : +81 6-6377-5555

Website : <http://www.jyounetsuudon.com/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 11:00hrs-15:00hrs;
17:30hrs-21:00hrs; Sunday Closed

- **Aozora Blue:**

Address : 4-5-8 Hiranomachi, Chuo-ku, Osaka

Location : 34.687874400,135.49839610

Contact No : 06-4708-8812

Website : <http://www.aozora.blue/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:30hrs-14:30hrs; 17:30hrs-22:30hrs

- **Asai:**

Address : 1 Chome-6-19 Higashishinsaibashi, Chuo Ward, Osaka, Osaka
Prefecture 542-0083, Japan

Location : 34.672170,135.504626

Contact No : +81 6-6243-7100

Website : http://www.ichicore.co.jp/#=_=

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday – 17:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Endo Sushi:**

Address : Japan, 〒553-0005 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, 

Location : 34.6842125,135.4795176

Contact No : +81 6-6469-7108

Website : <http://www.endo-sushi.com/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 05:00hrs-14:00hrs

- **Kigawa Restaurant:**

Address : Japan, 542-0071 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, —

Location : 34.668497I,135.50829079

Contact No : +8I 6-62II-3030

Website : <http://r.gnavi.co.jp/duz8m4Idooooo/>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday-Sunday 11:30hrs-14:30hrs; 17:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **HAJIME:**

Address : 1 Chome-9-11 Edobori, Nishi Ward, Osaka, Osaka Prefecture
550-0002, Japan






Location : 34.6887132,135.49605740

Contact No : +8I 6-6447-6688

Website : <http://www.hajime-artistes.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 17:30hrs-20:30hrs

- **CinqueCento:**

Address : Japan, Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, Chuo Ward,
Higashishinsaibashi, 2 Chome-I-Io,      I 

Location : 34.6712207,135.50587930

Contact No : +81 6-6213-6788

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 20:00hrs-05:00hrs; Sunday – 20:00hrs-03:00hrs

- **PURE:**

Address : Japan, 542-0085 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, —

Location : 34.6696848,135.50194080

Contact No : +81 6-6214-6601

Website : <http://www.clubpure.com/venue/>
Open / Close Time : Daily 22:00hrs-05:00hrs

- **BLUFF BAR:**

Address : Japan, 〒542-0086 Osaka Prefecture, Osaka, 〒2-3-7
〒4F

Location : 34.6696903,135.50210749

Contact No : +81 6-6214-0007

Website : <http://osaka.bluff-bar.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 19:00hrs-05:00hrs



Index**18. Average meal cost**

A normal meal at an inexpensive restaurant is available at 775.00 yen. A three course meal for two people at a mid-range restaurant can be purchased at 3000.00 yen. A combo meal at McDonald's is available at 700.00 yen. You can have a fresh cappuccino at 362.86 yen. 11.2 oz small bottle of water can be purchased at 107.14 yen and 11.2 oz small bottle of coke and Pepsi is available at 151.11 yen whereas 1 pint draught of domestic beer can be purchased at 450.00 yen. While in that of market 0.5 litre of it is available at 265.00 yen, 11.2 oz small bottle of imported beer is at 500.00 yen. You can have a mid-range bottle of wine at 150.00 yen.



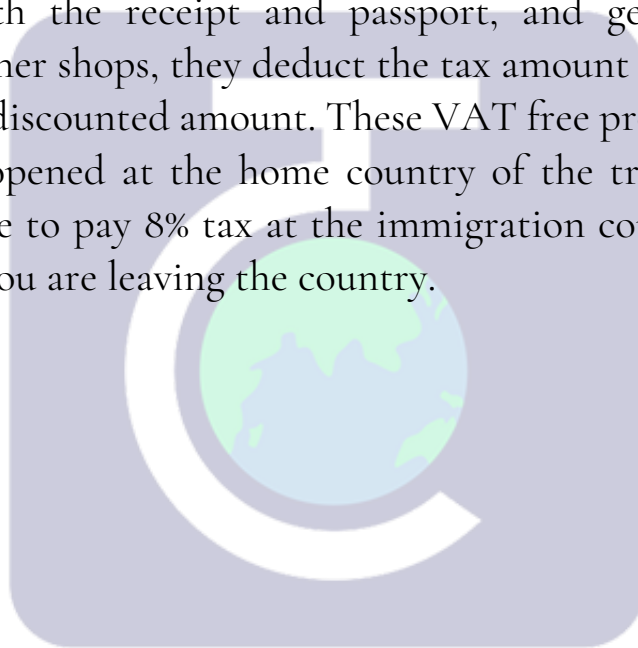
19. Shopping

Osaka offers a diverse shopping experience. From fashion brands to traditional Japanese souvenirs, the shopping streets and districts in Osaka have everything to satisfy the buyers' needs. The most popular shopping district is Shinsaibashi. It is a medley of big department stores, upscale Western fashion outlets, and boutiques selling clothing of all price ranges. The American Village within the district is a hub of youth fashion. The Nipponbashi area is famous for its used and new electronic products and gaming goods with great deals and a variety of gadgets. Tenjinbashi-suji Shopping Street is a long, straight, covered shopping arcade. Prices are relatively low here as the street caters mostly to the day-to-day needs of the local people. Many modern shopping malls like Grand Front Osaka , HEP Five , etc. also offer great shopping and dining experience in the city.



20. Tourist benefits

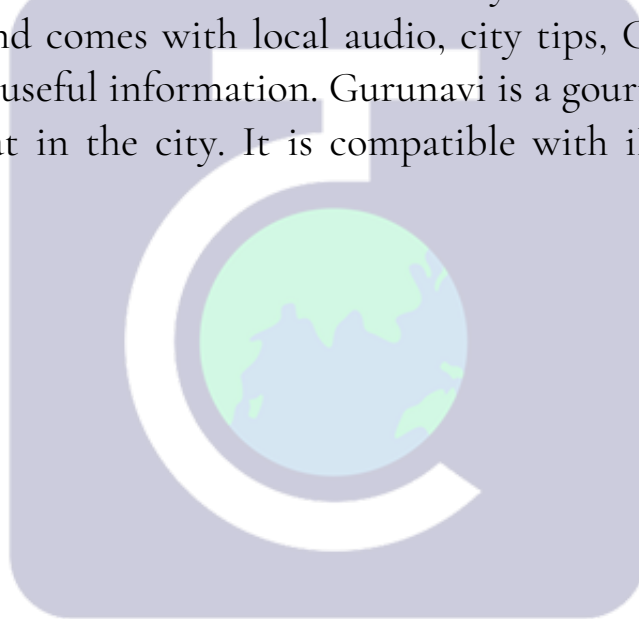
International tourists who shop within Japan can avail VAT refund benefits from the affiliated shops. A Tax-free sticker will tell you if the shop is participating in the VAT refund program. The total shopping amount has to be above 5000 yen to get the refund. The process is completed on the same day at the shop where you have made the purchase. In some shops, you pay the full amount, proceed to the tax-free counter with the receipt and passport, and get the VAT amount refunded. In some other shops, they deduct the tax amount from the bill and you only have to pay the discounted amount. These VAT free products are not for use in Japan but to be opened at the home country of the traveler. If the pack is opened, you will have to pay 8% tax at the immigration counter of the Japanese airport from where you are leaving the country.



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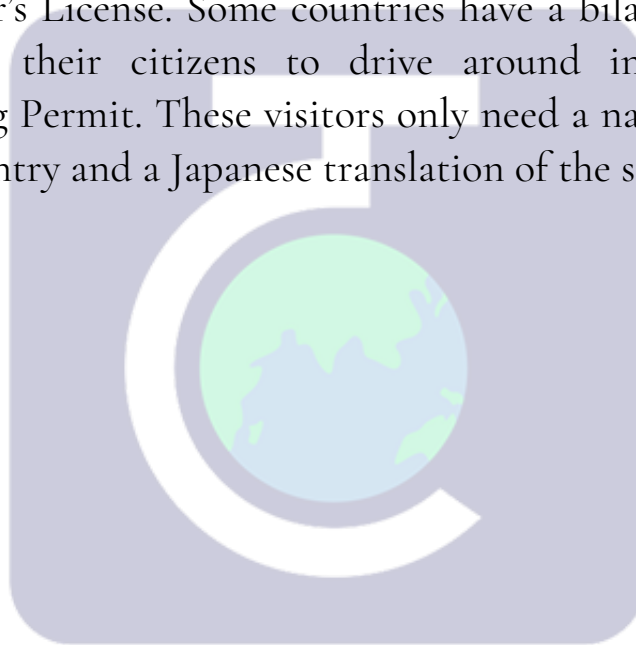
21. Essential local apps

Travel apps are very helpful for visitors in a foreign country. These apps can show the best places for the best prices and save a lot of time and money by offering reviews and suggestions of other users. Japan National Tourism Organization offers a useful tourist guide app for Osaka visitors. OSAKA Tourist Info can be used on smartphones and tablets and provides all relevant sightseeing information. Osaka Travel Guide with Offline City Street and Metro Map is for iPhones and iPads and comes with local audio, city tips, GPS capability, safety tips, and much more useful information. Gurunavi is a gourmet navigator to find the best places to eat in the city. It is compatible with iPhones and Android devices.



22. Driving

A lot of visitors to Japan prefer to drive around the cities on their own. It is possible for foreign visitors to drive in Japan if they have an International Driving Permit based on the 1949 Geneva Convention which is the only type recognized in Japan. A lot of countries issue such licenses. If you are coming from a country that does not issue the specified International Driving Permit, you will have to get a Japanese Driver's License. Some countries have a bilateral agreement with Japan that permits their citizens to drive around in Japan without an International Driving Permit. These visitors only need a national driving license from their home country and a Japanese translation of the same.



23. Travel essentials

Just like other cities in Japan, Osaka uses a standard voltage of 100 V with a frequency of 60 Hz. Your need for a voltage adapter/converter depends on the standard voltage of where you come from i.e. 110-120 V or 220-240 V. If your device uses the 220-240 V standard you will require a resistor-converter to support your high wattage gadgets. Osaka has the standard socket type A (has the two-pin plug sockets) and the type B (has the three-pin plug sockets). If your device plug is incompatible with this standard, you are advised to buy a universal plug adapter.



24. Essential clothes

Just like other cities in Japan, Osaka uses a standard voltage of 100 V with a frequency of 60 Hz. Your need for a voltage adapter/converter depends on the standard voltage of where you come from i.e. 110-120 V or 220-240 V. If your device uses the 220-240 V standard you will require a resistor-converter to support your high wattage gadgets. Osaka has the standard socket type A (has the two-pin plug sockets) and the type B (has the three-pin plug sockets). If your device plug is incompatible with this standard, you are advised to buy a universal plug adapter.



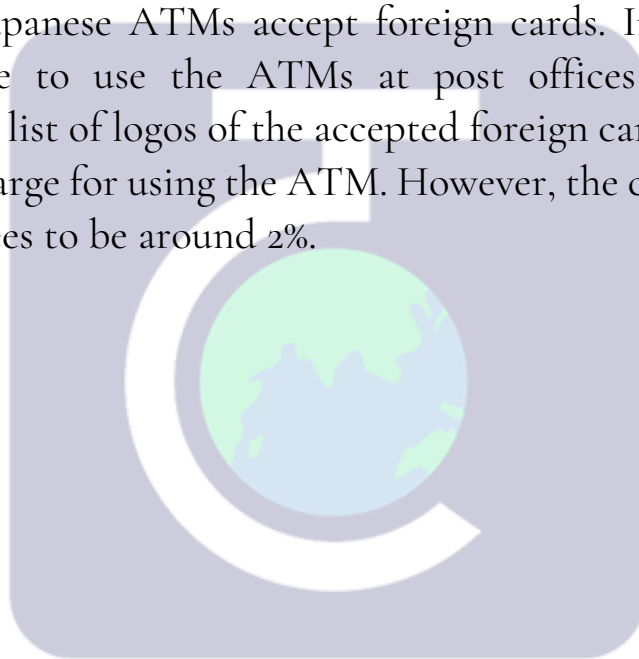
25. Local currency

The local currency of Osaka is Japanese Yen. It is denoted as ¥. 1 USD = 103.41 Japanese Yen



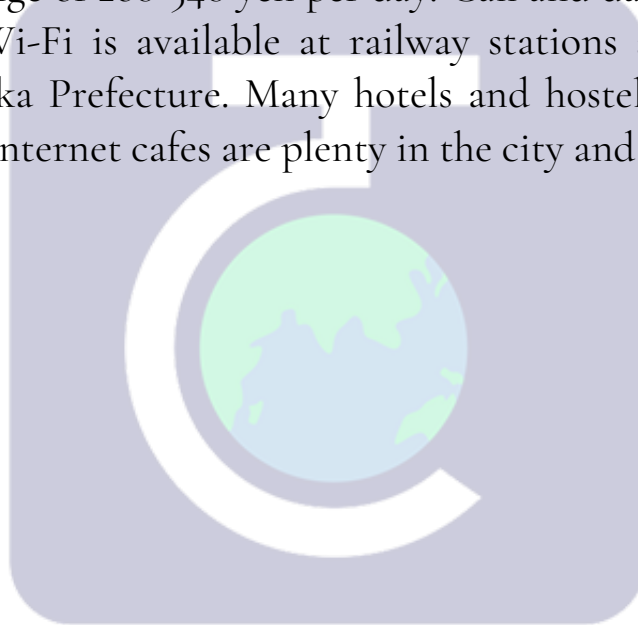
26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

Money exchanges are usually found at airports and city centres. Most banks and exchange companies have their own counters at the airports. The rates can slightly vary from bank to bank and agency to agency. Post offices also provide money exchange services for a better rate and charge approximately 3%. Some upscale hotels exchange foreign currency but for a lower rate. Travelers must know that not all Japanese ATMs accept foreign cards. In order to withdraw money, visitors have to use the ATMs at post offices or at the 7-Eleven department stores. A list of logos of the accepted foreign cards is displayed at the ATM. There is no charge for using the ATM. However, the card issuing bank may extract transaction fees to be around 2%.



27. Staying connected

Visitors to Osaka can either buy prepaid SIM cards or get cards and phones for rent. There are many companies that provide rental service. Prepaid data only cards, data and voice call cards, mobile phones, iPhones, and other devices are available on rent. Rental charges differ from provider to provider. SIM cards with data and voice call may cost about 110 yen as rent for a day. Mobile phone rental charges are in the range of 260-540 yen per day. Call and data charges depend on usage. Osaka Free Wi-Fi is available at railway stations and other important locations in the Osaka Prefecture. Many hotels and hostels also provide Wi-Fi services free of cost. Internet cafes are plenty in the city and charge about 200 yen per hour.



28. Time Zone

The city follows Japan Time Zone with UTC + 09:00 hours.



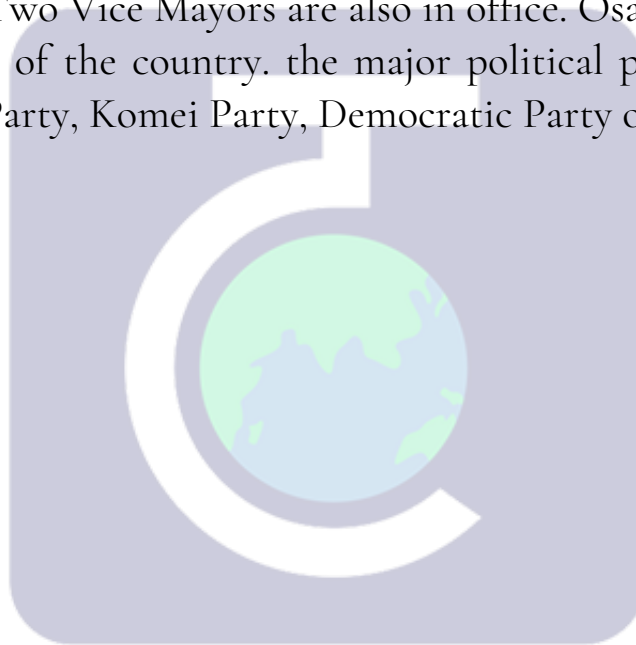
29. Languages

The main language in Osaka is Japanese. Osakaben is the following widely used language.



30. Political Scenario

Osaka is a designated city in the Kansai region and the Osaka City Council is the local government. The Council has 89 members elected by the people every four years. The president and vice president of the council are elected among the members. The current president is Toshifumi Tagaya of the LDP party. People also elect the mayor of the city every four years and the present mayor of the city is Toru Hashimoto. Two Vice Mayors are also in office. Osaka city also has many government agencies of the country. the major political parties in the city are Liberal Democratic Party, Komei Party, Democratic Party of Japan, and Japanese Communist Party.



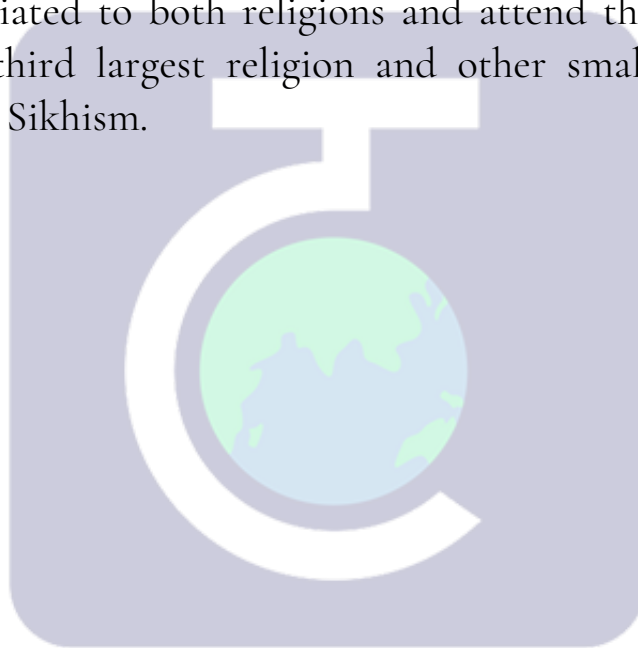
31. Economic Scenario

Osaka is an important city in global economy. The major industries that contribute the greatest share to the city's economy include commerce, services, and manufacturing. Many big companies like Panasonic, Sharp, and Sanyo have their headquarters in Osaka. The Osaka Securities Exchange based in Osaka is about to merge with JASDAQ and thereby becoming the largest exchange in the country catering to start-up firms. In terms of cost of living, Osaka is one of the top most expensive cities in the world, especially for expatriate employees. The Hanshin Industrial Region and the Keihanshin Industrial Region, two large industrial regions in Japan, include Osaka with medical, chemical, metal, and many other industries.



Index**32. Religious belief**

The main religions in Osaka are Buddhism and Shintoism which have mish-mashed ideas and therefore share common believers. Unlike in the West, religion in Osaka is personal and more of a moral code than a doctrine. Shinto is concerned with life and rites of passages while Buddhism is more aligned to death and afterlife. This explains why these two major religions co-exist peacefully. Many locals are affiliated to both religions and attend their respective events. Christianity is the third largest religion and other smaller religions include Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism.



Index**33. Visa requirements**

66 countries have Reciprocal Visa Exemption Arrangements with Japan. Tourists from these countries are granted visa free stay in Japan from 15 days to a maximum of 90 days depending on from which country the visitor is coming. These tourists only need to get a Temporary Visitor's Visa to enter the country. The tourists are required not to engage in any activities that earn them an income during their stay in Japan. People coming from countries that are not part of the Reciprocal Visa Exemption Arrangements with Japan have to obtain a regular tourist visa. To know more about the visa requirements, visit http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html.



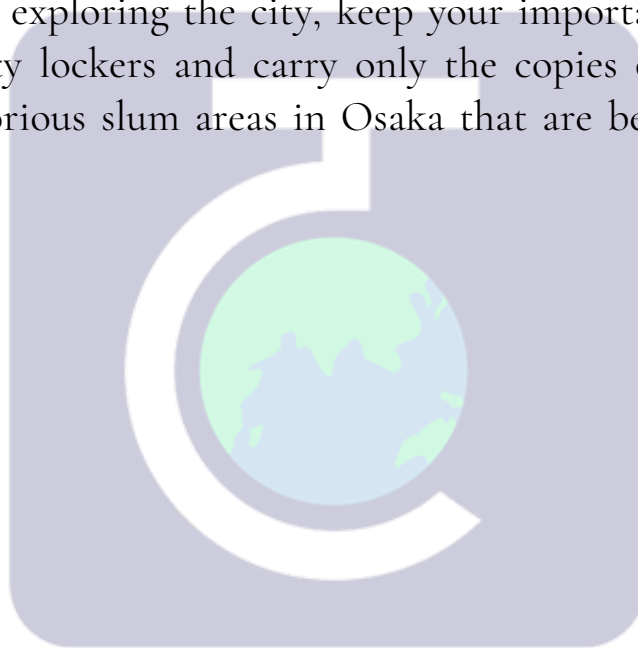
34. Essential vaccination

Osaka is a safe destination although you can consider getting the general vaccinations such as Rabies, yearly flu shot, Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccines. Other recommendable vaccines are varicella, Japanese encephalitis and measles-mumps-rubella vaccine



35. Theft and Safety

Like the rest of Japan Osaka is a safe place for tourists. However, petty thieves are sure to pop up every now and then in a busy tourist place and Osaka is no exception. Pick-pocketing and bag snatching in crowded trains and busy streets are common incidents. Tourists have to be cautious and keep their valuables safely while they travel. It is a good habit to place your money or purse in the front pockets. When exploring the city, keep your important travel documents locked in hotel safety lockers and carry only the copies of passport and visa. There are some notorious slum areas in Osaka that are best avoided especially after dark.



Index**36. Embassy/Consulate**

There are a number of foreign embassies and consulates spread across the entire city of Osaka. A few of the main areas are Twin 21 MID Tower, Umeda Center Building, Hirabayashi Minami and many more. Most of them are at Chuo-ku region. You can have more information at <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/japan>.



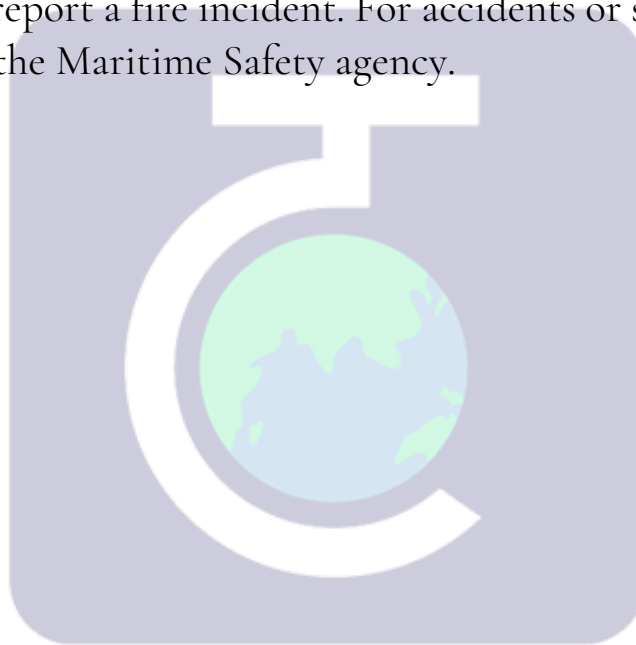
37. Accessibility

Osaka is well set up to accommodate the disabled. The public transit is fitted with temporary ramps for easy wheelchair accessibility. Most hotels around the city have wheelchair facilities such as washrooms, lifts and marked elevators. Key attractions including Osaka Castle are also wheelchair accessible.



38. Emergencies

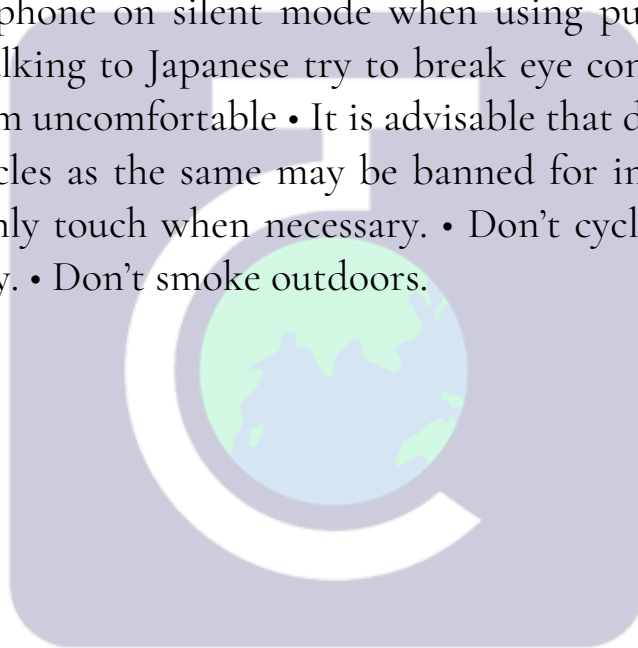
Health care in Osaka is quite expensive and therefore it is wise to get a travel insurance (World nomads- available worldwide and True Traveler in European Union states). Osaka University Hospital and Osaka City General Hospital are some of the emergency centers providing ambulance services. In case of a crime or accident emergency, you can reach the police through 110 while 119 is to request for an ambulance or report a fire incident. For accidents or safety incidents at the sea, dial 118 to reach the Maritime Safety agency.



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39. Do's and Don'ts

Do's • Always leave your bicycle in the designated bicycle parking areas. • Try to use the few Japanese words. The locals appreciate such effort. • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. • Men should always try to cross their legs when they sit on the floor • Always wear black-coloured clothes when attending funerals. • Keep quiet and put your phone on silent mode when using public transit. Don'ts • Don't stare. When talking to Japanese try to break eye contact on in a while as staring can make them uncomfortable • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import. • Don't be too touchy. The locals only touch when necessary. • Don't cycle when drunk as you could be fined heavily. • Don't smoke outdoors.



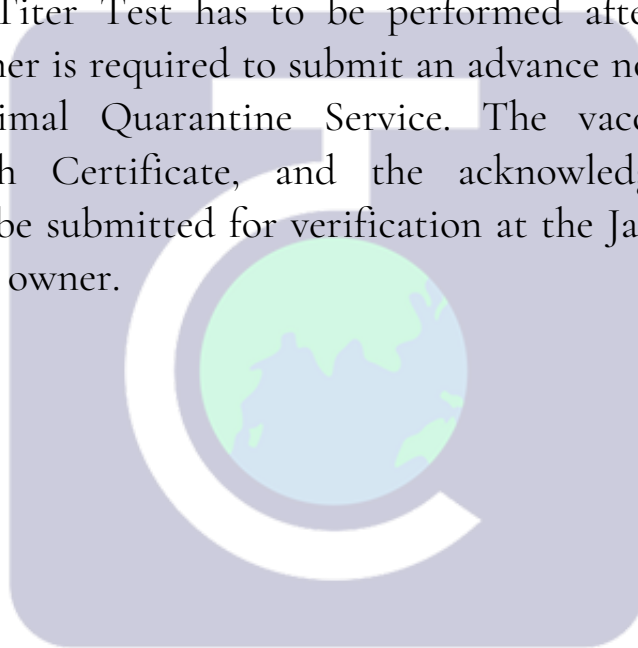
Index**40.Tipping basics**

Tipping is not a common practice in Osaka. Restaurant staff and taxi drivers may return your tip creating an embarrassing situation. However tipping is acceptable in high end ryokan if given as a token inside an envelope. Tour guides are also used to tipping and won't small amount-tips.



Index**41.Pet info**

Japan allows international travelers to bring their pets along with them into the country provided they have gone through some specific procedures prior to travel. It is required to microchip the animal at the home country of the owner. Two vaccinations against rabies have to be taken at specific intervals. Japan considers some countries as rabies free. If the pet is not coming from any of these countries, a Blood Titer Test has to be performed after the second rabies vaccination. The owner is required to submit an advance notification for animal import to the Animal Quarantine Service. The vaccination certificates, International Health Certificate, and the acknowledgement of advance notification have to be submitted for verification at the Japanese airport where the pet lands with its owner.



Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Conclusion – Why choose Osaka ? Osaka is the best family destination in Japan not just because it is a safe city; it provides wholesome entertainment for people of all ages. Osaka is a metropolitan city with a country feel. It offers diverse urban experiences along with an old-world charm. Whether it is a lively nightlife or a quiet traditional dinner, the city has everything. If you plan to visit Japan, start from Osaka and its rich cuisine. With a long history dating back to the 17th century, the traditional dishes of the city are reason enough to pay a visit to Osaka. There is no other place in the world where you can get the spa experience that Osaka offers. Spas from all around the world meet in the Spa World where families and solo travelers can choose which type of relaxation they need. Osaka offers a rich historical experience for a very low cost. The preserved Japanese farmhouses which are gathered piece by piece from real farmhouses all around Japan and reassembled to create an authentic countryside setting can take the visitors for a time travel to a period long gone by. This second largest city in Japan has the best to offer when it comes to shopping. From budget shopping to splurging on global brands, there is no dearth of choices in the numerous shopping streets and malls and department stores in Osaka. For a big city like Osaka, it is surprisingly less crowded than Tokyo or Kyoto. There is no rush; the people are very relaxed and funny to the core besides being extremely open.

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