

Niigata Airport (新潟空港, Niigata Kūkō) (IATA: KIJ, ICAO: RJSN) is a second class airport located 6.7 km (4.2 mi) northeast of Niigata Station[2] in Niigata, Japan.

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History[edit]

The first airport on the Sea of Japan coast of Japan was opened on an island in the Shinano River in 1929. This airport was moved to what was then the village of Matsugazakahama in 1930, and was renamed Niigata Airport. It was requisitioned for use by the Imperial Japanese Army Air Force in 1941, and came under the control of the USAAF after the end of World War II. It was returned to Japanese civilian control on March 31, 1958, on which date commercial flight operations were resumed. International services were started in 1973, with scheduled service to Khabarovsk and Niigata Airport became historically an important gateway for traffic to and from Russia, which among other purposes were used to export Niigata-area agricultural products to Russia; however, flights were reduced from winter 2010 as more slots became available for Russia service at Narita International Airport near Tokyo.[3]

The airport saw several major service expansions in the spring of 2012, when China Eastern Airlines, Fuji Dream Airlines and All Nippon Airways announced service to Shanghai, Nagoya and Narita respectively.[4]

Airlines and destinations[edit]

The following destinations are served from Niigata:

Airlines Destinations

All Nippon Airways Osaka–Itami

All Nippon Airways

operated by ANA Wings Fukuoka, Osaka–Itami, Sapporo–Chitose, Tokyo–Narita

All Nippon Airways

operated by Ibex Airlines Nagoya–Centrair

China Eastern Airlines Shanghai–Pudong

China Southern Airlines Harbin

Fuji Dream Airlines Fukuoka, Nagoya–Komaki

Japan Airlines

operated by J-Air Osaka–Itami, Sapporo–Chitose

Korean Air Seoul–Incheon

Peach Osaka–Kansai[5]

Tigerair Taiwan Taipei–Taoyuan[6]

Yakutia Airlines Seasonal: Khabarovsk,[7] Vladivostok

Ground transportation[edit]

Scheduled "limousine bus" service is provided to and from Niigata Station every 20 minutes and heavily subsidized by Niigata Prefecture. Niigata Airport currently has no direct rail

access, although regional authorities have conducted studies aimed at potentially extending the Joetsu Shinkansen high-speed rail line or other nearby ordinary rail lines to the airport.[8]