

SELF
GUIDED
TOUR
**BLAALID &
ROWLESS
FAMILY**

OCTOBER
2025

ULTIMATE OSAKA DAY 1

This route shows you the best of Osaka in one full day. We'll start at Osaka Castle, explore AmeMura and Shinsaibashi, taste local food at Kurenon Market, walk through Dotonbori, and finish in Shinsekai where old Osaka still lives on.

OSAKA ESSENTIALS



Code: 8989

Weather:

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Starts with an optional visit to **Osaka Castle** in the morning, where you can walk through the park and see the city view from the tower. Around lunch, we head to **Kuromon Market** for food samplings and local bites. After that, we explore **AmeMura** and **Shinsaibashi** for street culture and shopping, then move toward **Dotonbori** to see Osaka's lively canal and neon lights. The day ends in **Shinsekai**, where you can feel the old local side of the city and try classic Osaka comfort food.

OSAKA CASTLE 04

Osaka Castle, the city's most iconic landmark surrounded by wide park grounds, calm moats, and historical stories that shaped Japan's past.

DOTONBORI 16

Dotonbori, Osaka's lively entertainment district filled with neon lights, street food, and the city's most famous meeting point at the Glico sign

KUROMON MARKET 20

Kuromon Market, Osaka's 200-year-old food market packed with fresh seafood, wagyu, fruits, and street snacks loved by both locals and chefs.

SHINSEKAI 26

Shinsekai, Osaka's retro district full of neon lights, local eateries, and nostalgic charm centered around the iconic Tsutenkaku Tower.

LUNCH/DINNER 32

Lunch and Dinner, a curated list of my personal favorite restaurants in Osaka, from family-run hidden gems to top-quality spots serving unforgettable local flavors.

OPTIONAL MORNING START

WALKING ROUTE



I recommend visiting Osaka Castle at night when the crowds are gone and the lights highlight its golden details. The park is open **24 hours**, and walking around the moat or stone walls gives you a great view without the daytime rush. It's one of the few major landmarks in Osaka that feels calm and open even late in the evening.

The castle you see today was rebuilt in 1931 with concrete and later renovated with an elevator and museum inside. The original was built by Toyotomi Hideyoshi in 1583 and destroyed multiple times by war and fire. **Going inside is only worth it if you're interested in history, as most of the interior is now modern.**

TURNING POINT



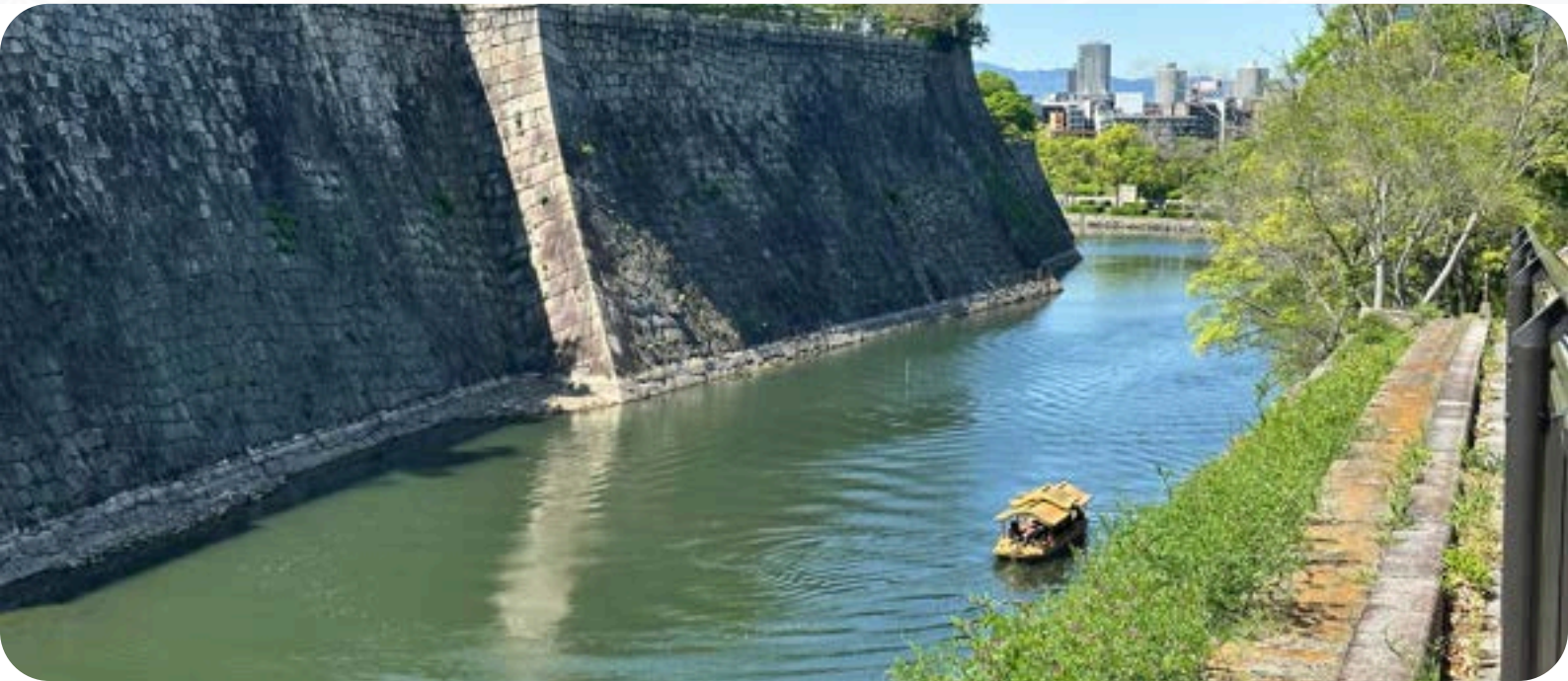
Left: **Toyotomi Hideyoshi** unified Japan in the late 1500s and built Osaka Castle as his stronghold. He rose from a peasant background to become **one of Japan's most powerful leaders**, marking the end of centuries of civil war.

Right: **Tokugawa Ieyasu** defeated Hideyoshi's forces in 1615 during the Siege of Osaka, ending the Toyotomi line. He later established the Tokugawa **Shogunate in Edo** (Tokyo), beginning over 250 years of peace and strict order across Japan.



MODERN TIMES

Completed in **1931**, this photo shows Osaka Castle's reconstruction after centuries of destruction. What makes it special is that it was entirely funded by local citizens during the **Great Depression** — a rare show of pride and unity. Built with concrete instead of wood, it became one of Japan's first modern castles and even survived World War II air raids.



This photo shows the moat surrounding Osaka Castle, once part of its defensive system. The massive stone walls were built to keep enemies out, but today they frame one of the most peaceful spots in the city. If you want to see the castle grounds from a different perspective, you can take a **small boat ride** along the moat.

The ride lasts about 20 minutes and costs around **¥1,500** for adults. It's a calm way to appreciate the scale and craftsmanship of the fortress from the water.

AMERICA MURA



This is usually where I start my tour as there are plenty of things to do and the crowd is mild. Amerikamura, or Amemura, is often called the **Harajuku of Osaka**. It's a mix of **vintage shops, streetwear brands, cafés, and small local boutiques**. In the morning, people come for shopping, coffee, and snacks. You'll find crepes, takoyaki stands, hidden record stores, murals and graffiti walls.

At night, the area changes completely. Bars open, music fills the streets, and locals show off **customized cars and motorcycles** around Triangle park. It's loud, energetic, and full of personality, showing Osaka's young and creative side.



Big Step is one of my favorite stops in Amemura. It's a multi-floor mall filled with small shops, vintage stores, and music boutiques. This is where you can find rare items like **old vinyl records, limited edition sneakers**, or clothing you won't see anywhere else. I usually stop here when guests want something unique or collectible.

There are cafés and a small cinema inside too, so it's a nice place to take a quick break between exploring. The whole place has that creative, slightly underground vibe that really captures what Amemura is about. **11:00 AM onwards**

SILVER BALL PLANET



Another hidden gem, Silver Ball Planet is on the third floor and has more than **50 pinball machines**. You can play for as little as **10 to 100 yen per game**, and the variety goes from old classics to newer themed ones. It's a simple place but very nostalgic and fun for all ages.

The sound of the machines fills the room and gives a nice break from walking around Amemura. I usually stop here with guests to play a few rounds and show them one of Osaka's most unique local spots. Also, a good restroom break.

BB AMEMURA



A true hidden gem, BB Amemura is the kind of place where you can buy anything that you don't really need! It's packed with **random collectibles, old toys, movie figures, vintage posters, and shelves of nostalgic items that bring back the good old days.**

Be prepared as the smell of **nostalgia** hits you the moment you walk in, and that's part of the charm. It's messy, chaotic, and fun to dig through. I always tell guests to take their time here because you never know what treasure you might uncover.

KOGARYU TAKOYAKI



The best takoyaki in town, hands down. Kogaryu has been around for decades and still makes some of the softest, most flavorful takoyaki in Osaka. I recommend ordering the **black pepper** or **green onion ponzu** flavor. The size is just right, and it's not too hot compared to other places, so you can eat it right away.

It's right next to Triangle Park, so you can grab a tray, sit outside, and enjoy watching the local scene. Simple, cheap, and always good — this is one of those spots I never skip when I'm in Amemura.



An optional off-the-route visit, **Orange Street** is a great place to explore if you like vintage shopping. The whole area is lined with **secondhand shops**, local designer stores, and small cafés with a relaxed vibe. You'll find everything from classic denim and old jackets to furniture and handmade goods.

It's not as crowded as Amemura, so it's nice for a slower walk and some quiet browsing. I usually stop by when guests want something more local and creative, away from the usual tourist spots.

SHINSAIBASHI



If you're looking for sneakers, this is one of the best places to browse. **Shinsaibashi Shopping Street** is always packed, especially on weekends, so I usually recommend just walking through and enjoying the atmosphere. You'll find popular brands, local shops, and plenty of food options along the way.

At the end of the street, you'll see the famous Glico sign, one of Osaka's most recognizable landmarks. It's a great spot for photos, especially at night when the neon lights reflect on the Dotonbori River.

SHINSAIBASHI BACKSTREETS



The backstreets of Shinsaibashi are the **true nightlife area of Osaka**. This is where you can go bar hopping and experience the local drinking scene. The alleys are narrow and filled with small bars, each with its own character. Some are lively, some are quiet, and a few feel more like someone's living room.

You'll find everything from **Japanese whiskey bars** to **international pubs** and **hidden cocktail spots**. It's a safe area to walk around even late at night. I usually suggest exploring freely and following the music or lights that catch your attention. Check the bar recommendations at the bottom of the page for a few of my personal favorites.



GLICO MAN

The infamous Glico sign is the universal meeting point in Osaka and a must visit at night. The neon lights reflect on the Dotonbori River, creating one of the city's most famous views.

- The current version is the sixth design since its debut in **1935**
- The sign represents the **Glico candy company's** slogan "300 meters in one piece of candy," symbolizing energy and victory
- Great spot for photos, especially from the Ebisu Bridge just across the river

HOZENJI YOKUCHO

HIDDEN
ALLEY



A hidden alley in the middle of the busy Dotonbori area, Hozenji Yokocho is one of Osaka's most peaceful spots. As you walk through, you can stop by Hozenji Temple and pour water over the moss-covered Buddha statue called **Mizukake Fudo**. **Locals believe it brings good luck and washes away worries.**

The stone-paved path is lined with small restaurants and traditional bars, softly lit by lanterns at night. It's a short walk, but it feels like stepping back in time right in the heart of the city.

HANAMARUKEN



You can't miss this. First of all, it's a lot. The serving is big, but I swear you'll always want more. Hanamaruken is famous for its **slow-braised pork rib ramen** that melts in your mouth and a broth that's rich without being too heavy. It's flavorful, filling, and one of the most satisfying bowls you can find in Osaka.

Unlike traditional ramen, this one is not holding back. The soup is deep and comforting, and the meat practically falls apart as you eat. If you want more soup, just request and they'll happily refill it.

DOGUYASUJI



If you're looking for traditional cups and teapots, this is your go-to. Doguyasuji is **Osaka's kitchen street**, filled with shops selling everything from Japanese knives and chopsticks to restaurant signs and cookware. Many local chefs come here to buy their tools, so you'll see high-quality items alongside affordable souvenirs.

It's a great place to find something practical to bring home, like handcrafted cups, plates, or even plastic food displays. Take your time walking through and don't be shy to ask the shop owners. Most are friendly and happy to explain how their tools are made.

KUROMON MARKET



Now this is one of the highlights of the trip. Kuromon Market is Osaka's main food market, known for its fresh seafood, wagyu, and endless street snacks. You can find **grilled scallops, sushi, sea urchin, and fruits sliced** fresh right in front of you. It's the best place to try small bites from different stalls and experience Osaka's local flavors in one walk.

The market has been around for over **200 years** and is still popular with both locals and chefs. I usually recommend coming before lunch to enjoy everything freshly cooked. Take your time and follow your nose because every corner has something worth tasting.