

TRANSPORT

Kyoto is within easy reach of three airports, all of which have air links with North America, Europe, Asia and Oceania, in addition to cities across Japan. Kyoto is also linked to the rest of Japan by a multitude of excellent train and bus lines, including the *shinkansen* (bullet train). Additionally, you can reach Osaka and Kōbe (both close to Kyoto) by ship from China.

Within the city, Kyoto has an excellent public transport system. There is a comprehensive bus network, two subway lines, four train lines (two of which can be used like subways for trips around Kyoto) and a huge fleet of taxis. Furthermore, being largely flat, Kyoto is a great city for cycling – it's perfectly feasible that you could rent or buy a bicycle on your first day in the city and never have to use the public transport system.

Book flights, tours and rail tickets online at www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

AIR Airlines

Most airlines have offices in Osaka or Tokyo. The ☎ 0120 numbers are toll free.

Air Canada (☎ 0120-048-048; www.aircanada.ca/e-home.html)

Air France (☎ 06-6641-1271; www.airfrance.com)

Air New Zealand (☎ 0120-300-747; www.airnewzealand.co.nz)

Alitalia (☎ 06-6341-3951; www.alitalia.com)

All Nippon Airways (ANA; ☎ international 0120-029-333, domestic 0120-029-222; www.ana.co.jp/eng/)

American Airlines (☎ 0120-000-860; www.aa.com)

Cathay Pacific Airways (☎ 0120-355-747; www.cathaypacific.com)

Things Change...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

Delta Air Lines (☎ 0120-333-742; www.delta.com)

Garuda Indonesia (☎ 06-6635-3222; www.garuda-indonesia.com)

Japan Airlines (JAL; ☎ international 0120-255-931, domestic 0120-255-971; www.jal.co.jp/en/)

Jetstar (☎ 800-4008-3900; www.jetstar.com)

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines (☎ 0120-468-215; www.klm.com)

Korean Air (☎ 0088-21-2001; www.koreanair.com)

Lufthansa Airlines (☎ 0120-051-844; www.lufthansa.com)

Northwest Airlines (☎ 0120-120-747; www.nwa.com)

Qantas Airways (☎ 0120-207-020; www.qantas.com)

Scandinavian Airlines (☎ 0120-678-101; www.flysas.com)

Swiss International Air Lines (☎ 0120-667-788; www.swiss.com)

Thai Airways International (☎ 06-6202-5161; www.thairways.com)

United Airlines (☎ 0120-114-466; www.united.com)

Airports

While there is no international or domestic airport in Kyoto, the city is within easy reach of Kansai International Airport (KIX), Central Japan International Airport Centrair (NGO) and Osaka International Itami Airport (ITM; domestic flights only).

The trip between KIX and Kyoto can be quite expensive and time consuming; if you are flying domestically and have a choice of airports, it is cheaper and easier to fly into Osaka International Itami Airport.

It's sometimes cheaper to fly into Tokyo's Narita airport than into KIX. As a rule, it will cost about ¥15,000 and take around five hours to get from Narita to Kyoto by train (taking the N'EX express train and the *shinkansen*). See the boxed text, p183, for more information.

KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The closest international airport to Kyoto is Osaka's **Kansai International Airport** (code KIX; www.kansai-airport.or.jp/en), which has direct flights to and from many cities in North America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

For international departures, there are shower and dayroom facilities, which cost

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

¥1200. These are available only to those who have cleared passport control and to transit passengers.

KIX has information counters throughout the complex with English-speaking staff. The **main tourist information counter** (☎ 0724-56-6025; 1st fl, International Arrivals Hall; ☎ 9am-9pm) is operated by the Osaka prefectural government. It's located roughly in the centre of the international arrivals hall.

If you'd prefer not to lug your bags all the way to Kyoto, there are several luggage delivery services that are located in the arrivals hall.

After clearing customs, it is a short walk to public transport: straight out the doors for buses and up the escalators or elevators for train connections (see the boxed text, [opposite](#)). KIX offers short- and long-term baggage storage for ¥350 to ¥1000 per day, depending on the size of the bag. You pay the bill when you pick up your bag.

Note that the area code for KIX is ☎ 0742, which is different from Kyoto's area code of ☎ 075.

CENTRAL JAPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CENTRAIR

Located in Nagoya is **Central Japan International Airport Centrair** (code NGO; www.centrair.jp/en), a 45-minute trip east of Kyoto by *shinkansen*. Centrair has flights between Nagoya and Australia, Canada, China, Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the

Philippines, Saipan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the USA.

Centrair is one of the two airports in Japan serviced by Jetstar ([p181](#)), Australia's new budget airline.

OSAKA INTERNATIONAL ITAMI AIRPORT

Commonly known as Itami, **Osaka International Itami Airport** (code ITM; www.osaka-airport.co.jp) is Osaka's domestic airport. Itami has connections with dozens of cities in Japan. You may arrive here if you've transferred from an international flight at Narita.

You'll find an information counter with English-speaking staff in the main arrivals hall. There are several luggage delivery services in the arrivals hall if you don't want to carry your bags to Kyoto.

Domestic Air Services

The larger airports in Japan have regular flights to and from Osaka. For most cities in Honshū (the main island of Japan), including Tokyo, Nagoya and Hiroshima, it is usually faster, cheaper and more convenient to travel by *shinkansen* ([p187](#)).

Domestic airfares can be rather expensive and tend to vary little between carriers. ANA and JAL offer tickets at up to 50% off if you purchase a month or more in advance, with smaller discounts for purchases made one to three weeks in advance.

GETTING INTO TOWN

To/From KIX

The fastest, most convenient way between KIX and Kyoto is the special JR *haruka* airport express (reserved/unreserved ¥3490/¥2980, 75 minutes). Unreserved seats are almost always available, so you usually don't need to purchase tickets in advance. First and last departures from KIX to Kyoto are at 6.29am and 10.18pm Monday to Friday (6.41am at weekends); first and last departures from Kyoto to KIX are at 5.46am and 8.16pm.

If you have time to spare, you can save some money by taking the *kankū kaisoku* (Kansai airport express) between the airport and Osaka Station and taking a regular *shinkansen* (special rapid train) to/from Kyoto ([p188](#)). The total journey by this route takes about 90 minutes with good connections, and costs ¥1800.

For those travelling on Japanese airlines (JAL and ANA), there is an advance check-in counter inside the JR ticket office in Kyoto Station ([Map p46](#)). This service allows you to check in with your luggage at the station – a real bonus for those with heavy bags.

Osaka Airport Transport (☎ 06-6844-1124; www.okkbus.co.jp/eng) runs direct limousine buses between Kyoto and KIX (adult/child ¥2300/1150, 105 minutes). There are pick-up and drop-off points on the southern side of Kyoto Station ([Map p46](#); in front of Avanti Department Store), and at Kyoto ANA Hotel ([Map p74](#)) and Sanjō Keihan Station ([Map pp68–9](#)). At KIX the buses leave from the kerb outside the International Arrivals Hall.

Perhaps the most convenient option is the **MK Taxi Sky Gate Shuttle limousine van service** (☎ 702-5489; www.mk-group.co.jp/english/shuttle/index.html), which will drop you off anywhere in Kyoto for ¥3500 – simply go to the staff counter at the south end of the arrivals hall of KIX and they will do the rest. From Kyoto to the airport it is necessary to make reservations two days in advance and they will pick you up anywhere in Kyoto and take you to the airport. A similar service is offered by **Yasaka Taxi** (☎ 803-4800).

To/From Central Japan International Airport Centrair

The Meitetsu Tokoname Railroad line connects Centrair with Nagoya Station (¥850, 28 minutes). Nagoya is connected to Kyoto by the Tōkaidō shinkansen line (¥5640, 36 minutes). It is therefore quite convenient to use Centrair as your gateway to Kyoto.

To/From Osaka International Itami Airport

Osaka Airport Transport (☎ 06-6844-1124; www.okkbus.co.jp/eng/) runs frequent airport limousine buses (¥1370, 55 minutes) between Kyoto Station and Itami. There are less frequent pick-ups and drop-offs at some of Kyoto's main hotels. The Kyoto Station stop is in front of Avanti Department Store ([Map p46](#)) and the Itami stop is outside the arrivals hall – buy your ticket from the machine near the bus stop. Allow extra time in case of traffic. At Itami the stand for these buses is outside the arrivals hall; buy your ticket from the machines and ask one of the attendants which stand is for Kyoto.

You can also take the MK Taxi Sky Gate Shuttle limousine van service to/from the city for ¥2300. Call at least two days in advance to reserve or ask at the information counter in the arrivals hall in Osaka.

The following are typical one-way prices for flights between Osaka (Itami or KIX) and several major cities in Japan.

Destination	One Way (¥)
Fukuoka	20,100
Kagoshima	24,600
Kōchi	16,100
Kumamoto	21,600
Matsuyama	15,600
Nagasaki	23,600
Naha	31,400
Niigata	26,600
Sapporo	37,900
Sendai	28,300
Tokyo	20,700

BICYCLE

Kyoto is a great city to explore on a bicycle. With the exception of outlying areas, it is mostly flat and there is a bike path running the length of the Kamo-gawa. Many guesthouses rent or lend bicycles to their guests and there are rental shops around Kyoto Station, in Arashiyama and Sagano, and Downtown Kyoto. With a decent bicycle and a good map, you can easily make your way all around the city. Bicycle tours are also available (see [p184](#)).

Unfortunately, Kyoto's bike parking facilities must be among the worst in the world – hence the number of bikes you see haphazardly locked up around the city. Many bikes

end up stolen or impounded during regular sweeps of the city (particularly those near entrances to train/subway stations). If your bike does disappear, check for a poster (in both Japanese and English) in the vicinity indicating the time of seizure and the inconvenient place you'll have to go to pay the ¥2000 fine and retrieve your bike. The city does not impound bicycles on Sundays or holidays, so you can park pretty much at will on those days.

If you don't want to worry about your bike being stolen or impounded, we recommend using one of the city-operated bicycle and motorcycle parking lots. There is one downtown on Kiyomachi-dōri midway between Sanjō-dōri and Shijō-dōri (Map p50), another near Kyoto Station (Map p46), and another in the north of town near the Eizan Densha station at Demachiyana (Map pp68–9). These places charge ¥150 per day (buy a ticket from the machine on your way in or out).

Hire

Budget Inn (Map p46; ☎ 353-6968; www.kyotojp.com) rents large-frame and regular bicycles for ¥800 per day for visitors, ¥690 for staying guests, with a ¥3000 deposit per bike; see p148. Bicycles can be picked up between 8am and 9.30pm.

Another great place to rent a bike is the **Kyoto Cycling Tour Project** (KCTP; Map p46; ☎ 467-5175; www.kctp.net/en). The folks here rent mountain bikes (¥1500 per day) which are perfect for getting around Kyoto. Bicycles can be delivered upon request (¥500) or you can pick them up at their shop. KCTP also conducts a variety of bicycle tours of Kyoto, which are an excellent way to see the city (check the website for details).

Most rental outfits require you to leave ID such as a passport.

Purchase

If you plan on spending more than a week or so exploring Kyoto by bicycle, it might make sense to purchase one second-hand. A simple *mama chari* (shopping bike) can be had for as little as ¥3000. Try the used-cycle shop **Eirin** (Map pp68–9; ☎ 752-0292; Sakyō-ku, Imadegawa-dōri) near Kyoto University. Alternatively, you'll find a good selection of used bikes advertised for sale on the message board at **Kyoto International Community House** (Map pp68–9; ☎ 752-3010; Sakyō-ku, Awataguchi).

BOAT

Domestic Ferries

Osaka and Kōbe are the main ports for ferries between Kansai and Shikoku, and Kyūshū and Okinawa. There is a range of fares available to/from Osaka and Kōbe.

Destination	Cost (¥)	Duration
Imabari (Shikoku)	from ¥5400	7hr
Matsuyama (Shikoku)	from ¥6300	9.5hr
Shinmoji (Kitakyūshū)	from ¥7400	12hr
Beppu (Kyūshū)	from ¥8800	12hr
Ōita (Kyūshū)	from ¥8800	12hr
Miyazaki (Kyūshū)	from ¥10,400	13hr
Shibushi (Kyūshū)	from ¥10,700	14hr
Naha (Okinawa)	from ¥18,800	39hr

From Maizuru, north of Kyoto on the Sea of Japan, you can also catch a ferry as far north as Otaru in Hokkaidō (¥9600, 29 hours).

The Tourist Information Centre (TIC; p199) can provide detailed information on various routes and up-to-date schedules.

International Ferries

There are regular ferries running between Kansai and Korea or China. There is no international departure tax when leaving Japan by boat.

From Naha there are ferries onward to Taiwan (¥16,000, 19 hours).

CHINA

The **Japan China International Ferry Company** (☎ in Japan 06-6536-6541, in China 021-6325-7642; www.fune.co.jp/chinjif, in Japanese) connects Shanghai with Osaka and Kōbe. A 2nd-class ticket costs around US\$180. The journey takes around 48 hours. A similar service is provided by the **Shanghai Ferry Company** (☎ in Japan 06-6243-6345, in China 021-6537-5111; www.shanghai-ferry.co.jp, in Japanese).

The **China Express Line** (☎ in Japan 078-321-5791, in China 022-2420-5777; www.celkobe.co.jp, in Japanese) operates a ferry between Kōbe and Tientsin while 1st-/2nd-class tickets cost US\$240/210. The journey takes around 48 hours.

SOUTH KOREA

The **Kampu Ferry Service** (☎ in Japan 0832-24-3000, in Korea operating under Pukwan Ferry 051-464-2700; www.kampuferry.co.jp, in Japanese) operates the Shimonoseki-Busan ferry service. One-way fares range from around US\$85 to US\$180. The journey takes around 12 hours.

An international high-speed hydrofoil service known as the **Biitoru** (say 'beetle') run by **JR Kyūshū** (☎ in Japan 092-281-2315, in Korea 051-465-6111; www.jrbeetle.co.jp/english) connects Fukuoka with Busan in Korea (one way US\$110, three hours). The **Camellia line** (☎ in Japan 092-262-2323, in Korea 051-466-7799; www.camellia-line.co.jp, in Japanese & Korean) also has a regular daily ferry service between Fukuoka and Busan (US\$80, 16 hours, one way).

BUS

City Buses

Kyoto has an intricate network of bus routes providing an efficient way of getting around at moderate cost. Many of the routes used by visitors have announcements in English. Most buses run between 7am and 9pm, though a few run earlier or later.

The main bus terminals are also train stations: Kyoto Station (Map p46) on the JR and Kintetsu lines, Sanjō Station (Map pp68–9) on the Keihan line/Tōzai subway line, Karasuma-Shijō Station (Map p50) on the Hankyū line/Karasuma subway line, and Kitaōji Station (Map pp54–5) on the Karasuma subway line. The bus terminal at Kyoto Station is on the north side and has three main departure bays (departure points are indicated by the letter of the bay and number of the stop within that bay).

The main bus information centre (Map p46) is located in front of Kyoto Station. Here you can pick up bus maps, purchase bus tickets and passes (on all lines, including highway buses), and get additional information. Nearby, there's an English/Japanese bus information computer terminal; just enter your intended destination and it will tell you the correct bus and bus stop.

Three-digit numbers written against a red background denote loop lines: bus 204 runs around the northern part of the city and buses 205 and 206 circle the city via Kyoto Station. Buses with route numbers on a blue background take other routes.

The TIC stocks the **Bus Navi: Kyoto City Bus Sightseeing Map**, which shows the city's main bus lines. But this map is not exhaustive. If you can read a little Japanese, pick up a copy of the regular (and more detailed) Japanese bus map available at major bus terminals throughout the city, including the main bus information centre.

KYOTO BUS & SUBWAY PASSES

To save time and money you can buy a *kaisū-ken* (book of five tickets) for ¥1000. There's also a *shi-basu senyō ichinichi jōshaken cado* (one-day card) valid for unlimited travel on city buses that costs ¥500. A similar pass (*Kyoto kankō ichinichi jōsha-ken*) that allows unlimited use of the bus and subway costs ¥1200. A *Kyoto kankō futsuka jōsha-ken* (two-day bus/subway pass) costs ¥2000. *Kaisū-ken* can be purchased directly from bus drivers. The other passes and cards can be purchased at major bus terminals and at the bus information centre. Also, be sure to refer to the **Kansai Thru Pass entry (p189)**.

Bus stops usually have a map of destinations from that stop and a timetable for the buses serving that stop. Unfortunately, all of this information is in Japanese, so nonspeakers will simply have to ask locals for help.

Entry to the bus is usually through the back door and exit is via the front door. Inner-city buses charge a flat fare (¥220), which you drop into the clear plastic receptacle on top of the machine next to the driver on your way out. A separate machine gives change for ¥100 and ¥500 coins or ¥1000 notes.

On buses serving the outer areas, you take a *seiri-ken* (numbered ticket) when entering. When you leave, an electronic board above the driver displays the fare corresponding to your ticket number (drop the *seiri-ken* into the ticket box with your fare).

When heading for locations outside the city centre, be careful which bus you board. Kyoto City buses are green, Kyoto buses are tan and Keihan buses are red and white.

Long-Distance Buses

The overnight bus (JR Dream Kyoto Go) runs between Tokyo Station (Yaesu-guchi long-distance bus stop) and Kyoto Station Bus Terminal. The trip takes about eight hours and there are usually two departures nightly in either direction, at 10pm (Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays) and 11pm (daily). The fare is ¥8180/14,480 one way/return. You should be able to grab some sleep in the reclining seats. There is a similar service to/from Shinjuku Station's Shin-minami-guchi in Tokyo.

Other JR bus transport possibilities include Kanazawa (one way/return ¥4060/6600) and Hiroshima (one way/return ¥5500/10,000).

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

The Meishin Expressway runs between Nagoya and Kōbe. The best access to Kyoto is from the Kyoto–Minami off-ramp (it will leave you on Rte 1, a few kilometres south of the city centre). Kyoto is also accessible from Osaka on Rte 1, Nishinomiyā (Kōbe area) on Rte 171, from the western hills on Rte 9 or from the north (Sea of Japan) on the Shūzan Kaidō (Rte 162).

Kyoto's heavy traffic and narrow roads make driving in the city difficult and stressful. You will almost always do better riding a bicycle or catching public transport. Unless you have specific needs, do not even entertain the idea of renting a car to tour the city – it's far more cost and headache than any traveller needs (plus parking fines start at ¥15,000).

Driving is on the left-hand side in Japan. A litre of petrol costs between ¥120 and ¥150.

Driving Licence & Permits

Travellers from most nations are able to drive in Japan with an International Driving Permit backed up by their own regular licence. The international permit is issued by your national automobile association and costs around US\$5 in most countries. Make sure it's endorsed for cars and motorcycles if you're licensed for both.

Travellers from Switzerland, France and Germany (and others whose countries are not signatories to the Geneva Convention of 1949 concerning international driving licences) are not allowed to drive in Japan on a regular international licence. Rather, travellers from these countries must have their own licence backed by an authorised translation of the same licence. These translations can be made by their country's embassy or consulate in Japan or by the **Japan Automobile Federation** (JAF; ☎ 03-6833-9000, 0570-00-2811; www.jaf.or.jp/e/index_e.htm; 2-2-17 Shiba, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0014). If you are unsure which category your country falls into, contact the nearest JNTO office (p199).

Foreign licences and International Driving Permits are valid in Japan only for six months. If you are staying longer, you will have to get a Japanese licence from the local department of motor vehicles. To do this, you will need to provide your own licence, passport photos, Alien Registration Card and the fee, and also take a simple eyesight test.

Hire

It makes sense to rent a car if you plan to explore certain rural areas that aren't serviced by train lines (such as Miyama-chō, p178).

There are several car-rental agencies in Kyoto. Nissan Rent-a-Car (Map p46) has an office directly in front of Kyoto Station. Matsuda Rent-a-Car (Map pp54–5; ☎ 361-0201) is close to the intersection of Kawaramachi-dōri and Gojō-dōri. You will need to produce an International Driving Permit.

Typical hire rates for a small car are ¥6825 to ¥9450 for the first day and ¥5775 to ¥7875 per day thereafter. Move up a bracket and you're looking at ¥11,550 to ¥14,700 for the first day and ¥9450 to ¥11,550 thereafter. On top of the hire charge, there's a ¥1000 per day insurance cost.

It's also worth bearing in mind that car hire costs go up during high seasons (28 April to 6 May, 20 July to 31 August and 28 December to 5 January). A car that costs ¥8800 a day will usually go up to ¥9700 during any of the peak times.

Communication can be a major problem when hiring a car. If you cannot find a local to assist you with the paperwork, speaking a little Japanese will help greatly. Some of the offices will have a rent-a-car phrasebook, with questions you might need to ask in English. Otherwise, just speak as slowly as possible and hope for the best.

TAXI

Taxis are a convenient, but expensive, way of getting from place to place about town. A taxi can usually be flagged down in most parts of the city at any time. There are also a large number of *takushū noriba* (taxi stands) in town, outside most train/subway stations, department stores etc. There is no need to touch the back doors of the cars at all – the opening/closing mechanism is controlled by the driver.

Fares generally start at ¥630 for the first 2km. The exception is **MK Taxi** (☎ 721-2237), where fares start at ¥580. Regardless of which taxi company you use, there's a 20% surcharge for rides between midnight and 6am.

MK Taxi also provides tours of the city with English-speaking drivers. For a group of up to four people, prices start at ¥13,280 for three hours.

Two other companies that offer a similar tour service, English-speaking drivers and

USEFUL PHRASES

Train Types

<i>shinkansen</i>	新幹線	bullet train
<i>tokkyū</i>	特急	limited express
<i>shinkaisoku</i>	新快速	JR special rapid train
<i>kyūkō</i>	急行	express
<i>kaisoku</i>	快速	JR rapid or express
<i>futsū</i>	普通	local
<i>kaku-eki-teisha</i>	各駅停車	local

Other Useful Words

<i>jiyū-seki</i>	自由席	unreserved seat
<i>shitei-seki</i>	指定席	reserved seat
<i>green-sha</i>	グリーン車	1st-class car
<i>ōfuku</i>	往復	round trip
<i>katamichi</i>	片道	one way
<i>kin'en-sha</i>	禁煙車	nonsmoking car
<i>kitsu-en-sha</i>	喫煙車	smoking car

competitive prices are **Kyōren Taxi Service** (☎ 672-5111) and **Keihan Taxi Service** (☎ 602-8162).

TRAIN

Kyoto is reached from most places in Japan by JR (Japan's main train company), but there are also several private lines connecting Kyoto with Nagoya, Nara, Osaka and Kōbe. Where they exist, private lines are always cheaper than JR.

The main train station in Kyoto is Kyoto Station (Map46), which is actually two stations under one roof: JR Kyoto Station and Kintetsu Kyoto Station. This station is in the south of the city, just below Shichijō-dōri. The easiest way to get downtown from this station is to hop on the Karasuma subway line (see below). There is a bus terminal on the north side of the station from where you can catch buses to all parts of town; for more information, see p185.

In addition to the private Kintetsu line that operates from Kyoto Station, there are two other private train lines in Kyoto: the Hankyū line that operates from Downtown Kyoto along Shijō-dōri and the Keihan line that operates from stops along the Kamo-gawa. For more information on these lines, see p188.

Subway

Kyoto has two efficient subway lines, which operate from 5.30am to 11.30pm. Minimum adult fare is ¥210 (children ¥110).

The quickest way to travel between the north and south of the city is the Karasuma subway line. The line has 15 stops and runs from Takeda in the far south, via Kyoto Station, to the Kyoto International Conference Hall (Kokusaikaikan Station) in the north.

The east–west Tōzai subway line traverses Kyoto from Nijō Station in the west, meeting the Karasuma subway line at Karasuma-Oike Station, and continuing east to Sanjō Keihan, Yamashina and Rokujizō in the east and southeast.

To/From Other Parts of Japan KŌBE

Kobe's Sannomiya Station is on the JR Tōkaidō/Sanyō line as well as the Hankyū line, both of which connect it to Kyoto. The fastest way between Kōbe and Kyoto Station is a JR *shinkaisoku* (¥1050, 55 minutes).

The Hankyū line, which stops at Kawaramachi, Karasuma and Ōmiya Stations in Kyoto (¥590, one hour limited express), is cheaper but less convenient; change at Osaka's Jūsō or Umeda Stations.

JR Rail Pass holders should also note that Shin-Kōbe Station is on the Tōkaidō/Sanyō *shinkansen* line.

KYŪSHŪ

Kyoto is on the JR Tōkaidō/Sanyō *shinkansen* line, which runs to Hakata Station in Fukuoka, northern Kyūshū (¥15,610, three hours). Other places to pick up the train along this route include Shimonoseki (¥14,570, three hours), Hiroshima (¥11,090, 1¼ hours) and Okayama (¥7630, one hour).

NAGOYA

The *shinkansen* (¥5640, 36 minutes) goes to/from Nagoya. You can save around half the cost by taking regular express trains, but you will need to change trains at least once and can expect the trip to take about three hours. For information on getting to/from Nagoya's Central Japan International Airport Centrair, see p183.

NARA

Unless you have a Japan Rail Pass, the best option is the Kintetsu line (sometimes written in English as the Kinki Nippon railway), which links Kintetsu Nara Station and Kintetsu Kyoto Station. There are direct limited express trains (¥1110, 35 minutes) and ordinary express

trains (¥610, 45 minutes), which may require a change at Saidai-ji.

The JR Nara line also connects JR Nara Station with Kyoto Station. Your best bet between the two cities is a *kaisoku* (rapid train; ¥690, 63 minutes), but departures are often few and far between.

NORTH OF KYOTO

Kyoto can be reached from the northern cities of Kanazawa and Fukui by the JR Hokuriku and Kosei lines, which run along the west coast of Biwa-ko. From Sea of Japan cities, such as Obama and Maizuru, you can take the JR Obama line to Ayabe and then change to the San-in line coming from Kinokasa.

OSAKA

Other than the *shinkansen*, the fastest way between Osaka Station and Kyoto Station is a JR *shinkaisoku* (¥540, 29 minutes).

There is also the cheaper, private Hankyū line, which runs between Umeda Station in downtown Osaka and Kawaramachi, Karasuma and Ōmiya Stations in Kyoto (¥390, 40 minutes limited express).

Alternatively, you can take the Keihan line between Yodoyabashi Station in Osaka and Demachianagi, Marutamachi, Sanjō, Shijō or Shichijō Stations in Kyoto (¥400, 45 minutes limited express).

If you arrive in Osaka at the Osaka-kō or Nan-kō ferry ports, you will find convenient subway connections to JR Osaka Station, Keihan Yodoyabashi Station or the Hankyū Umeda Station. From these stations there are rail connections onwards to Kyoto.

For information on travelling to/from Osaka International Itami Airport and Kansai International Airport, see [p183](#).

TOKYO

The JR *shinkansen* is the fastest and most frequent rail link; the *hikari* superexpress (one way, ¥13,520, two hours and 20 minutes) goes to/from Tokyo Station.

By regular express train (¥7980, around eight hours), the trip involves at least two – possibly three or four – changes along the way.

Note that if you're flying into Tokyo's Narita Airport, you will have to first take a train from Narita into the city and then catch a *shinkansen* from Tokyo Station to Kyoto. For those making this trip, note that Tokyo Station is 66km from Narita Airport. *Shinkansen* run between Tokyo and Kyoto

roughly between 6am and 9pm. There are several departures an hour in each direction. Note that the *hikari* and *nozomi* versions of the *shinkansen* are the fastest and are definitely the way to go. The N'EX special express train is the fastest way to travel from Narita to Tokyo Station (¥2940, 53 minutes); the 'Airport Narita' trains are cheaper and fairly fast (¥1280, 1½ hours).

Buying a Ticket

All stations are equipped with automatic ticket machines, which are simple to operate. Destinations and fares are all posted above the machines in both Japanese and English – once you've figured out the fare to your destination, just insert your money and press the yen amount. Most of these machines accept paper currency in addition to coins (usually just ¥1000 notes). If you've made a mistake, press the red *tori-keshi* (cancel) button. There's also a help button to summon assistance.

Train Passes

JAPAN RAIL PASS

One of Japan's few travel bargains is the Japan Rail Pass, which *must be purchased outside Japan*. It is available to foreign tourists and Japanese residents living overseas, but not foreign residents of Japan. The pass lets you use any JR service for seven days for ¥28,300, 14 days for ¥45,100 or 21 days for ¥57,700. Green Car passes are ¥37,800, ¥61,200 and ¥79,600, respectively. The pass cannot be used for the new superexpress *nozomi shinkansen* service, but is OK for everything else (including other *shinkansen* services such as *hikari*).

The only surcharge levied on the Japan Rail Pass is for overnight sleepers. Since a one-way, reserved seat Tokyo–Kyoto *shinkansen* ticket costs ¥13,220, you only have to travel Tokyo–Kyoto–Tokyo to make a seven-day pass come close to paying off. Note that the pass is valid only on JR services; you will still have to pay for private train services.

In order to get a pass, you must first purchase an 'exchange order' at JAL and ANA offices and major travel agencies outside Japan. Once you arrive in Japan, you must bring this exchange order to a JR Travel Service Centre, which can be found in most major JR stations and at Narita and Kansai airports. When you validate your pass, you'll have to show your passport. The pass can only be used by those with a temporary visitor visa.

The clock starts to tick on the pass as soon as you validate it, so don't do so if you're going into Tokyo or Kyoto and intend to hang around for a few days.

For more details on the pass and overseas purchase locations, visit the Japan Rail Pass website at www.japanrailpass.net.

JR WEST KANSAI PASS

A great deal for those who want to explore only the Kansai area, this pass covers unlimited travel on JR lines between most major Kansai cities, such as Himeji, Kōbe, Osaka, Kyoto and Nara. It also covers JR trains to and from Kansai airport but does not cover any *shinkansen* lines. One-, two-, three- and four-day passes cost ¥2000/4000/5000/6000, respectively (children's passes are half-price). These can be purchased at the same places as the countrywide rail pass (both inside and outside Japan) and also entitle you to discounts at train station rental-car offices. Like the Japan Rail Pass, this can only be used by those with a temporary visitor visa. For more information on this pass, see the JR West website, www.westjr.co.jp/english/travel.

KANSAI THRU PASS

This new pass is a real bonus to travellers who plan to do a fair bit of exploration in the Kansai area. It enables you to ride on city subways, private railways and city buses in Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, Kōbe and Wakayama. It also entitles you to discounts at many attractions in the Kansai area. A two-day pass costs ¥3800 and a three-day pass costs ¥5000. It is available at the Kansai airport travel counter on the 1st floor of the International Arrivals Hall and at the main bus information centre in front of Kyoto Station, among others. For more information, visit www.surutto.com/conts/ticket/3dayeng/.

SEISHUN JŪHACHI KIPPU

If you don't have a Japan Rail Pass, one of the best deals is a five-day Seishun Jūhachi Kippu (literally a 'Youth 18 Ticket'). Despite its name, it can be used by anyone of any age. For ¥11,500 you get five one-day tickets valid for travel anywhere in Japan on JR lines. The only catches are that you can't travel on *tokkyū* or *shinkansen* trains and each ticket must be used within 24 hours. However, even if you only have to make a return trip, say, between Tokyo and Kyoto, you'll be saving a

lot of money. Seishun Jūhachi Kippu can be purchased at most JR stations in Japan.

The tickets are intended to be used during Japanese university holidays. There are three periods of sales and validity: spring – sold between 20 February and 31 March and valid for use between 1 March and 10 April; summer – sold between 1 July and 31 August and valid for use between 20 July and 10 September; and winter – sold between 1 December and 10 January and valid for use between 10 December and 20 January. Note that these periods are subject to change. For more information, ask at any JR ticket window or visit www.jreast.co.jp/c/pass/seishun18.html.

If you don't want to buy the whole book of five tickets, you can sometimes purchase separate tickets at the discount ticket shops around train stations.

Discount Ticket Shops

Known as *kakuyasu-kippu-uriba*, these stores deal in discounted tickets for trains, buses, domestic flights, ferries, and a host of other things such as cut-rate stamps and phone-cards. Typical savings on *shinkansen* tickets are between 5% and 10%, which is good news for long-term residents who are not eligible for Japan Rail Passes. Discount ticket agencies are found around train stations in medium and large cities. The best way to find one is to ask at the *kōban* (police box) outside the station.

Around Kyoto Station, you'll find **Tōkai Discount Ticket Shop** (Map [p46](#); ☎ north side 344-0330, south side 662-6640; 🕒 north side 10am-7.30pm Mon-Fri, to 7pm Sat, Sun & holidays, south side 10am-7.30pm Mon-Fri, to 7pm Sat, Sun & holidays). In the Excursions chapter ([p158](#)), discount ticket shops are listed on the maps of Himeji ([p176](#)), Osaka ([p165](#)) and Kōbe ([p173](#)).

Left Luggage

There are coin lockers in train stations in Kyoto. Small/medium/large lockers cost ¥300/400/600 for 24 hours. Alternatively, in Kyoto Station there is an *ichiji-nimotsu-azukari* (luggage-storage office) that charges ¥410 per piece of luggage for up to six days, after which the daily rate increases to ¥820. Luggage can be stored for a total of 15 days and there is a size limit up to 2m wide and up to 30kg. The office is on the B1 floor near the central ticket gate.

DIRECTORY

ADDRESSES IN KYOTO

In Japan, finding a place from its address can be difficult, even for locals. The problem is twofold: first, the address is given by an area rather than a street; and second, the numbers are not necessarily consecutive. To find an address, the usual process is to ask directions. The numerous local police boxes are there largely for this purpose.

In this guide, we use a simplified system for addresses. We either give the area (eg Higashiyama-ku, Nanzen-ji) or we give the street on which the place is located, followed by the nearest cross street (eg Karasuma-dōri-Imadegawa). In some cases, we also give additional information to show where the place lies in relation to the intersection of the two streets mentioned. In Kyoto, the land usually slopes gently to the south; thus, an address might indicate whether a place lies above or north of (*agaru*) or below or south of (*sagaru* or *kudaru*) a particular east–west road. An address might also indicate whether a place lies east (*higashi*) or west (*nishi*) of the north–south road. Thus, Karasuma-dōri-Imadegawa simply means the place is near the intersection of Karasuma-dōri and Imadegawa-dōri; Karasuma-dōri-Imadegawa-sagaru indicates that it's south of that intersection.

BUSINESS HOURS

Shops in town are typically open from 10am to 7pm or 8pm, with larger shops staying open later, and smaller, more traditional ones closing earlier. Kyoto's six major department stores are usually open from 10am to 8pm daily.

Although most companies technically operate on a 9am to 5pm, five-day work week, many stay in business on Saturday mornings as well. Banks are open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm, and are closed on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays.

For those late-night cravings, note that beer and cigarette vending machines shut down after 11pm; there are 24-hour convenience stores all over town, however, some of which sell alcohol and tobacco.

For post office opening hours, see p197.

CHILDREN

Japan is a great place to travel with children; it's safe, clean and extremely convenient. It's possible to book cots in most hotels (but not in many so-called 'business hotels'), and nappy-changing tables are available in the bathrooms of most hotels and in some train stations. Nappies and baby formula are widely available in supermarkets, department stores and convenience stores.

Breast-feeding in public is generally not done in Japan. Child-care facilities are usually available in department stores – ask at the information counter when you enter. Otherwise, child-care facilities are mainly geared to locals only and are hard to access for visitors.

In general, the cost of public transport is half-price for children under 12. Likewise, many of the city's attractions and hotels also offer discounted rates for children.

For more information on child-centred activities in Kyoto, see the boxed text, p48.

CLIMATE

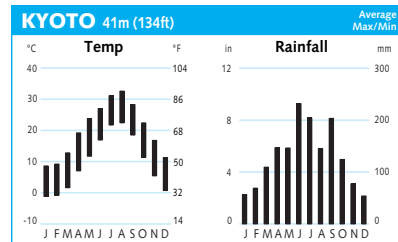
You can visit Kyoto at any time of year, although the hot and humid months of June, July and August and the cold months of December, January and February might be a little uncomfortable for some. The best times are the climatically stable seasons of spring (March to May) and autumn (late September to November).

The highlight of spring is cherry-blossom season, which usually arrives in Kyoto in early April. Bear in mind, though, that the blossoms are notoriously fickle, blooming any time from late March to mid-April.

Autumn is an equally good time to travel, with pleasant temperatures and soothing autumn colours. The shrines and temples of Kyoto look stunning against a backdrop of blazing leaves, which usually peak in mid- to late November.

Of course, the Japanese are well aware that Kyoto is most beautiful at these times and the main attractions can be packed with local tourists. Likewise, accommodation can be hard to find; if you do come at these times, be sure to book well in advance.

Travelling in either winter or summer is a mixed bag. Mid-winter (December to February) weather can be quite cold (but not



prohibitively so), while the sticky summer months (June to August) can turn even the briefest excursion out of the air-con into a soup bath.

June is the month of Japan's rainy season, which varies in intensity from year to year; some years there's no rainy season to speak of, other years it rains virtually every day.

For more information on the best times to visit Kyoto, see p15.

COURSES & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

There's more to Kyoto than just temples, shrines and parks: there are several places to get hands-on experience in traditional arts and crafts including tea ceremony, Japanese *washi* paper, textiles, ceramics and calligraphy. This is only a partial list of what's available. The people at the TIC (p199) can help with requests for more specialised activities.

Kyoto International Community House (KICH; Map pp68–9; ☎ 752-3010; Sakyo-ku, Awataguchi, Torii-chō 2-1; ☎ 9am–9pm Tue–Sun; 🚶 5min walk from Keage Station, Tōzai subway line) Offers an intriguing variety of introductory courses in Japanese culture, open to all for observation (free) and participation. The cost is ¥500 per class, ¥6000 per three-month semester for tea ceremony. It also offers Japanese-language and calligraphy classes. For more on KICH, see p200.

WAK Japan (Map pp54–5; ☎ 212-9993; www.wakjapan.com; Kamigyō-ku, Iseya-chō 412-506; 🚶 10min walk from Marutamachi station, Keihan line) offers a wide variety of excellent introductions to Japanese culture: tea ceremony, ikebana (flower arrangement), trying on kimono, home visits, Japanese cooking, calligraphy, origami etc. Presenters/instructors will speak English or else interpreters are provided. Pick-up service is available from your lodgings. This is highly recommended.

Club Ōkitsu Kyoto (Map pp54–5; ☎ 411-8585; www.okitsu-kyoto.com; Kamigyō-ku, Shinmachi, Mototsuchimikado-chō 524-1; 🚶 10min walk from Imadegawa Station, Karasuma subway line) Offers an upscale introduction to

various aspects of Japanese culture including tea ceremony, incense ceremony and traditional Japanese games. This introduction is performed in an exquisite villa near the Kyoto Gosho and participants get a real sense for the elegance and refinement of traditional Japanese culture. This is also highly recommended.

Ai-Zome Dyeing

Located in the Nishijin area, **Aizen-Kōbō (Map pp54–5; ☎ 441-0355; Nakasuji-dōri-Ōmiya nishi iru; 🚶 10am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, to 4pm Sat & Sun; 🚶 5min walk from Imadegawa-Ōmiya bus stop, bus 101 from Kyoto Station)** dyes indigo-blue *ai-zome* fabrics in a charming *kyō-machiya* (traditional Japanese town house). You can observe and try your hand at tie-dyeing a scarf (¥5665), which takes about an hour. Reservations should be made a few days in advance.

Braiding

Kyoto's most famous braidmaker, **Adachi Kumihimo-kan (Map pp54–5; ☎ 432-4113; Demizu-dōri-Karasuma nishi iru; classes ¥2000-5000; 🚶 9am–noon & 1-4pm Mon–Fri & 1st Sat of each month; 🚶 5min walk from Marutamachi Station, Karasuma subway line)** has a gallery of fine items on display. Here you can weave your own braid on wooden hand looms. It takes about two hours, and the cost depends on the length of the class and what you make. Delicately woven *kyō-kumihimo* (Kyoto-style braid work) was developed in the Heian period for fastening kimono, but gradually spread to other ornamental applications. Today the braid is again most commonly used as *obi-jime* (the tie for kimono sashes). Reservations in Japanese are necessary.

Doll Making

Over roughly four hours at **Honke Katsura (Map p50; ☎ 221-6998; Takakura-dōri-Sanjō kudaru; classes ¥10,500; 🚶 10am–6pm Feb–Nov, closed Mon; 🚶 10min walk from Sanjō Station, Keihan line)** you can learn to paint the face on and assemble a handcrafted *kyō-ningyō* doll. Advance reservations in Japanese are necessary.

Handwoven Textiles

In Nishijin, **Orinasu-kan (Map p74; ☎ 431-0020; Kamigyō-ku, Daikoku-chō 693; incl museum admission ¥5000; 🚶 10am–4pm; 🚶 10min walk from Horikawa-Imadegawa bus stop, bus 9 from Kyoto Station)** offers traditional weaving workshops. The cost is for a three-hour course and you can take home your

handmade fabric. Reservations in Japanese are required one week in advance.

Japanese Language

Kyoto is a great place to study Japanese. **Kawara Juku** (Map p50; ☎ 231-1608; web.kyoto-inet.or.jp/people/wat-sltk/index.html; Nakagyō-ku, Takakura-dōri, Oike sagaru, Kikkōya-chō 609; ☎ office 10am-6pm; 🕒 10min walk from Karasuma-Oike Station, Karasuma subway line) is a friendly little school that offers three-month part-time courses for ¥85,000. Courses start in April, September and January. It also offers a summer intensive course for the same price. Joining a class here is a great way to meet people when you're new in town.

Metalwork

Kyō-zōgan is a damascene technique of laying fine metals onto figures engraved on brass and can be tried at **Amita-honten** (Map pp68-9; ☎ 761-7000; Okazaki Heian-jingū Kita; ☎ 9am, 10am & 2pm Mar-Nov, closes 5.30pm Dec-Feb; 🕒 3min walk from Kumanojinja-mae bus stop, bus 206 from Kyoto Station), just beside the Kyoto Handicraft Center on Marutamachi-dōri. The cost of making a small pendant is ¥3500 and it takes about an hour (it will be sent to you one week later).

Paper Fans

You can learn to design your own *kyō-sensu* paper fan in about 90 minutes at **Kyōsen-dō** (Map p46; ☎ 371-4151; www.kyosendo.co.jp/english/index.html; Higashinotōin-dōri-Shōmen agaru, Tsutsugane-chō 46; classes ¥2200; ☎ 9am, 10.30am, 1pm & 3pm Mon-Sat, 10am, 1pm & 3pm Sun; 🕒 10min walk from Kyoto Station). Reservations in Japanese are necessary a few days in advance. Your fan will be sent to a Japanese address a month later (no overseas deliveries).

Paper Making

Rakushi-kan (Map p50; ☎ 251-0078; rakushikan@kami-kyo.to; Takoyakushi-dōri-Muromachi nishi iru; classes ¥1000-1300; ☎ 10am-7pm Tue-Sun; 🕒 5min walk from Karasuma-Oike Station, Karasuma subway line) offers paper-making workshops on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, with sessions at 1pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. The one-hour course costs from ¥1000 for making sheets of *washi*, business cards or postcards. Reservations in Japanese should be made a week in advance and courses are held for groups of five or more.

Tea Ceremony

At **Urasenke Chadō Research Center** (Map p74; ☎ 431-6474; Horikawa-dōri-Teranouchi; admission ¥500; ☎ 9.30am-4pm Tue-Sun; 🕒 5min walk from Horikawa Teranouchi bus stop, bus 9 from Kyoto Station), it's possible to watch a 20-minute tea-making procedure called *temae* during the Urasenke Foundation's quarterly art exhibitions. You can sample a bowl of *matcha* (powdered green tea) and a sweet (included in the cost of visiting the centre's gallery).

Vegetable-Dyeing

In Ohara, **Ōhara Kōbō** (Map p84; ☎ 744-3138; Ōhara Kusao-chō; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Sun; 🕒 5min walk from Ōhara bus stop, Kyoto bus 17 or 18 from Kyoto Station) offers a chance to dye fabrics using *kusaki-zome*, vivid plant and vegetable dyes. The time and cost depend on the item: choose from a handkerchief (¥500), scarf (¥3000) or plain woollen yarn (enough to knit one sweater; ¥8000); if you bring your own wool to dye, the cost for the latter is ¥5000. The process takes from two to four hours; advance reservations in Japanese are required.

Yūzen Dyeing

At the **Kodai Yūzen-en Gallery** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 823-0500; Takatsuji-dōri-Inokuma; incl museum admission ¥500; ☎ 9am-5pm; 🕒 5min walk from Horikawa-Matsubara bus stop, bus 9 from Kyoto Station) there are facilities to try Yūzen stencil dyeing, which takes around 40 minutes. You can choose from various items to dye, such as a handkerchief (¥1050) or tie (¥4200).

Offering similar activities is **Yūzen Cultural Hall** (Yūzen Bunka Kaikan; Map pp54-5; ☎ 311-0025; Nishikyōgoku-Mameda; incl museum admission ¥400; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat; 🕒 6min walk from Nishikyōgoku Station, Hankyū line). In a 20-minute session you can stencil-dye a hankie (¥450 to ¥800) or try hand painting (¥2100). The workshop closes for one hour at lunch (noon to 1pm) and you must arrive before 4pm.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Kyoto is host to German, French and Italian cultural centres. All of these have libraries, sponsor art exhibitions, organise lectures and seminars relating to their respective country, and participate in cross-cultural exchange programmes.

Centres in Kyoto include the following:

Goethe Institute Kyoto (Map pp68-9; ☎ 761-2188; Kawabata-dōri, Imadegawa kudaru; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, closed Sat & Sun & public holidays; 🕒 5min walk from Imadegawa Station, Keihan line)

Institut Franco-Japonais du Kansai (Map pp68-9; ☎ 761-2105; Higashioji-dōri, Imadegawa kudaru; ☎ 9.30am-7pm Tue-Fri, 9.30am-6.30pm Mon & Sat, closed Sun; 🕒 10min walk from Imadegawa Station, Keihan line)

Instituto Italiano di Cultura di Kansai (Map pp68-9; ☎ 761-4356; Higashioji-dōri, Imadegawa kudaru; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Fri, 11am-6pm Sat, closed Sun & public holidays; 🕒 10min walk from Imadegawa Station, Keihan line)

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Customs allowances include the usual tobacco products, plus three 760mL bottles of alcohol, 57g of perfume, and gifts and souvenirs up to a value of ¥200,000 or its equivalent. The alcohol and tobacco allowances are available only for those who are aged 20 or older. The penalties for importing drugs are severe. Pornography (magazines, videos etc) in which pubic hair or genitalia are visible is illegal in Japan and will be confiscated by customs officers.

There are no limits on the import of foreign or Japanese currency. The export of foreign currency is also unlimited, but a ¥5 million limit exists for Japanese currency.

DISCOUNT CARDS

An international youth hostel card is useful if you plan to stay in hostels. Japan is also one of the few places left in Asia where a student card can be useful. Officially, you should be carrying an ISIC (International Student Identity Card) to qualify for a discount (usually for entry to places of interest), but in practice you will often find that any youth or student card will do the trick. There are a variety of discounts available in Japan for seniors over the age of 65. In almost all cases a passport will be sufficient proof of age, so seniors' cards are rarely worth bringing.

ELECTRICITY

The Japanese electric current is 100V AC. It's an odd voltage not found elsewhere in the world, although most North American electrical items, designed to run on 117V, will function reason-

ably well on this current. While Tokyo and eastern Japan are on 50 Hz, Kyoto and the rest of western Japan are on a cycle of 60 Hz.

Identical to North American plugs, Japanese plugs are of the flat, two-pronged variety. Both transformers and plug adaptors are readily available in Kyoto's Teramachi-dōri electronics district, running south of Shijō-dōri (Map p50), or at Bic Camera (p107).

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

Tokyo

Most countries have embassies in Tokyo (area code ☎ 03), some of which are listed following:

Australia (☎ 5232-4111; www.dfat.gov.au/missions/countries/jp.html; 2-1-14 Mita, Minato-ku)

Canada (☎ 5412-6200; www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/ni-ka/tokyo-en.asp; 7-3-38 Akasaka, Minato-ku)

China (☎ 3403-3380; 3-4-33 Moto-Azabu, Minato-ku)

France (☎ 5420-8800; www.ambafrance-jp.org in French; 4-11-44 Minami-Azabu, Minato-ku)

Germany (☎ 5791-7700; www.tokyo.diplo.de/Vertretung/tokyo/ja/Startseite.html; 4-5-10 Minami-Azabu, Minato-ku)

Ireland (☎ 3263-0695; www.embassy-avenue.jp/ireland/index_eng.html; 2-10-7 Koji-machi, Chiyoda-ku)

Netherlands (☎ 5401-0411; www.oranda.or.jp/index/english/index.html; 3-6-3 Shiba-kōen, Minato-ku)

New Zealand (☎ 3467-2271; www.nzembassy.com/home.cfm; 20-40 Kamiyamachō, Shibuya-ku)

South Korea (☎ 3452-7611; 1-2-5 Minami-Azabu, Minato-ku)

UK (☎ 5211-1100; www.uknow.or.jp/be_je; 1 Ichibanchō, Chiyoda-ku)

USA (☎ 3224-5000; http://tokyo.usembassy.gov/; 1-10-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku)

Osaka

Several countries also have consulates in Osaka (area code ☎ 06):

Australia (☎ 6941-9271; 2-1-61 Shiromi, Chūō-ku)

Canada (☎ 6212-4910; 12F, Dai-san Shoho Bldg, 2-2-3 Nishi-Shinsaibashi, Chūō-ku)

China (☎ 6445-9481; 3-9-2 Utsubo Honmachi, Nishi-ku, Osaka)

France (☎ 4790-1500; 1-2-27 Shiromi, Chūō-ku, Osaka)

Germany (Map p168; ☎ 6440-5070; 35F, Umeda Sky Bldg, Tower East, 1-1-88 Oyodo-naka, Kita-ku)

Netherlands (☎ 6944-7272; 33F, Tw 21 Mid-Tower, 2-1-61 Shiromi, Chūō-ku)

New Zealand (☎ 6942-9016; 28F, Tw 21 Mid-Tower, 2-1-61 Shiromi, Chūō-ku)

UK (☎ 6120-5600; 19F, Seiko Osaka Bldg, 3-5-1 Bakuro-machi, Chūō-ku)

USA (Map p168; ☎ 6315-5900; 2-11-5 Nishi-Tenma, Kita-ku)

EMERGENCY

Although most emergency operators in Kyoto don't speak English, they will refer you to someone who does. Be sure to have your address handy when calling for assistance.

Ambulance (☎ 119)

Fire (☎ 119)

Police (☎ 110)

Kōban (police boxes) are small police stations typically found at city intersections. Most can be recognised by the small, round red lamp outside. They are a logical place to head in an emergency, but remember that the police may not always speak English.

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

With the possible exception of Thailand, Japan is Asia's most enlightened nation with regard to the sexual preferences of foreigners. Some travellers have reported problems when checking into love hotels with a partner of the same sex, and it does pay to be discreet in rural areas. Apart from this, however, same-sex couples are unlikely to encounter too many problems.

While there is a sizable gay community in Kyoto, and a number of establishments where gay men do congregate, they will take a fair amount of digging to discover. There's a more active scene in Osaka, and many of Kyoto's gay residents make the trip there. Lesbian women are poorly served in Kyoto and Osaka and it's difficult to find specifically lesbian-friendly venues.

Utopia (www.utopia-asia.com) is the site most commonly frequented by English-speaking gay and lesbian people.

HEALTH

No immunisations are required for Japan. Despite the very low risk factor, however, you may want to consider vaccinations against

Hepatitis A and B. The former is transmitted by contaminated food and drinking water and the latter is spread through contact with infected blood, blood products or body fluids. It is also wise to keep up to date with your tetanus, diphtheria and polio shots (boosters are recommended every 10 years). Tap water is safe to drink, and food is almost uniformly prepared with high standards of hygiene. It is advisable to take out some form of health/travel insurance.

HOLIDAYS

The following public holidays are observed in Kyoto:

Ganjitsu (New Year's Day) 1 January

Seijin-no-hi (Coming-of-Age Day) Second Monday in January

Kenkoku Kinem-bi (National Foundation Day) 11 February

Shumbun-no-hi (Spring Equinox) 20 or 21 March

Showa-no-hi (Shōwa Emperor's Day) 29 April

Kempō Kinem-bi (Constitution Day) 3 May

Midori-no-hi (Green Day) 4 May

Kodomo-no-hi (Children's Day) 5 May

Umi-no-hi (Marine Day) Third Monday in July

Keirō-no-hi (Respect-for-the-Aged Day) Third Monday in September

Shūbun-no-hi (Autumn Equinox) 23 or 24 September

Taiiku-no-hi (Health-Sports Day) Second Monday in October

Bunka-no-hi (Culture Day) 3 November

Kinrō Kansha-no-hi (Labour Thanksgiving Day) 23 November

Tennō Tanjōbi (Emperor's Birthday) 23 December

INTERNET ACCESS

If you plan to bring your laptop with you to Kyoto, first make sure that it is compatible with Japanese current (100V AC; 50Hz in eastern Japan and 60Hz in western Japan, including Kyoto). Most laptops will be fine. Second, check to see if your plug will fit Japanese wall sockets (Japanese plugs have two flat pins, identical to most ungrounded North American plugs). Both transformers and plug adaptors are readily available in the Teramachi-dōri electronics district (Map p50) or at Bic Camera (p107).

Modems and phone jacks are similar to those used in the USA (RJ11 phone jacks). Conveniently, many of the grey IDD pay

phones in Japan have a standard phone jack and an infrared port so that you can log on to the internet just about anywhere in the country.

If you're planning on staying in Kyoto or Japan for more than a couple of weeks, ISP options popular with foreigners are Yahoo BB (<https://ybb.softbank.jp/>) and NTT/Flets (<http://flets.com/english/opt/index.html>).

Kyoto has no shortage of internet cafés, though rates are much higher than in other countries in the region. If necessary, the TIC (p199) can recommend places to log on in addition to the following:

Kyoto International Community House (KICHC; Map pp68-9; ☎ 752-3512; Sakyō-ku, Awataguchi, Torii-chō 2-1; per 30min ¥200; ⌚ 5min walk from Keage Station, Tōzai subway line) The machines here have Japanese keyboards and you are limited in the sites you can visit, but it's a fairly cheap place to log on.

Kyoto Prefectural International Center (Map p46; ☎ 342-5000; 9th fl, Kyoto Station Bldg; per 15min ¥250; ⌚ 10am-6pm; 📍 Kyoto Station) In addition to using the machines provided, you can also log on with your own laptop here. It's closed on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Kinko's (Map p50; ☎ 213-6802; Nakagyo-ku, Tearaimizu-chō 651-1, Takoyakushi kudar, Karasuma dōri; per 10min ¥210; ⌚ 24hr; 📍 5min walk from Karasuma Station, Hankyū line) This copy shop has several terminals where you can log on. It's expensive but conveniently located.

Tops Café (Map p46; ☎ 681-9270; www.topsnet.co.jp, in Japanese; Kyoto-eki, Hachijō-guchi; per 15min ¥120, plus registration fee ¥200; ⌚ 10am-6pm; 📍 Kyoto Station) This is an all-night manga/internet café where you can actually spend the night in the booths if you want. It's just outside the south (Hachijō) exit of Kyoto Station.

MAPS

Available free at the TIC and all JNTO offices (see p199), the *Tourist Map of Kyoto-Nara* fulfills most mapping needs and includes a simplified map of the subway and bus systems. The same offices stock the *Tourist Map of Kyoto*, another decent English-language map of Kyoto, and *Kyoto Walks* details five good walks in and around Kyoto. Also available is the *Bus Navi: Kyoto City Bus Sightseeing Map*, which has detailed information on bus routes in the city and some of the major stops written in both English and Japanese.

There are many other useful maps for sale at local English-language bookshops, some of which are practical for excursions outside

Kyoto. Shōbunsha's *Tourist Map of Kyoto, Nara, Osaka and Kōbe* is the best privately produced map of these cities.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical care in Japan is relatively expensive. Although the cost of a basic consultation is cheap (around ¥3000), the costs really start to add up with any further examinations, especially with the tendency of Japan's doctors to overprescribe medication. If you do need to visit a hospital in Kyoto, it is not usually necessary to have cash in hand; most hospitals will admit people on a pay-later basis. Credit cards are rarely accepted.

Kyoto University Hospital (Map pp68-9; ☎ 751-3111; 54 Shōginkawara-chō, Sakyō-ku; ⌚ 9am-noon; 📍 5min walk from Konoe-dōri bus stop, bus 206 from Kyoto Station) is the best hospital in Kyoto. There is an information counter near the entrance that can point you in the right direction.

MONEY

The currency in Japan is the yen (¥), and banknotes and coins are easily identifiable. There are ¥1, ¥5, ¥10, ¥50, ¥100 and ¥500 coins, and ¥1000, ¥2000, ¥5000 and ¥10,000 banknotes. The ¥1 coin is of lightweight aluminium, and the ¥5 (said to bring good luck) and ¥50 coins have a hole in the middle. Keep an eye out for the relatively rare ¥2000 notes.

The Japanese postal system has recently linked its ATMs to the international Cirrus and Plus networks, so money is no longer the issue it once was for travellers to Japan. Of course, it always makes sense to carry some foreign cash and some credit cards just to be on the safe side. For those without credit cards, it would be a good idea to bring some travellers cheques as a back up.

For details on costs in Kyoto, see p18, and for current exchange rates, see the inside front cover.

ATMs

Automatic teller machines (ATMs) are almost as common as vending machines in Kyoto. Unfortunately, even if they display Visa and MasterCard logos, most accept only Japanese versions of these cards.

Fortunately, Japanese postal ATMs accept cards on the following international networks: VISA, Plus, MasterCard, Maestro, Cirrus American Express and Diners Club cards.

Check the sticker(s) on the back of your card to see what network(s) your card belongs to. Note that the machines work with bank/cash cards, not credit cards. That is, you can make cash withdrawals from cash accounts; you cannot use them to charge money or make cash advances on credit.

You'll find postal ATMs in almost all post offices, and you'll find post offices in even the smallest Japanese village. Most postal ATMs are open 9am to 5pm on weekdays, 9am to noon on Saturdays, and are closed on Sundays and holidays.

Some postal ATMs in very large central post offices are open longer hours. If you need cash outside these hours, try the **Kyoto central post office** (Map p46; ☎ ATM 12.05am-11.55pm Mon-Sat, 12.05am-8pm Sun), next to Kyoto Station.

Postal ATMs are relatively easy to use. Here's the drill: press 'English Guide', then select 'Withdrawal'; insert your card and press 'Visitor Withdrawal', then input your pin number and hit the button marked 'Kakunin' (確認 in Japanese); next enter the amount, hit 'Yen' and 'Confirm' and you should soon hear the delightful sound of bills being dispensed.

There's an **international ATM** (Map p46; ☎ 10am-9pm) on the B1 floor of the Kyoto Tower Hotel, very close to the TIC and Kyoto Station. In the middle of town, you'll find another **international ATM** (Map p50; ☎ 7am-midnight) on the basement floor of the Kyoto Royal Hotel.

Citibank (Map p50) has a 24-hour ATM in its lobby that accepts most foreign-issued cards. Note that only holders of Japan-issued Citibank cards can access the ATM after hours.

Changing Money

You can change cash or travellers cheques at any 'Authorised Foreign Exchange Bank' (signs will always be displayed in English) or at some of Kyoto's larger hotels and department stores. Main post offices will also cash travellers cheques. Rates vary little, if at all, between banks (even the exchange counters at the airport offer rates comparable to those offered by banks downtown).

Most major banks are located near the Shijō-Karasuma intersection, two stops north of Kyoto Station on the Karasuma subway line. Of these, **UFJ Bank** (Map p50; ☎ 211 4583) is the most convenient for changing money and buying travellers cheques. There's also a branch of Citibank (above), which has an international ATM in its lobby.

WARNING: JAPAN IS A CASH SOCIETY!

Be warned that cold hard yen (¥) is the way to pay in Japan. While credit cards are becoming more common, cash is still much more widely used, and travellers cheques are rarely accepted. Do not assume that you can pay for things with a credit card; always carry sufficient cash. The only places where you can count on paying with plastic are department stores and large hotels.

For those without credit cards, it would be a good idea to bring some travellers cheques as a back-up. As in most other countries, the US dollar is still the currency of choice in terms of exchanging cash and cashing travellers cheques.

Credit Cards

You should not rely on credit cards when travelling in Japan. While department stores, top-end hotels and some fancy restaurants do accept credit cards, most businesses do not. Cash-and-carry is still very much the rule. Among places that accept credit cards, you will find Visa most useful, followed by MasterCard and Amex.

You can get cash advances on credit cards at the two international ATMs mentioned (left), but not at Citibank or at postal ATMs. For larger amounts, Visa cardholders can also get cash advances at the 1st-floor Hankyū Department Store branch of **Mitsui Sumitomo Bank** (Map p50; ☎ 223-2821).

Currently there is no representation for international cardholders in Kyoto. For inquiries it is often best to try the offices in Tokyo or call the number in your home country on the back of your card:

Amex (☎ 0120-020-120)

MasterCard (☎ 03-5728-5200)

Visa (☎ 03-5275-7604)

Travellers Cheques

Travellers cheques are fairly commonplace in Japan nowadays, though they can only be cashed at banks, major post offices and some hotels. It is not possible to use foreign-currency travellers cheques in stores and restaurants. In most cases the exchange rate for travellers cheques is slightly better than cash. In order to cash travellers cheques or make cash advances at banks, you will need to show your passport or a valid Alien Registration Card.

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

There are three main English-language daily newspapers in Japan: *Japan Times*; *Daily Yomiuri*; and *Asahi Shimbun/International Herald Tribune*. All of these can be found at bookshops, at most major hotels and at some newspaper stands in train and subway stations.

Another excellent source of information on Kyoto, and the rest of the Kansai area, is *Kansai Time Out* (www.japanfile.com), a monthly English-language 'what's on' magazine (¥300), available at bookshops.

The monthly *Kyoto Visitor's Guide* is the best source of information on cultural and tourist events. It's available free at the TIC (p199), the KICH (p200), bookshops and most major hotels.

PHARMACIES

Pharmacies can be found in any neighbourhood in the city and are easily spotted by their colourful outdoor displays of shampoo and other pharmaceutical products.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo shops offer a wide range of services for digital photographers, such as high-quality prints from digital files. The typical cost for printing digital photos is ¥35 per print.

For amateur and professional photography supplies including slide film, black-and-white film and all the latest gadgets, your best bet is Bic Camera (p107) near Kyoto Station. It also offers reliable processing services.

Another popular place to have film developed is at the Yellow Camera chain, which has several branches in Kyoto; it's easy to spot by its all-yellow façade. One-hour processing tends to be slightly more expensive than overnight, but it is offered at many local shops. Japanese labs usually print on what's called *sābisu saizu* (service size), which is about two-thirds of the standard size in most countries (four by six inches). Unless you're happy with this size, ask to have your photographs printed on *hagaki* (postcard) sized paper.

POST

Most local post offices are open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, and some are also open on Saturdays from 9am to 12.30pm. The **Kyoto central post office** (Map p46; ☎ 365-2467; ☎ 9am-7pm

Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat, to 12.30pm Sun & holidays) is on the north side of Kyoto Station. Poste restante mail can be collected here. There's a service counter on the south side of the building open 24 hours per day for airmail, small packages, and special express mail services.

Nakagyō post office (Map p50; ☎ 255-1112) at the Nishinotōin-Sanjo crossing is open until 7pm on weekdays but is closed at weekends. There is a 24-hour service window on the west side of the building.

The airmail rate for postcards is ¥70 to any overseas destination; aérograms cost ¥90. Letters weighing less than 25g are ¥90 to other countries within Asia, ¥110 to North America, Europe or Oceania (including Australia and New Zealand) and ¥130 to Africa and South America. One peculiarity of the Japanese postal system is that you will be charged extra if your writing runs over onto the address side (the right side) of a postcard.

All post offices provide a reliable international Express Mail Service (EMS), which is as good or better than private express shipping services.

RADIO

Kyoto's best station with bilingual broadcasts and decent music is Alpha station (89.4 FM), but there are several other Kansai stations worth checking out:

76.5 FM Cocolo Multilingual.

80.2 FM 802 Japanese and English.

85.1 FM Osaka Japanese and English.

89.9 Kiss FM Kōbe Japanese and English.

TAXES & REFUNDS

There is a 5% consumption tax on retail purchases in Japan. Visitors on a short-stay visa can, however, avoid this tax on purchases made at major department stores and duty-free stores such as the Kyoto Handicraft Center (p113). For a refund on purchases, check first that the department store has a service desk for tax refunds. When you make a purchase the tax will be included; take the purchase, receipt and your passport to the service desk for an immediate refund.

If you eat at expensive restaurants and stay at first-class accommodation, you will encounter a service charge, which varies from 10% to 15%. A tax of 5% is added to restaurant bills exceeding ¥5000 or for hotel bills exceeding ¥10,000.

TELEPHONE

The area code for greater Kyoto is ☎ 075; unless otherwise indicated, all numbers in this book fall into this area. Japanese telephone codes consist of an area code plus a local code and number. You do not dial the area code when making a call in that area. When dialling Japan from abroad, the country code is ☎ 81, followed by the area code (drop the 0) and the number. The following are the area codes for some of Japan's main cities.

City	Area Code
Fukuoka/Hakata	☎ 092
Hiroshima	☎ 082
Kōbe	☎ 078
Matsuyama	☎ 0899
Nagasaki	☎ 0958
Nagoya	☎ 052
Nara	☎ 0742
Narita	☎ 0476
Osaka	☎ 06
Sapporo	☎ 011
Sendai	☎ 022
Tokyo	☎ 03
Yokohama	☎ 045

Directory Assistance

For local directory assistance dial ☎ 104 (the call costs ¥100), or for assistance in English call ☎ 0120-364-463 from 9am to 5pm weekdays. For international directory assistance dial ☎ 0057.

International Calls

Due to the lack of pay phones from which you can make international phone calls in Japan, the easiest way to call overseas from Kyoto is to buy a prepaid international phonecard. Common prepaid cards include KDDI Superworld Card, NTT Communications World Card and SoftBank Telecom Comica Card. Most convenience stores carry at least one of these types, which can be used with any regular pay phone in Japan.

Overseas calls can be made from grey international ISDN phones. These are usually found in phone booths marked 'International & Domestic Card/Coin Phone'. Unfortunately, these are very rare; try looking in the lobbies of top-end hotels and at airports. Some new green phones found in phone booths also allow you to make international calls. Calls are charged by the unit, each of which is six seconds, so if you don't

have much to say you could phone home for just ¥100. Reverse-charge (collect) overseas calls can be made from any pay phone.

You can save money by dialling late at night. Economy rates are available from 7pm to 8am. Note that it is also cheaper to make domestic calls by dialling outside the standard hours.

To place an international call through the operator, dial ☎ 0051 (KDDI operator); most international operators speak English. To make the call yourself, dial ☎ 001 010 (KDDI), ☎ 0041 010 (SoftBank Telecom) or ☎ 0033 010 (NTT) – there's very little difference in rates – then the international country code, the local code and the number.

Another option is to dial ☎ 0038 plus your country code for home country direct, which takes you straight through to a local operator in the country dialled. You can then make a reverse-charge call or a credit-card call with a telephone credit card valid in that country.

Local Calls

The Japanese public telephone system is very well developed. There are a great many public phones and they work almost all of the time. Local calls from pay phones cost ¥10 per minute; unused ¥10 coins are returned after the call is completed but no change is given on ¥100 coins.

In general it's much easier to buy a *tefon kado* (telephone card) when you arrive rather than worry about always having coins on hand. Phone cards are sold in ¥500 and ¥1000 denominations (the latter earns you an extra ¥50 in calls) and can be used in most green or grey pay phones. They are available from vending machines and convenience stores, come in myriad designs and are also a collectable item.

Renting a Phone

Several companies in Japan specialise in short-term mobile-phone rentals, a good option for travellers whose phones either won't work in Japan or would be prohibitively expensive to use here. Two such companies are recommended:

Mobile Phone Japan (☎ 075-361-8890; www.mobilephonejp.com) This company offers basic mobile-phone rental for as low as ¥2900 per week. Incoming calls, whether international or domestic, are free, and outgoing domestic calls cost ¥2 per second (outgoing international calls vary according to country and time of day). Free

delivery anywhere in Japan and a free prepaid return envelope are included.

Rentafone Japan (☎ 090-9621-7318; www.rentafonejapan.com) This company rents mobile phones for ¥3900 per week and offers free delivery of the phone to your accommodation. Call rates are similar to Mobile Phone Japan.

TIME

Kyoto local time is nine hours ahead of GMT/UTC. There is no daylight-savings time. When it's noon in Kyoto, it's 7pm (the day before) in Los Angeles, 10pm (the day before) in Montreal and New York, 3am (the same day) in London, 4am in Frankfurt, Paris and Rome, 11am in Hong Kong, 1pm in Melbourne, and 3pm in Wellington.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The following local tourist offices are good sources for maps and information:

Kyoto Tourist Information Center (TIC; Map p46; ☎ 344-3300; ☎ 10am-6pm, closed 2nd & 4th Tue & 29 Dec-3 Jan; 📍 Kyoto Station) Located on the 9th floor of the Kyoto Station building, the TIC is set up especially for foreign visitors. It's your best source on English-language information. To get there from the main concourse of the station, take the west escalator to the 2nd floor, enter Isetan Department Store, take an immediate left, look for the elevator on your left and take it to the 9th floor. It's right outside the elevator, inside the Kyoto Prefectural International Center. There is an International Tourism Center of Japan/Welcome Inn reservation counter at the TIC, which can help with accommodation bookings.

Kyoto City Tourist Information Center (Map p46; ☎ 343-6656; 2nd fl, Kyoto Station Bldg; ☎ 8.30am-7pm; 📍 Kyoto Station) Located at the top of the west escalator, which leaves from the main concourse, this information centre is geared to Japanese visitors. English speakers are usually on hand, however, and can be of great assistance when the TIC is closed.

Kyoto Tourism Federation (Map p46; ☎ 371-2226; ☎ 9.30am-6pm, closed 2nd & 4th Tue & 29 Dec-3 Jan; 📍 Kyoto Station) This small office distributes information on outlying destinations in Kyoto Prefecture (it has very little on the city itself). Although most of the literature is only in Japanese, it's worth stopping by to pick up a free map of Kyoto-fu if you plan a trip to outlying areas of the prefecture. Kyoto Tourism Federation is around the corner from the TIC (see above).

Kansai International Airport tourist information center (☎ 0724-56-6025; ☎ 9am-9pm) This counter is on the 1st floor of the international arrivals hall. Staff here can provide information on Kyoto, Kansai and Japan.

Japan National Tourist Organization (JNTO) has several offices overseas:

Australia (☎ 02-9251 3024; Level 18, Australia Square Tower, 264 George St, Sydney, NSW 2000)

Canada (☎ 416-366 7140; 165 University Ave, Toronto, ON M5H 3B8)

France (☎ 01 42 96 20 29; 4 rue de Ventadour, 75001 Paris)

Germany (☎ 069-20353; Kaiserstrasse 11, 60311 Frankfurt am Main)

UK (☎ 020-7734 4290; Heathcoat House, 20 Saville Row, London W1S 3PR)

USA Los Angeles (☎ 213-623 1952; 515 South Figueroa St, Suite 1470, Los Angeles, CA 90071); New York (☎ 212-757 5640; One Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 1250, New York, NY 10020)

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Kyoto has several good central travel agencies that can arrange discount air tickets, car rental and accommodation, as well as other services. These agencies include **IACE Travel** (Map p50; ☎ 212-8944; Sanjō-Kawaramachi, 7F Hayakawa Bldg; ☎ office 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 5pm Sat, phone consult 10am-5pm Sun & holidays; 📍 5min walk from Sanjō Station, Keihan line)

TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES

Although Kyoto has made some attempts at making public facilities more accessible, its narrow streets and the terrain of sights such as temples and shrines make it a challenging city for people with disabilities, especially for those in wheelchairs.

If you are going to travel by train and need assistance, ask one of the station workers as you enter the station. Try asking: *'Karada no fujiyuu no kata no tame no sharyō wa arimasu ka?'* ('Are there any train carriages for disabled travellers?')

There are carriages on most lines that have areas set aside for those in wheelchairs. Those with other physical disabilities can use one of the seats set aside near the train exits; these are called *yūsen-zaseki* and are usually a different colour from the other seats in the carriage, making them easy to spot. You'll also find these seats near the front of buses; usually they're a different colour from the regular seats.

MK Taxi (☎ 721-2237) can accommodate wheelchairs in many of its cars and is an attractive possibility for anyone interested in touring the city by cab.

Facilities for the visually impaired include musical pedestrian lights at many city intersections and raised bumps on railway platforms for guidance.

AD-Brain (the same outfit that publishes the monthly *Kyoto Visitor's Guide*) has produced a basic city map for people with disabilities and senior citizens. It shows wheelchair-access points in town and gives information on public transport access etc. The map is available at the TIC. You might also try contacting the [Kyoto City Association for Disabled Persons](#) (☎ 822-0770, in Japanese), which publishes the very detailed *Handy Map* guidebook on local facility accessibility, presently available in Japanese only.

The most useful information for disabled visitors to Japan is provided by the [Japanese Red Cross Language Service Volunteers](#) (☎ 3438-1311; <http://accessible.jp.org/>; c/o Volunteers Division, Japanese Red Cross Society, 1-1-3 Shiba Daimon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8521).

USEFUL ORGANISATIONS

An essential stop for those planning a long-term stay in Kyoto is the [Kyoto International Community House](#) (KIC; Map pp68-9; ☎ 752-3010; Sakyo-ku, Awataguchi, Torii-chō 2-1; ☎ 9am-9pm Tue-Sun; 5min walk from Keage Station, Tōzai subway line). It can also be quite useful for short-term visitors. It's closed Tuesdays following a Monday national holiday.

The KIC has a library with maps, books, newspapers and magazines from around the world, and a notice board displaying messages regarding work, accommodation, rummage sales etc.

Here you can rent typewriters, send and receive faxes, and use the internet (¥200 per 30 minutes). You can also pick up a copy of its excellent *Guide to Kyoto* map and its *Easy Living in Kyoto* book (but note that both of these are intended for residents). You can also chill out in the lobby and watch CNN news.

VISAS

Most visitors who are not planning to engage in any remunerative activities while in Japan are exempt from obtaining visas and will be issued a *tanki-taizai* (short-stay visa) on arrival.

Stays of up to six months are permitted for citizens of Austria, Germany, Ireland, Mexico,

Switzerland and the UK. Citizens of these countries will almost always be given a 90-day short-stay visa on arrival, which can usually be extended for another 90 days at immigration bureaus in Japan (see [below](#)).

Citizens of the USA, Australia and New Zealand are granted 90-day short-stay visas, while stays of up to three months are permitted for citizens of Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden and a number of other countries.

As well as the information we give on visas and regulations in this chapter, you should check with your nearest Japanese embassy or go to the website of the [Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) (www.mofa.go.jp/).

Alien Registration Card

Anyone – and this includes tourists – who stays for more than 90 days is required to obtain an Alien Registration Card (Gaikokujin Torokushō). This card can be obtained at the municipal office of the city, town or ward in which you're living; moving to another area requires that you re-register within 14 days.

You must carry your Alien Registration Card at all times as the police can stop you and ask to see it. If you don't have the card, you may be taken back to the station and will have to wait there until someone fetches it for you.

Visa Extensions

With the exception of those nationals whose countries have reciprocal visa exemptions and who can stay for six months, 90 days or three months is the limit for most nationalities. To extend a short-stay visa beyond the standard 90 days or three months, apply at the [Osaka Immigration Bureau Kyoto Branch](#) (Map pp68-9; ☎ 752-5997; Sakyo-ku, Kawabata Higashi-iru, Higashi Marutamachi 34-12, 4F Dai Ni Chihō Gōdōchōsha Bldg; ☎ 9am-noon & 1-4pm Mon-Fri; 5min walk from Marutamachi Station, Keihan line). You must provide two copies of an Application for Extension of Stay (available at the bureau), a letter stating the reasons for the extension and supporting documentation, as well as your passport. There is a processing fee of ¥4000; be prepared to spend well over an hour completing the process.

The Kyoto branch is best reached from Marutamachi Station on the Keihan line. Take exit 4, turn left and continue east past a church to the second traffic light. The bureau is in the five-storey building on your left.

The [Osaka Immigration Bureau](#) (☎ 06-6774-3409; ☎ 9am-noon & 1-4pm Mon-Fri) offers an English-language visa information line at its Osaka headquarters, though you can usually have most questions about visas answered in English by calling the Kyoto branch.

Working-Holiday Visas

Australians, Britons, Canadians, Germans, New Zealanders and South Koreans between the ages of 18 and 25 (the age limit can be pushed up to 30 in some cases) can apply for a working-holiday visa. This visa allows a six-month stay and two six-month extensions. It is designed to enable young people to travel extensively during their stay; although employment is supposed to be part-time or temporary, in practice many people work full time.

A working-holiday visa is much easier to obtain than a work visa and is popular with Japanese employers. Single applicants must have the equivalent of US\$2000 of funds, a married couple must have US\$3000, and all applicants must have an onward ticket from Japan. For details, inquire at the nearest Japanese embassy or consulate (see [p193](#)).

Working Visas

Unless you are on a cultural visa and have been granted permission to work, or hold a working-holiday visa, you are not permitted to work in Japan without a proper work visa. As long as you have the proper paperwork and an employer who is willing to sponsor you, the application process is straightforward, although it can be time consuming.

Once you find an employer in Japan who is willing to sponsor you, it is necessary to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from the nearest immigration office. The same office can then issue your work visa, which is valid for either one or three years. The whole procedure usually takes two to three months.

WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Japan is a relatively safe country for women travellers, though perhaps not as safe as some might think. Women travellers are occasionally subjected to some form of verbal harassment or prying questions. Physical attacks are very rare, but have occurred.

The best advice is to avoid being lulled into a false sense of security by Japan's image as one of the world's safest countries and to take

the normal precautions you would in your home country. If a neighbourhood or establishment looks unsafe, then treat it that way. As long as you use your common sense, you will most likely find that Japan is a pleasant and rewarding place to travel as a woman.

Several train companies in Japan have recently introduced women-only cars to protect female passengers from *chikan* (men who feel up women and girls on packed trains). These cars are usually available during rush-hour periods on weekdays on busy urban lines. There are signs (usually pink in colour) on the platform indicating where to board these cars, and the cars themselves are usually labelled in both Japanese and English (again, these are often marked in pink).

If you have a problem and find the local police unhelpful, you can call the [Japan Helpline](#) (☎ 0570-000-911), an emergency number that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Finally, an excellent resource available for any woman setting up in Japan is Caroline Pover's book *Being A Broad in Japan*, which can be found in bookstores and can also be ordered from her website at www.being-a-broad.com.

WORK

Kyoto's popularity makes it one of Japan's most difficult cities in which to find work. Despite both this fact and the increasingly strict immigration policies, there is a relatively quick turnaround of many resident foreigners, so it is often just a case of being patient until something comes up. If you are planning to make a go of it in Kyoto, you'll need to have enough money to survive for three months or so (around US\$6000).

Many who would prefer to live in Kyoto end up commuting to jobs in Osaka or other neighbouring cities, at least until they find something closer to home. Apart from teaching English, other popular jobs include bar hosting (mainly for women), working in restaurants and bars, and carpentry.

The best place to look for work is in *Kansai Time Out*, followed by the *Kansai Flea Market*, and the jobs listing at the KIC (see [opposite](#)); you can also post messages and offer your services as a private tutor at the KIC. The Monday edition of the *Japan Times* also has a small Kansai employment section. Word of mouth is also a great way to find work in Kyoto – you could try dropping by any of the *gaijin*-friendly bars listed in the Entertainment chapter ([p140](#)).

LANGUAGE

It's true – anyone can speak another language. Don't worry if you haven't studied languages before or that you studied a language at school for years and can't remember any of it. It doesn't even matter if you failed English grammar. After all, that's never affected your ability to speak English! And this is the key to picking up a language in another country. You just need to start speaking.

Learn a few key phrases before you go. Write them on pieces of paper and stick them on the fridge, by the bed or even on the computer – anywhere that you'll see them often.

You'll find that locals appreciate travellers trying their language, no matter how muddled you may think you sound. So don't just stand there, say something! If you want to learn more Japanese than we've included here, pick up a copy of Lonely Planet's comprehensive but user-friendly *Japanese Phrasebook*.



PRONUNCIATION

Pronounce double consonants with a slight pause between them, so that each is clearly audible. Vowel length affects meaning, so make sure you distinguish your short and long vowels clearly. Certain vowel sounds (like **u** and **i**) aren't pronounced in some words, but are included as part of the official Romanisation system (which employs a literal system to represent Japanese characters). In the following words and phrases these 'silent' letters are shown in square brackets to indicate that they aren't pronounced.

a	short, as the 'u' in 'run'
ā	long, as the 'a' in 'father'
e	short, as in 'red'
ē	long, as the 'ei' in 'rein'
i	short, as in 'bit'
ii	long i , as in 'marine'
o	short, as in 'pot'
ō	long, as the 'aw' in 'paw'
u	short, as in 'put'
ū	long, as in 'rude'

SOCIAL

Meeting People

Hello/Hi.	konnichi wa
こんにちは。	
Goodbye.	sayōnara
さようなら。	
Yes.	hai
はい。	
No.	iee
いえ。	

Please.	
(when offering something)	
どうぞ。	dōzo
(when asking a favour or making a request)	
お願いします。	onegai shimas[u]
Thank you (very much).	
(どうも)ありがとう (dōmo) arigatō	
(ごさいます)。(gozaimas[u])	
You're welcome.	
どういたしまして。dō itashimash[i]te	
Excuse me.	
(to get attention or to get past)	
すみません。sumimasen	
Sorry.	
ごめんなさい。gomen nasai	

Could you please ...?	
…くれませんか?	
... kuremasen ka?	
repeat that	
繰り返して	
kurikaeshite	
speak more slowly	
もっとゆっくり話して	
motto yukkuri hanash[i]te	
write it down	
書いて	
kaite	

What's your name?	
お名前は何ですか?	
o-namae wa nan des[u] ka?	
My name is ...	
私の名前は…です。	
watashi no namae wa ... des[u]	

Do you speak English?	
英語が話せますか?	
eigo ga hanasemas[u] ka?	
Do you understand?	
わかりましたか?	
wakarimash[i]ta ka?	
Yes, I do understand.	
はい、わかりました。	
hai, wakarimash[i]ta	
No, I don't understand.	
いいえ、わかりません。	
iee, wakarimasen	

Going Out

What's on ...?	
…は何がありますか?	
... wa nani ga arimas[u] ka?	
locally	
近所に	kinjo ni
this weekend	
今週の週末	konshū no shūmatsu
today	
今日	kyō
tonight	
今夜	konya

Where can I find ...?

どこに行けば…がありますか?	
doko ni ikeba ... ga arimas[u] ka?	
clubs	
クラブ	kurabu
gay venues	
ゲイの場所	gei no basho
Japanese-style pubs	
居酒屋	izakaya
places to eat	
食事ができる所	shokuji ga dekiru tokoro
pubs	
パブ	pabu

Is there a local entertainment guide?	
地元のエンターテイメントガイドはありますか?	
jimoto no entāteimento gaido wa arimas[u] ka?	

PRACTICAL

Question Words

Who?	
だれ?/どなた?	dare?/donata? (polite)
What?/What is this?	
何?/なに?	nan?/nani?

Which?	
どちら?	dochira?
When?	
いつ?	itsu?
Where?	
どこ?	doko?
How?	
どのように?	dono yō ni?
How much does it cost?	
いくらですか?	ikura des[u] ka?

Numbers

0	ゼロ/零	zero/rei
1	一	ichi
2	二	ni
3	三	san
4	四	shi/yon
5	五	go
6	六	roku
7	七	shichi/nana
8	八	hachi
9	九	ku/kyū
10	十	jū
11	十一	jūichi
12	十二	jūni
13	十三	jūsan
14	十四	jūshi/jūyon
15	十五	jūgo
16	十六	jūroku
17	十七	jūshichi/jūnana
18	十八	jūhachi
19	十九	jūkyū/jūkyū
20	二十	nijū
21	二十一	nijūichi
22	二十二	nijūni
30	三十	sanjū
40	四十	yonjū
50	五十	gojū
60	六十	rokkūjū
70	七十	nanajū
80	八十	hachijū
90	九十	kyūjū
100	百	hyaku
200	二百	nihyaku
1000	千	sen

Days

Monday	月曜日	getsuyōbi
Tuesday	火曜日	kayōbi
Wednesday	水曜日	suiyōbi
Thursday	木曜日	mokuyōbi
Friday	金曜日	kinyōbi
Saturday	土曜日	doyōbi
Sunday	日曜日	nichiyōbi

Banking

I'd like to ...
 ...をお願いします。
 ... o onegai shimas[u]
 cash a cheque
 小切手の現金化
 kogitte no genkinka
 change a travellers cheque
 トラベラーズチェックの現金化
 toraberāz[u] chekku no genkinka
 change money
 両替
 ryōgae

Where's ...?
 ...はどこですか?
 ... wa doko des[u] ka?
 an ATM
 ATM
 etiiemu
 a foreign exchange office
 外国為替セクション
 gaikoku kawase sekushon

Post

Where is the post office?
 郵便局はどこですか?
 yūbin kyoku wa doko des[u] ka?

I want to send a/an ...
 ...を送りたいのですが。
 ... o okuritai no des[u] ga
 letter
 手紙 tegami
 parcel
 小包 kozutsumi
 postcard
 はがき hagaki

I want to buy a/an ...
 ...をください。
 ... o kudasai
 aerogram
 エアログラム earoguramu
 envelope
 封筒 fūtō
 stamp
 切手 kitte

Phones & Mobiles

I want to ...
 ...たいのですが。
 ...tai no des[u] ga
 buy a phonecard
 テレフォンカードを買い
 terefon kādo o kai

call (Singapore)
 (シンガポール)に電話し
 (shingapōru) ni denwa shi
 make a (local) call
 (市内)に電話し
 (shinai) ni denwa shi
 reverse the charges
 コレクトコールで電話し
 korekuto-kōru de denwa shi

I'd like a ...
 ...をお願いします。
 ... o onegai shimas[u]
 charger for my phone
 携帯電話の充電器
 keitaidenwa no jūdenki
 mobile/cell phone for hire
 携帯電話のレンタル
 keitaidenwa no rentaru
 prepaid mobile/cell phone
 プリペイドの携帯電話
 puripeido no keitaidenwa
 SIM card for your network
 SIMカード
 shimukādo

Internet

Where's the local internet café?
 インターネットカフェはどこですか?
 intānetto-kafe wa doko des[u] ka?

I'd like to ...
 ...したいのですが。
 ... shitai no des[u] ga
 check my email
 Eメールをチェック
 iimēru o chekku
 get internet access
 インターネットにアクセス
 intānetto ni akuses[u]

Transport

When's the ... (bus)?
 ... (バス)は何時ですか?
 ... (bas[u]) wa nan-ji des[u] ka?
 first
 始発の shihatsu no
 last
 最終の saishū no
 next
 次の tsugi no

What time does it leave?
 これは何時に出ますか?
 kore wa nan-ji ni demas[u] ka?

What time does it get to ...?
 これは…に何時に着きますか?
 kore wa ... ni nan-ji ni tsukimas[u] ka?
 Is this taxi available?
 このタクシーは空車ですか?
 kono tak[u]shii wa kūsha des[u] ka?
 Please put the meter on.
 メーターを入れてください。
 mētā o irete kudasai
 How much is it to ...?
 ...までいくらですか?
 ... made ikura des[u] ka?
 Please take me to (this address).
 (この住所)までお願いします。
 (kono jūsho) made onegai shimas[u]

EMERGENCIES

Help!
 たすけて!
 tas[u]kete!
 It's an emergency!
 緊急です!
 kinkyū des[u]!
 Call the police!
 警察を呼んで!
 keisatsu o yonde!
 Call a doctor!
 医者を呼んで!
 isha o yonde!
 Call an ambulance!
 救急車を呼んで!
 kyūkyūsha o yonde!
 Could you please help?
 たすけてください?
 tas[u]kete kudasai?
 Where's the police station?
 警察署はどこですか?
 keisatsusho wa doko des[u] ka?

HEALTH

Where's the nearest ...?
 この近くの…はどこですか?
 kono chikaku no ... wa doko des[u] ka?
 (night) chemist
 (24時間営業の) 薬局
 (nijūyōjikan eigyō no) yakkyoku
 doctor
 医者
 isha
 hospital
 病院
 byōin

I need a doctor (who speaks English).
 (英語ができる)お医者さんが必要です。
 (eigo ga dekiru) o-isha-san ga hitsuyō des[u]

I'm allergic to ...
 私は…アレルギーです。
 watashi wa ... arerugii des[u]
 antibiotics
 抗生物質 kōsei busshitsu
 aspirin
 アスピリン as[u]pirin
 bees
 蜂 hachi
 nuts
 ナッツ類 nattsurui
 penicillin
 ペニシリン penishirin

Symptoms

I have ...
 私は…があります。
 watashi wa ... ga arimas[u]
 diarrhoea
 下痢 geri
 a headache
 頭痛 zutsū
 nausea
 吐き気 hakike
 a pain
 痛み itami

FOOD & DRINK

For more detailed information on food and dining out, see p115.

breakfast	朝食	chōshoku
lunch	昼食	chūshoku
dinner	夕食	yūshoku
snack	間食	kanshoku
to eat	食べます	tabemas[u]
to drink	飲みます	nomimas[u]

Can you recommend a ...?
 どこかいい…を知っていますか?
 doko ka ii ... o shitte imas[u] ka?
 bar
 バー bā
 café
 カフェ kafe
 restaurant
 レストラン restoran

Is service included in the bill?
 サービス料込みですか?
 sābis[u] ryō komi des[u] ka?
 A table for two/five people, please.
 (二人/五人)お願いします。
 (futari/go-nin) onegai shimas[u]

Do you have an English menu?
 英語のメニューがありますか?
eigo no menyū ga arimas[u] ka?
 Can you recommend any dishes?
 おすすめの料理がありますか?
osusume no ryōri ga arimas[u] ka?
 Is this self-service?
 ここはセルフサービスですか?
koko wa serufu sabis[u] des[u] ka?
 Is service included in the bill?
 サービス料は込みですか?
sābis[u] ryō wa komi des[u] ka?
 Cheers!
 乾杯!

kampai!
 Bon appetit!
 いただきます!
itadakimas[u]!
 Delicious!
 おいしい!
oishii!
 Thank you. (after a meal)
 ごちそうさまでした。
gochisō sama deshita

Please bring ...
 ...をお願いします。
... o onegai shimas[u]
 the bill
 お勘定 **o-kanjō**
 chopsticks **hashi**
 a fork **fōku**
 a glass (of water)
 コップ(一杯の水) **koppu (ippai no mizu)**
 a knife **naifu**
 a spoon **supūn**

I can't eat meat.
 肉は食べられません。
niku wa taberaremasen
 I can't eat chicken.
 鶏肉は食べられません。
toriniku wa taberaremasen
 I can't eat pork.
 豚肉は食べられません。
butaniku wa taberaremasen
 I can't eat seafood.
 シーフードは食べられません。
shiifūdo wa taberaremasen
 I'm a vegetarian.
 私はベジタリアンです。
watashi wa bejitarian des[u]

I'm allergic to (peanuts).
 私は(ピーナッツ)アレルギーです。
watashi wa (piinattsu) arerugii des[u]

Food Glossary

RICE DISHES

katsu-don かつ丼
 rice topped with a fried pork cutlet
niku-don 牛丼
 rice topped with thin slices of cooked beef
oyako-don 親子丼
 rice topped with egg and chicken
ten-don 天丼
 rice topped with tempura shrimp and vegetables

IZAKAYA FARE

agedashi-dōfu 揚げだし豆腐
 deep-fried tofu in a dashi broth
jaga-batā ジャガバター
 baked potatoes with butter
niku-jaga 肉ジャガ
 beef and potato stew
shio-yaki-zakana 塩焼魚
 a whole fish grilled with salt
poteto furai ポテトフライ
 French fries
chiizu-age チーズ揚げ
 deep-fried cheese
hiya-yakko 冷奴
 a cold block of tofu with soy sauce and spring onions
tsuna sarada ツナサラダ
 tuna salad over cabbage

KAISEKI

bentō 弁当
 boxed lunch
ume 梅
 regular course
take 竹
 special course
matsu 松
 extra-special course

YAKITORI

yakitori 焼き鳥
 plain, grilled white meat
hasami/negima はさみ/ねぎま
 pieces of white meat alternating with leek
sasami ささみ
 skinless chicken-breast pieces
kawa 皮
 chicken skin
tsukune つくね
 chicken meat balls
gyū-niku 牛肉
 pieces of beef

rebā レバー
 chicken livers
tebasaki 手羽先
 chicken wings
shiitake しいたけ
 Japanese mushrooms
piiman ピーマン
 small green peppers
tama-negi 玉ねぎ
 round white onions
yaki-onigiri 焼きおにぎり
 a triangle of rice grilled with *yakitori* sauce

SUSHI & SASHIMI

ama-ebi 甘海老
 sweet shrimp
awabi あわび
 abalone
ebi 海老
 prawn or shrimp
hamachi はまち
 yellowtail
ika いか
 squid
ikura イクラ
 salmon roe
kai-bashira 貝柱
 scallop
kani かに
 crab
katsuo かつお
 bonito
maguro まぐろ
 tuna
sashimi mori-awase 刺身盛り合わせ
 a selection of sliced sashimi
tai 鯛
 sea bream
tamago たまご
 sweetened egg
toro とろ
 the choicest cut of fatty tuna belly
unagi うなぎ
 eel with a sweet sauce
uni うに
 sea urchin roe

TEMPURA

tempura mori-awase 天ぷら盛り合わせ
 a selection of tempura
shōjin age 精進揚げ
 vegetarian tempura
kaki age かき揚げ
 tempura with shredded vegetables or fish

RĀMEN

rāmen ラーメン
 soup and noodles with a sprinkling of meat and vegetables
chāshū-men チャーシュー麺
 ramen topped with slices of roasted pork
wantan-men ワンタン麺
 ramen with meat dumplings
miso-rāmen みそラーメン
 ramen with miso-flavoured broth
chānpon-men ちゃんぽん麺
 Nagasaki-style ramen

SOBA & UDON

soba そば
 thin brown buckwheat noodles
udon うどん
 thick white wheat noodles
kake soba/udon かけそば/うどん
 soba/udon noodles in broth
kata yaki-soba 固焼きそば
 crispy fried noodles with meat and vegetables
kitsune soba/udon きつねそば/うどん
 soba/udon noodles with fried tofu
tempura soba/udon 天ぷらそば/うどん
 soba/udon noodles with tempura shrimp
tsukimi soba/udon 月見そば/うどん
 soba/udon noodles with raw egg on top
yaki-soba 焼きそば
 fried noodles with meat and vegetables
zaru soba ざるそば
 cold noodles with seaweed strips served on a bamboo tray

UNAGI

kabayaki 蒲焼き
 skewers of grilled eel without rice
unagi teishoku うなぎ定食
 full-set *unagi* meal with rice, grilled eel, eel-liver soup and pickles
una-don うなぎ丼
 grilled eel over a bowl of rice
unajū うなぎ重
 grilled eel over a flat tray of rice

KUSHIAGE & KUSHIKATSU

ebi 海老
 prawn or shrimp
ika いか
 squid
renkon れんこん
 lotus root
tama-negi 玉ねぎ
 round white onions
gyū-niku 牛肉
 beef pieces
shiitake しいたけ
 ginkgo nuts
imo いも
 potato

OKONOMIYAKI

mikkusu	ミックスお好み焼き
mixed fillings of seafood, <i>okonomiyaki</i> meat and vegetables	
modan-yaki	モダン焼き
<i>okonomiyaki</i> with <i>yaki-soba</i> and a fried egg	
ika okonomiyaki	いかお好み焼き
squid <i>okonomiyaki</i>	
gyū okonomiyaki	牛お好み焼き
beef <i>okonomiyaki</i>	
negi okonomiyaki	ネギお好み焼き
thin <i>okonomiyaki</i> with spring onions	

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

biiru	ビール
beer	
nama biiru	生ビール
draught beer	
shōchū	焼酎
distilled grain liquor	
oyu-wari	お湯割り
<i>shōchū</i> with hot water	
chūhai	チューハイ
<i>shōchū</i> with soda and lemon	
whisky	ウイスキー
whisky	
mizu-wari	水割り
whisky, ice and water	
onzarokku	オンザロック
whisky with ice	

NONALCOHOLIC DRINKS

kōhii	コーヒー
regular coffee	
burendo kōhii	ブレンドコーヒー
blended coffee, fairly strong	
american kōhii	アメリカンコーヒー
weak coffee	
kōcha	紅茶
black, British-style tea	
kafe ōre	カフェオレ
<i>café au lait</i> , hot or cold	
orenji jūsu	オレンジジュース
orange juice	
mizu	水
water	
oyu	お湯
hot water	

JAPANESE TEA

o-cha	お茶
green tea	
sencha	煎茶
medium-grade green tea	
matcha	抹茶
powdered green tea used in the tea ceremony	
bancha	番茶
ordinary-grade green tea, brownish in colour	
mugicha	麦茶
roasted barley tea	

GLOSSARY

agaru – north of
ageya – traditional banquet hall used for entertainment, which flourished during the Edo period
Amida Nyorai – Buddha of the Western Paradise
ANA – All Nippon Airways
bashi – bridge (also *hashi*)
ben – dialect, as in *Kyoto-ben*
ben-tō – boxed lunch or dinner, usually containing rice, vegetables and fish or meat
bosatsu – a bodhisattva, or Buddha attendant, who assists others to attain enlightenment
bugaku – dance pieces played by court orchestras in ancient Japan
bunraku – classical puppet theatre that uses life-size puppets to enact dramas similar to those of *kabuki*
chadō – tea ceremony, or ‘The Way of Tea’
chanoyu – tea ceremony; see also *chadō*
chō – city area (for large cities) sized between a *ku* and a *chōme*
chōme – city area of a few blocks
dai – great; large
Daibutsu – Great Buddha
daimyō – domain lords under the *shōgun*
dera – temple (also *ji* or *tera*)
dōri – street
fugu – poisonous pufferfish, elevated to *haute cuisine*
futon – cushionlike mattress that is rolled up and stored away during the day
gagaku – music of the imperial court
gaijin – foreigner; the contracted form of *gaikokujin* (literally, ‘outside country person’)
gawa – river (also *kawa*)
geiko – Kyoto dialect for *geisha*
geisha – a woman versed in the arts and other cultivated pursuits who entertains guests
gū – shrine
haiden – hall of worship in a shrine
haiku – 17-syllable poem
hakubutsukan – museum
hanami – cherry-blossom viewing
hashi – bridge (also *bashi*); chopsticks
higashi – east
hiragana – phonetic syllabary used to write Japanese words
honden – main building of a shrine
hondō – main building of a temple (also *kondō*)
ikebana – art of flower arrangement
irori – open hearth found in traditional Japanese homes
ITJ – International Telecom Japan
izakaya – Japanese pub/eatery
ji – temple (also *tera* or *dera*)

jingū – shrine (also *jinja* or *gū*)
Jizō – bodhisattva who watches over children
JNTO – Japan National Tourist Organization
jō – castle (also *shiro*)
JR – Japan Railways
kabuki – form of Japanese theatre that draws on popular tales and is characterised by elaborate costumes, stylised acting and the use of male actors for all roles
kaiseki – Buddhist-inspired, Japanese *haute cuisine*; called *cha-kaiseki* when served as part of a tea ceremony
kaisoku – rapid train
kaiten-zushi – automatic, conveyor-belt sushi
kamikaze – literally, ‘wind of the gods’; originally the typhoon that sank Kublai Khan’s 13th-century invasion fleet and the name adopted by Japanese suicide bombers in the waning days of WWII
kampai – cheers, as in a drinking toast
kanji – literally, ‘Chinese writing’; Chinese ideographic script used for writing Japanese
Kannon – Buddhist goddess of mercy
karaoke – a now famous export where revellers sing along to recorded music, minus the vocals
karesansui – dry-landscaped rock garden
kawa – river
kayabuki-yane – traditional Japanese thatched-roof farmhouse
KDD – Kokusai Denshin Denwa
ken – prefecture, eg Shiga-ken
kimono – traditional outer garment that is similar to a robe
kita – north
KIX – Kansai International Airport
Kiyomizu-yaki – a distinctive type of local pottery
ko – lake
kōban – local police box
kōen – park
koma-inu – dog-like guardian stone statues found in pairs at the entrance to *Shintō* shrines
kondō – main building of a temple
koto – 13-stringed zitherlike instrument
ku – ward
kudaru – south of (also *sagaru*)
kura – traditional Japanese warehouse
kyōgen – drama performed as comic relief between *nō* plays, or as separate events
kyō-machiya – see *machiya*
kyō-ningyō – Kyoto dolls
kyō-obanzai – see *obanzai*
kyō-ryōri – Kyoto cuisine
Kyoto-ben – distinctive Japanese dialect spoken in Kyoto
LDP – Liberal Democratic Party
live house – a small concert hall where live music is performed

machi – city area (for large cities) sized between a *ku* and a *chōme*
machiya – traditional wooden town house, called *kyō-machiya* in Kyoto
maiko – apprentice geisha
maki-e – decorative lacquer technique using silver and gold powders
mama-san – older women who run drinking, dining and entertainment venues
matcha – powdered green tea served in tea ceremonies
matsuri – festival
mikoshi – portable shrine carried during festivals
minami – south
minshuku – Japanese equivalent of a B&B
minyō – traditional Japanese folk music
Miroku – Buddha of the Future
mizu shōbai – the world of bars, entertainment and prostitution (also known as *water trade*)
momiji – Japanese maple trees
momiji-gari – viewing of the changing autumn colours of trees
mon – temple gate
mōningu setto – morning set of toast and coffee served at cafés
mura – village
Nihon – Japanese word for Japan; literally, ‘source of the sun’ (also known as *Nippon*)
ningyō – doll (see also *kyō-ningyō*)
niō – temple guardians
Nippon – see *Nihon*
nishi – west
nō – classical Japanese mask drama performed on a bare stage
noren – door curtain for restaurants, usually labelled with the name of the establishment
NTT – Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corporation
o- – prefix used as a sign of respect (usually applied to objects)
obanzai – Japanese home-style cooking (the Kyoto variant of this is sometimes called *kyō-obanzai*)
obi – sash or belt worn with *kimono*
Obon – mid-August festivals and ceremonies for deceased ancestors
okiya – old-style *geisha* living quarters
onsen – mineral hot spring with bathing areas and accommodation
o-shibori – hot towels given in restaurants
pachinko – vertical pinball game that is a Japanese craze
Raijin – god of thunder
ryokan – traditional Japanese inn
ryōri – cooking; cuisine (see also *kyō-ryōri*)
ryōtei – traditional-style, high-class restaurant; *kaiseki* is typical fare

sabi – a poetic ideal of finding beauty and pleasure in imperfection; often used in conjunction with *wabi*
sagaru – south of (also *kudaru*)
sakura – cherry trees
salaryman – male employee of a large firm
sama – a suffix even more respectful than *san*
samurai – Japan’s traditional warrior class
san – a respectful suffix applied to personal names, similar to Mr, Mrs or Ms but more widely used
sen – line, usually railway line
sencha – medium-grade green tea
sensu – folding paper fan
sentō – public bath
setto – set meal; see also *teishoku*
Shaka Nyorai – Historical Buddha
shakkei – borrowed scenery; technique where features outside a garden are incorporated into its design
shakuhachi – traditional Japanese bamboo flute
shamisen – three-stringed, banjoli-like instrument
shi – city (to distinguish cities with prefectures of the same name)
shidare-zakura – weeping cherry tree
shinkaisoku – special rapid train
shinkansen – bullet train (literally, ‘new trunk line’)
Shintō – indigenous Japanese religion
shiro – castle
shodō – Japanese calligraphy; literally, ‘the way of writing’
shōgun – military ruler of pre-Meiji Japan
shōjin-ryōri – Buddhist vegetarian cuisine
shokudō – Japanese-style cafeteria/cheap restaurant
shukubō – temple lodging
soba – thin brown buckwheat noodles
tatami – tightly woven floor matting on which shoes should not be worn
teishoku – set meal in a restaurant
tera – temple (also *dera* or *ji*)
TIC – Tourist Information Center (usually refers to Kyoto Tourist Information Center)
tokkyū – limited express train
torii – entrance gate to a *Shintō* shrine
tsukemono – Japanese pickles
udon – thick white wheat noodles
ukiyo-e – woodblock prints; literally, ‘pictures of the floating world’
wabi – a Zen-inspired aesthetic of rustic simplicity
wagashi – traditional Japanese sweets that are served with tea
wasabi – spicy Japanese horseradish
washi – Japanese paper
water trade – see *mizu shōbai*
yakuza – Japanese mafia
yudōfu – bean curd cooked in an iron pot; common temple fare
Zen – a form of Buddhism

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