

Practical Information

About Kobe

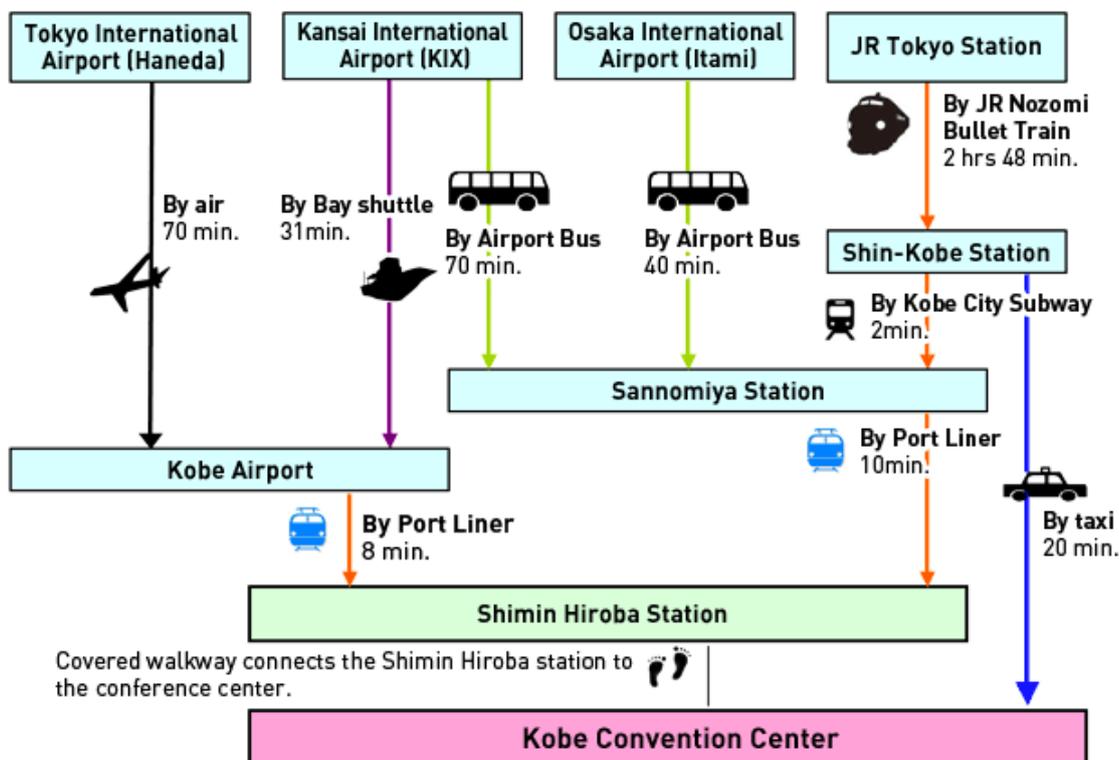
Nestled between the mountains and the sea, Kobe is a modern urban center set amidst a rich natural environment, located in Kansai, the southern-central region of Japan's main island, Honshu. It is the capital city of Hyogo Prefecture, and has a long history as an international port city, having developed as a gateway for goods and people from overseas. Kobe is near Japan's most well-known historical treasures in Kyoto, Nara, and Himeji, as well as just 40 km from Osaka, the nation's second largest metropolis.

Kobe Convention Center: Conference Venue

The Kobe Convention Center was built as the central site of the convention facilities in Portopia, a manmade island and the world's first offshore cultural city, easily accessible by train, car, or by air.

Related Link: <http://kobe-cc.jp/english/index.html>

Access to Kobe Convention Center



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Climate

Weather in May: average temperatures are maximum 21°C / 70°F, minimum 15°C / 59°F.

Sunny days are expected during the conference dates.

(Clothing: Light jackets, light sweaters)

For more information, please visit Japan Meteorological Agency at:

<http://www.jma.go.jp/en/yoho/211.html>

Time Zone

+9 hours (GMT) (+14 hours from EMT and +17 hours from PST). Japan does not observe daylight saving time.

Passport and Visa

[Valid Passport]

All foreign visitors to Japan must be in possession of a passport that will remain valid for the duration of their stay.

[Visa]

Whether or not a visa is necessary to enter Japan varies by nationality. For details, please visit:

http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/

Currency

The currency in Japan is the yen (¥). Coins are minted in denominations of ¥1, ¥5, ¥10, ¥50, ¥100 and ¥500. Bank notes are printed in higher denominations of ¥1,000, ¥2,000, ¥5,000 and ¥10,000. US\$1 is about ¥102 (As of February, 2014)

It is recommended that you exchange your currency at the airport on your arrival as not every bank in cities/towns offers a currency exchange service. You can exchange currency at some major hotels, but the service is usually limited to major currencies. Banks are closed on national holidays, Saturdays and Sundays.

ATMs are widely available, where you can withdraw cash in Japanese yen (depending on your credit card's terms and conditions) all through the week, if necessary.

Also, please note that credit cards may not be accepted at small shops/restaurants and taxis.

Tax and Tipping

[Tax]

From April 2014, 8% consumption tax (until then 5%) is levied on all goods and services in Japan, except for items that are purchased "duty-free".

[Tipping]

It is not necessary to pay any tips for special services in Japan.

Hotels and some restaurants require service charges, but in this case the service fee is already included in the bill.

Voltage

100V/60Hz. Japanese plugs are A-type, two flat-pin plugs. Please make sure you have the correct adapters. Voltage converters or adapters will NOT be provided at the conference site. Please bring your voltage converters and plug adapters (100 volts).

GSM / W-CDMA/LTE Coverage

Only W-CDMA and/or LTE are available. For availability of GSM chip-roaming, please check with your carrier. CDMA2000 and/or LTE are also available in the area.

■ For more information on Kobe and Japan, please visit:

<http://www.feel-kobe.jp/en/>

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/index.html>.