

IGLTA Special

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024

International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association aims to make excursions inclusive to all.



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GETTY IMAGES

IGLTA CONVENTION



Attendees pose with the IGLTA logo at the group's convention in Puerto Rico in October 2023. GHOST EDITS

Aiming to bolster travel for the LGBTQ+ community

John Tanzella

PRESIDENT/CEO OF THE INTERNATIONAL LGBTQ+ TRAVEL ASSOCIATION



October marks a milestone for inclusivity in Japan and for the work of the International LGBTQ+ Travel Association. For the first time in its 41-year history of advancing lesbian,

gay, bisexual, transgender and queer travel, the IGLTA will hold the 2024 Global Convention in Asia, uniting delegates at the Swissotel Nankai Osaka from Oct. 23 to 26.

This is significant for many reasons. It signals that the time is right for the IGLTA to further expand global dialogue related to equality for LGBTQ+ people in business. It also showcases the opportunities for economic growth for businesses in the region that are committed to creating safe and welcoming environments for like-minded travelers. And it places Japan — specifically Osaka — at the forefront of these conversations and connections.

So, why now? The landscape of LGBTQ+ travel has evolved dramatically since IGLTA was founded in 1983. Our name itself has evolved from only addressing gay travel to including LGBTQ+ to better reflect the broader spectrum of our community. What was once a niche market has become a global force, driving socioeconomic growth and cultural exchange. In recent years, with rising visibility and the expansion of legal protections, we've started to see increasing opportunities in sectors like LGBTQ+ family travel, wedding and honeymoon travel and other areas where our community was previously excluded. Some of the educational workshops at our convention will examine

these trends and take a deep dive into intersectionality, with topics such as empowering affinity groups in travel (with support from Black in Travel), the economic impact of marriage equality on tourism and allyship for trans and gender-diverse people.

Just as important as Why now? is the question "Why did we choose Osaka?" As Margaret Mead famously said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." The relationship between IGLTA and Japan formed through the engagement and commitment of a small, dedicated group of Japanese businesses. Entrepreneur Shintaro Koizumi, founder of the tour operator Out Asia Travel/Out Japan, attended the IGLTA Global Convention in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 2011. He networked with thought leaders who understood that open hearts and minds are the pathway to a global tourism industry in which everyone can feel welcome. Koizumi brought that knowledge back to Japan to share with his business community. Over time, we watched the number of Japanese businesses involved in IGLTA grow and their attendance at our conventions around the world become more visible. Among those influential Japanese participants was the Osaka Convention and Tourism Bureau. The OCTB became a steadfast supporter of the IGLTA, and their eagerness to propel LGBTQ+ travel forward in Japan was evident in their bid for the 2024 convention.

Osaka, with the second-largest LGBTQ+ scene in Japan after Tokyo, is a place with a desire to not only welcome these travelers, but also support the diversity of its residents. Osaka was one of the first prefectural governments to implement a same-sex partnership system, for which over 500 couples have registered as of January 2023. The city meanwhile has led Japan in encouraging businesses and organizations to implement pro-

tections for LGBTQ+ individuals. In 2019, Osaka launched the LGBT Leading Company initiative, evaluating organizations on their actions, both as service providers and as employers, to ensure that all individuals can enjoy the same benefits regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Osaka's commitment to showcasing its culture and hospitality, alongside its support for our community, made it the ideal location for our historic convention.

We anticipate a truly transformative experience for our organization and all those

We aim to create a world where everyone can experience the joy of travel without prejudice.

who will join us this year. Our event focuses on the power of networking and education to elevate businesses to the next level. Whether you are taking your first step into the market or continuing your diversity and inclusion journey, the IGLTA Global Convention has a place for every sector of the industry to travel, learn and connect.

We're excited to bring together buyers and suppliers through our popular Buyer/Supplier Marketplace, fostering new partnerships and collaborations with businesses around the globe. Brands seeking marketing and public relations advice will find media outlets and content creators at our Media Networking Event that are ready to assist.

From content and workshops to networking lunches with global exhibitors, the emphasis is on business development in an environment that is warm and inviting.

Members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies are equally embraced within IGLTA. Beyond business, we plan to immerse ourselves in Japanese culture, learning from

local leaders and gaining insights into emerging trends in the region. Our goal is to create an environment where international attendees can do business while also experiencing the magic of Japan. To make it even more special, the Rainbow Festa! (Osaka Pride) moved its dates to align with our event, allowing our attendees to connect beyond the meeting rooms in a celebratory local setting.

The IGLTA Global Convention draws from every area of travel and tourism, from airlines and hotels to travel advisers, tour operators and travel media. What links all the attendees — who will travel from more than 40 countries to participate — is the desire to create a truly welcoming environment for all travelers. For LGBTQ+ travelers, safety, of course, is a fundamental concern. But beyond that, it's about fostering a sense of belonging. This means ensuring that everyone feels comfortable and celebrated in their destinations, with access to inclusive accommodations, attractions and experiences. Education and awareness are key components in achieving this goal.

Our year-round mission at IGLTA is to enable authentic travel that enriches lives and connects our community with the tourism industry. We strive to be the leading authority on LGBTQ+ travel, providing essential data, insights and resources to our members and the industry at large. By empowering our members and advocating for LGBTQ+ travelers, we aim to create a world where everyone can experience the joy of travel without prejudice.

In October, we're bringing our mission to Japan, where every business that participates in our event — and takes the time to understand that we share more commonalities than differences — will help shape a more open and inclusive landscape for tourism. We look forward to seeing the collective impact of this event as a catalyst for positive change within the travel industry.



Left: The IGLTA draws a festive crowd at its 40th meeting held in Puerto Rico in October 2023. Right: Guests speak about various aspects of inclusive travel during a panel discussion at the convention. GHOST EDITS



AN OSAKA FOR ALL

City aims to be Asia's top international tourism spot

OCTB chief Mizohata hopes networking conference on tourism helps 'nation's kitchen' attain global standing

This year, the International LGBTQ+ Travel Association conference is being held in Osaka, a city full of energy, excitement and cultural history. LGBTQ+ related parties from approximately 80 countries around the world are attending the event from Oct. 23 to 26.

IGLTA, founded in the United States in 1983, is the global leader in advancing LGBTQ+ travel and an Affiliate Member of U.N. Tourism, the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. The IGLTA's mission is to provide information and resources for LGBTQ+ travelers and expand tourism globally. The group's membership includes LGBTQ+ welcoming accommodations, destinations, service providers, travel agents, tour operators, events and travel media in 80 countries. Last fall, the convention was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and saw the largest gathering in IGLTA events history, with over 700 delegates representing 37 countries and territories attending.

First time in Asia

As the world's largest and longest-running educational and networking conference of its kind for tourism professionals, the conference will be held for the first time in Asia. Seminars and events are planned for the four-day conference, where attendees can exchange ideas and information on inclusive tourism.

Osaka has history, tradition, a spirit of challenge, as well as strengths in culture, sports and entertainment.

Hiroshi Mizohata, president of the Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau, which is a member of IGLTA, said that OCTB's slogan and

goal is to make Osaka "Asia's No. 1 international tourism and culture city."

"Osaka has history, tradition, a spirit of challenge, as well as strengths in culture, sports and entertainment," he said.

The OCTB is the official destination-marketing organization representing Osaka Prefecture and the cities of Osaka and Sakai. Capitalizing on its vibrant history, culture and economy, the OCTB promotes Osaka as a premier business, leisure and convention destination through a wide range of initiatives, including those for the LGBTQ+ community.

Cultural melting pot

During the Edo Period (1603 to 1868), Osaka bloomed as the logistical and commercial center of Japan. It is Japan's second-smallest prefecture by size but third most-populous after Tokyo and Kanagawa, and filled with friendly, comedy-loving residents. The city is a melting pot of cultures, ideas and personalities, all of which stem from its history as Japan's center of commerce and culture.

For centuries, Osaka has been known as "tenka no daidokoro" (the nation's kitchen), where the specialties of Japan's many regions have come together and flourished. It is a city rife with culinary development and innovation.

Dashi (soup stock made from kelp and bonito), for example, the now universal and essential component of Japanese cooking, first made its appearance in Osaka and continues to have a significant impact on Japanese food culture today. Tourists flock to the city for its culinary delights, including *takoyaki* (octopus dumplings) and *okonomiyaki* (savory as-you-like pancakes), and have a multitude of restaurants, snack stalls or food markets to choose from.



The Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau hopes to make the city a place where everyone feels welcome. OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU



The 2023 IGLTA conference in Puerto Rico saw more than 700 attendees. GHOST EDITS

Hiroshi Mizohata

A native of Kyoto Prefecture and a graduate of the University of Tokyo, Mizohata worked at the then-Home Affairs Ministry before founding professional soccer team Oita Trinita, which won the 2008 J. League Cup. He became commissioner of the Tourism Agency at the Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ministry in 2010, and president of the Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau in 2015.

"Historically speaking, Osaka is a city of diversity and has a long history of being open to the world. In this context, my slogan is to create a city where everyone — regardless of nationality, age, gender, ideology, creed or religion — can proceed safely and comfortably or feel welcomed. I aim for Osaka to be a city that has a global standing, not just in Japan, but in the world," Mizohata said.

According to Mizohata, who was formerly commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency, this is exactly what the city aims to achieve through hosting the IGLTA conference and the upcoming 2025 World Expo, which will be the second hosted by the city.

Toward Osaka Expo

He said the IGLTA conference will be a stepping stone toward the Osaka Expo, a six-month-long festival to be held from April 13 to Oct. 13 that will see 160 countries participate. The expo is said to be a celebration of peace in the world, and "diversity and gender equality are important to ensure the success of the expo," he said.

"Everyone, regardless of nationality, age or gender, should be happy and energetic. I would like to show that we are the leader, or rather, the front-runner of making Japan an ideal tourism nation. I hope that everyone in Japan will have the same desire as we do when they meet tourists from all over the

world on a daily basis," he said.

During the IGLTA conference, Osaka Pride events will be held on Oct. 26 and 27, with a parade on the second day to feature two floats dedicated exclusively to convention attendees, offering a unique chance to celebrate alongside the local LGBTQ+ community.

The expo is said to be a celebration of peace in the world, and diversity and gender equality are important to ensure the success of the expo.

Pride Month, which started in the United States in 1970, is about acceptance, equality and celebrating the work of LGBTQ+ people. It is also an opportunity to raise awareness about LGBTQ+ history and educate the public about topics related to the community.

These celebrations usually take place in the form of parades where large crowds gather to march, often waving rainbow flags as their banner. The marches are not only an opportunity for the LGBTQ+ community to show pride in their sexual orientation or gender identity, but also a way to demonstrate for legal rights, such as same-sex marriage.

Situation in Japan

In Tokyo, Shibuya and Setagaya wards were the first in the country to enact ordinances offering special partnership certificates for same-sex couples in 2015. However, such arrangements are not legally recognized as marriage sanctioned by the state, so the couples do not receive the same rights as those who are legally married.

Four years later in October 2019, Osaka Prefecture enacted an ordinance on increasing the understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity, with the aim of realizing a society in which sexual diversity is respected and everyone can live in their own way. As part of these efforts, the Osaka Prefecture Partnership Oath Certification System was implemented in January 2020.

LGBTQ+ tourism

With regards to inclusive tourism, Osaka is making solid progress.

"We strive to become a showcase of all that Japanese tourism has to offer. To achieve this goal, we collaborate with regions and destinations across Japan and a wide range of industries to create exciting and innovative content. Gathering expertise from many different fields, we engage in industry-leading initiatives such as data marketing, greenery and the environment, LGBTQ+ travel, international student support and bringing in high

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AN OSAKA FOR ALL



Far left: Dotonbori is the heart of Osaka's entertainment district. Left: Attendees pose at last year's IGLTA conference in Puerto Rico in October 2023. OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU; GHOST EDITS

Osaka offers vibrant social scene, rich culture, world-class dining

→ Continued from page B3

value-added meetings and events that have a long-lasting and wide-ranging effect on Osaka," Mizohata explained on the OCTB website.

However, he feels that Japan is still a "closed country" and falls behind many others when it comes to LGBTQ-related initiatives. He said that prior to the IGLTA conference, the OCTB had conducted a lot of negotiations and coordination to bring people from different regions together to talk about diversity and equality. Thus, efforts were made to communicate with tourist organizations in other municipalities.

"Unless we can work hard in Osaka and try to change Japan from the local level and increase the number of people with the same ideas and aims from Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the south, we will never be able to move forward," Mizohata said.

He said that he would like to see foreign visitors who have come all the way to Japan to enjoy not only the attractions of Osaka, but also the charm throughout Japan.

Education is key

The OCTB has held seminars on LGBTQ+ top-

ics, mainly for businesses, and set up the "Visit Gay Osaka" website to raise residents' awareness of LGBTQ+ issues. The website,

I hope that this convention will be a chance to enhance the reputation of Osaka and, consequently, of Japan.

has firsthand experience on how people in Europe have adapted to diversity.

"The Japanese are historically an island people, so we are kind of defensive and are afraid of being left out. But there are diverse societies like Europe that have been created through the movement and exchanges of

the first of its kind in the country, introduces inclusive events, tours on cooking and knife-making experiences, as well as popular bars, hotels and restaurants where guests can enjoy the unique regional cuisine of Osaka.

Mizohata, who has an international background, having attended school in France and Italy for three years, said he



Activities like this knife-making experience are available. OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU

people. ... When you go to Germany, for example, it is a nation of immigrants, so people of all races and religions are mixed together. So naturally, you learn diversity in school and society," he said.

As such, he feels that education from an early age is important to realize such openness to diversity.

Additionally, he said that since Japan is still a newcomer in addressing LGBTQ+ issues compared with other countries, he believes that the conference will provide a good opportunity for Japan to learn from other countries through personal interaction.

"I would like to take this opportunity to

hear about the challenges other countries are facing, and learn from them," he said.

Mizohata further added that kindness, compassion and love for others regardless of backgrounds is important to realize world peace and global cooperation.

"I hope that this convention will be a chance to enhance the reputation of Osaka and, consequently, of Japan. I would like to make a strong impression on the people of the world that Japan and Osaka are places where everyone, regardless of nationality, age, gender, disabilities, ideology, creed or religion, can stay comfortably and safely. And in the end, I would like to realize a model city where everyone can enjoy themselves in a safe and secure environment with respect for everyone," Mizohata said.



Left: America-mura (America Village) is known as the center of youth culture in Osaka. Above: The Expo '70 Commemorative Park stands on the site of the 1970 World Expo. OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU



Dotonbori is home to a wide variety of restaurants. OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU



Osaka Castle offers sweeping city views. OSAKA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU

HOSPITALITY FOR ALL

(Sponsored content)

Osaka hotel prides itself on acceptance, inclusion

The Swissotel Nankai Osaka in Osaka's Namba district, the host hotel for the International LGBTQ+ Travel Association's global convention scheduled for Oct. 23 to 26, is expecting to break attendance records during its first conference in Asia. The five-star hotel is known for its commitment to diversity and inclusion initiatives.

The hotel is managed by Accor, a world-leading hospitality group with more than 5,400 hotels in 110 countries. Accor is a platinum global partner of the IGLTA, which networks with tourism businesses that support the LGBTQ+ community.

There are numerous LGBTQ+ friendly bars where guests can enjoy a night out near the hotel, such as in Namba and Doyama, two of the hottest and liveliest nightlife spots in Osaka.

The IGLTA-accredited hotel is also the first hotel in Asia and the first Accor property to pass an eight-point audit that covers issues such as discrimination and harassment.

The hotel adheres to a training program that includes an onboarding process whereby all of the staff attend an LGBTQ+ seminar organized by the Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau as well as Accor's diversity and inclusion programs. The Swissotel Nankai Osaka is also accredited by the OCTB as an LGBTQ-friendly hotel.

"It is more of a recognition as to what we have been doing for many years. This accreditation allowed LGBTQ+ people to know about these initiatives that have already been in existence," said Marketing Director Mariangela Silvestre.

"Every day, we interact with people from different backgrounds and cultures. Each guest has their own preferences, so it's ingrained in our system ... that we have to be open and diverse, and we are able to



welcome them," she said.

She thinks that hiring employees from diverse backgrounds helps the hotel to understand the diverse needs of its customers, and thus, provide better service.

In addition to having a dedicated section on its website in multiple languages for this community to travel with pride and peace of mind in Osaka, the hotel will be holding its first same-sex wedding between two Japanese next April. Prior to the wedding, the hotel had the couple fill out their standard LGBTQ+ questionnaire designed to ask small but crucial questions to gauge their privacy and other concerns.

Silvestre said that some couples, for example, prefer to be very private and hold weddings just for their families, so they might not want to have their names displayed on a monitor for the general public to see, as is done for many hotel weddings. "These are small but critical details that other wedding venues might miss," she said.

Silvestre also noted that Japanese society remains conservative and that a hotel's active

The hotel will be hosting its first same-sex wedding next April. SWISSOTEL NANKAI OSAKA

support for the LGBTQ+ community may give other guests pause. The reason behind it, she said, is probably because people "don't know how to react to it because it's the first time they are encountering (such a situation)." Although it's quite a risk for the hotel's reputation, the hotel felt "it's either we do it, or no one else would."

"We wanted to give members of the community a place in Japan where they can feel at ease, and where they won't be looked at or treated differently when they step inside our doors," she said.

Silvestre also sees it as a good opportunity to collaborate with surrounding businesses,

such as the Takashimaya department store, so that LGBTQ+ visitors can visit Osaka with peace of mind and feel welcome.

Swissotel Nankai Osaka hosted the same OCTB training program for nearby businesses, including Takashimaya, prior to the IGLTA convention.

"I can be proud to say that we have a team that is very much open. It's not a one-time effort implemented only during LGBTQ+ Pride Month. For us, it's sustaining," she said.

This page is sponsored by Swissotel Nankai Osaka.



Left: Mariangela Silvestre; Above: Namban10 offers a spot to kick back and relax in a comfortable and welcoming environment. SWISSOTEL NANKAI OSAKA



LOVE WINS HERE

At the Swissôtel Nankai Osaka, we believe that love is too beautiful to be hidden in a closet. As Asia's first hotel accredited by the International LGBTQ+ Travel Association, begin your Happily Ever After with pride and peace of mind as our team of inclusivity-trained wedding experts look after you.

- 2 Western and 1 Japanese Ceremony Halls, Grand Ballroom, 17 Function Spaces
- 546 Rooms & Suites
- 6 Restaurants, 2 Bars and Cafe
- One Entire Floor dedicated to Health & Wellness, including a Gym, Spa, Indoor Pool, Sauna and Bath

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OSAKA

5-1-60 Namba, Chuo-ku, Osaka, 542-0076
TEL: 06-6646-1111

Directly connected to Nankai Namba Station
Short walk from Namba Station
on Osaka Metro lines

Scan to Discover
our LGBTQ+ Weddings



Democrat vs. Republican

America vs. China

White vs. Black

Economy vs. Ecology

Wealth vs. Health

Urban vs. Rural

Government vs. People

Dogs vs. Cats

Coffee vs. Tea

Man vs. Woman

Monopoly vs. Share

Privacy vs. Surveillance

Politics vs. Science

Think vs. Do

Reject vs. Embrace

You vs. Me

Argument vs. Dialogue

Where there's division,
there's an opportunity for progress.

#BeyondVS

Dialogue matters.

thejapantimes

INCLUSIVE LODGING

(Sponsored content)

Sekisui House, Marriott team up on diversity issues

Major builder Sekisui House Ltd. has been addressing LGBTQ+ issues since 2014 and is making efforts to strengthen such initiatives hand in hand with the Fairfield by Marriott Michi-no-Eki project.

Sekisui House, which owns 29 Fairfield by Marriott hotels in Japan, teamed up with the hotel to launch the Michi-no-Eki (roadside station) project with the aim of revitalizing small communities. Under the concept of "Quest for Unknown Japan," they aim to help such communities boost their economies together with governments and partner companies, using tourism as a starting point.

As one of the project's initiatives, they invited an LGBTQ lecturer to conduct a hybrid online and offline training session on related issues in April. A total of 106 participants, including staffers from all 29 hotels and members of regional tourism federations, participated.

In addition, the two companies also participated in the Tokyo Rainbow Pride 2024 event in Tokyo's Yoyogi Park from April 19 to 21. This year, about 150 employees from the Sekisui House Group — about three times more than last year — participated in the parade with their families and friends. They also plan to participate in the IGLTA 2024 Global Convention to be held in Osaka from Oct. 23 to 26, as part of their sponsorship.

LGBTQ+ initiatives

Sekisui House originally started paying attention to LGBTQ+ issues to ensure a safe and comfortable working environment. "We will realize a corporate group where each and every employee can make the most of their diversity," President Yoshihiro Nakai states in his corporate message.

To that end, LGBTQ+ training programs were introduced as part of comprehensive human rights training for all employees in 2014. After that, a system was launched in 2019 that allows employees with same-sex partners to have those partners registered as family members so they can receive the same benefits as other employees, including insurance and child care leave.

Also, a two-person division was set up in the Human Resources and General Affairs Department to address issues that employees, including LGBTQ+ staffers, might encounter at the office.

"It might be rare for companies to have in-house personnel provide consultations like we do. Some companies might instead connect such employees with NPOs (nonprofit organizations) outside of the company that provide support," said Yu Matsuoka, who was in charge of diversity and inclusion promotion at the time of the interview.

These initiatives were followed in 2022 by two types of "reforms" dealing with forms and "consciousness."

The first reform refers to questionnaires that Sekisui House asked customers to fill out at exhibition halls. These typically inquired about their sex and family structure. Under the reform, the sex question was removed. However, in cases where it is necessary for marketing, it was expanded from just male and female to include "prefer not to specify," while the family relationship question was changed to spouse and "partner."

"In order to unify the awareness, we decided that we should also talk to the real estate



Sekisui House employees, families and friends pose at Rainbow Pride 2024 in Yoyogi Park in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward in April. SEKISUI HOUSE LTD.



Sekisui House staffers lunch together on June 24 via S-Ally Circle, an online forum launched this year as a Pride Month project. SEKISUI HOUSE LTD.

group Sha Maison brand's rental housing that is directly involved with people looking for a room. We called on all the companies and we started providing training to about 3,000 people, which consisted of Sekisui House Real

'We will realize a corporate group where each and every employee can make the most of their diversity.'

news and events, as well as ask questions directly to LGBTQ+ staffers.

The company periodically holds online lunches where employees who have come out are the speakers, discussing their experiences and increasing their visibility to other employees. "We try to create opportunities for them to talk about their problems" and how they'd like to see them resolved, Matsuoka said.

Estate's leasing staff as well as staff from affiliated companies, via video streaming," Matsuoka said.

In March last year, the company launched the S-Ally Circle, a network of LGBTQ+ supporters, so members could exchange information and socialize. The network has over 200 members and can use an internal social networking service to exchange information on related content,

These initiatives have borne fruit, and Sekisui House, as the first house maker in Japan to do so, has received several accolades from the work with Pride association.

"We will continue to create a workplace where people can work with peace of mind ... Japan is falling behind with laws ... I believe that society will change if various industries, not just the housing industry, cooperate with each other. I would like to give shape to that kind of corporate responsibility toward society," Matsuoka said.

Michi-no-Eki

As part of the Michi-no-Eki project, most of the Fairfield by Marriott hotels are situated by roadside stations nationwide to serve as a destination to explore nearby attractions, culinary experiences and unspoiled nature so visitors can connect with local residents.

The Fairfield by Marriott Kyoto Kyotamba is no exception, ensuring that any guest regardless of nationality, background or sex, can stay with peace of mind. Away from the hustle and bustle of city life, guests can enjoy privacy at the hotel while being surrounded by serene nature, making their stay all the more relaxing.

"Everyone should be able to travel with peace of mind. I really want people to come to Japan, spend a fulfilling time and discover the country's many attractions," said Yoko Nakamoto, marketing director of the Michi-no-Eki project.

The hotel is about an hour from Kyoto Station, right in the middle of the prefecture, by car. If not by car, one can take the JR Sagano Line to Sonobe Station, where the hotel is about 20 minutes away by taxi or bus.

The hotel sits in an area that is rich in nature, beside the roadside station Kyoto Kyotamba Ajimunosato. The opening of the roadside station in 2015 was accompanied by the opening of the 93-kilometer-long Kyoto Jukan Expressway connecting the northern and southern sides of Kyoto.

"You can feel a sense of Japan just by looking at nature, and the several temples nearby

'Everyone should be able to travel with peace of mind. I really want people to have a fulfilling time and discover the country's many attractions.'

many visitors come here every year to enjoy the kuromame.

Since the hotel doesn't have a restaurant, visitors can savor good food at the roadside station, where the restaurant offers a kuromame set featuring all kinds of bean dishes from starters to desserts. Visitors who come by car can also enjoy a variety of restaurants in the neighborhood, as well as the nearby winery, known for its delicious Tamba wine.

This page is sponsored by Sekisui House Ltd. and the Fairfield by Marriott Michi-no-Eki project.



The Fairfield by Marriott Kyoto Kyotamba hotel opened in October 2020.

FAIRFIELD BY MARRIOTT KYOTO KYOTAMBA



The guest rooms are modern and well-appointed.

FAIRFIELD BY MARRIOTT KYOTO KYOTAMBA



The lobby and lounge of the Fairfield by Marriott Kyoto Kyotamba hotel provide an ideal place to relax.

FAIRFIELD BY MARRIOTT KYOTO KYOTAMBA

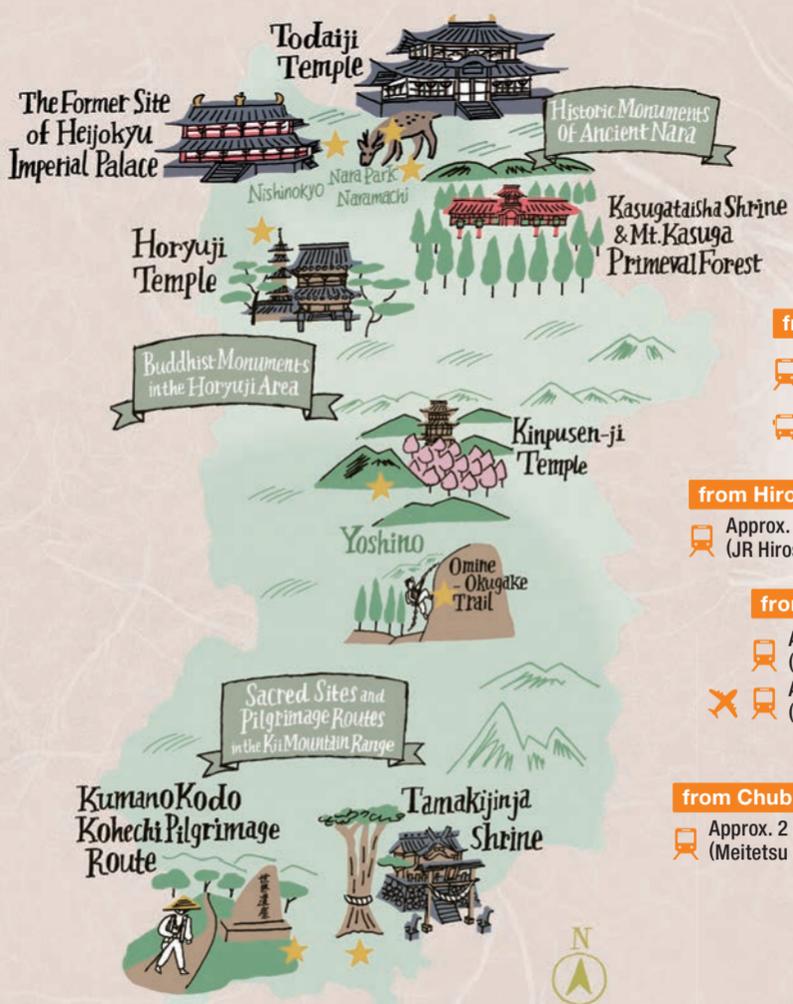


Travel To Nara

Nara was the eastern end of the Silk Road and the birthplace of Japanese history and culture, where Japan's first full-fledged capital was established over 1,300 years ago. Various foreign cultures and technologies were brought to Nara and were actively introduced to build the nation.

Nara has inherited and carefully nurtured many cultural assets from that time, including World Heritage Sites, many temples and shrines, various foods that originated in ancient Nara and precious traditional crafts using the techniques handed down from generation to generation.

Much of Nara is still semirural, dotted with picturesque villages where life follows the rhythms of the seasons.



from Kyoto
 Approx. 34 min.
 (Kintetsu Kyoto Sta. - Kintetsu Nara Sta.)

from Osaka
 Approx. 34 min.
 (Kintetsu Namba Sta. - Kintetsu Nara Sta.)

from Kansai Int'l Airport
 Approx. 1 hr. 32 min.
 (JR Kansai Airport Sta. - JR Nara Sta.)
 Approx. 1 hr. 25 min.
 (KIX Terminal 1, bus stop 9 - Kintetsu Nara Sta.)

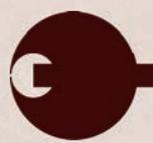
from Hiroshima
 Approx. 2 hrs. 34 min.
 (JR Hiroshima Sta. - JR Nara Sta.)

from Fukuoka
 Approx. 4 hrs. 8 min.
 (JR Hakata Sta. - JR Nara Sta.)
 Approx. 3 hrs. 9 min.
 (Fukuoka Airport (FUK) - JR Nara Sta.)

from Chubu Centrair Int'l Airport
 Approx. 2 hrs. 31 min.
 (Meitetsu Chubu Int'l Airport Sta. - JR Nara Sta.)

from Nagoya
 Approx. 1 hr. 37 min.
 (JR Nagoya Sta. - Kintetsu Nara Sta.)

from Tokyo
 Approx. 3 hrs. 23 min.
 (JR Tokyo Sta. - Kintetsu Nara Sta.)



Nara Prefecture



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