

General information for participants from abroad

TIME DIFFERENCE

All of Japan is in the same time zone, 9 hours ahead of G.M.T.

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING

Average Temperature & Precipitation in Kobe

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Max. Temp	9C (49F)	9C (49F)	13C (56F)	20C (67F)	24C (76F)	27C (81F)
Min. Temp.	3C (37F)	3C (37F)	5C (41F)	11C (51F)	15C (60F)	20C (68F)
Precipitation	44 mm	59 mm	100 mm	121 mm	140 mm	201 mm

	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Max. Temp	31C (89F)	33C (91F)	29C (84F)	23C (73F)	17C (63F)	12C (54F)
Min. Temp.	24C (75F)	25C (77F)	21C (70F)	15C (59F)	10C (49F)	5C (41F)
Precipitation	155 mm	99 mm	175 mm	109 mm	66 mm	38 mm

MONEY

1) Currency and Money Exchange

The unit of Japanese currency is yen. Coins are available in 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500 yen and banknotes in 1,000, 2,000, 5,000 and 10,000 yen. Exchange banks and money exchange counters can be found at Kansai International Airport for money exchange. A passport may be required for currency exchange service. Exchange bank is also available near Port-liner Sannomiya station.

2) Credit Cards

International credit cards such as Visa, American Express, Diners Club and MasterCard are also acceptable at leading banks, hotels and stores in major cities. However, there are still some services in which credit card transactions are not acceptable in Japan so obtaining cash beforehand is recommended when you travel Japan.

3) ATMs

Many overseas credit and cash cards can be used at Japanese ATMs and cash dispensers at banks, convenience stores and post offices. However, it is advised to contact each credit card company beforehand and check the location of each ATM and its availability because the conditions for the usage of overseas credit card may vary from machine to machine.

Overseas credit, debit and cash cards can be used at Post Office and the convenience store ATMs in locations throughout Japan. ATMs where money can be withdrawn in Japanese Yen display stickers indicating which cards are accepted. Please see the following URLs for the details.

Seven bank ATM in Seven Eleven: <https://www.sevenbank.co.jp/intlcard/index2.html>

E-net in Family Mart: <http://www.enetcom.co.jp/intl/en/>

Post Office: https://www.jp-bank.japanpost.jp/en/ias/en_ias_index.html

<Banks, Post Office and Convenience Stores near the BDR>

a) Sumitomo Mitsui Bank (Sannomiya)

<https://ml.its-mo.com/p/en/smbcbank/dtl/5901110200410/?&cond1=1&&his=sa%2Csa1>

1-5-1, Sannomiya-machi, Chuo-ku

Kobe 651-0021

Tel: 078-332-5911

Office hours: 9:00 to 15:00 on weekdays.

10:00 to 17:00 on Saturday, Sunday and National holidays

ATM: 0:00 to 24:00. on weekdays and Saturdays

0:00 to 21:00 on weekdays and Sundays

b) Sumitomo Mitsui Bank (Kobe Port-island – Iryo Center Station)

ATM ONLY

3-1-2, Minatojima-nakamachi, Chuo-ku

Kobe 650-0046

Tel: 06-6534-2900

ATM: 8:00 to 21:00 on weekdays and Saturdays

8:00 to 21:00 on Sundays

c) Post Office (Kobe Port-island-Park city nai)

6-2-1 Minatojima-minamimachi, Chuo-ku Kobe,
650-0046

Tel: 078-302-3045

Office hours: 9:00 to 17:00 on weekdays (Closed on Saturdays and Sundays)

ATM: 9:00 to 19:00 on weekdays

9:00 to 17:00 on Saturdays

Closed on Sundays

d) Convenience Store:

There are 2 convenience stores near BDR.

Family Mart: open 24 hours Phone: 078-304-4133

Daily Yamazaki: Located in front of "Iryo Center Station". Phone:078-302-5662

HEALTHCARE

1) Water

Tap water is safe to drink anywhere in Japan. Mineral water can be easily obtained at super markets, convenience stores and other similar places.

2) Hospitals

Medical systems and facilities in Japan are well established so that you can expect to receive a high standard medical treatment if you have any health problem during your stay.

ELECTRICITY

The voltage used throughout Japan is uniformly 100 volts alternating current at a frequency of 60 Hertz. A step-down transformer is required to convert the voltage. There are no columnar-shaped plugs or 3-pin plugs used in Japan but 2-flat pin plugs are used instead. It is therefore advised to purchase a plug adapter beforehand.

POSTAL SERVICE

Hotels and convenience stores often provide simple postage services. Post offices are open daily from 9:00 to 17:00 except Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays.

TELEPHONES

WiFi Router Rentals and purchase of SIM card are available at Kansai International Airport.

<https://www.kansai-airport.or.jp/en/service/internet/03.html>

<https://sim.telecomsquare.co.jp/>

https://umobile.jp/lp/prepaid_eng/

Public phone:

The number of public phones has decreased in Japan as well as the other areas in the world. Public phone accepts 10 yen and 100 yens coin and/or telephone cards. A local call costs 10 yen per minute. No change is given for partial use of a 100 yens coin. Prepaid telephone card is available at 1,000 yen at convenience stores and similar places.

International calls by public phone:

A direct overseas call can be made from a public phone dialing the direct dial access number shown as below:

Direct dial access number

KDDI: 001-010

SoftBank: 0061-010

NTT Communications: 0033-010

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

For general transport, taxis are plentiful and train and bus services are convenient throughout Japan.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centers provide reliable information for your travel, accommodation and sightseeing in Japan.

1) Kansai Tourist Information Center (Kansai International Airport):

<http://www.tourist-information-center.jp/kansai/en/kix/>

Central 1F, Terminal 1 Bldg., 1 Senshu-kuko-naka, Tajiri-cho, Sennan-gun.

Tel: +81-(0)72-456-6160

Office hours: 7:00 to 22:00 (open year-round)

2) Kobe Information Center (Hello Station Kobe)

<https://tic.into.go.jp/detail.php?id=1237>

Beside Sannomiya station

Tel: 078-322-0220

Office hours: Open from 9:00 to 19:00 every day

RESTAURANTS

There are many restaurants in Sannomiya, Kobe downtown which is about 20 minutes ride the port liner train from the BDR. You can enjoy various kinds of cuisine from Japanese traditional cuisine to Western cuisines.