

# About Osaka City

---

## About

Osaka, located on the southwestern side of the main Japanese island of Honshu, is Japan's third largest city and a major commercial center in the Kansai region. It sits along Osaka Bay at the mouth of the Yodo River, and is known for its many canals and rivers, as well as the bridges that cross them. The Yodo and Yamato Rivers flow across the city. Osaka has a very long history, dating back to at least the 5th or 6th century BC. The port made the city a strategic location for building a city, easily connected to other parts of Japan and good conditions for growing rice. Osaka became the capital of Japan for brief periods in the early history, and even after the capital moved to Nara, it remained an important center of business. The arts and cultural scene in Osaka began to thrive in the 18th century, with *KABUKI* and *BUNRAKU* performance styles. Osaka has grown to become a modern metropolitan city, with a thriving business, cultural and nightlife scene.

## Osaka Castle

Osaka Castle was originally constructed in 1583 but was destroyed in thirteen years after during a war. Although it was rebuilt by the Tokugawa Shogun ate in the 1620s, its main castle tower was burnt down by lightning in 1665. It was not until 1931 that the present ferroconcrete reconstruction of the castle tower was built. Major repair works gave the castle new glamor in 1997. The castle tower, surrounded by secondary citadels, gates, turrets, impressive stone walls and moats, is entirely modern on the inside and even features an elevator for easier accessibility. It houses an informative museum about the castle's history. The garden requires an admission fee.



## Tsutenkaku Tower

Tsutenkaku is a symbol of Osaka. It was built in 1912 as the symbol of Shin-Sekai ("A new world"). The concept was very typical of Osaka: build a steel tower that looks like Eifel Tower on a building designed in the image of the Arch of Triumph. With a height of 64 m, it was once the tallest structure in the East Asia at the time and named Tsutenkaku, meaning "Building leading to heaven". Later it was dismantled after a fire but reconstructed at the request of citizens. At 103 m, the new Tsutenkaku is 39 m higher than the original. In 2007, it was registered as a tangible cultural property of Japan.



## Dotonbori

One of Osaka's most popular tourist destinations, the street runs parallel to the Dotonbori canal. It is a popular shopping and entertainment district and is also known as a food destination. At night it is lit by hundreds of neon lights and mechanized signs, including the famous Glico Running Man sign. The north side of the canal is called Soemon-cho, where there are many restaurants and bars. The south side of the canal, Dotonbori Street, is a home of "Kuidaore" with various eateries where you will be amazed with the famous Osaka giant signs such as moving crab, puffer fish, dragon, etc. Try famous Osaka food "Takoyaki (octopus balls)".



# About Osaka City

---

## Osaka Station

Osaka Station is a major railway station in Osaka's Umeda district (also known as Kita) that is served by a large number of local and interregional trains, but not the Shinkansen which stops at Shin-Osaka Station. The station underwent extensive renovation works and was reborn in 2011 as Osaka Station City, one of Japan's most attractive railway stations. Osaka Station City's landmark is a large glass roof that spans over the railway tracks and gives the station a lot of new open space. Newly constructed and renovated buildings on the north and south sides of the station provide travelers with a wide array of shopping, dining, entertainment and recreation opportunities, and are connected with each other by a wide bridge over the railway tracks.



## Umeda Sky Building

Umeda Sky Building is 173 meters high. It has an innovative form whereby the two skyscrapers are connected at their top floors and a huge atrium that extends about 150 meters connecting the sky and the ground. When going out onto Sky Walk at the very top of the skyscrapers, visitors can feel the fresh air and enjoy 360-degree panoramic views with overwhelming impression. In addition, in the basement, there is the "Takimi Lane of Restaurants" that reproduces the gourmet town of Osaka, a famous location where gourmets spare no expense on food. This famous new place in Osaka attracts throngs of people every day.



## Water/Metropolis Osaka

Osaka was laid out with an unusual structure, based on its waterways and the rivers that surround it, so it enjoys a history as an aqua metropolis. From the Edo period when it was known as heaven's kitchen, to modern days when it came to be called the Manchester of the Orient, the city has been blessed countless times by the canals that run through it. Even now, the layout of the city reflects the influence of those canals, and it continues to evolve. In addition to events held here, wharfs and waterside cafes and restaurants have been built, adding more and more spaces where one can feel close to the water. There are also many ways to explore from the water itself, such as on the Aqua Bus, Aqua-Liner that goes around Nakanoshima.



## Nakanoshima Area

Nakanoshima is full of places to experience art and culture, including The National Museum of Art, Osaka, unique in that it was constructed completely underground; The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka, known for its rare celadon and white porcelain pieces; and the Osaka Science Museum, where you can have fun while learning science. It is recommended to take a leisurely walk around the area, stopping to see retro buildings such as the Osaka City Central Public Hall (made of bricks), or the Osaka Prefectural Nakanoshima Library (stone construction).

