

Travel Information RIMS Workshop Kyōto and ALC Kōbe

August 18, 2008

1 From the Airport to Kyōto or Kōbe

About trains in Japan: (1) Train tickets are usually bought from ticket machines near the entrance gates: first look at the map above the ticket machines, find the station you are heading for and read off the fare. Then insert at least the fare into the machine (inserting more is possible because the machine gives change), press the button with the fare and get your ticket (and your change). This is all very simple and straightforward.

(2) Train tickets always have to be kept till the end of the trip. They are needed for getting out of the train system, and then disappear automatically in the exit gate. Thus, if you need proof of your trip for later refund, please insist on obtaining a separate receipt when buying the ticket.

(3) Express trains in Japan (= trains for which seat reservation is possible), like the Shinkansen superexpress or the Haruka express (see below) etc., have cars with reserved seats (shiteiseki, 指定席) and cars with non-reserved seats (jiyūseki, 自由席). This is simple if you buy a ticket with seat reservation because the ticket says the car number. If you have a ticket without seat reservation, make sure you get on one of the cars with non-reserved seats.

Express train tickets are more difficult to buy from machines, and I recommend buying them at the counter.

1.1 From Kansai Airport (KIX) to Kyōto (京都)

The most convenient connection from Kansai International Airport (関西空港) to Kyōto is by **JR train**: take the **Haruka (はるか) express train** bound for JR Kyōto station. Trains depart every 30 minutes, and the journey takes about 75 minutes. The fare is 3,690 yen with seat reservation and 2,980 yen without.

Alternatively, but still on the JR line, you can take the Kankū Rapid (Kankū Kaisoku, 関空快速) train to Osaka and change there to the Special Rapid Service (Shinkaisoku, 新快速) for Kyōto. This is a bit more complicated, more time-consuming (about 2 hours), but much cheaper (1,830 yen).

NB: There are two train stations at Kansai Airport: the JR station and the Nankai (南海) station. Please make sure you go to the JR station.

A further alternative is an airport shuttle service. This does require a reservation. See the travel webpage of RIMS (<http://kurt.scitec.kobe-u.ac.jp/~brendle/rims2008/travel.html>) for details.

Finally, one can also get to Kyōto by bus from outside the terminal building on platform number 8. Buses run roughly every 40 minutes. The fare is 2,300 yen (3,800 yen for a return ticket valid for 14 days), and the journey takes about 105 minutes. Most buses go to the south entrance Hachijōguchi (八条口) of JR Kyōto station, but some continue inside Kyōto, so be careful where to get off.

1.2 From Kansai Airport (KIX) to Kōbe (神戸)

The easiest connection from Kansai International Airport to Kōbe is by **bus**. Take the bus bound for Sannomiya (三宮) outside the terminal building on platform number 6. Buses run roughly every 20 minutes. The fare is 1,800 yen for a one-way ticket. (There is also a reduced return ticket available for 3,000 yen; however, this is valid only for 14 days; so, if you plan on staying longer, you should still get a one-way ticket.) Buy the ticket from the ticket machine in the wall of the terminal building next to the bus stop. Simply insert 1800 yen (or more), press the button *Kōbe Sannomiya* (神戸三宮) and get your ticket (and change). The journey takes about 65 minutes.

Most buses go directly to Sannomiya (= downtown Kōbe), but some stop once in between at the Sheraton Hotel on Rokkō Island. Do not get off there. Simply stay on the bus till the final stop.

Again, an alternative is the airport shuttle service, see above.

It is also possible to take the train from the Airport to Kōbe. This, however, is time-consuming and complicated (though somewhat cheaper than the bus if done the right way), and only recommended for the seasoned Japan-traveler who can figure out details by herself/himself.

1.3 From Ōsaka Itami Airport (ITM) to Kyōto or Kōbe

If you arrive at Ōsaka (Itami) Airport (大阪空港), the most convenient way to go to Kyōto or Kōbe is by **bus**.

For Kyōto, take the bus to JR Kyōto station. Buses run roughly every 20 minutes. The fare is 1,280 yen, and the journey takes about 55 minutes.

For Kōbe, take the bus to Sannomiya. Buses run roughly every 25 minutes. The fare is 1,020 yen, and the journey takes about 40 minutes.

For Kyōto (but not for Kōbe!), an alternative is the airport shuttle service, see above.

Finally, one can go to Kyōto or Kōbe by a combination of the Ōsaka Monorail (大阪モノレール) and the Hankyū (阪急) line. This is cheaper, but rather complicated, and only recommended for the seasoned Japan-traveler.

1.4 From Narita Airport (NRT) or Tōkyō to Kyōto or Kōbe

From Narita Airport (成田空港) to Tōkyō (東京) take the **Narita Express** on the **JR line**, and get off at JR Tōkyō station. From Tōkyō to either Kyōto or Kōbe, take the **bullet train** (either Nozomi, のぞみ, or Hikari, ひかり) of the **Tōkaidō Shinkansen** line (東海道新幹線), either to Kyōto station or to Shin-Kōbe (新神戸) station. Trains are frequent, and the journey takes about 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

1.5 Back to the airport

To get back to the airport, use the same algorithm backwards.

E.g., to get back from Kōbe to Kansai International Airport, take a **bus** bound for Kansai Airport at the bus stop south of Hankyū Sannomiya (阪急三宮) station. Buses run roughly every 20 minutes. The fare is 1,800 yen, and the journey takes about 65 minutes.

NB 1: This is not the main bus stop of Sannomiya (which is located south of JR Sannomiya station) but a separate bus stop for airport buses only. It is further west from the main bus stop (across the large street). It is **not** the place where you got off if you also arrived by bus in Kōbe.

NB 2: There are buses to Kansai Airport (関西空港) and buses to Ōsaka (Itami) Airport (大阪空港). Please be sure you get the right one.

2 From the Train Station to the Hotel

About local transport in Japan: (1) The subway systems work exactly like the train systems, see above.

(2) In Japan, one usually enters the bus at the back and exits in front next to the driver. One pays the driver when getting off. If you don't have exact change, coins and 1000 yen bills can be changed at the machine next to the driver. (It's usually not possible to change larger bills, so please be careful!)

(3) Buses which operate within city limits usually have one fixed fare. For Kyōto it is 220 yen and for Kōbe, 200 yen. (E.g., if you take the bus from downtown Kyōto to RIMS (see below), the fare will be 220 yen.)

(4) For buses outside the center of big cities, the fare depends on the distance traveled and you need to get a small ticket with a number when getting on the bus (as proof of where you entered). When you exit, look at the table above the driver (in front) and read off the fare from below the number which is printed on your small ticket. (E.g., when we go to Ōhara on Aug. 27, you'll need to get such a ticket.)

(5) If you often use the public transport system, I recommend that you buy a **Surutto Kansai Card** (スルッとKANSAI). Cards are sold at ticket machines in train stations or at small kiosks, and can usually also be obtained from the station attendants at the entrance gates. Typically, you can get cards for 1,000 yen, 2,000 yen, 3,000 yen, and 5,000 yen. On the Hankyū (阪急) train system (but not elsewhere!), this card is called **Lagare Card** (ラガールカード).

The Surutto Kansai Card is valid on all train systems in the Kansai area **except** for the JR train (e.g., it's valid on Hankyū (阪急), Keihan (京阪), Kintetsu (近鉄) etc.), on the subway systems in Kyōto, Ōsaka, and Kōbe, and on all the local buses (but **not** on the airport buses).

It's very easy to use: on trains and subways, simply insert the card at the entrance and exit gates. The correct fare will automatically be deducted. On buses with fixed fare, insert the card in the machine next to the driver when you get off. On buses whose fare depends on the distance traveled, you have to insert the card once **immediately** after entering the bus in the machine at the rear, and then again when exiting, in the machine next to the driver in front.

The trickiest part about the usage is when your card runs out of money. There are several ways to deal with this. The simplest is: if there is not enough money to cover your next trip, first buy a new card. Then insert the old card at the entrance gate, and insert both cards **simultaneously** at the exit gate. The old card will not have any money left, and the remainder of the fare is taken off from the new card. (Unfortunately, this does not always work because not all gates can be fed with two cards; look for a **2** written on the exit gate. An alternative is to pay the remainder of the fare – either by cash or with a new card – before exiting at one of the *fare adjustment* machines (乗り越し清算).)

If money is left on your card when you leave Japan, you can sell it to me.

2.1 In Kyōto: Court Hotel Kyōto Shijō (コートホテル京都四条)

From JR Kyōto station, take the subway Karasuma line (烏丸線) bound for Kokusai Kaikan (国際会館) and get off at Shijō (四条) station (this is the second stop). Get out of the underground tunnel at exit 26. Continue walking west along Shijō street (四条通) on the southern side of the street until you reach Nishi-no-Tōin street (西洞院通). This is right after a Lawson (ローソン) convenience store. Turn left. The hotel is on your left-hand side.

In case you travel from Kōbe to Kyōto on the Hankyū (阪急) line, get off at Hankyū Karasuma (烏丸) station, and then continue as above. (Hankyū Karasuma station and the subway Shijō station are next to each other underground.)

From JR Kyōto station, you may alternatively take a taxi. Here are the address and name of the hotel in Japanese (for the taxi driver):

京都市下京区西洞院通四条南入ル
コートホテル京都四条

The English version is:

Court Hotel Kyōto Shijō
Shijō Minami-Iru, Nishi-no-Tōin-Dōri, Shimogyō-Ku, Kyōto 600-8472
Tel. 075-361-0505

2.2 In Kōbe: Tōyoko Inn Kōbe Sannomiya II (東横イン神戸三ノ宮 2)

In case you arrive in Kōbe Sannomiya (either by airport bus from Kansai airport or Itami airport, or by Hankyū train or JR train from Kyōto or elsewhere), you can walk to the hotel. From the bus stop of the airport bus, walk east (=backwards) on the main street, till you see the Chūō Ward Office (中央区役所) on the left-hand side. Turn left right after the ward office. The hotel is on your left-hand side.

If you arrive by Shinkansen train at Shin-Kōbe station (e.g. from Tōkyō), first take the subway to Sannomiya station (one stop), and then continue as above. Alternatively take a taxi.

Here are the address and name of the hotel in Japanese:

神戸市中央区雲井通 5-2-2
東横イン神戸三ノ宮 2

The English version is:

Tōyoko Inn Kōbe Sannomiya II
5-2-2 Kumoi-Dōri, Chūō-Ku, Kōbe 651-0096
Tel. 078-232-1045

3 From the Hotel to the University

3.1 How to get to RIMS (京都大学数理解析研究所)

From the **Court Hotel**, take **city bus (市バス) No. 3** bound for Kitashirakawa Shibusechō or Kamihatechō Kyōtozōkeigedai-mae (北白川仕伏町 or 上終町京都造形芸大前) at the bus stop **Shijō Nishi-no-Tōin (四条西洞院)** on the opposite (=northern) side of Shijō street (四条通) very close to the hotel. Get off at **Hyakumanben (百万遍)** bus stop, and continue walking east along Imadegawa Street (今出川通) on the northern side of the street: first cross Higashi-Ōji Street (東大路通); do not go through the first gate to the university on your left; continue along Imadegawa Street till you reach a small street turning left and leading to the second gate of the university; pass this gate. RIMS is the first building on the right-hand side. The walk should take between 5 and 10 minutes.

In the morning, buses leave Shijō Nishi-no-Tōin every 6 to 7 minutes, e.g., at 7:45, 7:51, 7:57, 8:04, 8:11, 8:18, 8:24, 8:31 etc. Since the buses do not originate here, this timetable is not very exact, and heavily depends on traffic conditions. According to the bus schedule, the journey is 21 minutes, but may take longer depending on the traffic (25 to 30 minutes?).

NB: There are other bus companies operating in Kyōto, like Kyōto bus, Keihan bus, Hankyū bus etc. Do not mix city bus No. 3 with bus No. 3 of other bus lines.

Alternatively you can take the subway Karasuma Line (烏丸線) bound for Kokusai Kaikan (国際会館) at Shijō (四条) station, change at Imadegawa (今出川) station to city bus No. 203 bound for

Ginkakuji-michi / Kinrin Shako-mae (銀閣寺/錦林車庫前), and get off at either Kyōdai Nōgakubu-mae (京大農学部前) or Kitashirakawa (北白川). This is more expensive because you have to pay separately for subway and bus.

Do not take bus No. 203 directly from Shijō Nishi-no-Tōin to RIMS. It will take much longer because it runs in a circle!

A further alternative is the Keihan (京阪) train which runs underground east of the Kamo river (and parallel to the river).

If you take a taxi, here are the address of RIMS + a description of the way in Japanese:

京都市左京区北白川追分町
京都大学数理解析研究所

今出川通り農学部東入り口から入ってすぐ右手の建物

The English address is:

Research Institute for the Mathematical Sciences
Kyōto University
Oiwake-Chō, Kitashirakawa, Sakyō-Ku, Kyōto
Tel. 075-753-7257

Our workshop takes place in room 420 on the fourth floor of the building.

If you have time and leisure when going back to downtown from RIMS, you may also walk down along the Kamo river instead of taking public transport.

3.2 How to get to Kōbe University (神戸大学)

From **Tōyoko Inn**, go to **JR Sannomiya station** (JR 三ノ宮駅) and take a **Local** (Futsū, 普通) or **Rapid Service** (Kaisoku, 快速) train bound for Ōsaka or Kyōto (= eastbound). Get off at **JR Rokkōmichi station** (JR 六甲道駅). This is either the second stop (if you took the local) or the first stop (if you took the rapid service). The fare is 160 yen. Then take **city bus** (市バス) **No. 16** bound for Rokkō-Cable-Shita (六甲ケーブル下) and get off at **Shindai-Kokusaibunakagakubu-mae** (神大国際文化学部前). The fare is 200 yen. Walk over the pedestrian bridge to the Student Center/Faculty for Intercultural Studies. The lectures of the ALC will be held in Wing B of this complex.

NB: Do **not** take the Special Rapid Service (Shinkaisoku, 新快速) train at Sannomiya because it won't stop at Rokkōmichi.

Alternatively, you can take the Hankyū train at **Hankyū Sannomiya station** (阪急三宮駅): take either a **Local** (Futsū, 普通) or an **Express** (Kyūkō, 急行) bound for Umeda (梅田) (= Ōsaka). Get off at **Hankyū Rokkō station** (阪急六甲), and proceed as before. Note that the bus stop for the bus No. 16 is below (= south of) the station. The fare for the train is 180 yen, and Rokkō is the third station on the line.

NB: Do **not** take the Limited Express (Tokkyū, 特急) train at Sannomiya because it won't stop at Rokkō.

Since JR Sannomiya is a little closer than Hankyū Sannomiya and since the fare is 20 yen cheaper, the JR train may be the better choice if you plan on going by bus.

However, if you want to walk to the campus from the train station, you should take the Hankyū train because Rokkō station is closer to the university than Rokkōmichi station. For a map on how to walk see the webpage of the ALC (<http://kurt.scitec.kobe-u.ac.jp/ALC10/>).

If you take a taxi, here is the address of the Faculty for Intercultural Studies where the ALC is held:

神戸市灘区鶴甲 1-2-1
神戸大学国際文化学部

The English version is:

Faculty for Intercultural Studies
Kōbe University
1-2-1 Tsurukabuto, Nada-Ku, Kōbe

4 From Kyōto to Kōbe (or vice versa)

This is for participants who attend the ALC 10 after the RIMS workshop.

The most convenient way to get from Kyōto to downtown Kōbe (Sannomiya) is by **JR train**: take the **Special Rapid Service** (Shinkaisoku, 新快速) bound for Ōsaka/Kōbe/Himeji at JR Kyōto station, and get off at JR Sannomiya station. The fare is 1,050 yen.

A much cheaper (but more time-consuming and slightly more complicated) way is to take the **Hankyū train**: go to either **Hankyū Kawaramachi** (阪急河原町) or **Hankyū Karasuma** (阪急烏丸) station in downtown Kyōto (both stations are underground); take a **Limited Express** (Tokkyū, 特急) bound for Umeda (梅田) (= Ōsaka) station; change at **Jūsō** (十三) station (this is the last stop before Umeda) to another Tokkyū bound for Sannomiya (三宮) or Shinkaichi (新開地) station; get off at **Hankyū Sannomiya** (阪急三宮) station (which is next to JR Sannomiya station). If you miss Jūsō never mind; you can also change in Umeda (Ōsaka). The fare is 600 yen.

In a sense this is more convenient if you stay in the Court Hotel in Kyōto because you can walk to the Hankyū station while you'd have to take the subway to the JR station.

5 Weather and Clothing

The weather at the end of August and beginning of September will be hot and humid (day and night), with occasional rains or thunderstorms and, perhaps, a typhoon.

Thus you will only need light clothes. It may be a good idea to bring a light sweater because you may stay in refrigerated (= heavily air-conditioned) places, like trains, department stores, etc., once in a while. This is particularly important if you are sensitive to air-conditioning. You definitively should bring an umbrella. If you want to take part on the walk on Wednesday (8/27) afternoon (or, in general, if you want to walk outside of cities), good shoes and long pants are recommended.

If you plan to travel elsewhere in Japan (e.g. the mountains) you may need warmer clothes.

6 Phone numbers

My phone numbers are

- (078) 803-6452 (office)
- (078) 851-1789 (home)

(078) is Kōbe; so you don't need it if you call from within the city. The home phone has an answering machine, so you can leave a message. Note, however, that you won't be able to reach me from the morning of 8/24 (Sun.) till the evening of 8/29 (Fri.) because of the RIMS workshop.

From abroad, the phone numbers would be

- +81-78-803-6452 (office)
- +81-78-851-1789 (home)

7 Miscellanea

Please be aware that credit card acceptance is much lower in Japan than in many other countries. For example, many small restaurants do not accept credit cards. Similarly for many shops. Hotels mostly do accept credit cards, but may charge more or require cash payment for special discount rates.

There is no tipping in Japan, neither for taxis, nor in restaurants.

Japanese electric current is 100 V. Most North American appliances will work reasonably well on Japanese current. Plugs are also identical to North-American plugs.