

## **Directions:**

### **Shin Iwakuni to Kansai Airport in Osaka**

Getting to the Kansai Airport in Osaka is really quite easy. Just use common sense you will get to there with little effort.

First, let's look at an overview of the route you will be taking to the Kansai Airport:



Now, let's get you started.

1. You can buy the tickets for your trip at the ITT Office in the Crossroads mall or at any JR train station. You will be paying in Yen, credit card, or by using the ticket vouchers provided by PCP for those traveling on orders. (You cannot use the vouchers at ITT.) You should not wait until the day you want to leave to buy your tickets if you wish reserved seats. Buy your ticket a day early or earlier if possible. Use the schedules available at ITT or PCP to determine which trains you want to use. Remember, you must be at the airport at least **two** hours prior to departure for international travel to get your baggage checked in.

When you buy the tickets, you will be buying two tickets, one for the Haruka express and one for the Shinkansen Bullet Train. Assuming reserved seating, the tickets will cost 12,660 Yen per adult and 6,330 Yen per child (4 - 11 years) if you go on the "Kodama" or "Hikari" OR 13,430 Yen per adult and 6,710 Yen per child if you go on the "Nozomi." (Personally, I always ask for the Nozomi. It's newer, 1 hour faster, and more comfortable.) Each person will get at least three tickets. One is the regular train fare from Shin Iwakuni to Kansai Airport, one for the Haruka, and one for the Shinkansen. (I know they will all look alike to you but don't sweat it, the people that work the trains know which is which.)

2. Now that you have your tickets, you are ready to get on the first train. At Shin Iwakuni Station proceed to the ticket gate. The man there will stamp one of your tickets and give it back to you. (If you don't know which one it is, just give them all of them. He'll stamp the correct one and give them back to you.) **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Do not throw away any tickets, you'll have to surrender some at Shin Osaka and the rest at Kansai Airport.

3. After passing through the ticket gate look at the overhead sign. It will list the trains and their track number. Your track will be on your **LEFT**. Go to the escalator on the **LEFT** and go up to the platform. Your train will arrive a few minutes before it is scheduled to depart Shin Iwakuni. There are two types of tickets; Reserved and Unreserved. If you have a Reserved seat ticket, your ticket will have a car and seat number on it. If you have an Unreserved ticket, you must sit in the unreserved cars which are usually cars 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6.

4. Next we will discuss where to stand on the platform and wait for the train. Look at your ticket and determine your car number. If your ticket says car 4, stand near the YELLOW sign on the platform with the 4 on it. If you can't figure out where to stand, you can always ask a station employee for assistance.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Unless there has been some natural disaster or snow conditions, Japanese trains are always on time. If the schedule says the train departs at 1424, it'll leave at 1424. If you haven't found where to stand and your train arrives, board quickly even if you aren't at the correct car. You can walk through the train to get to the correct car after the train has left the station.

5. When you board the train, you can put your luggage in the rack above your seat or behind the last seat in each car. (The rack above your seat is small and won't hold large luggage.) If you are getting on an unreserved car be sure to get a seat quickly because once they fill up, you may have to stand until someone gets off. Take a seat and enjoy your ride.

6. If you're traveling all the way to Shin Osaka on the Kodama skip to Step 9. If you are changing to a Hikari or Nozomi, you will be changing trains at Hiroshima. Hiroshima is the next stop after Shin Iwakuni and is an 18 minute ride. Prior to each stop, there will be an announcement; first in Japanese then in English. When the announcement is made for Hiroshima, get your luggage and make your way to the exit. When the train stops, exit quickly as the stop may be very brief.

7. The Kodama will usually arrive at Hiroshima well before your Nozomi or Hikari is due to arrive. (It will arrive at the same platform but it may be the other track. Look on the overhead sign and determine which track it will arrive on. Next determine where to stand on the platform and wait for the train. If you have a Reserved seat ticket, your ticket will have a car and seat number on it. If you have an Unreserved ticket, you must sit in the unreserved cars which are usually cars 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. (Do not board a Nozomi with an Unreserved ticket as all seats are reserved on the Nozomi.) Look at your ticket and determine your car number. If your ticket says car 4, stand near the WHITE sign on the platform with the 4 on it. If you can't figure out where to stand, you can always ask a station employee for assistance.

8. Nozomi and Hikari trains rarely stop for as long as two minutes and usually the stop is much shorter so board quickly when it arrives. Stow your luggage as before, take a seat and enjoy your ride. Be prepared to show you ticket to the conductor during the ride.

9. When the announcement is made that you're about to arrive in Shin Osaka, get your luggage and make your way to the exit. When the train stops, exit quickly as the stop will be very brief if you are on a Hikari or Nozomi. (Less than 2 minutes!)

10. After you exit the train, follow the crowd down the stairs to the main train station area. You will be transferring to the "JR Lines". Follow the signs that say, "to JR Lines". Proceed to the Shinkansen ticket gate and look for one that is manned and not automatic. Give the man your tickets and he take correct one and give the rest back to you.

11. Next look for Track 11. (There'll be a blue sign that says "To Kansai Airport" in small letters at the bottom.) Take the stairs down to the platform.

12. At Track 11 look at the overhead information sign. It will list, in order of arrival, the trains arriving at that track. Hanging on wires above the track will be signs that show where each car will stop. Look at the signs for the “Haruka Express” and find the spot for your car. (Cars 1, 2, and 3 are the non-reserved cars.) If you can’t figure out where to stand, you can always ask a station employee for assistance. Wait there until your train is listed on the top on the information sign and then get on the next train that arrives. (Your train’s number is on your ticket.) Put your luggage in the rack at the either end of the car, find your seat, and enjoy the 50 minute ride to the airport.

13. There will be an announcement, in English, that you are about to arrive at the airport. (It’ll be the second stop from Shin Osaka.) As this is the end of the line, you can take you time departing the train. Once you exit the train, take the escalator up and follow the crowd to the ticket gate. The man will take and keep the rest of your tickets.

14. Once here take a minute to get your bearings. In front of you, you should see a bank of ticket machines. Note the location of the office to the right of the ticket machines. (It has a green sign around the top) This is where you will buy your train tickets if you return to Osaka.

15. Now turn to your left and head towards the Airport Terminal. You’ll see covered causeways that go over the road. Before you go over any causeways, turn left again. You want to head for “North Departures.” Take the second to the last causeway across to the Airport Terminal. You’ll enter the terminal through double glass doors. Once through these doors take the escalator to your right. Go all the way to the top, the 4th floor, and turn left. Walk straight ahead and you will see the United ticket counter. The Northwest ticket counter is to the left.

16. Once you get you baggage checked in and your boarding pass, leave at the rear of the ticket counter area. You’ll see ticket machines to buy your “Departure Ticket.” You must purchase one. The cost is 2,650 Yen. Take your Departure Ticket to the departure area which is next to the machines. Once through here you will go through a Security check and then to Immigration. (Have your paperwork ready. I.E. Passport, Orders, ID Card, etc.) Once through Immigration, head for the shuttle tram that will take you to your gate. You should plan to arrive at your gate about 45 minutes prior to departure. I wouldn’t go there too early because there isn’t much there. So after buying your Departure Ticket, you may want to wait before you go to the departure area because once you enter you can’t go back out. There are plenty of restaurants and stores on the second and third floors.

\*\*\* For those that need a McDonald’s fix, take the escalator next to the United counter down to the second floor, At the second floor, turn left and go behind the escalator. On your right will be a wall with the word “Restaurant” on it in big letters. Underneath this word will be a hallway entrance. Follow it until you see McDonald’s. Note that this is an airport so the prices are higher than other McDonald’s in Japan. They accept Yen or Dollars.

Summary: The most important thing to remember is to try to stay relaxed and don’t make it harder than it is. It’s really quite simple and once you go through it you will also see it is relatively easy. Everywhere you go there will be signs in English to guide you on your way.

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NOTE: This is a revision of a document originally written by a MGySgt Grant of MALS-12.