

Logistics Information

Climate and weather

During November and December, Kobe can expect temperatures to range from 39° to 53° F (4° to 12° C) and typically sees about 4 days of rainfall.

Electricity

The voltage in Japan is 100 Volt, which is different from North America (120V), Central Europe (230V) and most other regions of the world. Japanese electrical plugs and outlets resemble North American ones. Plugs come in various versions, but most commonly they are non-polarized and ungrounded with two pins. Grounded pins come either with three pins or with two pins and a ground wire.

Vaccination

There are some recommended vaccinations for travelers to Japan. You may find it helpful to check the [CDC's](#) and [WHO's](#) to find out whether you are sufficiently covered.

NB: Please also verify if you need vaccination after visiting Japan to re-enter your country of departure or to enter any further destination different from Japan.

Phone calls and connectivity

We suggest purchasing an eSIM card before entering Japan, that's the easiest way to be immediately connected to the internet and able to make phone calls directly after landing. On the internet you will find many offers for eSIM cards, you may find it helpful to check this website for advice.

<https://tokyocheapo.com/business/internet/esim-japan-travel/>

Country code Japan: +81

Example: to call from abroad to Himeji dial +81 (Japan) (individual number)

Emergency numbers

Fire, Ambulance or Emergency Rescue: 119 Police: 110

Accommodation

Please refer to the following site. We recommend staying near Sannomiya Station.

[Official travel Guide to KOBE](#)
JAPANiCAN.com

Currency

The official currency in Japan is the Japanese Yen (JPY). 100 JPY is equivalent to 0.63 USD (as of July 2024).

Where to exchange money

The most convenient way to exchange your money may be to contact your home bank institute to see if they have branches in Japan or affiliations with Japanese banks. If you need to exchange your money upon your arrival in Japan, there are many options to do so, some are more convenient than others.

At the airport: probably not the most competitive exchange rates, but for sure the easiest access right after arrival.

Currency Exchange Bureaus in tourist areas: look out for "Money Exchange" or "Foreign Currency Exchange", they provide very quick service.

ATM machines: For direct access to Yen, international ATMs at convenient stores such as 7-Eleven stores and Japan Post Bank are quite handy. Keep in mind transaction fees and withdrawal limits.

Please double-check with your bank that your PIN is compatible with Japanese ATMs.

Post Bank and convenience stores accept credit and debit cards issued outside of Japan, including Visa, Plus, Mastercard, Maestro, Cirrus, Union Pay and American Express.

Credit and debit cards

Credit and debit cards are accepted in the main cities and big shops and hotels; however, some small restaurants and shops or places with entrance fees (like Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples or castles) may not accept credit or debit cards. It is always a good idea to bring some cash.

Important: Please check with your credit card issuer that your card is enabled for use in Japan (setting your card for general international transactions may not be sufficient).

Tipping

Tipping culture is nonexistent in Japan and the attempt to tip will highly likely to be turned down and cause great confusion. Do not tip, just nicely thank you for the service you received.

VISA

Information will be posted around August.