

Useful websites

Train timetables and planners

English:

Hyperdia

<http://www.hyperdia.com/cgi-english/hyperWeb.cgi>

Japanese:

Hyperdia

<http://www.hyperdia.com/>

Ekikara

<http://www.ekikara.jp/top.htm>

Google Transit

<http://www.google.co.jp/transit>

Yahoo

<http://transit.yahoo.co.jp/>

Goo Transit

<http://transit.goo.ne.jp/>

Maps

Google maps – <http://maps.google.com.au/maps> . Allows English or Japanese – but the names of places and streets only come in Japanese for Japan. Very useful for planning routes, or plotting how to get to your accommodation from your train station, for example. *UPDATE: Google is gradually adding English place names.*

Transport

Jetstar

<http://www.jetstar.com.au>

Domestic airlines

Skymark

<http://www.skymark.co.jp/en/index.html> (English)

Skynet Asia

<http://www.skynetasia.co.jp/>

JR Pass

<http://www.japanrailpass.net/eng/en001.html>

Ferries

English

JR Beetle (Fukushima/Pusan[S Korea])

<http://www.jrbeetle.co.jp/english/>

Japanese:

Shin Nihonkai Ferry (Maizuru [Northern Kyoto prefecture]/Otaru [near Sapporo], various others)

<http://www.snf.co.jp/index2.html>

Kansai Kisen (Osaka/Kobe/Matsuyama/Beppu)

<http://www.kanki.co.jp/>

<http://www.ferry-sunflower.com/>

JR Beetle (Fukushima/Pusan[S Korea])

<http://www.jrbeetle.co.jp/>

Other

English:

Guide to Japanese Castles (an amazing website detailing Japanese castles)

<http://www.jcastle.info/>

Wikitravel

http://wikitravel.org/en/Main_Page

- Sometimes informative for what attractions are available in each location

Kintetsu Railway Company (English)

The site has some interesting travel ideas

<http://www.kintetsu.co.jp/foreign/english/index.html>

Nara 1 Day Pass (in Japanese)

<http://www.kintetsu.co.jp/sendin/Railway/Ticket/ikaruga/index.html>

Accommodation

Japan Youth Hostel Association

<http://www.jyh.or.jp/english/>

The Japanese version of the page is often more useful because it allows simpler and more plentiful online bookings: <http://www.jyh.or.jp/index2fr.html>

Get a YH card before you go (provides discounts): <http://www.yha.com.au/>

There are many business hotels with useful websites. Search the internet. Toyoko Inn can be good and it located in many locations, even many smaller cities. Bookings available online. <http://www.toyoko-inn.com/eng/>

Useful websites for mobile phone use (all in Japanese)

Goo (train timetables) <http://transit.goo.ne.jp/mobile/>

Google (train timetables)

<http://www.google.co.jp/imode?site=local&source=mobileproducts>

Ekikara (see above) also has a mobile site. Access via QR code (see below).

(In English)

If you have a fancy phone, download a program that reads QR codes, which appear frequently in Japan: <http://reader.kaywa.com/>

Reliable Exchange Rates

Google

Go to google and type “AUD to JPY”.

Reserve Bank of Australia

http://www.rba.gov.au/Statistics/exchange_rates.html (Gives the value of one Australian dollar).

To convert AUD to JPY, multiply the amount in AUD by the number given on the website.

To convert JPY to AUD, divide the amount in JPY by the number given on the website.

Ginza

- <http://www.motoji.co.jp/>
- <http://www.sonybuilding.jp/>
- <http://www.sakurashop.co.jp/>
- <http://www.nissan.co.jp/cgi-bin/GALLERY/>
- <http://www.apple.com/jp/retail/ginza/>

Limousine Bus

<http://www.limousinebus.co.jp> (for Tokyo airports)

Airports

<http://www.narita-airport.jp/>

<http://www.melair.com.au/>

<http://www.kansai-airport.or.jp/en/index.asp>

Sumo

<http://www.sumo.or.jp/>

Accommodation Bookings (Japanese)

<http://www.jalan.net/>

Miscellaneous

<http://www.japan-guide.com>

<http://www.gaijinpot.com>