

TRANSPORT

Kyoto is within easy reach of three airports, all of which have air links with North America, Europe, Asia and Oceania, in addition to cities across Japan. Kyoto is also linked to the rest of Japan by a multitude of excellent train and bus lines, including the *shinkansen* (bullet train). Additionally, you can reach Osaka and Kôbe (both close to Kyoto) by ship from China.

Within the city, Kyoto has an excellent public transport system. There is a comprehensive bus network, two subway lines, four train lines (two of which can be used like subways for trips around Kyoto) and a huge fleet of taxis. Furthermore, being largely flat, Kyoto is a great city for cycling – it's perfectly feasible that you could rent or buy a bicycle on your first day in the city and never have to use the public transport system.

Book flights, tours and rail tickets online at www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

AIR Airlines

Most airlines have offices in Osaka or Tokyo. The ☎ 0120 numbers are toll free.

Air Canada (☎ 0120-048-048; www.aircanada.ca/e-home.html)

Air France (☎ 06-6641-1271; www.airfrance.com)

Air New Zealand (☎ 0120-300-747; www.airnewzealand.co.nz)

Alitalia (☎ 06-6341-3951; www.alitalia.com)

All Nippon Airways (ANA; ☎ international 0120-029-333, domestic 0120-029-222; www.ana.co.jp/eng/)

American Airlines (☎ 0120-000-860; www.aa.com)

Cathay Pacific Airways (☎ 0120-355-747; www.cathaypacific.com)

Things Change...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

Delta Air Lines (☎ 0120-333-742; www.delta.com)

Garuda Indonesia (☎ 06-6635-3222; www.garuda-indonesia.com)

Japan Airlines (JAL; ☎ international 0120-255-931, domestic 0120-255-971; www.jal.co.jp/en/)

Jetstar (☎ 800-4008-3900; www.jetstar.com)

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines (☎ 0120-468-215; www.klm.com)

Korean Air (☎ 0088-21-2001; www.koreanair.com)

Lufthansa Airlines (☎ 0120-051-844; www.lufthansa.com)

Northwest Airlines (☎ 0120-120-747; www.nwa.com)

Qantas Airways (☎ 0120-207-020; www.qantas.com)

Scandinavian Airlines (☎ 0120-678-101; www.flysas.com)

Swiss International Air Lines (☎ 0120-667-788; www.swiss.com)

Thai Airways International (☎ 06-6202-5161; www.thaiairways.com)

United Airlines (☎ 0120-114-466; www.united.com)

Airports

While there is no international or domestic airport in Kyoto, the city is within easy reach of Kansai International Airport (KIX), Central Japan International Airport Centrair (NGO) and Osaka International Itami Airport (ITM; domestic flights only).

The trip between KIX and Kyoto can be quite expensive and time consuming; if you are flying domestically and have a choice of airports, it is cheaper and easier to fly into Osaka International Itami Airport.

It's sometimes cheaper to fly into Tokyo's Narita airport than into KIX. As a rule, it will cost about ¥15,000 and take around five hours to get from Narita to Kyoto by train (taking the N'EX express train and the *shinkansen*). See the boxed text, p183, for more information.

KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The closest international airport to Kyoto is Osaka's **Kansai International Airport** (code KIX; www.kansai-airport.or.jp/en), which has direct flights to and from many cities in North America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

For international departures, there are shower and dayroom facilities, which cost

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

¥1200. These are available only to those who have cleared passport control and to transit passengers.

KIX has information counters throughout the complex with English-speaking staff. The **main tourist information counter** (☎ 0724-56-6025; 1st fl, International Arrivals Hall; ☎ 9am-9pm) is operated by the Osaka prefectural government. It's located roughly in the centre of the international arrivals hall.

If you'd prefer not to lug your bags all the way to Kyoto, there are several luggage delivery services that are located in the arrivals hall.

After clearing customs, it is a short walk to public transport: straight out the doors for buses and up the escalators or elevators for train connections (see the boxed text, [opposite](#)). KIX offers short- and long-term baggage storage for ¥350 to ¥1000 per day, depending on the size of the bag. You pay the bill when you pick up your bag.

Note that the area code for KIX is ☎ 0742, which is different from Kyoto's area code of ☎ 075.

CENTRAL JAPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CENTRAIR

Located in Nagoya is **Central Japan International Airport Centrair** (code NGO; www.centrair.jp/en), a 45-minute trip east of Kyoto by *shinkansen*. Centrair has flights between Nagoya and Australia, Canada, China, Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the

Philippines, Saipan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the USA.

Centrair is one of the two airports in Japan serviced by Jetstar ([p181](#)), Australia's new budget airline.

OSAKA INTERNATIONAL ITAMI AIRPORT

Commonly known as Itami, **Osaka International Itami Airport** (code ITM; www.osaka-airport.co.jp) is Osaka's domestic airport. Itami has connections with dozens of cities in Japan. You may arrive here if you've transferred from an international flight at Narita.

You'll find an information counter with English-speaking staff in the main arrivals hall. There are several luggage delivery services in the arrivals hall if you don't want to carry your bags to Kyoto.

Domestic Air Services

The larger airports in Japan have regular flights to and from Osaka. For most cities in Honshū (the main island of Japan), including Tokyo, Nagoya and Hiroshima, it is usually faster, cheaper and more convenient to travel by *shinkansen* ([p187](#)).

Domestic airfares can be rather expensive and tend to vary little between carriers. ANA and JAL offer tickets at up to 50% off if you purchase a month or more in advance, with smaller discounts for purchases made one to three weeks in advance.