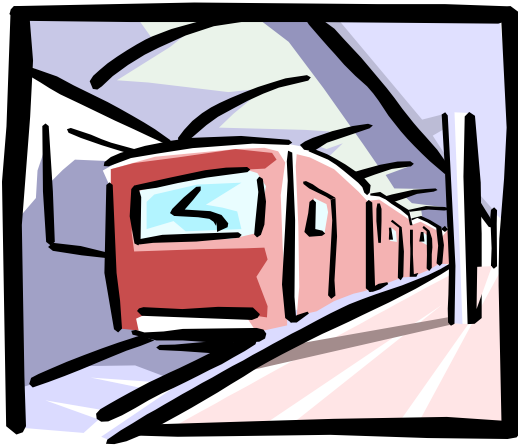




T ransportation



Japan by Rail



Riding the Trains of Japan Railway (JR)

The Yujo Community Center is probably the first place to start your adventure on the rails. They have English versions of the train and subway maps that will be invaluable to you during your stay here at Yokota. The Family Support Center also offers a train-riding class to those who are a little less adventurous.

An awesome web site to find train schedules and routes can be found at: <http://www.hyperdia.com/cgi-english/> If you type in a starting location and destination, it will give you times, trains, and costs. You can also get time tables for individual stations.

Yokota residents usually catch the train at Fussa Station on the Ome Line of the Japan Railway (JR East). There is a closer station at Higashi Fussa on the Hachiko Line but it is not the quickest way to Tokyo.

Many Yokotans park their cars at the Fussa Gate and walk to Fussa Station. It is about a 15 minute walk. Parking near the station is limited and illegally parked cars can be ticketed or towed away so be careful.

DIRECTIONS TO FUSSA STATION: Go out the Fussa Gate, cross Rt. 16 and continue straight. Cross the tracks and continue walking to the right, through a Y intersection. Go through one traffic light and continue walking until you come to the second traffic light. The cross street at this intersection is called Yanagi Dori. If you turn right you will see Seiyu department store on the left. The train station is also on the left just before Seiyu. To reach the station, turn left at the first street intersecting Yanagi Dori, and follow it as it curves gently around to the right.

GETTING YOUR TICKET: When you reach the station, go up the stairs past the bakery and you will see the ticket taker and the ticket machines. Look at the charts to the left of the machines to figure out the fare to where you are going. The map will show the Ome Line leading into Tachikawa, the seventh stop from Fussa. The Ome Line becomes the Chuo Mainline after Tachikawa and continues to Shinjuku station. The last stop on the Chuo Line is Tokyo Station. Once you have found your fare, go to the ticket machine and put your money in the coin slot or the bill feed. The buttons will light up, indicating the tickets you can purchase with the amount of money that you have deposited. Push the button of the fare that you want. A ticket will come out of the machine along with any change. Take your ticket and go to the turnstile to enter the station. You will insert your ticket into the feed and it will come out the slot at the other end. You will want to keep your ticket in a safe place because you will need it again at your destination.

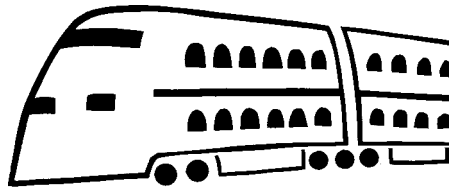
RIDING THE TRAIN: When you walk down the stairs to the train platform, you will find that one side of the platform has trains that go toward Ome or Okutama, into the mountains away from Tokyo, and the other side has trains that go toward Haijima, Tachikawa, or to Tokyo. There is a time schedule on the platform that will tell you when the next train arrives, but you can also ask for a pocket schedule at the ticket window. There are two types of trains that leave Tachikawa station toward Tokyo. One is Rapid (Kaisoku), which stops at almost every station and takes about 50 minutes to reach Shinjuku. The other is the Special Rapid (Tokubetsu Kaisoku), which stops only at Mitaka and Takano before Shinjuku. It



takes about 30 minutes to reach Shinjuku. On the schedule, the Special Rapid train times are circled. Some things to keep in mind: Smoking is not permitted on the trains, and it is impolite to eat or drink on the commuter trains. Don't play music without headphones, talk loudly, or disturb the people who are reading, sleeping or meditating!

Getting Back to Fussa Station

Getting back from Tokyo or elsewhere is not so much of a challenge as you might expect. If you are anywhere near Tokyo Station, consider going there to catch the train. It is the beginning of the line and you can usually get a seat. It will take you approximately an hour and a half to get to Fussa and you will want to sit if possible. Go to tracks 1 and 2 to catch any train to Tachikawa, Toyoda, Takao or Ome. These trains go through Tachikawa on their way to their final destinations, and you will need to get out there, and catch another train to Fussa. When you arrive at Tachikawa, go to Tracks 2 or 3 and catch a train for Ome, Okutama, or Kabe since those trains stop at Fussa. Remember that the **last train from Tachikawa to Fussa leaves at 12:40am**. You will need to leave Tokyo in time to catch the last train or be prepared for a long walk, large taxi bill or long wait. The next train for Fussa leaves after 4am!



Higashi-Fussa Station

The **Hachiko Line** is accessible from the Higashi-Fussa Station and train schedules are available from the Yujo Community Center. You will use this train to get to Hachioji, Yokohama or Yokosuka. It also connects with the Sagami Line to get to the Tama area.

DIRECTIONS: Walk out the Fussa Gate and go right. At the first light, turn left. At the first street, Waratsuke Kaido (before the tracks) turn right. The station is half a block ahead on the left. This station is small and the ticket machine is often turned off. If so, just get on the train and buy your ticket either from the conductor, or from the fare adjustment window. They will figure your fare for you. When you return home, the conductor usually collects tickets as you leave the platform.

Some Helpful Kanji - Katakana - Hiragana

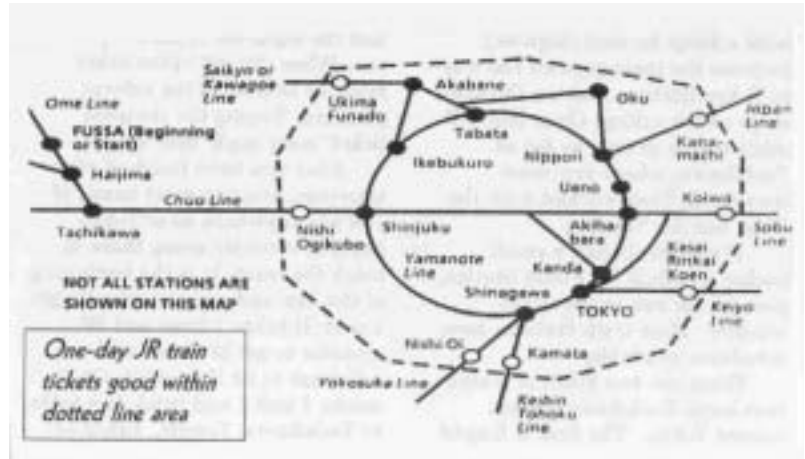
TOKYO	東京	とうきょう
SHINJUKU	新宿	しんじゅく
TACHIKAWA	立川	たちかわ
HACHIOJI	八王子	はちおうじ
FUSSA	福生	ふっさ
OME	青梅	おうめ
OKUTAMA	奥多摩	おくたま
SOME TYPES OF JR TRAINS:		
1) ORANGE = TOKKAI SPECIAL RAPID	特快	
2) ORANGE = KAISOKU RAPID	快速	
3) YELLOW = KAKUEKI LOCAL (ALL STATIONS)	各駅	
EAST (HIGASHI) INDICATING DIRECT TRAINS TO TOKYO STATION	東	
HACHIKO LINE	八高線	
HIGASHI FUSSA	東福生	
HAIJIMA	拝島	



One-Day Tickets & Prepaid Cards

If you are going to be traveling all day in Tokyo, you might want to buy a pass for unlimited riding. You can get the pass at Fussa Station and it costs 1600 yen for adults and 800 yen for children. Ask for the Tokunai Free Pass. There are also One Day Free tickets for the subways that cost 700 yen for adults and 350 yen for children. You can get these passes at Shinjuku, other large subway stations, and the New Sanno Travel Desk. You can also check with the Yujo Community Center to get more information about these passes.

Similar to phone cards, the trains offer a JR IO Card (Pre-paid card) in 3,000 and 5,000 yen units that can be bought at the Fussa Station window. You can buy a card and use it until there is no value left. If you owe some on your last ride, you will be told so by the fare adjustment machine near the exit.



Seibu-Shinjuku Line

More adventurous souls might try taking the Seibu Shinjuku Line from Seibu Tachikawa or Haijima stations. It costs about half the fare of the Chuo Line. Recently, the station names appear on signs printed in English along most of the route. Be warned however that the trains themselves are usually labeled only in kanji. The train stops at Takadanobaba on the Yamanote Line. When you get off the train, follow the signs for JR Yamanote Line. Go upstairs and walk over, and across, to the next platform. Turn in your ticket at the window at the top of the stairs and tell the clerk your destination on the Yamanote Line to get a transfer ticket. Or you may decide to ride the train to the end of the line at Seibu Shinjuku Station. This station is separated by a short slightly complicated walk from the west exit of the main JR Shinjuku Station. To get to the JR, use the underground tunnels and follow the signs in English. The Seibu Tachikawa station offers Kyuko rapid service in the morning before 9am, that only takes 45min to Seibu Shinjuku. The regular trip takes about one hour which is just a bit faster than the Ome and Chuo Lines. If you get off before Shinjuku at Takadanobaba, you can catch the Yamanote easily without transfers at Tachikawa. Takadanobaba also gives access to the Tozai subway.

DIRECTIONS: To get to the Seibu Tachikawa Station, go out the East Gate and turn right. At the first light, turn

left. The next light you come to will be a five-way intersection. Take a hard right and continue down this street until you cross the train tracks. Turn right just past the tracks and follow the little lane into the train station parking lot. Warning: There is no parking at this station, so have someone drop you off. Motorcycle, scooter or bicycle parking is available and Seibu Tachikawa Station is a close ride from the East Gate. You can always walk, if you are active. It takes about twenty-five minutes from the gate. If you are biking, there is a free place to park and a shorter walking route by going out the East Gate and turning right. Stay on this route until the road narrows and becomes one lane as you cross the Seibu Shinjuku line tracks (about seven minutes). Just after the tracks, you will see the bicycle parking on the right. Just before the tracks you could park a scooter with no problem. Then, to get to the station, follow the paved path parallel to the tracks on the outside of the fence. If someone is dropping you off, get out just before the tracks and the driver can turn around easily.

Returning to Seibu Tachikawa can be tricky. Trains for different destinations depart from the same platform at Seibu Shinjuku or Takadanobaba station. Always get on one of the two front cars because the train sometimes splits at Kodaira or Hagiya stations. The front part always goes to Haijima, the back part may go elsewhere. As with all trains, if you make a mistake, you can always get off, turn around and come back, so no real damage is done.



Want information on making reservations for the bullet trains, go to: <http://www.world.eki-net.com>
This web site will give you information to help you ride the famous bullet trains (Shinkansen) here in Japan.

Another great web site to find train schedules is: <http://www.hyperdia.com/cgi-english/>.



Riding the Bullet Train

So you want to ride the famous Bullet Train and you don't have any idea how to go about it! It's really very easy—after you take out a large loan from the bank, especially if you intend to take the kids along. Seriously, be aware that traveling on the Shinkansen is about equal to the price of flying.

The easiest way to buy a ticket for the Shinkansen is to get a Japanese friend to help out. Since that is not always feasible, there are other ways to accomplish the feat. One is to go to Tokyo Station to the Shinkansen reservation office and buy your ticket with the help of one of the English-speaking agents. This takes precious time and costs you money.

Another method starts with a trip to your local book store. Buy the most recent issue of the *JTB's Mini-Timetable*. You don't read Japanese? The cover is printed partly in English, in blue and white. Pay about Y300 and take it home. Study it. This marvelous tome has enough printed in English for the average person to find and choose the train they need. Just follow the directions. In the front of the book are maps of Japan. Names of all stations on the Shinkansen are printed in English. The yellow pages start with the table of contents followed by English instructions on how to use the book. The timetables in the yellow pages do not relate to the Shinkansen, so ignore them. The first timetables in the white pages are for the Shinkansen.

For example, let's say you want to go to Nagoya on April 10. It helps to know what line your destination is on, but if you don't, just go down the list of station names until you find it. Not on the Tokaido-San-yo Line? Then check the Tohoku

or Jo-etsu Lines. The Tokaido Line runs from Tokyo, southwest to Hakata via Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto and Hiroshima. The Tohoku Line runs northeast to Morioka via Fukushima and Sendai. The Joetsu runs out to Niigata in the mountains via Takasaki. So, let's say you want to be in Nagoya by noon. Locate Nagoya on the timetable and check what time the trains arrive there. If you want to get there really fast, you will take the Hikari. Three Hikari trains will get you into Nagoya around noon: Number 01345 leaves Tokyo Station at 9:44am and arrives in Nagoya at 11:40am; Number 01005 departs at 10am and arrives at 11:51am; and Number 01219 departs at 10:04am and arrives at 12:01pm.

Now that you have decided which train suits your needs, head down to Hajjima Station with the book. Show the agent (who does NOT speak English) which one it is. You will also need to decide whether you want to spend the extra money for a reserved seat. Mark everything so it will be easier to make your point. Have a second and third choice if the first is booked. Be sure to tell him nonsmoking or smoking car. Use whatever gestures are necessary.

Do a little studying beforehand; it will save you a lot of time. You don't have to be fluent in Japanese to make your reservations. The smart gaijin avoids traveling on Japanese holidays: Golden Week, April 29 - the first week in May; Obon, that magical week in August when everyone heads home, or abroad; and New Year's, when Japan closes down and everybody heads for the hills. One last caution: never wait until the last minute!

Driving in Japan

Taxis

Taxis in Japan are expensive and not worth the cost unless for a short distance or shared with other passengers. There are different sizes and types — the smaller, colored cars are usually cheaper. There is also an amount added for total travel time, and an extra twenty percent charged between 1pm and 5am. Tips are unnecessary. Remember when hailing a cab that sometimes Japanese taxi drivers panic when they pick up foreigners. If possible, have your destination written in Japanese to avoid confusion. Also, the rear doors on taxis open and close automatically, so please do not try to open or close them yourself.

You can call off-base taxis onto base:

Keio taxis: 53 -9966

Taiyo taxis: 51 -0215

Traffic Accidents

If you are in a traffic accident:

1. Call the police (military and/or Japanese) (110 for off-base emergencies),
2. Get the names and addresses of participants,
3. Contact your insurance company, etc.

As a driver in Japan, you are considered a professional vehicle operator. If you cause an accident, especially if there is bodily injury to someone, you can be charged for criminal negligence and go to jail. Since an accident usually involves more than one party, blame can be apportioned by percentages (40% your fault, 60% theirs, etc.).

Major Roads Near Yokota

Major roads include **Route 16**, which runs along Yokota, Yokosuka, and near Zama; **Itsukaichi Kaido** along the south fence of Yokota; Rt. 20 (Koshu Kaido) along the Tama River; and **Shin Ome Kaido** to the north. These roads extend from out past Yokota to Tokyo proper. To orient yourself locally, purchase a green **Guide Map of US BASES** by Jinbunsha from the Bookmark; but beware: not all streets are marked.



The major expressways nearby are the **Chuo**, which runs from Tokyo to Nagoya, and the **Kan Etsu**, which travels through the mountains to the other side of Honshu. The Ken-O Do is also useful when heading north to connect the Kan-Etsu to the Tohoku and other expressways.

These English-edition atlases by Shobunsha, available from the Bookmark, are useful:

1. **Road Atlas Japan**
2. **Tokyo Metropolitan Atlas**
3. **Metropolitan Expressway Guide**

Free maps, including the Japan Expressway map in English, are given out, if requested, at larger rest areas in the expressway system.

Tokyo Expressways

After driving to the New Sanno twice, once getting totally lost, and once clutching our map so desperately it's no longer usable, I decided there had to be a way to figure out the expressways in Tokyo.

Simplified, the expressways are laid out like a wheel with spokes- C1, or the Shuto Expressway, being the wheel. Most of the other expressways could be considered the spokes and are numbered consecutively around the wheel. Therefore, when driving into Tokyo on the Chuo, Expressway #4, you will go into the wheel and follow it until your desired expressway takes you away.

The numbered expressways (or spokes) run clockwise around the wheel, starting at the southeast section of Tokyo. Exceptions include Expressway #1, which runs north and south on the east side of Tokyo. Expressways 1-South, 2, and 3 are south of the Chuo and 5, 1-North, 6, 7 and 9 are north of the Chuo. So, if you're driving to the New Sanno, you will take #4 (Chuo), which will run into C1 (Shuto), and follow the #2 signs which will take you to the New Sanno exit, which is Exit #201. If you're going to Narita, you will still follow the Chuo and Shuto, but will follow #7 signs directly to Narita.

One very easy place to get lost is in the Chiyoda Tunnel. This is where you will either take the right fork for Expressways 1-South, 2 and 3, or the left fork for Expressways 5, 1-North, 6, 7 or 9. If you take the wrong fork, you can just continue around on the Shuto and pick up the correct expressway again, although this might take some time.

For specifics, check with the Yujo Community Center or New Sanno for more up-to-date information.

Judy Harvey, Sherri Park

Hachioji Bypass & Chuo Expressway

There are several ways to get the Hachioji Bypass and Chuo Expressway, here are two common ones:

Probably the easiest way to describe is to turn left out the Fussa Gate and carefully follow the signs for Route 16 until you see the signs for the Hachiji Bypass. -At 3.2 km from the Fussa Gate Rt 16 will take a left. At 4.7 km it will take a right. You will pass the big round bathhouse on your left and continue on the bridge over the river. If you are going to the

Hachioji bypass there will be a sign directing you to take a left at 7.4 km near the Coco's Restaurant. You would continue straight for a short way further to enter the Chuo Expressway.

Brian Marriott 6/02

South & Supply Gates

As of late 2001, the South Gate is only open only for construction traffic until further notice. The Supply Gate is open 6am-6pm workdays. Both gates are closed on weekends and holidays. Please adjust directions accordingly by using the East Gate to compensate for the South Gate and the Fussa Gate for the Supply Gate.

To convert South Gate directions into East Gate directions, turn right out the East Gate. Turn right at the second traffic signal. This will wind you along the side of the fence near the hospital and past the dental clinic. Turn right at the next light (Nishisunanakasato Intersection) onto Nishisunagawa Road. You will pass the South Gate on your right, shortly before the next light. Follow directions as stated, as if you had "turned right out the South Gate."

Brian Marriott 11/01



Getting Your Car Fixed

Auto Repairs

1) **AAFES garage:** On Yokota's West Side, next door to the Four Seasons.

2) **Ushihama's:** When I asked around about where to get automotive repairs done off base, a number of people recommended Ushihama's. It's straight out the Supply Gate on Route 16 on the right. The owner speaks English.

3) **Auto Skills Center:** 30 minute oil changes, minor repair services, parts ordering, do-it-yourself auto repairs, and auto repair classes. Located across from the high school, adjacent to the furniture store. Building 4086, Tel. 225-7623.

Auto Parts Stores

If you are more into do-it-yourself repairs, there are a few automotive part stores around:

1) **Autobacs:** Autobacs is a chain of automotive parts stores. The closest can be reached by turning left out the East Gate then turning right at the first light. Go through one light until the road ends at the second light. Turn right. Autobacs will be before the next light on your right.

Another Autobacs can be reached by turning right (north) on 16 out the Terminal Gate. Turn left at the first light past the tunnel. Autobacs will be several blocks down on the left.

A third Autobacs is on Route 16 north of base. You will see it on the right about 7 kilometers from the Terminal Gate, one block north of route 219.

2) **Driver Stand:** Another automotive parts store is on Yanagi Dori two lights past Do-It. The easiest way to get there is to drive straight out the Fussa Gate, at the first light (Y) bear to the right. Turn right at the second light past the Y. Go straight for about 4.5 km. It will be after Sabaecho 2 Intersection, but before Sabaecho 1 Intersection. A second Driver Stand is on Shin Ome Kaido just before the Yellow Hat (see below).

3) **Yellow Hat:** A third automotive parts store a little further away is Yellow Hat. One can be found on Shin Ome Kaido just beyond Outdoor World. Turn left out the East Gate. At the first light turn right. Go through one light until the road ends at the second light. Turn left. Drive straight through three lights until the road ends at the fourth light (Shin Ome Kaido, Mos Burger on the left). Turn right onto Shin Ome Kaido and drive for about 3.5km. Yellow Hat is on the right with a large English sign, just past Drivers Stand.

Brian Marriott

Japan by Air



Narita Airport

成田空港

There are several ways to get from Yokota Air Base to Narita Airport:

---You can drive (either your car or rent a van from Services)

---There is a bus from Yokota Air Base or the New Sanno Hotel

---There is a Japan Railway (JR) Train to Shinjuku, Ueno, or Tokyo stations and then on the JR Narita Express, Tokkyu Wing express, or Keisei Skyliner trains

---You can also take the JR to Shinjuku, then the subway to Ningyocho and walk about 2 blocks to the Tokyo City Air Terminal (TCAT). Airport Express buses leave there about every 10 minutes for the hour ride to Narita. One advantage of TCAT is that ticketed passengers may check their luggage there. Although buses also leave from Shinjuku and Tachikawa, it's better to go to TCAT, since buses can get stuck in traffic

hours longer than anticipated (especially if the weather is bad). Reservations may be needed for the express trains and fares are about ¥3,000 per seat from Shinjuku (check with your agent).

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Before you venture off to Narita for the first time, consult your maps and check with the Yujo Community Center about new roads, construction, and road closures.

It's a long trip, between 2 - 5 hours one way.

Follow the directions to the Chuo Expressway, and enter the expressway towards Shinjuku.

Familiarize yourself with the Expressway number code. Follow #4 all the way into Tokyo. Ten kilometers before you come to the actual turnoff you will start picking up another expressway, #7.

Simply keep changing to the appropriate lane marked #7. A number 7 will be posted directly over the lane you must follow in plenty of time to maneuver through traffic.

The expressway marked #7 will take you straight to Narita International Airport, making this route comparatively uncomplicated.

An alternate route with less traffic goes from Route 4 to Route 9. Route 9 goes by Tokyo Disneyland and forks at one point. Take the B1 fork to the left and stay on this expressway (Route 9) until the Narita Airport exit.

Another sometimes scenic route is via #3 and #2 across Tokyo's Rainbow Bridge toward the Higashi Kanto Expressway.

Once at Narita, follow the signs for inbound passenger traffic. You must pay for parking wherever you park there, but try to get as close to the entrance as possible. Once you have



met the arriving party and gathered the luggage, you may bring your car around to the entrance for easier loading.

Retrace your steps to return to the base, or follow #7 to #4 and drive to the Hachioji exit, no. 5. You will see a sign telling you the exit is eight kilometers farther. Next, you will pass a rest stop on your left.

The next sign will tell you the Hachioji exits are in one kilometer. There are two exits, 5 and 5-2. (Exit 5-2 is the exit for Yokota.) Stay on your left and follow the offramp around to the tollgates and pay your fees. Immediately after the tollgates, you will come to a fork which will be marked *Hachioji* to the left, and *Akishima* to the right. Go right and follow the ramp on around, where it runs into Rt. 16. Follow Route 16 back to the base. The toll for the round trip will be over ¥5000.

Meeting Arrivals at Narita

There is a SMALL USO in Terminal 1 near an observation deck. There is also a blue *Rendezvous Sign* with many people looking for others, holding up signs with names. If meeting outside customs, confirm whether the arrival is at Terminal 1 or Terminal 2.

(See maps at the end of this section!)

Narita Shuttle Schedule

The Services Division has a shuttle bus that travels between Yokota and Narita International Airport every day except Christmas Day and New Year's Day. There are three buses departing Yokota daily from the Kanto Lodge at 9am, 11am and 1pm. They arrive at Narita at 12:30pm, 2:30pm and 4:30pm respectively. From Narita to Yokota, there are also three daily buses. They depart Narita at 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 8:00pm, and arrive at Yokota at 7:30pm, 9:15pm, and 11:00pm, respectively. The last bus of the night from Narita to Yokota (the 8 o'clock) also stops at the New Sanno Hotel at around 9:15pm before continuing on to Yokota Air Base. A one-way trip will cost you \$25.00 per adult and \$13.00 per child, unless you buy them in advance at the Services Vehicle Operations office (225-7720). Infants under one year of age may ride free of charge when NOT occupying a seat. They are limited to one carry-on piece of luggage though. All other passengers are permitted two pieces of luggage plus one carry-on. This information is current as of February 2002. Please check with the Yujo Community Center for the most up-to-date schedule or with Services directly.

Michelle Arostegui, 2/02



Airlines and Terminals at Narita International Airport

Info: (0476) 32-2800

Passenger Terminal 1

AAL/American Airlines
AFR/Air France
AZA/Alitalia
BAW/British Airways
CDN/Canadian Airlines International
CPA/Cathay Pacific Airways
FIN/Finnair
KAL/Korean Airlines
DLH/Lufthansa German Airlines
NWA/Northwest Airlines
SAS/Scandinavian Airlines System
SIA/Singapore Airlines
SWR/Swissair
UAL/United Airlines
UTA/UTA French Airlines
VIR/Virgin Atlantic Airways
VRG/Varig-Brazilian Airlines

Passenger Terminal 2

AAR/Asiana Airlines
AFL/Aeroflot Airlines
AIC/Air India
ALK/Air Lanka
ANA/All Nippon Airways
ANZ/AirNew Zealand
AOM/AOM French Air
AUA/Austrian Airlines
BBC/Biman Bangladesh Airlines
CCA/Air China International
CES/China Eastern Airlines
COA/Continental Airlines
DAL/Delta Air Lines
FJI/Air Pacific
GIA/Garuda Indonesia Airlines
IAW/Iraqi Airways
IBE/Iberia Airlines of Spain
IRA/Iran Air
JAA/Japan Asia Airways
JAS/Japan Air System
JAL/Japan Airlines
KLM/KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
MAS/Malaysia Airlines System
MSR/Egyptair
OAL/Olympic Airways
PIA/Pakistan International Airlines
PAL/Philippine Airlines
OFA/Qantas Airways
SAB/Sabena Belgian World Airlines
THA/Thai Airways International
THY/Turkish Airlines



Haneda Airport

If you ever fly to other parts of Japan (or use China Airlines to the U.S.), chances are your flight may originate at Haneda Airport. This once was the only airport serving Tokyo. Having given the majority of air traffic to Narita, Haneda continues to handle domestic flights.

Haneda is on the southeast side of Tokyo, along the bay. It is heavily crowded on all sides by the city and the water. There is no parking available. Even if a space could be found, the inner-city prices might be prohibitive.

We recommend two ways of travel to Haneda Airport: by train or taxi (from the New Sanno). If you travel by train, take the Chuo Line to its end at Tokyo Station. Transfer to the green Yamanote line and go three stops to Hamamatsucho Station (toward Shinagawa) and change to the Monorail. The Monorail originates here and ends at Haneda Airport. A more expensive mode of travel is to hire a taxi to drive you to Haneda from the New Sanno.

You can also take the airport limousine buses from hotels in Tachikawa and Shinjuku (or Shinjuku Station), Tokyo City Air Terminal (TCAT) or Yokohama City Air Terminal (YCAT). However, the length of the bus rides depend on the local traffic. The trains are more reliable.

Donna Alexander, Teresa K. Negley

SPACE A TRAVEL

You've been in Japan a while and you're thinking of venturing farther than the rail can take you. How about Space Available travel or Space-A? Space-A travel can be either inexpensive excitement and/or your worst nightmare. The three necessities are time (patience), a backup plan, and a sense of humor.

Space-A is a benefit provided by the Air Forces Air Mobility Command (AMC) allowing Active Duty (AD) members, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, their dependents, and retired service members the chance to fly on AMC or DoD operated aircraft at no charge. Commercially contracted flights into the CONUS have a charge of \$23.50 per person customs entry fee subject to change without notice. It is a no-guarantee, no frills mode of transportation.

SPACE A CATEGORIES

After duty requirements are satisfied, excess seats are offered to Space-A passengers selected by categories based on time of sign-up:

Category I – Civilian or Military Non-funded Emergency Leave

Category II – Sponsors with or without dependents on Environmental Morale Leave (EML), teachers traveling during school sessions

Category III – Active Duty and dependents on Ordinary Leave, Permissive TDY for House Hunting or DoD transition program

Category IV – Dependents on EML orders without sponsors, teachers during school breaks

Category V – Permissive TDY/TAD and student travel dependents, Command sponsored dependent travel (requires letter from Commander)

Category VI – Members of the Reserve Components, retired service members traveling with or without their dependents.

REGISTRATION

You must register for Space-A travel at an AMC Passenger Service Center (PSC). It can be done by fax, e-mail (space.available@yokota.af.mil), or in person. If faxing your leave form/EML, keep the record of your date and time of transmission. If you travel with your sponsor, the sponsor must be on leave at the time of sign up and throughout the waiting and travel periods. You must have your leave form/EML, an ID card, current passport, immunization records (if necessary) and visa, if required.

After you have your orders, sign up as soon as your effective date will allow. For example, if your effective date is May 12, you may sign up at midnight that morning. Your orders are good for 90 days (dependents), or for the length of the sponsor's leave. The sponsor must indicate the effective date when obtaining the orders. You may also want to fax your orders to your destination (again keep the record of fax transmission). When you sign up at the terminal, they will stamp your orders. On this stamp will be your category, date and time you signed up. A Zulu time will be shown with a Julian date (example, 101/1355Z, the 101st day of the year). This date and time will remain in the system for 60 days after which you must sign up again if you haven't traveled by then.

EML

EML paperwork may be obtained from your sponsor's administrative section. This paperwork allows dependents to travel twice a year, at Category II with your sponsor, or Category IV without your sponsor. Dependents cannot travel Space-A without EML or command sponsorship paperwork unless they are retired service members or DoD-employed. They also cannot travel Space-A in CONUS (continental USA) unless it is during the beginning or end of their international flight (example, Yokota to LA to St. Louis). EML orders are good for one destination (country) and will show authorized transit locations. For example, if you are traveling to the CONUS, your authorized transit locations include Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and Okinawa ... anywhere you could possibly get a flight back to Japan. Service members may not take EML trips within 6 months of the beginning or end of their tour of duty. Travelers must bring the **original** copy of the EML paperwork with them to the terminal for Space A processing. Check with your spouse's administrative section for the policy governing environmental moral leave.

Showtime

After choosing your destination and time you wish to travel, call the AMC passenger terminal for available



flights. PSC representatives can provide a tentative schedule (call for a 48 hour outlook). You need to know what time to be present for the Space-A roll call, usually 2-3 hours before departure. Once you have a list of flights, decide which showtime to meet and arrive at the terminal early. Extra time is needed to have you and your luggage cleared into the terminal area..

Once you're through the single point of entry, proceed to the PSC counter and have the agent mark you present for the space-A roll call. There will be a 30-minute pre-roll call announcement prior to the actual space-A call. A present indicator roster will be printed out and posted next to the PSC counter. This allows the passenger to see their standing among other space-A travelers. A second roster will be printed, 5 minutes prior to space-A. If you are not on the second roster, inform the passenger agent to mark as present and print out a new roster.

The present indicator roster will be used to select passengers in their prospective categories. If you were not marked present when your category is called (except Category I), you must wait until all others who were listed as present are given the opportunity to accept the open seats. Please stand behind the stanchions at the PSC counter and once selected, proceed to the outbound check-in scales. The check-in agent will inform you, if you are required to have your passport or visa stamped by local custom agents or the Government of Japan, customs office.

BAGGAGE

Once selected for a flight, you will be directed to take your baggage to the Outbound Check-in Scales for processing and issuing of a boarding pass. You may check 2 pieces of baggage, not to exceed 70 pounds each, nor to exceed 62 linear inches in size, for a total of 140 pounds. Family members may pool their baggage allowances. All baggage must have an ID tag with a full name and complete address. Carry-on baggage must fit under the seat or in the overhead compartment, if available. An exception is travel aboard a C-21 where baggage is limited to 1 bag at 30 pounds and C-9 aircraft, which allows 2 checked bags, totaling 70 pounds. About an hour before departure, a pre-boarding announcement will be made directing you to the departure gate. You will have an anti-hacking inspection done and seated inside the sterile gate area until you are ready to board the aircraft. A final check of travel documentation will be conducted by customs. Have your ID card, orders, passports and boarding pass in hand for inspection.

SHORT NOTICE FLIGHTS

Short notice flights (sometimes called unscheduled flights) are sometimes your best bet if you are in a low category. Many people leave the terminal and only return for missions that are listed on the daily schedule. With a short flight, you can endure any type of plane, even cargo planes where you have to wear earplugs. **Just remember it's an adventure and it's free.**

If there are no flights or few probable seats, you can try another base. Use the DSN phone in the terminal to call other bases. For example, if you are trying to get to Guam through Kadena (Okinawa), call Kadena and first ask what time the flight from Yokota to Kadena is scheduled to land, then ask if there are any flights scheduled to Guam after that landing. Also get the phone number for billeting there, in case you get stuck for a day. Ask how many people are signed up for Guam to get an idea of your chances. Most of the people you speak with will be frank and they will tell you if people are having trouble getting out to that destination. Sometimes "hopping" can be just as adventurous and beats sitting in the terminal for days. Fortunately, Yokota is a great place to catch flights.

SIGN-UP FOR YOUR RETURN

Once you reach your destination and after clearing Customs and Immigration, remember to sign up for your return flight or confirm your sign-up date if you faxed your orders previously. . Your return by Space-A is not guaranteed, so have a backup plan and enough money if you happen to get stranded. The Air Force, Navy and Army have approved the wear of civilian attire by military members on AMC flights whether traveling in a duty status or Space-A. For safety, passengers must wear shoes (no sandals or open-toed shoes). Plan ahead and dress for comfort, warmth and conditions at your next destination. Respect host country customs and courtesies, do not dress inappropriately, or bring any unwanted attention to yourself. It is recommended that women wear slacks and flat shoes because of aircraft stairs and heights they must climb.

GENERAL INFO

The PSC representatives do not determine the number of seats to release. On passenger book able missions all seats not booked or are derived from no-show passengers are determined by Passenger Service and are released to the PSC for duty stand-by and /or Space A's. A flight can be advertised with a certain number of seats available at show time but may be increased or decreased.

Seats may be either airline type seats or jump seats. It depends on the type of mission the aircraft is performing. You may be sharing the aircraft with cargo pallets or medevac patients. Passengers are allowed on flights transporting hazards cargo, providing it is not prohibited by established regulations. Blankets, pillows, safety equipment and detailed safety briefings are provided. There may or may not be a galley/latrine installed. However, all aircraft have some latrine facility. Child seats are recommended, but not required.

Many terminals have USO facilities and my also have a HELP program where folks on base will open their homes to stranded families. Check with the local USO. The local AMC Passenger Service Center number is: 225-7119 or 225-9540.

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Notes

