

More travel resources

selections from the KCP Student Handbook

transportation • daily transportation pass • staying longer • travel links

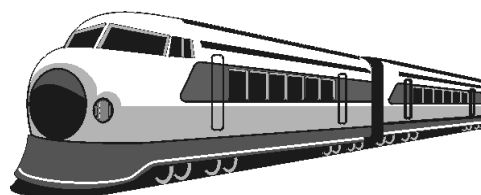
Transportation

Tokyo boasts one a truly extensive public transportation system that includes Japan Rail (JR) and private train operators, numerous subway systems, and bus service. However, be prepared for a long commute: some businesspeople commute 2–4 hours daily. KCP will try to find host families and dormitories as close to the KCP campus as possible, but finding good host families is difficult. It may not always be possible to find host families within downtown Tokyo.

The massive web of public transportation may seem overwhelming at first. In time, though, you'll learn to explore Tokyo and its surrounding areas like a native!

The train system

Japan has extensive, frequent, and punctual rail access to all areas of the country. Subways and trains are relatively inexpensive, usually have some maps and signs in English, and are quite regular.



Other modes of transport

Bus service is readily available within Tokyo and to other major cities in Japan. Ferries provide economical transportation to Japan's many islands. Taxis are readily available but very expensive. If you have to use a taxi, keep in mind that the door you enter and exit from opens and closes automatically.

Daily transportation pass

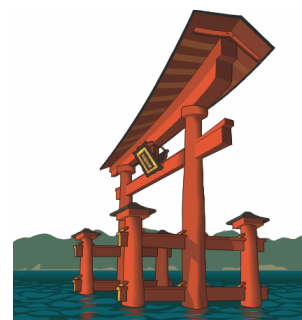
A transportation pass between lodging and school is included for students whose housing is arranged by KCP. Students not enrolled in housing through KCP are responsible for their own transportation.

Students staying at dormitories will receive train passes upon arrival. You can use them the next day. Homestay students will have passes about a week after arrival. The delay is to make sure you and your host family are a good fit. When you get your pass, the school will reimburse you the money you have spent so far on tickets.

During the first 10 days of the program, your student coordinator will show you how to purchase the train pass and explain how to use the public transit system. There may be several ways to get to school; your student coordinator will show you the best way.

Staying longer

You are about to visit an exquisite part of the world. If you can, make the most out of this opportunity by setting aside some time after your term(s) of study to explore other parts of Japan. (Students staying for more than one term will have a one- to 2-week break between terms as well.) One of the challenges of your stay in Japan will be to balance study and fun. If you make time after your term to travel, you'll do much better than if you try to pack travel into your study term. (We recommend travel **after** a term rather than before.)





Make sure you have enough time left on your visa to travel. A 90-day temporary visa will allow a few days afterwards. For more time, plan for an extended visa.

It's always best to know and plan your entire itinerary ahead of time, at least for length of stay and countries to visit. We have had some students who, once in Japan, have decided to attend another term or travel within Japan beyond the 90-day allowance. They have renewed their visa exemption by briefly visiting another country (usually Korea) and then returning.

There is the potential that, on returning from Korea, you could be denied entry into Japan. To avoid this disaster, if you think there's a chance you might study or travel beyond the 90-day allowance, we strongly suggest you apply for a visa rather than leave your re-entry to chance.

Japan Rail pass

If you plan to travel a week or more in Japan after the program, consider purchasing a Japan Rail Pass. It can save you a lot of money. **You must purchase an Exchange Order for a Japan Rail pass outside Japan.** The Japan Rail Pass is available in 7-day, 14-day, and 21-day periods. Certain restrictions do apply.

To find out more about the Japan Rail Pass, where you can purchase Exchange Orders, and where you can redeem them for a pass, visit www.japanrailpass.net.

Tourist information

You can get information on independent travel in Japan from one of the Tourist Information Centers in Tokyo. There are two Tourist Information Centers (TIC) operated by the Japan National Tourist Organization (JNTO) in the Tokyo metropolitan area. These centers offer a wide variety of literature in English about travel, cultural activities, and other resources for foreign people. Among the most popular free publications are "Your Guide to Japan," "Tourist Map of Japan," and "Economical Travel in Japan."

Travel links

Official websites

U.S. State Dept. travel info	travel.state.gov
Passport services	travel.state.gov/passport_services.html
Travel advisories	travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html
U.S. Customs	www.customs.ustreas.gov
Centers for Disease Control	www.cdc.gov
Tokyo Metropolitan Medical Institution	www.himawari.metro.tokyo.jp/qq/qq13enmnl.asp

Other travel resources

Japan Railway Pass	www.japanrailpass.net , www.jreast.co.jp/jrp/index.html
Japan National Tourist Organization	www.jnto.go.jp
Tokyo Tourism Information	www.tourism.metro.Tokyo.jp/English/index.html
Tokyo Convention Visitors Bureau	www.tcvb.or.jp
Japan Youth Hostels	www.jyh.or.jp
Hostelling International USA	www.hiayh.org