

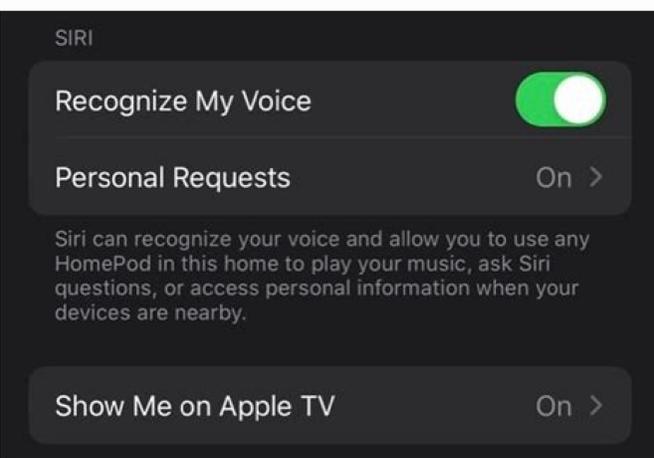
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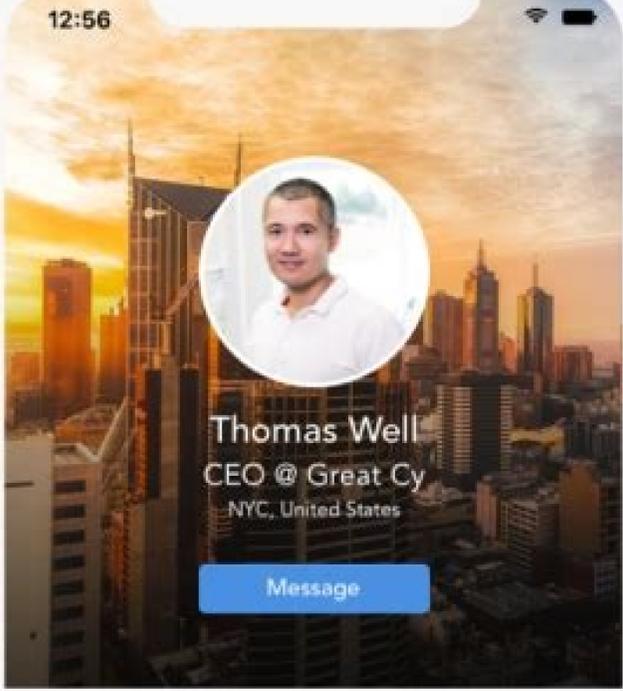
Ticket Type	Adult Ages 18 & over	Junior Ages 12-17	Child Ages 4-11
1-Day Passport	¥7,400	¥6,400	¥4,800
Senior Passport (Ages 65 & over)	¥6,700		
2-Day Passport	¥13,200	¥11,600	¥8,600
3-Day Magic Passport	¥17,800	¥15,500	¥11,500
4-Day Magic Passport	¥22,400	¥19,400	¥14,400
Starlight Passport <sup>1</sup>	¥5,400	¥4,700	¥3,500
After 6 Passport <sup>2</sup>		¥4,200	

Note 1: Starlight Passports can be used for Park admission from 3 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and National Holidays only.  
(Please see the [Park Operation Calendar](#) for available dates.)  
Note 2: After 6 Passports can be used for Park admission from 6 p.m. on weekdays, excluding National Holidays.  
(Please see [Park Operation Calendar](#) for available dates.)

Application	Isolation	Image
Product	Full View Glass Flow Indicator - 2	
Construction	Flange : SS304/SS316 Glass Tube : Annealed Borosilicate Check Nut : SS202/SS304/SS316 Stud : SS202/SS304/SS316 Packing : PTFE Allan Cap Bolt : SS202/SS304/SS316	
Hydraulic Test Pressure	5Kg/cm <sub>2</sub>	
Flange Drilling	ASA 150#/BS 10 Table F/E or On request	
Material of Construction	CF8/CF8M	
Operating Temperature	180 degrees with PTFE	
Optional	Glass length : 100mm/150mm Available T-Bush Teflon / Washer Available Optional material will be provided on request.	
Certification	As per EN10204 3.1 B available on request.	
Warranty	12 Months	



12:56



Thomas Wells  
CEO @ Great Cy  
NYC, United States

Message

Skills

Marketing Entrepreneurship Business strategy

Project Management Consulting

Product Management

Experience



CEO  
Great Cy

2012 - Now



Founder  
Aws log

2008 - 2012

\* Nozomi = fastest Shinkansen stopping pattern, Japan Rail Passes can't be used. Local train in Tokyo... Sōbu Line platforms 1-4, several levels underground on the western side of the station. Narita Express & local trains. Train travel in Japan is really easy. Language is hardly ever a problem, stations have signs & departure boards in English as well as Japanese. You can see for yourself in the travel tips section below. Alternatively, the Keisei Skyliner links Narita Terminal 1 & Terminal 2 with Tokyo's Ueno station. This also runs every half hour or so, also non-stop, journey around 45 minutes to Ueno, it's a fraction cheaper than the Narita Express and also all-reserved. For times & prices see [www.hyperdia.com](http://www.hyperdia.com). However, the Keisei Railway is a private non-JR railway so Japan Rail Passes cannot be used on it. You can buy Keisei Skyliner tickets online at [www.govoyagin.com](http://www.govoyagin.com). You get an open-date voucher. You can't use a Japan Rail Pass on the Nozomi or Mizuho shinkansen trains. These are the trains with the fewest stops on the Tokaido, Sanyo & Kyushu shinkansen lines, Tokyo-Kyoto-Osaka-Hiroshima-Hakata-Kagoshima. Capsule hotels... Going via Vladivostok is simpler to organise as you need fewer visas, but going via Beijing more varied and interesting, and the one I'd recommend. Get a VPN for safe browsing. VPNs & why you need one explained... If you want to buy ekiben from the shinkansen refreshment trolley, just ask the trolley lady - she'll show you pictures of the what she has available in a little laminated menu booklet, just point to the one you want. You'll soon be a Black Belt in the ancient and honourable Japanese martial art of Eki-ben... Each shinkansen route has its own name, for example the Tokaido shinkansen runs westwards from Tokyo to Kyoto & Osaka, extended further west to Hiroshima & Hakata as the Sanyo Shinkansen and further west to Kagoshima on Kyushu over the Kyushu Shinkansen. The Joetsu, Tohoku, Hokuriku, Hokkaido, Yamagata & Akita shinkansen routes all run north and east from Tokyo. Download the app for iPhone or Android. 2. Luggage on trains... A selection of mouthwatering ekiben at a station... Tokyo's historic station building on the Marunouchi (west) side. The Marunouchi North entrance is beneath the dome on the far left, the Marunouchi South entrance is beneath the other dome on the far right. What appears to be the grand central entrance is sealed off, the Marunouchi Central entrance is a smaller door to the left. The 2nd & 3rd floors (meaning the 1st & 2nd floors for a European) are occupied by the 5-star Tokyo Station Hotel. See Japan train map here. Luggage space... Many visitors worry about language in Japan, but signs are in both Japanese and English and the system is so efficient and easy to use. The photos below show how easy it is to find the right platform, stand in the right place for your car when the train comes in, and be sure you're getting on the right train. Incidentally, green car (1st class) seats on shinkansen and limited express trains are always reserved, and if you sit in a green car seat without a reservation you will be charged the hefty green car shinkansen reserved seat fee, even if you have a Green Car Japan Rail Pass. Therefore, if you have a Green Car, or if you want to be spontaneous and hop on a train without a reservation, use the ordinary class unreserved cars. On most shinkansen trains, ordinary class seats are the same whether reserved or non-reserved. But on these particular trains, ordinary class reserved seats (above left) are arranged 2+2 across the car width, much more spacious than the non-reserved cars (above right). An added benefit of reserving a seat! Joetsu, Tohoku, Hokuriku, Hokkaido, Yamagata & Akita shinkansen... Press the side button for the number of adults/children in your party. For 2 adults & 2 children you have to buy as 2 transactions. How does a Japan Rail Pass work? A Curve card saves on foreign transaction fees... A green class pass is great if you can afford it, but ordinary class on Japanese trains is perfectly adequate, there's no need to pay more if you don't want to. Green car simply gets you more leg and elbow room, and carpet rather than synthetic flooring, that's all. Personally, I find shinkansen ordinary class seats a little cramped where they are arranged 2+3 across the car width, the 2+2 seats in the green car are much more spacious. On the other hand, if you plan to be spontaneous much of the time and not pre-plan everything you'll end up in the unreserved ordinary class cars, so don't fork out for a green car pass if you're not going to use it. A JR East E5 shinkansen at Tokyo station... Click here for a suggested itinerary for first-timers using a 7-day Japan Rail Pass, starting in Tokyo and visiting Kyoto for its temples & geisha district. Himeji for its castle. Hiroshima for its museum and Peace Park and Nagasaki for its history as the only point of contact with the outside world from the 17th to 19th centuries. Ryokans... Platform indicator at Tokyo. The train now at platform 16 is Hikari 507 departing 09:33. The next train at this platform will be Kodama 645, followed by Nozomi 319. Now the good news. You can of course take your own food and drink onto Japanese trains, and one of the joys of Japanese train travel is the ekiben - eki meaning station, ben short for bento, meaning traditional Japanese packed lunch. Ekiben is sold at ekiben shops found at all main stations, and also from the refreshment trolley on principal shinkansen services. Ekiben comes in all sizes, shapes and qualities, but expect a decent large box to cost perhaps ¥800 bought at the station or ¥1,000 bought from the trolley on board a train. The ekiben boxes include chopsticks and finger wips. Rail fares in Japan are expensive, and if you are an overseas visitor a Japan Rail Pass can be the cheapest way to travel even if you are only planning one return trip from (say) Tokyo to Hiroshima. See the Japan Rail Pass section. Green Car seating... When you arrive in Japan, you exchange this voucher for a Japan Rail Pass at any of the JR ticket offices & travel centres designated as a Japan Rail Pass exchange office. The voucher can be exchanged for a pass at any time within 3 months of buying the voucher, so there's no need to specify exact travel dates when you order it. Sleeper trains: There are very few sleeper trains left in Japan, but you can use overnight sleeping-car trains such as the Sunrise Seto or Sunrise Izumo with a Japan Rail Pass if you either pay the hefty sleeper supplement for a private sleeper - we're talking ¥19,500 per room for a private 2-berth B-type sleeper - or use the open-plan shared nobinobi or 'carpet berths' which are free of charge with a Japan Rail Pass, reservation required. Indeed, if you're on a budget, saving a hotel bill by taking the Sunrise Seto between Tokyo & (say) Himeji is an interesting option! You'll find more detailed info at [www.jrailpass.com](http://www.jrailpass.com). The Capsulevalue Kanda is 5 minutes walk from Kanda station, one stop north of Tokyo station. Another tip: There's no penalty for not using a seat reservation you've made with a Japan Rail Pass. Bad manners not to cancel it perhaps, but if you had a reservation for (say) the 18:45 and decided to leave earlier, you could hop on the 17:45 and sit in the unreserved cars, no problem... Keiyo Line platforms 1-4, also underground, served by local trains. Ordinary class reserved seats on an N700-8 car shinkansen... If you live in the USA or Canada, buy from Japan Railpass specialists [www.jrailpass.com](http://www.jrailpass.com). Passes can be sent to any US or Canadian address or any address worldwide. Both these vendors will deliver passes worldwide. Japan Rail Passes cover the Narita Express, but when arriving by air at Narita you'll first need to exchange your voucher for the actual Japan Rail Pass. There are Japan Rail Pass exchange counters at both the ticket office and the Travel Service Centre at both the Narita Terminal 1 station and Narita Terminal 2 station. What does a Japan Rail Pass cover? Japan Rail Pass Exchange office, Yaesu side. You can also exchange your Japan Rail Pass voucher at counter 6 in the JR Central Shinkansen ticket office at Yaesu Central, also open 07:30-20:30. There are several Shinkansen ticket offices on the Yaesu side, all looking very similar, it's the one nearest the Yaesu Central entrance that has the Japan Rail Pass counter. Discover how this affects event schedules, transportation, and ticket sales. Discovering Japan is understanding the many nuances that make this country unique, so to help you prepare your trip we have gathered a list of important information you should know before your trip. You'll find a range of exotic trains on the Joetsu, Tohoku, Hokuriku, Hokkaido, Yamagata & Akita shinkansen routes heading north & east of Tokyo. Tickets can be collected from their office in Tokyo's Shibuya district or sent to your hotel. Another reputable agency, [www.govoyagin.com](http://www.govoyagin.com) sell Shinkansen tickets for many routes with easy online ordering. You can use the Sunrise Express at no extra charge with a Japan Rail Pass if you make a reservation for one of the basic nobinobi berths (see the photo below left) or you can pay the room fee to have a private compartment. Expect a private sleeper compartment for one person to cost Japan far travel in late October. I ordered my 7-day Japan Rail Pass in September. I didn't need to decide in advance exactly what days I would use it, as long as I exchanged the voucher for a pass within 3 months of ordering it. So I could have delayed my visit until November and still used the same voucher. Arriving in Japan on 20 October, I lower berths side by side. Without a pass, you pay the regular fare and limited express extra fare plus these berth costs. Back to top Europe to Japan by train... Japanese films and Japan-set movies that can give you a much better view of both modern life in Japan and its history, and current Japanese pop culture. Find up-to-date information about travel restrictions for Japan due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, including travel advisories and safety measures. The Tokyo 2020 Olympics have been postponed until 2021 due to coronavirus. Emerging into the Haneda Airport International Arrivals hall, follow the signs to the Monorail which is just a few metres straight ahead of you. Buy a ticket from the row of machines at the monorail entrance as follows: First look at the map above the machines and locate your destination station, let's say Tokyo station. Note the price shown against that station. On the touch screen, press English then press JR Transfer as you want a combined Monorail + JR local train ticket. Then select the number of passengers and the relevant price on the screen. You'll need coins or notes, the machines don't take cards. The pass gives unlimited travel on all JR trains across the whole of Japan, including high-speed shinkansen (bullet trains), the local, rapid, express and limited express trains on the classic network and even the Narita Express between Narita Airport & Tokyo and the monorail & JR from Haneda Airport. Back to top Narita Airport to Tokyo The Narita Express is a dedicated airport train that runs from Narita Airport Terminal 1 calling at Narita Airport Terminal 2 then non-stop to Tokyo station in the heart of Tokyo. It runs every half hour or so through the day, journey time 39 minutes. Just buy a ticket at the station. The train has ordinary class and green car, all seats are reserved and all tickets come with an allocated seat. For times & prices see [www.hyperdia.com](http://www.hyperdia.com) or see [www.jreast.co.jp/en/lex](http://www.jreast.co.jp/en/lex). Local & rapid trains on the classic network... Option 4, buy at the station... The sleeper train runs on the classic narrow-gauge network, but it can save time compared with daytime shinkansen travel but more importantly it's a unique experience, watch the Sunrise Express video. It could save a hotel bill too! See the official Sunrise Express information page, in Japanese, translatable with Google Chrome, to see photo of each accommodation type and check current berth fees. Option 3, order shinkansen tickets online through agency Voyagin, [www.govoyagin.com](http://www.govoyagin.com). Green Car, seats 2+2 across the car width. The Japan East Pass covers Tokyo, Nagano, Niigata, Sendai, Morioka, Misawa & Akita. Look at the big network map on the wall above the machines. Find your destination station & note the fare shown next to it. - On the touch screen, press English. Platforms 20-23: Joetsu, Tohoku, Hokuriku, Hokkaido/Yamagata & Akita shinkansen heading north & east from Tokyo. Back to top Tokyo station Unlike most main stations worldwide, Tokyo station lacks a main entrance and main concourse. It's something of a rabbit warren, but as most visitors end up there sooner or later, here are some tips. You can read more about the station and its history at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo\\_Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo_Station). It's the busiest station in Japan in terms of trains, though not in terms of passenger numbers. Limited Expresses on the classic network... But it does cover the Narita Express airport train as that's run by JR. It also covers JR local trains in Tokyo & other cities including the useful Yamanote loop line linking Tokyo main station, Ueno, Shinjuku, Shibuya, Shimabashi, Ikebukuro every few minutes, which you can use to get around Tokyo. Reserved seat cars: To be sure of a seat on a shinkansen, limited express or express train, or to sit in a Green Car seat with a Green Car pass, you can reserve a seat in one of the reserved cars. You can do this free of charge at any JR ticket office or travel centre where you see the green seat reservation symbol. Just show your Japan Rail Pass and passport and ask for a reservation in the class you want on the train you want. You can make reservations at any time right up to a few minutes before the train leaves. Use the self-service ticket machines. At any main station you'll find a row of these with a big network map above them near the ticket gates onto the local platforms, see the photo in the Tokyo station section below. You'll soon get the hang of buying tickets, like this... For example, in July I booked a flight to Japan back to top if you want a tour agency to organise a tour of Japan for you with train transfers & hotels included as a package. Railbookers specialise in train-based tours and have several suggested tours for a pass within 3 months of ordering it. So I could have delayed my visit until November and still used the same voucher. Arriving in Japan on 20 October, I exchanged my voucher for a pass at Tokyo station on 21 October, asking for my 7 days of unlimited travel to start on 22 October. There are just the following exceptions... You are unlikely to have any problem getting the reservations you need, even booking at short notice when you get to Japan, unless you hit a busy holiday period. And even then, you can always use the unreserved cars so you'll never be stranded, although it may be crowded so you may have to stand. Exchange Voucher... When you order your pass online, you are sent an Exchange Voucher (above, on left) plus a handy Japan Rail Pass user guide, a Japan rail timetable and a Japan rail map. The voucher can be exchanged for a Japan Rail Pass at any time in the 3 months after ordering. UK call 0207 864 4600, [www.railbookers.co.uk](http://www.railbookers.co.uk). Step 2, JR Yamanote Line from Hamamatsucho to Tokyo station. It's clearly signposted JR Yamanote Line and its trains are colour-coded green as shown above. The line is a loop around Tokyo, look for the Tokyo direction. It runs every few minutes. How to buy local tickets... In Hiroshima, try the Chizuru Ryokan, 10 minutes walk from the Peace Park. Power sockets & WiFi on Japanese trains... Train fares in Japan are very expensive, with no cheap advance-purchase fares just one hefty fixed price for each journey. Even if you are only planning one round trip, a Japan Rail Pass may well save you money over point-to-point tickets. Everyone has heard of Japan's bullet train lines, more properly known in Japan as shinkansen which simply means new trunk line. These are high-speed lines, built to European and North American standard gauge with the rails 4' 8½" apart. The first shinkansen was the Tokaido Shinkansen opened in 1964 between Toyo, Kyoto & Osaka, later extended as the Sanyo Shinkansen to Hiroshima, Kobe and Hakata. There are now a whole range of shinkansen lines linking all the most important cities in Japan, including Niigata, Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima, Hakata and Kagoshima. Room for large items at the rear of the car. Each Shinkansen route has its own train names to indicate all-stations, semi-fast & express services. For example on the Tokaido & Sanyo shinkansen Kodama means all-stations, Hikari means semi-fast and Nozomi means express. The equivalent terms on the Kyushu Shinkansen are Kodama, Sakura and Mizuho. Japan Rail Pass holders aren't allowed to use Nozomi or Mizuho services, but you can use all other Shinkansen trains. Ferries from Japan to Russia Ferries from Japan to China Ferries from Japan to South Korea Flights to Japan Europe to Japan by Trans-Siberian Railway Useful country information Train travel in Japan Japan has an extensive and very efficient rail network, you can pretty much assume that trains go almost everywhere you'd want to visit. Japanese trains are clean, comfortable and unbelievably punctual. The average delay to a high-speed shinkansen train is measured in seconds. Back to top Haneda Airport to Tokyo The cheapest & easiest way from Haneda Airport into Tokyo is to take the monorail from Haneda Airport International Terminal to Hamamatsucho station and change onto the JR Yamanote line to Tokyo station. The monorail and JR local trains run every few minutes, total journey time from Haneda Airport to Tokyo station is only around 20 minutes. Back to top Flights Overland travel around Japan by train is an essential part of the experience, so once there, don't cheat and fly, stay on the ground! But a long-haul flight might be unavoidable to reach Japan in the first place. 1) Check flight prices at Opodo, [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com). There are Japan Rail Pass exchange counters at around 50 JR stations, including Tokyo's main station which has Japan Rail Pass exchange counters on both the Marunouchi (west) & Yaesu (east) sides of the station, Tokyo's Ueno, Shinjuku, Shibuya, Ikebukuro stations, Narita Airport, Haneda Airport, Kansai Airport, Shin-Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and even Sakaiminato where you arrive by ferry from Vladivostok. Haneda Airport Arrivals lobby, monorail entrance... From left to right in the picture above, an ATM (get some cash out!), ticket machines (buy a JR Transfer ticket for the monorail train into Tokyo), the ticket gates onto the monorail platforms and (marked by the arrow) the JR East Travel Services Centre where you can exchange a voucher for a Japan Rail Pass if you like. \*Hikari = next fastest train type, Japan Rail Passes can be used. Back to top Ferries to & from Japan Back to top if you want a tour agency to organise a tour of Japan for you with train transfers & hotels included as a package. Railbookers specialise in train-based tours and have several suggested tours for a pass within 3 months of ordering it. So I could have delayed my visit until November and still used the same voucher. Arriving in Japan on 20 October, I exchanged my voucher for a pass at Tokyo station on 21 October, asking for my 7 days of unlimited travel to start on 22 October. There are just the following exceptions... 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In Hiroshima, try the Chizuru Ryokan, 10 minutes walk from the Peace Park. Power sockets & WiFi on Japanese trains... Train fares in Japan are very expensive, with no cheap advance-purchase fares just one hefty fixed price for each journey. Even if you are only planning one round trip, a Japan Rail Pass may well save you money over point-to-point tickets. Everyone has heard of Japan's bullet train lines, more properly known in Japan as shinkansen which simply means new trunk line. These are high-speed lines, built to European and North American standard gauge with the rails 4' 8½" apart. The first shinkansen was the Tokaido Shinkansen opened in 1964 between Toyo, Kyoto & Osaka, later extended as the Sanyo Shinkansen to Hiroshima, Kobe and Hakata. There are now a whole range of shinkansen lines linking all the most important cities in Japan, including Niigata, Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima, Hakata and Kagoshima. Room for large items at the rear of the car. Each Shinkansen route has its own train names to indicate all-stations, semi-fast & express services. For example on the Tokaido & Sanyo shinkansen Kodama means all-stations, Hikari means semi-fast and Nozomi means express. The equivalent terms on the Kyushu Shinkansen are Kodama, Sakura and Mizuho. Japan Rail Pass holders aren't allowed to use Nozomi or Mizuho services, but you can use all other Shinkansen trains. Ferries from Japan to Russia Ferries from Japan to China Ferries from Japan to South Korea Flights to Japan Europe to Japan by Trans-Siberian Railway Useful country information Train travel in Japan Japan has an extensive and very efficient rail network, you can pretty much assume that trains go almost everywhere you'd want to visit. Japanese trains are clean, comfortable and unbelievably punctual. The average delay to a high-speed shinkansen train is measured in seconds. 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There are Japan Rail Pass exchange counters at around 50 JR stations, including Tokyo's main station which has Japan Rail Pass exchange counters on both the Marunouchi (west) & Yaesu (east) sides of the station, Tokyo's Ueno, Shinjuku, Shibuya, Ikebukuro stations, Narita Airport, Haneda Airport, Kansai Airport, Shin-Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and even Sakaiminato where you arrive by ferry from Vladivostok. Haneda Airport Arrivals lobby, monorail entrance... From left to right in the picture above, an ATM (get some cash out!), ticket machines (buy a JR Transfer ticket for the monorail train into Tokyo), the ticket gates onto the monorail platforms and (marked by the arrow) the JR East Travel Services Centre where you can exchange a voucher for a Japan Rail Pass if you like. \*Hikari = next fastest train type, Japan Rail Passes can be used. 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the self-service ticket machines, simply by scanning the QR code. You can then board a train. A regular round trip ticket from Tokyo to Kyoto with reserved seat is around ¥27,500 = £1212 or \$361. From Tokyo to Hiroshima it's ¥37,760 = £291 or \$361. Japan Rail Passes cover both the Tokyo Monorail and JR local trains, so you can use your pass to travel to and from the airport if you like. But as the journey doesn't cost very much, don't waste a valuable pass day on such a short journey unless you have pass days spare. Arriving at Haneda Airport International Terminal, you can exchange your voucher for a Japan Rail Pass at the JR East Travel Service Centre next to the entrance to the monorail platforms, marked by the arrow in the photo below. Tokyo Station, Marunouchi side... See alternative map here. Shinkansen Watch the video guides Limited Express Ordinary & Rapid trains Sleeper trains Travel tips: Luggage, WiFi, finding your train New rules for large suitcases on key shinkansen routes from May 2020 Airport links & other useful info... Tip: When checking train times on www.hyperdia.com or the Hyperdia iPhone or Android app, you can click More options and de-select Private Railways in the search options to see only JR-run trains. Buying local tickets in Tokyo... There's a row of ticket machines like this near every entrance to the platform area. In the UK, reliable insurers include Columbus Direct. Enter your details & they'll send you a Curve MasterCard - they send to most European addresses including the UK. 3. Finding your platform, train & seat... One of many ekiben shops at Tokyo station... If you are counting every penny, you can more than halve the cost of airport transfers by using local or rapid trains between Narita and Tokyo rather than the Narita Express or Keisei Skyliner, changing at Chiba. It'll take 30-45 minutes longer than using the Narita Express or Skyliner. To find train times, use www.hyperdia.com but de-select Liner, Limited Express & private railways in the search options before running the enquiry. Hikari 507... Signs on the side of a shinkansen train confirm which train it is. This is bound for Shin-Osaka, this is a green car, and it's reserved... Key Japanese cities are linked by bullet train, or to use their proper name, shinkansen which simply means new trunk line. Shinkansen are high-speed lines built from 1964 onwards to standard gauge with rails 4' 8½" apart and operating speeds of up to 300km/h (186 mph). In major cities such as Tokyo or Kyoto you'll find stations with certain platforms handling standard-gauge shinkansen trains and other platforms signposted as JR Lines used by trains on the classic 3' 6" network. - Enter coins or notes, the machine gives change, but they don't take cards. Green Car seats on an N700 8-car shinkansen... The pink or green machines on the right can sell local tickets in the Tokyo area. The map above the machines shows the price to each station on the local network from the station you're at, you simply select that price on the machines, see the How to buy tickets section above for more details. Platforms 1-10: JR Lines, the classic network. The useful Yamatokei loop line around Tokyo leaves from platform 4 northbound to Ueno & Ikebukuro and platform 5 southbound to Shinagawa & Shibuya. This is the main departures board at Hiroshima. It alternates between Japanese & English. To the left of the clock, departures towards Hakata. To the right of the clock, departures towards Tokyo. I have a ticket for Sakura 557 leaving at 14:27, I can see it will go from track 11. Tip: The board also tells you which cars are unreserved. If you want to hop on Sakura 557 without a reservation, you can see that cars 1-3 are the non-reserved ones. - It'll now show the total cost for the number of adults & children you have selected. - You'll now see a screen full of possible one-way fares for one adult. There's just one notable exception: JR East have set up a website for Japan Railpass holders to make reservations on their high speed trains north & east of Tokyo, including the Narita Express and the Joetsu, Tohoku, Hokuriku, Hokkaido, Yamagata & Akita shinkansen, but not the Tokaido, Sanyo or Kyushu shinkansen linking Tokyo, Kyoto, Shin-Osaka, Hiroshima, Hakata, Kagoshima as obviously these aren't run by JR East, but by JR Central & JR West. New Zealand call toll-free 0800 000 554 or see website. First check Japan Rail Pass prices at www.jrailpass.com. Then use www.hyperdia.com to check point-to-point fares for the journeys you intend to make. Remember that the total point-to-point price you'd pay = basic fare + the reserved or unreserved seat fee. A pass would cover both these elements. Curve does the currency conversion and puts the balance onto whichever of your debit or credit cards you choose. You can even change your mind about which card it goes onto, within 14 days of the transaction. If you have a smartphone, you can download the Hyperdia app for iPhone or Android to check train times on the go. From May 2020, new "extra large luggage" rules will apply to the Tokaido, Kyushu & Sanyo shinkansen lines. Passengers with very large suitcases over 160 linear centimetres (linear cm = length + width + depth) will have to reserve a place for their suitcase at the same time they reserve their shinkansen seat. This is free of charge. But if they don't reserve, they face a 1,000 yen fine (about \$9) on the train. It will no longer be possible to travel in an unreserved seats car with very large suitcases. The suitcases will go in behind the rear row of seats, or (when modifications are completed) in a new lockable luggage area which will replace some of the washbasins in designated cars. Obviously, the 160cm cut-off means this won't affect backpacks or normal-sized luggage, just over-sized cases. For more details see www.tsunagujapan.com/large-suitcases-shinkansen-policy. Rapid train... Back to top Regional rail passes There are also 3 regional Japan Rail Passes covering smaller areas. You can use Confused.com to compare prices & policies from many different insurers. If you can't avoid travelling during these busy holiday periods, here are some tips: Try for seats (reserved or unreserved) on the less popular first or last trains or the dry. Try for seats (reserved or unreserved) on the slower trains such as the Kodama all-stations shinkansen rather than the faster & more popular trains such as Hikari or Sakura services. Try splitting the booking: If you can't get reserved seats from Tokyo to Kyoto, ask for Tokyo to Nagoya and Nagoya to Kyoto and that may work. When using unreserved seats, pick a train that starts at the station you're at, rather than one that comes in from elsewhere already heavily-loaded. You can usually walk into a capsule hotel and ask for a bed for the night, but if you want to pre-book this unique experience, try the Capsulevalue Kanda in downtown Tokyo near Kanda station, one stop north of Tokyo station, a bed in downtown Tokyo for as little as ¥3,400 (about £26 or \$32) per night. Men and boys over 10 can stay there, but not women or children. If you live in the UK, Ireland, other European countries, Asia or Africa, buy a Japan Rail Pass online at www.jrailpass.com. Prices are in various currencies including euros. Also check prices & delivery charges at alternative supplier www.goyaginoy.com. Both these vendors will deliver passes worldwide. Back to top Japan Rail Pass guide It's highly likely that a Japan Rail pass will save you money over point to point tickets. So a 7-day Japan Rail Pass virtually breaks even for one round trip from Tokyo to Kyoto, and saves money for one round trip between Tokyo & Hiroshima. Indeed, as it also covers the Narita Express between Tokyo & Narita airport, it may even save money on that trip to Kyoto. Luggage is no real problem on Japanese trains. Within reason, you can take what you like, nobody weighs it, measures it or argues about it. You simply take it with you onto the train and stick it on any suitable luggage rack. The overhead racks on shinkansen trains take anything up to backpack size. If you have a huge suitcase or don't want to lift heavy bags to the overhead rack, go to the back of your car and put your bags in the gap between the wall and the rearmost seats, as in the photo below right. Ryokans are traditional Japanese inns. The rooms don't have beds, the floor is covered with tatami matting on which you place a bedroll. You may be offered a hot cup of green Japanese tea when you first arrive. You can sometimes find ryokans online on hotel booking sites such as www.booking.com. The very best and most famous ryokans can be fabulously expensive, but cheaper ones can be a budget option. Search for Ryokans in Tokyo. Search for Ryokans in Kyoto. An overview of train travel in Japan... Australia call toll-free 1300 971 526, www.railbookers.com.au. Marunouchi North entrance, viewed as you walk in from outside, with the North Passage to the Yaesu side ahead, and the row of ticket gates just out of short to the right. Japan Rail Pass Exchange office, Marunouchi North entrance: The arrow marks the JR East Travel Service Centre, interior pictured above right. This is the most relaxed place at Tokyo station to exchange a Japan Rail Pass voucher for the actual pass. Open 07:30-20:30 every day Tokyo Station, Yaesu side... Step 1, the Tokyo Monorail from Haneda Airport to Hamamatsuko interchange station. Every few minutes, journey time 14 minutes. It's driverless, so get a seat up front for great forward views as the monorail threads its way at high level through Tokyo's docklands... Travelling in ordinary class is very comfortable, there's absolutely no need to pay extra for green car unless you don't mind the extra cost. On the other hand, the extra leg & elbow room is nice if you can afford it. Indeed, although legroom isn't a problem, I find elbow room in the 2+3 ordinary class seating on most shinkansen is a little tight... Journey: Distance Time by Nozomi\* Time by Hikari\*\* One-way fare: Train frequency: Tokyo - Kyoto 513km, 320 miles 2 hours 18 min ¥13,710 Every 15-30 minutes Tokyo - Shin-Osaka 552km, 345 miles 2 hours 33 min 2 hours 53 min ¥14,250 Every 15-30 minutes Tokyo - Hiroshima 894km, 559 miles 4 hours 1 min 4 hours 49 min ¥18,880 Every 15-30 minutes Tokyo - Nagasaki 1,328km, 830 miles 7 hours 14 min 8 hours 21 min ¥25,850 Every hour, change Hakata Kyoto - Hiroshima 380km, 237 miles 1 hour 36 min 1 hour 59 min ¥11,300 Every 15-30 minutes Hiroshima - Nagasaki 434km, 271 miles 3 hours 10 min 3 hours 25 min ¥13,690 Every hour, change Hakata E1 = 125 yen. \$1 - 103 yen. Gent's urinal... Link your existing credit & debit cards to the app. 4. Tokyo stations' Yaesu Central entrance on the busy east side of the station... N700A shinkansen at Tokyo main station... The Sanyo area pass covers an area including Osaka, Himeji, Okayama, Hiroshima & Hakata. Most items fit on the overhead racks... You need to buy the pass before you leave home, you can't buy a Japan Rail Pass in Japan. If you live in Australia or New Zealand, check pass prices & buy a Japan Rail Pass online at Australian rail specialist www.internationalrail.com.au. Prices in AUD\$, passes sent out from International Rail in Australia. Also check prices & delivery charges at alternative supplier www.jrailpass.com who will deliver passes worldwide. Back to home page But this is no big deal as you can use the next fastest category, the Hikari services on the Tokaido Shinkansen and Sakura services on the Sanyo and Kyushu shinkansen. These link exactly the same cities on exactly the same Shinkansen tracks, indeed they often use exactly the same type of N700 train. A Hikari simply stops at a few more stations than a Nozomi so takes a few minutes longer. You can buy a Japan Rail Pass for 7, 14 or 21 days in either ordinary class or green car (1st class). The best way to get around Japan is by train. On this page you'll find an introduction to train travel in Japan, with advice on times, routes, tickets and passes... One final tip: If you know your itinerary, there's no reason why you can't make all the necessary reservations for your trip in one go when you exchange your voucher for the pass. But do the legwork first. Look up each of the trains you want using www.hyperdia.com then type out a clear written list of reservations specifying date, journey, train number, departure time, class and number of passengers. If it's not too busy, the staff at the Japan Rail Pass counter may work through the list for you, issuing a reservation ticket for each reserved seat. But if it's busy and there's a queue behind you, don't be surprised if they turn you away, asking you to make reservations as you need them at the ticket office. Staff at the JR East Service Centre did all my reservations for me, no problem. But a notice at the Haneda Airport travel service centre said they were only prepared to do reservations for today. Feedback appreciated! The busy periods when reserved seats often sell out way in advance and unreserved cars become very crowded are Golden Week between late April & early May, Himeji is a popular destination, but the Sunrise Express arrives there very early westbound and leaves late at night eastbound. Remember that with a Japan Rail Pass you can easily double back, leaving or boarding the train an hour away in Okayama at a more attractive time instead. The useful Tokyo-Nagasaki sleeper train is long gone, and the Hokutosei & Cassiopeia sleeper trains between Tokyo & Sapporo disappeared in late 2015/early 2016 with the expansion of high-speed shinkansen services to Hokkaido. Double room... A Narita Express train at Tokyo... You can reckon on finding power sockets for standard Japanese plugs at seats on almost all shinkansen and most limited expresses. Free WiFi is now available on most shinkansen routes including the Tokaido, Sanyo & Tohoku lines. Check your mobile provider for a data package for Japan, there is good mobile data reception along most shinkansen routes. You'll also find JR Free WiFi at a key stations including Tokyo, Shinagawa, Nagoya, Kyoto & Shin-Osaka. 1. The north passage... A useful passageway connects the Marunouchi North entrance with the Yaesu North entrance, without passing through any ticket barriers - you'll also find lockers and cheap eateries along this passageway. If you want to get from one side of the station to the other without a Japan Rail Pass or other ticket, you'll need to use this North Passage. Another unique place to stay that deserves a special mention is the 5-star Tokyo Station Hotel. Though in this case it's perhaps not a budget option! The hotel occupies the 2nd & 3rd floors of the historic and beautifully-restored 1915 station building on the quieter Marunouchi side of Tokyo station. Given that so many of Tokyo's classic hotels have been destroyed by earthquakes or wartime bombing then rebuilt as modern tower blocks, this has to be one of the most historically-interesting places to stay. It's a luxurious and well-located choice, too, with a first-rate breakfast buffet served in the Atrium located inside the large central pitched roof above the 3rd floor. And it's so handy for the trains... Ticket gates at the entrance to the Shinkansen platforms at Hiroshima. As you can see, the staffed side gate is on the left. The Seishun 18 Kippu (= Youthful 18 Ticket) is sold to both Japanese citizens and overseas visitors, of any age in spite of its name, during specific Spring (March-April), Summer (July-September) & winter (December-January) periods. It gives 5 days unlimited travel on Japan Railways local & trains and kaisoku (accelerated local) trains for around 11,850 yen. That's just £67 or \$109, about £13 or \$22 per day. It's possible to travel all the way across Japan this way, incredibly cheaply, but only using the narrow-gauge local trains. Rather than explain it here, see this page for full details: www.japan-guide.com/e/e2362.html or en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seishun\_18\_Ticket or www.jreast.co.jp/e/pass/seishun18.html Back to top What are Japanese trains like? The west side of the station is called the Marunouchi side, and it features the historic station building built in 1915 and now beautifully restored, it's upper floors occupied by the Tokyo Station Hotel. It's the quieter side of the station, close to the Imperial Palace. There are Marunouchi North, Central & South entrances, each with a row of ticket gates to access the JR lines (classic network) platforms 1-10. If you are catching a shinkansen, you'll need to pass through one of these gatelines and cross the JR Lines area to another set of ticket gates at the entrance to either the Tokaido/Sanyo shinkansen platforms 14-19 or the Joetsu, Tohoku, Hokuriku, Hokkaido/Yamagata & Akita shinkansen platforms 20-23. It's all well-signed in English. Narita express ordinary class... En suite bathroom... A few premier trains on the Tohoku & Hokkaido shinkansen also offer a top-of-the-range Gran Class in addition to ordinary and green car seats. Gran Class features luxurious reclining leather cradle seats arranged 2+1 across the car width and there's personal steward service of food and drink. Japan Rail Passes cannot be used in Gran Classe at all, so unless you're rich or the Company is paying, I'd forget Gran Class. Local & Rapid trains: You don't need a reservation to travel on local or rapid trains on the classic network, indeed such trains don't even have seat reservations. You just hop on and show your pass when the conductor comes along. Simple! Unreserved seat cars: Express, limited express and shinkansen trains usually have several non-reserved ordinary class cars, and as the name suggests you don't need a reservation to travel in these. Platform announcements, departure boards and platform signs in English will tell you which car numbers these are, and where you should stand on the platform for them - it's all very efficient. If you are happy travelling in the non-reserved cars you can just get on and sit where you like, and show your pass to the conductor when he comes long. Normally there's little problem finding a seat, indeed you may even be spoilt for choice. But a seat isn't guaranteed, and at busy times of day or at busy holiday periods you may have to stand or sit on your luggage in the aisle if you find all the seats are taken. www.baolau.com now sells tickets for the Tokaido, Sanyo, Hokkaido, Tohoku, Akita, Yamagata, Joetsu & Hokuriku Shinkansen, which includes trains between Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe, Himeji, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Fukuoka, Niigata & Aomori. They now also sell tickets for some JR East & JR Hokkaido Limited Express trains, although not yet JR Kyushu tickets to Nagasaki.Baolau is a reliable agency which sells train, bus and ferry tickets for various Asian countries, they now sell Japanese train tickets too, which is good, as Japan Railways don't offer online sales in English, at least not for these routes. To check train times & fares anywhere in Japan on both JR and private companies, simply use www.hyperdia.com. The Tokyo Station Hotel. Check prices & book... Once you have your pass and your 7, 14 or 21 days of unlimited travel have started, you use as many JR trains as you like (other than Nozomi or Mizuho trains, of course), travelling whenever and wherever you like. There is no limit on the number of trains you can take or the distance you can travel - that's what unlimited means... For example, a 7-day Japan Rail Pass costs ¥29,110 = £215 or \$268. Japanese trains usually have two classes, ordinary class and green car which is the Japanese term for 1st class. Green cars are indicated by a green clover symbol next to the entrance door. As you'd expect, green car seating has more leg and elbow room with seats arranged 2+2 across the coach width on shinkansen or 2+1 on the classic network, whereas ordinary class seats are usually arranged 2+3 on shinkansen or 2+2 on the classic network. You may also find the green car carpeted, ordinary cars have synthetic flooring. Not all trains have green car seats, of course. Many local trains and even some all-stations kodama shinkansen only have ordinary class. Car 10... Platform markings tell you exactly where to stand for the doors to each car. The 'clover' indicates a green car. Which platform? Ryokans, capsule hotels & Tokyo Station Hotel Recommended guidebooks Tours of Japan by train - organised for you Travel insurance, Curve card & VPN Ferries to & from Japan... 2. Japan Rail Pass... You exchange the voucher for a Japan Rail Pass at any one of 50 designated JR exchange offices in Japan, including Tokyo main station (2 offices), Ueno, Shinjuku, Narita International Airport, Haneda International Airport, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki... Refreshment trolley, cash & cards accepted. Baolau can book Hikari, Sakura, Kodama trains as well as Nozomi & Mizuho trains which are not covered by a Japan Rail Pass. If you live in the USA try Travel Guard USA. How to work out if a pass makes sense for you... Seat reservations cannot be made online before you get to Japan, only at stations when you get there. You order a Japan Rail Pass online at any official pass agency site such as www.jrailpass.com and an exchange voucher is sent to your home address. You'll also get a free Japan rail map and a Japan railways timetable booklet. 2) Use Skyscanner to compare flight prices & routes worldwide across 600 airlines... Tip: When checking train times on www.hyperdia.com or the Hyperdia iPhone or Android app, you can click More options and de-select Nozomi/Mizuho in the search options to see trains you can take with a pass. Just so you know, the same option also removes JR East's Hyabusu shinkansen on the route from Tokyo north to Hokkaido, although these can now be used by passholders.

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