

TRAIN : Shinkansen

JOURNEY : Tokaido Shinkansen :

Tokyo/Yokohama, Nagoya and Osaka/Kyoto

Journey Duration : Scenic Day Trips

Day to Day Itinerary

The Tokaido Shinkansen is a shinkansen line that connects Japan's three largest metropolitan areas - Tokyo/Yokohama, Nagoya and Osaka/Kyoto - with each other. It is Japan's best used shinkansen line, and trains depart every few minutes.

Three train categories operate on the Tokaido Shinkansen:

The Nozomi is the fastest train category along the Tokaido Shinkansen, serving only major stations. They take about 2.5 hours to reach Shin-Osaka from Tokyo. There are usually four departures per hour in each direction, and even more during peak hours. Many Nozomi trains continue beyond Shin-Osaka along the Sanyo Shinkansen to Hiroshima or Hakata. The Nozomi is one of only a few JR trains that cannot be used with the Japan Rail Pass.

The Hikari is the second fastest train category along the Tokaido Shinkansen, serving a few more stations than the Nozomi. It takes 3 hours to reach Shin-Osaka from Tokyo. There are two departures per hour in each direction, one operating between Tokyo and Shin-Osaka and the other between Tokyo and Okayama on the Sanyo Shinkansen

The Kodama is the slowest train category along the Tokaido Shinkansen, stopping at all stations along the way and therefore takes 4 hours to reach Shin-Osaka from Tokyo. There are usually two departures per hour in each direction, one operating between Tokyo and Shin-Osaka and one between Tokyo and Nagoya. Some trains during rush hours are fully non-reserved.