

**TRAIN :** Shinkansen

**JOURNEY :** Tokaido Shinkansen : Sanyo

Shinkansen

**Journey Duration : Scenic Day Trips**

### Day to Day Itinerary

The Sanyo Shinkansen is a shinkansen line that connects Osaka (Shin-Osaka Station) with Fukuoka (Hakata Station) on Kyushu. It was completed in 1975 as the second shinkansen line. Today trains reach speeds of up to 300 km/h.

Five train categories operate on the Sanyo Shinkansen:

The **Nozomi** serves only major stations along the Sanyo Shinkansen, and typically takes 2.5 hours to reach Hakata from Shin-Osaka. There are usually three departures per hour (two between Shin-Osaka and Hakata and one between Shin-Osaka and Hiroshima) and more during peak hours. Most Nozomi trains provide through service to the Tokaido Shinkansen to/from Tokyo. The Nozomi trains cannot be used with the Japan Rail Pass. However, it is covered by the JR West Sanyo Pass.

There are two types of **Hikari** trains operating along the Sanyo Shinkansen:

8-car Hikari Railstar trains operate between Shin-Osaka and Hakata. Serving one or two stations more than the Nozomi, they are only slightly slower than Nozomi trains. The Hikari Railstar has no Green Car, but its reserved seats come in rows of 2x2 seats and are as comfortable as Green Car seats. Hikari Railstar trains are expected to be entirely replaced by Sakura trains in the near future.

One 16-car Hikari train from Tokyo continues along the Sanyo Shinkansen as far as Okayama each hour, serving all stations between Shin-Osaka and Okayama.

The **Kodama** is the slowest train category along the Sanyo Shinkansen, stopping at all stations along the way and takes almost 5 hours to reach Hakata from Shin-Osaka. Train sets of six or eight cars are employed as Kodama trains along the Sanyo Shinkansen. They do not carry Green Cars.

The **Mizuho** is the fastest train category along the Sanyo Shinkansen and provides a through service to the Kyushu Shinkansen to/from Kagoshima. However, currently there are only four round trips per day in the mornings and evenings. Together with the Nozomi, the Mizuho cannot be used with the Japan Rail Pass. However, it is covered by the JR West Sanyo Pass.

Like the Mizuho, the **Sakura** operates between Shin-Osaka and Kagoshima-Chuo Station on the Kyushu Shinkansen, but stops at a few more stations than the Mizuho. Green car seats make up only half of car number 6, while reserved seating comes in rows of 2x2 seats that are almost as comfortable as the Green Car seats. Non-reserved seats come in rows of 3x2 seats.