Water City Osaka Cruise Map

Enjoy seasonal views from a boat

Nakanoshima | Dotombori | Osaka Castle | Okawa River | Bay Area



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Waterside Highlights

The scenery of Osaka's waterfront can be enjoyed by boat, and varies depending on the season. Here we introduce some of the best views.



Osaka Castle



Osaka Business Park



Tenjin Festival (7/25)



Kensaki Fountain (Nakanoshima Park)



Rose Garden (Nakanoshima Park)



Osaka City Central Public Hall



Okawa Cherry Blossoms



Japan Mint



Lucky Star (Under Temma Bridge)



Sunrise Cafe (Yodoyabashi Pier)



Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest



The symbol trees by the riverside (Nakanoshima Park Suijo Gekijo Mae)



Hachikenyahama evening view



Hachikenyahama night view



Reiwa Osaka Legend of the Milky Way (7/7)



Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka



Hotarumachi night view



Regulating Gate of Higashi Yokobori-gawa

Lively waterfront facilities



River Station Hachikenya
A waterfront information facility with a restaurant, and a rental and community space called Station 8.



Kitahama Terrace
A riverside seating area facing the Tosabori River, where you can enjoy your meal while looking out at the boats and Nakanoshima Park on the opposite bank.



β HOMMACHI BASHI
A waterside facility with boat rides, water activities including SUP, rental spaces, restaurants and cafes.



Hotarumachi
A lively waterside facility with restaurants and cafes. Home to Asahi Broadcasting, ABC Hall, Dojima Crosswalk, and Dojima River Forum.



NAKANOSHIMA BANKS
A riverside space directly connected to Keihan Nakanoshima Station, with restaurants, flagship stores for leather and apparel brands, bars, cafes, and a cruise service.



Nakanoshima Gate Terminal
Located at the gateway to the Bay Area, this bustling hub facilitates transfers between ocean-going and river vessels. It also showcases the history of the area, which served as the birthplace of the Port of Osaka.



TOMBORI RIVERWALK
This promenade opened in December 2004 along the Dotombori River. Various events are held here, and there are a number of restaurants along the river.



Canal Terrace Horie
A fashionable spot in Osaka with tasteful restaurants and five unique stores that are open from lunchtime until late at night.



TUGBOAT_TAISHO
A complex with 16 highly-rated restaurants where you can enjoy the waterside view while listening to music from the live space and DJ space.

Now and in the past

Osaka, City of Water

The city of Osaka was born from the sea

Around 6,000 to 7,000 years ago, the Osaka urban area was largely part of the sea, with the Uemachi Plateau jutting out into Kawachi Bay.
As the sea level gradually fell, sediment that flowed in from the Yodo River was deposited and turned into land, forming the Kawachi Plain around the 5th century.
Facing the Seto Inland Sea, Osaka was a gateway to the world and an international trading port, where envoys to the Sui and Tang Dynasties arrived and departed. It was also the eastern terminus of the Silk Road.

Early modern times: The prosperity of the 808 Bridges of Naniwa

In the late 16th century, towards the end of the Sengoku period,
Toyotomi Hideyoshi built Osaka Castle and made effective use of waterways in the urban development of Osaka, including the digging of the canal and installation of sewers.
Even after Hideyoshi's death, these projects continued. The canal dug by the townspeople stretched out like a capillary, and by the mid-17th century, Osaka was at its peak as a water city.
Nakanoshima was lined with warehouses belonging to the domains, and rice and other products from all over the country were brought there. Osaka came to be known as the "nation's kitchen."
With the development of the Kitamaebune route around the Seto Inland Sea, Sea of Japan, and Pacific Ocean, Osaka became Japan's largest distribution hub.
The Yodo River was a major artery connecting Osaka and Kyoto, with the boat called "Sanjikkoku-Bune" frequently travelling from Temmabashi / Hachikenyahama to Fushimi in Kyoto. At its peak, there are records of 320 trips and 9,000 people coming and going each day.
The ukiyo-e set of woodblock prints called Naniwa Hyakkei (One Hundred Views of Naniwa) depict a variety of waterside landscapes. The area was called "the 808 Bridges of Naniwa" due to the large number of bridges.



Osaka in the 4th Year of Genroku, 1691
An old map from 1691, evoking the era of "808 Bridges" (Osaka Historical Map Collection, No. 4. Newly Enlarged Large Picture Map of Osaka / Osaka Municipal Library Collection)



Sakuranomiya is Japan's oldest cherry blossom viewing spot, where you can admire the blossoms from both land and boat. (Naniwa Sakuranomiya, Nishiki-e by Kaishuntei Sadayoshi, National Diet Library Digital Collection)

The waterside landscape became a part of people's everyday lives. People enjoyed the changing seasons along the waterside, with the Tenjin Festival, cherry blossom viewing, the cool breeze in summer, and moon viewing.

Loss of waterfront

The end of the 19th century saw the development of industries that used water transportation, but the excessive pumping of groundwater for industrial use led to land subsidence and a growing fear that the river would cause flooding.
As railways were built and roads developed, water transport was gradually surpassed by land transport. Canal and River began to lose its purpose, and became a dumping ground for debris from air raids during World War II. Due to the stench caused by wastewater from the period of high economic growth, it was treated as a nuisance and gradually filled in, as the people turned their backs on the river.

Creating new value near the waterfront

With the end of the period of high economic growth, people began to reflect on the deterioration of the waterfront environment in Osaka.
In 1980, the Osaka Urban Environment Council proposed the "Water City 30-year revitalization strategy" that included environmental standards, the operation of water buses, and the creation of a promenade along the Dotombori River.
In 2001, Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, and the business community jointly proposed the "Water City Osaka Revitalization Plan," which was adopted as a national urban revitalization project.
The aim was to revitalize Osaka as a whole by regenerating the Nakanoshima, Higashiyokobori River, Dotombori River, and Kizu River as a "Water Corridor."
With the relaxation of rules regarding the use of river spaces in 2011, commercial activities such as waterside cafes were allowed, and a number of lively waterside spaces were created. "Miotsukushi" is a navigational marker erected at the river mouth to ensure safe navigation for ships. Because Osaka's prosperity has long benefited from water transportation, it was chosen as the city's emblem in 1888.
Modern Osaka has inherited the DNA of a water city, and continues to evolve as an attractive city that people want to live in and visit.

Water City Osaka website | YouTube | X | Instagram | Facebook | Water City Osaka Karuta | Water City Osaka Textbook | Boat Catalog

Try a Charter Cruise!

Easily customize your route and package on a small boat.

"A small house floating on water". In addition to private charters, special cruises (such as infrastructure cruises and breakfast cruises) are also popular.



Ofune Camome
capacity 10 people
Ofune Camome
06-7175-4200

A stylish mahogany cruiser from Venice.



DAZERO
capacity 12 people
DAZERO Co., Ltd.
090-1023-6253

Boats that can turn easily and pass under bridges even when the tide is high.



Suisho | capacity 8 people
T&S Office
06-6675-5180



Ponpon Boat "Kinsen"
capacity 12 people
Ipponmatsu Kisen Co., Ltd.
06-6946-8363

Boats with comfortable sofa seats. Recommended for small parties as you can bring your own food and drinks.



INDY
capacity 12 people
INDY CRUISE Co., Ltd.
078-857-3566



Good Memories
capacity 11 people
GLORIA Co., Ltd.
06-6931-7200



Subaru
capacity 12 people
Ipponmatsu Shipping Co., Ltd.
050-1807-4118



PIRATES-Red
capacity 9 people
Top River Cruise Co., Ltd.
06-6121-2539

The box-shaped boat allows you to arrange the chairs and tables as you like, so it's great for taking photos.



Aqua mini
capacity 30 people
Osaka Aqua Bus Ltd.
0570-035-551

After the cruise, you can enjoy dining and shopping at NAKANOSHIMA BANKS.



BAR BANKS
capacity 11 people
BANKS JAPAN LLC
06-6445-7705

For an event cruise with lots of people, choose a larger boat.

There are various larger boats available.

Dojima
capacity 90 people
Ipponmatsu Shipping Co., Ltd.
050-1807-4118

Ponpon Boat "Hatate"
capacity 80 people
Ipponmatsu Kisen Co., Ltd.
06-6946-8363

There are lots of unique charter boats on the rivers of Osaka.
Plan an original cruise by chartering a boat with your closest friends.

Pleasure boats yakatabune and restaurant boats where you can enjoy meals on board.

The freshly fried tempura is popular.

Daikimaru
capacity 38 people
Yakatabune Daiki
06-6928-3354

Modern and stylish Japanese boats with seasonal menus. There are also small boats with a capacity of 24 people.

Yoga
capacity 52 people

A restaurant boat where you can enjoy Italian food. A BBQ cruise is also available on its sister boat.

GRACE II
capacity 26 people

Osaka Yakatabune Co., Ltd. 0120-0489-14

Comfortable sunken kotatsu-style tables.

Mikami Yusen
capacity 44 people
Mikami Yusen
06-6584-6401

These next-generation EV boats have less vibration and are very quiet, so you can enjoy live music.

Queen Bee M7
capacity 70 people

A luxurious river steamboat-style restaurant boat that can arrange French cuisine, buffets, etc.

Himawari
capacity 60 people
Osaka Aqua Bus Ltd.
0570-075-551

A luxurious space where you can enjoy teppanyaki at the counter. Departure and arrival from β Honmachi Bashi. As a small boat, you can also cruise to Dotombori.

Aarde Leuk
capacity 8 people

Enjoy artisanal sushi in a space that resembles the living room of a private home.

House Boat (GLEAM)
capacity 10 people

GLORIA Co., Ltd. 06-6931-7200

A glamping boat where you can enjoy BBQ.

Merry Green
from 15 people
One Osaka River Cruise Co., Ltd.
06-6147-7097

A cruise where you can enjoy a charcoal BBQ.

PIRATES-Blue
from 10 people

A cruise where you can enjoy conveyor-belt sushi.

SAMURAI-PIRATES
from 10 people

Top River Cruise Co., Ltd. 06-6121-2539

Water City Osaka Cruise Map

Osaka is the City of Water.
Osaka Castle, Nakanoshima, Dotombori, Okawa River, and the bay area.
Take a boat ride and enjoy the sights of Osaka from the water.

Key: Pier / River Station / The symbol trees by the riverside / Waterside Walking Path / Illuminations / Kita-Osaka Cycle Line

To the Nakanoshima

Bay Area



Universal City Port



Kaiyukan Aquarium West Wharf

Nakanoshima Area



Hotarumachi Pier

Make a splash in the Okawa River!



Osaka Duck Tour

A cheerful and chatty guide will show you the city of Osaka from both land and water. The highlight is the exciting "splash-in" experience where the bus enters the water from land. Reservations recommended.

Dates/times: 4/20–11/30 – 75 minutes (45 minutes on land + 30 minutes on water) – 9:10, 10:45, 13:00, 14:35, 16:20
12/1–3/19 – 60 minutes (30 minutes on land + 30 minutes on water) – 10:00, 11:20, 13:20, 14:40
*Please check website for changes in operating hours on holidays and the timetable from 3/20–4/19
Boarding point: River Station Hachikenya B1F Reception
Fares: 4/20–11/30 – Adults 3,800 yen, Elementary school students and younger 2,500 yen, Infants (2 years and under) 600 yen
12/1–3/19 – Adults 3,000 yen, Elementary school students and younger 1,800 yen, Infants (2 years and under) 500 yen
Note: Personal food and drinks are not allowed. No onboard sales.
Contact: Nihon Suiriku Kanko Co., Ltd. 06-6941-0008
Osaka e-Pass: Not valid

Admire cherry blossom trees from the water

Okawa River Sakura Cruise



During the cherry blossom season, this 25-minute cruise allows you to view the cherry trees along the Okawa River from Temmabashi to Sakuranomiya. You will also see Osaka Castle and the Japan Mint on the way. Enjoy spring in Osaka, the city of water.

Dates/times: Late March to early April – departs every 10–30 minutes from 10:00 to 18:00
*Please check website for further details
Boarding point: Hachikenyahama Pier (ticket office next to the west ticket gate of Keihan Temmabashi Station)
Fares: Adults 1,500 yen, Children (elementary school students) 750 yen; free for up to 1 elementary school student per adult
Note: Personal food and drinks are allowed. No onboard sales.
Contact: Osaka City Cruise Promotion Council
Osaka e-Pass: Valid

Okawa Area

A classic cruise in the "City of Water," Osaka, that also serves as a means of transport.

Aqua Liner Osaka Castle and Nakanoshima Tour



A classic "Water City Osaka" cruise that tours Osaka Castle and Nakanoshima in approximately 55 minutes. Passengers can fully enjoy iconic Osaka architecture — such as the Osaka City Central Public Hall and the Mint Bureau — along with scenery that changes with the seasons.

Dates/times/boarding point:
Osaka Castle Pier - Departs every hour from 10:00 to 16:00
Yodoyabashi Port - Departures at 20 minutes past the hour from 10:20 to 16:20
Hachikenyahama Pier - Departs every 30 minutes from 10:30 to 16:30
*Please check website for holidays/seasonal variation
Fares: Tour course (approx. 55 minutes) - Adults 2,000 yen, Children (elementary school students) 1,000 yen
*Fares for specific segments are also available.
Note: Personal food and drinks are not allowed, but may be purchased on board.
Contact: Osaka Aqua Bus Ltd. 06-6942-5511
Osaka e-Pass: Valid

Convenient for sightseeing in the bay area

Captain Line



A 10-minute cruise that conveniently connects Universal Studios Japan and Kaiyukan Aquarium, across the Aji River. Enjoy the sights of the bay area, including the Ferris Wheel and the Container Terminal, while crossing the river efficiently.

Dates/times: Universal City Port 9:45–17:15, Kaiyukan West Wharf 10:00–18:00, every 30 minutes in the morning and every 60 minutes in the afternoon.
*Please check website for holidays / seasonal variation
Fares: One-way – Adults 900 yen, Elementary school students 500 yen, Infants (3 years and above) 400 yen
Round trip – Adults 1,700 yen, Elementary school students 900 yen, Infants (3 years and above) 700 yen
※Special rates apply on certain days. Sold at the pier ticket office.
Note: Personal food and drinks are allowed. No onboard sales.
Contact: Captain Line Co., Ltd. 06-6573-8222
Osaka e-Pass: Valid

Tour Osaka with a waterside guide

SUP Guided Tour



Tour the Dotombori River on an SUP boat with a guide who is familiar with the waterways of Osaka. The boat can be reserved for a group (max. 6 people), so you have plenty of privacy while chatting and eating snacks. You can also try using a paddle yourself. In winter, enjoy a warm kotatsu. Perfect for making special memories of Osaka. Approx. 50 minutes. Reservations recommended.

COURSE:
Departing from β Hommachibashi → Arriving at Minatomachi Pier
Departing from Minatomachi Pier → Arriving at β Hommachibashi
*Please check website for further details.
Pricing: Please check our website.
Note: Food, drinks and games are allowed.
Contact: Japan CitySUP Association 06-6125-0550
Osaka e-Pass: Not valid

Feel like the ruler of Japan on a golden boat!

Osaka-jo Gozabune

The Osaka Castle Gozabune is a reproduction based on the Hoomaru boat depicted on the Toyotomi Period Osaka Folding Screen (Eggenberg Palace, Austria). You can cruise around Osaka Castle's inner moat for about 20 minutes on a luxurious boat decorated with gold leaf, in the style of Hideyoshi. Seeing the castle towers and stone walls close up is not to be missed.



Dates/times: 10 minutes from 10:00 to 16:30
*Please check website for holidays
Boarding point: Osaka Castle Inner Moat Gokuraku Bridge west side
Fares: Adults 1,800 yen, Elementary and junior high school students 900 yen, 65 years and above 1,200 yen
Note: Personal food and drinks are not allowed. No onboard sales.
Contact: Ban PR, Inc. 080-3764-3773
Osaka e-Pass: Valid

Tour the bay area on a large sailing ship

Santa Maria

The Santa Maria is a large sightseeing ship that cruises around Osaka Port. It is approximately twice the size of Columbus' flagship of the same name, which arrived in the New World. Over 45 minutes, enjoy magnificent views of the bay area, including the Kaiyukan, Ferris Wheel, and Container Terminal, as well as the spectacular sunset. Feel the sea breeze, relax, and forget your busy everyday life.



Dates/times: Departures on the hour from 11:00 to 16:00
*Please check website for holidays/seasonal variation
Boarding point: Kaiyukan West Wharf
Fares: Adults 1,800 yen, Children (elementary school students) 900 yen, *From October 1, 2026, Adults 2,000 yen, Children (elementary school students) 1,000 yen
Note: Personal food and drinks are not allowed, but may be purchased on board.
Contact: Osaka Aqua Bus Ltd. 06-6942-5511
Osaka e-Pass: Valid

The neon lights of Minami and the sounds of jazz

Tombori River Jazz Boat

Cruise the Dotombori River while listening to live jazz music. Enjoy the Minami area lit up at night and the sound of jazz melodies. Have fun playing tambourines and maracas. Reservations recommended.
Approximately 40 minutes



Dates/times: Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from late April to mid-November.
*Please check website for holidays / seasonal variation
Boarding point: Minatomachi Pier.
Fares: Adults 3,500 yen, Students 2,000 yen, Elementary school students 1,000 yen,
Note: Personal food and drinks are allowed. No onboard sales.
Contact: Ipponmatsu Shipping Co., Ltd. 050-1807-4118
Osaka e-Pass: Not valid

The ultimate water sightseeing tour around Osaka

Naniwa Exploration Cruise with a Rakugo Storyteller



A rakugo storyteller will introduce you to the charms of Osaka, the city of water, in a light-hearted way. The ship is equipped with a submarine system that takes in river water to allow it to pass under Osaka's low bridges. This cruise of about 100 minutes takes you around the Water Corridor, visiting many sightseeing spots. Reservations recommended.

Yumesaki Line on the River course Boarding point : Universal City Port
Circular Line on the River course Boarding point : Tugboat Taisho
*Please check website for holidays / seasonal variation
Fares: Adults 4,500 yen, Students 3,000 yen, Elementary school students 2,000 yen
Note: Personal food and drinks are not allowed, but may be purchased on board.
Contact: Ipponmatsu Shipping Co., Ltd. 050-1807-4118
Osaka e-Pass: Not valid

Dotombori Area

Classic cruises on the Dotombori River

Enjoy the scenery of the Osaka Minami area, including the famous Glico sign, over about 20 minutes, with a guide full of individuality.



Tombori River Cruise

Dates/times: Departs on the hour and 30 minutes past the hour from 11:00 to 21:00
*Please check website for holidays
Boarding point: Tazaemonbashi Pier
Fares: Adults 2,000 yen, Students 1,000 yen, Elementary school students 500 yen
Note: Personal food and drinks are allowed. No onboard sales.
Contact: Ipponmatsu Shipping Co., Ltd. 050-1807-4118
Osaka e-Pass: Valid



Dotombori Pirates Cruise

Dates/times: Departs at 20 and 50 minutes past the hour from 11:20 to 14:50
Departures at 21 and 51 minutes past the hour from 15:21 to 20:51.
The final departure is at 21:16.
*Please check website for holidays
Boarding point: Tazaemonbashi Pier
Fares: Adults (12 years and above) 2,000 yen, Children (4 years and above) 1,000 yen
Note: Personal food and drinks are allowed. No onboard sales.
Contact: Top River Cruise Co., Ltd. 06-6121-2539
Osaka e-Pass: Not valid



Wonder Cruise

Dates/times: Departures at 16:10 and 16:40.
Departures every hour on the hour and at the half-hour from 17:00 to 21:30.
Departs on the hour and 30 minutes past the hour from 17:00 to 21:30.
*Please check website for holidays
Boarding point: Nippombashi Pier
Fares: Adults (13 years and above) 2,000 yen, Children (6–12 years) 1,000 yen, Infants free (must sit on adult's lap).
Note: Personal food and drinks are allowed. No onboard sales.
Contact: Osaka Wonder Cruise Co., Ltd. 06-6147-7097
Osaka e-Pass: Valid after 17:00

Osaka Castle Area

The information provided is current as of March 2026. Please check the respective companies' websites for the latest information.

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