

All domestic flights out of Tokyo leave from Haneda Airport, which is not far from downtown Tokyo. Substantial savings are possible if domestic Japanese flights are booked, in Canada, as an extension of the traveller's international ticket.

The Shinkansen (bullet train) is a convenient alternative for travel from Tokyo to most major cities in Japan. Visitor planning an itinerary involving substantial rail travel should consider purchasing the Japan Rail Pass, which permits unlimited travel on Japan Rail routes, over a fixed period of time, at very reasonable cost. The Japan Rail Pass can only be purchased outside of Japan and is available, in Canada, from the Japan National Tourist Office in Toronto.

Travellers should buy a good bilingual city map, which can be found in the lobby shop of any hotel. They often include an equally useful schematic of the subway system.

National Holidays

New Year's Day	<i>January 1</i>
Adults' Day	<i>January 15</i>
National Foundation Day	<i>February 11</i>
Vernal Equinox	<i>March 20 or 21</i>
Greenery Day	<i>April 29</i>
Constitution Day	<i>May 3</i>
Children's Day	<i>May 5</i>
Senior Citizens' Day	<i>September 15</i>
Autumnal Equinox	<i>September 23 or 24</i>
Sports Day	<i>October 10</i>
Cultural Day	<i>November 3</i>
Labour Day	<i>November 23</i>
Emperor's Birthday	<i>December 23</i>

Late December/early January, late April/early May and the middle 2 weeks of August are periods when many Japanese are on holiday. While most businesses technically remain open, staffing levels in each of these 3 periods are roughly equivalent to those in Canada during the Christmas-New Year period. Business travel at these times should be avoided.