

headout

A visitor's guide to Universal Studios Japan



First-timer checklist

A quick, phone-friendly guide for timing your visit, getting there, avoiding queues, and planning your first 90 minutes inside the



When to go

Avoid

Golden Week



Obon



Late October / Halloween



Christmas–New Year



Best value months

FEB

JUN

SEP

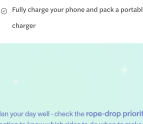


Before you go



- Book tickets in advance
- Download the USJ app
- Check ride wait times and park map

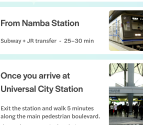
How to avoid queues?



Express Pass is a paid add-on that lets you skip regular lines on designated rides with reserved timeslots—you pay extra to skip-the-line.



Single Rider queues are free and move faster, but the system seats you separately from your party to fill empty seats.



The night before

- ☒ Register your Studio Pass in the USJ app
- ☒ Fully charge your phone and pack a portable charger

Plan your day well - check the rope-drop priorities section to know which rides to do when to make the most of your day



What to carry



What to not

- ☒ Water bottle
- ☒ Portable charger
- ☒ Sunscreen
- ☒ Comfortable shoes
- ☒ Small backpack
- ☒ Large luggage (see lockers)
- ☒ Restricted items
- ☒ Too much food



How to get there

From Kansai Airport (KIX)

Haruka Express + local train - 75 min
Along bus - 50–70 min (Slower, but direct)



From Osaka Station

JR Yumesaki / Sakurajima Line - 15 min direct to Universal City Station



From Namba Station

Subway + JR transfer - 25–30 min



Once you arrive at Universal City Station

Exit the station and walk 5 minutes along the main pedestrian boulevard, the park entrance is the obvious landmark.



Important: No re-entry

You can't get out of the park and come inside again. Plan your food, breaks, shopping, and luggage before entering the park.

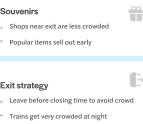


Rope-drop priorities

Relevant for most guests
Your first 60 minutes decide the whole day.



The moment you're through the gate



If you already have an Express Pass that includes SUPER NINTENDO WORLD:

Skip the lottery and head straight to the ride.



If you don't

Open the app immediately grab your SUPER NINTENDO WORLD timed-entry slot.

Do this before anything else — slots can sell out within the first hour of opening.

First 90 minutes — pick your path

Got an early Nintendo slot?

Go straight to SUPER NINTENDO WORLD — ride Mine Cart + Mario Kart while it's quiet

Slot is for later in the day

Head to Flying Dinosaur, then Forbidden Journey — both build long queues fast

One rule that saves the most time

Finish everything in one area before moving to the next.

If you're a thrill seeker

SUPER NINTENDO WORLD → Jurassic Park

→ Harry Potter

Avoid zigzagging — it can cost you 20–30 minutes.

If you're with kids

SUPER NINTENDO WORLD → Minion Park

How to check wait times

- Use the USJ app
- Shows live wait times for all rides
- Helps plan your next move in real time
- Check it frequently between rides

How to make the most of Single Rider

- Skip regular queues with Single Rider lines
- You'll be seated separately
- Wait time is much shorter

Best for

- Flying Dinosaur
- Hollywood Dream
- Harry Potter rides

Food & snacks

- Try themed food items
- Expect queues during lunch hours
- Eat early or late to avoid rush

Souvenirs

- Shops near exit are less crowded
- Popular items sell out early

Exit strategy

- Leave before closing time to avoid crowd
- Trains get very crowded at night

Smart moves

- Check app for waiting times
- Use lockers for big bags

You're the main player here. Plan light, move early, skip lines, and enjoy the chaos calmly.

