

Nagoya

Aichi Prefecture · Japan

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Nagoya is the main city of central Japan. It sits on the Tokaido Shinkansen line between Tokyo and Kyoto.

The city is known for industry and for its own food style. A samurai-era castle, a major Shinto shrine and museums about trains and machines are all easy to reach by subway. Nagoya suits a first trip to Japan with a short list of sights. It also works as a base for day trips to Gifu, Inuyama, Ise and Takayama.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are the best seasons, and May and October are the most comfortable months. June to September have the most rainy days. July and August are hot and very humid. Winter is cold and dry, with some frost and light snow in January to March.

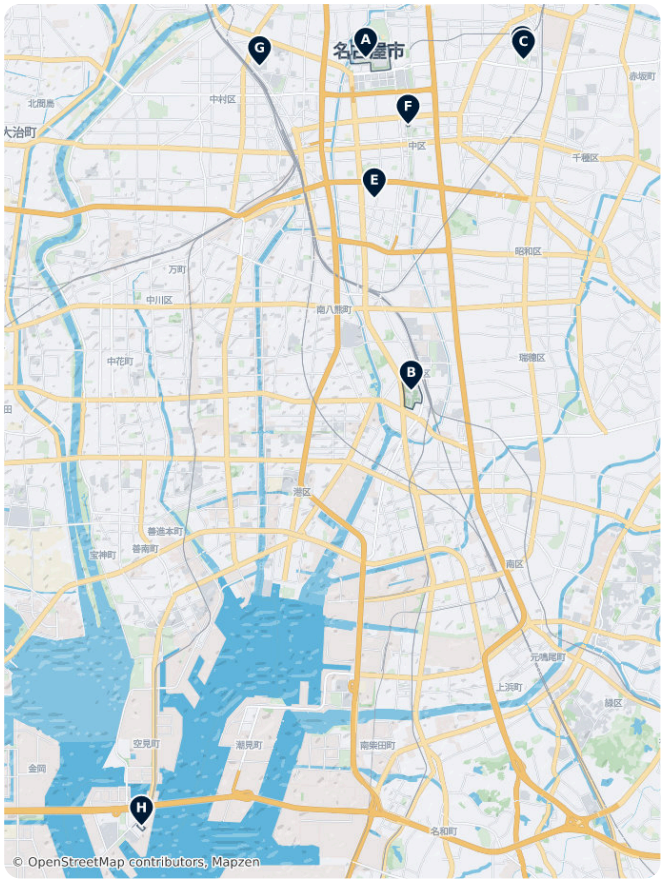
The biggest event is the July grand sumo tournament, called the Nagoya Basho. It runs for 15 days at IG Arena in Meijo Park, near the castle. Check the exact dates before you plan, because they change each year.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 13° Feels like 3°	1° / -1°	Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	10° / 16° Feels like 5°	2° / -2°	Dry air
March	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 19° Feels like 9°	4° / 0°	Dry air
April	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 23° Feels like 16°	9° / 3°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 27°	14° / 9°	12 rainy days
June	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 30°	19° / 15°	15 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	30° / 33° Feels like 33°	23° / 20°	17 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	31° / 34° Feels like 35°	25° / 21°	17 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
September	Fair Fair for sightseeing	28° / 32°	21° / 16°	16 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
October	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 27°	15° / 10°	12 rainy days
November	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 22°	9° / 4°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 17° Feels like 7°	4° / 0°	Dry air

Best months: May, October

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Nagoya Castle was the seat of the Owari branch of the Tokugawa family. Most of it burned in the 1945 air raids. The concrete keep dates from 1959. It has been closed to visitors since 2018. The rebuilt Honmaru Palace is open and has painted sliding doors and shogun's rooms.
- B Atsuta Shrine is one of Japan's most important Shinto shrines. It keeps the Kusanagi sword, one of the three Imperial Regalia. The sword is never shown to the public. The grounds are free and always open, and the Kusanagi-kan museum shows historic swords.
- C Tokugawa Art Museum holds the Tokugawa family collection. It includes the national treasure Tale of Genji picture scrolls, which are shown only during special displays. It also has armour, swords and lacquerware.
- D Tokugawa Garden is a Japanese garden next to the art museum. Visit both on the same trip.
- E Osu Shopping Street is a covered arcade of more than 400 shops and restaurants. It is known for electronics, anime goods and cosplay. The Osu Kannon temple is next to it.
- F Nagoya TV Tower stands in Sakae and was built in 1954. It has an indoor deck 90 m up and an outdoor balcony at 100 m. It is lit up from sunset to midnight.
- G Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology has a textile machinery pavilion and an automobile pavilion. Both show real machines at work. It is closed on Mondays.
- H SCMAGLEV and Railway Park has 39 trains and train cars, including maglev trains. Many can be entered. It also has train simulators and a large model railway. It is closed on Tuesdays. Legoland Japan is nearby and suits families with children aged 2 to 12.

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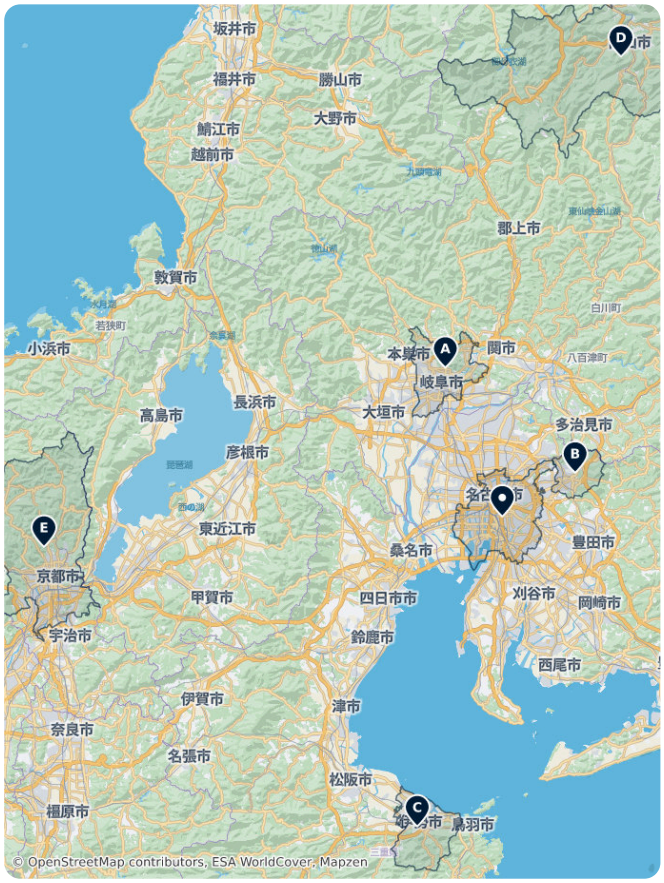
Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Watch a day of grand sumo at the Nagoya Basho in July. The venue is IG Arena in Meijo Park, a 5-minute walk from Meijo Koen subway station.
- Browse the flea market at the Osu Kannon temple on the 18th of each month. It has about 60 stalls with antiques, clothes and second-hand goods.
- Go up Nagoya TV Tower at dusk. The outdoor balcony shows the Sakae district as the tower lights come on.
- Join an evening cormorant fishing boat on the Nagara River in Gifu between May and mid-October.

Day trips

Nagoya is a good base for day trips by train. Trips are listed from closest to farthest, with one-way times from Nagoya Station.



- Inuyama: about 30 minutes on the Meitetsu line. Its small hilltop castle has a keep from the 1500s that is a National Treasure. Only five castle keeps in Japan have this status.
- A Gifu: about 20 minutes by JR train. Cormorant fishing on the Nagara River runs in the evenings from May to mid-October. It is cancelled when the river is high.
- B Seto: about 45 minutes by JR and Meitetsu trains. Seto has made ceramics for more than 1,000 years. The Setogura Museum shows the history of Seto ware.
- C Ise: about 80 minutes on the Kintetsu limited express. Ise is the home of the Ise Shrines, one of Japan's holiest sites.
- D Takayama: about 2.5 hours on the JR Hida limited express, with several trains a day. This is a long day trip. An overnight stay is easier.
- E Kyoto: about 35 minutes on the Nozomi shinkansen.

Where to explore

Nearby, Seto is the closest guide in the same area. Other big cities on the same shinkansen line are Kyoto, Osaka and Tokyo.

Getting there

- By air: Chubu Centrair International Airport (NGO) handles international flights and most domestic flights. The Meitetsu μ-SKY limited express reaches Nagoya in about 30 minutes and needs a reserved seat ticket. The total fare is about 1,400 yen. The Japan Rail Pass is not valid on Meitetsu trains. Official site: Chubu Centrair Airport.
- By train: Nagoya Station is on the Tokaido Shinkansen. The Nozomi takes about 100 minutes from Tokyo, about 50 minutes from Osaka and about 35 minutes from Kyoto. Cities: Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto. Kodama trains stop more often and take about 3 hours from Tokyo.
- From the mountains: the JR Hida limited express runs several times a day to Takayama, a ride of about 2.5 hours.

Getting around

- Subway: six colour-coded lines with English signs. The Higashiyama line links the station with Sakae, and the Meijo line reaches the castle. Tap a Manaca, Suica or other IC card at the gate. Credit card tap-to-pay also works at all subway stations.
- Day passes: the 24-hour Subway Pass costs 760 yen. The 1-Day Bus and Subway Pass costs 870 yen.
- Subway to the castle: about 15 minutes from Nagoya Station, with one change.
- Meguru bus: a tourist loop bus from Nagoya Station to the main sights. A ride costs 210 yen and a day pass costs 500 yen. It does not run on Mondays.
- Aonami Line: this train links Nagoya Station with the port area in about 25 minutes. It serves the railway museum and Legoland Japan, and it is not covered by the Japan Rail Pass.
- On foot: central Nagoya is flat. The station area, Sakae and Osu are each easy to walk. The castle, museums and port are far apart, so use the subway between them.

More visitor information: Visit Nagoya.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The centre is flat and the station area, Sakae and Osu are easy on foot. The main sights are far apart, so use the subway.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The city is flat, but cycling is not a main way for visitors to see the sights.

Driving

- Is a car worth it? Not for a city stay. The subway and trains cover the sights and the day trips, and cars drive on the left.
- Permit: Japan accepts only a booklet-type International Driving Permit under the 1949 Geneva Convention. Card and phone versions are not valid.
- Licence translation: licences from Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, Monaco and Taiwan need an official Japanese translation from the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF). Applications are online only and only from within Japan. They take 2 to 3 business days.
- Tolls: expressways charge tolls. Ask your rental company for an ETC card to pay automatically.

Food & drink

Nagoya has its own food style, called Nagoya meshi. Look for these dishes:

- Hitsumabushi: grilled eel on rice, eaten in stages. Expect about 2,000 to 3,000 yen.
- Miso katsu: a pork cutlet with a thick miso sauce.
- Tebasaki: fried chicken wings, common in izakaya.
- Kishimen: flat wheat noodles in a fish-based broth.
- Miso nikomi udon: thick udon cooked in miso soup in a clay pot.
- Ankake spaghetti and Taiwan ramen: spicy dishes created in Nagoya. Taiwan ramen did not come from Taiwan.
- Ogura toast: toast with sweet red bean paste and butter. Coffee houses serve it.

Restaurants cluster around Nagoya Station and Sakae. The Osu arcade also has many places to eat.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Sushi · 寿司 (Sushi)
Vinegared rice paired with raw fish, seafood, or vegetables; ranges from casual conveyor-belt shops to high-end counters.

Ramen · ラーメン (Ramen)
Wheat noodles in a meat or fish-based broth, with countless regional styles.

Tempura · 天ぷら (Tempura)
Lightly battered, deep-fried seafood and vegetables.

Okonomiyaki · お好み焼き (Okonomiyaki)
A savory grilled pancake with cabbage and a choice of fillings, popular in Osaka and Hiroshima.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Onigiri · おにぎり (Onigiri)
Rice balls wrapped in seaweed, often with a savory filling; an everyday convenience-store staple.

Yakitori · 焼き鳥 (Yakitori)
Grilled skewers of chicken, popular at izakaya alongside beer or sake.

DRINKS

Green Tea · 緑茶 (Ryokucha)
The everyday non-alcoholic drink, served hot or cold.

Sake · 日本酒 (Nihonshu)
Rice wine served warm or chilled, a traditional accompaniment to a meal.

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Safety & health

Nagoya is a safe city for visitors. Use normal care with bags in crowded stations. Emergency numbers are in the facts below.

- Heat: July and August are hot and very humid. Drink water often and plan indoor stops in the afternoon.
- Typhoons: most typhoons reach Japan between May and October, with a peak in August and September. They can stop trains and flights, so keep a flexible plan then.

History

Nagoya's story is tied to the Sengoku period, the age of warring lords. The lord Oda Nobunaga was born in this region. In 1560 his small army beat the much larger army of Imagawa Yoshimoto at the Battle of Okehazama, in what is now the Midori Ward of Nagoya. Nobunaga prayed at Atsuta Shrine before the fight. Toyotomi Hideyoshi is said to have been born in Nakamura Park, where a shrine now stands.

After the wars, the Tokugawa family built Nagoya Castle in the early 1600s. Tokugawa Ieyasu's ninth son, Yoshinao, became the first lord of Owari. The family collection that began with him is now in Tokugawa Art Museum.

Air raids in 1945 destroyed the castle keep and the palace. The keep was rebuilt in concrete in 1959. The palace was rebuilt with traditional methods and opened fully in 2018. Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology shows the textile and car industry of the region.

Country facts

Here are the essentials for traveling in Japan:

CURRENCY

JPY ¥

ELECTRICITY



Type A / Type B
100 V

LANGUAGES

Japanese

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Nagoya's Absolute Essentials

Nagoya showcases Japan's industrial evolution and spiritual heritage. This selection features the ancient Atsuta Shrine, housing sacred artifacts, and the Toyota Commemorative Museum, located on the site of the original Toyota factory. Modern landmarks include the Oasis 21 complex and the Nagoya TV Tower in Sakae. The city's maritime and technological prowess is represented by the SCMAGLEV and Railway Park, the Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium, and the Antarctic research ship Fuji. Cultural highlights include the Shirotori Garden and the Aichi Arts Center.





A Atsuta Shrine

Atsuta Shrine is a Shinto shrine traditionally believed to have been established during the reign of Emperor Keikō located in Atsuta-ku,...

(Unnamed Road), Nagoya, Japan (35.12558, 136.90902)

atsutajingu.or.jp



B Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology

The Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology, also known as Toyota Tecno Museum, is a technology museum located in Nishi-ku...

Noritake Shinmachi 4-chome, Nishi-ku 1-35
(35.18257, 136.87648)

Tu–Su 09:30–17:00

tcmit.org/english, 052-551-6115



C Oasis 21

Oasis 21 is a modern facility located adjacent to Nagoya TV Tower in Sakae, Nagoya which was opened to the public in 2002.

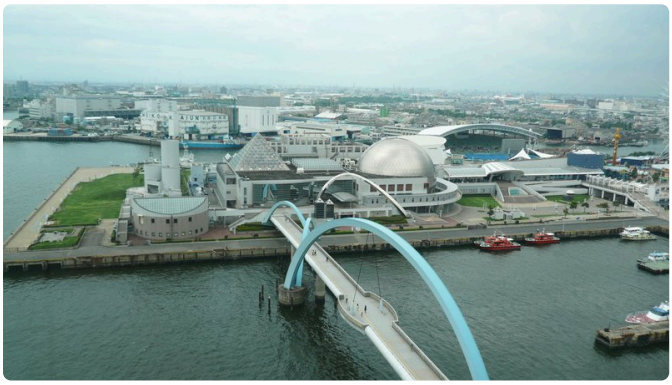
東樓一丁目 11-1, 461-0005 (35.17085, 136.90953)



D Nagoya TV Tower

The symbol of Nagoya from which you can get the best views of the city.

Nagoya, Japan (35.17230, 136.90834)



E Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium

Mysterious beluga whales, easygoing sea turtles, cute penguins and so many more marine animals can be found in this public aquarium.

Japan (35.09097, 136.87803)

Tu–Su 09:30–17:30

nagoyaaqua.jp



F Arako Kannon

Arako Kannon, also known as Jōkai-san Enryū-in Kannon-ji is a Buddhist temple located in Nagoya in central Japan.

Japan (35.13678, 136.85864)



G Shirotori Garden

A vast Japanese-style garden, full of streams and small ponds with flocks of waterbirds that you can feed with your children.

Nagoya, Japan (35.12596, 136.90095)

shirotori-garden.jp/english/index.html



H Antarctic Museum and Former Research Ship Fuji

Permanently moored icebreaker that served as Japan's first Antarctic research vessel from 1965 to 1983. The museum features original cabins, the bridge, and exhibitions detailing the ship's polar expeditions and the daily lives of its crew.

Japan (35.09066, 136.88053)

Tu–Su	09:30–17:00



I SCMAGLEV and Railway Park

The SCMaglev and Railway Park is a railway museum owned by the Central Japan Railway Company in Nagoya, Japan.

Japan (35.04907, 136.85116)

Mo	10:00–17:30
Tu	Closed
We–Su	10:00–17:30

museum.jr-central.co.jp, +81 50 3772-3910



J Aichi Arts Center

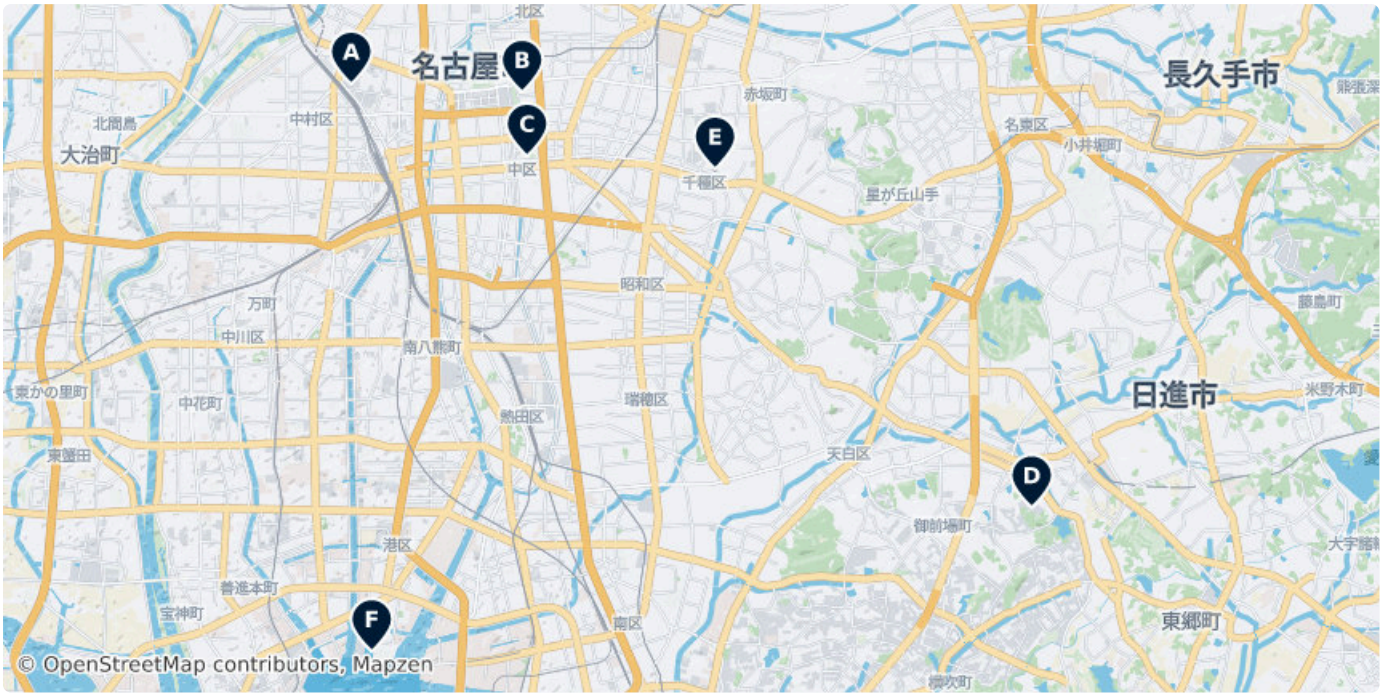
The centre consisting of a museum, a theatre and a library is the main venue for various musical and theatrical performances and attracts...

Nagoya, Japan (35.17089, 136.91131)

www-art.aac.pref.aichi.jp

Editor's Choice: Nagoya Highlights

Nagoya's highlights span industrial heritage, historic architecture, and specialized science. The Toyota Commemorative Museum showcases the evolution of textile machinery and automobile production, while the Neo-Baroque Nagoya City Municipal Archives Museum documents regional history. Cultural venues include the Aichi Arts Center and the Furukawa Art Museum, which houses traditional Japanese crafts. Outdoor and maritime interests are represented by the Nagoya Agricultural Center's livestock facilities and the Antarctic Museum, featuring a permanently moored research icebreaker.





Ⓐ Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology

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Noritake Shinmachi 4-chome, Nishi-ku 1-35
(35.18257, 136.87648)

Tu–Su 09:30–17:00

tcmit.org/english, 052-551-6115



Ⓑ Nagoya City Municipal Archives Museum

Nagoya City Archives is a historic building located in the city of Nagoya, central Japan.

461-0011 名古屋市 (35.18123, 136.91032)

Tu–Su 09:00–17:00

nagoya-info.jp/zhtw/see/facilities/nagoya_city_archives.ht...



C Aichi Arts Center

The centre consisting of a museum, a theatre and a library is the main venue for various musical and theatrical performances and attracts...

Nagoya, Japan (35.17089, 136.91131)

www-art.aac.pref.aichi.jp



D Nagoya Agricultural Center

The Nagoya Agricultural Center is located in Tenpaku Ward in the city of Nagoya, central Japan.

Japan (35.11398, 137.01130)

Tu–Su 09:00–16:30

city.nagoya.jp/kurashi/category/19-8-4-2-2-0-0-0-0-0.html



E Furukawa Art Museum

Established to house the private collection of Tamesaburo Furukawa, this museum displays modern Japanese paintings, ceramics, and handicrafts. The site includes the Tame-saburo Memorial Hall, a traditional Sukiya-style residence and tea house set within a landscaped garden.

Nagoya, Japan (35.16882, 136.94856)

furukawa-museum.or.jp



F Antarctic Museum and Former Research Ship Fuji

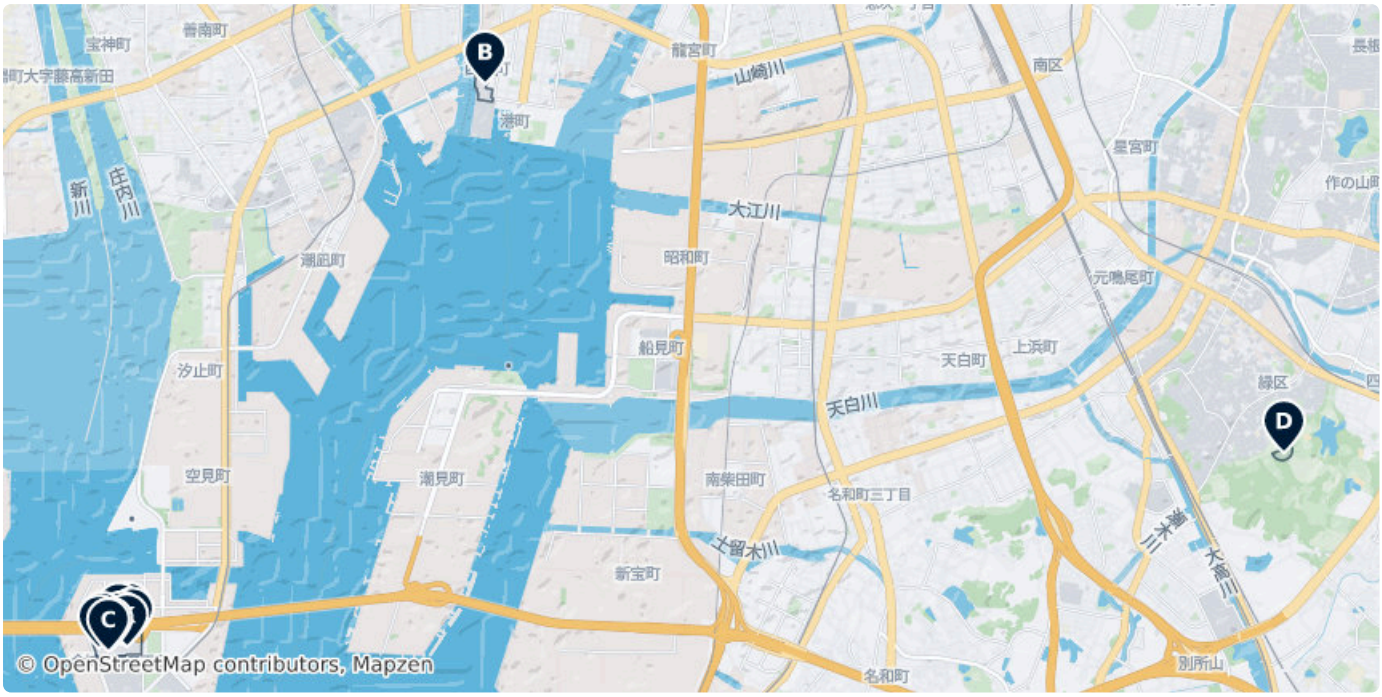
Moored at Nagoya Port, this museum is housed within Japan's first purpose-built Antarctic icebreaker. The ship features preserved living quarters, the medical room, and the bridge, alongside exhibits detailing the history of Japanese polar exploration and research.

Japan (35.09066, 136.88053)

Tu–Su 09:30–17:00

Amusement Parks & Thrills

Nagoya's amusement landscape is headlined by Legoland Japan, which features themed zones like Miniland and interactive rides such as Submarine Adventure and The Dragon. Near the waterfront, Nagoya Port Sea Train Land offers one of the Chubu region's largest Ferris wheels. For nature-themed excitement, Dino Adventure Nagoya provides a walk-through experience with life-sized animatronic dinosaurs set within the forested trails of Odaka Ryokuchi Park.



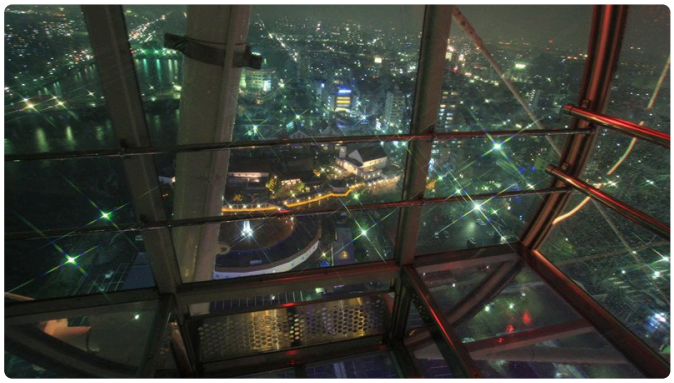


Ⓐ Legoland Japan

Legoland Japan is a theme park in Nagoya, Japan. It opened on April 1, 2017.

Japan (35.05012, 136.84312)

legoland.jp



Ⓑ 名古屋港シートレインランド

Waterfront amusement park featuring an 85-meter-high Ferris wheel, a family coaster, and carnival-style rides. Admission to the grounds is free with pay-per-ride options.

Japan (35.09369, 136.87828)

senyo.co.jp/seatrainland/i

C The Dragon

A steel roller coaster within Legoland Japan that combines an indoor dark ride featuring LEGO-built medieval scenes with a faster outdoor coaster track.

(35.05005, 136.84284)

D ディノアドベンチャー名古屋

A walk-through attraction in Odaka Ryokuchi Park featuring life-sized animatronic dinosaurs positioned along a forest trail.

Japan (35.06532, 136.95341)

E Submarine Adventure

An underwater ride where passengers travel in submarines through a large aquarium containing real sharks, rays, and tropical fish alongside sunken LEGO models.

(35.05125, 136.84382)

F Build+Test

An indoor interactive zone dedicated to building and testing LEGO creations, featuring car racing tracks and earthquake simulation tables.

(35.05087, 136.84511)

G Ninjago

An interactive 4D attraction where riders use hand gestures to battle virtual enemies using elemental powers.

(35.05129, 136.84480)

H パレス・シネマ

A 4D theater screening LEGO-themed films with integrated environmental effects including wind, water, and artificial snow.

(35.05055, 136.84228)

I Miniland

An outdoor exhibit featuring detailed scale replicas of iconic Japanese landmarks, including Nagoya Castle and Tokyo Station, constructed from millions of LEGO bricks.

(35.05059, 136.84410)

J Rescue Academy

A competitive team attraction where participants manually pump fire trucks and use water cannons to extinguish simulated fires.

(35.05029, 136.84197)

K Observation Tower

A 50-meter-high rotating observation deck providing 360-degree views of Legoland Japan, Nagoya Port, and the surrounding city.

(35.05040, 136.84459)

DATA SOURCES

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