

# The 808 Bridges of Naniwa



Bridges Connecting People and the City



Aerial photograph of Nakanoshima

Osaka started as a town which grew from the mouths of rivers such as the Yodo River and Yamato River, and there are a large number of rivers and canals that flow through it. Over the years, as reflected by the expression "The 808 Bridges of Naniwa\*", a vast number of bridges have been constructed in the city. For people living in the merchants' city of Osaka, these bridges have played an important role supporting the daily lives of its citizens and the development of the city.

While the bridges that once supported the business activities of Osaka's merchants have changed in appearance over the years, they are still alive today, and seem to convey the hustle and bustle of earlier days. Osaka's bridges do not simply allow people to cross from one place to another. They connect the past with the present, form part of the city landscape, and play many other roles. They form an indispensable part of the story of "Aquapolis Osaka".

\*Osaka was for a long time known as Naniwa.

## Map of Waterways and the 808 Bridges of Naniwa



**Legend**

- Bridge
- Night-view spot
- Monument
- Wharf
- Park or green space

0m 200m 500m



Osaka City

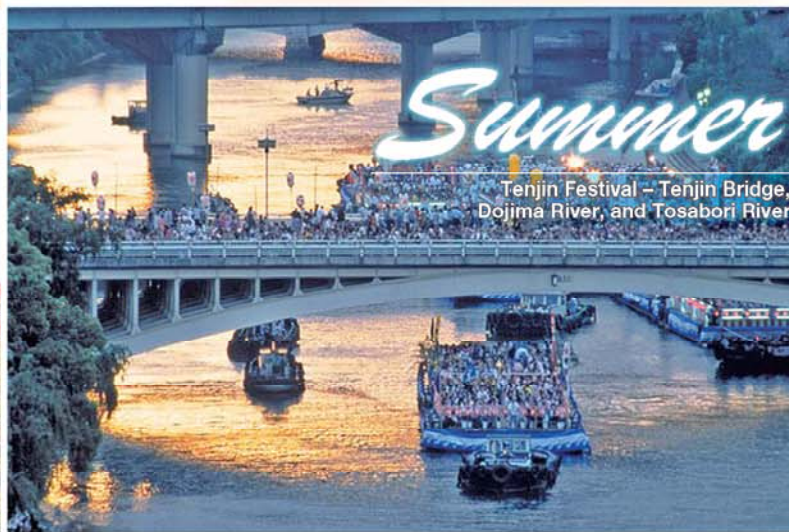
### Information

Osaka City

- Bridge Section, Road Department, Public Works Bureau  
TEL 06-6615-6818 <http://www.city.osaka.lg.jp/kensetsu/>
- Recreation and Tourism Bureau  
TEL 06-6615-0615 <http://www.city.osaka.lg.jp/yutoritomidori/>
- Osaka Municipal Transportation Bureau  
TEL 06-6582-1400 <http://www.kotsu.city.osaka.jp/>
- Osaka Convention and Tourism Bureau  
TEL 06-6282-5900 <http://www.octb.jp/>
- Osaka Visitors' Information Centers  
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Sakuranomiya Park – Genpachi Bridge and Okawa River



Tenjin Festival – Tenjin Bridge, Dojima River, and Tosabori River



Information

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Kyocera Dome Osaka – Iwamatsu Bridge and Shirinashi River

### Bridge-lovers Corner

This and That about Osaka's Bridges

#### Naniwa 808 Bridges

## Lion Bridge

Everybody seems to know  
but nobody knows the real story...

Naniwa Bridge (often misread as "Namba Bridge") is affectionately known as "Lion Bridge" because of the lion statues situated at its four corners.

The lion statues were created by the sculptor Kinichi Amaoka. Why did he choose lions? Some say that he was emulating the design of a bridge in Paris. Some say that the design was inspired by a song composed during the Edo Period. Some even say that the design was inspired by the lions of Tennoji Zoo. There are various theories, but nobody knows for sure. What is more certain, however, is that the lions will continue to watch over people in the future.

## Bridges for All Seasons



Sakuranomiya Park – Kawasaki Bridge and Okawa River

<p><b>03 Nakanoshima Garden Bridge</b></p> <p>With monuments and flowerbeds, this wide pedestrian bridge can be used as a place to rest and gaze at the water surface.</p>	<p><b>04 Oe Bridge</b></p> <p>Together with Yodoya Bridge, designs were sought from the public, and this bridge was ultimately based on Tatsuo Otani's design. Constructed in 1935, it has been designated an important cultural property.</p>	<p><b>05 Suisho Bridge</b></p> <p>The graceful concrete arches of this bridge are illuminated at night to make them even more appealing.</p>
<p><b>07 Nishiki Bridge</b></p> <p>On this bridge, pedestrians can enjoy a "Bridge Gallery" displaying color woodblock prints of old bridges of Osaka. A bridge ranking list is also displayed at the end of the bridge.</p>	<p><b>08 Yodoya Bridge</b></p> <p>It is said that this bridge was originally constructed by the wealthy merchant, "Yodoya", and its current design is based on ideas from the public. Constructed in its current form in 1935, it has been designated an important cultural property.</p>	<p><b>09 Sendannoki Bridge</b></p> <p>It is said that this bridge gets its name from the chinaberry ("sendan") trees that line the roadway across it. At its south end, there is a monument and two earlier generations of main pillars.</p>

<p><b>27 Taisho Bridge</b></p> <p>The design of the railings is inspired by the score of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" and that of the pedestrian sidewalk is based on a piano keyboard and metronomes.</p>	<p><b>28 Iwamatsu Bridge</b></p> <p>Constructed in 1997, the same year as the Osaka Dome, this bridge is based on a design intended to complement the dome. At night, its illuminated figure seems to float in the sky.</p>	<p><b>29 Chiyosaki Bridge</b></p> <p>In the Meiji Period, this bridge could be retracted in order to allow boats to pass, and was also called "Soroban (Abacus) Bridge". It was constructed in its current form in 1927.</p>
<p><b>30 Matsushima Bridge</b></p> <p>Since the Meiji Period, this bridge has shared the history of the Matsushima entertainment district. The current steel Gerber truss bridge was constructed in 1930.</p>	<p><b>31 Showa Bridge</b></p> <p>This arch bridge lies very close to the water surface. Boat passengers must be careful not to bump their heads when passing underneath this bridge, which was constructed in 1932.</p>	<p><b>32 Ajigawa Bridge Monument</b></p> <p>In the Meiji Period, this was the site of a rotating bridge called "Jishakubashi" (Magnet Bridge). Now, this monument is all that remains.</p>