Train Directions from Tokyo Narita Airport to Kashiwanoha-Campus Station

Step 1: Find the "Railways" area in the airport

On the plane, you'll get two forms, one for immigration and one for customs. When you get off the plane you'll first pass through a "guarantine" checkpoint (laugh as you hear the multilingual recording encouraging you to tell an official if you don't feel well), then through

immigration (they'll take one of the forms), and then to the baggage pick-up area. Once you get your bags. you'll pass through a customs checkpoint (they'll take the second form), and then you'll be in Japan! It's amazing that for what must be a big airport, it doesn't feel like a giant place.

You're looking for an escalator and staircase that takes you down one floor. It's basically right in front of vou as vou exit baggage claim, and it looks like this photo.



Step 2: Find the Narita Sky Access "Access Express" (Hokuso Line)

When you get downstairs you'll see that the entrance to the train platforms are all towards the same direction (straight ahead in this photo to the right). There are two train lines: JR Lines on the right and Keisei/Sky Access Lines on the left.

You want the Keisei "Narita Sky Access / Access Express" on the Hokuso Line.

Yes, this is confusing. Every train in Japan is either called "rapid" or "express" or some other confusing variant, so you have to be careful. In the photo below,

you can see three

versions.

Note the Access Express train you want is a Keisei line train, and so the ticket booth and entrance is on the left side. You don't





want JR Line trains which are on the right side. This photo shows the Keisei ticket booth, and just to the right of it, the entrance to the Keisei line platforms. The people at the booth speak English, so you can ask for confirmation of the right platform.



Step 3: Buy a PASMO card

You can ask the

Keisei ticket booth to sell you a ticket on the Sky Access train, with final destination *Kashiwanoha-Campus* (or at least *Minami-Nagareyama*). But, it's better and very easy to buy an electronic "PASMO" card at one of the machines next to the ticket booth. The PASMO (or equivalently Suica) card will gain you access to any train, subway, or bus in Tokyo. You charge the card with cash at these machines and then you swipe the card when you enter and exit the transit system. You don't even have to take it out of your wallet. It's beautiful.

First, find a
PASMO/ticket
machine (there are
some on either side
of the ticket booth).
The screen is
pictured to the
right. Notice and
"touch" the bottomleft button that says
"English"

Next, touch the button that says PASMO and you'll get the screen pictured to the right. You want to choose the top button "PASMO" to buy a Pasmo card

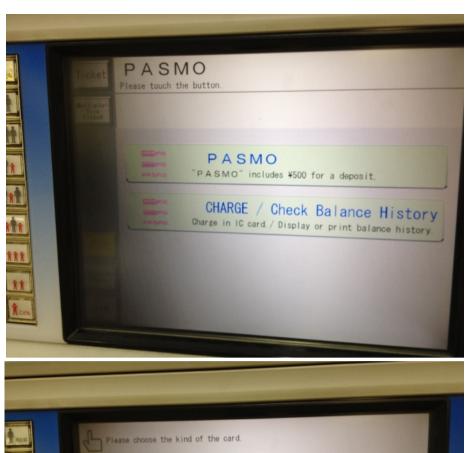


for ¥500.

Later in your visit, you might choose the "CHARGE" button to add more money to your existing card.

The next screen gives you the option of "Nameless Card" or "Named Card." You want "Nameless Card."

Then you get to choose how much cash you want to add to the card. The ¥500 "deposit" will be deducted from this. You'll want at least ¥5000 (which is like \$50), because the trip to Kashiwa alone is something like ¥2200 and as you travel around Tokyo, you'll be surprised how quickly the balance on your card drops. After you touch the amount you're going to charge the card with, you'll need to insert the correct number of bills, and then a brand new PASMO card will pop out. Each person needs their own card and then you're ready to go.







Step 4: Enter the Keisei line and find your platform

Armed with your new PASMO card, you can head off through the entrance of the Keisei line. You'll see these gates with a card reader positioned on the right-hand side. All you have to do is swipe your PASMO card over the reader. you'll hear a happy little beep, the balance on your card will display on a screen, and off you go. I keep my PASMO card in



my wallet and just take my wallet out of my pocket and kind of slap it onto the reader. You can go through basically without breaking stride. If you screw up, the gates (which normally stay open) will close on you and the machine will make a nasty noise. Oh and sometimes the reader says "Suica." Suica and PASMO are interchangeable.

The train platforms are ahead of you and are well signed. You'll want platform 1 "for Hokuso Line, Nippori, Ueno, Oshiage, Toei Asakusa & Keikyu Line." Often (but not always) the "Sky Access" train you want has a destination of Haneda Airport, the other major Tokyo airport.



Step 4: Your route

You will be taking a total of three different trains. Here's how the route breaks down:

| Origin | Transfer at | Line | Time |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---------|
| Narita-Airport | Higashi-Matsudo (after roughly 6 stops) | Narita Sky Access (Access Express / Hokuso Line) | 37 min |
| Higashi-Matsudo | Minami-Nagareyama (3rd stop) | JR <u>Musashino Line</u> (towards Shim-Matsudo, Minami-Urawa & Fuchuhonmachi | 10 min |
| Minami-Nagareyama (Station #10) | Kashiwanoha-Campus (Station #13, 3rd stop on "local service" / 2nd stop on "semi-rapid." Do not take "rapid service") | Tsukuba Express (towards Tsukuba or Moriya) | 7-9 min |

There are signs in English in every station and announcements in English on each train except the JR Musashino Line. The English signs on the station platforms of the Musashino Line can be hard to find while on the train. Minami-Nagareyama is written in Hiragana (usually vertically on posts) as follows: みなみながれやま.

If you have internet access you can get the exact times of the trains and transfers from this <u>website</u>, just put in *Narita-Airport* and *Kashiwanoha-Campus* for your origin and destination, as well as the time you expect to leave.

For the JR Musashino Line at Higashi-Matsudo, you'll have a platform choice to make. You want platform one towards Shim-Matsudo, Minami-Urawa &



Fuchuhonmachi. To confirm, there are signs with all the stations listed and the direction of travel indicated at the base of the stairs. Once you board the Musashino line at Higashi-Matsudo, you'll go 3 stops and get off at Minami-Nagareyama (みなみながれやま).

When you exit the Musashino Line at the Minami-Nagareyama station, you'll actually exit the train system entirely at street level, maybe even see some blue sky. The entrance to the Tsukuba Express train station at Minami-Nagareyama (pictured to the right) is directly in front of you, about 10 meters. You can take any Tsukuba express train in the direction of Tsukuba or Moriya except for the "Rapid Service" -- these are rare but they will not stop at Kashiwanoha-Campus.



Your final destination is No. 13, Kashiwanoha-Campus station. Check out the IPMU webpage to see how to get from the station to IPMU.