



Part

III

EXPO 2025 CHRONOLOGY

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[About the Editing of the EXPO 2025 Chronology]

- The EXPO 2025 Chronology was written by the Chronology Group of the Asia Pacific Institute of Research (APIR).
- The last check date of the following data is December 31, 2025 (exceptions noted).
- EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN is referred to as “Osaka-Kansai Expo” and The Japan Association for the International Exposition, 2025 is referred to as “Expo Association” due to space limitation.
- Kansai is defined as Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nara, and Wakayama prefectures, unless otherwise noted.

From the perspective of Beyond EXPO

1. Movements surrounding Yumeshima development

- In 2011, the bipartisan “International Resort Promotion Parliamentary League” (IR Parliamentary League) announced the “IR Promotion Bill.”
- In March 2016, the government convened the “Tourism Vision Council for Tomorrow’s Japan” (chaired by Prime Minister Abe), setting shared targets of 40 million foreign visitors to Japan by 2020 and 60 million by 2030.
- In August 2017, Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, and the business community formulated the “Yumeshima Urban Development Concept” for the reclaimed land of Yumeshima in Osaka Port. In December 2019, the “Yumeshima Urban Development Basic Policy” was announced, formalizing the plan to create an international tourism hub utilizing the vast, sea-enclosed site (approximately 50 hectares).
- In July 2018, the Integrated Resort Implementation Act was passed and enacted by the Diet. In November of the same year, Osaka was selected to host the 2025 World Expo, accelerating the city’s urban strategy linked to IR attraction (Table 1).
- Construction of the IR complex commenced in April 2025. In May of the same year, the project operator, Osaka IR Co., Ltd., changed its name to MGM Osaka Co., Ltd., aiming to open the world’s highest-standard IR by 2030 (Figure 1).

Table 1 Movements surrounding Yumeshima development

Year	Date	Cabinet	Government/Local Authorities/Businesses	
2011	Aug-24	Noda	IR Parliamentary League announces “Bill on the Promotion of the Development of Integrated Resort Areas (IR Promotion Bill)”	
2015	Dec-4	Abe	The “Bill on the Promotion of the Development of Integrated Resort Areas (IR Promotion Bill)” is submitted to the House of Representatives	
2016	Mar-30		The government formulated the “Tourism Vision Supporting Tomorrow’s Japan” at the Conceptual Meeting	
2017	Apr-1		Osaka Prefecture and City jointly establish the “IR Promotion Bureau.” It will integrate planning, formulation, and coordination for attracting IRs.	
2018	Jul-20		The “IR Implementation Act” (Act on the Development of Integrated Resort Areas) passed and enacted in the House of Councillors plenary session	
2019	Dec-24		Formulation of the “Osaka IR Basic Concept”; Operator Recruitment ⇒ Deadline February 14, 2019 Only the “MGM-Orix Consortium”	
	Dec-25		Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office Special Investigation Department arrested Tsukasa Akimoto, House of Representatives member and Vice-Minister of the Cabinet Office (in charge of IR), on suspicion of bribery.	
2020	Apr-7		Emergency Declaration Issued for 7 Prefectures in Response to Rapid Spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic	
	Dec-18		Cabinet approves basic IR policy. IR opening period revised from “mid-2020s” to “late 2020s”	
2021	Jul-23		Suga	Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games held without spectators after one-year postponement. 206 countries/regions, 11,420 athletes
	Sep-11			Osaka IR Co., Ltd. “MGM-Orix Consortium” selected as operator
	Sep-16	Prefecture and City Decide on “Basic Agreement (Draft) Concerning Development of IR Area” “World’s Largest Urban IR”		
	Oct-1	Yokohama City Mayor-elect Yamanaka withdraws Yamashita Pier IR bid and abolishes IR Promotion Office in policy statement		
2022	Apr-20	Kishida	Wakayama Prefectural Assembly Rejects “Wakayama Marina City” Candidate Site by Majority Vote	
Apr-27	Government Approves Osaka IR Plan: “Development Plan for the Osaka Yumeshima Area Integrated Resort Zone”			
2023	Sep-22		Government Approves Implementation Agreement for Osaka Yumeshima Area IR Development Plan; Opening Targeted for Autumn 2030	
	Dec-27	Government Rejects Nagasaki Prefecture’s “Kyushu/Nagasaki IR” Area Development Plan for Huis Ten Bosch Adjacent Site		
2024	Aug-5	Ishiba	Expo Association requests Osaka Prefecture and City to suspend IR construction during Expo period; negotiations underway. BIE Secretary General also expresses reservations	
	Sep-10		Osaka IR Co., Ltd. confirms with Osaka Prefecture and City the expiration of the termination clause, a key business premise	
2025	Feb-18	Ishiba	Osaka Prefecture and City Publish Basic Plan for Expo Site Redevelopment (Circuit/Water Park)	
	Apr-13		The Osaka-Kansai Expo opens. 158 countries and regions, plus 7 international organizations participate (184 days until October 13).	
	Apr-24		Groundbreaking ceremony for IR at Yumeshima; plans to open the world’s highest-standard growth-oriented IR around autumn 2030	
	May-1		Osaka IR Co., Ltd. changed its name to MGM Osaka Co., Ltd. to maximize utilization of U.S. MGM’s expertise	
	Oct-13		Osaka-Kansai Expo concludes after 184-day run. Attendance: 25.58 million. Operating surplus reaches up to JPY 37 billion.	



Figure 1

Location within Yumeshima and layout within the Osaka IR area

Source : Prepared by APIR based on press releases from various sources

From the perspective of Beyond EXPO

1. Movements surrounding Yumeshima development(Continued)

- Table 2 organizes the development facilities (1–19) outlined in the “Plan for the Development of the Osaka Yumeshima Area Integrated Resort Zone” (revised April 2025) into “MICE” functions, ‘Casino’ functions, and “Service” functions.
- The core IR functions (1, 2) are Meetings, Exhibitions/Events, and Conventions. They occupy 9% of the total floor area (770,525 m²) and attract international events.
- The Incentive Travel facilities (3–18), which provide hospitality and various activities to visitors, account for 51% of the total floor area. The “MGM Osaka” and other “Accommodation Facilities” (3–5) constitute the largest function, representing 38% of the total floor area.
- The “Attraction Enhancement Facilities” (11–15) and “Customer Transportation Facilities” (16–18) are unique features of the Osaka IR, unparalleled in overseas IRs.

Table 2 Osaka IR: Overview and Scale of MICE Functionality and Individual Facilities

	Facility Name	Overview	Features	Capacity (persons) Usage Scenarios	Provisional Total Floor Area (m ²)
Meeting • Convention • Exhibition/Event				Area: 68,330 m² / 9%	
International Conferences Business	1	International Conference Hall	Grand Room: Maximum 6,821 people 9 Types of Halls: Total Maximum 6,824 people	Japan's largest capacity for large, medium, and small meeting rooms, attracting diverse events with value added services	13,645 36,875
	2	Exhibitions, Events, Expos	Exhibition Hall (20,000 m ² , capacity 20,000) Foyer, Food & Beverage, Business	Supports diverse events, enhancing incentives for organizers and visitors	10,000 31,455
Incentive Travel + Guest Activities + On-site Experiences				Area: 389,663 m² / 51%	
Accommodations	3	MGM Osaka	Luxury, 1,830 rooms Entertainment hotel	Shopping, spa, gym, pool, art exhibitions	10,590 233,189
	4	MGM Osaka Villa	Super Luxury, 10 rooms VIP Luxury Hotel	Private Garden & Pool Dedicated Staff, Exclusive Lobby	66 5,529
	5	MUSUBI Hotel	Upper Upscale, 660 rooms Multi-generational aqua resort H	Shopping, Gym, Large Bathhouse	3,876 50,719
Open Area	6	Yumeshima Theater	Elevating, Impressive Exterior Hospitality for the Affluent	Global content offerings VIPs, MICE attendees, diverse clientele	3,500 13,338
	7	Luxury Retail Retail Facilities	Symbolic, Impressive Design Luxury Harmonizing with Art	World-class, high-end brands Offering affluent shoppers a fulfilling retail experience	6,063 49,472
	8	Retail for all visitors Retail facilities	Unified interior and exterior design Conveniently located for easy access to other facilities	Osaka/Kansai souvenirs, daily necessities Diverse merchandise catering to all visitors' needs	83 415
	9	Food and beverage facilities	Local/Global Partner Dining Options	Catering to diverse clientele including global foodies, affluent individuals, business travelers, and families	2,365 8,247
	10	Dining facilities Night entertainment	Jazz clubs, supper clubs, bar alleys, etc.	Providing richly entertaining culinary experiences within the nightlife scene	4,231
OsakaIR Attraction Enhancement Facility	11	Kansai Art & Culture Museum	Exterior complementing the ocean scenery Facing the "Garden of Bonds" with art exhibitions	Gallery, retail Hosting diverse events	123 887
	12	Japan Food Pavilion	Participation by Osaka/Kansai food-related companies Collaboration with local chefs and restaurants	Food service, events, promotions Developing talent through OJT	1,450 8,220
	13	Garden Theater	World-renowned artist collectives Traditional performing arts groups and other content	Participatory Experiences, Events & Promotions Utilizing MGM's Know-How to Develop Talent	400 1,018
	14	Kansai Japan House	Located along the primary visitor flow path in collaboration with the main guest facility	Retail, cafes, workshops, information dissemination, A facility for craft and cultural experiences unique to travel destinations	101 505
	15	Sando Experience Studio (Traditional Culture Exhibition)	Exterior featuring "Japanese-style" materials Communicating Japanese culture to foreigners	Participatory experiences, events, and promotions Providing accessible opportunities to experience traditional arts	139 520
OsakaIR Passenger facilities	16	Kansai Tourism Center	Showcase for tourism content Concierge	Video, Regional, Pop-up Face-to-face/AI Travel Consultation (VIP Support)	151 758
	17	Bus Terminal	Passenger Departure (Sightseeing/ Destinations)	Express Buses, Sightseeing Tour Buses, Group Buses, etc. Departures/Arrivals	138 11,284
	18	Marine Terminal	Passenger Departure (Sightseeing/ Destinations)	Cruise ships, high-speed vessels, etc. Docking, departure/arrival	66 1,331
Gaming				Area: 65,116 m² / 8%	
Casino	19	Gaming-related Inside entry/exit gate area	Approx. 470 table games, approx. 6,400 electronic games Gaming Area: 23,115m ²	Mass/Premium/VIP game floors Service bars (food/beverage) located throughout	11,500 65,166
				Subtotal (excluding service yard) 523,159	
Service Yard				Area: 347,366 m² / 32%	
Service	20	Parking	Roofed, designed to harmonize with surrounding facilities	Available to all visitors using each facility Signage installed for smooth guidance	8,753 110,989
	21	Common Backyard Energy Center	Landscape-conscious design and placement Employee-friendly layout design	Backyard functions for each facility, Separated from visitor flow paths, accommodating employee movement	136,377
				Total 73,009 523,159	

Source: Excerpt from the "Plan for the Development of the Osaka Yumeshima Area Integrated Resort Zone"

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From the perspective of Beyond EXPO

2. Trends in Large-Scale Hotel Construction : Change in Hotel Openings

- Looking at the number of new large hotel openings in the Kansai region based on the selection criteria outlined in the “Introduction,” a total of 100 hotels opened between 2016 and 2030 (15 years). There were two peaks: 14 hotels in 2020 and 13 hotels in 2024 (Table 3).
- By prefecture, Osaka prefecture (49 establishments) and Kyoto prefecture (33 establishments) together account for 82% (82 establishments). In Hyogo prefecture, six establishments opened over the five-year period from 2026 to 2030, bringing the total to 12 establishments (12%), indicating a rapid increase in construction investment.
- By domestic and overseas hotel brands, domestic brands peaked at 10 properties in 2020, accounting for 67% (41 out of 61 properties) through 2023. Overseas brands peaked at 7.5 properties in 2024, accounting for 54% (21 out of 39 properties) since 2024 (Table 4).
- By accommodation grade, until 2023, reasonably priced properties (A and B grades) accounted for 77% (47/61 properties). However, from 2024 onward, high-grade properties (S and H grades) constituted the majority at 69% (27/39 properties), indicating a trend toward higher value-added new hotels and diversification among guests (Table 5).

Table 3

Change in New Large-Scale Hotel Openings in Kansai: Prefectural Changes, 2016–2030

(Number of properties)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total	Share
Osaka		3	3	7	6	3	2	6	6	3	2	1		3	4	49	49.0%
Kyoto	1	2	2	4	5	4	5	1	4		4		1			33	33.0%
Hyogo			1		2	1	1		1		1	1		3	1	12	12.0%
Nara					1			1	1		1				1	4	4.0%
Shiga									1							1	1.0%
Total	1	5	6	11	14	8	8	8	13	3	8	2	1	6	6	100	

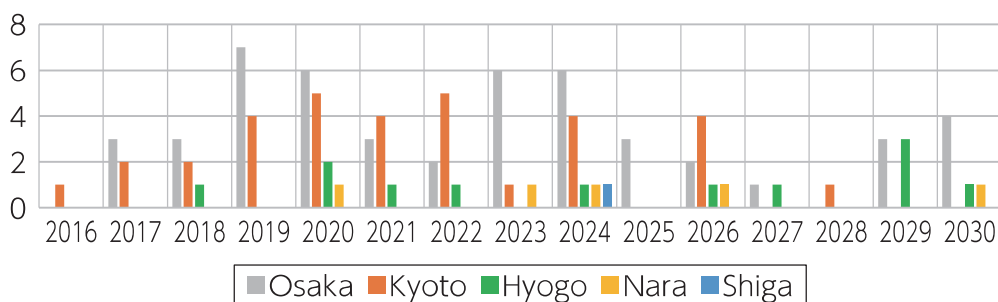
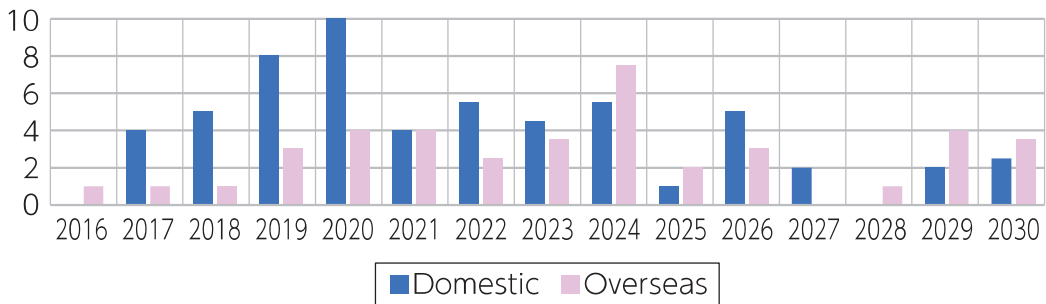


Table 4

Change by Hotel Brand Opening: Domestic/Foreign: 2016–2030

(Number of properties)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
Domestic		4	5	8	10	4	5.5	4.5	5.5	1	5	2		2	2.5	59
Overseas	1	1	1	3	4	4	2.5	3.5	7.5	2	3		1	4	3.5	41
Total	1	5	6	11	14	8	8	8	13	3	8	2	1	6	6	100



Note: Double brands are counted as 0.5

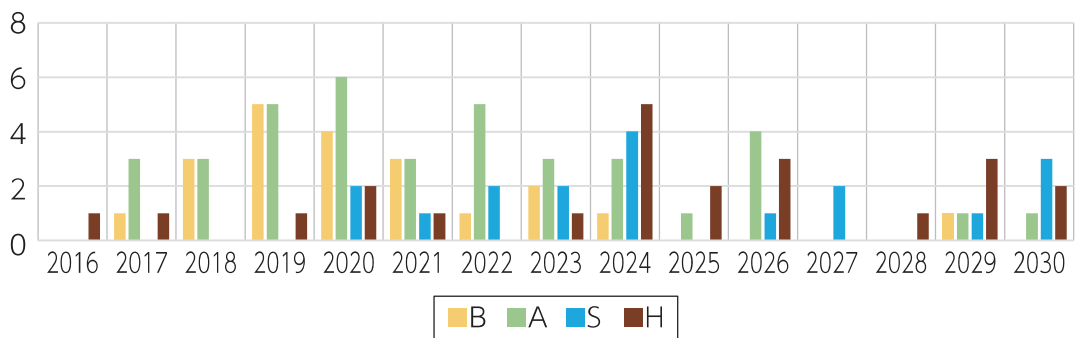
Table 5

Change in New Hotel Openings by Accommodation Grade: 2016–2030

(Number of properties)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
B		1	3	5	4	3	1	2	1					1		21
A		3	3	5	6	3	5	3	3	1	4			1	1	38
S					2	1	2	2	4		1	2		1	3	18
H	1	1		1	2	1		1	5	2	3		1	3	2	23
Total	1	5	6	11	14	8	8	8	13	3	8	2	1	6	6	100

Grade: "B" around 10,000 JPY~, "A" around 30,000 JPY~, "S" around 50,000 JPY~, "H" around 100,000 JPY~ (per night per person)



Source : Prepared by APIR based on press releases from various sources

From the perspective of Beyond EXPO

2. Trends in Large-Scale Hotel Construction : Hotel Investment Exceeding 14 JPY Billion

- From 2024 to 2030, 16 large-scale properties with estimated construction costs exceeding 14 JPY billion will open (**Table 6**). By domestic and overseas hotel brand, foreign brands (including dual brands) account for 81% (13 out of 16 properties).
- Major hotels opened in succession to coincide with the Osaka-Kansai Expo opening in April 2025. Four hotels (1,460 rooms total) opened in Grand Green Osaka and JP Tower near JR Osaka Station, and APA Hotel & Resort Osaka Namba Station Tower (2,055 rooms, the largest in Kansai) opened near JR Namba Station.
- By 2030, three accommodation facilities (totaling 2,500 rooms) operated by MGM Osaka will open in conjunction with the launch of the Osaka IR in the Yumeshima district. Also that same year, two facilities will open in the 40-story Osaka Marubiru building, which is currently undergoing reconstruction

Table 6 Construction Project Cost (Estimated): Over 14 JPY billion Opening Year Sequence: 2024–2030

Opening Date	Hotel Name	Brand	Grade	Operator	ManagementStyle	Pref.	Rooms	Property Introduction
Jul 2024	The Osaka Station Hotel, Autograph Collection	JP/US	S	JR West Hotels / Marriott International	Double-brand	Osaka	418	The concept is "The Osaka Time." Named "Osaka Station Hotel," the new brand from JR West Hotels, it stands on the site of the original Osaka Station. This marks the fourth Autograph Collection property in Japan under Marriott International.
Sep 2024	Canopy by Hilton Osaka Umeda	US	S	Hilton / UK Hotel Management	Management contract method	Osaka	308	Hilton's new brand "Canopy" offers a neighborhood-like space where you can relax and recharge. It provides simple service and comfortable spaces. Located on the upper floors of the North District complex. 7 minutes north of JR Osaka Station.
Sep 2024	Hilton Kyoto	US	S	Hilton / Kyoto Kawaramachi Sanjo Hotel	Management contract method	Kyoto	315	Kyoto SYNAPSE connects guests with the city's diverse charms. The building exterior embodies "Kyoto's profound elegance," while the interior features "ORIMONO (textiles)" as its theme. 6 minutes from Keihan Sanjo Station.
Oct 2024	Sanctuary Court Lake Biwa – Venetian Modern Resort	JP	H	Resorttrust	Owned and operated	Shiga	167	The lakeside concept on the western shore of Lake Biwa is "Venetian Modern." A members-only resort like a water palace, where vast water features and the lake itself become one. All suites, lake view. 10 minutes by car from JR Takashima Station.
Dec 2024	APA Hotel & Resort Osaka-Namba Station Tower	JP	B	APA Hotels	Owned and operated	Osaka	2,055	APA Hotel, West Japan's tallest tower with the most guest rooms. Aiming to become a new landmark in the Namba area as an "urban resort" where guests can enjoy their stay with top-floor restaurants, a pool, and more. 3 minutes from JR Namba Station.
Mar 2025	Hotel Hankyu Respire Osaka	JP	A	Hankyu Hanshin Hotels	Lease	Osaka	482	The company's "Respia" brand, enhanced with "GRAN" meaning "grand," creates an upscale hotel where guests experience the comfort of nature and tranquility within the city, combined with sophisticated elegance. South District East Wing. 3 minutes north of JR Osaka Station.
Apr 2025	Waldorf Astoria Osaka	US	H	Hilton / UK Hotel Management	Management contract method	Osaka	252	Waldorf Astoria, Hilton's premier luxury hotel brand, promises personalized service and an uncompromising commitment to culinary excellence. Located on the upper floors of the South District West Wing complex. 4 minutes from JR Osaka Station.
May 2025	Patina Osaka	SG	H	Capella Group (UD Hospitality Management)	Management contract method	Osaka	221	Capella Hotel G Brand "Patina" Opens Its Second Location Worldwide. A new-generation lifestyle hotel infusing unique sensibility and design into a location steeped in the history of Osaka Castle and Naniwa Palace. 5 minutes from Tanimachi 4-chome Station.
Mar 2026	Capella Kyoto	SG	H	Capella Group (UD Hospitality Management)	Management contract method	Kyoto	92	Capella makes its Japan debut, offering world-class hospitality. Located on Omiya-dori Street in the Miyagawa-cho entertainment district. An integrated development featuring a hotel, kaburenjo theater, and community facilities. Creating "new shared value." 4 minutes from Keihan Shijo Station.
May 2029	InterContinental Hotel Osaka Bay USJ (Tentative Name)	GB	H	IHG Hotels & Resorts	Management contract method	Osaka	244	Japan's first IHG triple-brand development. First foreign hotel brand in the USJ area. Largest mega-development around USJ. Second InterContinental Hotel in Osaka. 8 minutes from JR "Universal City" and "Sakurajima" stations.
May 2029	Kimpton Osaka Bay USJ (Tentative Name)	GB	S	IHG Hotels & Resorts	Management contract method	Osaka	246	Japan's first IHG three-brand development. First foreign brand in the USJ area. Largest mega-development around USJ. Kimpton brand's second entry in Japan. 8 minutes from JR "Universal City" and "Sakurajima" stations.
May 2029	Holiday Inn Osaka Bay USJ (Tentative Name)	GB	A	IHG Hotels & Resorts	Management contract method	Osaka	327	Japan's first IHG three-brand development. First foreign brand in the USJ area. Largest mega-development around USJ. Holiday Inn brand's second entry into Osaka. 8 minutes from JR "Universal City" and "Sakurajima" stations.
Jun 2029	(Name TBD) International Luxury Hotel		S	(Name TBD) JR Sannomiya New Station Building	Management contract method	Hyogo	250	We aim to create a hotel where guests can experience Kobe's diverse culture, featuring high-quality, sophisticated guest rooms and lobby spaces, alongside collaborations with food, art, and music events. Directly connected to JR Sannomiya Station.
Jul 2030	MGM Osaka / MGM Osaka Villas	US	H	MGM Resorts International	Owned and operated	Osaka	1,840	Enhances the overall brand value and appeal of Osaka IR, contributing to longer stays. Located in the main tower. Overlooking the "Garden of Connections." Villas feature dedicated butlers for affluent guests. 10 minutes from Yumeshima subway station.
Jul 2030	MUSUBI Hotel	JP/US	S	MGM Resorts International/ ORIX Hotel M.C	Owned and operated	Osaka	660	Enhancing the overall brand value and appeal of Osaka IR, contributing to longer stays. Japanese traditional design interiors, room types for families, groups, MICE participants, and affluent guests. 10 minutes from Yumeshima Subway Station.
Sep 2030	(Name TBD) Osaka Marubiru Tower		H	(Name TBD) Daiwa House Industry	Management contract method	Osaka	100	A New Landmark—A Symbolic Tree for Urban Regeneration. Attracting luxury hotels, creating new appeal and value through cultural functions, lodging facilities, and innovation hubs. 5 minutes from JR Osaka Station.

Note: Grade (per night per person): "B" around 10,000 JPY~, "A" around 30,000 JPY~, "S" around 50,000 JPY~, "H" around 100,000 JPY~

Operating Structure: **[Direct Ownership and Management]**, **[Lease/Rental]**, **[Management Contract (MC)]**, **[Double Branding, etc.]**

Country Code: "JP" Japan, "US" USA, "SG" Singapore, "TH" Thailand, "HK" Hong Kong, "CA" Canada

Source: Prepared by APIR based on press releases from various sources

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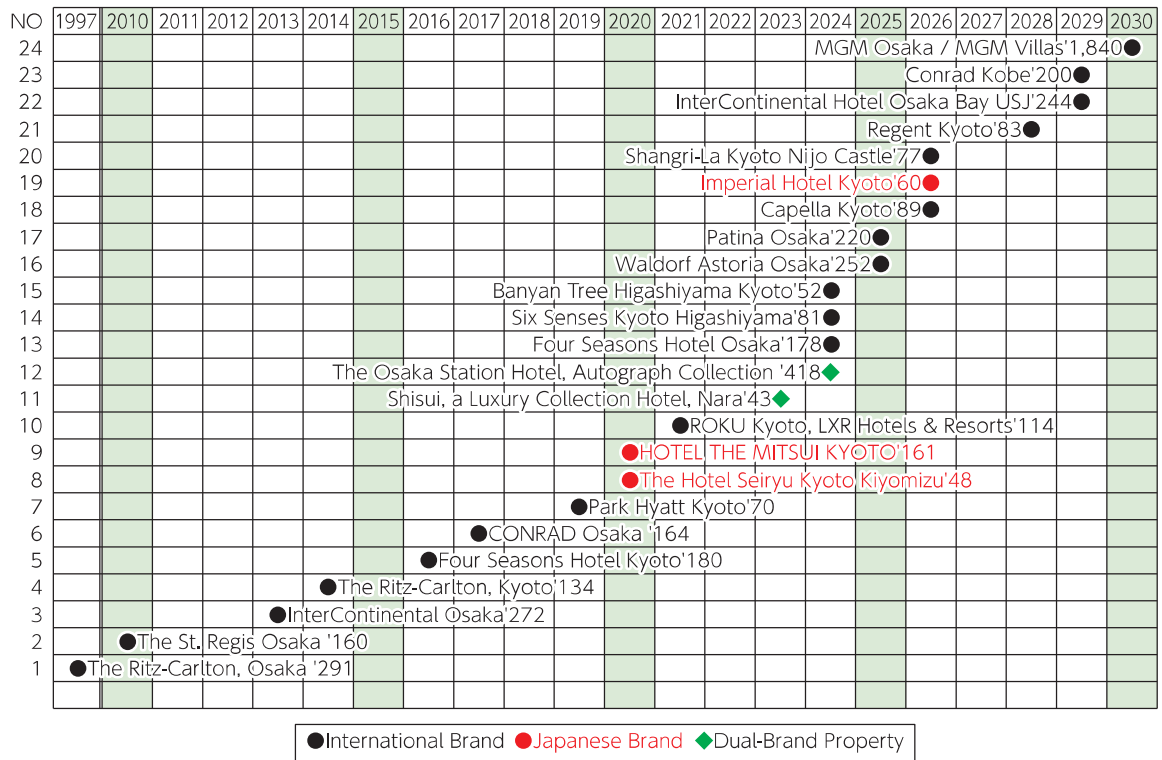
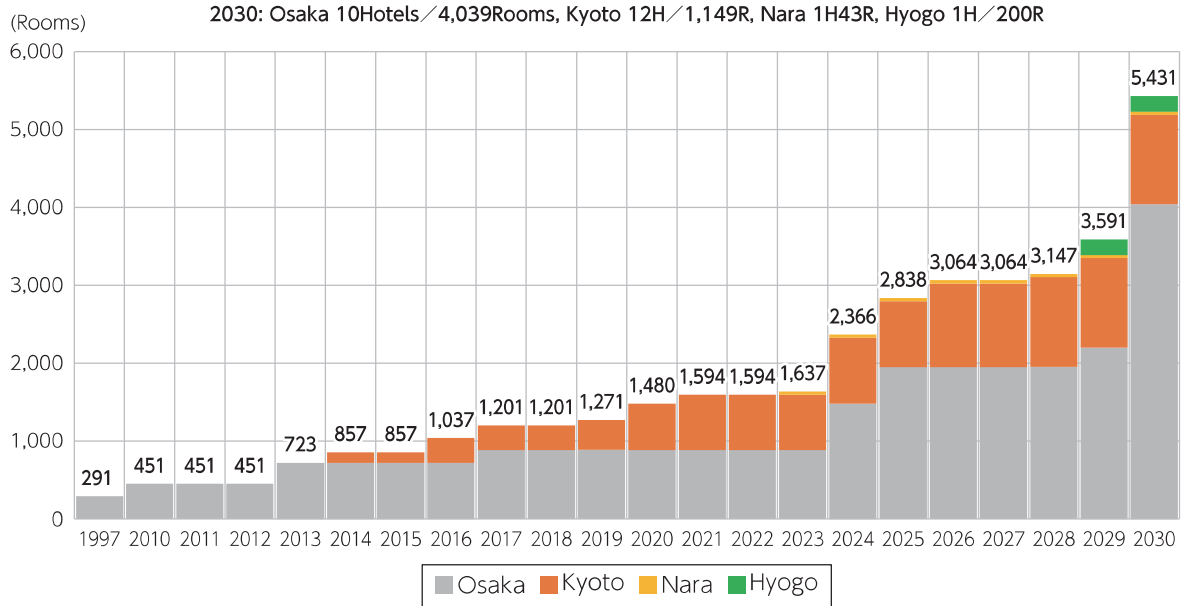
From the perspective of Beyond EXPO

2. Trends in Large-Scale Hotel Construction : Examples of High Value-Added Transformation

- Table 7 shows the prefectural changes in the number of openings and total rooms for luxury properties (generally JPY 100,000 or more per room per night) among large hotels. As of 2010, the cumulative total was 2 properties (451 rooms), but by 2030, this had increased to 24 properties (5,431 rooms), representing more than a twelvefold increase in both metrics over the 20-year period.
- In 2016, against the backdrop of the government's target of attracting 60 million foreign visitors to Japan by 2030, hotel construction became active in the Kansai region. Since then, construction plans for foreign brands targeting affluent inbound tourists have accelerated, particularly in Kyoto City and Osaka City.
- Since 2024, the opening of large-scale properties targeting affluent clientele has become prominent. While Osaka, Kobe, and Nara were considered to have fewer luxury hotels compared to major Asian cities, foreign brands are now expanding into these areas at a pace similar to Kyoto.
- In the large-scale hotel business, it takes at least five years to open a property, and operators launch business plans with an eye on lodging demand more than 20 years into the future after opening. Each hotel competes with unique value-added services, aiming to attract long-stay guests. They pass costs onto lodging fees to enhance profitability and address soaring construction and labor costs.

Table 7

Kansai Luxury Hotel Opening Years and Room Count Changes (1997–2030)



Note: This applies to properties with nightly rates generally exceeding JPY 100,000 per night, excluding small-scale properties (fewer than 40 rooms).
 Source: Prepared by APIR based on press releases from various sources

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