

Shinkansen

The Shinkansen high-speed rail system is one of the prides of Japan. Shinkansen – also called the “bullet train” – means “new artery”, and the system was opened in 1964, just before the Tokyo Olympics that year. Despite billions of journeys, the Shinkansen rapid transit system has never had a fatal accident. Safety is absolute, regardless of earthquakes or tsunamis, because it has a wholly separate track without intersections with other trains and is equipped with an advanced train control system that can automatically calculate and adjust speeds to prevent the possibility of a collision.

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Shinkansen’s maximum speed is 320 km/h, and the carriages are sealed to prevent changes in air pressure when entering tunnels. Although necessarily slower than airlines, the Shinkansen has the advantage of being predictable and convenient. Shinkansen's punctuality is measured in seconds, even in the event of an earthquake. Its customers do not have to wait as long as when flying and are rarely delayed. A Shinkansen train can also carry more than 1,300 passengers – much more than any aircraft. Passengers only need to buy a ticket, arrive at the correct platform, and wait to board the train.

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How fast can the Shinkansen train travel?

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Why are the carriages sealed?

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How many people can travel on each train?