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**001 Bar**  
**Dive into the underground**  
 Beloved by artists and musicians, the Namba area's centre for counter-culture and underground movements is a jumble of small bars, galleries and the like, rivaling Shinjuku's Golden Gate both in terms of scale and quirkiness.  
 Misono 4-C

**002 Art**  
**Appreciate Far Eastern pottery**  
 Nakanoshima is home to a multitude of museums, including this one housing around 6,000 pieces of pottery mainly from Korea and China. The world-renowned collection of East Asian ceramics is particularly plentiful, and is counted among the best of its kind anywhere.  
 The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka 2-C

**004 Sightseeing**  
**Gaze out over a symbol of Osaka**  
 The 1970 Osaka World's Fair was a turning point in Japan's modern history, and this spacious park serves as a reminder of that epoch-making event. Check out the Japanese garden and the National Museum of Ethnology, or just take in the majesty of Taro Okamoto's 70m-tall 'Tower of the Sun'.  
 Expo'70 Commemorative Park 1-D

**003 Leisure**  
**Soak in cultured surroundings**  
 Built in 1937, this public bathhouse isn't what you'd call stylish – there's a Statue of Liberty on the roof, mind you – but offers a wonderfully down-to-earth soaking experience. Note that in Kansai, 'onsen' refers to public baths in general, whether they use actual hot spring water or not.  
 Gengashira Onsen 4-A



**005 Bar**  
**Kick back with tunes at the bar**  
 Those looking for a laidback spot to enjoy music over drinks will do well to head for Higashi-Shinsaibashi, home to this comfy joint where analogue records are played deep into the night. Entrance is free, except on special gig nights.  
 Cinematek Sateen 3-B

**006 Sightseeing**  
**Tour Japan's premier Koreatown**  
 Still Japan's largest Koreatown, Ikuno has attracted innovators and skilled craftsmen from the Continent since ancient times. The scores of yakiniku eateries and other restaurants found here make a major contribution to Osaka's culinary diversity.  
 Ikuno Koreatown 4-A

**007 Shopping**  
**Discover the sound of the city**  
 You're bound to run into a local musician or three at Osaka's finest record shop, where international favourites and up-and-coming indie artists from Kansai are generally given equal exposure.  
 Fake Records 3-B

**008 Takeaway**  
**Chow down on a glorious bento**  
 It's an open secret that rich shops make the best bento lunches. The Makunouchi Bento at this rustic market combines grilled fish, tempura, stewed veg, pickles and more for a well-balanced deal that's also big on flavour.  
 Enmusubi 4-D



**010 Accommodation**  
**Sleep in the heart of old-school Osaka**  
 Give up staying at a fancy hotel for a bed on the eastern side of Osaka Castle, where the spirit of the good old days lives on. Midoriya, housed in a renovated Japanese-style home, is traditional in all but one sense: the toilets are Western-style.  
 Guest House Midoriya 4-A



**011 Restaurant**  
**Slurp futuristic soba**  
 Not all soba restaurants are traditional – this one offers handmade noodles in a shop with metallic decor and synth-heavy music. It's usually open till late, but the somewhat moody owner sometimes decides to close spontaneously – visiting before 10pm is your safest bet.  
 Denki soba 2-C



**009 Shopping**  
**Travel back to the future of furniture**  
 Postmodern kitsch meets '60s pop at this retro-futuristic home decor store where you just might run into a chair or table by Shiro Kuramata, one of postwar Japan's most innovative designers.  
 Spiral in the Trip 3-B



**012 Shopping**  
**Bag some anpan for the road**  
 Before heading out to Kyoto or Kobe from Umeda Station, stop by this small anpan (sweet bread roll) shop found at the entrance to the station's restaurant street. In addition to the orthodox ben pastie-filled version, they sell buns flavoured with the likes of chestnut, egg yolk and 'salt butter'.  
 Kokoro ni Amai Anpanya 1-B

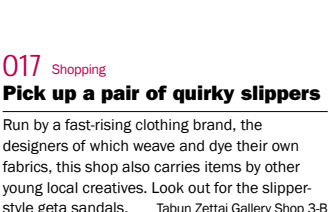
**013 Shopping**  
**Stock up on explosives**  
 Toying to shoot a few fireworks? Get your bangers and butterflies at this shop that keeps them in stock even during the off-season, and make sure to also check out the many shops selling old toys, dolls and dagashi (cheap snacks).  
 Matchamachi-suji Shopping Arcade 3-C

**016 Restaurant**  
**Taste the essence of Osaka's culinary culture**  
 The Osaka foodie scene is more than just takoyaki (deep-fried octopus balls): at refined washoku restaurant Yu, the city's proud tradition of adapting to customers' diverse tastes is carried on with pride, ensuring a veritable feast every time.  
 Naniwa Ryori Yu 2-C

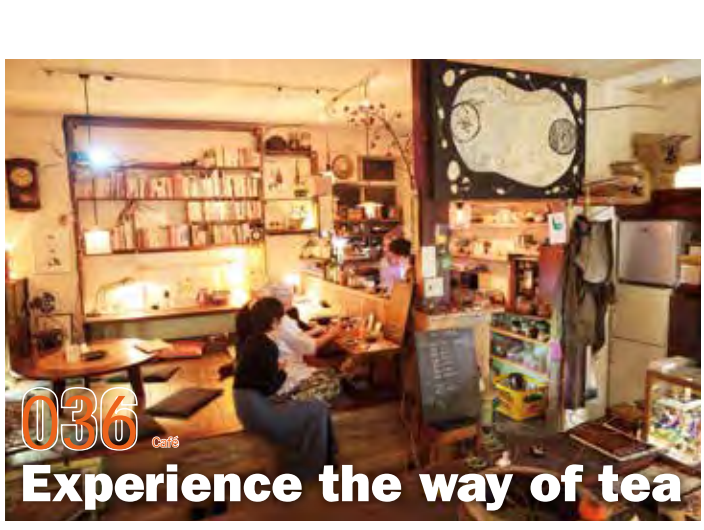
**014 Café**  
**Take a coffee break by the water**  
 Sip quality Joe on the terrace at this riverside café that stands out like a sore thumb amongst office blocks. You won't be able to miss it – or its inviting aromas.  
 Moto Coffee 2-C



**017 Shopping**  
**Pick up a pair of quirky slippers**  
 Run by a fast-rising clothing brand, the designers of which weave and dye their own fabrics, this shop also carries items by other young local creatives. Look out for the slipper-style geta sandals.  
 Tabun Zettai Gallery Shop 3-B



**015 Restaurant**  
**Bite into the finest beef in Japan**  
 Kobe, Yonezawa, Matsusaka – luxurious wagyu is in parade at this unpretentious yakiniku joint near Naniwa Airport. Selecting only the finest and freshest pieces of meat, Sashi no Hana also rules in the side menu and sake categories.  
 Sashi no Hana 1-C



**036 Café**  
**Experience the way of tea**  
 A café during the day, a bar at night, and a tea store around the clock, Yuion occupies a single room in an old building and is even used as a gallery sometimes. The superb tea comes from Kyoto's Uji – get a taste for it at one of the shop's tea ceremony 'experiences'.  
 Yuion Chaho 3-B

**037 Restaurant**  
**Feel the essence of Japan – in its noodles**  
 Udon and Osaka are virtually synonymous, and at the venerable Usamitei you can taste the city's signature noodles in nabe form, served with egg, mushrooms, conger eel and even rice. In business for over a century, this small eatery lets you sample everyday eats enjoyed by the Japanese of old.  
 Usamitei Matsubaya 3-B

**039 Shopping**  
**Dig for finds in hip surroundings**  
 In recent years, the retro residential streets of Nakazakicho have been enlivened by an influx of young people opening cafés and shops in the area. The Sakura Building is a neighbourhood landmark and houses an interesting bundle of stores dealing in secondhand clothing, self-published magazines and the like.  
 Nakazakicho Sakura Building 1-C



**040 Restaurant**  
**Breathe fire**  
 If the city itself isn't stimulating enough for you, head straight for this watering hole that prides itself on diabolically spicy eats, from organ meat stew to fried rice. Do take care though – the grub can be straight up dangerous for a first-timer.  
 Karamongya Gochin 3-B

**038 Restaurant**  
**Fill up for the day**  
 Even the ultra-flashy decor won't be able to distract you from the ginormous portions of rice and sides served at this down-to-earth teishoku-ya (set meal shop). Finish a large-sized lunch here and you might want to consider a competitive eating career.  
 Chomeshi Asachan 4-C



**018 Restaurant**  
**Eat your veggies under the open sky**  
 Vegan and with no white sugar, additives or GMOs, the veg-heavy fare at Paprika is uber healthy and tastes even better when enjoyed on the terrace. Chinese-style vegan dishes are available if you book ahead.  
 Paprika Shokudo Vegan 3-B



**019 Shopping**  
**Buy a spatula in a bookstore**  
 Despite the name, this fun bookshop in trendy Amerika-mura is everything but ordinary: imported fashion mags line the shelves, and practically all titles on sale can be browsed at the basement café before buying them. There are also sections for kitchen supplies, stationery and other knickknacks.  
 Standard Bookstore 4-B



**020 Sightseeing**  
**Flip pages in a historical hall**  
 The oldest public library still in operation in Japan, Nakanoshima is appropriately imposing from the outside and also boasts a grand interior, including a gorgeous spiral staircase.  
 Osaka Prefectural Nakanoshima Library 2-B

**021 Sightseeing**  
**Pray to a bone Buddha**  
 Found next to Tennoji Park, Ishinji is famed for its Buddha statues made from powderedised human bones – a unique and still ongoing custom. Believers from all over the country contribute cremated remains to the temple, where a new statue is sculpted once every ten years.  
 Ishinji Temple 4-D

**022 Restaurant**  
**Snack on dirt-cheap skewers**  
 Stretch your legs with a walk around the mysterious Nodahanshin area, where this kushigae (fried vegetable and meat skewers) specialist offers greasy delicacies for as low as ¥90 per stick. You'll also want to chat with the bartenders and the happy – and usually tipsy – regulars.  
 Kushikusa Goemon 2-A



**023 Restaurant**  
**Spice things up at the bookstore**  
 Lunchtime-only curry shops popping up inside other stores are a familiar sight in Osaka. This secondhand book retailer is here to taste spicy mixtures making good use of rare ingredients like mustard, cardamom and sansho pepper.  
 Folk 2-C



**024 Leisure**  
**Hang out by the fountains**  
 Built where the occupying Americans once operated an airfield, this well-equipped park features fountains, spacious lawns, rose gardens and tennis courts – perfect when you need a break from shopping at the nearby high-end boutiques.  
 Utsubo Park 2-B

**025 Bar**  
**Get buzzed in 'Hell Valley'**  
 Jigokudani or 'Hell Valley' is a narrow alley lined with restaurants and bars. If you've had enough to eat and are just looking for a good drinking hole, then head to Jigokudani Meido Bar. It's a tiny joint with just seven seats, but the talkative owner and cosy atmosphere make it a winner.  
 Jigokudani Meido Bar 2-A

**027 Restaurant**  
**Count the curry**  
 A Pakistani eatery claiming to offer the largest variety of curry dishes in the world, Ali's also serves up falafel and other Middle Eastern-inspired fare, plus biryani, a South Asian mixed rice dish. You won't find any pork or alcohol here, however.  
 Ali's Kitchen 3-B



**026 Bar**  
**Cross gender barriers**  
 Dojima is western Japan's top gay district, and gaudy shot bar Explosion, which welcomes patrons of all orientations, is one of its finest watering holes. Parties take place here on most Saturdays, drinks are a reasonable ¥700, and there's no cover charge on most evenings.  
 Explosion 1-B



**028 Restaurant**  
**Consume some coriander**  
 Friends of cilantro are in for a treat at this comfy Vietnamese eatery serving both affordable lunches and mouth-watering dinner spreads. Combine the latter with a glass of Nep Moi, Hanoi's famed rice liquor.  
 Anjon 3-B

**029 Restaurant**  
**Munch on takoyaki till dawn**  
 Tired of having the same old okonomiyaki sauce with your takoyaki? This octopus ball-focused izakaya stays open until 4am daily and offers a seemingly endless range of condiments – how about tomato or sweet chilli sauce, or perhaps the highly booze-compatible rayu (salt-chilli oil)?  
 Terma Takoyaki Sakaba Gogobuou 1-C



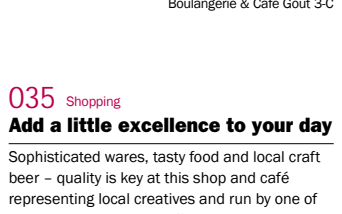
**030 Bar**  
**Get freaky on a back street**  
 For an ample supply of after-hours madness, distract you from the ginormous portions of rice and sides served at this down-to-earth teishoku-ya (set meal shop). Finish a large-sized lunch here and you might want to consider a competitive eating career.  
 Panic Rabbit 84 Cafe 4-C

**One-Day unlimited pass**  
 You can purchase this One-Day Pass for unlimited rides on the Osaka Municipal subway and buses for a whole day. It also allows you to get discounts at over 30 sightseeing locations in the city for the day.  
 Vendor locations: Subway ticket vendors, commuter pass vendors, on public buses, Osaka Municipal Bus offices  
 Price: Adult ¥800 (weekends and holidays ¥600), Child ¥300  
 For more information: www.kotsu.city.osaka.lg.jp/foreign/english

**031 Restaurant**  
**Make sushi your souvenir**  
 Before nigiri, there was oshizushi, the Osaka-born sushi variety still served at restaurants all over the city. For a taste of the classic, try Yoshino, whose oshizushi dates back to 1841. The rectangle-shaped, colourful dish can also be bought to go.  
 Yoshino Sushi 2-B



**034 Café**  
**Bite into a baguette in the castle park**  
 Finding decent bread-based eats in Japan can be a chore, but the veg-heavy baked goodies at this spacious purveyor more than make the grade. On sunny days, head for nearby Osaka Castle Park to enjoy your snack.  
 Boulangerie & Cafe Gout 3-C



**035 Shopping**  
**Add a little excellence to your day**  
 Sophisticated wares, tasty food and local craft beer – quality is key at this shop and café representing local creatives and run by one of the region's top design offices.  
 Graf 2-B



**033 Restaurant**  
**Revolutionise your chopping**  
 Once you've used a Japanese kitchen knife, there's no going back. At this sleek store, whose owner is Canadian-Danish, you can even try out the blades before buying.  
 Tower Knives Osaka 4-D

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 Explosion 1-B

**047 Shopping**  
**Shop amidst culture**  
 Leading department store Takashimaya Osaka stocks everything from high-end watches and cosmetics to clothes and art, including a wide variety of finely crafted made-in-Japan items. It'll only take a glimpse of the building to see why it's designated as a Tangible Cultural Property of Japan.  
 Takashimaya Osaka Store 4-B

**044 Sightseeing**  
**Have your morning meal on the water**  
 What better way to start your day than with a breakfast cruise down the canals? Book your spot via the official website and enjoy a feast of fresh fruit and veg while enjoying the fresh breeze. Note: the cruise only runs on weekends, unless you reserve the entire boat.  
 Ofune Canone 2-C

**042 Music**  
**Swing to deep sounds**  
 Operated by Seichi Yamamoto of Boredoms and Rovo fame, Bears lays claim to the title of Osaka's top underground gig spot. Bringing your own booze and grub is OK, and the soundtrack ranges from new wave to noise.  
 Namba Bears 4-B

**049 Theatre**  
**Catch an epic doll show**  
 Dedicated to the traditional form of puppet theatre known as Bunraku, this heavy-set building is where finely performed epic drama takes place in small scale. Headphones for English audio guidance can be rented, but just looking at the beautifully crafted dolls is entertaining in itself.  
 National Bunraku Theatre 4-C

**048 Restaurant**  
**Relish some ramen perfection**  
 Standing out among the hundreds of ramen shops in Osaka, this joint would be a pain to find if it weren't for the never-ending queue in front of it. Who knew noodles, soup and simple toppings could combine to create something so perfect?  
 Jinru Mima Menu 4-A

**043 Restaurant**  
**Let a master cook your pancake**  
 Okonomiyaki is Osaka's soul food and an unmissable part of any visit to the city. At Sogetsu, try the megajaki, a thinner version of this Japanese-style pancake made with fried spring onion. You can cook it up yourself, but to ensure you get the best version of the dish, leave the cooking to the staff.  
 Sogetsu 1-C

**046 Restaurant**  
**Combine sounds and sustenance**  
 Music and food are intimately connected in the lives of most Osakans. This hip but laidback joint embodies that spirit by operating a restaurant, a gallery and a music-focused shop in the same building. Look out for the occasional gig, too.  
 Hopken 3-B

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 Jinru Mima Menu 4-A

**050 Sightseeing**  
**Smell the spirit of Osaka**  
 Praised in many a popular song and novel, this lively alley is where to sense the vibrant atmosphere and merchant traditions of Osaka. Although they might not look very inviting at first, many of the bars and eateries here even have English menus nowadays.  
 Hozenji Yokocho 4-B