

## 【A】JR West unveils luxury sleeper's sleek exterior and interiors

1) OSAKA--West Japan Railway Co.'s luxury sleeper train the Twilight Express Mizukaze has been revealed in all its glory for the first time at a rail yard here.

2) The highly anticipated train was previously covered in black protective sheets for its test-runs to prevent scratches. The sheets were removed for the first time on Feb. 23 to reveal its shimmering green exterior.

3) The media were invited to see sections of the interior, including communal observation compartments with large window panels that extend to the ceilings of the head and tail carriages, and outside observation decks on both ends of the train.

4) Art and craft works produced in the areas along the tour routes adorn the guest rooms and corridors.

5) The Twilight Express Mizukaze, which will be used for special tours around the Kinki and Chugoku regions, will embark on its first trip on June 17.

6) Five travel packages of either one-night or two-night stays are offered at prices ranging from 250,000 yen (\$2,200) to 1.25 million yen per person.

7) Applications for trips through September have closed, but those for October and November tours will be accepted from April 1.【Feb 24, 2017/The Asahi Shimbun】

## 【B】JR West unveils luxury express train "Mizukaze"

8) West Japan Railway Co. on Thursday unveiled its 10-coach luxury "Twilight Express Mizukaze" train which has proven immensely popular even months before the start of its services through western Japan in June.

9) "The train realizes the concept of a hotel running through beautiful Japan. We hope to offer a new standard of rail travel," West Japan Railway President Tatsuo Kijima said as he introduced Mizukaze to the press.

10) According to the company known as JR West, there were a total of 2,022 applications during the initial round of reservations for tickets for the 368 rooms available between June and September.

11) A one-night tour with a room for two people will be 270,000 yen (\$2,400). The price for a suite starts from 750,000 yen.

12) Mizukaze will run from Kyoto and Osaka to Shimonoseki in Yamaguchi Prefecture, and return via coastal areas facing the Sea of Japan, offering passengers a one- or two-night tour.



Passengers will be able to get off the train and visit tourist sites.【Feb. 23, 2017/Kyodo】



The Twilight Express Mizukaze emerges from behind curtains as it is revealed in Osaka on Feb. 23

【A】

luxury sleeper 豪華寝台車  
sleek 滑らかな、つやつやした

1) reveal 明らかにする

in (all) one's glory 華麗な姿で、  
栄華を極めて

highly-anticipated 大いに期待された

protective sheets (通例～s) 保護シート

test-run 試運転=trial run

scratch ひっかき傷

remove 取り除く

shimmering ちらちら光る

exterior 外観 ⇄ interior

3) communal 共有の

observation compartment

展望車

head and tail carriages 先頭と最後尾の車両

4) adorn 飾る、装飾する

corridor 廊下

5) embark (on) 乗り出す、出発する

6) range from A to B A から B へ  
及んでいる

7) application 申込み、応募

【B】

unveil ベールを取る、除幕式を行う

8) coach 車両 ⇄ carriage  
immensely 非常に、とても

☆Ice breaker for active discussion

1. What type of transportation do you like the best? Why?

2. Why do you think this luxury express train is very popular?

3. What kinds of services can be expected from this luxury sleeper trains?

4. If you have a travel budget of one million yen, what kind of trip would you plan?

5. Make sentences using the following words: luxury, anticipate, scratch, observation, embark and unveil.