

## V-2 Bicycles

### 1. Purchasing a Bicycle

Bicycles can usually be purchased at bicycle shops or home improvement stores. You are required to register your bicycle as a safeguard against theft. Registration costs 600 yen per bicycle.

### 2. Where to Store Your Bicycle

It is always a good idea to park your bicycle in places where it will not impede the progress of pedestrians and the like. There are particular areas in the vicinities of stations where, by ordinance, bicycles cannot be left. When you leave your bicycle in such places, it makes it difficult for people including the elderly and visually impaired to use the station.

If you disobey the ordinance, your bicycle will be impounded to a specified storage facility. If this happens, you may have to pay a charge for the storage/transfer to get your bicycle back. Your bicycle is stored for a limited period from the date of transfer (after that it is legally no longer yours), so please collect your bicycle during that period. If your bicycle is transferred to such a storage facility, tell the municipal office when and from where your bicycle was removed and ask for the place of bicycle collection, fee and opening hours for reclaiming it. (Appendix IX—1)

### 3. When Your Bicycle Has Been Stolen

If your bicycle has been stolen, report the crime to your nearest police box. When the police find your stolen bicycle, they will contact you. It's a good idea to write your address and name on your bicycle.

### 4. Do Not Ride Discarded Bicycles

Though a bicycle may seem to have been discarded, it could have just been left on the road, etc. after being stolen by someone. If it has been reported stolen and you are riding it, you could get into trouble. Thus, it is best that you do not ride a seemingly discarded bicycle.

### 5. Traffic Rules

Bicycles are to be ridden on the left side of the roadway. Bicycle riders must obey traffic signals along with cars. Riding a bicycle while intoxicated is prohibited, and so is double riding (except an adult at the age of 16 or over riding with an infant under 6 years old in a proper child seat).

Basically, bicycles should not be ridden on sidewalks except for those showing signs stating it is allowed. However, there are locations where it may be dangerous to ride a bicycle on the road, and in such places bicycles are allowed to be ridden on sidewalks. In that case, ride away from the center of the sidewalk and stay on the edge of the sidewalk, near the side of the road. When you might hinder a pedestrian, halt or get off the bicycle.

Always use your light when riding at night. In Osaka prefecture, it is prohibited to ride on a bicycle while using a mobile phone.

Osaka Prefecture passed an ordinance requiring bicycle owners to have liability insurance, which came into effect on July 1, 2016.