

V Transportation

V-1 Public Transportation

1. Trains (JR • Private Railways • Subway)

You can purchase tickets at automatic ticket machines. From the price chart, check the price of the journey to your destination before buying tickets. If you buy the wrong (fare amount) ticket, ask a station staff person to change it before you go through the ticket gate. Also, other services below are available:

- ICOCA: Pre-paid (IC) card for JR train service. If you charge money to the card before boarding a train, you can use it for trains and buses across Japan that bear the IC signage, including transportation covered by PITAPA below.
- PITAPA: Post-pay (IC) card for private railways, subway and bus services in Kansai Area.
- Commuter passes/Discount tickets: You can purchase tickets in advance for a discounted price. Discount tickets are sold in batches of 11, and commuter passes are available for periods of 1, 3 or 6 months.

2. Buses on Regular Routes

There are no conductors on regular city/municipality (public) buses. Please check the destination of the bus before you get on. The destination is displayed above the bus windows on the front and rear (in Japanese). Fare is either flat-rate or changed depending on distance. If a flat-fare system is not applied, you need to receive a ticket with a number when you get on board. Please check the number on the ticket and the fare chart, and then deposit the fare into the fare collection box when you get off. Please carry coins for the bus fare. When you want to get off, push one of the stop buttons (near seats etc.) after the announcement of the next stop is made.

3. Taxis

When hailing a taxi, signal the driver by raising your hand. Available taxis will display a red vacancy (空車 (“Kusha”)) sign in front. Hail a taxi where the driver can safely pull over and park. There are taxi ranks in front of train stations. When you get in a taxi, clearly tell the driver your destination. It is convenient to have a note or map to the destination.

Fares are determined by distance and time of the ride. Be careful about using ¥5,000 or ¥10,000 bills, because drivers may not have change.

4. Lost and Found Offices

- ① JR West Japan Customer Center ☎0570-00-2486 (Japanese only) (6am-11pm everyday)
- ② Subway (Osaka Metro) ☎0570-666-624 (Japanese only) (8am-9pm everyday)
- ③ Osaka City Bus Please inquire at bus offices.
- ④ Taxi (Osaka Taxi Center) ☎06-6933-5618/9 (Japanese only) (9am-5pm Weekdays/9am-12pm Saturdays)

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.

V-3 Driver's License

To operate an automobile or motorcycle in Japan, a driver's license is required. When you drive, you must carry your driver's license and keep the vehicle inspection certificate in the car.

1. International License

You can drive in Japan with a valid international driver's license, issued by countries ratified in the Geneva Convention. However, the period of validity is only for a year from arrival in Japan or the valid period of the international license, whichever comes first. You cannot renew your international license in Japan. If you reside in Japan for a year or longer, please switch to a Japanese license.

2. Converting Your Foreign License to a Japanese Driver's License

If you have a valid license in another country and remained in that country more than 3 months in total since obtaining the license (proof of duration of stay, generally, your passport with official departure and entry stamps or other evidence is required), you can obtain an equivalent (same classes of vehicle for the Japanese version as noted on your foreign license, such as "passenger car," or "motorcycle," etc.) Japanese license and be exempted from the actual driving test and part of the required written driver's license test.

Applications can be made at the Public Safety Commission managing the area where you live or stay. In Osaka, the Kadoma Drivers License Examination Office and the Komyoike Drivers License Examination Office are authorized. Necessary procedures are screening documents and oral questions, then your knowledge and technique of driving is checked. After that, if they confirm your competency as a driver, you may be exempted from the practical driving test and much of the written driving license test.

Required Items:

1. Driver's license from another country. (If the date of issue is not noted, you will need to prove your driving history)
2. Photocopy of both sides of the foreign driver's license.
3. Proof of translation of the foreign driver's license written in Japanese. (Available at the embassy or consulate in Japan of the country issuing the driver's license, or The Japan Automobile Federation (JAF))
<Osaka Branch, Kansai Headquarters, The Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)
☎072-645-1300>
4. Passport (If you have renewed it recently, bring your old passport as well)
5. Photocopy of passport
6. Photocopy of your Certificate of Proof of Residence, with your nationality listed on it (If you are not eligible to register as a Resident under the Basic Resident Registration Law, a photocopy of your passport and documents proving that you are staying at the address you are using to apply) .
7. A photograph (must be taken within 6 months of application for Japanese driver's license. 3 cm height x 2.4 cm width. It must be a head and shoulders photo with no cap or hat. You must be facing the camera and the photo should be on a plain background.)
8. Pens (black or blue ball point pen)
9. Processing fee

Additional documents may be required.

For the language used in the knowledge assessment examination, you can choose from Japanese, English, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Persian, Russian, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese. For details, contact either the Kadoma Drivers License Examination Office or the Komyoike Drivers License Examination Office.

3. Obtaining a New Japanese Driver's License

There are two ways to obtain a new driver's license in Japan (not converted from a foreign nation's license):

- At a driver's license examination office, pay the required fees, take a practical and written examination as well as an aptitude test and a vision test. Upon completion of the test and

examination you will also be subjected to a lecture for new drivers. Written examinations in English, Chinese and Portuguese are available.

- Attend a driving school, pass the school's test and then take the official test, generally just the written examination, aptitude test, and vision test at the Drivers License Examination Office. The cost for driving school is generally between 200,000 and 300,000 yen.

Drivers License Examination Office

Kadoma Drivers License Examination Office

23-16chibancho, Kadoma-city

Keihan Line Furukawabashi Station → Keihan Bus “Menkyo Shikenjo” Stop

About 15 min (1.5 km) walk from Keihan Line Furukawabashi Station

☎06-6908-9121

Komyoike Drivers License Examination Office

5-13-1 Fuseyacho, Izumi-city

About 5 min walk (400m) from Senboku Kosoku Railway Komyoike Station

☎0725-56-1881

4. Translation of Foreign Licenses

The Japan Automobile Federation (JAF) translates foreign licenses for a fee. There are times when JAF has staff on duty that are proficient in English. When requesting a translation, you will be asked to present your valid foreign driver's license to be translated.

Osaka Branch, Kansai Headquarters, Japan Automobile Association (JAF)

2-1-5 Nakahozumi, Ibaraki City (About 19 min walk from JR Ibaraki Station)

☎072-645-1300

URL <https://jaf.or.jp/common/visitor-procedures/switch-to-japanese-license>

5. Driving Rules in Japan

You can purchase the Japan Automobile Association (JAF)-issued “Rules of the Road” in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese.

URL <https://jaf.or.jp/common/visitor-procedures/rules-of-the-road>

V-4 Common Street Signs

Buildings Signs:

<small>いり ぐち</small> 入 □	“Iriguchi”- Entrance
出 □	“Deguchi” - Exit
<small>ひじょうぐち</small> 非常 □	“Hijoguchi”- Emergency Exit
<small>かいほうげんきん</small> 開放厳禁	“Kaiho Genkin”- Do Not Leave Door Open

Traffic/Road Signs:

<small>ちゅうりんじょう</small> 駐輪場	“Churinjo”- Bicycle Parking	
<small>ちゅうしゅきんし</small> 駐車禁止	<small>ちゅうしゃ ことわ</small> 駐車お断り	“Chusha Kinshi” / “Chusha Okotowari” - No Parking

Toilets:

<small>こうしゅうべんじょ</small> 公衆便所	<small>けしょうしつ</small> 化粧室	<small>べんじょ</small> 便所	<small>てあら</small> お手洗い	“Koushu Benjo” “Keshoshitsu” “Benjo” “Otearai” (All of the above mean Public Toilet)
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おとこ とのがた
男 殿方 “Otoko” “Tonogata”- Gentlemen

おんな ふじん
女 婦人 “Onna” “Fujin”- Ladies

Other Important Signs:

<small>こうじちゅう</small> 工事中	Kojichu”- Under Construction
<small>しょうかき</small> 消火器	“Shokaki”- Fire Extinguisher
<small>きんえん</small> 禁煙	“Kin-en”- No Smoking
<small>たちいりきんし</small> 立入禁止	“Tachi-iri Kinshi”- Do Not Enter
<small>きけん</small> 危険	“Kiken”- Danger
<small>ひなんじょ</small> 避難所	“Hinanjo” – Emergency Shelter (For evacuation in the event of earthquakes, typhoons and other disasters)