

Cash and Cashless Payment

Japan is a country where the use of cash is higher than in other countries. Until several years ago, cashless payments were not as widespread in Japan as in the rest of the world, but in recent years, various cashless payment methods have rapidly become popular and established as a means of payment.

Payment Methods in Japan

Cash

Cash can be used anywhere in Japan and in any situation. Some small and medium-sized stores, shopping arcades, hospitals and clinics do not accept credit cards or other cashless payment methods and handle only cash. When traveling to a rural areas, small shops, local trains, entrance fees for temples and shrines, or privately owned inns and restaurants may only accept cash payments.



Electronic Money (e-money)

Electronic payments in Japan are mainly card-based, such as transportation-related e-money (e.g. Suica and nimoca) and store-related e-money (e.g. nanaco and WAON). E-money is a pre-paid system in which money is deposited in advance.



Credit Card

Credit cards can be used at convenience stores, supermarkets, shopping malls, restaurants, and many other places in daily life in Japan.

The two major credit cards that can be used in Japan are VISA and MasterCard, which are widely accepted at stores that accept credit cards. JCB, a Japanese credit card brand, is also popular. American Express and Diners Club may not be accepted at some locations.



QR code Payment (Smartphone Payment)

QR code payments are smartphone-based payment application and can be used with credit card. The app allows you to manage your expenses, making money management very convenient. Various types of apps are available such as PayPay, LINE Pay and Rakuten Pay.

