

# Bicycle, Car, Car Rental

Living Guidebook <http://www.fcif.or.jp/en/en-information/living/driving/>

## Bicycle

You can buy a bicycle at bicycle stores near your home. It may also be sold in supermarkets. Bicycles purchased in Japan must be registered for theft prevention and early detection of a stolen bicycle. Change of registered information is mandatory when the bicycle owner has changed. Possessing a bicycle without updating its ownership information is considered as theft and will be punished.

Please note that, in Japan, riding a bicycle while under the influence of alcohol is punishable in the same way as drunk driving. It is also illegal to ride a bicycle while using an umbrella or carrying another person.

\*From October 1st, 2020, all bicycle riders in Fukuoka Prefecture are required to have bicycle insurance. Please check your insurance status and be sure to purchase one when buying a bicycle.

<https://www.pref.fukuoka.lg.jp/contents/bicycle-insurance.html>

## Car Rental

If you have a Japanese driver's license or an international driver's license, you may rent a car at car rental shops.

Your passport will be also needed. Some car rental shops provide information about their services in English.

- Times CAR RENTAL

<https://www.timescar-rental.com/en/>



- NIPPON RENT-A-CAR

<https://www.nrgroup-global.com/en/>



## Car

Driving a car in Japan requires either a Japanese driver's license or an international driver's license. It is possible to replace your driver's license obtained in your home country or a third country with a Japanese driver's license.

Unlicensed driving is heavily punished and is even more heavily punished if such driving results in an accident. Therefore, if you intend to drive in Japan, you are strongly advised to subscribe to voluntary insurance (nin-i hoken), in addition to the mandatory liability insurance. For more details, ask your car or motorcycle dealer upon purchase.

Always carry your driver's license when driving.

## Traffic Rules

In Japan, cars drive on the left. Be particularly careful if you drive on the right in your home country. Japanese traffic rules are very strict, and violations are heavily punished (fined). Be sure to learn the local traffic rules before you drive. Compensation demanded in a traffic accident is extremely expensive in Japan. Mandatory automobile liability insurance is usually insufficient to cover such demand entirely and does not cover the medical expenses or property damage caused to the victim. For this reason, when driving in Japan, be sure to purchase a voluntary insurance in addition to the mandatory insurance.

JAF (Japan Automobile Federation) has a guide about Japanese traffic rules. Its e-book version in English is available from the JAF website.

<https://english.jaf.or.jp/driving-in-japan/rules-of-the-road>