

# Driver's License, International Driving Permit

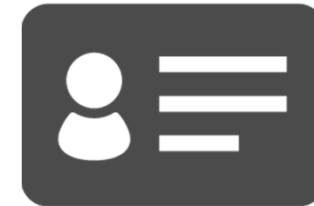
In order to drive in Japan, one of the following licenses is required.

1. Japanese Driver's License
2. International Driving Permit (IDP) based under the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic
3. Driver's licenses (with a Japanese Translation) from certain countries

See MORE

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

Japan Automobile Federation (JAF) <https://english.jaf.or.jp/driving-in-japan/drive-in-japan>



## 1. Japanese Driver's License (Switch your country's license to a Japanese license)

A driver's license issued by a foreign administrative office can be switched to a Japanese license by applying to the Driver's License Center.

### ■ Where to apply

Fukuoka Driver's License Center, 4-7-1 Hanahata, Minami Ward, Fukuoka  
TEL: 092-565-5109

<http://www.police.pref.fukuoka.jp/kotsu/unshi/015.html>

### ■ Who can apply

- 1) The applicant must have a valid foreign driver's license.
- 2) The applicant must prove that he or she has stayed in the issuing country for at least three months in total after obtaining the license.

### ■ Required documents for application

- Application form (available at the Test Center)
- 2 ID photos (3 cm x 2.4 cm)
- 1 official copy of jumin-hyo (certificate of residence record)
- Valid foreign driver's license
- Japanese translation of the driver's license translated or certified by the Embassy/Consulate or the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)
- Passport
- Processing fee

## 2. International Driving Permit (IDP)

In accordance with Japanese laws, anyone with an International Driving Permit (IDP) issued abroad under the 1949 Geneva Convention on Road Traffic can drive a car in Japan.

For more information, including requirements for driving with an IDP, please visit:

<https://english.jaf.or.jp/driving-in-japan/drive-in-japan>

<List of the contracting countries of the 1949 Geneva Convention>

<https://english.jaf.or.jp/driving-in-japan/drive-in-japan/geneva>

## 3. Driver's licenses from certain countries + Japanese Translation

If you possess a driver's license issued in Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, Monaco, or Taiwan, and meet the following requirements, you will be allowed to drive in Japan.

- 1) A Japanese translation prepared by an entity specified by law must be carried along with the original license.
- 2) The period elapsed since your entry into Japan must be less than one year.

See more: <https://english.jaf.or.jp/driving-in-japan/drive-in-japan>