

# Driving in Japan

## For International Visitors Renting a Car in Japan

To help you enjoy driving in Japan safely and comfortably, we have summarized the required documents, traffic rules, important notes for reservation and return, and procedures in case of accidents or troubles. Please be sure to read this before departure.



### 1. Required Documents

Please present the following original documents when visiting:

- ✓ **Passport** (with an entry stamp showing your date of entry into Japan)
- ✓ **Your domestic driver's license**
- ✓ **A driver's license valid for driving in Japan** (requirements vary by country/region)

• International Driving Permit (Geneva Convention format only)

[Reference website](#)



• Domestic driver's license plus an official Japanese translation (applicable only to certain countries/regions, such as Taiwan)

[Reference website](#)



If we are unable to confirm the original required documents, we will not be able to rent a vehicle. If you are unsure whether your license is valid, please inform us of your license type before making a reservation.



### 2. Cases Where Rental Is Not Available

- ✗ **No original passport**
- ✗ **Entry date cannot be confirmed**
- ✗ **No home country license**
- ✗ **License not valid in Japan**
- ✗ **Expired international permit** (over one year since issue)
- ✗ **No valid official Japanese translation**



### 3. Traffic Rules in Japan (Very Important)

Even if you have driving experience overseas, driving in Japan can be confusing due to the following differences, which may lead to accidents or traffic violations:

- **Drive on the left side of the road** (right-hand drive vehicles are common)
- **Be careful not to drive in the wrong direction**
- **"Stop" signs require a complete stop**
- **Speed limits are determined by road signs** (some roads may have no posted signs)
- **Seat belts must be worn by all passengers**
- **Children under 6 years old must use a child safety seat**
- **Using a smartphone while driving is prohibited** (make calls or operate your phone only after stopping)
- **Never drive after drinking alcohol**

[Reference website](#)



### 4. Important Notices from the Shop

- **Please make reservations via our online system**
- **Use regular gasoline only**
- **One-way return is not available. Please return to this shop**
- **Please return the car with a full tank of fuel**
- **If driving feels difficult, do not force yourself, stop in a safe place, switch drivers or use public transportation if needed, and contact us when necessary.**

[Make a Reservation](#)



[Gas Stations Nearby](#)





## 5. Notes on Fees, Returns, and Options

- Basic insurance is included in the rental fee.  
An optional deductible compensation plan is available for 1,800 JPY.

- If not enrolled:**
- Total loss accident: customer pays 300,000 JPY
  - Non-repairable scratches: flat repair fee of 50,000 JPY
  - Downtime compensation: 5,000 JPY per day if vehicle becomes unusable
  - Parking violations, traffic fines, towing costs are customer's responsibility
  - Cleaning fees may apply for heavy dirt, smoking, or odors



## 6. In Case of Accident, Breakdown, or Trouble (Please Read)

Follow these steps:

- 1 Ensure safety** (hazard lights, move to safe area)
- 2 If injured: call 119** (ambulance)
- 3 For accidents: call 110** (police)
- 4 Then contact our shop** (details in rental documents)

Without a police report, insurance and compensation may not apply.



## 7. Frequently Asked Questions

### Q1 What license is required to drive in Japan?

A. Requirements vary by country/region. Generally:

- International Driving Permit (Geneva type) + home license + passport
- Home license + Japanese translation + passport (certain countries only)

Examples:

- Taiwan: Usually home license + Japanese translation + passport (conditions apply)
- Mainland China: Chinese license alone is not valid in Japan
- Korea: Usually international permit + home license + passport
- Europe/US: Usually international permit + home license + passport

### Q2 Are photos or copies acceptable?

A. No. Original documents are required.

### Q3 I don't speak Japanese. Is it okay?

A. Yes. Translation apps are acceptable.

### Q4 I'm worried about driving on the left side. Any tips?

A. The first 10 minutes are the most dangerous.  
Drive slowly and pay special attention when turning.  
Always make a full stop at STOP signs.

### Q5 Can I use ETC on highways?

A. It depends on the vehicle and booking.  
Please check if ETC equipment and card are included.

### Q6 What should I do in an accident?

A. Ensure safety → Call 119/110 → Contact our shop.

### Q7 What happens if I get a parking ticket?

A. Fines are the customer's responsibility.  
Please contact us immediately for instructions.



## 8. Recommended Restaurant List for Amakusa Tourism



Night Dining Map



Lunch Dining Map



Please visit our HP



Make reservation

