

5 Traffic Rules

(1) Driver's License

① To drive a car in Japan

When you drive a car or motorcycle in Japan, you must have a valid Japanese driving license or international driving permit. You must also carry your driver's license with you when driving a car or motorcycle. The following driver's licenses are valid in Japan:

② Driver's licenses valid in Japan

A	Driver's license obtained in Japan
B	International driving permit issued by countries that have signed the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic * You need to confirm with a drivers' license center or a police station that your international driving permit is valid in Japan.
C	Foreign driver's license issued by a foreign administrative office (only in Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Taiwan, Slovenia or Monaco) and a Japanese translation of the foreign driver's license * The relevant driver's license is valid in Japan only if you have the Japanese translation of the driver's license, which is produced by an embassy or consulate of the country that issued the relevant driver's license, or the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF), as well as a passport. * A foreign driver's license is valid for one year from the date of your entry to Japan.

③ Switching a foreign driver's license to a Japanese driver's license

The holder of a foreign driver's license can obtain a driver's license valid in Japan by carrying out the following procedures at a driver's license center.

A	Conditions
	Those who have a valid driver's license issued by a foreign administrative office and have stayed in the relevant foreign country for three or more months since they obtained the driver's license
B	Necessary documents, etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Foreign driver's license ② Japanese translation of the foreign driver's license The Japanese translation must be produced by an embassy or consulate of the country that issued the relevant driver's license, or the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF) ③ Copy of a certificate of residence stating your nationality ④ Passport or other documents (Several documents are required if all of them are necessary for verification.) Documentation verifying that you have stayed in the relevant foreign country for three or more months ⑤ Photo Photo of your upper body taken within six months of the application, facing the front with no hat and no background Size: 3.0 cm high x 2.4 cm wide ⑥ Fee ⑦ Japanese driver's license (only for those who have already obtained one)
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C	<p>Content</p> <p>If you obtained your foreign driver's license in a specially designated country, you only need to take an aptitude test. In other cases, you must take an aptitude test, as well as undergo a traffic rule knowledge check and a driving skill check.</p>
D	<p>Reception ※Reservation required (phone reservation possible) (Weekdays 8:30-17:00)</p> <p>Hiroshima Prefectural License Center/Eastern (Fukuyama) License Center Tel: 082-228-0110 extension: 703-253 (Hiroshima Prefectural License Center) 704-262 (Hiroshima Prefectural License Center)</p> <p>Monday to Friday (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① 8:30-9:00 ② 13:00-13:30

(2) Traffic Rules for Bicycles

① Preparation before riding a bicycle

○ Theft prevention registration

You must register your bicycle for theft prevention at the bicycle shop where you purchased it or at another organization.

○ Safety equipment

A bicycle must be equipped with brakes and a horn or bell. When you ride a bicycle at night, the headlight of the bicycle must be switched on. In addition, it must be equipped with a taillight and reflectors.



○ Key

A bicycle should be equipped with keys. (Two locks are recommended.)

When you move away from your bicycle, even for a short time, you are advised to lock it.



○ Insurance

Even in the case of a bicycle traffic accident, the rider of the bicycle may be asked to pay heavy compensation. Accordingly, you are advised to purchase insurance to cover damage.

② Rules for riding a bicycle

○ Prohibition of drunk riding

You are prohibited from riding a bicycle under the influence of alcohol. Even if you are not drunk, you must not ride a bicycle after drinking alcohol.



○ Prohibition of riding double

It is prohibited to ride double on a bicycle.

However, if the rider of a bicycle is 16 years old or older, he/she is allowed to carry another person on the bicycle in the following cases:

- when one child under the age of six is put on a child seat on the bicycle
- when two children under the age of six are put on a bicycle specially designed to carry two children



○ Wearing a helmet

When you carry a child under the age of 13 on a bicycle, you should have him/her wear a helmet.

○ Other prohibited acts

You are prohibited from riding a bicycle while speaking on a cell phone or smartphone, holding an umbrella, holding a bag in your hand, or listening to loud music, etc. on earphones.



○ Use of a bicycle parking lot

You should park your bicycle at a bicycle parking lot or other designated place.

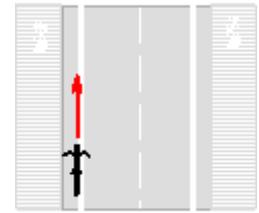
If you leave your bicycle on the road, it may be removed.



③ Traffic regulations for bicycles

○ Ride a bicycle on the road

As a rule, bicycles should travel on the road. Bicycles should also travel on the left side of the road.



○ In the case where cyclists are allowed to ride on the sidewalk:

Children under age 13 and those aged 70 years or older are allowed to ride on the sidewalk.

When there is a sign saying, “Bicycles Permitted,” or when it is dangerous or prohibited to ride on the road, cyclists are allowed to ride on the sidewalk.

When riding on the sidewalk, cyclists should travel slowly along the road-side of the sidewalk. If there is a possibility of blocking the passage of pedestrians, cyclists should stop or get off the bicycle.

Cyclists and Pedestrians Only (sign)



Road Closed to Bicycles (sign)



○ Observe traffic lights.

Cyclists must observe the traffic lights (1) with a sign saying, “Pedestrians and Bicycles Only,” or traffic lights for vehicles (2) if there is no traffic light (1).

(1)



(2)



○ Riding in parallel is prohibited.

Riding in parallel with other bicycles is prohibited, unless there is a sign saying, “Riding Abreast Permitted.”

Cyclists should ride in a line.

Riding Abreast Permitted (sign)



○ Stop

Cyclists must stop at a crossing or a stop sign to confirm the safety of both their left-hand and right-hand sides.



③ Traffic accidents

In the case of a bicycle traffic accident, cyclists must stop and provide relief to the injured, as is the case with drivers of vehicles.

They must also report to the police immediately that a traffic accident has occurred and about the circumstances of the accident. The report can be made by calling the emergency number 110 on the spot or directly contacting a police station or police box.