**Customs and Courtesy in Japan**

**Addressing Someone, Respect**

Bowing is nothing less than an art form in [Japan](https://matadornetwork.com/notebook/22-mindblowing-spots-japan/), respect pounded into children’s heads from the moment they enter school. For tourists, a simple inclination of the head or an attempt at a bow at the waist will usually suffice.

The duration and inclination of the bow is proportionate to the elevation of the person you’re addressing. For example, a friend might get a lightning-fast 30-degree bow; an office superior might get a slow, extended, 70-degree bow. It’s all about position and circumstance.

In addition to bowing, addressing someone properly is key. Just as a “Dr. Smith” might feel a little insulted if you were to refer to him as “Smith”, so would a Japanese if you do not attach the suffix “*san*” to their last name, or “*sama*” if you are trying to be particularly respectful.

Usually children are content with just their first names, but you can add the suffix “*chan*” for girls and “*kun*” for boys if you like.

In Japanese, people often say “yes (hai)” or use filler words equivalent to “uh-huh” or “hmm” while the other person is speaking more frequently than you might in a different language, This is not rude; rather, it is their way of showing that they’re still engaged and listening to what you are saying.

Be very aware of your speaking volume, especially when on trains and buses. Japanese people tend to speak quietly while in public places out of respect for others around them. In addition, avoid speaking on the phone and eating and drinking while on trains or buses.

**Table Manners**

Some simple bullet points here:

* If you’re with a dinner party and receive drinks, wait before raising the glass to your lips. Everyone will be served, and someone will take the lead, make a speech, raise his drink, and yell “*kampai!*” (cheers).
* Often at dinner parties, there is an expectation that no one pours their own drink. If someone is offering to pour a drink for you, it is best to hold the glass with both hands while it is being poured.
* You will receive a small wet cloth at most Japanese restaurants. Use this to wash your hands before eating, then carefully fold it and set it aside on the table. Do not use it as a napkin, or to touch any part of your face.
* Slurping noodles or making loud noises while eating is OK! In fact, slurping hot food like ramen is polite, to show you are enjoying it. It also makes it easier to eat the hot noodles.
* You may raise bowls or small plates to your mouth to make it easier to eat with chopsticks, especially bowls of rice.
* Just before digging in, whether it be a seven-course dinner or a sample at a supermarket, it’s polite to say “*itadakimasu*” (I will receive). When you are done with a meal, you can say “gochisosamadeshita” (thank you for the food).

**No Tipping**

There is no tipping in any situation in [Japan](https://matadornetwork.com/abroad/can-feel-japan-calling-back/) — cabs, restaurants, personal care. To tip someone is actually a little insulting; the services you’ve asked for are covered by the price given, so why pay more?

If you are in a large area like Tokyo and can’t speak any Japanese, a waiter or waitress might take the extra money you happen to leave rather than force themselves to deal with the awkward situation of explaining the concept of no tipping in broken English.

Just remind yourself: a price is a price.

**Chopsticks**

Depending on the restaurant you decide upon for that evening, you may be required to use chopsticks. If for some reason you aren’t too adept with chopsticks, try to learn before passing through immigration. It’s really not that hard.

I cannot count the number of times I’ve been told I use Japanese chopsticks with skill and grace, despite the fact I’ve seen three-year-olds managing just as well. If you’re dining with a Japanese, don’t be surprised if you receive a look of amazement at your ability to eat like a Japanese.

**Thresholds**

Take off your shoes at the entrance to all homes, and many businesses. Usually, a rack will be provided to store your shoes, and pair of guest slippers will be sitting nearby; many Japanese bring a pair of indoor slippers just in case, though. Though a shoe horn is often provided, just to be safe I carry a small folding one. Make sure your shoes are placed neatly and out of the way.

Never wear slippers when you need to step onto a *tatami*mat (used in most Japanese homes and some hotels).

Also there is often a set of toilet slippers waiting for you in the bathroom. Change slippers when entering and be careful to remove the toilet slippers when leaving. It is extremely bad form, for example, to reenter the main room of a house wearing slippers that have been running across dirty linoleum.

**Masks**

SARS is long gone, nevertheless, sterilized masks, like the ones you’d see in the emergency room, are commonly used by salarymen, office ladies, and municipal workers to protect other people from their germs.

**7. Money**

All About the Yen and Japanese Currency

BY [SHIZUKO MISHIMA](https://www.tripsavvy.com/biography-of-your-guide-1549988) (https://www.tripsavvy.com/guide-to-japanese-currency-1550160)

Updated 08/26/18

In 1871—the same year that the Japanese mint was founded in [Osaka](https://www.tripsavvy.com/osaka-japan-modern-japanese-city-4119830)—the Meiji government officially adopted the yen as Japan’s currency, and since then the yen has remained its primary form of money. The yen is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the United States dollar and the euro.

The Yen

The yen, which means "round object" or "circle" in Japanese, comes in four denominations of bills while coins come in six denominations.

Coins

Coins were first minted in 1870. They feature images such as flowers, trees, temples, and rice. Unlike many coins worldwide, Japanese coins are stamped with the year of the current emperor’s reign rather than a year based on the Gregorian calendar. Coins have been made of nickel, cupro-nickel, bronze, brass, and aluminum. The one yen coin is entirely made of aluminum, it can float on water.

Bills

Bills come in 10,000 yen, 5,000 yen, 2,000 yen, and 1,000 yen quantities while coins come in 500 yen, 100 yen, 50 yen, 10 yen, 5 yen, and 1 yen, and all bills and coins are different sizes with larger amounts correlating to larger sizes. Banknotes were first made in 1872, two years after coins were first minted. They feature images of Mount Fuji, Lake Motosu, flowers, and many animals such as lions, horses, chickens, and mice. Japanese bank notes are some of the [world's most difficult bills to counterfeit](http://www.npb.go.jp/en/index.html).





If you are planning to travel to Japan, you'll need to understand the basics of the Japanese yen in order to properly make purchases including paying for your meals and accommodations, shopping in one of the many commercial districts of the country, or even paying for your cabs and services in Japan's many cities.

Money Tips for Travelers to Japan

In [Japan](https://www.tripsavvy.com/japan-4138866), traveler's checks and some foreign currencies can be used at most large [hotels](https://www.tripsavvy.com/best-tokyo-budget-hotels-4107369) and duty-free shops; however, most businesses only accept the yen. More and more places including shops, hotels, and restaurants take credit cards. With a weaker yen, the easing of visa requirements, and the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games bringing more tourists, there will be even more places that will start accepting credit cards.

Whether you have a credit card or not, you really need to have some local currency. For the best rates, exchange your money at the airport, post office, or authorized foreign exchange bank before you start your Japanese adventure.

You must have cash when traveling to small cities and rural areas. It’s also preferred to use cash if the price is a small amount. In other words, you will want to have small denominations for taxis, tourist attractions, small restaurants, and shops. Coins are great to have on hand for travel lockers, public transportation, and vending machines.

Do not rely on ATMs. Most Japanese ATMs do not accept foreign cards and might be closed at night or on the weekend. You should be able to find an ATM that you can use in 7-Eleven stores, the airports, post offices, or other international establishments that accommodate foreign travelers. In Japan, IC "integrated circuit" cards, which are prepaid transportation cards, can have value added to them and are handy to have for public transportation fares, lockers, and vending machines.

Many businesses will have a little plastic tray near the cash registers or counters. When paying by both cash and credit card, you can put your payment in the tray instead of handing it directly to the cashier. The cashier will take it and give you your receipt and change/card back in the same tray.

Average Costs

The value of the yen fluctuates like the dollar. But, to give you a sense of what a meal costs in Japan, you can buy a bowl of ramen for 500 to 1,000 yen. Although, a dinner might cost you about 3,000 yen. A subway ride costs about 200 yen. A taxi ride averages about 700 yen. To rent a bike for a day costs about 1,500 yen. Entrance fees to museums and attractions cost about 300 to 1000 yen per person.

**Kyoto Orientation and Transportation**

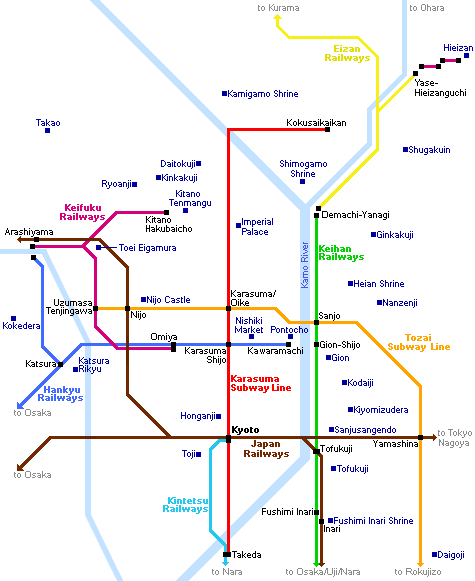
[Kyoto](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2158.html) features a rectangular street system. Unlike the streets in other Japanese cities, most of central Kyoto's streets are named. The main streets running from east to west are numbered in ascending order from north to south, and are about 500 meters apart from each other, with several smaller streets in between. For example, Shijo means "4th Avenue" and Nijo means "2nd Avenue".

Kyoto's city center with the highest concentration of dining, shopping and entertainment opportunities, is located around the junction of Shijo-dori (4th Avenue) and Kawaramachi-dori (Kawaramachi Street). [JR Kyoto Station](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3922.html) is located south of the city center at the height of Hachijo-dori (8th Avenue).

The most prominent north-south street is Karasuma-dori (Karasuma Street), which runs from [Kyoto Station](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3922.html) via the city center to [Kyoto Imperial Palace](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3917.html). Another north-south axis is Kamo River, about one kilometer east of Karasuma-dori.

Kyoto has a rather inadequately developed public transportation system for a city of its size, consisting of two subway lines, a dense bus network and several railway companies, whose lines are not always conveniently connected with each other. [Taxis](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2021.html) and [bicycles](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2210.html) can be worthwhile alternatives.

The recommended way to get around Kyoto by public transportation is to use an [IC card](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2359_003.html), such as Icoca, which is accepted on virtually all trains and buses in the city. Alternatively, travelers intending to use buses or subways extensively, should consider one of the 1-day passes available. See the [ticket section below](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2363.html#ticket) for more details.

Below is a simplified map of the railway and subway lines of Kyoto:

**Bus**

Few of [Kyoto](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2158.html)'s tourist attractions are located close to subway or train stations. Instead, Kyoto has a dense [bus](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2015.html) network with direct bus lines from [Kyoto Station](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3922.html) and/or the city center around Shijo-dori (4th Avenue) and Kawaramachi-dori (Kawaramachi Street) to most major sights.

Kyoto is served by multiple bus companies. For central Kyoto, the green **Kyoto City Bus** buses are most numerous and useful. The red buses by **Kyoto Bus** are second most prominent and tend to be convenient to access sights in more outlying areas of the city.

The tourist offices provide a useful English network map for the Kyoto City Buses, which makes it quite easy for foreign visitors to access tourist attractions by bus. Despite the good map and English displays and announcements, however, getting off at the correct bus stop can still be stressful, especially in crowded buses.

Since buses are small and operate surprisingly infrequently even on some major routes, buses to major tourist sites can often get crowded, especially on weekends and during holidays. In addition, much time can be lost when buses get stuck or only proceed slowly in the busy street traffic. Consequently, it is recommended to use subways and trains as much as possible, and use buses only for medium and short distances, for example, from the closest subway station to the destination.

Most buses are entered through the back door and left through the front door. The fare has to be paid when leaving the bus. Inside much of central Kyoto, there is a flat rate of 230 yen per ride. Outside the flat fare zone, the fare increases with the distance. If you do not have a day pass or IC card, there is usually a little slip of paper that you can grab when boarding that has a number on it. This will let you and the driver know when you boarded and what the appropriate fare is.

**Subway**

There are two subway lines in [Kyoto](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2158.html), the Karasuma Line which runs from south to north along Karasuma-dori (Karasuma Street) and stops at JR Kyoto Station, and the newer Tozai Line which runs from east to west and crosses the Karasuma Line at the intersection of Karasuma-dori and Oike-dori.

**Japan Railways**

All JR lines including the [Tokaido Shinkansen](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2018.html) pass through or commence at [JR Kyoto Station](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3922.html). JR trains are a good option for accessing the [Arashiyama](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3912.html) area (Sagano Line) and some attractions in southern Kyoto along the JR Nara Line, e.g. [Fushimi Inari Shrine](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3915.html) and [Byodoin](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3923.html) in [Uji](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3975.html).

**Other Railways**

* **Hankyu Railway** connects [Kyoto](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2158.html) with [Osaka](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2157.html). The line initially runs below Shijo Avenue from Kawaramachi westwards in direction of Osaka. It is a good option for accessing the area around [Katsura Rikyu](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3914.html), from where a branch line also connects to [Arashiyama](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3912.html).
* **Keifuku Railway** (also known as Randen) operates two tram like train lines in northwestern Kyoto. For train lovers, a ride on these trains is a small attraction by itself. The lines can be an option for accessing [Arashiyama](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3912.html) and the area around [Ryoanji](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3909.html) and [Kinkakuji](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3908.html).
* **Keihan Railway**'s main line runs next and parallel to Kamo River, but unfortunately does not connect to [Kyoto Station](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3922.html). The line continues to Osaka and is an alternative to the JR Nara Line to access some of the attractions in southern Kyoto.
* **Eizan Railway** operates two train lines from where the Keihan Line ends, Demachi Yanagi Station in northern Kyoto. One line leads to [Kurama](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3933.html), while the other runs to the base of [Hieizan](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3911.html).
* **Kintetsu Railway** connects [Kyoto Station](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3922.html) to [Nara](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2165.html). Note that some trains on the Karasuma Subway Line continue to run on the Kintetsu Nara Line, and the other way around.

**Taxis**

Kyoto is probably the Japanese city with the highest concentration of [taxis](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2021.html). Especially in the city center, taxis are found everywhere. Taxis can not only be a more comfortable, but also an economical alternative to buses on short to medium distances for groups of three or more people.

Most [taxis](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2021.html) accommodate up to four passengers (not including the driver), while larger vehicles are able to accommodate an additional fifth passenger. The rate starts around 650 [yen](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2196.html) for the first two kilometers and increases by 80 yen for every additional 300-400 meters traveled.

**Bicycles**

Kyoto City's simple layout and flat terrain make it easy and convenient to explore by [bicycle](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2210.html). Numerous [bicycle rental](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2210.html) outlets can be found around the city, especially around major stations, such as [Kyoto Station](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3922.html), or in popular biking areas like [Arashiyama](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3912.html). Typical rental prices are around 1000-1500 yen per day for basic bicycles and around 1700-2000 yen for electric assist bicycles. Some hotels and hostels may also provide their guests with bicycles for a small fee or for free.

Kyoto is generally a bicycle friendly city with relatively easily navigable roads and a handful of cycling routes, most notably along Kamo River. Designated bicycle parking is often freely available around popular sightseeing spots. The situation is a little bit more challenging in the city center due to congested roads, crowded sidewalks and a lack of designated parking areas. Also, distances to some of the more outlying sightseeing spots should not be underestimated. For example, it is about eight kilometers (typically a 45-75 minute ride) from Kyoto Station to [Kinkakuji](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3908.html) or about ten kilometers to [Arashiyama](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3912.html).

Passes and Tickets

The prepaid [IC card](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2359_003.html) available in [Kyoto](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2158.html) is called **Icoca**. It does not give you any discounts over regular tickets, but it makes the process of [taking trains](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2016.html) and [buses](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2015.html) easier, as you do not always need to buy a ticket for each ride. Icoca cards can be purchased through ticket machines at JR stations. Local non-JR railway companies offer their own IC card called **Pitapa**; however, Pitapa is a postpaid card that works more like a credit card and is targeted at residents rather than tourists.

Icoca and Pitapa can be used on virtually all trains and buses in and around Kyoto (and many [other major cities](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2359_003.html) in Japan). Additionally, [eight other IC cards](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2359_003.html) from other major cities of Japan can also be used on the trains and buses of Greater Osaka, including Suica, Pasmo, Kitaca, Toica, Manaca, Sugoca, Nimoca and Hayakaken.

The **Kansai One Pass** is a special version of Icoca exclusively for foreign tourists that additionally qualifies for discounts at various attractions in the [Kansai Region](https://www.japan-guide.com/list/e1105.html). It is available for sale at [Kansai Airport](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2033.html) and major railway stations in the Kansai Region.

Furthermore, the following **one day passes** are available for [Kyoto](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2158.html):

* **Kyoto Sightseeing Card** (900 yen for one day, 1,700 yen for two days)   
  Unlimited use of Kyoto's two subway lines and of Kyoto City Buses and Kyoto Buses in central [Kyoto](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2158.html) and outskirts, including [Arashiyama](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3912.html), [Takao](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3940.html) and [Ohara](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3932.html). The pass also comes with discount coupons for selected sights in Kyoto. The pass is available for one or two calendar days, and the 2-day version must be used on consecutive days. It can be purchased from ticket machines in subway stations, at bus ticket centers and from some hotels. The pass can pay off especially if you visit outlying areas such as [Takao](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3940.html) and [Ohara](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3932.html). The downside is that, besides the subway lines, the pass does not cover any other trains which are often a convenient means of getting around.
* **Kyoto One Day Bus Card** (600 yen)   
  Unlimited use of Kyoto City Buses and Kyoto Buses in central Kyoto and [Arashiyama](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3912.html) on one calendar day. Unlike the Kyoto Sightseeing Card (see above), the one-day bus card does not cover other outlying areas such as [Takao](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3940.html) and [Ohara](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3932.html). The card can be purchased at bus and subway ticket counters and from bus drivers; however, there is a risk that bus drivers run out of cards in which case purchase is not possible. The one-day bus card pays off if you use buses three times per day or more. However, be warned that buses are a relatively slow means of getting around Kyoto and are often delayed by traffic.
* **Kyoto Subway One Day Card** (600 yen)   
  Unlimited use of Kyoto's two subway lines on one calendar day. The card can be purchased from ticket machines at subway stations. It pays off if you use subways three times per day or more, however its value is restricted by the subway's limited coverage area.

**Please Respect *Maikos*:**

A ***maiko*** (舞妓) ([/ˈmaɪkoʊ/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English), Japanese: [[ma̠.i.ko̞]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Japanese)) is an apprentice [*geisha*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geisha) in [Kyoto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto) and Western [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan). Their jobs consist of performing songs, dances, and playing the [*shamisen*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamisen) or other traditional Japanese instruments for visitors during ozashiki. Maiko are usually aged 15 to 20 years old and become geiko after learning how to dance the traditional dances, play the *shamisen*, and learning *Kyō-kotoba* (dialect of Kyoto), regardless of their origins.



*Maikos* walking down the street are in the middle of their work. Shouting after them and taking photos like *paparazzi* is rude. Please don’t hold them up. At the Congress Center and Japanese-sponsored social events you will have many opportunities for photographs.

**Last Minute Restaurant Cancellations**

When booking a table, the restaurant not only reserves seats but also carefully prepares a series of ingredients and fresh produce in advance. Please don’t put this effort to waste. You might be charged a cancellation fee. IF YOU DO HAVE TO CANCEL a reservation, please contact the restaurant in far in advance as possible and notify them.

**Queue-jumping is an absolute no-go!**

Whether it is to pay respects at the local shrine or entering a shop, Japanese people will always wait in line. If you arrive after someone, make sure to join the end of the queue, even if you are in a hurry.

**Smoking is prohibited on the street**

Smoking on the street is prohibited on the streets of Kyoto.

**Eat UP!**

Finishing everything on your plate is a sign of respect for the food but also for the person who prepared it. Only order as much as you can actually eat.

If you’re hungry later, you can always stop by a convenience store. Convenience stores are everywhere, and they’re clean with lots of different options for a quick snack or a meal on the go.

**Throw your rubbish in the bin**

It is a custom in Japan to keep public space as beautiful as possible. Hence, the etiquette is to use any public bins you come across or ask a shop owner if you may make use of their bin. If you do not see any bins, take your rubbish back to your hotel or housing unit and dispose of it there.

**RED STOP! Respect the Traffic Lights**

Do not cross the street anywhere else than a zebra-crossing (normal crossing point that is marked). It is also forbidden to begin crossing when the green light is flashing and about to turn red. This is true even if it is late at night and there does not appear to be any traffic on the street – do not cross on red at any time.

**Access to Kyoto from Haneda Airport**

By Train: There are direct trains from Haneda Airport to Kyoto. Check with your hotel/housing to see which station is the one you wish to go to. They (or an agent at the train station) can tell you which line to take. The travel time from the airport to the city is approximately 40-50 minutes and costs 717 yen.

By Bus: There are buses from Haneda Airport – you do not have to make reservations but pay when you get on board. The driver or an airport information desk person can help you determine which bus to take and where to catch it. The travel time is approximately 95 minutes and the bus costs 930 yen. Also figure another 700/800 yen for the taxi from where the bus leaves you to get to your hotel.

**Buss/Subway in Kyoto City**

Busses: Kyoto busses are boarded from the rear and exited from the front. When you board the bus, if you purchased a one-day or two-day pass, put your card into the card slot (machine will be on the bus near the door) or pay in cash to the driver as you depart (through the front door of the bus). If you have a one-day or two-day card, the first time you use it put the card into the slot. On the back of the card the date will be printed. After the first time use, simply show your card with the date to the driver as you depart the bus.

You can see the next bus stop on the display in front of the bus, or you can hear the announcement. When you hear or see that your stop is next, push the button located throughout the bus. Remember you pay when you are disembarking. The fare for Nonflat fare routes and flat rate routes is different.

Subway: Pass the fare card through the card reader slot at the automated ticket gates before **and after** entering or exiting the subway. Be sure to take the card out of the other end of the reader. Subways normally operate from 5 o'clock to 23 o'clock. In the early morning and at night, the number of operation trains will be smaller. Please check the timetable for details.

There are two ways to buy subway tickets: from the station staff at the window or using the ticket vending machine. The vending machine instructions will appear in English if you push the “English” button on the screen. The process is easy:

1. Check the fare to the destination on the fare schedule posted above the vending machine.
2. Put enough cash for this fare into the machine, and push the button indicating the fare to the destination. Don’t forget to take any change for your payment. **NOTE:** If you purchase a one or two day pass you will get a larger paper ticket than you receive for a normal one-way fare. BOTH tickets are inserted in the same slot on the front of the automatic ticket gate. Be sure to take your ticket from the end of the ticket gate as you will need it when departing at your destination.

**Taxicabs**

Cash and credit cards are accepted for payment of the fare. Some credit cards may not be accepted by some companies. Check with the driver when boarding. **NOTE:** There is a flat fare for a ride up to a certain distance (for example 640 yen for the first 2 kilometers). You must pay this fare even if you ride for a shorter distance. In Japan you do not tip the driver.

When boarding taxicabs:

Many taxicabs are lined up waiting for customers in the vicinity of stations and by hotels, etc. You may also hail a taxicab going down the street. In Japan, taxicabs come in different automobile models and colors. They can be spotted by the light on the roof. If the light is on, it means the taxicab is empty. The doors open and close automatically. Do not try to open them yourself.

When exiting taxicabs:

The fare is indicated on the meter. Once you pay it by cash or credit card, the door on the left side will automatically open. **Do not open the door on the right side**. Passengers are asked to exit one at a time. The doors open and close automatically when exiting. Do not try and open it yourself.

**Currency Exchange**

ATM machines are not as common in Japan as they are in some nations. They are available at airports and inside 7-Eleven stores. ATM instructions are available in 12 languages including English, Korean, Chinese (simplified), and Portuguese. The following cards are accepted: VISA, Mastercard, UnionPay, American Express, JCB, Discover, Diners Club.

SMART EXCHANGE machines are located in several places and accept 12 foreign currencies in exchange for Japanese yen. The instructions are very simple and user friendly. You can get Japanese yen immediately in easy steps. The machine instructions are available in English, Korean, Chinese (Simplified) and Japanese.

**Note:** Foreign notes can be inserted one by one up to an amount equivalent to 100,000 Japanese yen. After Japanese notes are taken from the “Banknotes Outlet”, coins will come out automatically at the “Coin Outlet”.

PROCESS: Select Language – Insert foreign currency – push “Withdraw” button – Receive the Japanese yen and the receipt.

* Fares: Busses: Flat Fare Zone for busses: Adult **230** yen (Child 120 yen)  
  Non-Flat Fare Zone: Fare will differ depending on the route. **NOTE:** Busses do not give change so bring a sufficient number of coins for the fare.
* Subway: Adult **210** - **350**yen  
  Child **110** - **180**yen  
  Fare is determined by the distance and stations traveled. **Note:** The fares are one-way. Therefore if you plan to take 2 or more round trips on the subway in one day, it is best to consider a one-day pass.
* The "Subway, Bus One-Day (Two-Day) Pass" is available for **900** yen (adult-one day – 1,700 yen adult two-day). This ticket will allow you to ride the Kyoto City Bus(all routes), the Kyoto City Subway(all lines), the Kyoto bus(excluding certain routes) and the Kehihan bus(excluding certain routes) as many times as you want for a duration of the day.
* The "Kyoto City Bus & Kyoto Bus One-Day Pass" is available for **600** yen (adult). This ticket will allow you to ride the Kyoto City Bus and the Kyoto bus as many times as you want for a duration of the day (flat fare zones only).
* The “Kyoto City Subway One-Day Pass” is **600** yen (adult) and allows unlimited rides on all Kyoto City subways for one day.

Kyoto City Bus and Subway Guide: <https://www2.city.kyoto.lg.jp/kotsu/webguide/en/index.html>

**Language**

**Basic Japanese phrases** (from <http://www.easyjapanese.org/phrases.html>)

OK, so you've decided, that you'd like to learn some of the most common and well-known phrases in Japanese. Or you already know some words, but are not quite sure about their meaning. This is the right section for you.

**Greetings**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **English** | **Romaji** | **Kana** |
| **ｎice to meet you** | **hajime mash'te** | **はじめまして** |
| **good morning** | **ohayoo (gozaimas')** | **おはようございます** |
| **good afternoon** | **konnichiwa** | **こんにちは** |
| **good evening** | **konbanwa** | **こんばんは** |
| **good night** | **oyasumi (nasai)** | **おやすみなさい** |
| **see you** | **jaa** | **じゃあ** |
| **goodbye** | **sayonara** | **さようなら** |

**In the phrase "hajime mashite" the second "i" is not pronounced. In "ohayoo gozaimasu" the "u" is not pronounced. In general, when "su" is at the end of a word, "u" is never pronounced. The double "o" in "ohayoo" stands for prolongation of the sound, like in "door" in english. The words in brackets can be omitted in informal settings.**

**Polite phrases**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **English** | **Romaji** | **Kana** |
| **How are you?** | **Ogenki desuka?** | **おげんき　ですか？** |
| **I'm fine, thanks.** | **Watashiwa genki desu. Arigato.** | **わたしは　げんき　です。ありがとう。** |
| **Thank you** | **Arigato** | **ありがとう** |
| **Thank you very much** | **Domo arigato gozaimasu** | **どうも　ありがとう ございます** |
| **Please (requesting s'thing)** | **Kudasai** | **ください** |
| **Please (offering s'thing)** | **Dozo** | **どうぞ** |
| **Excuse me (to get attention)** | **Sumimasen** | **すみません** |
| **Sorry (mistake)** | **Gomen nasai** | **ごめん　なさい** |
| **Do you speak english/japanese?** | **Anatawa eigo/nihongo o hanashimasuka?** | **あなたは　えいご/にほんご　を 　はなしますか？** |
| **Yes/no/a little** | **Hai/iie/chotto** | **はい/いいえ/ちょっと** |
| **Do you understand?** | **Wakarimasuka?** | **わかりますか？** |
| **I understand/I don't understand** | **Wakarimasu/ wakarimasen** | **わかります/ わかりません** |
| **I don't know** | **Shirimasen** | **しりません** |