

Multilingual Living Information



N Transportation

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1 Driver's license

1-2 International Driving Permit and foreign driver's licenses

(1) International Driving Permit

If you hold an International Driving Permit issued by a signatory country of the Geneva Convention, you can drive in Japan during the period designated below:

●The valid period of an International Driving Permit

The valid period is the shorter of either of the following: for one year after the date on which you landed in Japan; or the remaining valid period of your International Driving Permit. However, this provision is exempted if you are registered on the Basic Resident Register, thereafter departed Japan with a reentry permit and landed in Japan again after a period shorter than three months from the date of your departure. In this case, the valid period is calculated from the date of your first entry into Japan.

●Convention on Road Traffic (Geneva Convention) signatory countries (as of December 2011)

Asia	Japan	Africa	Mali	Europe	Iceland
	The Philippines		Niger		Bulgaria
	India		Rwanda		Malta
	Thailand		Senegal		Albania
	Bangladesh		Sierra Leone		Luxemburg
	Malaysia		Togo		Monaco
	Singapore		Tunisia		San Marino
	Sri Lanka		Uganda		Vatican
	Cambodia		Zimbabwe		Kyrgyz
	Laos		Namibia		Georgia
Middle East	Republic of Korea	Europe	Burkina Faso	North, Central & South America	The Czech Republic
	Turkey		Nigeria		Slovakia
	Israel		The United Kingdom		The United States of America
	Syria		Greece		Canada
	Cyprus		Norway		Peru
	Jordan		Denmark		Cuba
Africa	Lebanon	Europe	Sweden		Ecuador
	United Arab Emirates		The Netherlands		Argentina
	South Africa		France		Chile
	The Central African Republic		Italy		Paraguay
	Egypt		Russia	Barbados	
	Ghana		Serbia	Dominica	
	Algeria		Montenegro	Guatemala	
Africa	Morocco	Europe	Spain	Haiti	
	Botswana		Finland	Trinidad and Tobago	



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Democratic Congo	Portugal	Venezuela
Congo	Austria	Jamaica
Benin	Belgium	New Zealand
Cote d'Ivoire	Poland	Fiji
Lesotho	Ireland	Australia
Madagascar	Hungary	Papua New Guinea
Malawi	Rumania	Hong Kong
		Macao

(95 countries, 2 regions)

Source : Metropolitan Police Department's Website

<http://www.keishicho.metro.tokyo.jp/menkyo/menkyo/kokugai/kokugai04.htm>

(2) Renewal of International Driving Permit

In Japan you cannot renew any International Driving Permit issued in other countries: the International Driving Permit is independently controlled by each country pursuant to the treaty.

If your International Driving Permit has expired, you need to acquire a new one in the issuing country.

If you stay in Japan for longer than one year, you are advised to have a driver's license issued in Japan.

(3) Overseas driver's license (foreign driver's license)

If you have a driver's license issued in Germany, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Taiwan or Italy with a Japanese translation attached to it, you can drive in Japan the shorter of the following periods : for one year after your entry into Japan or the validity period of the overseas driver's license. However, this does not apply to people who are registered on the Basic Resident Register, have received a re-entry permit and left Japan, and have returned to Japan within 3 months from the day they departed. In other words, in this case, the period of validity is calculated from the day you first landed in Japan. Such a translation, however, must be prepared in any of the issuing organization of your driver's license, the embassy or a consulate of the issuing country located in Japan or the Japan Automobile Federation (see [2-4 JAF](#)).

You must carry your passport and the above documents when you drive.

