



One of the following licenses is required to drive a car in Japan.

1) IDP (International Driving Permit) issued by a signatory to the 1949 Geneva Convention

IDP is valid for one year from the date of issue OR from your arrival date in Japan (the date of entry to be confirmed with the entry stamp in your passport), whichever shorter period. Your IDP, passport and your foreign driver's license (3 items) are needed for driving. **Please obtain an IDP prior to arriving in Japan.*



<NOTE> Your passport + Int'l driving permit + Your foreign driver's license

When foreign nationals registered on Japan's Basic Resident Register (or Alien Registration) System drive in Japan with an international driving license, the following two conditions must be satisfied:

- (1) Their international driving license shall be valid for one year from the date of re-entry, after spending at least three consecutive months overseas (not necessarily in the country or region where the permit was issued).
*In case they have returned to Japan less than three months after leaving Japan, the date of their return shall not be considered as the date of re-entry.
- (2) They shall have a valid international driving license, which expires one year from the date of issuance.

2) Foreign driver's license with an official translation in Japanese (*only designated following counties)

If you have a driver's license of Switzerland, Slovenia, Germany, France, Belgium, Monaco or Taiwan, with its official translation in Japanese, you are allowed to drive in Japan for one year from the date of entry into Japan (the date of entry to be confirmed with the entry stamp in your passport). A translation can be obtained from the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF). Your passport, your foreign driver's license and its official translation in Japanese (3 items) are needed for driving.



Your passport + Your foreign driver's license + Official translation in Japanese

3) Gaimen Kirikae (transferring to Japanese driver's license)

If you are staying in Japan longer than one year or travelling Japan frequently, Japan has bilateral agreements with more than twenty countries^{*1} to ease the process of acquiring a Japanese license. If you hold a valid driver's license from one of these countries you can get a Japanese license without taking a written or practical exam.

If you have a driver's license from a country which does not have an agreement with Japan, such as the United States, China or Brazil, you will have to take a written and practical exam in order to obtain a Japanese driver's license.

For necessary documents: http://www.pref.ibaraki.jp/kenkei/a03_license/exam/pdf/change_201306.pdf

*1: Refer the local police



You foreign driver's license → Japanese driver's license

<The information was referred to the followings and please find more detailed "Traffic Safety Rules" from below.>

-Ibaraki Kenkei (Local police): <http://www.pref.ibaraki.jp/kenkei/foreign/index.html>

-National Police Agency: <http://www.npa.go.jp/english/index.htm>

- Japan Automobile Federation (JAF): http://www.jaf.or.jp/inter/translation/index_e.htm

**-Traffic Safety Guidelines: https://www.npa.go.jp/koutsuu/kikaku/trafficsafety/traffic_safety_en.pdf
<http://www.pref.ibaraki.jp/kenkei/foreign/pdf/m-english.pdf>**

***Please visit the above sites on "Traffic Safety Guidelines" and read carefully before driving in Japan.**

***Printed "Traffic Safety Guidelines" are available at J-PARC Users Office.**