

# Destination Yokohama



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**RELO JAPAN**



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# Welcome To Yokohama

## Your Guide to Living in Yokohama





# Welcome To Yokohama

# With Compliments



While relocating to another country often turns out to be a wonderful, life-changing experience, there are always some obstacles and challenges that get in the way.

That is why the H&R Group is dedicated to being here for you every step of the way – while you prepare for your assignment, when you make the big move, during your time in Japan and as you prepare to go home. We love helping people get the most out of their “Japan Experience” and we are with you from beginning to end.

Our team of experienced, bilingual consultants are ready to help you with every aspect of your time in Japan. We offer support finding short or long term housing, relocation settling-in assistance and orientations, visa processing, immigration guidance, obtaining furniture, finding a car, helping you get a driver's license and much more. Whatever you need to know about your time in Japan, we have a wealth of experience and knowledge to share. So, come and join the H&R Club!

The H&R Group believes in supporting the communities in which we work and live. Once you are settled in, I hope you can join with me in supporting some of the worthy charitable activities we are involved with. As we welcome you to our community, we hope that you will enjoy your time here by becoming part of it.

As we say at the H&R Group, we are More Than Relocation. Thank you, and I hope you enjoy this guide!

*Warmest regards,*

**Steve Burson**  
**President**  
**H&R Consultants K.K.**  
**Relo Japan K.K.**



Located 30 km south of the center of Tokyo, Yokohama is the largest incorporated city in Japan, and is second only to the 23 wards of Tokyo in total population.

For much of its history Yokohama was nothing more than a little fishing village on Tokyo Bay.

In 1852, Commodore Matthew Perry arrived just south of Yokohama with a fleet of American warships. Perry demanded that Japan open itself to commerce and end the policy of national seclusion (sakoku) or face hostile action. The Tokugawa shogunate agreed by signing the Treaty of Peace and Amity with the United States in 1854.

Originally the port of Kanagawa-juku was selected to be the main port to be open to foreign trade. However the Shogunate decided that it was too close to the strategically important Tokaido Road connecting Edo (Tokyo) to Kyoto in the west. Instead, a port was built at Yokohama in 1859, and quickly became the focal point for foreign trade just as Japan entered the period of the Meiji Restoration.

The people of the Edo era had developed their own unique and sophisticated culture, but they knew almost nothing of the outside world. The people of Yokohama quickly became aware of new customs and fashions and Yokohama was one of the first places where Western dress and manners were accepted.

In addition to being affected by foreign trade, the local culture was also influenced by the growing population of foreign residents. Initially foreigners lived in the Kannai, the foreign trade and commercial district, which was ringed by a moat and enjoyed extra-territorial status. Among the foreign residents was a growing population of Chinese who have had a lasting impact on the character of the city.







Technologically, Yokohama was an early adopter of things such as photography, silk trading, gas lighting and electric power generation. It was the site of Japan's first railway, which connected the city to Shinagawa and Shinbashi in Tokyo. By the early 20th century it was a main industrial area and was known as one of the country's most affluent areas.

Throughout its history, Yokohama has again and again faced calamities: from a smallpox epidemic and a major fire in the late 1860s to the catastrophic Great Kanto Earthquake which destroyed the city in 1923. The city rebuilt itself but by the 1940s it was targeted by the US air force which conducted over 30 air raids during World War II.

Following the war Yokohama once again rebuilt itself, this time with the assistance of the US occupation forces, which used the city as a major base of operations during the Korean War. Once the occupation ended, the U.S. military moved to a base in nearby Yokosuka.

Today Yokohama is one of Japan's major ports, along with Tokyo, Nagoya and Kobe. The skyline too reflects the heights to which it has reached both economically and culturally.



## Arriving with Unaccompanied Baggage

When relocating to Japan, it is necessary to fill out two copies of the “Customs Declaration” form in duplicate which will allow your personal effects to clear customs smoothly. With air shipment you may usually receive your shipment within a week or so after your arrival to Japan and submission of your custom forms. These custom forms are available from the flight attendant inside the airplane. Failure to submit these forms may delay the release of your personal belongings, and you will be required to provide additional paperwork.

The customs officer will stamp both forms and return one form to you which must be submitted to the local shipping agent so that when your shipment has arrived, it can pass the customs clearance process. Please be aware of importation quotas when sending medication, cosmetics, over the counter drugstore items, or contact lenses; even those

for personal use. For example, importing even one Tylenol containing codeine into the country would result in you being detained.

After retrieving your luggage, it is necessary to pass through the customs clearance counter. Once you exit customs, you will most likely transfer to either a bus or train to reach your final destination. One thing to keep in mind is that almost any transportation in Japan will require more walking than you think it will. Many people find that what they thought was a manageable size or amount of luggage will rapidly become a problem after arrival. After clearing customs, you may want to take advantage of one of the baggage delivery services located inside most major airports and avoid having to deal with carrying luggage all the way to your final Japanese destination. Baggage can be delivered as early as the following day for a nominal fee and is recommended when taking public transportation such as a shuttle bus or train, or when carrying a large amount of luggage.





## Getting to Yokohama from Narita Airport:

Narita International Airport, Tokyo's primary international airport, is located in Chiba prefecture, adjacent to Tokyo. After going through immigration and collecting your bags, head to the first floor, where you have a number of options to leave the airport:

### Getting to Yokohama via the Narita Express:

The Narita Express (N'EX) takes around an hour and a half to get to Yokohama Station from either Narita Terminal 1 or Terminal 2·3 stations. Tickets start from ¥4,290 for adults. There are counters to purchase tickets at both stations; all seats are reserved, so you'll need to purchase a ticket before getting on the train.

The N'EX also stops at Shinagawa Station, which is a popular connection to both Tokyo's Yamanote Loop Line and the JR Shinkansen (bullet train) bound for either Nagoya or Osaka.

### Getting to Yokohama via Bus:

Limousine buses offer connections to the Yokohama City Air Terminal (YCAT) near Yokohama Station cost ¥3,600 for adults. You'll need to buy your tickets before getting on the bus.

### From Narita International Airport to YCAT:

[https://www.limousinebus.co.jp/en/bus\\_services/narita/ycat.html](https://www.limousinebus.co.jp/en/bus_services/narita/ycat.html)

### To YCAT from Narita International Airport:

[https://www.limousinebus.co.jp/en/platform\\_searches/index/2/23](https://www.limousinebus.co.jp/en/platform_searches/index/2/23)







## Getting to Yokohama from Haneda Airport (International Terminal):

For most of the time since Narita International Airport opened in 1978, Haneda Airport has been used only for domestic flights. However in recent years, Haneda's far more convenient location to both Tokyo and Yokohama has meant that more and more international routes have started flying to and from the the airport again.

### Transferring between terminals:

You can take the Tokyo Monorail between terminals, or use the free shuttle bus.

<http://www.tokyo-airport-bldg.co.jp/en/access/>

### Getting to Yokohama via Train:

There are no direct trains from Haneda to Yokohama; you'll have to take the train to Keikyu Kamata then transfer to a train bound for Yokohama Station. The train costs ¥480 and takes around 30 minutes.

### Getting to Yokohama via Bus:

Buses bound for various locations in Tokyo, Kanagawa, and other surrounding areas can be caught from in front of the international terminal.

There is a ticket and reservation counter just to your left as you exit the second floor arrival lobby. Buses to the Yokohama City Air Terminal (YCAT) next to Yokohama Station cost ¥580 for adults and take around 30 minutes; possibly more depending on traffic conditions.

<http://www.ycat.co.jp/en/>



## Getting Around Yokohama

Yokohama Station is located in the center of the city, and is also its nexus for public transport: train lines operated by six companies, the municipal subway, and highway and local buses arrive and leave from here. Be careful not to confuse it with Shin-Yokohama station, where the Shinkansen (bullet train) stops.

Getting to central Tokyo by train takes about 30 minutes from Yokohama Station. Trains in the area are notoriously crowded during rush hours in the morning and evening - squeeze in!

Figuring out what to ride where can be a pain - thankfully, there are both websites and apps to help you find the best way:

Jorudan and HyperDia, among others, provide free route-finding services that are popular with locals. You put your starting station and your destination in, and the site returns which train

you should ride and when:

<http://www.jorudan.co.jp/english/norikae/>

<http://www.hyperdia.com/en/>

Another option is to simply put where you would like to go into Google Maps and click the train-shaped “transit” icon after typing your starting point and destination e.g. “Yokohama to Ofuna”. [maps.google.com](https://www.google.com/maps)

### Subways in Yokohama:

The Yokohama municipal subway is an easy way to travel locally. Fares range from ¥210 to ¥550; children are half price, rounded up to the nearest ten. Trains run from around 5:30 in the morning to around 24:30.

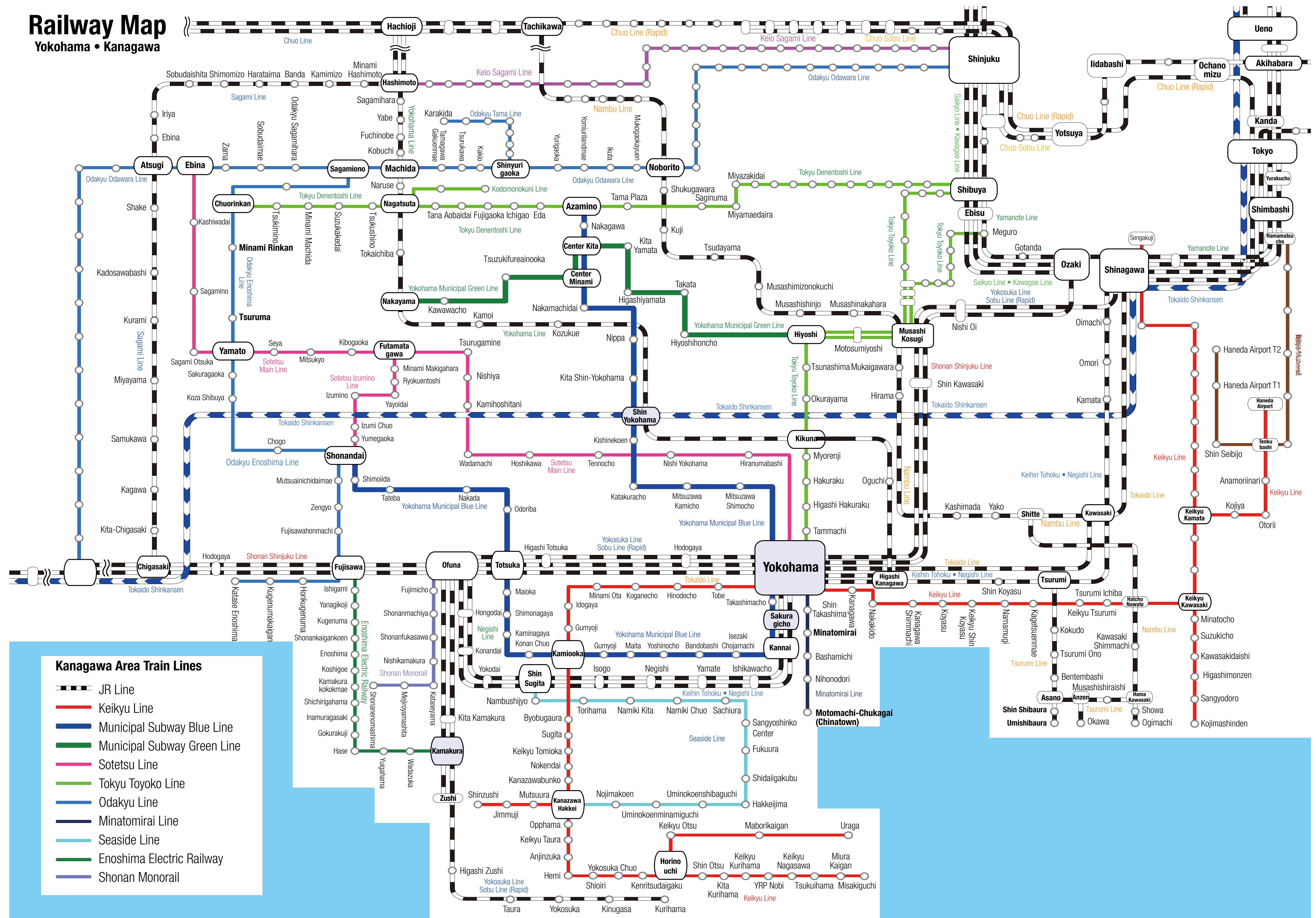
### Subway route map:

<http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/koutuu/english/subway/sub-route-map.html>





# Public Transportation









# Where To Live



Some of Yokohama's most popular expatriate areas are located in Naka-ku: Yamate Bluff, Motomachi/Chukagai, Honmoku, Negishi and in the Minato Mirai area located in Nishi-ku.

Several of these areas have been home to foreigners since Japan started allowing foreign ships into its ports for trade.

In Yokohama, foreigners enjoy a comfortable lifestyle with more greenery and outdoor space compared to Tokyo. Naturally, anyone moving to Japan has his or her own priorities for choosing a neighborhood in which to live: the commute to office or school, "western" amenities such as supermarkets purveying foreign food. The following is a brief description of what makes so many of Yokohama's major neighborhoods unique.



## The Bluff / Yamate-cho

Foreigners have been living in the Yamate Bluff area since the 1800s and some of the original Victorian houses still remain as a reminder of the past. The Bluff has many historical sites including the foreigners' cemetery.

Yokohama International School and St. Maur International School are located here making it a first choice for many foreigners with children. With its view of the bay and green spaces, Yamate Bluff remains a popular area with expats.







## Motomachi and Chukagai

Yokohama Chinatown (chukagai) is one of the biggest in the world with hundreds of restaurants and shops – easily recognizable in bright red paint with gold trim and traditional Chinese motifs.

Anyone can take part in the many traditional Chinese festivals which are held at various times throughout the year.

Right next to Chinatown is the Motomachi shopping district offering the latest in fashion and an amazing array of dining options.

Just a short walk from Chinatown and Motomachi shopping district is Yamashita Park. This public park consists of a wide-open green space which is dotted with well-tended flower beds stretching about two thirds of a kilometer along Yokohama's waterfront. The park was built just after the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923 to provide residents with an open space to enjoy strolling. Nowadays, the park also hosts many events and festivals throughout the year which are open to the public.

The Motomachi / Chukagai area has western style apartments which are within walking distance from St. Maur International School and Yokohama International School. The area is located near train and subway stations for easy commuting.



## Honmoku / Negishi

The Honmoku area is hilly with fairly wide streets compared to other parts of Yokohama. The area is situated near the bay and used to be a US army base before it was returned to Japan and then rebuilt as a residential and shopping area.

The Honmoku area is well-known for its greenery and large parks. One famous park is Sankeien, a large Japanese garden which is also very popular with foreigners. Sankeien Park has plants representing all the seasons in Japan: cherry blossoms and azaleas in the spring, plum blossoms in late winter and bright red, orange and yellow foliage in autumn. Negishi Shinrin Park, located nearby, has vast open grounds which are perfect for playing catch, jogging or walking your dog. Large western style homes with yards and parking spaces make the Honmoku area ideal for families.







## Minatomirai

Many of Yokohama's activities and much of its excitement can be found in Minatomirai 21, (Port Future 21), a very modern commercial and residential development on reclaimed land. The area includes residential properties, commercial offices, hotels, museums, convention halls, concert halls, art galleries, restaurants, shopping centers, a hot spring bath and an amusement park next door.

Built right next to the sea, Minatomirai's modern design provides open spaces and a welcome relief from the overly crowded downtown areas of Yokohama.

The Minatomirai area has modern, western-style high rise apartments with the latest features. Many of the apartments offer excellent views of the harbor adding to the feeling of spaciousness.



## Making Your Move!







## Relocating With Relo Japan

Not knowing what you don't know is just one of the many travails you endure when moving abroad. Anyone who has decamped to another country will tell you that it is invaluable to have eyes and ears on the ground in advance in order to help you prepare for all the changes that are coming.

Relo Japan has over 20 years of experience in Japan relocations, and their multilingual consultants are ready with a wealth of information about your destination, allowing you to put your focus where it belongs, on your work and family. Relo Japan takes care of all the little details of your move including obtaining a visa, getting you orientated in your new location and arranging for the delivery of your things from your home.

Once you have chosen where you want to live Relo Japan goes about setting you up. From turning on the electricity and water to hooking up your cable and internet – they do it all. Relo Japan aims to go beyond what is expected, and furthermore they will be your first friends in Japan. Relo Japan offers the following:

- Professional and comprehensive support to meet all of your relocation needs
- The [www.ReloJapan.com](http://www.ReloJapan.com) website, a vital source of information on Japan. A recent extension of our “Log-In Center” provides you with all the materials you need to relocate in a digitalized format
- Offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Kobe (Osaka)
- Japan-wide coverage through three offices and affiliates in many locations
- Access to all of the best properties available, through Japan Home Search, a multi-listing real estate agency
- Short-term accommodation arrangements in furnished or serviced apartments
- Settling-in services for individuals, couples and families
- Repatriation support leading up to departure
- Visa and immigration support, including local government compliance
- 24-hour Japan help line
- Tenancy management
- Expense management services, including payment of utilities





## Finding a Home With Japan Home Search

While traditional real estate agents offer the vast majority of available properties in Japan, they are not all set up to be foreigner friendly.

Many landlords find renting to foreigners is simply too much of a hassle, especially to those who do not speak any Japanese at all. Japan Home Search is a real estate agency that caters specifically to expatriates relocating to Japan.

It is powered by [JapanHomeSearch.com](https://JapanHomeSearch.com), a comprehensive, English-language property search engine. This popular site lists thousands of rental properties for a real-time snapshot of what is available on the market today.

The site features the “Pin Pointer” tool, which allows visitors to zoom in on the areas surrounding potential properties, and now also features a simplified web version for iPads and smart phones.

The Japan Home Search team prides itself on promptly answering all inquiries, and strives to find properties that meet each individual client’s needs.

The apartments and homes offered by Japan Home Search are pre-screened to allow foreign tenants, and unlike a traditional real estate agent, the entire rental process from start to finish is in English.

### **JapanHomeSearch.com offers the following:**

- Multi-listing agent with access to thousands of rental properties
- Regularly updated “Hot Properties” featuring new and popular housing options
- User-friendly interface allowing visitors to search for several properties at once
- Comprehensive property details including features, interior and exterior photos, floor plans and much more
- Helpful information about popular expatriate areas
- Personalized support provided by bilingual real estate consultants
- Rent and condition negotiation to get you the best and most competitive deal
- Bilingual assistance at your “move-in” and your “move-out”
- On-going assistance with any maintenance issues
- Lots of advice on the rental process in Japan, and what you can and cannot do!



Renting a House or Apartment

Sometimes finding a place to live in Japan requires a willing suspension of disbelief from a western mindset. As with so much in Japan, or any other foreign country for that matter, things are simply done differently. And no experience in Japan quite compares to the unique way that the Japanese live and manage their living spaces.

For starters it bears repeating that space is at a premium. The more space you want, the more of something else you will have to give up: time, money or convenience. Choosing between renting an apartment or a house means deciding what kind of lifestyle you prefer. Want to be near the shopping and restaurants of the city? Space will be hard to come by. Want a bit more green and a larger place to live? Prepare for a commute. These choices are familiar to anyone who has lived in an urban area. However Japan tends to put a lot more of a premium on space. Even a big place in Japan might still seem small compared to what you are used to.



How Japanese Apartments and Houses are Measured

Japanese properties are typically measured according to how many tatami mats fit into each room. While modern Japanese apartments and homes are constructed with flooring and often do not have the traditional straw mats or tatami; the tatami standard of measurement is still used.

One jo means one straw tatami mat. The size of a tatami is roughly 85.5cm wide and 179cm (33.5" by 70.5") If the room is 6 jo, it will be about 8.6 square meters. (Tatami size varies according to whether it is used in a free-standing house or apartment and also varies in different locations of Japan.)

Tatami	Square Meters (ft²)
4	5.8,62.4
6	8.6,92.6
8	11.6,124.9
10	14.5,156.1



## Japanese Apartments

Japanese apartments can be notoriously small, especially in Tokyo, where even some high-end properties are as small as a den or even a large bathroom in many western countries. However, as Japan becomes more international, properties are becoming more and more “western,” and although space is limited, “open spaces” are now more popular than a number of tiny rooms, which is traditionally the case in Japanese homes.

The situation outside of Tokyo is relatively better. Most rental properties tend to be larger and are a better value. Apartments will generally not include utilities in the rent, although some do charge fees for water usage. Parking is usually an extra fee which normally runs somewhere between ¥5,000 to ¥30,000 per month, depending on location.

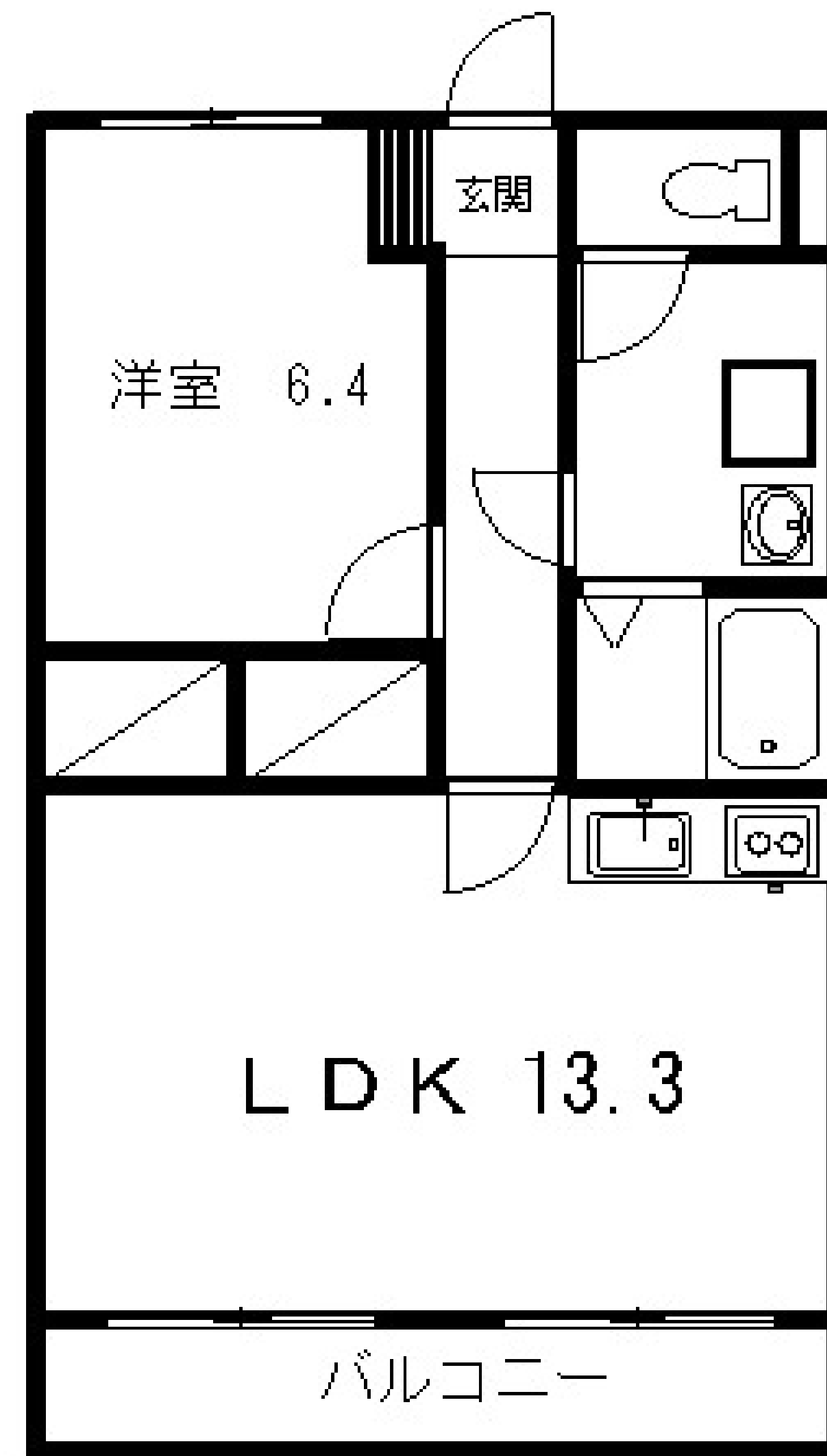
### Common Apartment Configurations

Apartments come in many sizes, and Japan has a unique alphanumeric code for each type of apartment. For example a “1K” is a one room apartment with a kitchen. A 1DK is a one room apartment with a dining room with a joining kitchen. A 1LDK means that the apartment has an adjoining living area as well and one bedroom. Thus the more numbers an apartment has the more “rooms” it has. Just remember that LDK (living, dining, kitchen) is generally one room, not three! The difference from “K” to “DK” to “LDK” is the size of the room containing those areas.

[Here is a sample](#) of a 1LDK floor plan. As you can see, the “LD” portions occupy the same space.

[Here is a 2LDK floor plan.](#)

Larger apartments [such as a 3LDK](#) will often have one or more rooms with tatami flooring, and while these rooms often wouldn’t be considered by Westerners to count as an “additional bedroom”, they are counted as one bedroom amongst the three bedrooms in 3LDK.





## Rental Houses In Japan

Houses in Japan tend to be smaller and simpler than those in other countries, and most foreigners residing in Japan for work tend to choose homes that could be described as “luxury” in the local market. These properties are generally western-style homes with a full suite of amenities not often found in Japanese houses. Clothes dryers, dish washers, central heating, and multiple bedrooms are all features that are now commonly available in upscale Japanese properties.

If the house comes with a garden it will be limited in scope, however high-value rental properties will be located in more spacious communities and often nearby a public park. The trade off is such houses are often not close to train or subway stations and therefore the use of a car is necessitated.

Expats with the benefit of a relocation company like Relo Japan, will have someone take

care of all the little details of the employee’s move, including finding them a house or apartment, sourcing furniture and/or cars for lease or purchase and arranging the delivery of the client’s belongings from their home country. Generally, the company will pay for these services, but a little bit of knowledge will help the employee get the most out of them.

Finding an apartment on your own in Japan can be a daunting task if you have never done it before. It seems like just about everything is a little harder in here, and if you do not speak Japanese your options are fairly limited. One of the first differences between Japan and the west is that apartments and houses are rented through real estate agents and the landlords designated “management company” or “representative”, rather than directly with the landlord. This is why you rarely see “for rent” signs in front of apartments, and when you do the contact information is a local real estate branch office.







## Real Estate Agents: Japan Home Search

While traditional real estate agents offer the vast majority of available properties in Japan, they are not set up to be foreigner friendly. Many landlords are simply not willing to rent to foreigners in general, especially to those who do not speak any Japanese.

As one foreign resident has recounted: “I remember hearing the agent who helped me with mine say to my prospective landlords over and over again, “He is foreign, but he is from the United States and speaks Japanese. “ Usually, this was followed quickly by, “Oh, really? I understand, thank you for your

time.” I felt bad for him watching the list of properties he was able to show me get smaller, and smaller, until we were left with about 5; out of an original 25.” Getting a foreigner into housing can be a challenge in Japan.

[JapanHomeSearch.com](http://JapanHomeSearch.com)

specializes in serving the specific housing needs of foreign client's. The apartments and homes they offer are pre-screened to allow foreign tenants, and unlike a traditional real estate agent, they can basically take you through the rental process from start to finish in English.

## Fees and Policies

### Key Money

Key money or *reikin* is a one-time fee that a tenant may be asked to pay a landlord when a lease contract is concluded. This is considered a gratuity for the conclusion of the lease contract. This business custom dates back to an old Japanese tradition whereby wealthy families in positions of power paid cash to a landlord as a gratuity. Unlike a deposit, this payment will not be returned at the termination of the contract. High rent property owners generally do not request key money and instead, charge deposit plus one month advance rent.

While the “key money” tradition seems overly exorbitant, there are no penalties to canceling contracts at any point during the housing contract. Contracts usually automatically renew without any fees, so the key money you need to pay up front is simply a “different system”

and the overall situation should be considered when evaluating the initial costs of entering a new rental home.

### Deposits

Deposits or *hoshokin* are standard for rental agreements and are collected in advance as collateral to cover potential arrears in rent and property damage and/or future cleaning fees at termination of the contract. Typically 2~6 months rent will be charged as deposit. As in most other countries, the deposit is in principle refundable. However, some landlords can be quite punitive in the damage they charge.

### Rent

Rent or *yachin* is usually paid monthly, in advance to the owner. In some cases there is a late fee if payment is overdue.



## Maintenance Fee

It is standard for the landlord to require *kyoekihi*, a monthly fee for general building maintenance, including grounds, electricity for the elevator and outside lighting as well as up-keep of the structure.

## Agent Fees

Most properties are found through a real estate company. The realtor will charge an agent's fee *chukai tesuryo* as payment for acting as an intermediary, from the start of the home-finding process through conclusion of the house contract and move-in inspection. The ceiling of the fee, regulated by law, is 1 month's rent plus consumption tax.

## Tenant Insurance

Housing contracts often stipulate the tenant to take out tenant insurance *jutaku hoken*. There are very reasonable comprehensive tenant insurance packages available which offer protection for the whole family providing personal liability and damages

caused fire, water leaks, theft, lightning and earthquake.

## Repairs

The responsibility for repairs is usually clearly outlined in the housing contract. Owners are responsible for "general wear and tear" called "*shizen-shomo*" in Japanese, while tenants are responsible for any damage outside normal wear and tear. However, it is important to understand that in Japan all repairs are generally done by the owner's stipulated management company or repairman. You become responsible for the cost, but it is not custom in Japan that you conduct your own repairs.

## Pets

Many rental properties don't allow pets, so having a pet is likely to reduce your rental options significantly. However, pets are now very popular in Japan, so we have seen relatively more properties in recent years that will take your poodle or your Siamese beauty. Even when properties are

labeled "pet friendly", it is common case-by-case permission must be obtained from the landlord.

Some properties, for example, will allow small pets, but not large dogs. Some places are OK with dogs, but don't allow cats. Sometimes, additional deposits or rent can be required and there

may be additional "cleaning" or "disinfection" charges at the end of the contract.

Big dogs and cats are very hard to find places to live with. Less than 20% of properties will allow pets generally, and only around 5% would allow a big dog or a cat.





## Guarantor

Many companies act as lessee and enter into housing contracts on behalf of foreign employee or “tenant”. In these cases no guarantor is needed. However, if you enter into a private contract and will be the signatory, you will also need a guarantor. The guarantor can be a Japanese colleague or company established to provide just such services. Recently, many owners are using “guarantor companies” who will charge you a flat fee for this service. You will need to provide documents such as copies of your residence card and visa stamp and submit a Certificate of Employment from your company in order to enter into a contract with the “guarantor company” which in turn allows you to make a contract with the house property owner.

## Contract Terms

Housing contracts in Japan are generally for a set two years and include clauses for

early termination and renewal. It is standard for contracts to automatically be extended unless a cancellation notice has been submitted. When your assignment in Japan has ended, it will be necessary to terminate the house contract and related services such as utilities. Most housing contracts require one-two months prior written notice of termination. There will be a final inspection when you move out at which time the owner, realtor and/or management representative will ascertain cleaning and damage fees to be deducted from the deposit.

In addition to standard two-year contracts, there are also fixed-term contracts that are common if the owner is planning to return to their property at some point in the future. Fixed term contracts cannot be renewed, so any extension of the initial contract would require a completely new contract. Fixed term contracts are normally for longer periods of four-five years, but the termination process remains the same as for standard two-year contracts.



## Appliances and Furniture

When moving into a new apartment or house it is common that there will be little, if anything, in the way of furnishings and built-in appliances. Often you may be required to buy lights, air conditioners, curtains and other white appliance items that you might consider standard in rental properties elsewhere. Either way the utility of such devices and the way they work will need a little study to figure out.

## Washing Machines

You should be aware that Japanese washing machines usually wash only with cold water, as there is not often hot water available for the laundry areas of Japanese housing. Japanese clothes dryers are often combination machines, or are separate units that are powered by electricity only, and therefore take hours to dry clothes fully. Powerful clothes dryers don't tend to be common because the Japanese usually dry their clothes outside on a line.



## Kitchen Appliances

A Japanese kitchen will be set up quite differently from its western counterpart. A stand alone oven is uncommon and is usually part of an appliance that includes a microwave with an electric oven feature. A lot of people use only a toaster oven in their apartments, as even a smaller “full size” oven will simply not fit. Many stoves

burn propane gas, have two to four burners and include a fish grill that slides out from under the burners and operates as a small broiling oven.

In larger western-style properties, larger ovens and white appliances are available, but in typical Japanese properties even a small dishwasher is rarely included in the kitchen.



## Toilets and Baths

Historically Japanese did not have a toilet in the bathroom and the two facilities had their own separately dedicated spaces. A traditional Japanese bath requires that most washing is done out of the bath, which is used primarily for soaking and relaxation. The bathing area was intuitively a “clean” space and the inclusion of a toilet effectively negated this concept. These days however you will find something called a “unit bath” in smaller apartments. A unit bath will have both a toilet and a bathtub with a shower attachment, effectively merging the two functions in a nod to the reality that space is at a premium and some traditions must be sacrificed.

## Japanese Toilets

The American equivalent of the “bathroom” or “restroom” is referred to simply as “the toilet” (toire) in Japan, as in European countries. While you will still find standard “squatting” toilets in public facilities and older buildings,

most modern Japanese toilets are quite superior in technology and function to those you may have encountered in other countries. Most will have heated seats and it is also common to include both a bidet and “washlet” (posterior washing spray) functions utilizing warm water. Some will also feature “blow dry” modes to limit the amount of toilet paper that is used.

## The Japanese Bath

As mentioned above, the Japanese have traditionally utilized the bath for relaxation. As the body is washed outside of the bath in a shower area, the water in the bath is often used by several people before it is let out. Modern baths will allow you to re-heat the water for later use. Showering is usually done sitting on a stool and for this reason you will find that it is hung lower than you might expect. Most shower heads are attached via a hose and can detach from the wall and be used separately from their normal position.





## Furnishing Your Home

Depending on your situation and budget, there are many options for furnishing your home in Japan.

### Shipping

If you are coming to Japan for an extended period of time, your company may ship your furniture to Japan and back for you. Being surrounded by familiar things is a great way to help you ease into life in a new country.

Be aware however that shipping can be a bit of a hassle and can take between six to eight weeks, not including any problems that may arise at customs. Additionally some things simply may not fit into a Japanese apartment or house, so keep in mind what types of things you are bringing and if they will suit your new place. Often the size of doorways and elevators in Japan are smaller than back home and so it is best to confirm whether things will fit or not before you send them. What can you

do with a refrigerator that won't fit in your house after all? For this reason it is a good idea to bring the measurements of any large items you plan on bringing with you on a home-finding tour.

If you do decide to ship your household items you will need to decide for what to do while you wait for everything to arrive. You may choose to stay in a hotel, or you could just make do living out of a suitcase on the floor. Alternatively Lease Japan offers a convenient short-term furniture rental service which can keep you comfortable during the interval between when you arrive and when your stuff does.

### Buying New Furniture

Another option is to buy all new furniture. However you may find that the size and variety of furnishings available may not match your preferences. While western-style furnishings are increasingly common, the quality and price performance for what you get can often be disappointing to foreigners.



## Buying Used Furniture

Like anywhere else, you can also purchase used furniture in Japan. One popular way of finding what you are after is to check “sayonara sales”, moving home sales by other foreign residents.

Sayonara sales are usually advertised by word of mouth, but you may find one by searching on the internet. If you get lucky, this is the cheapest method of furnishing your house, but there is no way to guarantee that you will get your home furnished with any sort of expediency. In addition running around and collecting things from people in a new city is a bit of a hassle.

Alternatively you can try one of the “recycle shops” which sells used items. Think of them as permanent garage sales. You never know what you might find in them, and the prices can be much higher than you would expect. Lastly there is the problem of ferrying things back to your residence. Some shops will deliver (depending on how much stuff you buy) but most will expect you to take what you buy home with you.

Most foreigners will tell you that sayonara sales are worth checking out if there is something you can't get elsewhere. Roughly the same goes for used stores, though they tend not to be of very good value.

## Leasing Furniture

There are several reasons why leasing furniture is an attractive option for expats. One point to consider is that when it comes time to return home you will either have to ship it home or otherwise get rid of it in Japan. If you can't sell the things you have collected you will have to dispose of them which can be quite expensive and time consuming. If you wish to throw away large items you must reserve a pick up day and pay a fee for anything that cannot be placed in a standard garbage bag.

If you decide to lease furniture then it will be delivered and picked up at your convenience. This is especially useful for people who want to make a contract for the exact period of time that they will be in Japan. You can even have your residence furnished and ready for you before you arrive.

Lease Japan will furnish your home tastefully and quickly without investing a lot of cash up-front. They do the work for you so that you have time and energy to concentrate on getting settled in and acquainted with your new environs. Their English-language service is stress free and easy to use.

Here are some of the services that they provide:

- Tasteful furniture and appliances selected by you from their catalogue. Order piece by piece, or one of their convenient packages, specially selected to provide you with all the essentials.
- Delivery and installation of the items in your home.
- Continued support for maintenance and repair issues.
- Collection of furniture and appliances from your home at lease end.
- Service in English; including contracts and service documentation
- English appliance manuals, when possible.

For more information go to: [www.leasejapan.com/furncatalogue.asp](http://www.leasejapan.com/furncatalogue.asp)



## Garbage Collection

In Yokohama, you must divide your garbage (*gomi*) into several different categories for recycling purposes and put it out for collection by 8am on the designated days for your neighborhood.

### Collected twice a week:

Burnable garbage (*moyasugomi*): kitchen waste, wooden boards, etc.

Non-burnable garbage (*moenaigomi*): glass, lightbulbs, etc.

Dry cell batteries

Aerosol cans

### Collected once a week:

Cans, glass bottles, and PET bottles

Small metal items: pots, fry pans, etc.

Collected once a week:

Plastic packaging displaying the plastic (プラ) recycling symbol

### Collected twice a month:

Fabrics for recycling: clothes, sheets, blankets, curtains, etc.

Paper for recycling: cardboard boxes, newspapers, milk cartons, magazines, etc.

### Oversized Garbage:

For large items (over 30cm on the longest side for metal items, or 50cm for plastic or wood items), you'll need to arrange pick up with the city by calling the oversized garbage center at (0570) 200-530 from a landline or (045) 330-3953 from a cellphone.

The center will help you arrange a collection date and quote you a price; you'll need to purchase stickers (*soudaigomishoritesuuryouken*) of the quoted value from a convenience store, post office, or supermarket. Attach the stickers to your item(s) and put them out in front of your home on the agreed day for collection.

### Useful Resources:

The city has prepared a booklet on the topic of separating and disposing of garbage that you can print and keep at home for quick reference (7 A4 pages, English starts on page 8):

<http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/shigen/sub-shimin/dashikata/img/english.pdf>

There is a garbage collection schedule for all the neighborhoods of Yokohama available here:

<http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/kanagawa/kurashi/en/information/>





## Purchasing or Leasing a Car in Japan

### Purchasing a Car

First, the good news. You are spoiled for choice when purchasing a car in Japan. Used cars are an especially good option as the Japanese tend to be meticulous when it comes to maintaining and servicing their automobiles. No matter what brand or model you are after, there is a good chance you can find a car that suits your needs.

Naturally, purchasing a car involves registering the vehicle to get it on the road. There are also permits to obtain for parking, as well as fees, taxes and additional costs that will be added to that price you see on the windshield. All-in-all though, if you have dealt with your department of motor vehicles in your home country you can get through the hurdles required to have your own wheels in Japan - but there is a lot to be done!

### The Basics

- First, register your inkan seal at city hall or your local ward office, and get an inkan shomeisho or Certificate of Seal Registration.
- Next, find a car you would like from an individual or a dealer.

### Buying a Car from an Individual

**Go to your local police station and ask for the following:**

- *Hokan basho shomei shinseisho* (Police Parking Application Form)
  - *Hokan basho shomei* (Certificate of Permission For Parking Space)
- The owner of your parking place must fill out and stamp this form to prove you have a place to park the vehicle arranged.





## Location of parking lot and space:

This can often be obtained from the real estate agent, building owner or building management company. You will need a map that shows your parking space in relation to other property, as well as show the dimensions of the space.

When you have completed the forms, take the documents and your inkan stamp to the police station and turn them in. You will have to pay a fee, usually around ¥2,000, and you will be advised when to pick the documents up again. Some departments will charge you a fee, usually ¥500, to collect the documents when they are completed.

Prepare forms to be signed by, or received from the seller. You will need to go to a vehicle registration office and ask for:

*Meigi henkou*  
(Re-Registration Form)

Both forms must be stamped or signed by the previous owner.

A notarized signature is only valid for three months and cannot be renewed if the party has left Japan. The validity period for the certified stamp varies, but is generally also three months.

## Required forms to get from the seller:

- *Ininjou* (Power of Attorney)
- *Joutou shomeisho*

(Certificate of Transfer/ Bill of Sale)  
Both forms must be completed in Japanese, and all information must match the notarized signature form. This also applies to the seller's information.

- *Jidoushazei noufusho* (Certificate of Vehicle Tax Payment)

This receipt must be kept as proof of payment of taxes, and given to the buyer if the car is sold.

- *Shakken sho* (Vehicle Registration Certificate)

This certificate must be kept current and with the car. It must be given to the buyer if the car is sold.

## Vehicle Registration

Once you have received your approved documents from the police, and had the documents stamped by the previous owner, take the car and all the documents to the kensa touroku jimusho (Inspection Registration Office).

Like any department of motor vehicles, everything at the Inspection and Registration Office is bureaucratic, and will take some time. In addition to the long lines, you will be sent to many different desks and windows as the process continues. Plan on spending at least a few hours, and bring a book.

Every location has different procedures, but in general you will need to submit the papers gathered previously, fill out some other forms, and pay any required fees, such as the following:

- Taxes on the vehicle.
- If the car is from another prefecture, you will need to buy

new plates.

After completing the procedures at the Inspection and Registration Office, the car will be registered to you, and a new shaken certificate issued in your name.

## Buying a Car from a Dealer

The dealer should assist or instruct you on how to get the following forms:

- *Hokan basho shomei shinseisho* (Police Parking Application Form)
- *Hokan basho shomei* (Certificate of Permission For Parking Space)

## Vehicle Registration

Again, the dealer should do all the registrations at the Vehicle Inspection and Registration Office for you, and provide the new Shaken Certificate in your name when they deliver the car to you. Some dealers may charge a fee for this service.





## Leasing a Car

Because purchasing and registering a car in Japan can be complicated, you may decide to lease a car instead. Lease Japan offers a comprehensive service for foreigners who wish to obtain a car this way.

### What is a Car Lease?

Automobile leasing means that you pay only the amount that a vehicle's value depreciates during the time you are driving it. Depreciation is the difference between a vehicle's original value and its value at lease-end (residual value), and is the primary factor that determines the cost of leasing. Basically, you pay for the part of the car value that you use up during the lease term. There are other costs that may be included in the lease fee. These include insurance, registration fees and the addition of other options such as GPS navigation systems.

### The Advantages of Leasing with Lease Japan

- Fewer hassles
- Leases generally come with full service maintenance and full coverage insurance policies included in the monthly lease fee.
- The lease company will be there to assist from the time of delivery to the day the car is returned.
- Lease Japan specializes in providing services and contracts in English.
- At Lease Japan, all of our consultants are bilingual in English and Japanese and we boast a great mix of foreign and Japanese staff.



- **Lower Monthly Payments:** as you only pay for the portion of the car that you actually use, your monthly payments will be 30%-60% lower than a purchase loan of the same term.
- **Lower up-front cash outlay:** most leasing companies, including Lease Japan, require no down payment, which makes getting into a new car more affordable and frees up your cash for other things. We generally ask for the first and last month's lease payment in the first month, as we find this easier for the client, who will not have to make a payment for the last month of the lease (and probably the last month of being in Japan).

This means you will not need to worry about making sure you still have your bank account open to pay the last payment. You can focus on more important last minute things whilst still driving your car until the very last day.

- **More Car, More Often** for new car leases: Since your monthly payments are lower, you get more car for the same money and can drive a brand new vehicle every two to four years, depending on the length of your leases.
- **Fewer Maintenance Headaches:** most people like to lease for a term that coincides with the length, in months, of the manufacturer's warranty coverage so that if something goes wrong with their car, it is always covered. At Lease Japan, we also offer free 1/6/18/24 month maintenance checks on all new cars. We will collect the car from your place of work or residence at a time that suits you, take the car to have its maintenance check and return the car the same day.
- **No Car-Selling Hassles:** with leasing, the headaches of selling a used car are eliminated. When your lease ends, you simply return it back to the leasing company and walk away.

- **Bonus Service Bundles:** different companies make leasing even more attractive by bundling different services with their lease packages. At Lease Japan, we offer:
- **ETC Card (Electronic Toll Collection System):** get an ETC card without the hassles of a Japanese credit card. We will supply you with an ETC card without the need for applying for a Japanese credit card.
- **24,7 Emergency Help Line:** When you lease a car from Lease Japan, you will automatically be eligible for our 24/7 English Help Line Assistance Service. If you have an accident or have any problems with the lease car, you will be able to contact one of our native English speaking consultants for immediate assistance.

## Easy Steps to Leasing a Car

- Request an estimate for your desired car type, grade, color, options, etc.
- An estimate is prepared and sent to you for verification. Changes and new estimates may be requested at this point.
- When everything is agreed upon, sign the estimate for your new lease car and return it.
- When the signed estimate is received, your contract will be mailed to you. At this point, the lease agent will begin ordering and registering the car.
- To register the car, the lease agent will need some things from you:
- A copy of your *jyuminhyo* (Residence Certificate)



- *Hokan basho shomei* (Certificate of Permission For Parking Space)  
The owner of your parking place must fill out and stamp this form to prove you have a place to park the vehicle arranged.
- Your *inkan* seal on the registration paperwork

## Types of Leases:

### Closed-end Leases

Closed-end leases, sometimes called “walk-away” leases, are the most common consumer leases today. This type of lease allows you to simply return your vehicle at the end of the lease and have no other responsibilities. Closed-end leases are based on the concept that the number of miles you drive annually is fairly predictable (12,000 miles per year is typical), that the vehicle will not be driven in rough or abusive conditions, and that its value at the end of the lease (the residual) is therefore somewhat predictable.

### Open-end Leases

Open-end leases in the west are used primarily for commercial business leasing. In this case the lessee, not the leasing company, takes all the financial risks, which a business will simply count as an expense. Annual mileage on a business lease is usually much higher and less predictable than a standard 12,000 miles-per-year non-business lease.

In Japan, however, the law forbids companies from taking out open-end leases so they are primarily used by individuals as an alternative method of financing a new car; like a car loan, but more complicated.

Open-ended leases are also popular with foreign ex-pats in Japan because they are not usually eligible for normal car loans or financing through Japanese banks.

In an open-end lease, the lessee (driver) is responsible for the difference between the estimated lease-end value of the car (the residual) and the actual market value of the car at the end of the lease. This could amount to a significant sum of money if the market value of your vehicle has dropped or you drive more miles than expected.

Often, the residual value for an open-end lease is set much lower than a non-business closed-end lease, which reduces your lease-end risk, but increases your monthly payment amount.

Lease Japan invites you to view our selection of new and used cars to buy or lease. We put you in the driver's seat with comprehensive leasing, purchasing, and after care services.

Find out more at: [www.LeaseJapan.com](http://www.LeaseJapan.com)



# LEASE JAPAN





## Converting your Foreign License

Like all countries Japan has its own peculiar rules of the road. Signs, traffic laws and customary behavior are quite different from other countries. For this reason, you will have to pass through their regulatory system to drive legally. For some the path is wide and easy. For others it is a bit more narrow; this is one thing you do not want to do on your own.

Fortunately, Japan Driver's License has bilingual experts on hand to assess your place in the system and guide you through it. Essentially foreign license conversion in Japan can be divided generally into two groups, depending on what country issued the foreign license.

### The Lucky Ones

The first group includes license holders able to convert their foreign licenses directly to a Japanese license. For this group, conversion is a shorter bureaucratic process that takes a couple of hours at the license center; if your license was issued in one of these countries:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Taiwan and South Korea

...and it is valid (not expired, etc.), and you can prove residency in that country for a minimum of three months after license issuance you are not required to take either the written test or road test to convert your license.

### Let's Take A Test!

The second group includes license holders who require both a written and a driving test in order to get a Japanese driver's license.



Valid foreign license holders from countries not listed above - held by people who can prove a minimum of three months residency in the country that issued the license after it was issued - may be allowed to convert their license only after filing paperwork, taking a short written test, and passing a driving test on an enclosed course at the testing center in their prefecture. If you are not in either of these groups, then the Japan Driver's License consultants can advise you on the best way to go about being certified. If you do not speak Japanese it may be difficult to get through these steps, and most centers require that you bring someone with you who can speak Japanese.

## Official Translation of Your Foreign Driver's License

To start the process, both groups of license holders need to obtain an official translation of their foreign driver's license from an approved source. This is most commonly done through the Japan Auto Federation (JAF).

## Gather Required Documents

After you obtain your official translation, you must go to the licensing center that serves your area with the following documents:

Valid foreign driver's license – and previous licenses, if you have them; if the license does not show the date of issue, or if the license was recently renewed, it may be necessary to submit additional documentation.

- Japanese translation of foreign license, available from the Japan Automobile Federation: <http://www.jaf.or.jp/e/switch.htm> or sometimes at the embassy or consulate of the issuing country.

- Residence Card

- Jyuminhyo x2 (Certificate of Residence)

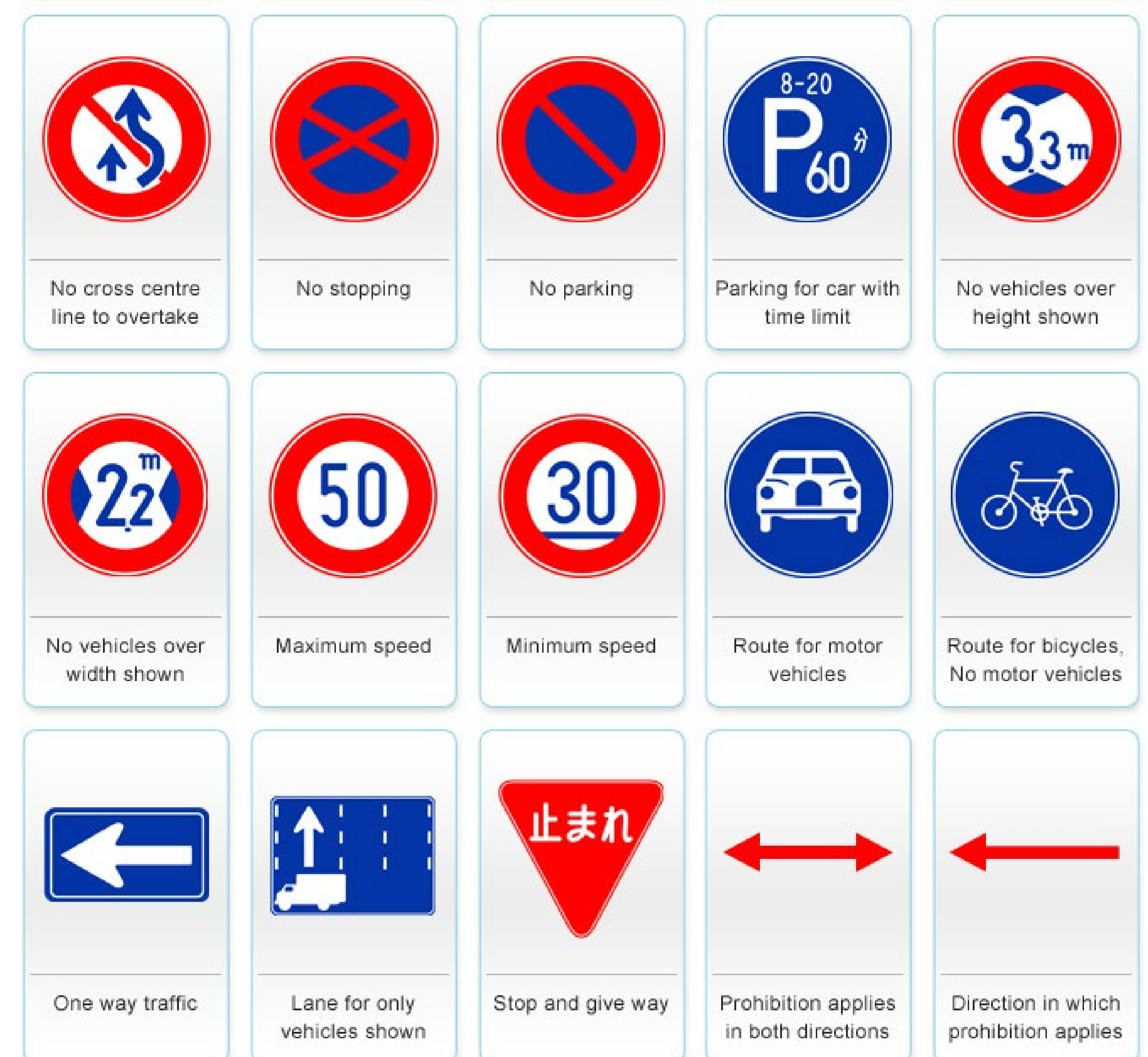
- Passport and any expired passports; these are required to prove that you were in the country that issued your license for at least three months after you obtained your license.

- One 3 x 2.4 cm photo; must be taken within the last six months.

- Previous Japanese license, if you have one.

## There's a Sign For That!

*Some of the road signs you will need to know when driving in Japan!*





## Applying at the Driver's License Center

The application procedure begins with an inspection of your documents to make sure that you have lived in the country that issued your license for at least three months after issuance, and that all of your documentation is up-to-date and complete.

## Eye Test

Standard eye test; you will be required to point in the direction that the image is pointing (this will make more sense when you see it). Once you pass the eye exam:

- If you are in group one, you will usually receive your license that day and you will be finished.
- If you are in group two, once you pass the eye exam, you will take the written test. Carry on!

## Written Test

The written test for license conversion is much simpler than that given to people getting their first license. The test itself is available in English; however, the instruction session just prior to the test will be in Japanese.

The main point of the Japanese explanation to understand is that in Japan X means false and O means true, and that when you have completed the test you may leave the room. The best way to study for the test is to read the Japan Auto Federation's English-language book, "Rules of the Road."

## The Driving Test

This driving test is infamous. The test itself is not difficult, but there are many simple sequences and processes that the test proctors are looking for, and if you are not aware of them, you will not pass.

It is not uncommon for foreigners to take the driving test five times or more, simply for the lack of a little knowledge, rather than a lack of actual driving skills.

Considering that each attempt requires nearly a full day at the testing center, fees and lost wages can make converting your license on your own a time-consuming, expensive, and frustrating experience. The average pass rate unassisted is 20%. Japan Driver's License clients enjoy a greater than 70% first time pass rate, and 95% pass by the second try.

Once you pass the eye exam and written test, you will be scheduled for your driving test. The test is not offered on the same day you apply; you will have to come back to the testing center. Most likely; it will be a testing block period, rather than a specific time.

You may be able to change this schedule on the spot or over the phone later. You will usually also receive a map of the driving course, which you will be required to drive from memory on test day. Take the opportunity to walk the driving course before you leave if possible, it will help you to memorize it.

Depending on the driving center, you may be required to pay an additional car rental fee. Be prepared to spend a lot of time waiting. When your turn comes, you will be required to get in the car and drive the prescribed course with an examiner, who will speak only in Japanese. It is necessary to memorize all the turns and elements of the course in advance; you will not receive instructions from the proctor.

If you make a "major" mistake you will fail on the spot. Whether or not you passed, you will be instructed to go inside and wait for the results with the other test takers. If you were not successful, you'll be given a paper with your next scheduled opportunity to try again.

If you are successful, you should receive your new license that day. This will entail paying more fees, getting your picture taken, and filling out forms.

If you are going to drive in Japan, especially if you are here for more than one year, you must convert your license.



# What To See And Do







## Chinatown

Yokohama is home to one of Japan's three significant Chinatowns (the other two are in Kobe and Nagasaki). Bordered by four different-colored gates (paifang), the Yokohama Chinatown (chukagai) is built around a Chinese shrine to the god of commerce. It hosts over 500 restaurants and shops in the bustling streets of its 200 square meter area.

**Motomachi-Chukagai Stn, Minatomirai Line**

[www.chinatown.or.jp](http://www.chinatown.or.jp)

Map



## Minatomirai 21

Minatomirai 21 (Port Future 21) is a modern urban development built on reclaimed land. This active area includes hotels, amusement parks, art museums, and concert halls. Great views of both Tokyo Bay and Yokohama's contemporary skyline.

**Minatomirai Station, Minatomirai Line**  
[www.minatomirai21.com/eng/Map](http://www.minatomirai21.com/eng/Map)







## Yokohama Red Brick Warehouses

The Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse facility is actually two structures which were originally built between 1911 and 1913 as a bonded warehouse, part of Japan's first major port facility. In 1989 the warehouses were converted into a cultural facility which includes cafes, restaurants and shops. Seasonal events and performances are held in the event plaza between the two buildings. As evening falls, the seafront buildings light up to create a magical atmosphere.

**1-1-2 Shinko, Naka-ku,  
Yokohama**  
**Tel: (045) 226-1911**  
[www.yokohama-akarenga.jp](http://www.yokohama-akarenga.jp)  
[Map](#)



## Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise

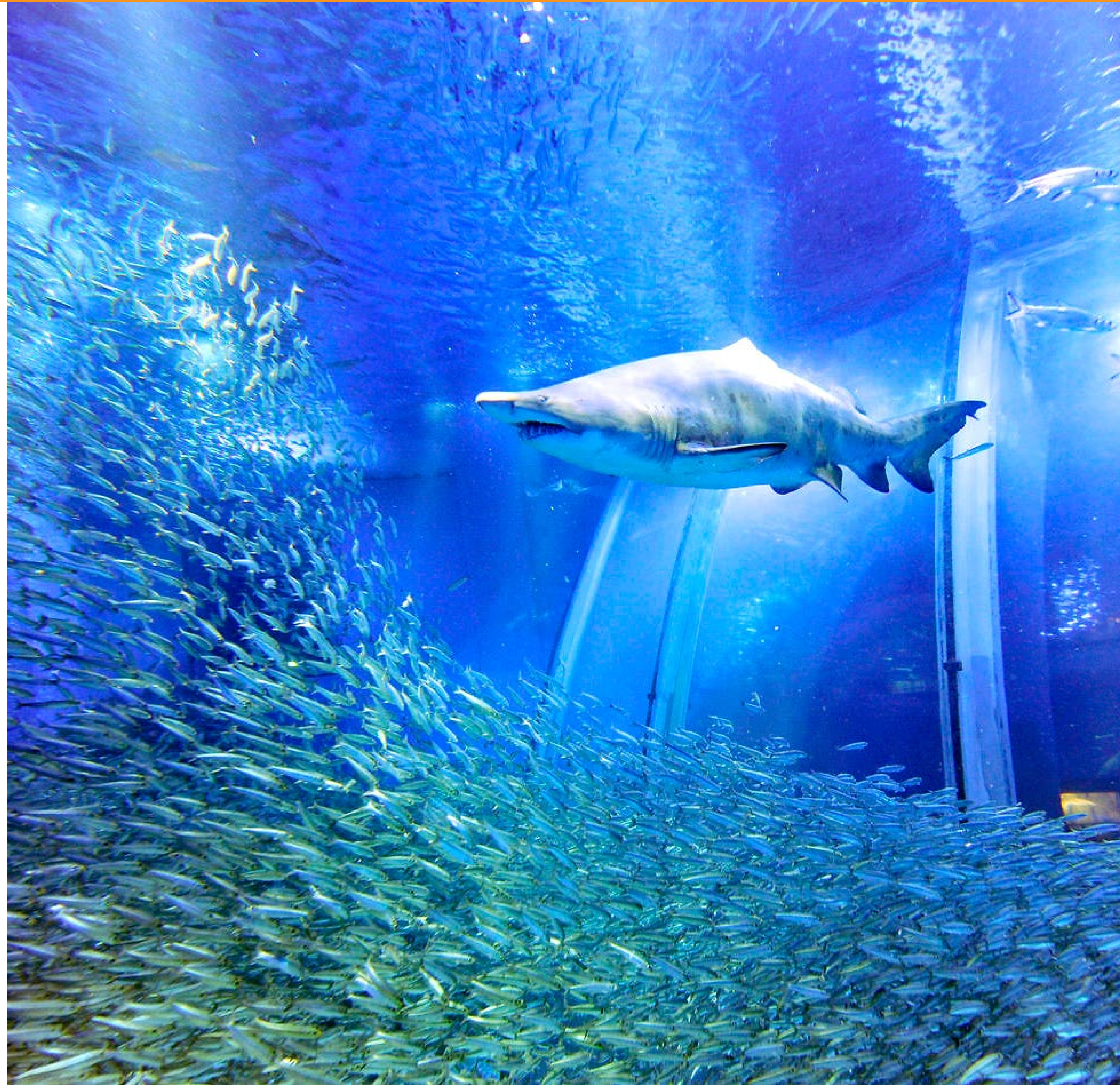
Hakkeijima Sea Paradise is an amusement park located on Hakkeijima Island in Tokyo Bay. It is one of the most visited amusement parks in Japan and houses three aquariums filled with 100,000 aquatic creatures from 500 different species. Among the most popular animals are the only whale sharks on display in Kanto.

The facility also includes a “touch and learn lagoon” where you can come into direct contact with creatures of the sea. The island also has a theme park with attractions for all ages, restaurants, a hotel and a bay market where you can shop.

**Hakkeijima, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 788-8888**

[www.seaparadise.co.jp/english/](http://www.seaparadise.co.jp/english/)  
**Map**







## Yokohama Cosmo World

Located in the center of Yokohama's Minatomirai district, Cosmo World is an inexpensive and family friendly amusement park. There is no entrance fee and guests simply pay for each ride separately. At night the view is especially picturesque from the top of the giant ferris wheel, which affords an excellent view of the harbor lights.

**2-8-1, Shinko, Naka-ku,  
Yokohama**  
**Tel: (045) 641-6591**  
**[www.cosmoworld.jp](http://www.cosmoworld.jp)**  
**Map**



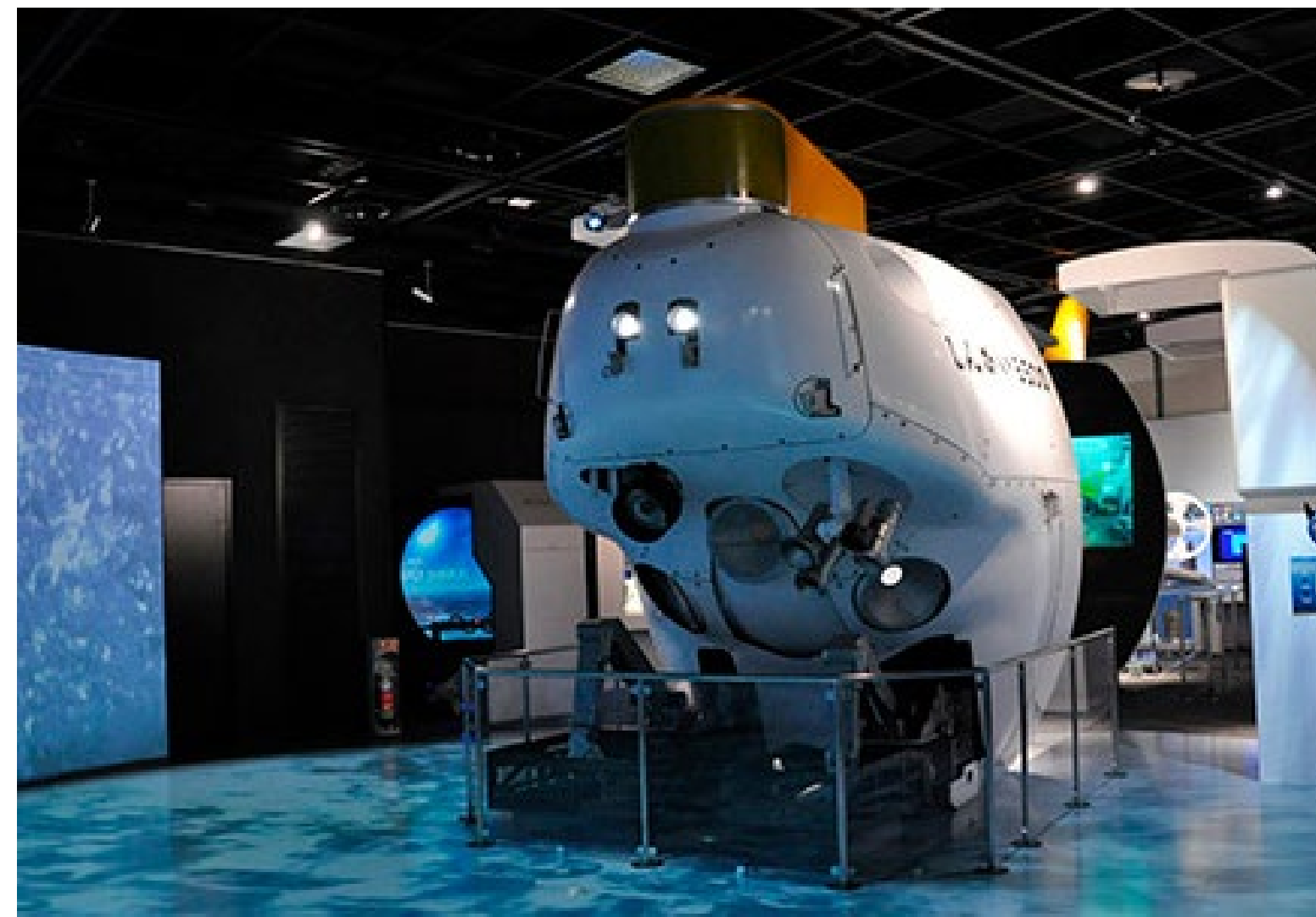
## The Yokohama Museum of Art



Specializing in modern and contemporary art. The building was designed by Kenzo Tange, a noted Japanese architect.

**3-4-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku,  
Yokohama**  
Tel: (045) 221-0300  
[www.yokohama.art.museum/eng/](http://www.yokohama.art.museum/eng/)  
[Map](#)

## Mitsubishi Minatomirai Industrial Museum



This is a great kids museum which features six zones: space, ocean, transportation, daily life discovery, environment, and technology. Exhibits feature interactive displays that showcase city planning, nuclear power generation and space travel.

**Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Bldg,  
3-3-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama**  
Tel: (045) 200-7351  
[www.mhi.co.jp/en/museum](http://www.mhi.co.jp/en/museum)  
[Map](#)

## The Silk Museum



Silk and the silk trade has played an important part in Yokohama's history. This museum explains the manufacturing process and various kinds of silk products.

**1 Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku,  
Yokohama**  
Tel: (045) 641-0841  
[www.silkmuseum.or.jp](http://www.silkmuseum.or.jp)  
[Map](#)



## The Shinyokohama Ramen Museum



The museum is devoted to the Japanese ramen noodle and features a large re-creation of Tokyo in the year 1958, the year instant noodles were invented. Within the museum are branches of famous ramen restaurants from Hokkaido to Kyushu. Along with restaurants, there is an old-style bar called 35 Knots, as well as a few other places to buy traditional snacks and food.

**2-14-21 Shinyokohama, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 471-0503**

[www.raumen.co.jp/english](http://www.raumen.co.jp/english)

[Map](#)

## The Cupnoodles Museum



Located in Yokohama's Minatomirai district, this fun and quirky museum combines displays about the invention of instant cup noodles with several activities including the "My CUPNOODLES Factory" where you can create your own original noodles by mixing various soup flavors and toppings. The museum also has a childrens' playground that looks like a noodle factory. The "World Noodles Road" bazaar looks like an Asian night market and serves different noodle dishes and canned drinks from around the world.

**2-3-4 Shinko, Naka-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 345-0918**

[www.cupnoodles-museum.jp](http://www.cupnoodles-museum.jp)

[Map](#)







## Tokyo Disney Resort

If you are a Disney fan then you will find the Tokyo outposts of the mouse's empire a fun - if crowded - experience.

The first Disney park complex to be built outside the United States, Tokyo Disneyland is twice as clean and three times as polite as its American cousins.

The newer Tokyo DisneySea has more attractions aimed at adults - and beer!

**1-1 Maihama, Urayasu, Chiba**

[www.tokyodisneyresort.jp/en/](http://www.tokyodisneyresort.jp/en/)

**Tel: (045) 330-5211**

[Map](#)



## Yamashita Park



This public park consists of a wide-open green space which is dotted with well-tended flower beds stretching about two thirds of a kilometer along Yokohama's waterfront.

**Sakuragicho Stn, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 671-3648**

[Map](#)

## Sankeien Garden



This traditional Japanese garden was originally designed by Tomitaro Hara (1868–1939), one of the major raw silk exporters in Yokohama. Accenting the main garden is an impressive three-story pagoda and graceful bridges. An inner garden contains several old houses and buildings as well as the Rinshunkaku Villa and Choshukaku House, which are both designated Important Cultural Properties.

**58-1 Honmokusannotani, Naka-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 621-0634**

[www.sankeien.or.jp/en-about/index.html](http://www.sankeien.or.jp/en-about/index.html)

[Map](#)

## Foreign General Cemetery



The Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery lies on the bluff, commanding a grand view of the city. The cemetery contains around 4,000 graves of foreigners, many of whom contributed to Japan's opening to the world.

**96 Yamatecho, Naka Ward, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 622-1311**

[www.yfgc-japan.com](http://www.yfgc-japan.com)

[Map](#)



## Yokohama Landmark Tower



The Yokohama Landmark Tower is 296 meters high with 70 stories above ground and three levels underground. There are many shops, restaurants and a hotel. Visitors can also enjoy the panoramic view. A 40 second ride on the fast elevator skyrockets you to the 69th floor Sky Garden.

**2-4-1 Minatomirai, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 222-5030**

**[www.yokohama-landmark.jp](http://www.yokohama-landmark.jp)**

**Map**

## The Yokohama Marine Tower



Construction of the Yokohama Marine Tower began in the year of Yokohama Port's 100th anniversary, 1959. It has been a symbol of the city since its completion in 1961. The observation deck on the 29th and 30th floors provides a 360 degree panoramic view overlooking both the Minato Mirai 21 Area and the Yamate Area. Visitors can also enjoy the view of Mt. Fuji and the Boso Peninsula.

**15, Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 664-1100**

**[www.marinetower.jp](http://www.marinetower.jp)**

**Map**









## Shikitei

Shikitei is one of the signature restaurants of the Yokohama Royal Park Hotel which occupies the top floors of the 70-story Yokohama Landmark Tower. Here you will find a range of traditional Japanese cuisine just as impressive as the setting. Choose to sit at a table or at the sushi counter. Private rooms are also available.

**68F Yokohama Royal Park Hotel,  
2-2-1-3 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama  
Tel: (045) 221-1111**

[www.yrph.com/en/restaurants-bars.html](http://www.yrph.com/en/restaurants-bars.html)  
[Map](#)





## Sushi Zanmai Yokohama Chukagai East Gate

This reasonably priced sushi shop is located in the heart of Chinatown. Order by the piece from their English-language menu. Nothing fancy but the food is great and the staff are friendly!

**165-4 Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 680-5326**

[www.kiyomura.co.jp](http://www.kiyomura.co.jp)

[Map](#)



## Charcoal Grill CAMP Yokohama

This camping-themed Japanese pub may not be the traditional yakitori shop you're expecting, but it does offer some excellent meat which you cook on your own BBQ set at your table. And you also make your own drinks from their selection of alcohol and mixers. This place is quirky and fun and best of all - pretty cheap!

**2F YT16 Bldg, 2-16-2 Tsuruyacho, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 313-0052**

[Map](#)





## Manchinro Honten

Manchinro Honten which was established in 1892 is Yokohama Chinatown's oldest restaurant. The cuisine is Cantonese, the exterior extravagant, and the setting authentically sophisticated. Most customers come here for the dumplings, though the entire menu is superb.

**153 Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama**  
**Tel: (045) 681-4004**  
[english.manchinro.com](http://english.manchinro.com)  
[Map](#)



## Shofukumon

Specializing in Cantonese cuisine, Shofukumon offers all-you-can-eat dim sum with around 40 different dishes to choose from and no time limit on their second floor.

**81-3 Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama**  
**Tel: (045) 664-4141**  
[www.shofukumon.com](http://www.shofukumon.com)  
[Map](#)



## Chungking Chinese Szechwan Restaurant

If you are looking for Szechwan cuisine then you can't go wrong at the founding location of this popular group of Chungking Chinese Szechwan restaurants.

**142 Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama**  
**Tel: (045) 681-8386**  
[www.jukeihanten.com/en/index.html](http://www.jukeihanten.com/en/index.html)  
[Map](#)





## Azaminoukai-tei

Located French inn that was transported brick by brick from Lyon, this Michelin-starred restaurant combines French sophistication with Japanese service. Course menus include lobster and Kobe beef prepared right before your eyes on a hot teppan grill. After dinner take a stroll in their tranquil garden.

**2-14-3 Azaminominami, Aoba-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 910-5252**

[www.ukai.co.jp/azamino](http://www.ukai.co.jp/azamino)  
**Map**





## Bills Yokohama

If you are looking for a great breakfast or brunch space then you will love the Yokohama outpost of this Australian chain. Ricotta pancakes, Nutella scones, tiramisu french toast, and toasties. Tasty lunch and dinner options as well.

**1-1-2 Shinko, Naka-ku,  
Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 650-1266**

[www.bills-jp.net/en/](http://www.bills-jp.net/en/)

[Map](#)



## Charcoal Grill Green

An eclectic and creative blend of American and European cuisines utilizing fresh, local ingredients in a friendly and inviting setting. Craft beer and Californian wines. Three locations in Ishikawa-cho, Bashamachi and Yoshidamachi.

**1F Daini Asahi Bldg, 1-8 Ishikawa-cho, Naka-ku,  
Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 662-5993**

[www.greenyokohama.com](http://www.greenyokohama.com)

[Map](#)



## Hard Rock

Even if you shy away from American chain restaurants this outpost of in-your-face everything is an oasis of big plates of yummy food with rock music and great collectable merchandise. English-speaking staff.

**1F Queen's Tower A,  
2-3-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku,  
Yokohama**  
**Tel: (045) 682-5626**  
[www.hardrock.com/cafes/yokohama](http://www.hardrock.com/cafes/yokohama)  
[Map](#)

## Hasamu Burgers & Cafe

This breezy burger shop has the laid back atmosphere of California or Hawaii, but they take their burgers extremely seriously. A range of toppings and styles.

**2F Baytown Honmoku,  
12-1 Honmokuhara, Naka-ku,  
Yokohama**  
**Tel: (045) 228-9846**  
[Map](#)







## **SALONE2007**

Considered by some to be one of Yokohama's finest places to dine, this Italian restaurant brings French influences to a rather distinguished and creative fusion menu. Think squid and foie gras with green peas, tortellini, boar, or fontina. Reservations are a must.

**3-6-1 Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 651-0113**

**[www.salone2007.com](http://www.salone2007.com)**

**[Map](#)**





## Antenna America (Yoshidamachi)

Four rotating taps and a wall-full of reach-in refrigerators filled with over 100 different bottles of craft beers that you can drink in or take-away. The food is basic American favorites - burgers and Buffalo wings - with special craft sauces.

**5F Dairoku Yoshida Bldg,  
5-4 Yoshidamachi, Naka-ku,  
Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 315-5458**

**[www.antenna-america.com](http://www.antenna-america.com)**

**Map**

## Thrash Zone

Dedicated to serious beers with a no-frills interior, Thrash Zone is the man cave of nano brews. The only food they serve is fried but it goes well with the high alcohol-content craft beers and metal videos.

**1F Tamura Bldg, 2-10-7 Tsuruya-cho, Kanagawa-ku,  
Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 514-9947**

**[www.beerdrinkinginternational.com](http://www.beerdrinkinginternational.com)**

**Map**





### Full Monty British Pub and Cider House

This legendary British pub has twelve draft beers on tap including a variety of British ales and bitters, some American craft beers, and five types of cider. Homemade pies including steak and Stilton, pork and apple, steak and kidney, and lamb and mint sauce. Of course they also serve bangers and mash and fish and chips. No smoking.

**1F Kitahara Bldg, 41 Fukutomi-cho  
Nishidori, Naka-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 334-8787**

**[www.fullmontyyokohama.com](http://www.fullmontyyokohama.com)**

**Map**







### The Tavern

The Tavern is the oldest British Pub in Yokohama and is well known among local expats, many of whom are regulars. They have seven types of draft beers and many more in bottles. Their popular Sunday lunch features all the traditional items you would expect in a pub.

**B1 Nishiguchi Meiwa Building,  
2-14-9 Minamisaicho, Nishi-ku,  
Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 322-9727**

[www.the-tavern.com](http://www.the-tavern.com)

[Map](#)









## Grocery Stores & Supermarkets

### AEON Honmoku

A chain of one-stop shopping stores featuring general merchandise and food. Some of the stores are quite large and classify as “superstores”.

[www.aeonmall.com/en/](http://www.aeonmall.com/en/)

**7-1 Honmokuhara,  
Naka-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 624-2121**

[Map](#)

### COSTCO Japan

Membership only giant grocery store carrying imported and Japanese goods. Low wholesale prices and bulk quantities. Ample parking.

[www.costco.co.jp/p/?lang=en](http://www.costco.co.jp/p/?lang=en)

**Kawasaki**

**3-1-4 Ikegamishincho,  
Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki**

**Tel: (044) 270-1140**

[Map](#)

**Kanazawa Sea Side**

**2-6 Sachiura, Kanazawa-  
ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 791-6001**

[Map](#)

### Daiei

This chain of large department stores can be found all over Japan. They sell everything from food to clothing and everything in-between

[www.daiei.co.jp/index.php](http://www.daiei.co.jp/index.php)

**2-16-1 Minamisaiwai, Nishi-  
ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 312-1333**

[Map](#)



## Keikyu and Motomachi Union Stores

Large supermarkets offering fresh produce as well as prepared food.

### Motomachi Union Honten

4-166 Motomachi, Naka-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 641-8551

[Map](#)

### Keikyu Store Hinodecho-ten

1-42 Hinodecho, Naka-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 241-6611

[Map](#)

## Kobe Bussan

This wholesale food supermarket predominantly serves restaurants, but regular customers are welcome. Large variety of items in large volume packages.

[www.kobebussan.co.jp/english/](http://www.kobebussan.co.jp/english/)

5-56 Chojamachi, Naka-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 232-8850

[Map](#)

## OK Discount Supermarket

A Japanese discount supermarket chain.

[www.ok-corporation.co.jp/index.html](http://www.ok-corporation.co.jp/index.html) (Japanese)

### Shinyamashita

2-12-34 Shinyamashita

Naka-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 628-1138

[Map](#)

### Honmoku

33-1 Honmokuwada, Naka-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 623-5358

[Map](#)



## International Food Stores

### Seijo Ishii

High quality and upscale supermarkets purveying a wide range of imported items.

[www.seijoishii.co.jp/en/](http://www.seijoishii.co.jp/en/)

### Lumine Yokohama Branch

2-16-1 Takashima, Nishi-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 461-5551

[Map](#)

### Yokohama Landmark Branch

2-2-1 Landmark Plaza, Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 227-9744

[Map](#)

### KALDI

A chain of small grocery shops that specialize in roasted coffee and a surprising selection of imported food and alcohol from around the world.

[www.kaldi.co.jp/english/](http://www.kaldi.co.jp/english/)

### Yokohama The Diamond

1-4 Minamisaiwai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 323-1711

[Map](#)

### Minatomirai

3-5-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 651-3690

[Map](#)

### Meidi-ya

A well-established food store selling a variety of imported food and liquors.

[www.meidi-ya.co.jp/en/index.html](http://www.meidi-ya.co.jp/en/index.html)

### Yokohama Nishiguchi (West Exit)

B1 Takashimaya

1-6-31 Minamisaiwai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 620-0164

[Map](#)

## Online Food Shopping

### The Meat Guy

Excellent selection of gourmet meats at great prices. Whether you want the best steaks, sausages, bacon, cheese they have a lot to choose from.

[www.themeatguy.jp](http://www.themeatguy.jp)

### YoYo Market

Imported food from Costco and more. Order online and have it delivered.

[www.yoyomarket.jp](http://www.yoyomarket.jp)

### FBC

Imported foods, beverages, cleaning products and educational items from the U.S.

[www.fbcusa.com](http://www.fbcusa.com)

### Tengu Natural Foods

Natural and organic food store online

[store.alishan.jp](http://store.alishan.jp)



## Collette Mare Yokohama

Seven floors of shopping and restaurants.

1-1-7 Sakuragicho

Tel: (045) 222-6500

Naka-ku, Yokohama

[Map](#)

## WORLD PORTERS

Over 210 shops. Fashion, interior furnishings, restaurants, and an 8 screen cinema.

2-2-1 Shinko, Naka-ku,  
Yokohama

Tel: (045) 222-2000

[www.yim.co.jp](http://www.yim.co.jp)

[Map](#)

## The Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse

Everything from beauty, products, jewelry, apparel, food, furniture, and interior furnishings. They also have restaurants.

1-1 Shinko, Naka-ku,  
Yokohama

Tel: (045) 211-1515

[www.yokohama-akarenga.jp](http://www.yokohama-akarenga.jp)

[Map](#)

## Queens Square Yokohama

60 shops and restaurants in four sections.

2-3 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku,  
Yokohama

Tel: (045) 682-1000

[www.at-yokohama.com](http://www.at-yokohama.com)

[Map](#)

## The Landmark Tower

Yokohama's tallest building has a large shopping mall in the central tower.

2-2-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku,  
Yokohama

Tel: (045) 222-5015

[www.yokohama-landmark.jp/web/english/](http://www.yokohama-landmark.jp/web/english/)

[Map](#)

## MARK IS Minatomirai

There are 190 shops in this "life entertainment mall" at Minatomirai.

3-5-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku,  
Yokohama

Tel: (045) 224-0650

[www.mec-markis.jp](http://www.mec-markis.jp)

[Map](#)





## Furniture

### IKEA

Home center originating in Sweden. Home furnishings at reasonable prices. Delivery service available at nominal cost.

### Kohoku

**201-1 Motomachi, Tsuzuki-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (0570) 013-900**

[www.ikea.com/jp/en/](http://www.ikea.com/jp/en/)

[Map](#)

### IDC

The largest furniture selection of imported and luxury furniture in Japan

### Leaf Minatomirai

**4-6-5 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 650-4321**

[www.idc-otsuka.jp](http://www.idc-otsuka.jp) (Japanese only)

[Map](#)

### MUJI

A “no brand” store. Natural and simply designed low priced clothing, furnishings and furniture.

Soutetsu Joinus 2F

**1-5-1 Minamisaiwai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 410-0530**

[www.muji.com/jp/](http://www.muji.com/jp/)

[Map](#)

## Home Centers

### Tokyu Hands

Hobby, crafts, home improvement, novelty and lifestyle products available. The store appeals to foreigners looking to find a variety of products in one store.

**5-7F Yokohama More's**

**1-3-1 Minamisaiwai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 320-0109**

[www.tokyu-hands.co.jp/foreign.html](http://www.tokyu-hands.co.jp/foreign.html)

[Map](#)

### Sekichu

Selling everything for the home including materials for renovation and more.

**4-2-7 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 228-0411**

[www.sekichu.sakura.ne.jp](http://www.sekichu.sakura.ne.jp)

[Map](#)

### Homes

A hardware, DIY and furniture chain store

**2-12-34 Shinyamashita, Naka-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 628-6200**

[www.shimachu.co.jp](http://www.shimachu.co.jp) (Japanese only)

[Map](#)



## Electronics Stores

### Bic Camera

Popular large electronics store selling everything from cameras to air conditioners.

#### Yokohama West

2-1-29 Minamisaiwai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 320-0002

[www.biccamera.com/bc/top/CSfTop.jsp](http://www.biccamera.com/bc/top/CSfTop.jsp)

[Map](#)

### Yodobashi Camera

One of the largest electronics chains in Japan

#### Multimedia Yokohama

1-2-7 Kitasaiwai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 313-1010

[www.yodobashi.com/ec/store/0033/index.html](http://www.yodobashi.com/ec/store/0033/index.html)

[Map](#)

## Discount Stores

### Don Quijote

Yokohama Nishiguchi

2-15-5 Minamisaiwai Nishi-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 317-3411

[www.donki.com/en/](http://www.donki.com/en/)

[Map](#)

### 3 Coins

B1 1-4 Minamisaiwai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 620-0960

[www.3coins.jp](http://www.3coins.jp)

[Map](#)

## ¥100 Stores

The Daiso Yokohama Ekimae Nishiguchi

B1 Equine Building 1-1-13 Kitasaiwai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 290-4947

[www.daisoglobal.com](http://www.daisoglobal.com)

[Map](#)



## Babies and Kids

### Dad Way

A distributor of popular baby gear brands such as Sassy, Nuby, and Ergobaby

**1-7 Kinkocho, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 450-9230**

[www.dadway.com/en/](http://www.dadway.com/en/)

[Map](#)

### Petit Bateau

French-styled kids clothing

**8F Sogou 2-18-1 Takashima, Nishi-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 441-8510**

[www.petit-bateau.co.jp/shop/default.aspx](http://www.petit-bateau.co.jp/shop/default.aspx)

[Map](#)

### Nishimatsuya

Kids Clothing and products for newborns and toddlers.

**4 Chome-3-9 Minatomirai Nishi Ward, Yokohama**

**Tel:(045) 664-0781**

[www.24028.jp](http://www.24028.jp)

[Map](#)

### Toys “R” Us and Baby’s R Us

Toys, clothing and baby gear

**3-5-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045)641-6900**

[www.toysrus.co.jp](http://www.toysrus.co.jp)

[Map](#)





## Living in Japan With Your Pet

Many people who will be in Japan for an extended period will think about bringing their pet with them. Importing a pet is a difficult decision so before you make it you need to consider how your dog or cat will fare on a long flight and a period of quarantine.

### Importing Pets into Japan

Japan is a rabies-free island nation and it is particularly careful about importing animals that may introduce the virus to the domestic animal population. For this reason the Japanese government has implemented a fairly strict quarantine system for those who wish to bring animals into the country.

The Japanese Animal Quarantine Service (AQS) is the official source of information regarding the import and export of pets in Japan. The full procedure with timelines is outlined in their very helpful English website.

Essentially you must submit an advance notification of the planned date of arrival, the number of animals and other items to the AQS which has jurisdiction over your intended port of arrival. This must be completed at least 40 days prior to arrival in Japan. Note that you may be requested to change the date or place of import depending on the situation at quarantine facilities maintained by the AQS.

Animals coming from Taiwan, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii, and Guam have an easier time. If you have a certificate for the animal issued by the responsible government agency of the point of export containing information such as the microchip number for individual identification, the quarantine period will normally be completed within 12 hours.

However, for all other countries the situation is a bit more complex. If the aforementioned certificate, as well as dates of rabies vaccinations and rabies

antibody levels as well as a certificate stating that the animal underwent a period of isolation for 180 days in the country of export, the quarantine period will be completed within 12 hours. In all other cases the quarantine period can be up to 180 days.

The Animal Quarantine Service will issue an “Import Quarantine Certificate” on completion of the import quarantine. Anyone importing a dog is required to register their animal under the Rabies Prevention Law and may need to take the Import Quarantine Certificate to their local authorities once they have arrived.

It is the importer’s responsibility to take care of their animals during quarantine. The importation inspection which is carried out by the animal quarantine officers is free, but the importer must cover the cost of transportation, food, onsite veterinary treatment and other care. Bear in mind that veterinary treatment has to be done at the quarantine facilities of AQS during quarantine.

Note that the AQS is unable to grant exceptions and that animals which have not met all requirements as described on their website are subject to being held for extended periods of quarantine, or may possibly be deported back to the origin of the flight. Should the animal fail to successfully complete the quarantine, the importer is responsible for the return or disposal of their animal.

More information about how to import your cat or dog to Japan can be found at the [AQS website](#)

### Registration

You must register a dog, but not a cat, at your local city ward office. If you brought your pet with you from overseas you will need to take the Quarantine Certificate that you were given at the port of entry with you. You only need to do this once in Japan, although if there is any change in status, for example, if the dog goes missing, dies, your address changes, or you plan to leave Japan, you must notify the ward office.





## The Japanese Health Care System

While medical care in Japan is good, English-speaking physicians and medical facilities that cater to foreign expectations are expensive and not widespread. Japan has a national health insurance system which is available only to those

foreigners with long-term visas for Japan. National health insurance does not pay for medical evacuation. Medical caregivers in Japan require payment in full at the time of treatment or concrete proof of ability to pay before they will treat a foreigner who is not a member of the national health insurance plan.

Western-style and standard psychiatric care can be difficult to locate in major urban centers in Japan and generally is not available outside of Japan's major cities. Extended psychiatric care for foreigners in Japan is difficult to obtain at any price.

Foreign prescriptions are not honored in Japan, so if you need ongoing prescription medicine you should arrive with a sufficient supply for your stay in Japan or enough until you are able to see a local care provider. Certain medications, including some commonly prescribed for depression and Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), are not widely available.

## Emergency Situations

There are two major emergency numbers in Japan:

110 will connect you with the police

119 will connect you with the fire department and ambulance service.

Throughout Japan, an emergency phone call can be made free of charge from any phone including public pay phones. In an emergency you may not be able to convey the exact nature of what is happening, especially if you do not immediately reach an English-speaking operator. However there are some basic things you can do in advance to help you in case of emergency.

Write the relevant numbers down near your phone so you will have them at the ready in case you need them

Be able to describe your address or location in Japanese. Have your address written down in roman characters so that you will be able to read it to the operator or enlist a friend who can do so.

Learn how to say your telephone number in Japanese

Here's how to deal with emergency calls for ambulance or fire in Japan.



## First Steps

In case of emergency, dial 119  
(may not work from cell phones)

In case of fire, say: *Kaji desu*  
(There's a fire)

To call an ambulance, say:  
*Kyu-kyu desu* (Please send an Ambulance)  
Do not hang up until the  
dispatcher understands your  
address and telephone number

Send someone out to the nearest  
major intersection to meet the  
ambulance or fire truck.

## What May Happen During Your Call

**Dispatcher:** *Shou bou desu...*  
*Kaji desu ka? Kyu-kyu desu ka?*  
(Fire department... Fire or  
ambulance?)

**Caller:** *Kyu-kyu desu* (Ambulance)

**Dispatcher:** *Dou shimashita ka?*  
(What happened?)

**Caller:** (see vocabulary below)

Bleeding: *Shukketsu desu*

Broken bone: *Kossetsu desu*

Burn: *Hidoi yakedo desu*

Difficulty Breathing: *Kokyu konnan desu*

Convulsions: *Keiren Desu*  
Chest Pains: *Mune ga taihen kurushii desu*

High Fever: *Kou netsu desu*

Injury: *Kega desu*

Poison: *Dokubutsu desu*

Sick: *Byouki desu*

Unconscious: *Ki fumei desu*

## Giving Your Name, Number and Address or Location

My name is...*Watashi no namae na* (say your name)... *desu*.

My telephone number is... *Denwa bango wa* (say your telephone number)... *desu*.

The emergency service people need to know how to locate you in order to help.

The dispatcher may say: *Jushyo wa?* or *Nani ku, Nani machi, Nan ban desu ka?*

## Explaining Your Location

Since many Japanese streets do not bear names and house/building numbers are not consecutive, it is very important that you learn how to give adequate directions to your residence in case you need to explain it to a dispatcher, usually guiding them by way of major landmarks. You can describe your location relative to recognizable landmarks using the following vocabulary:

Front: *Mae*  
Behind: *Ura*  
Diagonally In Front: *Nana me mae*  
Next to: *Tonari*  
Intersection: *Koosaten*

One of the best tests to determine if you have the capability to guide someone to your residence is

being able to order a taxi, and not from a company which has your information already programmed into its computer.

Japanese neighbors are a great source of information - ask them to tell you, word by word, how they direct people to their residences. Practice these directions on a regular basis and keep a cheat sheet by your telephone for family, babysitters, or friends to use in case of need.

Assuming you are not calling from a mobile phone, just stay on the line. Emergency operators at the fire department in most major urban centers have the ability to trace calls to your location.

## Going to the Doctor's Office

Japan has a number of large and quite modern medical facilities. However chances are that you will never visit any of them unless you have first been referred by a clinic.

While exceptions abound, visiting a non-specialty clinic or doctor's office does not require



an appointment. Simply present your insurance card to the receptionist upon arrival and you will be seen in turn, much like an emergency room. Wait times are usually less than an hour, but can be significantly longer at big hospitals. Specialists like dentists, psychiatrists, or OBGYN will more likely accept appointments.

Another difference to note is that clinics are not open every day of the week, and many big hospitals offer specific services only on set days. Additionally, the actual office hours will generally be divided into mornings and afternoons. Morning hours will generally run between nine and twelve. After morning hours the office will close until about two, and be open again from then until six. For these reasons it is especially important that you check the schedule before making your plans.

While many doctors speak some English their staff and paperwork is generally in Japanese. If you are not proficient in Japanese you may need to bring someone along to help you through the process.

Following is a list of what to expect when you visit a doctor or stay in a hospital along with a list of medical clinics in your area that will generally offer some sort of English service, though to what extent will vary.

## What To Expect

Doctors in Japan, especially older practitioners, still subscribe to a “doctor knows best” philosophy that makes the relationship a bit different from what you might experience in other countries.

If you are going to a small neighborhood clinic you should understand that, especially with older doctors: Asking directly for a second opinion may be offensive. If you are unsatisfied with their diagnosis or treatment you should get one somewhere else.

They may determine the best course of action and go with it, rather than talking the options over with you.

They can be curt to the point of seeming dismissive. Most are

very busy, and though they have your best interest at heart they will want to hear the symptoms and diagnose; no chit chat.

For day to day ailments, the Japanese medical system is top notch. However If you have issues with a doctor you should stop going to them and find another.

## What to Bring

If you are just going for a routine check-up, then all you need is your insurance information or national health system card. However if you are staying overnight or longer, you should bring your own towels, slippers, tooth brush, tissues, and sundries. These items are often available at the clinic or hospital, but are expensive.

Families often bring supplies to an admitted family member to keep costs down. If you are hospitalized for a lengthy period there will be a number of items that you will be expected to have provided for you by family or friends.





## Clinics

### **Yokohama Night Time Emergency Medical Center**

(Yokohama- shi Yakan Kyubyo Senta)

Internal Medicine & Pediatrics

Some doctors and staff speak English.

Appointments necessary; emergencies treated immediately. If possible, please come with someone who can speak Japanese.

**1-1 Sakuragicho, Naka-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 212-3535**

[www.yokohama-emc.jp](http://www.yokohama-emc.jp)

[Map](#)

### **Naka Emergency Medical Center**

(Naka-ku Kyujitsu Kyukan Shinryosho)

Internal Medicine & Pediatrics

Some doctors and staff speak English, NHI is accepted.

No appointments necessary.

If possible, please come with someone who can speak Japanese.

**2-353 Honmoku-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 622-6372**

[www.yokohama.kanagawa.med.or.jp/](http://www.yokohama.kanagawa.med.or.jp/yakan_kyujitsu/naka.html)

[yakan\\_kyujitsu/naka.html](http://www.yokohama.kanagawa.med.or.jp/yakan_kyujitsu/naka.html)

[Map](#)

### **The Bluff Clinic**

82 Yamate-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama

Appointments necessary; emergencies treated immediately.

**Tel: (045) 641-6961**

[www.bluffclinic.com](http://www.bluffclinic.com)

[Map](#)

### **Dr. Sato Clinic**

General Medicine & Pediatrics - Dr. Sato

No appointment necessary; emergencies may be given priority.

(in Honmoku - near Sannotani bus stop)

**5-13 Honmoku Oosato-cho, Naka-ku,  
Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 623-2680**

[Map](#)

## General Hospitals

### **Yokohama City**

#### **Minato Red Cross Hospital**

(Yokohama Shiritsu Minato Sekijyuji Byoin)

Some doctors and staff speak English, NHI accepted

No appointment necessary. If possible, please come with someone who can speak Japanese.

**3-12-1 Shin-Yamashita, Naka-ku,  
Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 628-6100**

[www.yokohama.jrc.or.jp](http://www.yokohama.jrc.or.jp) (Japanese)

[Map](#)

### **Shakai Hoken Yokohama Chuo Byoin**

Some doctors and staff speak English, NHI accepted. No appointments necessary.

If possible, please come with someone who can speak Japanese.

**268 Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama**

**Tel: (045) 641-1921**

[www.yokohama.jcho.go.jp](http://www.yokohama.jcho.go.jp) (Japanese)

[Map](#)

## Insurance and Medical Information

### **National Health Insurance Information**

(Yokohama City Emergency Medical Information Center)

**Tel: (045) 201-1199**

[www.yokohama-emc.jp/pc/qqinfo/qqinfo.html](http://www.yokohama-emc.jp/pc/qqinfo/qqinfo.html)

### **AMDA International Medical Information Center**

Consultations and introductions to medical institutions. Staff can speak English, Chinese, Tagalog, Spanish, Portuguese, Thai, and Korean

**Tel: (03) 5285-8088**

[www.eng.amda-imic.com/modules/](http://www.eng.amda-imic.com/modules/activity/index.php?content_id=2)  
[activity/index.php?content\\_id=2](http://www.eng.amda-imic.com/modules/activity/index.php?content_id=2)



## Deutsche Schule Tokyo Yokohama

2-4-1 Chigasaki Minami, Tsuzuki-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 941-4841

[www.dsty.ac.jp](http://www.dsty.ac.jp)

Nakamachidai Station - Yokohama Subway Blue Line

[Map](#)

## Hand In Hand International School

2-99 Motomachi, Naka-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 228-8090

[www.handinhand-cdc.com](http://www.handinhand-cdc.com)

Motomachi-Chukagai Station – Minatomirai Line

[Map](#)

## Imagine International Preschool

Yokohama Landmark Tower 13F, 2-2-1

Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 224-2121

[www.imagine-gc.com/imagine/index\\_en.html](http://www.imagine-gc.com/imagine/index_en.html)

Sakuragicho Station - Keihin Tohoku/Negishi Line, Minatomirai

Station - Minatomirai Line

[Map](#)

## Kanagawa International School

3940 Totsuka-cho, Totsuka-ku, Yokohama (Totsuka School)

17-1 Minamifujisawa, Fujisawa, Kanagawa (Fujisawa School)

Tel: (045) 841-3928

[www.kischool.com](http://www.kischool.com)

Totsuka Station - JR Tokaido Line, Yokohama Subway

Fujisawa Station - JR Tokaido Line, Odakyu, Enoshima Lines

## St. Maur International School

83 Yamatecho, Naka-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 641-5751

[www.stmaur.ac.jp](http://www.stmaur.ac.jp)

Motomachi-Chukagai - Minato Mirai Line

Yamate Station - JR Keihin Tohoku/Negishi Line

[Map](#)

## Treehouse Montessori School

16-5, Honmoku Makado, Naka-Ku

Tel: (045) 622-5804

[www.tms-school.com](http://www.tms-school.com)

JR Negishi Station. Go to Bus stop #1 - take bus #58, #99, #101 or #126 towards Sakuragicho, Yokohama or Hodogaya Shako.

[Map](#)

## Yokohama International

### Christian Academy

HS Oebashi Bldg. 2F, 6-90-1 Onoe-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 212-5171

[www.yica.co.jp](http://www.yica.co.jp)

JR Kannai/Sakuragicho Station - JR Keihin Tohoku/Negishi Line

Toyoko/Minato Mirai Line: Bashamichi Station

Yokohama Municipal Subway: Kannai/Sakuragicho Station

[Map](#)

## Yokohama International School

258 Yamatecho, Naka-ku, Yokohama

Tel: (045) 622-0084

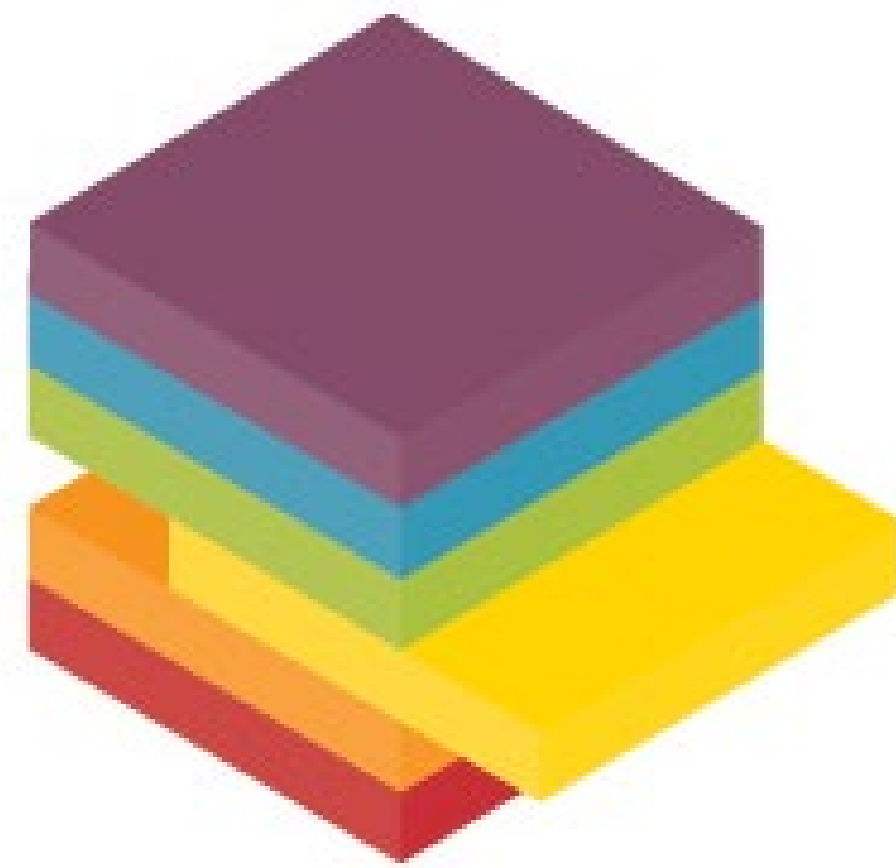
[www.yis.ac.jp](http://www.yis.ac.jp)

Motomachi-Chukagai Station - Toyoko / Minatomirai Line

Ishikawacho Station - JR Keihin Tohoku / Negishi Line

[Map](#)





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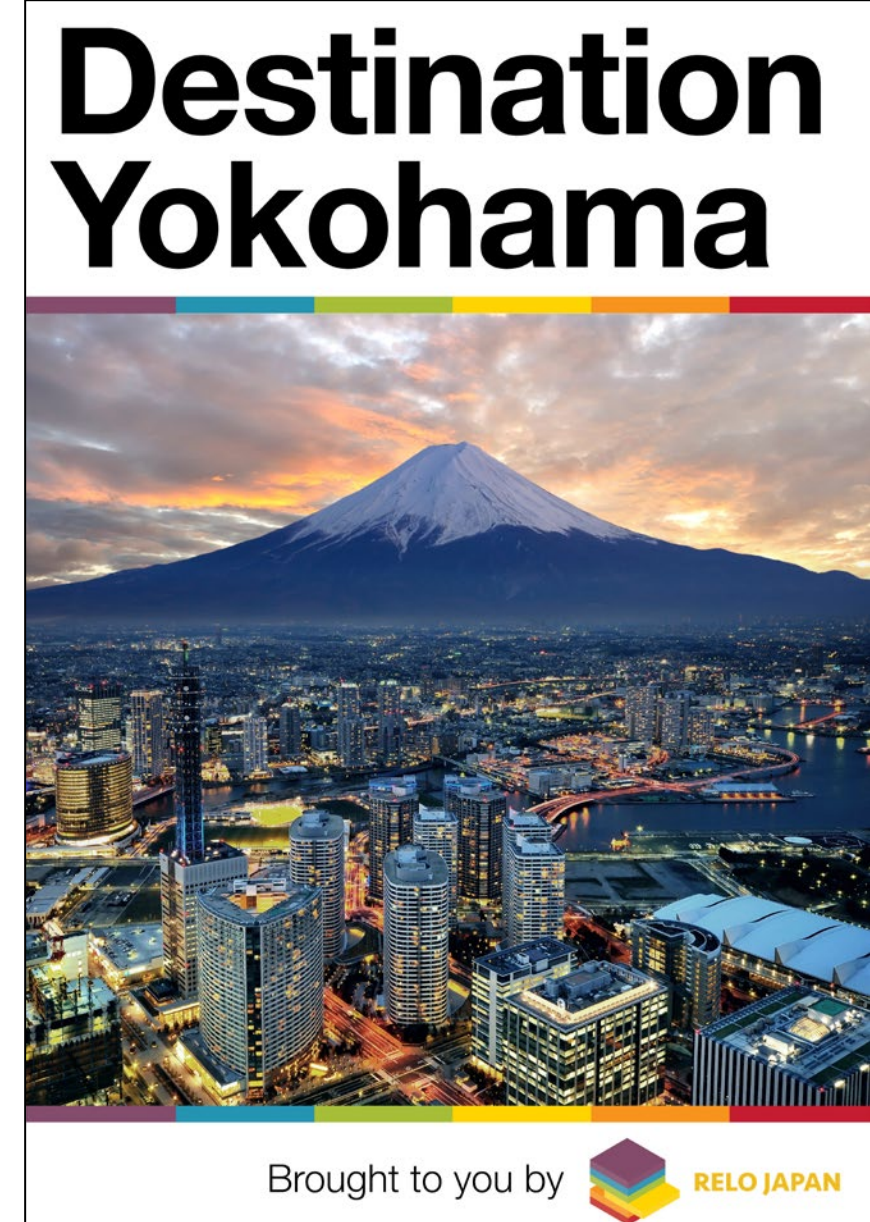
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