

Discover Japan's futuristic cities, ancient temples, traditional culture and stunning natural landmarks.

The **Japan Rail Pass** represents the ideal way to explore Japan and enjoy all this fascinating country has to offer. The most popular pass for train travel in Japan entitles you to unlimited travel across the JR rail network (including almost all of the high speed **Shinkansen** trains) and is valid nationwide.

If you are looking for great value for money, convenience and flexibility as a traveller in Japan, you can't go pass the **Japan Rail Pass**. From the popular cities of **Tokyo**, **Osaka**, **Kyoto** and **Kobe** to the beautiful regional areas such as Nagano, Chubu, Kansai and Fuji Five Lakes, with the Japan Rail Pass you can visit all the major destinations as well as the hidden gems.

**Please note:**

- **The Japan Rail Pass cannot be purchased in Japan.**
- Once you buy your JR Pass directly via the Rail Plus website you will then be issued with an exchange voucher which must be presented at a JR station in Japan within 3 months of issue date.
- Rail Plus cannot sell point to point tickets in Japan, they must be purchased locally.

## Japan Rail Pass Information

The **Japan Rail Pass** is your ticket to convenient, stress free travel anywhere your passions and interests happen to take you. With the **JR Pass** in hand, you get easy access to dozens of **Shinkansen**, as well as local train and bus lines, which provide convenient and comprehensive transportation across the country. The **Japan Rail Pass** makes it easy and affordable to traverse Japan's bustling cities and diverse prefectures.

The Japan Rail Pass is valid on the following railway, bus and ferry services:

### Railways

The **Yamanote Line** in Tokyo. The Yamanote Line is a JR train line and is covered with the Japan Rail Pass. The Yamanote Line is Tokyo's most important train line and your ticket to its vibrant and varied downtown area. It is a circular line which connects Tokyo's major city centers and provides you with access to many of the city's iconic sights such as the Ueno neighborhood with its many national museums, the quirky Akihabara neighborhood buzzing with anime fans, the chic shopping districts of Harajuku and Shibuya, and of course the bustling Shinjuku, which is famous for its neon nightlife. It's also worth getting off at the Yamanote Line's less famous stops to explore some of its lesser known districts. A trip around the whole circle takes approximately one hour.

Even though a single train on the Yamanote Line is roughly 200 meters long, there are departures about every two to four minutes in each direction, depending on the time of day.

Please note: Green circular line only is Yamanote Line.



All JR Group Railways

Most bullet trains (**Shinkansen**), limited express and rapid or local trains are included with the **Japan Rail Pass**.

The Shinkansen routes run all over Honshu, Japan's main island, and also provide you with access to most of the key southern islands in conjunction with ferry connections. Shinkansen can take you from the tranquil shores of Kagoshima, the 'Hawaii of Japan' in the far south, all the way up to the city of Aomori on the northernmost tip of Honshu, which is famous for its autumn colours and the annual Nebuta Festival, with its nightly displays of lantern floats and elaborately costumed dancers.

**Exclusions:** The '**Nozomi**' bullet train is not included on the Japan Rail Pass, however there are many other JR trains that run the same routes; The **Mizuho** Shinkansen, which runs between Osaka and Kagoshima, is not included on the Japan Rail Pass. However, the Sakura Shinkansen also runs this route and is valid on the Japan Rail Pass.

Buses

Although Shinkansen form the backbone of Japan's regional transport system, its dense bus networks connect every town, city, and prefecture, providing travellers with access to many of the country's lesser known attractions.

**JR Highway Bus Lines:** Morioka - Hirokai/Aomori/Towadako \* Sapporo - Otaru; Tokyo - Shizuoka/Hamamatsu/Okazaki/Toyota/Nagoya/Kyoto/Osaka/Tsukuba Centre; Nagoya - Kyoto / Osaka; Osaka - Tsuyama Car Shed / Kasai Flower Centre

**JR Bus Companies:** Local lines of JR Bus Tohoku, JR Bus Kanto, JR Tokai Bus, West Japan JR Bus, Chugoku JR Bus, JR Hokkaido Bus and JR Kyushu Bus.

**JR Bus Divisions:** Local bus lines of JR Shikoku.

Ferries

**JR Ferry:** Miyajima - Miyajimaguchi, except "BEETLE II" (Hakata - Pusan)

Travelling to/from Tokyo Airport

**Narita Airport (Tokyo):** Narita International Airport is the primary international airport in Tokyo. The Narita

Express train or N'EX is a fast, convenient, and comfortable way to travel between Tokyo's Narita Airport and major stations in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

**Seat reservations are compulsory for the Narita Express but are free of charge for Japan Rail Pass holders.** Exchange your voucher and reserve your seat at a JR Exchange office at Narita Airport and you're ready to go!

### Important JR Pass Details

- Rail Plus will issue an exchange voucher which must be presented in Japan, at any JR Station that has a [Japan Rail Pass Exchange Office](#). You will receive two Exchange Order vouchers labelled A and B (located in the top right hand corner) which must be presented locally within 3 months of issue date. Your Rail Pass is then valid for travel to commence within 1 month.
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- **Important:** At the time of exchange you will be asked to fill out a short application form and show your passport with the temporary visitor stamp that you would have received upon entry into Japan. You must have your passport with you at the time of the exchange. A photocopy of your passport is not acceptable and without your passport the exchange cannot be made.
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- Children under six years of age may travel free of charge if they do not occupy a seat i.e. are seated on their parent's lap. (One child per adult only) Otherwise, they will need a Child Rail Pass
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- It is not possible to purchase point to point tickets for trains in Japan from Australia or New Zealand.

For more details on the **Japan Rail Pass**, please don't hesitate to get in contact with us.

### Luggage

- Travellers may bring up to two pieces of luggage on board free of charge
- Each piece of luggage must not exceed 250 cm (total length x width x height)
- Length must not exceed 2 meters
- Weight must be no more than 30 kilograms (items such as umbrellas, handbags, etc. are excluded)

### Payment & Ticketing

Conditions:

To be eligible to purchase a Japan Rail Pass, you must meet one of the following criteria:

#### Temporary Visitor (Foreign Tourist)

You are a foreign tourist visiting Japan for sightseeing under the entry status of "Temporary Visitor".

#### Dual Citizen (Japan & country of residence)

You are a dual citizen and have two passports (Japan and your country of residence). You **MUST** enter Japan

under the entry status of "Temporary Visitor" on your foreign passport in order to exchange your Exchange Order for the Japan Rail Pass in Japan.

### **Japanese national living in a foreign country**

You are a Japanese national living in a foreign country for 10 consecutive years or more. You must have both your Japanese passport AND written proof, obtained from the embassy or legation of Japan in the foreign country where you live, that you have been living legally in the country for 10 consecutive years or more.

Acceptable Written Proof:

- Copy of your Overseas Residential Registration issued by the embassy or legation of Japan in the foreign country where you live (limited to an Overseas Residential Registration with a date of acceptance at least 10 years earlier)
- Certificate of Overseas Residence issued by the embassy or legation of Japan in the foreign country where you live (limited to a Certificate of Overseas Residence with a date at least 10 years earlier as the date on which your address, or place of temporary residence, was established as your present address)

Validity:

- An Exchange Order is issued which must be presented in Japan, at a JR Station that has a Japan Rail Pass Exchange Office. You will receive two Exchange Order vouchers labelled A and B (located in top right hand corner) which must be presented locally within 3 months of issue date. Your Rail Pass is then valid for travel to commence within 1 month.
- Passengers travelling on non JR lines must pay respective fares and charges applicable to sections travelled.
- The Japan Rail Pass is not valid for the following:
  - Nozomi trains along the Tokaido/Sanyo Shinkansen
  - Mizuho trains along the Sanyo/Kyushu Shinkansen
  - JR trains using non-JR tracks
  - Highway buses
- All reservations must be made locally in Japan.

**Child Ages: 6 - 11 years.** Children under six years of age may travel free of charge if they do not occupy a seat i.e. are seated on their parent's lap. (One child per adult only) Otherwise, they will need a Child Rail Pass.

We also recommend that you take out suitable travel insurance to cover (as a minimum) the costs incurred if you cancel your trip.

## **Cancellation & Amendments**

**Conditions:**

- To reissue a pass a fee applies: \$20 fee + 10% Carrier Penalty per pass applies.

- An Exchange Order that has not been presented for issuance of a Japan Rail Pass must be returned within 12 months from issuing date.
- A \$30 fee + 10% Carrier Penalty per pass applies.
- Exchange Orders or Japan Rail Passes will not be reissued or refunded if lost or stolen.