

## Chapter 10 - Customs and Rules for Living in Japan



### 1 Life Rules

#### 1 – 1 Waste Disposal Basics

The Miki City Waste Disposal Facility collects waste from homes. For anything you don't understand, ask the Environmental division (Miki City Waste Disposal Facility).

Environmental Division (Miki City Waste Disposal Facility) ☎ 0794-83-2608

- (1) For burnable garbage and plastics (recyclable), you must purchase and use the designated trash bags. Throw out garbage according to what is written on the bag. Use clear trash bags for non-burnable and buried garbage.
- (2) Put out garbage for collection at the correct location and time (day of the week) according to which category it belongs to. Leave your garbage at the rubbish collection site by 8:00 a.m. of the designated collection day.
  - ※ Bags containing items of the wrong category and bags left outside of designated locations will not be collected.
- (3) For sorting instructions, there is a rubbish sorting application as well as sorting chart posters available in Japanese, Chinese, Korean, English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic. Download the mobile app via the QR codes on the below.

Android



iPhone



- (4) Used Cooking Oil (Fryer Oil)

Do not dump oil down the kitchen sink. Use old newspapers to soak up leftover cooking oil and discard with other burnable garbage on the designated collection day.
- (5) Littering and Illegal Dumping

Both are considered crimes. Only discard waste at designated areas. Do not throw away garbage on the road or in the middle of the mountains.



#### 1 – 2 Noise Pollution (Loud Noises and Disturbances)

Refrain from making loud noises or shouting, especially if you live in a condominium or apartment. Take care that you do not inconvenience people living close to you.

Be careful between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. in particular.

- ✗ Do not talk loudly.
- ✗ Do not watch TV or listen to music at a high volume.
- ✗ Do not run inside your house.
- ✗ Do not make a racket in the house, throw parties with singing and dancing, etc.
- ✗ Do not use loud appliances such as washing machines or vacuums early in the morning or late at night.
- ✗ Do not drop things from the upper floors of your building. It is dangerous and the things may hit someone below.



### 1 – 3 Usage of Apartment and Condominium Shared Spaces

Stairs and hallways are considered common areas (spaces that everyone uses). Because they are used for evacuation in times of fire or earthquake, you must keep them clear of all personal belongings.



### 1 – 4 Flushing Toilets in Japan

Use the toilet paper that is available in restrooms. Used tissues do not go into garbage cans. Instead, flush them down the toilet.

- ※ Fancier toilets at department stores and stations may have several buttons. Be sure to press the “<sup>なが</sup>流す (FLUSH)” button last.

### 1 – 5 Usage of Mobile Phones (Smartphones)

Do not use your mobile phone while walking. There is a chance you will hit and injure others or become injured yourself. Using a mobile phone while driving a car or riding a bicycle or motorcycle is forbidden by law.



### 1 – 6 In Buses and Trains

Be careful of the following things when inside a bus or train:

- ✗ It is bad manners to talk loudly.
- ✗ It is bad manners in Japan to talk on the phone.
- ✗ Listening to music at high volumes is also a nuisance. Be careful that noise does not leak from your earphones.
- ✗ When it is crowded, a bag worn on the back might hit and inconvenience others.

## 1 – 7 Being Timely and Keeping Promises

Just as how trains arrive according to schedule, Japanese society values timeliness. Arriving late to school or work can cause you to lose the trust of others.

If you are running late, contact the other party as soon as possible. Tardiness and unannounced absences can land you in trouble with your company.

## 2 Important Things about Living in Japan

### 2 – 1 Relationships with Those Living around You (Neighborhood Associations)

In Japan, there are neighborhood associations (groups that think about the community together). Neighborhood associations often pass around circular notices (papers containing information important for everyday living) from house-to-house.

They also hold events, such as evacuation drills (practice putting out fires and escaping to safety in times of disaster) and festivals. In order to keep the community a safe place and an easy place to live, neighborhood associations will also collect association fees from the residents in the area. You can get along with the people living near you and exchange information on things to pay attention to in the area. You too can join a neighborhood association. Ask people living nearby for more information.

### 2 - 2 Crime Prevention (To avoid becoming a victim of theft, sexual harassment, etc.)

Lock your doors and windows when you go out.

Always lock your car, motorcycle, and bicycle when parking.

Do not leave valuables, such as your purse and wallet, in places out of sight.

At night, avoid dark streets and places with few people and instead choose brighter paths. If there is anything you worry about or don't understand about crime prevention, you can talk to the police near you.



### 2 – 3 Bank Accounts (Depositing and Withdrawing Money)

(1) Bring the following things with you to the bank when you open an account:

- Your residence card
- Your personal seal (hanko) - there are also banks that accept signatures.
- Your company ID or student ID (a card with your name and picture received from your workplace or school.)

(2) When you leave Japan or will no longer use your bank account, you can close accounts you will no longer use at the bank (termination). You cannot sell your account, cashcard, or bankbook to other people. Doing so is a crime.

### 3 Riding the Train and Bus

#### 3-1 IC Cards

You can use transportation IC cards to pay train and bus fares across multiple companies. There are also times when you'll be charged less than if you were to pay with cash. Buy one at a train station service counter or ticketing machine or at a bus company's place of operations.



#### 3-2 Riding the Train

(1) The basic step-by-step to using the train:

- Check your destination station on the route map.
- Buy a ticket that covers the fare to your destination and pass through the ticket gate. (If it accepts IC cards, enter by touching the card to an automatic gate.)
- Following the signs posted around the station, go to the platform of the train that is headed in the direction of your destination.
- On the platform, wait inside of the white line or yellow blocks (away from the edge.)
- After arriving at the destination, use the ticket to exit from the gate. (If you used an IC card, touch it to the automatic gate to exit and pay from the balance on the card.)

(2) If you don't know how to ride the train or get to your destination, ask a station attendant:

- Sumimasen. \_\_\_\_\_ ni ikitai no desuga, kono densha wa ikimasu ka?  
(Excuse me, I want to go to \_\_\_\_\_. Does this train go there?)
- Douyatte ittara ii desu ka? (How should I go there?)
- Nan ban sen desu ka? (What line number is it?)



Types of tickets:

Basic fare ticket:	a basic ticket needed to board the train
Commuter pass:	convenient for going to the same place every day for work or school; available in 1-month, 3-month, 6-month increments.
Discount ticket:	available when you buy 11 tickets for the price of 10
Limited express ticket:	needed to board a limited-express train or Shinkansen
Reserved seat ticket:	needed when using a reserved seat
Green ticket:	needed when using the green car (with more expensive seats)



#### 3-3 Riding the Bus (Fixed-Route Buses)

(1) Flat-fare buses

Depending on the bus, put the fare into the fare box when you get on or off the bus.

※ If you are using a transportation IC card, touch it to the card reader.

(2) Progressive-fare buses

When you get on the bus, take a boarding ticket. When you get off, compare the number on your boarding ticket to the screen located above the bus driver, and pay the fare listed under the number of your ticket.

※ If you are using a transportation IC card, touch it to the card reader both when you get on and off the bus.

(3) The bus IC card pass (Nicopa card) is convenient.

A Nicopa card is a card usable on all Shinki and Shinki Zone buses. It cannot be used to board trains. In Miki City, if you use a Nicopa card to ride buses, bus fares for trips within the city will be capped at 200 yen (100 yen for children). Trips to the Kita Harima Medical Center will also be the same price.

○ Topping up your card balance

You can top up your card balance in the bus or at the Shinki Bus Company Miki Base of Operations. There are two types of fares: the regular rate fare and the discounted rate fare (if you deboard between 9:30 and 16:00).

Regular Rate: Every 1000 yen, your usable balance increases by 1100 yen

Discounted Rate: For every 1000 yen added, it increases by 1250 yen.

○ Obtaining a card

You can obtain one at the Shinki Bus Company Information Center.

○ Using a Nicopa card

Getting on: Touch your Nicopa card to the card reader on the bus (until you hear a beep).  
Do not take a boarding ticket.

Getting off: Touch your card to the card reader located next to the driver. The fare for the trip will be deducted from the card balance. You can check your card balance when you use the card reader while boarding and deboarding.