

# How to Get On and Off Fixed-Route Buses in Japan: A Comprehensive Guide

Traveling by fixed-route bus is a convenient and economical way to get around Japan. However, for first-time visitors, the process of getting on and off buses can be a bit confusing. This comprehensive guide will provide you with all the information you need to navigate fixed-route buses in Japan with ease.



## HOW TO GET ON AND OFF A FIXED-ROUTE BUS IN JAPAN!

by Stephanie Pokorny

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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## Getting On the Bus

1. **Locate the bus stop.** Bus stops in Japan are typically marked with a blue and white sign that says "バス停" (basutei). They are usually located near major intersections or landmarks.
2. **Wait in line.** When you arrive at the bus stop, wait in line behind any other passengers who are waiting. Do not push or cut in line.
3. **Get in line when the bus arrives.** When the bus arrives, get in line behind the passengers who are getting off. Do not rush to get on the bus until everyone has had a chance to get off.

4. **Pay your fare.** Most buses in Japan require you to pay your fare when you get on. You can pay with cash, a prepaid card (such as a Suica or Pasma card), or a QR code. The fare will vary depending on the distance you are traveling.
5. **Find a seat or stand.** Once you have paid your fare, find a seat or stand. If there are no seats available, you can stand in the designated area near the back of the bus.

## Getting Off the Bus

1. **Ring the bell.** When you are approaching your stop, ring the bell to signal to the driver that you want to get off. The bell is usually located near the door.
2. **Move to the front of the bus.** Once the bus has stopped, move to the front of the bus and exit through the front door.
3. **Pay your fare (if you haven't already).** If you have not already paid your fare, you will need to do so before you exit the bus. You can pay with cash or a prepaid card.

## Fares

The fare for fixed-route buses in Japan varies depending on the distance you are traveling. The fare is typically displayed on a sign at the front of the bus. You can also ask the driver for the fare.

There are a few different ways to pay your fare:

- **Cash:** You can pay your fare with exact change. Do not give the driver a large bill, as they may not have change.

- **Prepaid card:** You can use a prepaid card, such as a Suica or Pasma card, to pay your fare. Prepaid cards can be Free Downloaded at train stations and convenience stores.
- **QR code:** You can use a QR code to pay your fare. QR codes can be found on bus stops and on the buses themselves.

## Etiquette

There are a few things you should keep in mind when riding fixed-route buses in Japan:

- **Be polite.** Always be polite to the driver and other passengers. Do not talk loudly or make disruptive noises.
- **Do not eat or drink on the bus.** Eating and drinking are not allowed on buses in Japan.
- **Keep your belongings close to you.** Be aware of your belongings and keep them close to you at all times.
- **Do not smoke on the bus.** Smoking is not allowed on buses in Japan.

## Tips

- **Plan your route ahead of time.** Before you get on the bus, plan your route and know which stop you need to get off at. This will help you avoid getting lost.
- **Learn a few basic Japanese phrases.** Learning a few basic Japanese phrases, such as "すみません" (sumimasen) and "ありがとうございます" (arigatou gozaimasu), will help you communicate with the driver and other passengers.

- **Be patient.** Getting around by bus in Japan can be a bit slow, especially during rush hour. Be patient and allow yourself plenty of time to get to your destination.

Getting on and off fixed-route buses in Japan is a simple and straightforward process. By following the tips in this guide, you can navigate the bus system with ease. So next time you're in Japan, hop on a bus and explore all that this beautiful country has to offer!



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