

The Gaijin's Guide to the Japanese Train System

Everything You Need to Know to Travel Like a Local

Japan's train system is one of the most efficient and reliable in the world. It's also incredibly complex, especially for foreigners who may not be familiar with the Japanese language or customs.



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by Brian Breeding

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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That's where this guide comes in. We'll cover everything you need to know to navigate Japan's train system like a pro, from buying tickets to finding your way around stations.

Buying Tickets

The first step to using Japan's train system is to buy a ticket. You can do this at a ticket machine or at a staffed ticket counter.

If you're buying a ticket from a machine, you'll need to select your destination and the type of ticket you want. There are three main types of tickets:

- **Ordinary tickets** are the most basic type of ticket. They allow you to travel on any train on the JR network, but they don't include reserved seating.
- **Reserved seat tickets** allow you to reserve a specific seat on a specific train. These tickets are more expensive than ordinary tickets, but they guarantee you a seat.
- **Green car tickets** allow you to travel in the Green Car, which is the first-class section of the train. Green Car tickets are the most expensive type of ticket, but they offer the most comfortable seating and amenities.

Once you've selected your destination and ticket type, you'll need to insert your money into the machine. The machine will then dispense your ticket.

If you're buying a ticket from a staffed ticket counter, simply tell the attendant your destination and the type of ticket you want. The attendant will then issue you a ticket.

Finding Your Way Around Stations

Once you have your ticket, it's time to find your way around the station. Japanese train stations are often large and complex, so it's important to know where you're going.

The first thing you need to do is find the platform for your train. The platform number will be displayed on your ticket.

Once you've found the platform, you need to find your train. The train number will be displayed on the front of the train.

When you board the train, be sure to find a seat. If you have a reserved seat ticket, your seat number will be printed on your ticket.

Using the Train

Once you're on the train, it's important to follow the rules and regulations. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Be quiet on the train. Talking is not allowed in most carriages.
- Don't eat or drink on the train.
- Don't smoke on the train.
- Be respectful of other passengers.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask a member of the train staff. They will be happy to help you.

Getting Off the Train

When you reach your destination, it's time to get off the train. To do this, simply walk to the door of the train and press the button to open it.

Once you're off the train, be sure to collect your belongings and exit the station.

Navigating Japan's train system can be daunting at first, but it's actually quite easy once you get the hang of it. By following the tips in this guide, you'll be able to travel like a local in no time.

So what are you waiting for? Start planning your next trip to Japan today!



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