

Notes from Driving in Japan Course

Accident prevention

- Never drive in the blind spot of another vehicle
- When another vehicle is following too closely, allow a greater distance in front
- Must always use signals when changing lanes, making turns or pulling over and check blind spots to side and rear by looking shoulder

If involved traffic accident

- If able, HELP THE INJURED FIRST
- Take any action to prevent further accidents from occurring at the scene
- Remain at the scene until military or civil law enforcement personnel authorize your departure
- Report to military police from the Accident site

Important emergency numbers

- LOCAL OFF BASE JAPANESE POLICE: 110
- REGIONAL DISPATCH CENTER: 119
- BASE SECURITY: 0467-63-0911/3200
- BASE AMBULANCE: 0467-63-0911

No parking/No stopping

- Areas designated as no parking/no stopping
- Near the top of hill, along a steep downward slope, and in tunnels
- At an intersection and within 5 meters of a intersection
- Pedestrian/bicycle crossing zone or within 5 meters of those place

No parking

- Areas designated as no parking
- within 3 meters from an entrance of parking lot, garage
- Within 5 meters of
 - Edge of construction area
 - Fire fighting equipment or a water tank for it
 - Fire hydrant

No passing

- No passing within 30 meters from anything crossing the road, pedestrian crossing or railroad crossing

Horn

- Horn is a communication device to be used when you are not certain another driver sees you



Notes from Driving in Japan Course

On base rules

- No U-turns.
- Vehicle in the traffic circle has the right of way. Vehicles outside the circle waiting to enter MUST yield to circulating vehicles in traffic circle
Always use left turn signal when leaving the circle
- Vehicles will stop in both directions for school buses when the school bus is stopped for loading and unloading of passengers on base

Drinking and Driving 1

- Never mix them: drinking and driving
- No open alcoholic container in a vehicle at all times
- Refusing breath test by NSP will result 1 year license revocation
- Alcohol-related serious traffic accident may result in imprisonment

Drinking and Driving 2

Japanese legal limit of **BAC is 0.03%**, far lower than the States, 0.08%.

- DUI: Driving Under the Influence, **BAC 0.03%** and above
 - Up to 3 year confinement or 500,000 yen fine
 - Mandatory 60 days license suspension (further penalties may result). Upon conviction in Traffic Court, two year license revocation is mandatory. Same for Intoxicated Driving
- Intoxicated Driving: **BAC 0.08%** and above
 - Up to 5 year confinement or 1,000,000 yen fine
 - Mandatory 60 days license suspension (further penalties may result). Also, DUI-type punishment applies
 - Notwithstanding personal pain and suffering, any property damage, drinking and driving can negatively affect one's professional career, both sponsor, spouse, and dependent

Drinking and Driving 3 (Passengers/vehicle owners/host of party)

Japanese traffic law is very strict for passengers, individuals driving a vehicle, and the host of drinking parties.

- Riding as passengers with a drunk driver
 - Up to 3 year confinement or 500,000 yen fine
- Providing vehicles to drunk driver
 - Up to 5 year confinement or 1,000,000 yen fine
- Providing alcohol beverages to drunk driver
 - Up to 3 year confinement or 500,000 yen fine

Bicycle Law in Japan

- KEEP ON THE LEFT ALWAYS: Do not drive against traffic
- NOT allowed on Sidewalk: Except: *road sign with bicycle, age, and police officer authorization*
- May ride inside SINGLE-LINE on a shoulder of a road
- Violation of Law: Up to 90 days in prison or 50,000 yen fine (max)

