




Basics / V. Transportation / 1. Public transportation

●Buses●

Buses in Sendai include Sendai City buses and Miyagi Kotsu buses.

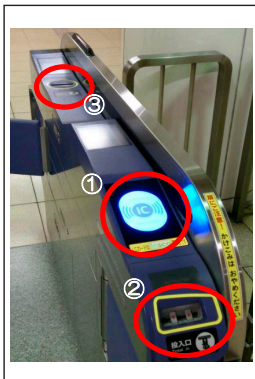
How to ride the bus

- a)  In Sendai, you board the bus from the middle and get off from the front door. When paying by cash, please take a ticket from ① as shown on the left. When using IC cards (prepaid smart cards), such as icsca, please tap your card in the location as shown by ②.
- b) When you hear the name of the bus stop you would like to get off at, please push one of the buttons inside of the bus. 
- c)  Pay your bus fee when you get off the bus. When paying with cash, first put the ticket and then the displayed amount into ③. The machine does not dispense change. If you need coins, put money in ④ before you disembark. The coin dispenser only accepts 1,000 yen notes, 500, 100, and 50 yen coins. When using IC cards, please touch your card on ⑤. ※ If the funds on your IC card is low, you can recharge your card on the bus. Please ask the bus driver. (you will not receive change)

●Subway●

There are two Sendai Subway lines (Namboku Line and Tozai Line).

How to ride the subway



You will pass through an automatic ticket gate when getting on and getting off the subway in Sendai.

When entering and leaving the gate, tap your icsca or other IC card on the terminal marked ①. If you are using an individual ticket or one-day pass, please pass it through the slot marked ② and retrieve it from the slot marked ③ when entering the gate.

When leaving the gate after getting off the train, individual tickets will not pass through to slot ③, but one-day passes will. Do not forget to retrieve it when exiting.

●Purchasing individual subway tickets●

Where to purchase: Ticket machines in subway stations.



●Purchasing icsca cards●

Where to purchase: Ticket machines or the commuter pass counter in subway stations.

●Purchasing one-day passes (Passes you can use as many times as you would like in one day)●

Where to purchase: The commuter pass counter in subway stations, etc. (for the one-day bus pass). Ticket machines in subway stations (for the one-day subway pass).

●Purchasing commuter passes (Passes that allow you to ride as many times as you would like within a set route)●

Where to purchase: The commuter pass counter in subway stations

For details, please call the Transportation Bureau Information Center.

Sendai City Buses and Subway	Transportation Bureau Information Center	
	TEL: 022-222-2256 (J)	
	Transportation Bureau Lost-and-Found Center	
	TEL: 022-223-4812 (J)	
Miyagi Kotsu Buses	Transportation Bureau website https://www.kotsu.city.sendai.jp/	
	(J, E, C, K, V, N, and more)	
	Miyagi Kotsu Headquarters	TEL: 022-771-5310
	North-bound: Tomiya Office	TEL: 022-358-9031 (Lost and found)
JR East	South-bound: Sendai Office	TEL: 022-243-2131(Lost and found)
	Sendai Station Lost and Found Center	TEL: 022-227-0255
	JR East Info Line (E, C, K)	TEL: 050-2016-1603

●JR trains●

JR train tickets can be purchased at travel agencies as well as train stations.

●Long-distance buses●

Long-distance buses run between Sendai and other cities. For example, there is a bus from Sendai to Tokyo that takes about 5 hours and 30 minutes. Reservations are required. For details, please contact the respective bus companies.

●Taxis●

Most taxis can seat 5, including the driver. If the light on the passenger side of the windshield reads 空車 (kuusha/empty car), raise your hand to stop the taxi. The back door on the left-hand side opens automatically, so you just need to wait until it opens.

Make sure to check the base fare, which is displayed on the side window on the left (same side as where you board the taxi). The fare rises in proportion to the time and distance, so it will increase even when the taxi is stopped in front of a traffic light or stuck in a traffic jam.

There is a surcharge between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

If you cannot speak Japanese, give the driver a note with your destination written on it.

*** Sendai Multicultural Center Interpretation Support Hotline (TEL: 022-224-1919) ***

Basics / V. Transportation / 2. Cars, motorcycles and bicycles

●Driving a car or motorcycle in Japan●

You must have a Japanese driver's license or an International Driver's Permit. There are two ways to obtain a Japanese license:

- Convert a driver's license from a foreign country
- Take a theory, aptitude and practical test. The theory test is available in 20 different languages. Appointments can be made through the website of the Miyagi Prefectural Driver's License Center and over the phone.

TEL: 0570-000-798 (Weekdays: 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. , Sunday 12:30 p.m. – 3:00p.m.)

●Converting a foreign license●

Prior reservation (calling beforehand) is required before the application process (reviewing documents) can begin.

Driver's License Center TEL: 022-373-3601 (ext. 275) / Weekdays 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Converting a foreign license	Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must have lived in the country that issued your license for at least three months after it was issued. ※ Your passport will be used to check your period of stay in the country that issued your passport after your driver's license issuance. If the exit/entry stamp or other information cannot be used to check when you departed the country, other evidence will be required (graduation certificate, certificate of employment, tax payment certificates, etc.). • Your foreign license must not be expired. • Your current address must be in Miyagi Prefecture.
	What you will need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form for driver's license (available at the Driver's License Center) • One 3 x 2.4 cm, black-and-white or color photograph of your face. You must not be wearing a hat, the photo must have a plain background, and your teeth must not be showing. • A copy of your resident record (issued at ward offices) ※ This must include your nationality (not required for those with a Japanese license.) You can obtain this at your ward office. For more information on resident records, see page 8. • Your foreign driver's license • Your passport (all passports if you have old ones) • Your Japanese driver's license (if you have one) • A Japanese translation of your foreign driver's license (*1)
Other		Depending on the country that issued your license, you might only need to take the aptitude test (eye exam, etc.), or you might need to also take a written test (available in multiple languages) and a driving test. You must pay the test fee even if you do not pass. If you are unable to speak Japanese you must bring an interpreter along with you when taking the test.

(*1) Some countries offer translation services at their embassies or consulates.

You can also contact **JAF** which offers paid translation service.

For details, either refer to the JAF website or inquire via the following number

(TEL: 022-783-2826; weekdays 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

●Registering your car or motorcycle●

If you own a car or motorcycle, you must register it. Contact the store where you bought the vehicle or one of the organizations below.

Regular cars	Tohoku District Transport Bureau Miyagi Transportation Branch Office	TEL: 050-5540-2011
Light automobile/Kei cars	Light Motor Vehicle Inspection Organization Miyagi Office	TEL: 050-3816-1830
Motorcycles 126cc and above	Tohoku District Transport Bureau Miyagi Transportation Branch Office	TEL: 050-5540-2011
Motorcycles 125cc and below	Taxation and Accounting Section of the ward office/ Taxation Section of the general branch where the motorcycle's primary parking space is located.	

●Signing up for insurance●

If you injure someone after causing a traffic accident, you may be required to pay a large sum of money.

If you own a car or a motorcycle, you must sign up for automobile liability insurance (*Jibaiseki-hoken*). Buying optional insurance is also highly recommended. If you bought or were gifted a car, you must check whether it is insured. You can apply at the dealership where you bought the car or directly with an insurance company. You must also enter into a bicycle liability insurance if you intend to ride a bicycle. There are a few kinds of bicycle insurance, including a TS sticker that you can receive if you purchased insurance when having your bicycle inspected or repaired at a bicycle shop. Bicycle liability insurance can also be purchased on the internet or at convenience stores. You can also have bicycle insurance added on as an additional clause through automobile insurance or fire insurance.

●Bicycles●

- Register your bicycle to prevent theft, and be sure to get it inspected and keep it well maintained.
- Do not park your bicycle on the street—use a designated bicycle parking area. If you park in an area where parking is prohibited, your bicycle may be confiscated, and you will have to pay a fee in order to get your bicycle back.

※ **For a map of bicycle parking areas, see:**

<https://www.city.sendai.jp/jitenshataisaku/kurashi/machi/kotsu/jitensha/churinjo/map.html> (J, E)

●Traffic regulations in Japan●

- Bicycles and all other vehicles use the left side of the road. Pedestrians (people walking) are to walk on the right side of the road when there is no sidewalk.
- Bicycles may be ridden on pedestrian pathways if the path is signposted/marked as shown below.

- You should not drive a vehicle, including bicycles, after consuming alcohol.
- In "Sendai City's Ordinance on Bicycle Safety," the city defines the rules that bicycle users must abide by. For detailed information, check the Sendai City website:
<https://www.city.sendai.jp/jitensha/foreign.html> (J, E, C, K, V, N)

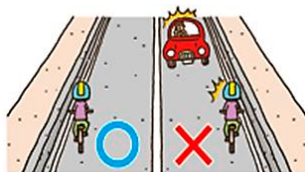


Image source:
 "Do you know the
 traffic rules for
 cycling? Are you
 following them?"
 (Public Relations
 Office –
 Government of
 Japan)



Road marking



Traffic sign (designated for
 bicycles and pedestrians)

【Bicycles】

- When riding on the sidewalk, pedestrians are prioritized, and cyclists must stay close to the road and cycle slowly in order to be able to stop immediately when necessary.
- Be sure to wear a helmet and protect your head.
- You must turn on the light of the bicycle when it is dark.
- It is against regulations to use your mobile phone for phone calls or otherwise, to use an umbrella, or to hang things on your handlebars, while riding a bicycle.
- You must not wear headphones or earphones while riding a bicycle.
- You must not ride side by side or have two people ride on the same bicycle at once.



- ※ Those who have been caught violating regulations two or more times by the police within a three year period must attend a training course.

【Cars】

- You must wear a seatbelt regardless of which seat you sit in.
- Children under the age of 6 must use a booster seat in the car.



【Motorcycles】

- You must wear a helmet.

【E-scooters, etc. (Specified small motorized bicycles)】

- These vehicles can only be used by those 16 years or older.
- They must be driven at speeds under 20 km/h along the left side of the road
- As a rule, they must not be driven on the sidewalk.



- ※As an exception, vehicles that meet the requirements can be driven on sidewalks if they are under speeds of 6 km/h.
- You must sign up for automobile liability insurance.

- Be sure to wear a helmet and protect your head.

「E-scooter safe use guide」

https://www.keishicho.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/kotsu/jikoboshi/torikumi/kotsu_joho/kickboard.files/202310_reaflet.pdf

(E, C, V, K)

「Traffic safety guide for pedestrians and cyclists in Japan」

https://www.npa.go.jp/koutsuu/kikaku/trafficsafety/traffic_safety_english.pdf (E)

https://www.npa.go.jp/english/bureau/traffic/document/06_traffic_safety_cn.pdf (C)

https://www.npa.go.jp/english/bureau/traffic/document/07_traffic_safety_kr.pdf (K)

https://www.npa.go.jp/english/bureau/traffic/document/05_traffic_safety_pt.pdf (Portuguese)

Road signs



Dead end



No entry



Only designated
directions permitted



No overtaking



No stopping
or parking



No parking



Speed limit
(50km/h)



Bicycles/ specified
small motorized
bicycles only



Bicycles and
pedestrians only



Pedestrians
only



Two-step turn
required for
mopeds



Stop



No crossing



School/
kindergarten/
nursery

Multilingual Traffic Safety DVD

Provides simple explanations on how to ride bicycles safely,
what to do if you get into an accident and more, in 5 different languages.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MurfsFk8CZ4>

(J, E, C, V, N)

