

**JAPAN  
RAIL PASS  
NOW** 



# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE JAPAN RAIL PASS

1ST EDITION



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# Overview



# Chapter 1

## Overview

The Japan Rail Pass is a discounted travel pass offered by Japan Railways (JR). It is exclusive for foreign tourists and offers unlimited travel on the extensive JR train network (including the famous bullet trains), selected JR buses and selected JR ferries. Just one pass covers travel in every corner of the four major islands in Japan. If you are planning on making long distance trips within Japan, the Japan Rail Pass offers a fast and affordable travel alternative. The Japan Rail Pass is also referred to as a *JR Rail Pass* or *JR Pass*.

Japan Railways Group operates one of the most extensive rail networks in the world with over 20,000 departures a day. It is divided into six service regions: JR Hokkaido, JR East, JR West, JR Central, JR Kyushu and JR Shikoku and accounts for much of the intercity and commuter rail services. The bullet trains (Shinkansen) are famous throughout the world for their fast speed, safety record and reliability.

When you purchase your Japan Rail Pass you will receive an Exchange Order voucher. You will then take this with you to Japan where you will transform it into your actual Japan Rail Pass. Make sure you keep this safe since this is required to get your JR Pass.

The Exchange Order voucher will be valid for 3 months from the date of issue.



*The whole trip was simply amazing. I hadn't done a lot of research before my trip and the flexibility of the pass allowed me to change things as I went. It was safe, reliable and great value for money".*



Louise – Sydney

### Benefits of the Japan Rail Pass

- Unlimited travel on the JR Network
- Great value for money
- Easy to use and gives you complete flexibility
- JR Hotel group discounts
- Free seat reservations
- 7, 14, 21 day options
- Economy and green (Executive) class options
- You can go almost anywhere within Japan



# How It Works

## Chapter 2

# How It Works:

### STEP 01

#### BUY YOUR JAPAN RAIL PASS

When purchasing the Japan Rail Pass there are multiple options you can select from. Choose between 7, 14 or 21 days. You can also select Economy or Green (Executive) class. Adult and Child passes are available.



### STEP 02

#### RECEIVE YOUR EXCHANGE ORDER

After purchasing your Japan Rail Pass you will receive your Exchange Order by mail. This is like a unique voucher so make sure you don't lose this because you will need to swap it for your actual Japan Rail Pass.



### STEP 03

#### GO TO JAPAN

Your bags are packed and you are finally set to embark on your trip to Japan. Make sure that you have your exchange order with you.



## STEP 04

### GET YOUR 'TEMPORARY VISITOR' STAMP

On arrival into Japan you will automatically get a temporary visitor stamp in your passport if you are an Australian passport holder. If you are working or studying you will not get this. For all other country passport holders please check your VISA requirements.



## STEP 05

### TRANSFORM YOUR EXCHANGE ORDER INTO A JAPAN RAIL PASS

You will now need to locate the nearest JR Exchange office. You will swap your exchange order for your Japan Rail Pass here but make sure you have your passport, temporary visitor stamp and exchange order with you. You will be asked to set an activate date which can be up to 30 days later. So you don't have to start using it straight away.



## STEP 06

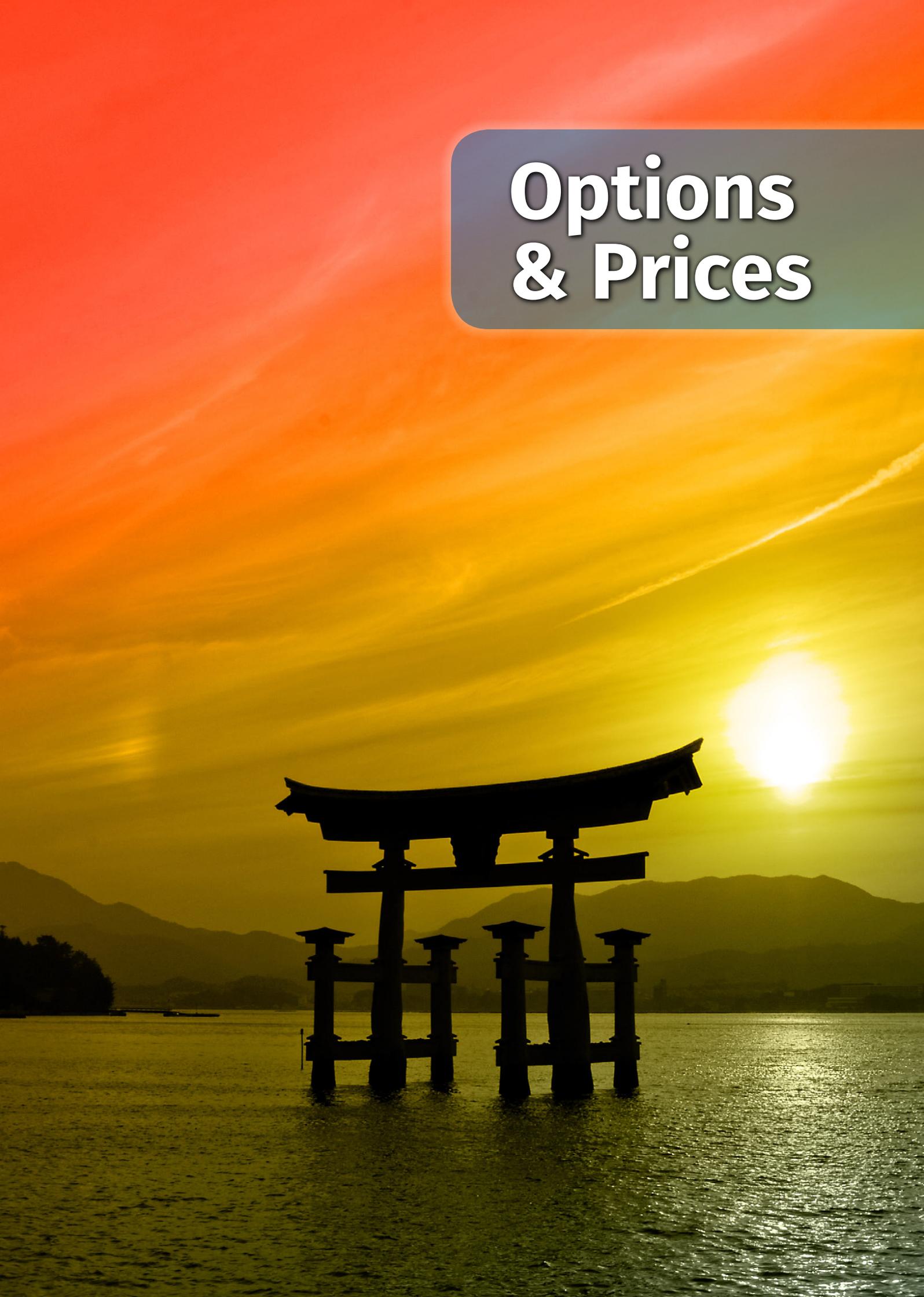
### DISCOVER JAPAN USING YOUR JAPAN RAIL PASS

You can now start using your Japan Rail Pass to discover Japan. Once you start using your pass it will expire in 7/14/21 consecutive days.



**Watch the How It Works video here:**

# Options & Prices



## Chapter 3

# Options & Prices

You will select from the following options:

### Japan Rail Pass Options

**OPTIONS**

- Class**  Economy  Green (executive)
- Duration**  7 days  14 days  21 days
- Age Group**  Adult (12+ years)  Child (6-11 years)
- Number of Passes**  As many as you want

#### Class:

This is based on the level of comfort you require and budget you have available. For most passengers the economy class is fine, but if you are looking for a little more comfort, leg room and peace of mind, then Green class is definitely worthwhile. The larger seats in the Green car recline 40 degrees, and have much more space between each of the seats, so you can stretch out your legs. The seats also have a footrest, a magazine to read, a radio set integrated into them and space for your luggage. In Green class there are extra services on selected trains such as a drink during the trip, laptop power points, personal tvs and the windows are larger so you can enjoy the scenery passing by. You will also find smoking areas in the Green Cars.

Please note that Green Cars aren't available on all services so do your research before deciding whether this is the right class for you.

### Duration:

You can select 7, 14 or 21 day options when purchasing your pass. All passes will be valid for consecutive days.

### Age group:

Passengers 12 years of age and over will require an adult pass, while children between 6 and 11 years will require a child pass. Children 5 years and under are not required to have a pass. However, they must not take up a seat if the train is busy. If you want them to have their own seat, then you will have to purchase a child's pass for them. The price of a child's pass is 50% off an adult's pass.

### Number of Passes:

Although most people just get a single pass, you can purchase multiple passes if you plan on staying in Japan for an extended period.

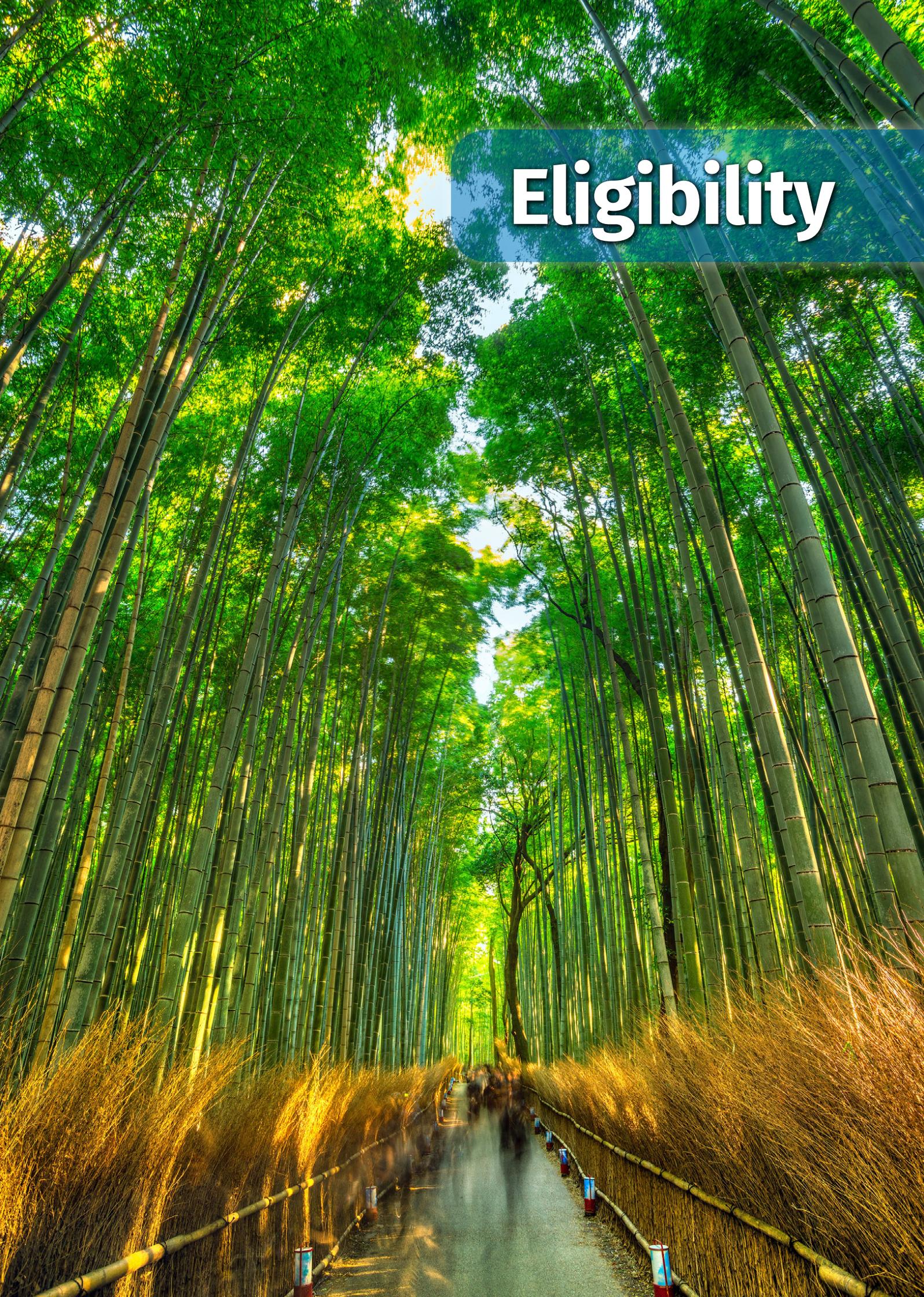
### Prices

Prices of Exchange Orders (as of September 2015)

Type	Green		Ordinary	
	Adult	Child*	Adult	Child*
7-day	38,880 YEN	19,440 YEN	29,110 YEN	14,550 YEN
14-day	62,950 YEN	31,470 YEN	46,390 YEN	23,190 YEN
21-day	81,870 YEN	40,930 YEN	59,350 YEN	29,670 YEN

Note: Japan Rail Pass prices do fluctuate with the exchange rate.

Please check [www.japanrailpass.com.au/prices](http://www.japanrailpass.com.au/prices) for latest prices in AUD



# Eligibility

# Chapter 4

# Eligibility

## Foreign Tourists

Travellers to Japan will be eligible for the Japan Rail Pass if they obtain the following:

1. A 'temporary visitor' stamp visa (Please check your local VISA requirements for your country)
2. A passport



\* The PASS is available only to a person holding a passport issued by a country other than Japan (not available to Japanese nationals living outside Japan).

# What is Included/ Excluded



## Chapter 5

# What is Included/Excluded:

### Quick Summary:

- Railways:** Travel on all JR Group Railways bullet trains (*Shinkansen*), limited express trains, express trains, and rapid or local trains (*with some exceptions*)
- Buses:** Travel on local lines of JR bus companies which include JR Hokkaido Bus, JR Bus Tohoku, JR Bus Kanto, JR Tokai Bus, West Japan JR Bus, Chugoku JR Bus, JR Kyushu Bus
- Ferry:** You can use the JR Miyajima ferry

### Detailed Information:



#### Trains:

- Shinkansen (bullet trains)
- Limited express
- Express
- Local (including Rapid and Special Rapid services)

The pass is also valid on the following non-JR lines:

- Tokyo Monorail between Hamamatsuchō and Haneda Airport
- Aomori Railway for journeys starting and ending at Hachinohe and Aomori only, and for journeys from these stations to Noheji and the JR East Ōminato Line. (Only for travel on local or limited express trains and must encompass the full segment between these two stations. Travel is not covered if you disembark at any station on the Aomori Railway line other than Aomori Noheji, or Hachinohe)
- The IR Ishikawa Railway Line between Kanazawa and Tsubata (However, travel must be conducted on local or limited express trains and must encompass the full segment between these two stations. Travel is not covered if you disembark at any station on the IR Ishikawa Railway line other than Kanazawa or Tsubata)
- The Ainokaze Toyama Railway Line between Toyama and Takaoka (However, travel must be conducted on local trains and must encompass the full segment between these two stations. Travel is not covered if you disembark at any station on the Ainokaze Toyama Railway line other than Toyama or Takaoka)



**Buses:**

- JR Hokkaido Bus Company
- JR Bus Tohoku Company
- JR Bus Kantō Company
- JR Tōkai Bus Company
- West JR Bus Company
- Chūgoku JR Bus Company
- JR Shikoku Bus Company
- JR Kyushu Bus Company



**Ferry:**

- Miyajima – Miyajimaguchi

## Exclusions which will require additional fees:

- Mizuho trains along the Kyushu/Sanyo Shinkansen
- Nozomi trains along the Sanyo/Tokaido Shinkansen
- JR trains that use non JR tracks
- JR liner trains
- Berth and special compartments
- Night trains
- Express bus routes operated by JR bus companies
- Highway bus routes operated by JR bus companies
- The JR Hakata-Pusan (Korea) ferry
- Private railways

*TIP: To see if your route will be covered by the JR Pass and to get detailed timetables please see Chapter 9: Planning your trip using the Japan Rail Pass.*

# Map



# Chapter 6

# Map



**You can view a detailed nationwide JR Route Map here:**  
[http://www.japanrailpass.net/img/about\\_jrp/file/rosen\\_en.pdf](http://www.japanrailpass.net/img/about_jrp/file/rosen_en.pdf)



# Planning your trip & online timetable

## Chapter 7

# Planning your trip & online timetable

If you are travelling to Japan and need help with an itinerary, there is a website that you can use to help you plan the most efficient routes around the country using your Japan Rail Pass.

The site is called Hyperdia ([www.hyperdia.com](http://www.hyperdia.com)), and it contains a complete timetable of all transportation routes in Japan. It is available in both Japanese and English, and it provides information on how you can get from one point to another – whether by train, bus, or plane. It can provide the following details:

- Route options
- Departure and arrival times
- Time duration of each journey
- Type of trains and train number
- Number of transfers (if any)
- Departure/Arrival Platform/Track
- Total cost of journey without JR Pass

### Step by step instructions for using the tool:

You will need to follow the instructions below to make sure the routes are eligible for the JR Pass.

1. Go to the Hyperdia website – <http://www.hyperdia.com/>
2. Enter in your departure station, arrival station, and intended date and time of travel.
3. Click on “More options” and **uncheck** the boxes labeled “NOZOMI/MIZUHO/HAYABUSA (SHINKANSEN)”, “Airplane”, “Airport Shuttle Bus” and “Private Railway” to only get routes where a JR Pass is valid. Then click “Search” to generate results.
4. From the options, select the one that is closest to your planned itinerary. Take note of all the information provided regarding your chosen option so you clearly understand the route or any conditions.
5. Continue using the same settings to plan the different legs of your trip.

*TIP: If a route is not displayed, you may need to re-tick “Private Railway” for a route. This just means you will need to buy a separate ticket for the private railway leg and it’s not included in the JR Pass.*

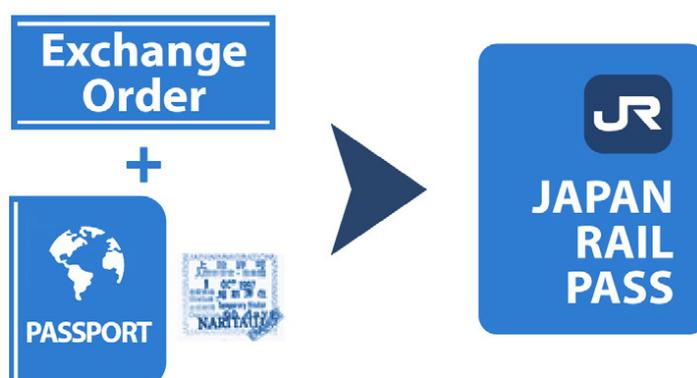
A long-exposure photograph of the Tokyo Tower at night. The tower is illuminated with warm yellow lights, creating a glowing lattice structure against a dark blue twilight sky. In the foreground, a road is blurred into horizontal streaks of white and yellow light, indicating traffic. To the left, a white signpost with several circular signs is visible. The overall scene is a vibrant urban night scene.

# How to transform your Exchange Order

## Chapter 8

# How to transform your Exchange Order

**B**efore you can start taking advantage of all the great benefits the JR Pass has to offer, you will need to transform your Exchange Order into your Japan Rail Pass (*i.e. swap it*). When you arrive in Japan you will need to take your exchange order + passport (*with your temporary visitor stamp*) and find an exchange office. Here you will be asked to fill out a short application form and then you will receive your Japan Rail Pass.



### Step by step instructions:

- 1. Locate the nearest Exchange Office:** You will need to make your way to the Exchange Office to start the transformation process. You will need your passport (*with temporary visitor status*) and your Exchange Order. You can find a list of exchange offices here: <http://www.japanrailpass.com.au/information/exchange-offices/>
- 2. Fill in the JR Pass Application form:** You will fill in the form which includes fields around Name, Nationality, Passport Number, First Date of Use and contact details in Japan. A copy of the form will be put into your Japan Rail Pass.
- 3. Get your Japan Rail Pass & Discover Japan:** You will receive your Japan Rail Pass which will have a green JR ticket inside it. This is what you will present at the ticket gate to get onto the trains or when you go to make seat reservations.

# How to use the Japan Rail Pass



## Chapter 9

# How to use the Japan Rail Pass

### Step by Step Process for Using Your JR Pass:

- 1. Reserve your seat:** Seat reservations are free with the JR Pass. To make a reservation simply go to a Travel Service Centre or a JR Reservation Office. There you will show your pass and obtain your reservation ticket with your train time, car and seat number displayed on the ticket. Please note that you aren't required to reserve a seat for many trains and can use unreserved seating. We advise to reserve your seats to ensure you don't miss out.
- 2. Go through the regular ticket gates:** When you go to catch your bullet train (*shinkansen*) you will need to make your way to the regular entrance gate. You will need to go through the manned lane that is next to the service booth. You will then show the staff your JR Rail Pass and they will let you go through. On the odd occasion, you may be asked to show your passport to verify the pass.
- 3. Make your way to the bullet train (*shinkansen*) platforms:** Thankfully there are English signs to help you make your way to your platform. If you get lost, feel free to speak to a member of staff or even someone from the general public.
- 4. Go through the bullet train (*shinkansen*) ticket gates:** You will arrive at another set of gates which divides regular and bullet trains. You will once again need to use the manned gates and show a staff member your JR Pass.
- 5. Find your platform:** You will need to find which platform you need on the electronic screens and make your way there. You can follow the English signs. Generally, you will be using escalators to get there.
- 6. Find your car:** If you have reserved your seats beforehand, you will need to locate your car/carriage. You will see car number signs as you make your way on the platform. If you haven't reserved your seat, then make your way to the non-reserved cars, which are usually located at the end of the bullet train. On many platforms, marks on the floor indicate where the doors of the arriving train will be located. Waiting passengers will line up behind those marked areas.
- 7. Find your seat and store your luggage:** Just like airplanes, the seats are all numbered and lettered to make them easy to locate. You can store your luggage above your seat or in the last row at the back of the car. Japan is a very safe country, so don't worry if you leave your luggage down the back and out of sight.
- 8. Sit back & relax:** Hooray! You're done. Sit back and enjoy the ride. Japan is a beautiful country, and we hope you enjoy your bullet train journey.



# Is the Japan Rail Pass Worth It?

## Chapter 10

# Is the Japan Rail Pass Worth It?

“Is the Japan Rail Pass Worth It?” & “Should I get the Japan Rail Pass?” – These are two of the most common questions we receive here at Japan Rail Pass Now. The answer is simple – it really depends if you will save money using the Japan Rail Pass instead of purchasing single sector train fares. The JR Pass offers an awesome travel experience on the bullet train, convenience and can potentially save you hundreds of dollars on your trip.

### Is the Japan Rail Pass worth it?

Basically if you plan on doing some long distance travel then it may be. For example, if you go from Tokyo to Kyoto and use the Narita Express for your airport transfers then it’s worthwhile getting a 7-day pass. The easiest way to figure out if it’s worthwhile for you is to use the **planning your trip** section of the book/website, put all your travel legs + cost together and calculate if it’s ultimately cheaper.

#### Examples of purchasing single sector fares vs Japan Rail Pass:

### 7 day JR Pass Itinerary Example

Below is an example 7-day itinerary with approximate individual travel costs.

Daily Itinerary	¥ Japanese Yen	\$ Australian Dollars
Day 1: Tokyo to Hiroshima	18,560	221.54
Day 2: Sightseeing in Hiroshima		
Day 3: Hiroshima to Kyoto	11,090	132.37
Day 4: Sightseeing in Kyoto		
Day 5: Kyoto to Tokyo	13,600	162.33
Day 6: Tokyo Sightseeing		
Day 7: Tokyo to Narita Airport	3,020	36.06
<b>Total:</b>	<b>46,270.00</b>	<b>552.30</b>

**7 day Japan Rail Pass = \$346**

**Save \$215**

\* Currency rate as of the 05/04/2016 (YEN > AUD) to determine single ride price and savings. Rate: 1 AUD = 83.7744 JPY

\*\* The 7 day Japan Rail Pass cost at the current time was \$346.

## 14 day JR Pass Itinerary Example

Below is an example itinerary with approximate individual travel costs.

Daily Itinerary	¥ Japanese Yen	\$ Australian Dollars
Day 1: Narita Airport to Tokyo	3,020	36.06
Day 2: Tokyo Sightseeing		
Day 3: Tokyo Sightseeing		
Day 4: Tokyo to Takayama	14,710	176
Day 5: Takayama Sightseeing		
Day 6: Takayama to Kanazawa	6,650	79
Day 7: Kanazawa Sightseeing		
Day 8: Kanazawa to Kyot	6,900	82
Day 9: Kyoto Sightseeing		
Day 10: Osaka Day Trip - Kyoto to Osaka back to Kyoto	1,120	13
Day 11: Kyoto to Hiroshima	11,090	132.37
Day 12: Hiroshima Sightseeing		
Day 13: Hiroshima to Tokyo	18,560	221.54
Day 14: Tokyo to Narita Airport	3,020	36.06
<b>Total:</b>	<b>65,070.00</b>	<b>776.94</b>

**14 day Japan Rail Pass = \$551**

**Save \$238**

\* Currency rate as of the 05/04/2016 (YEN > AUD) to determine single ride price and savings. Rate: 1 AUD = 83.7744 JPY

\*\* The 14 day Japan Rail Pass cost at the current time was \$551.

## What are the advantages of purchasing the Japan Rail Pass?

The main reason for purchasing the Japan Rail Pass is to save money. Although there are other benefits that include:

- Unlimited travel on JR Railway, selected JR Buses and Ferries
- The pass is very easy to use
- You have just one pass for travel
- Complete flexibility. You can do spontaneous trips without worrying about going over your budget on train travel
- Free seat reservations
- You don't have to keep purchasing tickets every time you travel. You just show your Japan Rail Pass to the attendant at the turnstile
- Access to JR Hotel Group discounts

### When is the Japan Rail Pass not worth it?

The only real way to determine if the Japan Rail Pass is not worth it, is to compare your single sector train fares vs the JR Pass price during a specific time period (*i.e 7/14/21 days*). However, there are a few circumstances where it's not worth it:

- If your single sector fares end up costing less than the Japan Rail Pass price
- Your itinerary doesn't involve many bullet train journeys
- Your bullet train journeys don't fit well into 7/14/21 day periods
- If you're super budget conscious. There are cheaper ways to travel around Japan on alternative options, although generally speaking they are slower and have other trade offs

# Tips



# Chapter 11

## Tips

### JR Station Names:

Every Japan Rail station name is displayed in English and Japanese on the platform. When you look at a station sign, you will see the station's name at the top and middle of the sign in big letters. The preceding station and the next station are listed in smaller letters near the lower portion of the sign.

### Trains with Public Telephones:

All Shinkansen trains are modified to include public use telephones that accept prepaid telephone cards. You can purchase these cards at either a station kiosk or aboard your train.

### Words you should know:

- Reservation is Yoyaku
- Travel Service Center is Ryoko Center
- Reservation office is Midori-no-madoguchi
- Super Express is Shinkansen
- Limited Express is Tokkyu
- The Express is Kyuko
- The Rapid Train is Kaisoku
- The Local Train is Kakuekiteisha
- Ordinary car is Futsusha
- Green car (or superior accommodations) is Green-sha
- Reserved seats is Shiteiseki; where non-reserved seats is Jiyuseki

### Coin Lockers:

Throughout the country of Japan you'll notice that traditional checkrooms are a thing of the past; replacing them are coin-operated lockers or "coin-lockers" as they are known in Japan. These lockers are present at most major stations and cost around one-hundred yen.

## **Drink and Food Sales on Trains and at Stations:**

On certain trains such as the limited express, Shinkansen, and select others you'll find mobile vendors who sell what are called "Ekiben". An Ekiben is a boxed lunch that contains snacks, drinks, and other Japanese-style specialty foods. The most common places to find these are at kiosks located in stations, where you will also find a wide array of vending machines and other restaurants.

## **Avoid Evening and Morning Rush-Hour Times:**

As with all major cities around the world, make sure to avoid travelling during rush hours. These are approximately 7:30 to 9:30 in the morning and 17:00 until 20:00 in the evening.

## **Riders with Wheelchairs:**

If you are travelling in a wheelchair, keep these things in mind:

Seats that are wheelchair-accessible can be obtained on the majority of the limited express trains and Shinkansen. If you require a seat like this to travel, it's a good idea to contact your local station no later than two days before you plan to board. If you know you'll be travelling in advance, make sure you don't contact them more than one month before your travel date.

All wheelchairs must meet size and other conditions specified by the train carrier. Generally, they do not permit wheelchairs that are powered and feature a steering wheel. Yet on the other hand, if this kind of chair meets the guidelines, then it may be permitted.

If you require more information, simply contact the station staff with questions.



# Most Common FAQs

## Chapter 12

# Most Common FAQs

### How do I reserve seats?

Japan Rail Pass holders can reserve seats on the bullet train for free. They simply have to look for a JR Pass ticket office (Midori no Mado Guchi) or a JR-affiliated travel centre to make the reservations. Be aware that this can only be done once you are already in Japan, as only the JR East trains have an online seat reservation system.

At the Midori no Mado Guchi, present your Japan Rail Pass and inform them which train you want a reservation on and whether you wish to be in a non-smoking or smoking carriage. They will then provide you with a ticket that indicates your train name and number, carriage number, row number, seat number, departure time, and arrival time.

### When to reserve a seat:

Seat reservations can be made even just a few minutes before a train departs. However, at certain times of the year when there are national holidays, such as the New Year, Obon, or Golden Week, it is advised that you reserve a seat at least three days before your intended travel date.

Those travelling in a group who wish to get seats next to, or close to each other, are urged to make reservations at the start of their trip. You can input your itinerary into Hyperdia and print out the results to make it easier for JR ticket office staff to reserve seats for your whole group.

### Where is the Japan Rail Pass Timetable?

You can use Hyperdia ([www.hyperdia.com](http://www.hyperdia.com)) to view an extensive timetable of all transport options in Japan.

### Do you have student or senior discounts?

No, we don't offer discounts for students and seniors. The Japan Rail Pass is already a very discounted product.

### What is the Exchange Order?

Think of the Exchange Order as your coupon or voucher for the Japan Rail Pass. However, you should treat this as very valuable because you won't be able to receive your Japan Rail Pass without it. You will take this to Japan and transform it into your Japan Rail Pass.

## Does the Exchange Order Expire?

Yes, there is a 3-month validity period from the date we issue it. So make sure you plan on transforming your Exchange Order into your JR Pass in that time period.

## How do you calculate the days when using the pass?

The calculation is based on the day and not time. It doesn't matter what time you start the pass, it will run out at midnight on the final day. For example, the 7-day pass that starts on 6 January at 1pm will still be valid until 12 January at 11:59pm – not 13 January at 1pm.

## Is it possible to alternate my days of using the pass?

No – and it doesn't matter which pass you buy. You can only use it for consecutive days after the start date. Even if you choose not to use the pass one day, you will not be able to keep the day for one later in the week. For example, a 7-day Japan Rail Pass with a start date of 6 January will be valid until 12 January.

## Do I need to start the pass as soon as the Exchange Order is transformed?

No, you decide the start date when you transform your Exchange Order into your JR Pass. It will have to be within 30 days from the transformation date.

## Can I refund my Japan Rail Pass Exchange Order?

Yes, you can refund your unused Japan Rail Pass Exchange Order within one year of the date of issue for a fee. You can read more about it within our [terms of use](#).

## Can I change the name on the Japan Rail Pass Exchange Order?

Yes, but only if there was an error with your name. You can not transfer the Exchange Order to someone else. This will also incur a small fee. [Please read the terms of use for more information](#).

## Where do I put my luggage?

There is no specific area to place your luggage on the bullet train, but you can place them behind the very last row of seats in the carriage. Japan is very safe, so don't worry! Smaller items can be placed in the overhead storage compartment, or if you are not comfortable with leaving your luggage unattended, then you can always place it in front of you.

## Does my infant/baby need a Rail Pass?

Infants and babies from the ages of zero to five years do not need a Japan Rail Pass. If the train is busy, then you must place them on your lap. Otherwise you are free to place the infant on a seat in unreserved, reserved or Green Car (first class), but only if the seat is not needed by paying customers. You can still purchase a child ticket if you want to guarantee them a seat.

## What is Green Class like?

The green car section offers comfortable seats that recline at a 40 degree angle and have a more business class feel. In general, the section is not crowded, is quiet, and offers better views on your journey with larger windows. If you are looking for more tranquility on your journey, then this class is for you.

## Can I use multiple Japan Rail Passes on the same visit?

Yes, as long as they are used within 3 months according to your Transit/Temporary Visitor Visa category. That means you can purchase a 14-day pass when you plan on doing a heap of travel at the start of your trip and then a 7-day pass at the end. You would generally get multiple passes when you plan on staying in the country for a couple of months.

## Can I have breaks between days on my Japan Rail Pass?

Once you have activated your Japan Rail Pass, then it's valid for the next 7/14/21 days. You don't need to use it every day, however, it's wise to understand where you want to go and how much time you plan on staying in Japan when booking.

## Can I purchase the pass in Japan?

No, you can only purchase the discounted pass within Australia before you depart. You can purchase single sector fares in Japan but it will cost you more.

## Is the Japan Rail Pass worth it?

If you plan on travelling extensively around Japan, then getting a Japan Rail Pass is a no-brainer. While the initial cost looks quite expensive, the discounted passes cover unlimited travel on the entire JR Network and also include use of selected buses and ferries. Put it this way, booking a return trip from Tokyo to Kyoto will cost you the same price as a 7 day pass.

## How long is the Japan Rail Pass valid for?

You can purchase Japan Rail Passes that cover 7, 14, or 21 consecutive days.

An aerial photograph of a vast, snow-covered mountain range. The peaks are rugged and dark, contrasting with the bright white snow. In the lower-left foreground, a red helicopter is visible, providing a sense of scale to the massive landscape. The sky is a clear, pale blue. A semi-transparent blue rounded rectangle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title text in white.

# Conditions of use – From Japan Railways Group

## Chapter 13

# Conditions of use – From Japan Railways Group

1. The JAPAN RAIL PASS is valid only for the person whose name appears on the pass. The user must be a foreign national visiting Japan with the entry status of Temporary Visitor. Please note also that the pass is valid only when it has a JAPAN RAIL PASS ticket attached.
2. When you begin using your pass, present it to the attendant at a manned ticket gate. The attendant will apply a stamp in the space provided for official use. When passing through the gate, always present your pass to the attendant so that the period of validity is visible.
3. While using JAPAN RAIL PASS, you must carry your passport and be prepared to present it to a station attendant or car conductor if requested.
4. The JAPAN RAIL PASS is valid for reserved and non-reserved ordinary car travel on all Japan Railways (JR) Group Shinkansen “bullet trains” (except for the “Nozomi” and “Mizuho” services), limited express trains, express trains, and local trains (Green Car passes are valid for Green Car travel) and the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit system). The pass is also valid for travel on the JR Miyajima Ferry between Miyajima and Miyajimaguchi Station, buses operated by JR Hokkaido Bus, JR Tohoku Bus, JR Bus Kanto, JR Tokai Bus, West Japan JR Bus, Chugoku JR Bus, JR Shikoku Bus, JR Kyushu Bus, and the Tokyo Monorail. However, please note that JAPAN RAIL PASS is not valid for travel on JR Group buses that travel on expressways and some local bus routes.
  - The JAPAN RAIL PASS is not valid for travel on the “Nozomi” and “Mizuho” Shinkansen services (including non-reserved seats on both).
  - To board those services, you must pay in full for the basic fare and the limited express charge.
  - The routes covered by JAPAN RAIL PASS are subject to change.
  - When using JAPAN RAIL PASS to travel on JR Group transport services that extend through lines operated by companies other than JR Rail, JR Miyajima Ferry, JR Bus (excluding some routes such as expressway bus lines), and the Tokyo Monorail, you must pay separately for the fare and other charges of the distance traveled on such sections. However, no separate fare or charges are required when such travel extends through the following segments without stopover.
    - (a) The Aomori Railway between Hachinohe and Aomori, Aomori and Noheji, or Hachinohe and Noheji. (Valid only for use on ordinary trains)
    - (b) The IR Ishikawa Railway between Kanazawa and Tsubata.
    - (c) The Ainokaze Toyama Railway between Toyama and Takaoka. (Valid only for use on ordinary trains)

5. If you want to use reserved seating, be sure to get seat reservations before boarding (no additional payment needed). To obtain a reserved-seat ticket, present JAPAN RAIL PASS at the ticket office (Midori-no-madoguchi) at a JR station, a Travel Service Center, or a sales office of a major travel agency. You can use non-reserved seating with JAPAN RAIL PASS alone. Please note, however, that some trains do not have non-reserved seating. Also, if you wish to travel in a private compartment on a Shinkansen or a limited express train, you will be required to pay the limited express charge for the private compartment, as well as the Green Car charge if the private compartment is a Green Car accommodation. An extra charge is also required if you wish to travel in a sleeping car, a DX Green Car or Gran Class accommodation. If you ride in a Green Car using an ordinary car pass, you will be required to pay the Green Car charge, as well as the limited or regular express service charge. (No extra charge applies when using a Green Car JAPAN RAIL PASS.) You must also pay an extra charge in advance to travel on a local train requiring a numbered ticket or a liner ticket. JAPAN RAIL PASS does not allow you to change to a reserved seat or sleeping car after boarding.
6. If you use non-reserved seating, or if you travel in an ordinary car using a Green Car pass, no refund shall be paid for passenger fare or other charges.
7. The JAPAN RAIL PASS can be used only within its validity period.
8. The JAPAN RAIL PASS cannot be exchanged for other types of passes or tickets. Nor can the validity period of the pass be changed.
9. Please note that JAPAN RAIL PASS cannot be reissued in the event that it is lost or stolen.
10. In principle, a refund for JAPAN RAIL PASS is available at all JAPAN RAIL PASS exchange offices, provided that the application for refund is made before the starting date of the validity period. You will be refunded the value of the pass in yen, less a 10% handling fee.
11. Once you have started using JAPAN RAIL PASS, the validity period cannot be extended, nor will any refund be issued, even if trains and other qualifying transportation services are suspended or delayed for any reason. Moreover, the JR Group will not bear additional costs due to changes in your route, such as alternative transportation costs or accommodation charges.
12. In addition to the terms and conditions set forth above, when using JAPAN RAIL PASS you must obey the JR Group's regulations, terms and conditions, and the laws of Japan.
13. The use of JAPAN RAIL PASS in violation of the terms and conditions above or the JR Group's regulations, terms and conditions may result in the invalidation and confiscation of the pass, as well as assessment of a penalty amounting to twice the basic fares and charges for all transportation services for which the pass was used.
14. The official terms and conditions of JAPAN RAIL PASS are written in Japanese, and the text of the Japanese version shall be given priority of interpretation in the event of questions regarding transportation conditions that may arise regarding conditions written in other languages.

*(\*The details above are current as of September 2015 and are subject to change.)*

To view the latest conditions of use please visit the official page of the Japan Rail Pass here: <http://www.japanrailpass.net/>

**JAPAN  
RAIL PASS  
NOW**

A stylized yellow graphic of a train, possibly a bullet train, moving from left to right. The train is composed of several curved, overlapping shapes that suggest motion and speed. It is positioned to the right of the word 'NOW' and partially overlaps it.

[www.japanrailpass.com.au](http://www.japanrailpass.com.au)