



Naka Ward promotes the Naka Ward Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Action Plan to help non-Japanese residents build ties in the local community. This newsletter is published by Naka Ward in English and Chinese to provide foreign nationals with useful information on topics such as municipal administration, social programs and rules for everyday living.

Naka Ward Town News

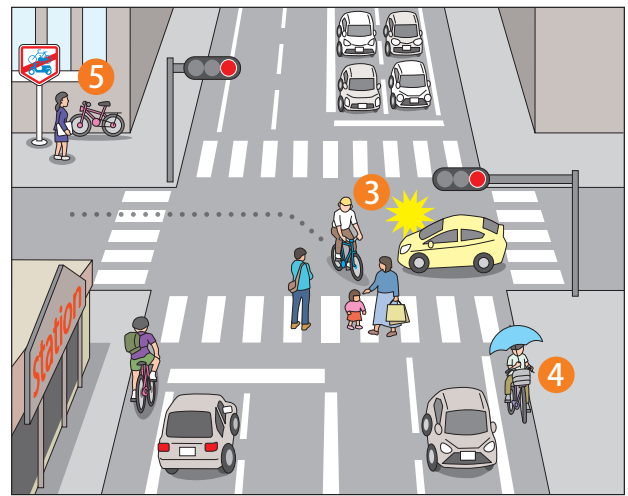
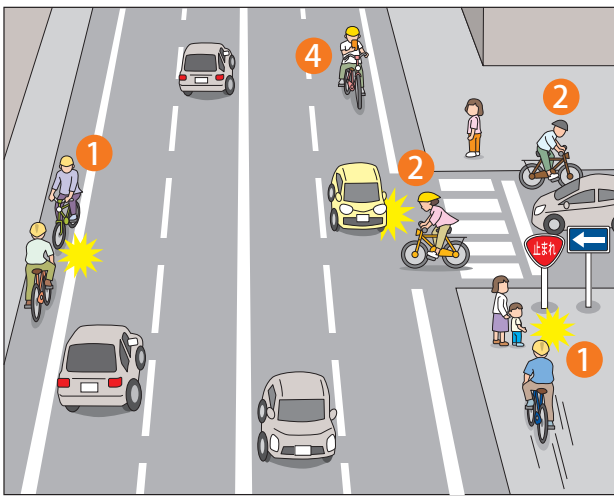
English Chinese

Safe Riding for Bicycles, Buses and Trains

Bicycles, buses and trains are common and convenient methods of transport. Have you ever experienced issues while using them? For example, have you ever been stopped by the police when using a cell phone while riding a bicycle? Or perhaps people looked at you coldly while you were talking over the phone on the train? Even though you were doing what is acceptable back home...if you don't follow the correct rules or expected manners in Japan, it can cause unexpected problems. Let's take a look at the do's and don'ts of riding bicycles, buses and trains in Japan.

Are you operating your bicycle correctly?

The actions in illustrations ①–⑤ below are all **traffic violations!** We explain in detail below why these actions are wrong.



① Bicycles are vehicles, just like cars! Ride your bicycle on the **left edge of the road** in the **same direction as traffic**.

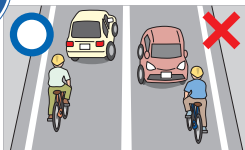
Do not drive against traffic!
As a general rule, bicycles must be ridden on the road. However, there are **certain exceptions** when you can ride a bicycle on the sidewalk.



This sign that indicates a sidewalk is for both regular bicycles and pedestrians

Exceptions

- When you see the sign shown on the right
- When a cyclist is under 13 or over 70 years old
- When it is dangerous to ride on the left because the road is narrow, there are many cars, there is road construction, etc. etc.

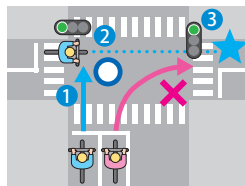


Pedestrians always have priority, even when bicycles are allowed on the sidewalk. Ride your bicycle on the side closest to the road at a speed that allows you to stop immediately. Unlike the road, you can ride in either direction as long as you stay on the side closest to the road.

③ Turning right at intersections is different for cars and bicycles!

(When you want to go to ★)

- When the light turns green, proceed straight through the intersection.
- Face your bicycle to the right (the direction you want to go).
- When the light turns green, proceed straight through the intersection to ★.



② Bicycles must also obey road signs Road signs differ by country. Make sure you understand Japan's road signs.

For other road signs, please refer to page 5 of Cycling Rulebook (English version).
(Published by Kanagawa Prefecture and the Kanagawa Prefectural Police)

(Common road signs)



Stop Sign

Come to a complete stop behind the line.



One Way

Traffic must proceed only in the direction of the arrow.



No entry

Bicycles are also not allowed to enter areas where this sign is posted.



* You are generally not allowed to ride your bike in Yokohama City parks. Get off your bike and walk while pushing it. Although it is acceptable for children to practice riding their bike in parks, it is necessary to be mindful of others.

④ The following are traffic violations!

- Doing other things while riding your bicycle
 - Listening to music with earphones
 - Using your cell phone
 - Holding an umbrella
- Not using a light when riding at night
- Riding after you drank alcohol



When you cause an accident...

- Help anyone who is injured (call 119 for an ambulance)
- Ensure the safety of the accident site and surrounding area
- Call the police (call 110)
- Get the other party's contact information
- Contact your insurance company

Both 119 (ambulance/fire) and 110 (police) can provide help in several languages.

It is the law to contact the police even for a minor accident. Be sure to report the accident.



Anyone over the age of 14 who violates certain rules governing dangerous actions (for example, ignoring traffic lights) twice or more within a three-year period will have to take a bicycle rider course.

5 Use bicycle parking even for a short time

The City of Yokohama has designated the area around stations as a “No Bicycle or Motorcycle Parking in This Area” zone to ensure passage of emergency vehicles and pedestrians. Bicycles, etc. left unattended in these zones will be removed to an impoundment lot and must be picked up in person by the user or owner **within two months** from the date of the removal.



“No Bicycle or Motorcycle Parking in This Area” sign



Municipal bicycle parking lots (in Japanese)



No Bicycle or Motorcycle Parking in This Area (in Japanese)



(in Japanese)

■ Naka Ward stations with such no parking zones and their impoundment yards

- Sakuragicho Sta., Hinodecho Sta. → **Shin-Yamashita Impoundment Lot (3-4 Shin-Yamashita, Naka-ku, Yokohama)**
- Kannai Sta. (including the area around Isezaki-chojamachi Sta.), Ishikawacho Sta., Yamate Sta., Motomachi-Chukagai Sta., Bashamichi Sta., Nihon-odori Sta. → **Kamomecho Impoundment Lot (72-1 Kamomecho, Naka-ku, Yokohama)**

■ Bring the following: 1) impound fee bicycle: 1,500 yen, motorcycle: 3,000 yen, 2) key for bicycle lock, etc. 3) personal identification (Residence card [Zairyu card], driver's license, etc.)

■ Reception hours for impounded bicycles: The hours depend on the impoundment lot.

Please refer to the website for more details. →

Kanagawa Prefecture requires bicycle liability insurance!

In the past, there was a case in Japan where guardian of a minor who caused a bicycle accident was ordered to pay 95 million yen in compensation.

There are various types of bicycle liability insurance. It is not always necessary to purchase a new policy because such insurance may be included in an existing policy (fire insurance, etc.). First, use the linked check sheet to determine whether you might already have bicycle liability insurance. If you are not covered for bicycle liability, contact your insurance company or a bicycle shop that has a bicycle safety mechanic to obtain a policy.



Check sheet to see if you have bicycle liability insurance (Cycling Rulebook, English version, last page) (Published by Kanagawa Prefecture and the Kanagawa Prefectural Police)

Do you wear a helmet?

Around 50% of people who die in bicycle accidents suffered a fatal head injury*.

If you ride your bicycle without a helmet and are involved in an accident, you may have a higher fault ratio.

Wear a helmet that meets safety standards such as the SG mark and is the right size.



* From the National Police Agency website.

How to Ride Buses and Trains

Buses

1. Confirm the destination!

The bus number and destination are displayed on the front and back of the bus, and on the side next to the door. Not all bus stops are shown on the list at the stop, so please ask the driver if you are not sure.



2. Get on from the front and pay first

Yokohama Municipal Bus*: passengers **get on** from the **front** door and **get off** the bus from the **back** door. Bus fare is paid when you get on the bus.

3. Press the stop button before your stop and get off using the back door



〈Fare〉
The basic fare is a flat rate:
Adult 220 yen
Child 110 yen

〈How to pay〉
• IC travel card: Touch your card on the reader.
• Cash: Insert coins or bills into the appropriate slot (exact fare not needed). Change is provided automatically.

* Other bus companies have different systems.

You can charge your IC travel card on the bus, but to ensure smooth and quick payment we recommend charging your card at a train station or convenience store beforehand.



Transfer/Timetable Search

Enter the name of the starting and ending bus stops to find the bus number, time, current location and traffic congestion level.

Bus and train manners

Some passengers require special consideration due to a disability or sensitivity to smells and sounds. Please be considerate of others so that everyone can have a pleasant ride.

The seats at the front of the bus are priority seats. Please be ready to give up your seat to someone in need.



Take your backpack off and hold it in front of you or on your lap. Please don't leave it on the seat beside you.



Make sure your umbrella is fully closed. If it is not fully closed, people around you can get wet.



Hold conversations quietly. Sound leaking from earphones is annoying to others, so keep the volume low.



Refrain from talking on the phone, or eating/drinking.



When your train has stopped service...

When a train cannot operate due to an accident or other reason, those who are already on the train in the section where service has stopped can travel to their destination via a decided route using another railway company. The types of tickets eligible for this service are fixed. People with non-eligible tickets will need to pay their own money to take the alternative route.

Eligibility by ticket type

- Commuter passes, physical tickets, coupon tickets (including discount tickets such as one-day tickets)
- ✗ When an IC travel card such as PASMO has been used to pay the entry fare, or you are using a 敬老バス (senior pass), 福祉バス (welfare pass) or 特別乗車券 (special transportation pass).

* Buses may sometimes be provided as alternate transportation. At the station, you will receive a small piece of paper called a 振替乗車票 (transfer ticket). Insert it in the payment box (they accept both coins and these tickets). When you have a transfer ticket for such situations, there is no need to pay the bus fare.

If you're not sure what to do, tell station staff your destination and ask them for guidance.

The rules for putting out plastic waste will change

From October, plastic waste disposal rules will change. In addition to the plastic packaging and containers normally put out on プラスチック資源 (recyclable plastic) waste collection days, you will now be able to put out other items if they are made only of plastic and the item is less than 50 cm on its longest side.



What can be put out as recyclable plastic?

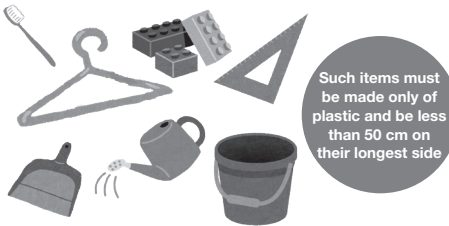
Plastic containers and packaging (same as before)



Look for this mark

NEW Plastic products added

Storage containers, bath and toiletry goods, plastic stationery, toys, cooking utensils, kitchen utensils, garden/outdoor items, etc.,



Such items must be made only of plastic and be less than 50 cm on their longest side

What cannot be put out as recyclable plastic?

- Items that have non-plastic parts
- Cutting boards or other items made of thick, hard plastic
- Plastic string and plastic sheets more than 50 cm
- Plastic items with their longest side 50 cm or longer
- Small electric items (those using electricity or batteries)

<Chiiki Shinko (Community Promotion) Division, Naka Ward Office, TEL: 045-224-8140>

Naka Ward's multilingual web pages are now easier to view

Naka Ward Office's multilingual web pages provide a variety of information about daily life in Japanese (easy Japanese), English, Chinese and Korean.

Information posted

- Naka Ward map
- Places where you can consult in a foreign language, guide to Japanese language classes
- Practical information about daily living, such as how to dispose of waste, rules for riding a bicycle, etc.
- What you need if you get sick or to prepare for a disaster

<Kusei Suishin (Ward Administration Promotion) Division, Naka Ward Office, TEL: 045-224-8123>



Kirin no Kai

(Chinese interpretation available, reservation required)

Let's enjoy Japanese hand games and play together with other babies. Measure your baby's height and weight and take handprints and footprints. You can also get information about child-raising in Japan such as nursery schools and kindergartens. Talk with others to feel assured about raising children and giving birth in Japan.

Dates/time: July 11 (Thu), Sept. 12 (Thu), 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Eligibility: Those currently pregnant or with a preschool-aged child

Note: Please bring your own diapers and change of clothes.

Application: Use this 2D barcode from two weeks before the event date. →



Open: 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

TEL/FAX: 045-663-9715

Closed: Sun/Mon/Dec 29 (Sun)-Jan 3 (Fri)

◆Editor's Notes

I think one cause of troubles due to cultural differences is "not knowing." For Japanese people, not talking on the phone on the train is unspoken etiquette, but this is not the case for people who grew up in another culture. So, if you see people who aren't displaying the expected manners, maybe they just don't know. Why not tell them kindly? Through these exchanges, not only can the other person avoid trouble, but you may also have the opportunity to gain knowledge about other countries.

International Service Staff
Naka Ward Office (2nd floor)
English 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Chinese 8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

International Service Staff provide assistance with matters such as guidance on Naka Ward Office activities, interpretation at various ward office counters and support for filling out certificate applications. Stop by if you would like assistance.

Help Me Know Q&A



● We received a guide in the mail for a "Keiro Pass (senior pass)." What is this?

▶ The Keiro Pass (or Keiro Special Pass) is a senior pass that can be used for buses running in Yokohama City, municipal subways and Kanazawa Seaside line, etc. This pass can be issued to residents of Yokohama City who are 70 years of age or older upon request. During the period of validity, a Keiro Pass holder can take unlimited rides on buses and subways. (In principle, a fee based on income must be paid in order to receive the pass.) A guide will be mailed to you about three months before your 70th birthday.



(in Japanese)

To apply for a Keiro Pass

● Those turning 70 soon or those over 70 who move to Yokohama

...When you receive the guide for the Keiro Pass, fill out the necessary information on the enclosed application form and mail it using the provided return envelope. You will be sent a payment slip with the amount to be paid. Once you pay at one of the designated financial institutions, you will be sent your Keiro Pass. If you qualify for a free pass, just submit your application and you will be sent an IC Keiro Pass.

● Those over 70 who would like to use a Keiro Pass

...Please contact the *Korei/Shogai Shien* (Elderly and Disabled Support) Division of the ward office where you live.

If you're not sure what is written in Japanese or need support, please contact Naka International Lounge.

▶ **Naka International Lounge** Address: 35 Nihon-odori, Naka-ku, Yokohama (1st Floor, Naka Ward Office Annex)
Open: 9:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon-Sat, 2nd/4th Sun **TEL:** 045-210-0667 **Languages:** English/Chinese/Japanese

<Keiro Pass Inquiry Line TEL: 0120-206-160 FAX: 03-4212-2942 (until March 31, 2025)>

● Is there a way to get information about dangerous places to help prevent children getting into traffic accidents?

▶ Yokohama City has made a **Kodomo/Kotsu-jiko Data Map (Children/Traffic Accident Data Map)** on its website that can be used to view details about traffic accidents in Yokohama that involved elementary or junior high school students. Press on a red icon to view accident details (time, weather and other relevant details). You can also see an actual picture of locations where accidents occurred for additional information. This tool is excellent for checking dangerous places on the way to school or near your home to prevent your child from getting into a traffic accident.



<Doro (Road) Bureau, Doro Seisaku Suishin (Road Policy Promotion) Division TEL:045-671-2323>

↑ Access the map here



Enjoy Summer Traditions!

Go for a Visit

There are many enjoyable events in the summer such as fireworks displays and summer festivals. Go on your own or have fun with friends or family—but try to enjoy Japan's summer to the fullest.



YOKOHAMA SPARKLING TWILIGHT 2024



Fireworks light up the night sky over the Port of Yokohama for a brief but beautiful five minutes. The special show will add to the already charming beauty of the area at night.

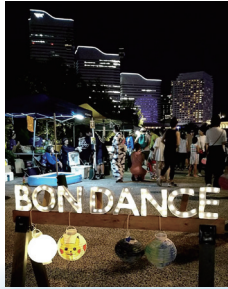
Location and Time

- ▶ **Osanbashi**
July 13, Sept. 14 (both Sat), 8:00–8:05 p.m.
- ▶ **Shinko Pier**
July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 31, Sept. 21 (all Sat), 8:00–8:05 p.m.



Go to your local summer festival!

Community circular boards and bulletin boards have information about festivals and events in your area. Please check the information regularly and participate in these events.



▲ Kitanaka District Summer Festival (Bon Odori [Bon Dance])

Bon Odori is performed while walking to the beat of *taiko* (Japanese drums) and music. It is a traditional dance that is a staple of Japanese summer festivals. It's a simple movement, so anyone can enjoy Bon Odori.



◀ Honmoku District Ouma Nagashi (horse figure floating)

This traditional purification event to remove evil from the community has continued for 400 years. "Horses" made from *kaya* (thatch), called *ouma-sama*, are held up and paraded around town, then released into the ocean to remove the evil that has transferred to them.



▶ Yamashita-cho Summer Festival

Everybody takes turn carrying an *omikoshi* (a portable shrine temporarily housing a god) as it is paraded through town. If you closely observe how it is being carried, you will see how powerful and impressive it is.

Thoughts of a Foreign Resident
Life and Culture in Japan



Transportation in Japan



Five years ago, Ms. A had just arrived from India. She told me she often took the wrong train because she did not understand *kanji* (Chinese characters) and would often end up in unexpected places because she would mistake the *nobori* (towards Tokyo) and *kudari* (away from Tokyo) trains. But once she got used to the system, **she came to love Japan's train culture**. Since there is no high-speed train in India that can travel long distances in a single day, Ms. A loves the shinkansen bullet trains. She says that the shinkansen, which can take you across the country in a few hours, taught her the joys of travel. It is not unusual for long-distance trains in India to be delayed by 30 minutes or an hour, so she feels the Japanese trains are superior as they slide up to the platform on time.

Since most foreign residents rely on public transportation, they have no choice but to gradually get used to the complicated train and bus system. Crowded trains in Japan are the same in India so Ms.

A was not particularly bothered, but she was surprised in a good way by everyone lining up neatly on the platform to wait for the train.

On the other hand, accepted cell phone manners on the train were a bit more problematic. In Japan, it's very quiet on the train and talking on one's cell phone is considered to be against the rules. In India and most other foreign countries, the use of cell phones on trains and buses is not restricted. It's nice that trains in Japan are quiet, but sometimes she receives important phone calls from India, so the rule of not answering a phone call is a bit inconvenient.

Why is chatting on the train fine but talking on a cell phone prohibited? Actually, there has been a debate about this in Japan recently, and some people think that whispering or talking for a short time is fine. Perhaps the rules for public transportation in Japan need to change to keep up with the times.

(Naka International Lounge Staff)

Good to Know!
About Japanese Culture

Tanabata 七夕 (Star Festival)

An introduction to seasonal events and the foods and decorations associated with them

Tanabata falls on July 7. According to folktales, it is the one day of the year when two lovers, Orihime and Hikoboshi, can cross the Amanogawa (Milky Way) to meet. As Tanabata approaches, people in Japan write their wishes on *tanzaku* (colored pieces of rectangular paper) and hang them onto bamboo branches. In China, where it is called the Qixi Festival, it is considered a second Valentine's Day. People spend the day together with their spouses, lovers or favorite people, going out on dates and giving gifts to each other.

Did you know that Tanabata has a **festive food**? Festive foods are special dishes eaten for seasonal events and celebrations, such as *hina-arare* (sweet-flavored rice crackers) for *Hina matsuri* (Girls' Festival), *kashiwa mochi* (chewy rice cake stuffed with sweet azuki rice bean paste and wrapped in oak leaf) and *chimaki* (sticky rice dumpling wrapped in oak leaves) for *Kodomo no hi* (Children's Day). **The festive food for Tanabata is *somen* (thin noodles made from wheat flour), which is commonly eaten in summer.**

Somen is a simple food, but it can be arranged with various toppings. For example, adding some *sudachi* (a type of Japanese citrus fruit) on top of the noodles, or condiments such as green onions, *myoga* (Japanese ginger), ginger, or grated Japanese white radish will make the noodles refreshing and very easy to eat. *Somen* is perfect for summer when you don't have much of an appetite. This Tanabata, why not gaze at the night sky while eating *somen*?



We are always looking for locations to distribute *Naka Ward Town News*. If you have many foreign visitors to your shop, clinic, organization, etc. and would like to make this newsletter available to them, please contact us at 045-224-8123 to arrange delivery. The next issue will be published on October 1.