

What is Japan Rail Pass (JR pass)?

JAPAN RAIL PASS, a joint offering of the six companies comprising the Japan Railways Group (JR Group), is the economical and convenient means of traveling throughout Japan by rail.

There are two types of PASSES: PASS for Green Cars and PASS for Standard Cars. Each type can be purchased for 7 days, 14 days or 21 days.

Japan Rail Pass should be purchased before arriving in Japan via online or designated travel agencies.

Please refer to the official site: <https://japanrailpass.net/en/>

Please note that there are many other websites selling Japan Rail Pass. However, SMRA support team can not guarantee it. Please access [the official site](#).

When you arrive in Japan, you need to stop by a station counter to activate the Japan Rail Pass. Please follow the instruction in the official site: <https://japanrailpass.net/en/purchase.html>

Do I need to purchase a Japan Rail Pass?

Japan Rail Pass is convenient for foreign visitors traveling in Japan. However, if your plan is just a round trip from Haneda/Narita airport to Sendai, usual train tickets purchased at stations may cost less. Please check the route and fees on google map or some route planner

<https://route.ekispert.net/en>

I'm flying into Haneda Airport, how do I get to Sendai?

Shinkansen (Bullet Train). First you'll need to take the Tokyo Monorail (covered by JR Pass) or the Keikyu Line (not covered by JR Pass) from Haneda Airport to Tokyo station. Then, you can catch the Shinkansen from Tokyo Station to Sendai Station. More details about this process can be found here:

[Haneda airport to Tokyo station \(Google map\)](#)

There are two train routes to Tokyo station. Both require transferring at JR stations.

1. Take the Tokyo Monorail (covered by JR pass) to Hamamatsucho Station, transfer to Yamanote line or Keihin-tohoku line to Tokyo station (covered by JR pass).
2. Take Keikyu line (not covered by JR pass) to Shinagawa station, transfer to Yokosuka line, Ueno-Tokyo line, Yamanote line or Keihin-tohoku line to Tokyo Station (covered by JR pass)

Limousine bus and taxi are available from Haneda airport to Tokyo Station.

I'm flying into Narita Airport (NRT), how do I get to Sendai?

- Shinkansen (Bullet Train). First you'll need to take the Narita Express (N'EX) (covered by JR Pass) or Keisei Skyliner (Not covered by JR Pass) from Narita Airport to Tokyo station. Then, you can catch the Shinkansen from Tokyo Station to Sendai Station. If you take Keisei Skyliner, the terminal station is Keisei Ueno Station. Then you can catch the Shinkansen from Ueno station to Sendai station. More details about this process can be found here:

[Narita airport to Tokyo station \(Google map\)](#)

Can I use a mobile app/ticket for JR lines/ Shinkansen?

- Iphone user: "Mobile Suica" can be installed. [Apple Support for Mobile Suica](#)
 - Mobile Suica is a prepaid system, charged by credit card. You can take local JR lines and Shinkansen (non-reserved seats only) by mobile Suica if e-money is charged enough. You can also use mobile Suica at many local stores and restaurants.
- Android user: Mobile Suica and "Osaifu-keitai" apps are necessary. Osaifu-keitai is not usually compatible with Android phones purchased outside of Japan.
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How do I pass ticket gates of JR lines and Shinkansen?

A valid ticket or effective mobile Suica app is necessary. You cannot access train platforms without a valid ticket or mobile Suica app.

Which Shinkansen should I take at Tokyo Station?

Tohoku Shinkansen (green one, northbound).

At Tokyo Station, follow the green pictogram. Blue one indicates the Tokaido Shinkansen, which goes westbound.



How long does it take to get to Sendai from Tokyo station?

It usually takes 90 -120 mins by Shinkansen. Faster Shinkansen with a few stops is called "Hayabusa (= falcon)" and all seats are reserved. Slower Shinkansen is called "Yamabiko (= echoes of voices in climbing mountains)" and about 1/3 of seats are non-reserved.

Should I book my ticket for the Shinkansen in advance of my trip? What should I know about a JR Pass?

If you use the Japan Rail pass, you need to buy it before arriving in Japan.

Japan Railway pass is issued only for foreign travelers. When you arrive in Japan, activate the JAPAN RAIL PASS at the JR-designated ticket office counter. You can take Shinkansen using the validated JR Railway pass, but seat reservation is recommended at the JR counter. Follow details on the official website.

<https://japanrailpass.net/en/>

If you do not use the Japan Railway Pass, you do not have to buy a ticket in advance of your trip. Just buy a ticket at the JR ticket office counter, located at the airport station.

Once I'm there, what's the easiest way to travel around Japan?

Taxi: You can pick up taxi in Tokyo and Sendai areas easily. Recommended mobile apps are "Go Taxi" and Uber. Uber drivers are employees of registered taxi companies in Japan.

Local trains and subways are very frequent and punctual in Tokyo and Sendai areas.

Local bus services are available. Downtown Sendai is easy to walk!

Information of Sendai

The official site of Sendai <https://discoversendai.travel/>