

Tokyo Transport Guide

Getting Around Tokyo

Master Tokyo's legendary train system with precision timing and extensive coverage. From the iconic Yamanote Line to hidden local gems, every journey is an adventure in efficiency.

Main Transport Options:

JR Lines

Japan Railways operates the extensive Yamanote Line and other major lines connecting Tokyo.

- Yamanote Line: Main loop line connecting major stations
- Chuo Line: East-west rapid service across Tokyo
- Keihin-Tohoku Line: North-south connection
- Trains run every 2-4 minutes during peak hours

Pro Tip: Get a JR Pass if traveling beyond Tokyo - covers all JR lines!

Tokyo Metro

9 color-coded subway lines covering central Tokyo with efficient connections.

- Ginza, Marunouchi, Hibiya lines serve central areas
- Tozai and Chiyoda lines connect east-west
- Yurakucho and Hanzomon lines for business districts
- Clean, punctual service with English announcements

Pro Tip: Download the Tokyo Metro app for real-time updates and navigation!

Toei Subway

4 lines operated by Tokyo Metropolitan Government complementing the metro system.

- Asakusa Line: Connects to airports
- Mita, Shinjuku, Oedo lines serve outer areas
- Integrates with other rail networks
- Some of the deepest stations in the world

Pro Tip: Oedo Line connects to many tourist spots but can be very deep underground!

Buses

Comprehensive bus network including local routes and tourist-friendly services.

- Toei buses: City-wide coverage with frequent service
- Sky Hop Bus: Open-top tourist routes
- Night buses available on major routes
- Exact fare required - have coins ready

Pro Tip: Use IC card for buses - much easier than exact change!

Passes & Tickets:

IC Card (Suica/Pasmo)

Rechargeable card for all trains, subways, and buses in Tokyo area

Best for: All visitors and residents

- Works on all transport modes
- No expiration date
- Can be used for shopping

Tokyo Metro 24/48/72hr

Unlimited rides on Tokyo Metro lines only

Best for: Metro-focused sightseeing

- Metro lines only (not JR)
- 24hr: ¥800, 48hr: ¥1,200, 72hr: ¥1,500
- Tourist attractions discounts

Greater Tokyo Pass

1-3 day unlimited pass for all trains, subways, and most buses

Best for: Comprehensive Tokyo exploration

- All rail lines included
- 1-day: ¥1,590, 2-day: ¥2,670, 3-day: ¥3,670
- Most cost-effective for heavy use

Navigation Apps & Tools:

Hyperdia: Essential for train schedules and route planning across Japan

Tokyo Metro App: Official app with real-time info and offline maps

Google Translate: Camera function helps read Japanese signs and menus

IC Card Reader: Check your card balance and transaction history

Most Instagrammable Transport Spots:

Yamanote Line to Shibuya

Famous Shibuya Crossing and neon lights - peak urban photography

Ginza Line to Asakusa

Traditional temples and old Tokyo atmosphere at Sensoji Temple

JR to Harajuku

Takeshita Street youth culture and Meiji Shrine nature contrast

Chuo Line to Shinjuku

Skyscrapers, neon signs, and the busiest train station in the world

Yurikamome to Odaiba

Futuristic island with Tokyo Bay views and Rainbow Bridge

Insider Tips:

Rush hours (7-9 AM, 5-7 PM) are INTENSE - avoid if possible

Download offline maps - not all stations have reliable English signage

IC cards work everywhere and save time - get one immediately

Women-only cars available during rush hours - look for pink signs

Let people exit before boarding - it's strictly enforced etiquette