

A Comprehensive Guide to Boarding and Alighting Fixed Route Buses in Japan

Japan's public transportation system is renowned for its efficiency and reliability, with buses playing a crucial role in connecting cities, towns, and rural areas. While navigating this vast network can be challenging, especially for first-time visitors, understanding the proper etiquette and procedures for boarding and alighting fixed route buses in Japan will ensure a seamless and enjoyable travel experience.

Boarding the Bus

- **Locate the Bus Stop:** Identify the nearest bus stop for your desired route by looking for designated signs with the bus route numbers displayed.
- **Queue at the Designated Area:** In Japan, it is customary to line up in an orderly queue at the designated waiting area at the bus stop. Respect the queue and wait your turn to board.
- **Have Exact Fare Ready:** When boarding the bus, you are required to pay the exact fare. Prepare the appropriate amount in coins or use a prepaid transportation card like Suica or Pasma.
- **Enter Through the Front Door:** Board the bus through the front door. As you enter, greet the driver with a polite "Ohayo gozaimasu" (good morning), "Konnichiwa" (good afternoon), or "Konbanwa" (good evening) depending on the time of day.
- **Drop Your Fare:** Insert the exact fare into the fare box located near the driver. The fare box will automatically issue a receipt, which you

can keep for record-keeping purposes.

- **Take a Seat:** If available, proceed to an empty seat. It is considered polite to give up your seat to elderly, pregnant, or disabled passengers.



Alighting the Bus

- **Ring the Stop Request Bell:** When approaching your desired stop, press the stop request button located inside the bus. This will alert the driver of your intention to alight.
- **Move to the Front of the Bus:** Once the bus reaches your stop, proceed to the front of the bus. Avoid blocking the aisle or impeding other passengers from exiting.

- **Alight Through the Rear Door:** Disembark the bus through the rear door. As you exit, express gratitude to the driver by saying "Arigato gozaimasu" (thank you).
- **Retrieve Your Receipt:** Upon exiting the bus, remember to retrieve your fare receipt from the fare box. This receipt may be required as proof of payment if requested by a bus inspector.



Important Notes and Tips

Exact Fare Only: Japanese buses do not provide change, so it is essential to have the exact fare ready when boarding.

HOW TO GET ON AND OFF A FIXED-ROUTE BUS IN JAPAN! by Stephanie Pokorny



★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 25825 KB

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Use Transportation Cards: Prepaid transportation cards like Suica and Pasma are widely accepted on buses in Japan. They offer convenience and eliminate the need to carry exact change.

Respect Queues: It is considered rude to cut or push in line when waiting for the bus. Respect the queue and allow other passengers to board in an orderly manner.

Be Mindful of Space: When exiting the bus, avoid blocking the aisle or impeding other passengers. Allow them to disembark safely and efficiently.

Keep Your Belongings Close: As with any public transportation, be vigilant about your personal belongings. Keep them close and secure to avoid theft or loss.

Navigating Japan's bus system can be a rewarding experience, offering a convenient and reliable way to explore the country. By understanding and adhering to the proper etiquette and procedures for boarding and alighting fixed route buses, you can ensure a smooth and enjoyable travel experience. Whether you are a first-time visitor or a seasoned traveler, embracing these guidelines will allow you to fully appreciate the efficiency and comfort of Japan's public transportation network.



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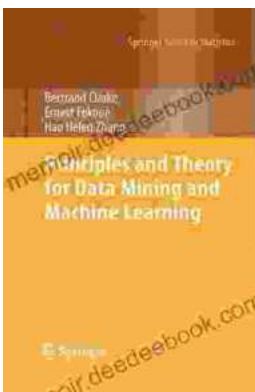
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