

How to Call a Taxi in Japan 日本でのタクシーの呼び方

With winter fully arrived in Obihiro, getting around can be a little difficult if you don't have a car. Walking long distances in the snow and ice can be tiring, and if you don't have time to wait for a bus, what should you do? Well you can call a taxi! Calling a taxi in Japan might seem a little daunting, but this month's issue of the Obihiro Pioneer will guide you through the entire process.

will be slightly different depending on the company you are using.

Taxi size	First 1,375 m.	After 1,375 m.
Small Taxi	550 yen	+80 yen every 303m./1min 50sec.
Medium Taxi	570 yen	+90 yen every 272m./1min 40sec.

Source: Hokkaido District Transport Bureau

Taxi Fare

The first thing you need to know is there are 2 rates for the taxi fare in Japan; daytime rate and night-time rate (after 22:00pm until 5:00am). As you might expect, the night time rate is a little bit more expensive.

There are 2 types of taxi that you can normally ride in Obihiro without a reservation, those being small and medium size taxis. The difference between small and medium taxis is that small taxis can carry 4 passengers, and medium ones can carry 5.

However, be aware that from the outside these two taxis can look surprisingly similar. The difference is that the medium size taxis are slightly larger and may have a front bench seat, which is difficult to spot at a distance. These types of taxis are also quite rare in comparison to the smaller size taxis.

If you are going as a group of more than 5 people, a jumbo taxi (9 passengers) can be hired, but requires advance reservation.

The regular fare for the small size taxi is 550 yen for the first 1,375 meters. After that it will cost 80 yen every 303 meters or 1 minute 50 seconds.

For the medium size taxi, it will cost 570 yen for the first 1,375 meters plus 90 yen every 272 meters or 1 minute 40 seconds. However the fare

In other words, a trip of 6km in the Obihiro area in a small taxi would cost approximately 1,830 yen (550 yen for the first 1,375m plus 1,280 yen for the remaining 4,625m), and 2,190 yen in a medium taxi (570 yen for the first 1,375m plus 1,620 yen for the remaining 4,625m).*

*Fares for the Obihiro area as of 10/01/2019

Calling a Taxi

If you are in the city center and you want to catch a taxi, you can wait at a taxi stop (タクシー乗り場) or look for a taxi with a red “空車” (empty car/available) sign. An occupied taxi will usually have a green “貸走” or “割増” (carrying a passenger) sign. Raise your hand up, wait until a door is opened, get in the taxi, tell the driver your destination and you're off! But if you are not somewhere where you can find a taxi along the street, all you need to do is to call a taxi company. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that there will be English speaking staff or a call center service. Using Japanese will be necessary! However, even if you don't speak Japanese, you can still call a taxi using these phrases if you're feeling up to the challenge!



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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
12/ 11 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volleyball Night 国際ミニバレー・ナイト Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport. TIRC Multi-purpose Hall Fee: Free of charge Organized by the Tokachi International Association	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
12/ 14 (Sat) 10:00-12:00, 13:00-15:00	Volunteer Interpreter Training Seminar 通訳ボランティア育成セミナー The Tokachi International Association trains volunteer interpreters who can actively participate in international exchange events around Tokachi. In this seminar, we will teach you some expressions that are useful for interpreting events and how to practice interpreting effectively. TIRC Multi-purpose Hall Fee: 500 yen per Seminar Application period: Nov 22 nd (Fri) - Dec 13 th (Fri), 9:00-17:00 (excluding holidays) Where to apply: TIRC Reception Target Audience: Those who have EIKEN test Grade Pre-2 or higher and can register as a volunteer for Tokachi International Association. Organized by Tokachi International Association	
12/21 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	American Christmas Crafts: Parent and Child Class アメリカのクリスマス・クラフト: 親子教室 Join Elaine, Obihiro city's Coordinator for International Relations from America, as she introduces some fun crafts to celebrate Christmas! Together with your child, make a snowman from popular American candy, "hand print-stamp wreaths" and memorable ornaments made from items you can find at home. TIRC Multi-purpose Hall Application period: Dec 2 nd (Mon)-17 th (Fri), 9:00-17:00 (excluding holidays) Where to apply: Obihiro City Hall 3F, Int. and Dom. Relations Section, or contact Elaine by phone or email: 0155-65-4122 or international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp Participation Fee: 300 yen per pair (in cash on arrival) Limited availability, 10 pairs Organized by the City of Obihiro	
12/21 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	International Potluck Night (Vietnam) インターナショナルポットラックナイト(ベトナム) Bring a dish or drink (you can make it yourself or buy from a store) to share with everyone and come join us at the International Potluck Night! Enjoy an evening of delicious food and fun conversation while making new friends from all over the world! This time our guest Kang and his friends from Vietnam will introduce us to the savory Vietnamese sizzling pancakes called "Bánh Xèo". TIRC Kitchen Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) Organized by the Committee for Improvement of the City	

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Useful Phrases for Calling a Taxi

- ① タクシー1台お願いします。
Takushii ichi-dai onegaishimasu.
I would like a taxi.

First of all, when you call, the person taking your call will usually say the name of the taxi company. You can simply respond by telling them you need a taxi. If you want 2 taxis you can say “*ni-dai*” instead.

- ② 場所は畜大の会館1です。
Basho wa chikudai no kaikan ichi desu.
The place is international house 1, Obi Uni.

Then tell them the address of the place you wish to be collected. If you're being collected from your apartment, you will need to tell them your apartment number as well. Try to be as precise as possible. Writing down the address in advance can help.

- ③ 名前はモヨです。電話番号は080-1234-XXXXです。
Namae wa Moyo desu. Denwa bango wa 080-1234-XXXX desu.
My name is Moyo. My phone number is 080-1234-XXXX.

After that they will ask your name and phone number. When on the phone you don't need to specify where you would like to go, just the above information. Once you've told them all that, then congratulations! You've just successfully ordered a taxi. Don't celebrate too hard and forget to say “*Yoroshiku onegaishimasu*” and “*Shitsurei shimasu*” before you hang up though.

Once you have told them all the necessary information, you will usually be asked to wait around 10-15 minutes. It may be longer depending on the time and place you would like to be collected. (Friday and Saturday nights are likely to be very busy, especially during the 2 weeks before and after New Year's Day).

Getting into the Taxi

When the taxi arrives, they will ring your doorbell or call you. The taxi driver will open the door for you, or the door will automatically open itself so wait for it to do so, then hop in the taxi. Don't try to open the door yourself! The door will also automatically close behind you. Once inside the taxi,

tell them your destination and pay for the trip when you arrive. Once again, resist the temptation to reach for the door handle, as the taxi driver will open the door for you automatically. If you would like more phrases to use while



riding the taxi, you can use “Touch and Talk on Taxi”, a short guide on phrases you can use with the taxi driver made by the Council for Promotion and Development of Tourism in Tokachi (十勝外国時抜

け入体制整備推進協議会). Even if you can't read Japanese, you can use this document to talk with the driver by simply pointing at what you would like to say while showing them your phone! This QR code will bring you straight to the Touch and Talk on Taxi page. If you are worried about not being able to access the internet in order to access the page, you can also download the guide to your phone.



Touch and Talk on Taxi
By Obikan.jp
To communicate with
the driver on the taxi

Calling a Taxi WITHOUT Japanese

If you don't feel you are able to speak enough Japanese to call a taxi, then we have some good news — you don't have to!

Many smart phone applications for calling taxis are available on both the Apple Store and Google Play. Using these applications you can call for a taxi anywhere in Japan without speaking any Japanese! You just need to enter your pickup location and enter some other details such how many of each type of car you would like, and how you will pay. Some apps will even allow you to reserve taxis in advance or calculate the approximate fare for your trip! Each app will work differently and have different features, so you may need to try a few different apps to find what works best for you.



We hope you find this article useful, and wish you luck with riding taxis this winter!

Movies At Cinema Taiyo, in Obihiro

(Nishi 3, Minami 11)
Tel: (0155) 20-1525

Times and movies are subject to change! (for space reasons not all movies are listed)
To confirm, call or check online at: http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml



Title	Language	Dates
Once Upon a Time in Hollywood	Jpn Sub	Until 12th
John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum	Jpn Sub	Until 12th
Terminator: Dark Fate (New Fate)	Jpn Sub	Until 19th
Frozen 2 (アナと雪の女王2/Ana to yuki no joō 2)	Jpn Dub	All Month
Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (スカイウォーカーの夜明け/ Sukai uōkaa no yoake)	Jpn Sub/Dub	From 20th

Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
12/8 (Sun) 9:00-14:00	50th Hiroo Kegani Crab Festival 第50回広尾毛がにまつり Come taste the fresh seafood from Hiroo! There will be a crab speed-eating event and lotteries for special products. Try the boiled kegani (horsehair) crab before it sells out!	Seaside Park, Hiroo シーサイドパーク広尾 01558-2-0177 (月～金) 01558-2-2111 (土・日・祝) http://www.town.hiroo.hokkaido.jp/
12/8 (Sun)	Urahoro Produce Fair うらほろ物産フェア Browse the various local products of Urahoro! This fair gathers together local specialty products for an end-of-year sale.	Urahoro Central Community Center 浦幌町中央公民館 015-576-2181
12/15 (Sun) 9:00-14:00	Tokachi Obihiro Airport “Sky Christmas Party” とかち帯広空港「空のクリスマス会」 Join us for a Christmas party in Tokachi Obihiro Airport, featuring a concert and other fun activities. Participation is free!	Tokachi Obihiro Airport とかち帯広空港ターミナルビル 0155-64-5678 http://obihiro-airport.com/
12/21 (Sat) 15:00-16:00	Christmas Concert クリスマスコンサート Celebrate the beginning of the long winter nights with a concert of many wonderful performances by local musicians.	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク財団 0155-32-6780 http://tokachi-ecopark.jp/

Obihiro Pioneer can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro University International Center, Obihiro Tourism and Convention Center inside the Obihiro JR Station, Obihiro Public Library, Tokachi Plaza, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp (click on “Information for Foreigners”)

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