

General Living

(1) Ways to Find a Residence

Residences in Japan are as of the following, so please contact the respective places when seeking a residence.

People interested in Okinawa Prefecture Housing contact Okinawa Prefecture Housing Corporation: 098-858-1146.

People interested in city, town or village housing contact the Housing Section of each city, town or village office.

People interested in private housing contact the appropriate real estate company or refer to the housing information magazine.

(2) Lease Fees

Generally, the following fees will be necessary for moving into a house.

Rent one month's rent

Key Money This is usually paid to the owner of the house when renting private housing for obtaining rights to rent the house. The amount will be equivalent to one or two times the house rent and will not be refunded.

Deposit Security fee of 2-3 times the house rent paid to the owner of the house for cases of nonpayment of house rent or repairs. At the time of cancellation of the lease contract, the remainder after deducting unpaid rent and repairs, if any, will be refunded.

General

Service Fee Electric fee for common areas such as stairs and hallways.

Brokerage Fee Amount paid to the real estate company, when contracted through one.

(3) Seal Registration

In Japan, a "jitsu in" (actual seal)] and "Inkan tourokusho" (proof of seal registration)] are necessary for registering a car or closing an important contract. The seal that is registered at the city, town or village office is called the "jitsu in" (actual seal). The document that gives proof for an actual seal is called the "Inkan toroku shomeisho" (Certificate of Seal Registration).

Anyone who is a registered alien 15 or older can register a seal at the section in charge at the city, town or village office. Items necessary for registration are the Alien Registration Certificate and the seal to be registered.

Although the registered seal is referred to as the "jitsu in" (actual seal), other seals are referred to as the "mitome in" (approval seal), and this seal is used more frequently.

(4) How to Use Financial Institutions

Banks, post offices, agricultural cooperative associations and fishery cooperative associations are the financial institutions in Japan. A seal (approval seals can be used) is necessary for opening a bank account. Signatures are allowed for foreigners. Bankcards are usually mailed to your address of residence within a week after application.

The usual operating hours for financial institutions are as follows:

Counter Hours	Monday thru Fridays	9 : 00 - 15 : 00
	Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays	
ATM Hours	Monday thru Fridays	8 : 00 - 22 : 00
	Saturdays, Sundays and holidays 9 : 00 - 20 : 00	

(5) Installing a Telephone

Telephone installations can be applied for with NTT West Japan (phone: 0120-364463 or phone 116). A contract fee of 72,800 yen (consumption tax not included), installation fee and telephone fee will be required.

Please refer to each carrier for mobile phones and PHS phones.

Generally, the following are the necessary things for contracting a phone.

Certificate of identity (such as Alien Registration Certificate)

Contract fee (about 3,000 yen)
 Cost of telephone

(6) Telephone Calls

National Phone Calls

In cases for calling within the local area code (central and southern area of main island, Kerama and Kume Island) there is no need for dialing the area code 098. Local calls cost 10 yen per 3 minutes. The costs for other areas will depend upon the distance and time.

International Phone Calls

An international phone call can be made by dialing 001 + 010 + country code + area code without the first "0" + phone number.

Prepaid cards for international phone calls can also be used with pay phones to make an international phone call. Prepaid cards for international phone calls can be purchased from convenience stores. When using an international phone call prepaid card, enter the card ID number and follow the voice instructions to complete the call. There are some cards where a choice can be made from 8 languages for the voice instructions.

(7) Usage of Postage

Postage stamps can be obtained from the post office, convenience stores and general stores with the [〒] mark, and mail can be sent by dropping it into the red mail box nearby after sticking on the postal stamp.

Since postage varies depending on the type and weight of the mail, please go to a post office nearby to send your mail when you are not sure of the cost. An English postal guidance service (098-868-4472) is also available.

Post Office Operating Hours Mondays thru Fridays 8 : 30 - 16 : 30
 (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays)

Price list for national regular postage

Type		Weight	Price
Letters	Standard-sized mail	Up to 25g	80 yen
		Up to 50g	90 yen
	Special-sized mails	Up to 50g	120 yen
		Up to 75g	140 yen
		Up to 100g	160 yen
		Up to 150g	200 yen
		Up to 200g	240 yen
		Up to 250g	270 yen
		Up to 500g	390 yen
Up to 750g	580 yen		
	750g to 4kg	700 yen - 1,350 yen	
Postcards	Standard postcard		50 yen
	Reply-paid postcard		100 yen

(Note) Standard-sized mail: Length within 23 cm
 Width within 12 cm
 Thickness within 1 cm
 Weight within 50 g

Pricing for Regular International Mail (Air Parcel)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
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Type/ Weight		Zone		
		Asia, Guam, Palau Islands, Others	North America, Central America, Near and Middle East, Europe, Oceania	Africa, South America
Standard-sized mail	Up to 25 g	90 yen	110 yen	130 yen
	Up to 50 g	160 yen	190 yen	230 yen
Special-sized mail	Up to 50 g	220 yen	260 yen	300 yen
	Over 50 g	330 yen ~	400 yen ~	480 yen ~
	Up to 2 kg	2,150 yen	3,410 yen	4,990 yen
Postcards		70 yen fixed for all areas		
Air Mail		90 yen fixed for all areas		
Greeting cards	Up to 25 g	90 yen	110 yen	130 yen
Small packages	Up to 50 g	120 yen	150 yen	170 yen
	From 50 g to 1 kg, for every 50 g increase	Add 70 yen	Add 90 yen	Add 120 yen

(8) Payment for electricity, gas and water

Electric and Gas Bills

Bills with monthly electric and gas usage and cost will be mailed during the following month, so please pay them at banks or convenience stores. Use of bank account transfer for the monthly payment may be more convenient.

Water Bills

Bills with water usage and cost will be mailed every two months, so please pay them at banks or convenience stores. Use of bank account transfer for the monthly payment may be more convenient.

Contact:

Water

Opening and stopping, payment of bills, bank account transfer and meter reading
(Each city, town, village or region's section or bureau in charge of water supply.)

Electric

(Okinawa Electric Company) 098-867-3131

Gas (city gas)

(Okinawa Gas) 098-863-7730

Propane gas

The phone number for the sales office is printed on the gas meter reading report.

(9) Separation of Garbage

Please separate household-generated garbage according to the rules of the region and take it out to the proper place at the proper day and time. Garbage that is not properly separated will not be collected.

Guidelines for separating garbage varies among each city, town, village and region, so please separate as instructed by your city, town, village or region.

Designated garbage bags (2 types: burnable garbage and non-burnable garbage) can be purchased from convenience stores or general stores, so please purchase the designated garbage bags for only these bags can be used for garbage.

In cases of disposing of large-size garbage, call the city, town or village office's section in charge and follow their instructions. In case of Naha City, purchase a large-size garbage disposal ticket and stick it to the large-size garbage before taking it out. Keep in mind that a request for collecting must be made by phone. (large-sized refuse collection phone number: 889-3567)

Garbage Separation Guidelines for Naha City

Burnable	Kitchen garbage, wastepaper, etc.
Non-burnable	Plastic bottles, scrap iron, broken ceramics, rubber, vinyl, leather, etc.
Large-size garbage	Furniture, bedding, carpets, bicycles, gas rings, etc.
Recyclable garbage	Empty cans and bottles, used newspaper, magazines, milk cartons, used clothes, etc.
Hazardous items	Batteries, thermometers, mirrors, fluorescent lamps, glass pieces, etc.
Non-collectables	Dealers must be contacted for motorcycles, sofas, tires, pianos, chemical products, etc. Your nearby electric appliance store will collect TV's, refrigerators and washing machines for a fee.

(10) Means of Transportation (Bus)

The monorail, buses and taxis are the means of transportation found in Okinawa Prefecture.

The monorail runs for 13 km from the Naha Airport through the city area of Naha until Shuri at intervals of 7-10 minutes. Fares vary depending on the distance traveled.

There are two bus fare systems, one with a fixed fare and another with fares varying depending on the distance ridden. Generally, the fare is paid into the fare box at the time you get on the bus in case of the fixed fare system. In cases of the fares varying depending on the distance ridden, you will receive a numbered ticket at the time you board the bus and will be required to pay the amount next to the number of your ticket as shown in the fare list on the top of the driver into the fare box with your numbered ticket. Commuter passes and coupon tickets are also available and convenient when used.

When you decide to get off the bus, you must let the driver know by pushing the button on the window pane or ceiling after hearing the announcement for your desired bus stop.

(11) Change of Citizenship

Those who marry a Japanese citizen and wish to obtain Japanese citizenship must contact the Regional Legal Affairs Bureau.

Contact:

Naha Regional Legal Affairs Bureau, Nationality Section

1-15-15 Higawa, Naha City 900-8544 (Naha Government Building No. 1)

Phone: 098-854-7950