
VII. SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN JAPAN

Consular Services

The Department of External Affairs provides general assistance to Canadians abroad through its embassies and consulates. The services are varied in scope covering such things as passport and notarial services, information on visas and entry requirements, assistance in cases of sickness, accident, loss of funds and problems with local laws. Should you require assistance in Japan contact the Consular Section, Tel: (03) 408-2101.

Transportation Facilities

Taxis — You will probably take taxis for most of your trips around the cities. Taxis are plentiful and often the most convenient way to get around. They can be flagged or picked up at taxi stands. Phoning for a cab is rare. Before setting out, be sure that your taxi driver knows exactly where you want to go since both communications and directions are difficult. If in doubt, have someone write out directions and draw a map for you to give to the driver. The information desks at most hotels are only too pleased to do this for you. Remember not to tip the driver and that the rear side door is remotely opened by the driver, so you do not have to tug on it.

Buses — Aside from organized bus tours, it is better to avoid public buses altogether since English is not spoken by drivers or passengers and route signs are written in Japanese only.

Cars — A business visitor, particularly in the cities, will find it more convenient to rely on trains, subways and taxis than to drive — as directions are difficult and parking often nonexistent. Cars can be rented, however, and all that is required is a valid International Driver's Licence. Limousines may be hired at the leading hotels, but they are expensive.

Trains and Subways — Excellent train service is available throughout Japan. Many business visitors are able to reduce the high cost of train travel in Japan by purchasing a rail pass from their travel agents in Canada.