

The JITI Journal

Volume 4, Issue 5
September 2017

CORRECTED VERSION:

There was an editorial error in our previously sent out JITI Journal, regarding the images in the "License Plates in Japan" article. The private use and commercial/business use license plates for registered vehicles images were switched. We have corrected the error in this version of the JITI Journal and apologize for the oversight.

Welcome

The JITI Journal is a bimonthly publication of the Japan International Transport Institute, USA (JITI), in which JITI shares information on transportation developments in Japan and elsewhere, as well as recent JITI programs. As a supplement to our regular events, we hope that the Journal likewise serves as a resource for the transportation community.

We hope this issue finds you well.

In this issue, JITI senior representative Hiroki Sakamoto presents an article on license plates in Japan, including special designs and interesting features. Additionally, JITI staff member Sarah Fraser writes a short article on Kawagoe Castle and the surrounding area, an interesting place to visit and experience Japanese history for those living in, or visiting, Tokyo.

In This Issue:

[JITI Events: Recent Events](#)

[Feature: License Plates in Japan](#)

[Article: Kawagoe Castle](#)

JITI Events

PAST:

[JITI 2017 Aviation Seminar Global Harmonization of the New Air Navigation System](#)

Quick Links

Visit our [website](#).

Follow us on [twitter](#)

Upcoming Events

Currently JITI does not have any upcoming events planned, but please check our website [here](#) for more updates.

Our Sponsor



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



On May 18th, JITI hosted a seminar at the Willard Hotel. Considering the dramatically increasing air traffic volume and the expectation that air traffic will steadily increase in the future, JITI invited officials from Japan, the U.S., and Europe who had been involved in the development of future air traffic systems, as well as academic experts, and airline industry specialists. The speakers discussed the current situation of each program, mutual cooperation between the programs, and the challenges inherent in future development and deployment of the systems. Click [here](#) for overview, presentation materials, and bios of the keynote speakers.

[JITI 2017 Aviation Workshop Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation](#)



On January 27th, JITI hosted a workshop at the Hay Adams hotel, prior to the introduction of the GMBM. JITI invited an ICAO professional and Japanese and U.S. airline representatives, to discuss the content of the GMBM, the discussion leading up to it, the direction and design of the detailed system for the future, airline response, impact on users, and how to obtain the participation of States during the voluntary phase. Click [here](#) for an overview, presentation materials, and bios of the keynote speakers.

Though we may see familiar vehicles driven around in different parts of the world, one thing we always notice is how each countries/cities' license plate differs from one another. Those who have traveled in Japan may have noticed that there a limited number of variations to Japanese license plates. This is because Japanese license plates are regulated under national regulations, and a license plate's design/style for a particular type of vehicle are uniform across Japan for the most part.

This article will provide an overview of the Japanese license plate system to familiarize our readers, and also introduce you to the changes on the way in light of Tokyo hosting the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games.

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE NOW?

In general, below are the four most commonly seen types of license plates on the roads in Japan today. The use/purpose and engine size of the vehicle determine which one of the four plates it uses.

	Private Use	Commercial/Business Use
Registered Vehicle (Regular or large size engine)		
Light Motor Vehicle * (660cc or less)		

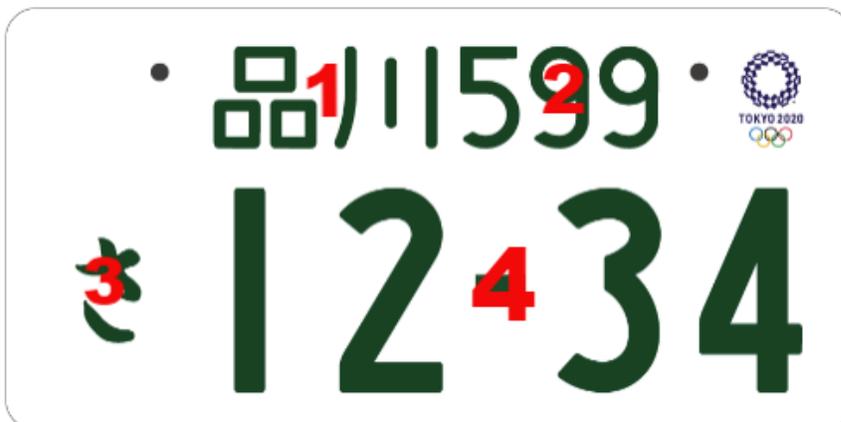
(Source: http://www.mlit.go.jp/jidosha/jidosha_tk6_000010.html)

* Light Motor Vehicle: Commonly called as "Kei-car" which has less than 660cc of engine with dimension of less than 3.4m(length)X1.48m(width)x2m(height).

Private-use vehicles are those whose use is for private purpose (i.e. a vehicle owned by a family for day-to-day use, company vehicle used by its own employee) and commercial use vehicle, though some may appear like a personal vehicle, are those used for business, such as taxi, busses, delivery trucks etc.

WHAT DOES EACH LETTER/NUMBER REPRESENT?

There are 4 elements presented on Japanese license plates, representing: 1) region, 2)vehicle classification, 3)use category and 4)unique identifier.



1: Region

Region where the vehicle is registered. Currently there are 116 regions in Japan. While these regions were strictly based on location of where the registration office was located, "Gotochi ("locally recognized region")

Number Plates" were introduced in 2006 for regional and tourism promotion purpose, allowing region such as "Fujisan" (=Mt. Fuji) to be issued beyond prefectural jurisdictions.

2: Vehicle Classification

Numbers and alphabet is used to indicate the classification of a vehicle (i.e. cargo truck, bus, passenger vehicle, large-sized special motor vehicle., etc)

3: Use Category

A single Japanese letter indicating whether the vehicle is used for commercial, private, rental or U.S. military personnel use.

4: Identifying Number

Up to four digits In response to a demand from the public, certain vehicles with personal and business use purpose have the option of choosing the numbers. For those numbers that are popular, such as "8888," there is a lottery system.

THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAME SPECIAL DESIGN - Starting next month!

Starting October of 2017, vehicles owners can opt for plates with the Olympic and Paralympic Logos, or can make a donation of 1000 JPY (approx. \$11) or more to receive a specially designed plate. Issuance of special plates will run through 2020, and the collected donations will be used to improve transportation/mobility services during the Games, such as providing subsidies to fund for accessible cabs and buses.



**Specially Designed Plate
(with donation)**



Plate with Emblem

(Source: http://www.mlit.go.jp/report/press/jidosha06_hh_000072.html)

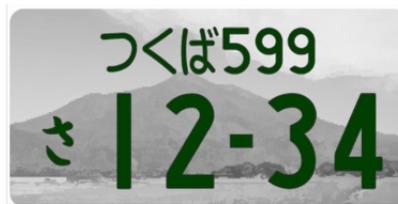
Stay Tuned - Regional Design to come 2018 October

In response to the growing demand/interest for regional promotion, local governments can apply to designate unique design for its license plate. Designs will be in both colored and black/white, differentiating whether donations were paid or not. Funds collected through this donation will be allocated for local tourism promotion and/or improving local transportation services.



寄付金あり

With donation



寄付金なし

Without donation

(Sample image of regional design. Source: http://www.mlit.go.jp/jidosha/jidosha_tk6_000031.html)

Kawagoe Castle

by Sarah Fraser



[Kawagoe Castle](#) by [ugin38](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

Even if you are living in Tokyo, there are plenty of chances to experience Japan's rich history without travelling too far away from the city center. During my time in Tokyo I took a day trip to Kawagoe Castle and the surrounding area, rich with history and interesting things to do. Kawagoe Castle is located in Saitama, Japan and, by train, it only takes about an hour and a half to get there.



[Photo](#) by [sayo ts](#) under [public domain](#)

The Honmaru Goten, or main keep of the castle, is open to visitors every day except for Monday for a small fee. The castle is important historically, and was renovated and reopened to the public in 2011. There are always many visitors to the castle who are interested in seeing the various historical and cultural items on display, enjoying the tatami rooms and spacious hallways, and the garden located on the historical site. It was definitely a fun experience and an interesting place to visit.



Kawagoe Castle by [izu navi](#) licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

Of course, that is not all there is to do in the Kawagoe area. The Kitain Temple, Kawagoe City Museum, bell tower, warehouse district, and candy alley are also very popular spots to visit. The Kawagoe City Museum is located across the street from the castle, and the Kitain Temple is also close by. The temple is actually closer to the station, so it could be the first spot on a walking tour of the Kawagoe area. Ten minutes to the west of the castle is the warehouse district, famous bell tower, and candy alley where you can buy traditional Japanese snacks. I recommend taking a day to visit the area and enjoy walking around and experiencing the rich history of Japan.

Stay in Touch with JITI

Please follow the Japan International Transport Institute Twitter feed at [@JITIUSA](#) or check back with our website to get the latest information on workshops and seminars.

Thank you for reading the JITI Journal. Until the next issue, whatever your mode, travel safely!

The JITI Team