

3-4. How to use gas stations

gas stations are called “GA-SO-RI-N SU-TA-N-DO” in Japan. There have been problems due to confusion over the names of the various types of fuels, so learn what they are beforehand.

*The abbreviations GS for gas stations or SS for service stations will be used below.

Where are gas stations?

Gas stations can be commonly seen in urban areas or along the busy main roads, but they are rarely found once you are away from a city or along a road with very little traffic. There are more GS along highways with 2 or more lanes and other roads which large-sized vehicles such as trucks utilize. Regarding operating hours, you should be aware that while some GS are open 24 hours a day in urban areas, some gas stations in the countryside where there is little traffic may close after 18:00 during the week and may not be open at all on weekends. It is advisable to refuel frequently to prevent running out of gasoline. Keep a close eye on the amount in the tank, particularly if you are leaving an urban area.

These signs are the ones to look out for.

Signs of the major gasoline stand chains



There are two types of gas stations.

There are two types of gas stations: a. “Full Service” where sales staff are always present and refuel for you and b. “Self Service” where you refuel your own car. Prices are slightly cheaper at self-service stands. At full service stands, all you have to do is to tell the staff what kind of gas you want and how much, either in liters or yen. If you want a full tank, just say “MA-N-TA-N” (full tank). The staff will refuel your car and offer services such as wiping your car’s windows. Every once in a while, you will be offered a free map or pack of tissues.

There are three types of fuel with two types of gasoline.

Fuel comes in three types including “HI OKU” (high octane), “regular” and “diesel.” Rental cars in Japan, for the most part, have gasoline engines and require “regular” gasoline. There are virtually no rental cars with diesel engines so under no circumstances should you use diesel fuel in a rental car. The car will not run if it has been filled up with diesel fuel. Additionally, gasoline sold in Japan is virtually all lead-free.

●Types of fuel (gasoline)

[Be careful not to confuse the gasoline types when refueling at a self-service stand!]

Generally speaking, “regular” means gasoline with an octane value of approximately 90, whereas, “Hi-Oku” (high octane) means gasoline with an octane value ranging between 98 and 100. Depending on the gas stations, “Hi-Oku” will have a unique product name such as “Premium,” “Super,” “F1,” “Vigo,” “Super Magnum” or “Shell Pura” that identifies the high octane gasoline as a product that improves fuel efficiency, ensures optimum engine performance and has energy and environmental qualities.



Quick Tip Identify the gasoline type by the color of the nozzle!
The nozzle of regular gasoline is RED.

The colors of gasoline stand nozzles are standardized across the country with red being “regular”, yellow being “high octane” and green being “diesel”.



English Signage	Taiwan	Hong Kong	Japan
Ultimate unleaded*	98無鉛汽油	高級汽油	ハイオク(HA-I-O-KU)
Unleaded	92無鉛汽油	普通汽油	レギュラー(RE-GYU-RA-A)
Diesel	柴油	柴油	軽油(KE-I-YU)

*Depending on the stand, “Ultimate unleaded” may be called “Plus unleaded,” “Super unleaded,” or “Premium unleaded.”

Refuel at a self-service gas station!

Here is an introduction about how to use self-service gas stations.

*Since the system may be different depending on the gas stations, we are giving you just one example here. At some gas stations, drivers pay the amount they owe for the gasoline to the staff at the register after refueling.



1

Stop your car alongside the petrol pump

Stop your car alongside the petrol pump keeping in mind which side your petrol tank is on. Make sure you know in advance which side your petrol tank is on. Park the car and turn off the engine.



2

Pay first

The fee should be paid beforehand, and cash and credit cards may be used.

(1) Cash: Insert the amount of money in the loading slot.

If a driver intends to refuel by 30 l, insert approximately 5,000 to 6,000 yen in bills. The cost is calculated by multiplying the unit costs (per liter) by the amount of gasoline (l) you used, and any change owed will be repaid into the coin return slot.

(2) Credit card: Activate the card by inserting it.

Insert your credit card into the appropriate slit and swipe it through the reader to load the data.



3

Select the gasoline type and the volume (number of liters)

Select the gasoline you wish to use by pushing the button for either premier, regular or light gasoline. Rental car users usually choose regular. The amount of petrol can be selected in two ways: choose one of 10 l, 20 l, 30 l ... 50 l options or select 1,000 yen, 2,000 yen, 3,000 yen ... 5,000 yen. If a driver wants to fill their car up, *MA-N-TA-N* should be selected.



4

Refueling

Open your petrol tank, pick up the nozzle for the gasoline you have selected, insert the nozzle into your tank firmly. There are usually three types of nozzles, so make sure you select the right type of petrol. Petrol types are always indicated by the same colors. Pull the lever to start refueling. When you have finished refueling, the petrol will stop automatically (The driver cannot pull the lever anymore).



5

Refueling completed.

Return the nozzle to the pump, and close the cap of your petrol tank firmly. Confirm the amount of gasoline and the charge shown on the display. Don't forget to pick up your change when you pay by cash. A receipt is printed out automatically for use of both cash and credit cards.



Quick Tip

Gasoline is dangerous!

Needless to say, fire, such as cigarettes, must be put out while you are filling your car. If gasoline catches fire, it will be very dangerous. As static electricity is also dangerous, do not forget to touch a static electricity removal sheet before starting to refuel. Use of mobile phones is also prohibited.

