

The Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)



What is JAF?

JAF stands for **J**apan **A**utomobile **F**ederation, the English name for the 日本自動車連盟 (*nihon jidousha renmei*). JAF is an organization dedicated to protecting the interests of motorists and making Japan's roads safer.

One of the ways it tries to make the roads safer is to offer assistance to motorists in trouble. It offers services similar to those of AAA in the United States and Australia, JAA in Jamaica, the AA or RAC in the United Kingdom, etc. You are probably familiar with the one(s) in your own country.

Essentially, if you have an accident, or your car breaks down, you can call JAF for help.

Why should I join?

This is not an exhaustive list, but JAF will assist you, for example:

- If you have a dead battery
- If you lock yourself out
- If you have a puncture or other tyre trouble
- If you require haulage for a broken-down vehicle
- If you have snow, rain or other bad weather troubles
- If you run out of gas

JAF will offer these and other services to anyone who calls, but the services are all quite pricey. Even the simplest thing – having someone open your car if you lock your keys inside – costs over 10,000 yen. However, it is possible to become a member of JAF, in which case almost all services are entirely free. The only exceptions are:

- If you run out of gas; JAF will bring it to you for free, but of course you will have to pay for the gasoline itself.
- If you need towing over very long distances; towing is free but only for 15 km, after which a charge is applied depending on the extra distance travelled.

Membership is annual. Individual membership costs 4,000 yen, and there is a 2,000 yen fee for joining.

On the plus side, JAF provides service to members, not to specific vehicles – that means it doesn't matter whose car you are driving, as long as you have your members card. You don't even have to be on the road – you can call them to your house or parking lot.

Any vehicle can be serviced, even if you don't own it, as long as you are driving it. A friend's car, a lease, a rental, a company car, even some motorcycles. The only exception is if you are a paying passenger (in a taxi, for example).

JAF membership enables you to get service in foreign countries, including the US, Australia, and Germany, to name but a few. As long as the company is a member of FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile), you should be entitled to some service. The level of service you can receive depends on the company, however. Check your own country's auto services for details.



JAF membership also entitles you to discounts at some gas stations, restaurants, cinemas, stores, travel agencies, car rental companies, ferries, *onsen* and other resorts. You can even use it abroad for discounts at various hotels, car rental companies, and entertainment venues. A full list can be found in the JAF User's Guide, which you will receive on joining, or online at <http://www.jaf.or.jp/e/syc.htm>.

How to apply

There are four types of membership, but most likely only the first will be of any concern to you. Here's a quick breakdown anyway:

- **Individual** – the type you should apply for if you do not fit into any of the other categories. 99.99% of you don't, so Individual is what you should apply for.
- **Family** - discounted membership, but only available to those who have a family member who is already a member of JAF. “Family member” is a legal term – you cannot, unfortunately, claim a household of ALTs as your family members unless they are actually related to you.
- **Junior** – only available to people under the age of 20.
- **Corporate** – I'm going to go out on a limb and assume that no one reading this will be a corporation, so you can safely ignore this type of membership.

There are two ways to apply – a paper form and an online one. Payment can be made at a post office (paper only), a convenience store (online only) or by credit card (both).

Both methods require the same information:

- Your name in *kanji* or *romaji*
- Your name in *katakana*
- Your date of birth (Western or Japanese year, depending on the payment method)
- Your address in *kanji* (and *katakana* if you use the paper form)
- Your phone number
- Your gender (there are a number of methods available to determine this, none of which I shall go into here)

More detailed instructions for the online application method can be found below. I won't cover the paper method, as I highly recommend applying online. However, if you want to receive the paper application, go to http://www.jaf.or.jp/e/join_form.htm, enter your name, address and phone number, and an application form will be sent to you in the post. It should arrive within a day or so. It is a very colorful and quite self-explanatory leaflet, so I won't go into detail about it here.

Before applying, regardless of the method you use, you should read the terms and conditions at <http://www.jaf.or.jp/proceed/join/ruleo2.htm>.

An English version can be found at http://www.jaf.or.jp/e/memship_r.htm. Please be aware, however, that this is only a translation – should any dispute arise, the Japanese version is considered to be definitive.

If you are applying online, you should also read the privacy policy at <http://www.jaf.or.jp/privacy/index.htm>, although unfortunately it has no English translation.

The Online Application

The online application is all in Japanese, but in the end it is easier and more convenient than the paper method, at least in my opinion. There are two ways to pay, each of which is detailed in its own section below.

Where the application is

The initial part of the process is the same for both payment methods – go to one of the pages below, read the terms and conditions, and click the pink button.



To pay at a convenience store

<http://www.jaf.or.jp/proceed/join/kojin/cvs/info.htm>

To pay by credit card

<http://www.jaf.or.jp/proceed/join/kojin/credit/online.htm>

The convenience store method

Fill out the form as shown below, hit send, and you will be sent a transaction number. Note down this number, go to your local convenience store and pay there.

JAF会員 新規お申込み(個人会員)

JAF登録フォーム
* 必須入力 すべての項目を入力してください。

- お申し込み年数 *
 - 1年(6,000円)
 - 3年(13,000円)
 - 5年(20,000円)

How many years?
- お名前(漢字) *

Your name in kanji (or romaji if you wouldn't ordinarily use kanji)
- お名前(フリガナ) *

Your name in katakana
- お名前(ローマ字)

Your name in romaji
- 性別 *

Your gender: 男性 (dansei - male) or 女性 (josei - female)
- 生年月日 *

Your date of birth (Japanese style - 1984 is 昭和 (showa) 59)
- 郵便番号 *

Your postal code - fill this out and press the button to have the first line of your address (prefecture, city, ward) automatically filled out for you.
- ご住所 *

The only part you will have to fill out is the number of your street (the second field) and your apartment building name and number (the final field).
- 電話番号 *

Your phone number(s), using the upper boxes for a landline and the lower boxes for a cell phone.

どちらか必ずご入力下さい
- Eメールアドレス *
- Eメールアドレス (確認) *

送信

The credit card method (1/2)

The form is quite long. I will explain the top and bottom parts first, and the middle part last. Because I'm a contrary sort of person. And it's the easiest way to make it fit on the page.

The first part:

Application for JAF membership by credit card (Individual membership)

※ If you wish to apply for Family membership at the same time, you can do so from this page

クレジットカードによるJAF会員入会お申込み(個人会員)
※ 家族会員のご入会手続きを一緒に行う場合も、こちらの画面からお手続きいただけます。



JAF

■金額

個人会員はお申込み年数により入会金が割引になります。入会金会費等は [こちら](#) からご確認ください。

※家族会員を同時にお申込みの場合は、個人会員と同一年数のお申込みとなり、上記の会費(1名につき@2,000円×申込年数)となります。

※家族会員は入会金無料で個人会員1名につき5名までご登録いただけます。

※入会金および年会費に消費税はかかりません。

■セキュリティについて



*当サイトでは128ビットSSL暗号化通信を用いてデータの送受信を第三者に悪用されることなく、弊社に届くよう配慮しています。

■ Security

This site is protected by 128-bit secure data transmission, so you can be assured that your data will reach us safely without being manipulated by any third party in any way.

■ Price

Individual members are offered a discount based on the number of years for which they apply. You can check the pricing information at this address (English version available at http://www.jaf.or.jp/e/membership_s.htm).

※ If you are applying for Family membership at the same time, it must be for the same number of years as the Individual membership, and will cost an additional 2000 yen per person per year.

※ Family membership is available for up to five family members without requiring the signup fee.

※ There is no consumption tax on any of the fees.

The main part: see next page

The final part:

- (1)受付完了後、メールアドレスをご入力いただいた場合は「JAF入会のご確認」メールが自動配信されます。
- (2)特に解約のお申し出がない限り、次年度以降の会費のお支払いについてもお申込みのカードから家族会員の年会費と合算して引き落としいたします。
- (3)JAF会員に関する詳細については、[総合案内サービスセンター](#)または[最寄りのJAF本・支部](#)まで直接お問い合わせください。
- (4)既にJAF会員の方は、重複してのご入会はできません。

You want to click **お申し込み** (o-moushikomi- Submit) rather than **クリア** (kuria- Clear)

(1) If you fill out an email address, a confirmation email will be automatically sent to you.

(2) Assuming you do not request a termination of the contract, family members' membership will continue to be billed using the credit card information you supplied.

(3) For more details about JAF membership, please contact the Service Center or a JAF regional office directly.

(4) It is not possible to join again if you are already a member of JAF.

The credit card method (2/2)

The main part:

お申込フォーム	
項目欄	入力欄
申込み年数	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 1年 <input type="radio"/> 3年 <input type="radio"/> 5年 お申込年数によって入会金が割引
お名前(漢字)	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> (全角)
お名前(フリガナ)	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> (全角カタカナ)
お名前(ローマ字)	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> (半角英字)
性別	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 男性 <input type="radio"/> 女性
生年月日	<input type="text"/> 年 <input type="text"/> 月 <input type="text"/> 日生
郵便番号	<input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> (半角) <input type="button" value="住所入力"/> <small>※郵便番号を入力後「住所入力」ボタンをクリックすると対象郵便番号を元に 現住所が自動的に入力されます。 ※旧市町村名が表示される場合がございますのでご注意ください。 ※7桁の郵便番号をお調べの方はこちらでどうぞ</small>
現住所	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <small>--選択して下さい--</small> (全角)[例] 渋谷区 道玄坂 [市・区・郡は全角で入力]
	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> (全角)[例] 1-3-2
	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> (全角) アパート・公団・社宅・マンション名等
電話番号	自宅 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> その他 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> 勤務先 <input type="radio"/> 携帯電話 <small>※ご自宅にお電話がない場合は携帯電話等のご活用をお願いします。 ※市外局番、市内局番、番号はハイフンで区切ってご入力ください。</small>
E-mailアドレス	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <small>※入会確認メールの送付および、お問い合わせの際はご入力ください。</small>
カード番号	お申込みは、下記のクレジットカードからご選択ください。     ご利用いただけるカードの一覧は こちら から <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> (半角) <small>※個人会員ご本人様のカードでお申込みください。 ※お手持ちのカードの番号を左詰め全桁ご入力ください</small>
カード有効期限	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> 月 / <input type="text"/> 年 (西暦は下二桁) 例1カードの表記が10/11→10月/11年 例2カードの表記が04/12→04月/12年
家族会員に是非お申込ください。	
申込み	<input type="radio"/> 申し込む <input type="radio"/> 申し込まない

How many years do you wish to apply for?

Your name (nominally in kanji, but if your name does not ordinarily use kanji, fill this out in romaji)

Your name in *katakana*

Your name in *romaji*

All of the name fields should be filled out in the Japanese way – surname followed by first name(s)

Your gender: 男性 (*dansei* – male) or 女性 (*josei* – female)

Your date of birth (Western style)

Your postal code – fill this out and press the button to have the first line of your address (prefecture, city, ward) automatically filled out for you.

The only part you will have to fill out is the number of your street (the second field) and your apartment building name and number (the final field).

Your phone number. If you only have a cell phone, leave the first field blank and use the second field. Make sure the 携帯電話 (*keitai denwa* – cell phone) radio button is checked.

E-mail address – This is optional. If you do fill it out, you will be sent a confirmation email when your application is successful.

Your credit card number, without dashes, and expiry date (mm/yy)

If you wish to apply for Family membership for family members, click the 申し込む (*moushikomu* – apply) option; otherwise, click 申し込まない (*moushikomana* – don't apply). The vast majority of you do not need to apply for this.

What you should receive

The package containing your member's card should arrive within a couple of weeks. The one I received was a large, fairly thick, blue envelope, though obviously they might change the design at some point. At any rate this is what was being used in late 2010.



In the envelope you should find the following:



The main letter, to which your member card is attached. A more detailed look at the card can be found below.

A small silver-grey plastic envelope, which contains your JAF badge. You should affix this to the lower-right-hand corner of your rear window, on the outside.



The JAF Start Guide, a small magazine containing various useful information.

The JAF User's Guide, a slightly thicker magazine containing information about what JAF is and does.



Various coupons for money off random products. The ones I received included discounts at Subway sandwiches and Shidax karaoke, neither of which, unfortunately, can be found within a 200km radius of my apartment, but still.

Translations

For (ostensibly) your convenience, I have translated the Japanese on the badge pouch and members card into English. Since I, a person whose job is not translation, and who has absolutely no experience in translating anything, am the one who performed the translation, I can make no claim that said translation is flawless. If you spot any errors, feel free to drop me a line at contact@altastic.com.

The Badge

Front:

JAF Resin Badge inside

Thank you for joining JAF.

JAF gives you this badge to foster a sense of solidarity between JAF members, and to encourage new members such as yourself to drive safely.

Please note that this badge cannot be used to prove JAF membership; you must carry your member's card.

Back:

How to affix the badge:

Please place the badge at the lower-right-hand corner of your rear window, on the outside. Do not place the badge on a window that can be lowered; it might cause damage to your vehicle.

Before placement, make sure to clean any dust, oil or wax from the window. If you wish to remove the badge, you can reaffix it using any common double-sided tape. Any regular car wash should keep the badge fairly clean, but if it gets particularly dirty, it can be cleaned with any mild detergent.

Please do not use the badge for any other purpose.

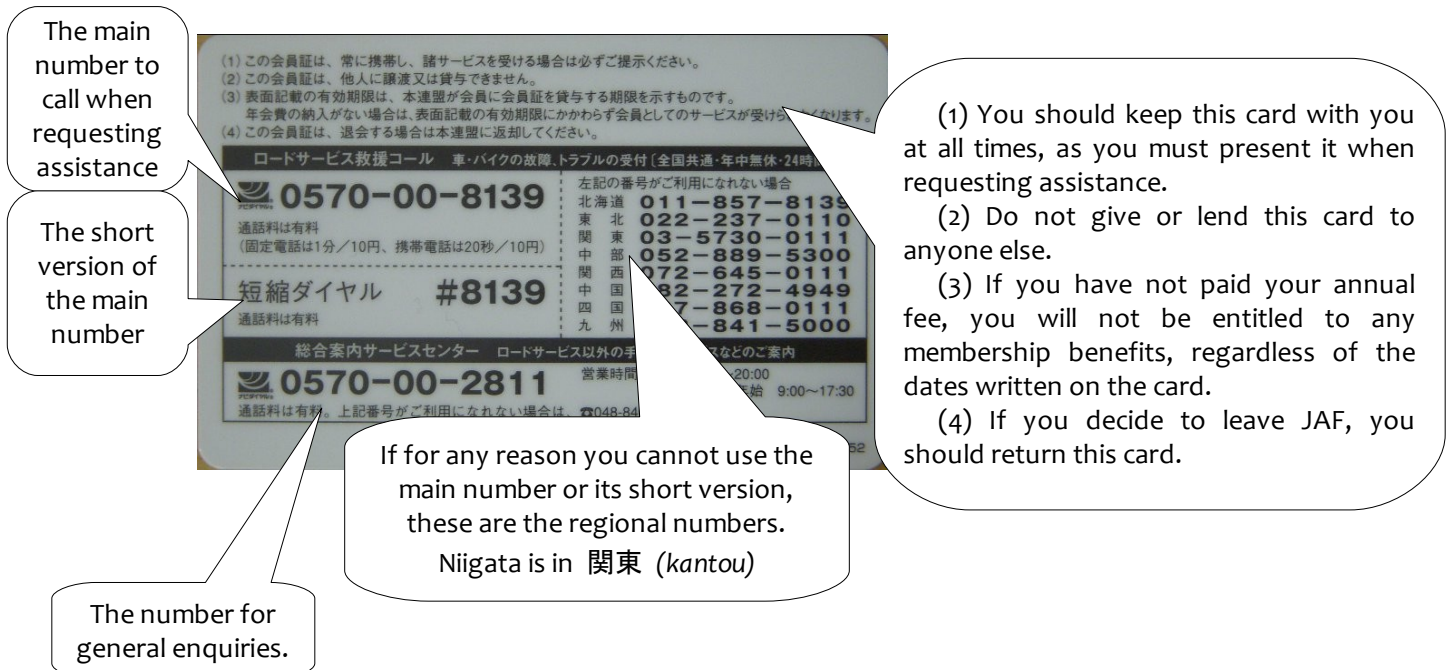


The Card

The front:



The back:



What to do when you need assistance

1. Have a problem.
2. Move the vehicle to a safe place, or if that is not possible, place a warning to other motorists and move yourself to a safe place.
3. Call JAF.

If you are on a regular road, you will need to know:

- The address
- The placename
- Any landmarks you can see

If you are on an expressway:

- The name of the expressway
- Which direction you are traveling (the names of the previous and next interchanges is the easiest way)
- The closest kilometer marker, assuming it is close enough for you to see.

In either case:

- The make, model, license plate number and color of your car.
- What has happened, what is the current state of the car, and what you need.
- Your member's card number.

You can call from your cell, from one of the emergency phones on expressways, or you can email JAF. You can also fax them.

Useful Phrases

I've locked my key in my car.	<i>Kuruma no naka ni kagi wo oita mama rokku shite shimaimashita</i>	車の中に鍵を置いたままロックしてしまいました。
My battery is dead.	<i>Batterī ga agatta no desu</i>	バッテリーがあがったのです。
I ran out of gasoline.	<i>Gasorin ga kirete shimaimashita</i>	ガソリンが切れてしまいました。
I have a puncture.	<i>Taiya ga panku shimashita</i>	タイヤがパンクしました。
I fell into a ditch.	<i>Mizo ni tsukkonda no desu</i>	溝に突っ込んだのです。
I'm stuck in the snow/mud.	<i>Yuki/doro no naka ni hamarikonda no desu</i>	雪・泥の中にはまり込んだのです。
I've crashed into a pole/barrier/wall.	<i>Denchū/gādo rēru/kabe ni butsukarimashita</i>	電柱・ガードレール・壁にぶつかりました。
I need a tow.	<i>Rekkāsha ga hitsuyou desu ga</i>	レッカー車が必要です。
My engine won't start.	<i>Enjin ga kakaranai no desu</i>	エンジンがかからないのです。
My fan belt is broken.	<i>Fan beruto ga kire mashita</i>	ファンベルトが切れました。