

How to get to the Regional Immigration Office in Nagano

This guide is intended for ALTs living in and around the Joetsu area. Although there is a regional immigration office in Niigata City, the one in Nagano is far closer to Joetsu, despite being in another prefecture.

Nagano is also a nice city to walk around in, and has a beautiful temple called Zenkōji, which is a must-see if you have time.

About the place

Full name: The Nagano Branch Office of Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau

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東京入国管理局長野出張所

Tōkyō nyūkoku kanrikyoku nagano shucchōjo

Better name: Nagano Immigration Office

Location: Nagano First Joint Government Office, 3rd floor

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長野第一合同庁舎 3階

Nagano daiichi gōdō chōsha sankai

Hours: 9:00-12:00 13:00-16:00

Monday-Friday (excluding national holidays)

Street address: な が の け ん な が の し あ さ ひ ま ち な が の だ い い ち ご う ど う ち ょ う し ゃ さ ん か い
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Nagano-ken Nagano-shi Asahi-machi 1108 Nagano daiichi gōdō chōsha 3F

Phone: 026-232-3317



Be warned: the office gets extremely crowded on Mondays and Fridays. If it is at all possible, try to go during the week. In my experience the best time is Wednesday morning.



By bus



If the weather's not too good, or you just don't feel like walking, you can take a bus. The best bus to take is the circular (ぐるりん号 *Gururingō*). It basically goes in a big circle around the centre of Nagano, and it has a stop right outside the Immigration Office building.

The only thing to be careful of when using the *Gururingō* is that it is a circular which only travels in one direction. If you get on at the wrong point, you will eventually get to your destination, but it might take a long time. This is only really important if you are getting on at Nagano station. There are two stops, called *Naganoeki* (長野駅) and *Naganoeki Mae* (長野駅前); you want to get on at *Naganoeki*, which is numbered **C 01**. If you take the bus on your way back, you need to get off at *Naganoeki Mae*, or **C 16**.

Directions



As you come out of the main ticket barrier at Nagano station, turn right and go down the steps.

Directly in front of the station is a line of bus stands; to the right is a large turning circle with a fountain in the middle of it, and to the left is a large taxi rank. Look for the *Gururingō* sign – it is almost the

first one you come to. The sign has a yellow background and a blue border, and is marked as **C 01**, Nagano Station (長野駅 *Naganoeki*).



Any trip on the route is the same price - ¥100. The bus comes about every twenty minutes; obviously it depends on the traffic but usually it is quite punctual.



When the bus arrives, get on at the doors in the middle. When you get off, exit through the front door and deposit ¥100 in the machine by the driver. The driver will not be able to give you change, so make sure you have the exact amount.



Get off at stop **C 10**, or *Godochousha Mae*. The stop is just across the street from the building, which is fairly nondescript.

On foot



If the weather is nice and you don't mind walking, it only takes about twenty minutes to get to the Immigration Office on foot.



When you come through the main ticket barrier at Nagano Station, turn right and go down the stairs. You will see a large taxi rank on your left, a fountain to the right, and some bus stands dead ahead.

The road you need to go down is right in front of the station. It is easy to spot because there is a sort of metalwork sign over the street.

Follow this road until it ends in a T-junction with Route 19, where there are a couple of overhead footbridges.

Turn right there, and follow that street all the way up.



On the way, you will pass the City Office on your left (next to a Denny's restaurant), after which point the road will start to slope upwards. There is quite a nice view here of some mountains.

On the way up the sloping street, there will be several buildings on your left. The one you want is the very last big building, right before the road ends in a T-junction.



Keep going straight up Route 19, and you will pass the City Office on your left

By Car



It is possible to get to the Immigration Office by car. There is a small car park to the right of the building. As long as you don't go on a Monday or Friday there will probably be space to park; on those days it's a bit of a gamble. You might end up having to drive around looking for a pay parking lot, since you can't just park on the street.



From Joetsu, there are two ways to get to Nagano.

The easiest way is to simply follow Route 18 out south towards Arai and keep on driving.

Eventually, after you get into the Nagano area, you will see Route 19 branching off to your right.

Go along Route 19 until you get to the City Office complex. It is a fairly obvious building, but in case you are not sure, there is also a Denny's restaurant at the intersection. Turn right there and follow the road (Route 399) all the way up.

The road will end in a T-junction, but the building you want is just before that. It is the last building on the left, one past the Courthouse (裁判所 *saibansho*).

The alternative route involves using the expressway, but I'd recommend this one. It's a bit longer but a lot easier.



In a nutshell...



Follow Route 18 south



Right onto Route 19



Right onto Route 399

It's on your left, right before Route 399 ends in a T-junction.

Useful links

The Japanese Immigration Service has a website that explains everything that they do, though not necessarily in the most user-friendly way ('tis, after all, a government website). The good thing is that they have good English translations of almost every page. The downside is that a lot of the terminology, while accurate, may be unfamiliar to people who have never had to deal with visas before. Some terms are also pretty much exclusive to Japan. Still, it's a nice effort, and worth checking out.

Immigration Service (入国管理局 *nyuukoku kanrikyoku*) main page

In Japanese <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/index.html>

In English <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/index.html>

Guidebook for immigration procedures (各種手続き案内 *kakushu tetsuzuki annai*)

In Japanese <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/tetuduki/index.html>

In English <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/tetuduki/index.html>