



Welcome to Golf in Japan

The purpose of this guide is to help you enjoy your golf outing here in Japan without creating any of the social blunders that so many un-savvy golfers make. The Japanese truly cherish the game of golf. It is the same game played everywhere else in the world, but the Japanese have put their own indelible mark on it. They embrace the great traditions of the game and have instituted some of their own. This info kit will help you successfully navigate your way through a golf outing here keeping you steady at the helm while not standing out. The below 10 points are things to keep in mind throughout the day.

1. **Timeliness! Really an exact tee time!???**

Yes, it is important to be on time for your tee time as there is only a set number offered daily from 7:30ish to 10:30am, at the latest! Missing your tee time might be the end of your golf day as you may subsequently only be offered a 9 hole option from 2:00pm. Look to be ready and at your cart (or the first tee) 10 minutes before your tee time. Don't be late and check to see if you are starting on the 1st (OUT) or the 10th (IN) tee.

2. **Before arrival**

Make sure you have your change of clothes and golf shoes in a separate bag other than your golf bag. Boston bag and shoe bag preferably. This is because when you arrive, the staff will take your golf bag and you may not see it again until starting time. *Also be sure to have your name on your bag.

3. **Morning arrival and check-in at the club**

If driving, pull up to the front and drop your bags (golf, shoes and Boston bag) with the reception staff. Now park your car. Once in the clubhouse check in at the front reception to receive your players card, then find your shoe and Boston bag and head for the locker room.

4. **What is a Players Card?**

The players card is a plastic folder and score card case with your locker number on it and usually a bar code. This number or code will be used throughout the day for any purchases at the pro shop and restaurant. Inside will be a score card and should there not be one, you can get one at the caddy masters along with a pencil and ball marks.

5. **Where's my golf bag?**

Your golf bag will have been moved to the staging area in front of the caddy masters. If your bag has not already been put on your cart, it will be in the racks in a Japanese alphabetical order. It's usually pretty easy to find.

6. Meet your caddy

In Japan if playing with a caddie, you will have one caddie for your group (4-some). He or she will be busy counting your clubs before play and you will then be asked to sign to confirm the number of clubs in your bag. This is also time for them to remember your name and you to remember theirs. Note, it is appropriate to tip your caddie either before or after the round. Approximately 500yen per player is average, so 2,000yen per group, but that is up to you.

7. Lunch-break at the turn

After your morning nine you will return to the clubhouse for a traditional lunch break. The caddie master or your caddie will give you your next tee time (usually about a 40 min break) Remember to bring your players card and proceed to the restaurant after cleaning your shoes. You will see a shoe cleaning area with air blowers set up for just this propose!

8. After your round

After you finish your round you will be back at the clubhouse and your caddie will ask you to check your clubs to make sure they are all there and sign for them. You will receive a ticket or claim check for your clubs and the staff will store and get them to the front for you to claim before you leave.

9. The post play Japanese bath (onsen)

After your round it is customary to take a hot bath. There are a few ettequite things you need to know. First is that the Japanese bath water is considered pure and to keep it that way for everyone, you are expected to wash/shower your body in the shower area completely before entering the hot bath. Note, even the towel is not considered pure, so you will notice that the people around you will either put it on their head or shoulder or even next to the bath, but never letting it touch the water.

10. Check out

Now that you're ready to go make sure you have all your belongings and proceed to the front desk to check-out and settle your bill. You may pay in Japanese yen or credit card.

11. Departure

If you are driving get your car and pull it up to the front and pass your golf bag claim check to the staff. That's it! Drive carefully.

It's a slightly different system form other countries, but simply change your scotch whiskey with Sake, relax and enjoy the day!