



Handbook for Foreigners

【福井市生活ガイドブック】



2015
Fukui City
福井市

はじめに

ようこそ、福井市へいらっしゃいました。

この「生活ガイドブック」では、海外から福井市に来て暮らすようになった外国籍の方が、安心して生活を送れるよう、市役所での手続きや施設のほか、日常生活に必要な情報を紹介しています。

本書には、基本的な情報を掲載してありますので、より詳しい内容をお知りになりたい場合は、併せて記載してあります連絡先までお尋ねください。

この「生活ガイドブック」が、福井市で生活していく上で、皆さまの一助となり、福井市での生活が快適で楽しいものとなりますよう願っています。

2015年2月

Hello!

Welcome to Fukui City!

This Trouble-Free Life in Fukui Handbook is aimed at those foreigners who come to Fukui to live, study or work. It is our hope that this handbook will help to make your life in Fukui even more comfortable and smoother as it includes every bit of information important for daily life as well as information about facilities and service that the municipal office performs.

This handbook is a source of basic information. If you need to know the details, don't hesitate to contact the office in question by phone (contact numbers are enclosed).

We would feel rewarded for our efforts if this handbook proved helpful to you in your daily life in Fukui. Enjoy your stay with us!

February 2015

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1 . Profile

Area	536.17 square km
Population	267,331 people (January 1, 2015)
The number of households	99,520
Municipalization	April 1, 1889
Industry	textile, machinery, eyeglass frames, others
Sightseeing	Echizen-Kaga Seashore Quasi-National Park, Yokokan Garden, etc
Historic sites	Ichijodani, Asakura Clan Ruins (government-designated special historic site)

【Geography】

Fukui City is the capital of Fukui prefecture, which faces the Sea of Japan and is in the center of the Japanese Archipelago. Fukui City is located in the middle of Fukui plain in the northern part of Fukui Prefecture (East Longitude: 136 min 14 sec and North Latitude: 36 min 3 sec).

Fukui City faces Hakusan Mountain Range in the east and Echizen Coast in the west. To reach Echizen Coast famous for its beaches and rocks you have to drive through a mountainous area. Three major rivers – the Kuzuryu, the Asuwa and the Hino – can be found in the vast plain. Flown northward into one another in Fukui plain they finally flow into the Sea of Japan in Mikuni Port.

Hokuriku JR Main Line runs through Fukui City while Echizen and Fukui Railroads connect the neighboring towns. Hokuriku highway in the north-south, Route 8 and east-west Road 158 are some of the main roads in Fukui City. Conveniently located and easily reached, Fukui City has become a political, industrial and educational center of Fukui prefecture.

【History outline】

Fukui city has developed in Fukui plain formed by three main rivers – Kuzuryu, Asuwa and Hino.

This plain is said to have been farmable as far back as 2,000 years ago in the Yayoi period.

About 1,500 years ago the plain was turned fertile thanks to the afforestation and river improvement project implemented by Keitai emperor who was born in this area. Thereafter, with the developing culture of Japan, this area began to flourish as an important place in the Hokuriku District.

About 500 years ago Toshikage Asakura moved his administrative center to Ichijodani, which is in the southeast of Fukui city. His family continued to rule this region, then Echizen Province, for five generations and developed it to such an extent that it came to be called “Little Kyoto”.

The modern Fukui city started about 400 years ago with the building of the Kitanosho castle by Katsuie Shibata.

In 1600 after Ieyasu Tokugawa restored peace in the country and established the Tokugawa period, Hideyasu Yuuki, his second son, was appointed Lord of Kitanosho, which held a fief yielding 680,000 koku. In 1624 the city was named Fukui by Tadamasa Matsudaira, the third lord of the Fukui han.

The last lord of that time was Shungaku Matsudaira, a man highly respected and under whom many famous people such as Sanai Hashimoto, Kousei Yuri and Akemi Tachibana emerged.

Fukui city was municipalized in the 22nd year of Meiji period (1889) with the population of no more than 40,000 people living in the area of 4.43 square kilometers.

The city suffered from the devastating destruction several times – by the air raids in the 20th year of Showa(1945) and massive earthquake in the 23rd year of Showa(1948), not to mention of floods, nature disasters and calamities. However, the people of Fukui rose from the ashes like the Phoenix and rebuilt the city, which is also called “The city of Phoenix” now. Fukui city, merged with Miyama town, Koshino village and Shimizu town on February 2, 2006, values its peculiarities and continues to develop as the leading city in the Sea of Japan area.

Notice

The contents of this handbook are correct as of February, 2015. Please note that there might be some changes made after this handbook was published.

2 . Emergency

【Sudden illness and injury】

Call toll free 119 when you need an ambulance. Be able to state the following:

- (1) There is an emergency.
- (2) There is an emergency patient (or an injured person).
- (3) Say an emergency patient or injured person's name and your name.
- (4) Say your address and phone number.

【Fire】

Call toll free 119 when you need a fire engine. Be able to state the following:

- (1) There is a fire.
- (2) Say your name.
- (3) Say your address or the place where the fire occurred.

Shout loudly, "Kajida!" (Fire) to let neighbors know.

【Traffic accident and crime】

Dial 110 to report to the police. A squad car can be called too. Be able to state the following:

- (1) Your name
- (2) Your address or the place where the traffic accident or crime occurred.
- (3) Details of the traffic accident or crime

* For example:

There is a traffic accident (an emergency patient). The place is The injured (the emergency patient) is ... The conditions (the symptoms) are ...

My name is (say your name) and I live in (say your address). My phone number is (say your phone number).

Call an ambulance too if emergency medical treatment is required.

Public phones (toll free)

Pick up the receiver, push the red emergency button and dial 110 or 119.

Things to Keep in Mind

- 1) Speak slowly and clearly
- 2) Keep calm when you report the case, your name, present whereabouts and phone number.

3 . Earthquakes and typhoons

Japan is a country of earthquakes. Typhoons also hit Japan in July – October. These years due to the intensive rain during the rainy season and typhoon period in fall Fukui city often suffers from damages caused by winds and floods. Make sure to ask your neighbors beforehand about shelters to go to in case of emergency.

【When a typhoon and heavy rain occurs】

There is a danger of tidal wave and flood. Get the up-to-date information from TV, radio or newspapers. Evacuate to the nearest community center if your area is said to do so or if you feel any danger.

【Things to be done beforehand】

Make sure you know where the nearest shelter is.

Prepare emergency food, drinking water, flashlight, radio, etc.

Make sure your daily medication and valuables are placed so that they can be easily taken out.

【When an earthquake occurs】

- (1) Insure your safety.
- (2) Turn off the gas stove if you have been using it. Turn off all cooking utensils, heaters or other appliances to prevent fire from occurring. If the fire occurs, use a fire extinguisher to put out it only after the shaking is over.
- (3) Open all doors and leave the house by an escape route.
- (4) Keep TV or radio turned on to listen to the news information about the calamity.
- (5) Do not rush outside. Wait for the earthquake to calm down a little bit, take out an emergency kit and escape to an open space while protecting your head with a helmet or another sturdy thing.
- (6) Turn off the circuit breaker when leaving your home.
- (7) Keep close to your family and neighbors. Immediately move together to the nearest shelter. Make sure where the shelter is in advance.
- (8) Keep to the middle of the road while walking. Watch for falling pieces of window glasses and signboards if you are in a downtown area.

【After an earthquake】

- (1) An earthquake can be followed by an aftershock or tidal wave (tsunami). Turn on TV or radio for the news. Read a newspaper as well.
- (2) If you cannot return to your living place due to a severe earthquake, contact your country's embassy or consulate in Japan about your family's safety and shelter.

【Arriving in Japan (Fukui)】

You need to report your arrival to the Citizens' Affairs Division or a branch office of the Fukui City Hall within 14 days after your arrival.

Documents to be submitted:

- Zairyu(Residence) card (if you have it issued at the airport upon your arrival)
- Passport

【Moving into Fukui City from other cities in Japan】

You need to submit a move-out notification to the municipal office of your former residence before you move out. Bring the move-out certificate issued at the former municipal office and Zairyu cards of all persons moving in, and take a procedure at the Citizens' Affairs Division or a branch office of the Fukui City Hall.

【Address change within Fukui City】

Bring Zairyu cards of all persons moving and take a procedure to change your address at the Citizens' Affairs Division or a branch office of the Fukui City Hall within 14 days after you move.

【Moving out of Fukui City and move into a new city in Japan】

You need to report your move-out to the Citizens' Affairs Division or a branch of the Fukui City Hall. Bring your Zairyu card and take a procedure. After you move into a new city, bring the move-out certificate issued by Fukui City and Zairyu cards of all persons moving in to the municipal office of your new residence to report your move-in.

Information desks

- | | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| ● Citizen's Affairs Division | 20-5286 | |
| ● Welfare Division of Miyama branch office (Miyama Sogoshisyo) | | 90-1191 |
| ● Welfare Division of Koshino branch office (Koshino Sogoshisyo) | | 89-2113 |
| ● Welfare Division of Shimizu branch office (Shimizu Sogoshisyo) | | 98-2001 |

【Family Register (koseki)】

An individual's full name, birth date, spouse and parent and child relationship are registered in one's family register. Though foreigners cannot have their own family register, notification of birth must be submitted when a child is born in Japan.

【Birth Notification (shussho todoke)】

When a baby is born in Japan, you need to report it within 14 days.

Documents to be submitted:

- Shussho todoke (Birth Notification)
- Birth Certificate (issued by a doctor or a midwife)
- Maternal and Child Health Handbook

【Marriage Notification (kon-in todoke)】

When a non-Japanese marries a Japanese national, the following documents must be submitted.

- Fixed form of Marriage Notification
- Zairyu (Residence) card or passport
- Certificate of No Impediment to Marriage (it is usually issued at the consulate or the embassy of your country, but it depends on the country) and its Japanese translation

【Personal Seal Registration (inkan toroku)】

When buying a vehicle or real estate property, the contract must be stamped by the officially registered seal. One's personal seal can be registered as an official one at the municipal office. Documents needed for the personal seal registration are as follows

- Zairyu (Residence) card
- Personal seal you want to have registered

Information desks

- | | | |
|--|---------|---------|
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National Health Insurance

Health Insurance and Pension Division Tel: 20-5383

When foreigners intend to reside in Japan, they must have a health insurance. If not insured by other companies, all foreigners must have the National Health Insurance.

The government pays the 70% cost of the medical treatment that the insurance covers and the rest is your individual payment when injured or in case of illness. Make sure to bring and present the health insurance card at the hospital or clinic reception counter.

【Enrolment】

Bring your Zairyu (residence) card or passport and your personal seal to enroll in the National Health Insurance system.

【Withdrawal】

Withdrawal formalities must be made in the following cases:

- When moving out from Fukui city
- When enrolling in the health insurance system at your working place
- In case of death
- When leaving Japan

【Benefits】

The lump sum benefits are paid if the insured gives birth to a baby or passes away. There are also High-cost Medical Expense Benefits if you bear high-cost medical expenses per month. Contact Health Insurance and Pension Division if you want to submit the application or need to know more details about whether you fulfill the requirements to receive the benefits.

【Insurance tax】

An insurance tax depends on the insured person's income amount received during the previous year and the number of people in the household. It is usually paid in 8 installments during one year. The more detailed information is offered at the Health Insurance and Pension Division.

Nursing Care Insurance

Nursing Care Insurance Division Tel: 20-5715

The nursing care system is highly supported by the society. Those who have a fixed address in Fukui city and are 40 years old and above have to pay the nursing care insurance.

【Enrolment】

Each person who is 40 years old and above and lives in Fukui city must enroll in the nursing care insurance system and pay insurance premium.

【To receive the service】

A person must be 65 years old and above. Person bedridden, who has mental deterioration, who needs nursing care in his daily life can receive nursing care services.

Person 40-64 years old who has some particular disease caused by the senility can also receive nursing care services.

In order to receive nursing care service, you must apply for a pertinent nursing care certificate to a Nursing Care Insurance Division.

Contact Nursing Care Insurance Division for further information.

Pregnancy Health Center Tel: 28-1256
 Shimizu Health Center Tel: 98-3200

【Maternal and Child Health Handbook and Health Check-up】

Pregnant women are required to obtain Maternal and Child Health Handbook at one of the following facilities: Citizen's Affairs Division of Fukui Municipal Office, the nearest Branch or Liaison Office or Health Center.

This handbook is available in such languages as Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Thai, Chinese, English and Indonesian. (These handbooks can be obtained at the reception counter No. 6 of the Citizen's Affairs Division, Fukui Municipal Office or at the Health Center.)

The Maternal and Child Health Handbook contains tables and charts to be filled after each health check-up of an expected mother and a baby.

All pregnant women are eligible for 14 free health check-ups offered at the medical institutions.

Childbirth Citizen's Affairs Division Tel: 20-5286

【Birth Notification】

The baby must be registered at the Citizen's Affairs Division within 14 days of the birth. The documents to be submitted: the birth certificate issued by the doctor, Maternal and Child Health Handbook and National Health Insurance Card.

Information desks

- | | |
|--|---------|
| ● Citizen's Affairs Division | 20-5286 |
| ● Welfare Division of Miyama branch office (Miyama Sogoshisyo) | 90-1191 |
| ● Welfare Division of Koshino branch office (Koshino Sogoshisyo) | 89-2113 |
| ● Welfare Division of Shimizu branch office (Shimizu Sogoshisyo) | 98-2001 |

【Lump Sum Birth Allowance】

Health Insurance and Pension Division Tel: 20-5383

If you are enrolled in National Health Insurance, 420,000yen will be paid for the childbirth expenses of the insured person (including a miscarriage or stillbirth after 12 weeks of pregnancy). You need to apply for it and get accepted. (Payment may be reduced in case of stillbirth.)

Some medical institutions may deduct the amount of your Lump Sum Birth Allowance you will receive from the actual childbirth expenses, if you show your health insurance card. If the Lump Sum Birth Allowance exceeds the actual payment, the difference will be paid later, if you apply for it.

Medical examination

Health Center

Tel: 28-1256

Shimizu Health Center Tel: 98-3200

The following medical examinations and cancer screening can be taken at either health center, designated medical institution or local community center. Contact either Health Center for more information about how to take examinations or fee.

Type	Persons eligible for examinations
Medical checkup for the elderly	Persons enrolled in the latter-stage elderly healthcare system
Medical checkup for persons 18-39	Persons between 18 and 39 who cannot receive health checkups at work
Hepatitis Virus test	Persons older than 40 who never received this test before
Prostate cancer screening	Men older than 50
Lung cancer screening	Persons older than 40
Stomach cancer screening	Persons older than 40
Colorectal cancer screening	Persons older than 40
Pap smear	Women older than 20 (every two years)
Breast cancer screening	Women older than 40 (every two years)
Osteoporosis test	Persons older than 40
Periodontal examination	40, 50, 60, 70 year-old persons

- **Fukui Health Center**

14-30 Jyoto 4 cho-me, Fukui City Tel: 28-1256

- **Fukui City Shimizu Health Center**

28-8-1 Kazamaki cho, FukuiCity Tel: 98-3200

Health classes and courses can be taken at either Health Center.

Health consultations are provided by phone or at the reception.

(Business hours: 8:30 – 17:15, Monday to Friday)

Holiday Medical Examination

【Fukui Holiday Emergency Patients Center】

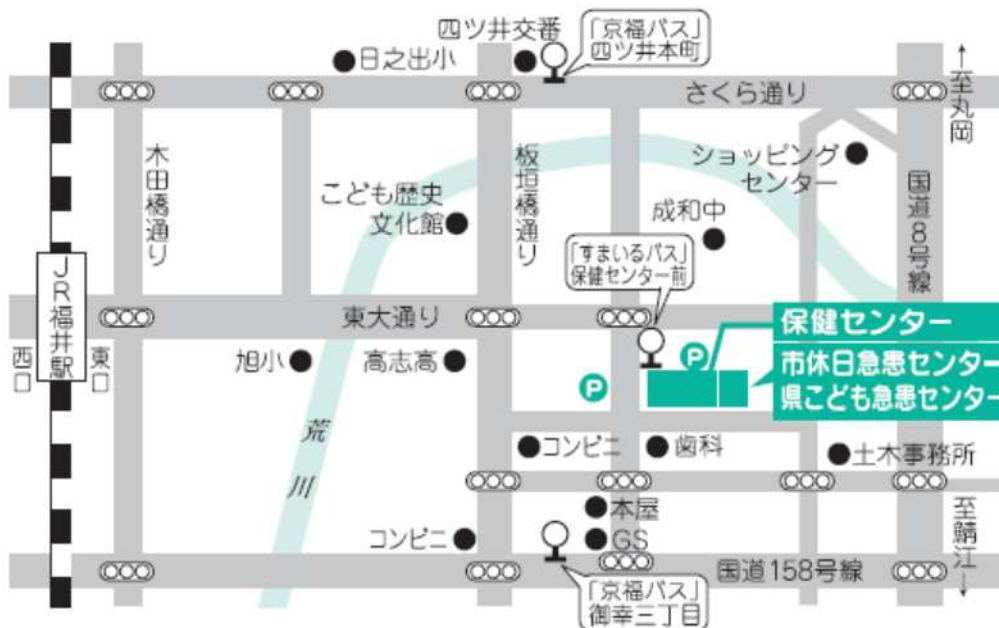
Tel: 22-2099

Physicians and pediatricians provide medical consultations for emergency patients on holidays and in the nighttime.

Medical examinations	internal diseases and pediatrics.	
Business hours	Saturdays	19 : 00 ~ 23 : 00
	Sundays ・ National Holidays ・ Substitute Holidays	9 : 00 ~ 23 : 00
	New Year Holidays (December 30 – January 3)	

* Make sure to bring your health insurance card. Otherwise you are obliged to pay all the medical treatment costs.

< Map of Fukui Holiday Emergency Patients Center >



20 minute walk from the Eastern Exit of Fukui JR Station

Parking lot: 150 cars

< Public transportation >

- Community bus “Smile” (Jyoto ・ Hinode line)

get on the bus at Eki-mae Shopping Street or Fukui City Hall Mae, get off at Health Center Mae.

【Fukui Holiday Emergency Patients Dental Clinic】

Medical consultations are provided to emergency patients with dental problems on holidays.

Business hours	Sundays・National Holidays・Substitute Holidays	9 : 00 ~ 12 : 00
	New Year Holidays (December 30 – January 3)	13 : 00 ~ 18 : 00
	August 14 – 16	

2-12 Daiganji 3 cho-me, Fukui City

Fukui Dentist Association Hall, annex: tel. 26-8468

【In-home Medical Consultations】

In cooperation with Fukui City Medical Association・Fukui Dai-ichi Medical Association, Fukui City provides emergency patients with in-home medical consultations on holidays and Saturdays in the nighttime.

Business hours	Saturdays (nighttime)	18 : 00 ~ 6 : 00 (surgery)
	Holidays	9 : 00 ~ 18 : 00 (surgery・obstetrics and gynecology・internal diseases)

Fukui City Medical Association 21-2119

City Fire Department 25-9999

City Hall 20-5244

Welfare Regional Welfare Division Tel: 20-5404

If a person is old or sick and the household has hardship with daily life and medical treatment, he has the right to receive the necessary welfare benefits, which are decided after the household's fund investigation is carried out according to the welfare system criteria.

The application procedures can be made by the person in question or by a relative with whom he lives together at the Regional Welfare Division.

Challenged people welfare Disability Welfare Division Tel: 20-5435

【Physically challenged people passbook】

This passbook is issued upon the application to physically challenged people who have permanent health problems which are stipulated by law.

【Intellectually disabled people passbook】

This passbook is issued upon the application to the people who are considered as intellectually disabled in terms of various aspects such as development of body and mind, daily life • behaviors and intellectual ability.

【Mentally challenged people passbook】

This passbook is issued upon the application to the people who have mental illness and have restrictions in their daily • social life for long time due to the mental disorder.

【Welfare services for challenged people】

Those who want to receive welfare services for challenged people must apply at the City Hall. The services can be received at the designated service sponsoring enterprises or facilities, the choice of which is left to the one in question. Upper limit of the service fee payment is set according to the individual income to avoid a heavy burden.

【Medical treatment subsidy for severe challenged people / children】

This service is applicable to those who possess a physically challenged people passbook (level 1, 2 and 3) as well as to a certain group of those who have a mentally challenged people passbook (level A; level B1 and B2). (A part of it has income limitation.)

There are many other services available for challenged people in welfare care, Special Child Support Allowance, Independence Support Medical Care, etc. Contact Social Welfare Division for more details.

【Child medical care subsidy system】 Child Welfare Division Tel: 20-5412

When a child under 15 years old receives a medical care at a medical institution, the expenses paid are reimbursed to his benefactor if the medical treatment received is covered by the National Health Insurance. Copayments for the medical expenses of elementary and junior high school students are imposed. Apply for an issuance of a recipient's certificate.

【Premature infant nurture medical care benefit】

Child Welfare Division Tel:20-5412

Hospital treatment costs for a premature infant under 1 year old is paid at public expense, when a doctor gives an approval. Apply for an issuance of a nurture medical care certificate.

【Child Allowance】 Child Welfare Division Tel: 20-5412

This allowance is provided to the benefactors who raise children of 15 years and under.

(Amount of payment)

Target		Amount
0-3 years old (by the 3 year-old's birthday month)		15,000yen
3-12 years old(until the age of finishing elementary school)	First child, second child	10,000yen
	Third child and downward child	15,000yen
Junior high school students		10,000yen
Households with income restrictions		5,000yen

【Speaking class】 Disability Welfare Division Tel: 20-5435

Free counseling, coaching and training are available for those children of early elementary school years with speech and developmental delays, and their parents.

**In order to provide a newborn baby with a healthy growth,
various services are carried out at each health center.**

Health Center Tel: 28-1256

Shimizu Health Center Tel: 98-3200

【Vaccination】

Vaccinations of Hib, Pediatric pneumococcal, BCG, Diphtheria • Pertussis • Tetanus • Polio, Measles • Rubella, Japanese encephalitis, Cervical cancer will be informed individually. Make a plan to receive vaccinations to prevent illness.

If you need an explanatory leaflet, please ask for a copy of Vaccination and Children Health in the language preferred.

【Children physical checkup】

Physical checkup is provided for the children of the following age: one month old, four months old, ten months old, one year and six months old and three years old. The notification is sent to all concerned.

However, the notification is not sent to the one-month old children. Use the medical examination table attached to your Maternal and Child Health Handbook to receive the physical checkup at a medical institution.

【Mother and Child Health Room • Counseling】

This class and counseling are provided at each health center.

There are two series of baby food courses in the beginning and middle of weaning. The notification of dates is sent to those concerned.

Once a month Happy Child Raising Counseling Meeting is held at each health center. There you can get advice about child care and nutrition.

【Educational system】

School Education Division Tel: 20-5350

There are six years of elementary school, three years of junior high school, two years of senior high school and four years of university in the Japanese educational system. There are also technical schools and two-year junior colleges. Elementary and junior high school education is compulsory. The school year starts in April and finishes in March of the following year.

The school year in Fukui City is divided into two terms: April-October and October-March. Students have four vacations: about five weeks in summer, about one week in autumn, and about two weeks each in winter and spring.

【School Entrance (Elementary and Junior High Schools)】

School Education Division Tel: 20-5350

Education right is guaranteed for each child of school age. All children who turn six years old enter an elementary school in April. If a foreign student enters an elementary or junior high municipal school or joins it during the school year, he must go through the proper school admission procedures at the City Board of Education. Make sure to bring your child's Zairyu (residence) card. In case if you transfer from another school, the previous school's certificate is also required.

【School Entrance (Kindergartens and Nurseries)】

Kindergartens and nurseries are facilities that take care of children until they enter elementary school. The child's Zairyu (residence) card is required to enroll in these facilities.

* Kindergarten: children 3-5 years of age

Contact School Education Division Tel: 20-5350

* Nursery: children 0-5 years of age

(if the parent is unable to take care of the child at home due to work or other reason)

Contact Child Rearing Support Division Tel: 20-5270

【Children Center】

Child Welfare Division Tel: 20-5412

Children Center is a facility that provides children with healthy recreation activities that build up their health and cultivate good taste.

Open : 12:00 – 18:00 (Monday-Friday)

& 8:30 – 18:00 (long holidays and Saturdays)

Closed : Sundays, national holidays, New Year holidays

【Japanese language counseling】

Students who are enrolled in an elementary school or junior high school and have problems with speaking or understanding Japanese, may feel free to seek counseling about school entrance at School Education Division (Tel: 20-5350).

There are many types of taxes in Japan. Check the amount stated in the tax notice you receive and pay it at specified divisions at the City Hall.

If the date of payment is overdue, dun and arrears are to be applied. Make sure to pay before due date.

【Individual city・prefectural inhabitants tax】

City Tax Division Tel: 20-5306

Beginning from January 1st of that year, each person who resides in the city is obliged to pay municipal and prefectural citizens taxes. The amount depends on the income earned the previous year. Some companies deduct this tax from their employees' salaries.

【Income tax】 Fukui Tax Office 1-1-54 Haruyama, Fukui City Tel: 23-2690

Income tax is one of the national taxes and is usually deducted from an employee's salary. Please check your income statement. There are some cases when you are required to file a final income tax return for the year.

【Fixed property tax】 Property Tax Division Tel: 20-5315

Beginning from January 1 of that year the owners of land or house in the city as well as those who own amortization property are obliged to pay fixed property tax.

【City planning tax】 Property Tax Division Tel: 20-5315

Beginning from January 1 of that year the owners of land or house in the urbanization area are obliged to pay city planning tax. It is imposed along with fixed property tax.

【Light-weight vehicle tax】 City Tax Division Tel: 20-5306

Beginning from April 1 of the year this tax is imposed on the owners of motorcycles and light-weight vehicles.

* Please contact Fukui Prefectural Tax Office (Tel: 20-0011) about the tax imposed on the other types of vehicles.

【National health insurance tax】

Health Insurance and Pension Division Tel: 20-5383

If you are enrolled in National Health Insurance, you have to pay national health insurance tax, the amount of which depends on your income.

* Refer to page 13 about National Health Insurance

【Municipal tax certification】

Contact Citizen ' s Affairs Division when you need tax payment certificate, income certificate, property certificate, etc.

All foreigners from 20 to 60 years of age are required to enroll in National Pension Insurance. However, you are not required to enroll in National Welfare Pension Insurance if you work at a company or a member of welfare pension insurance. The pension is paid to those who have been enrolled in the pension insurance system for more than 25 years.

【Enrolment】

Bring your passport or Zairyu (residence) card and personal seal to join this insurance program.

【Insurance premium】

After enrolment in the national welfare pension insurance you are obliged to pay a premium. The monthly insurance premium is ¥15,250 (for 2014). There's also a system for individuals with small income to exempt from paying the insurance.

【Pension expense benefit】

This benefit is applied for those who have paid pension insurance for more than 6 months but return to their country before reaching the pension age. The amount of benefit depends on the pension insurance term.

Contact Fukui City Health Insurance and Pension Division for further information.

Make sure that your garbage is separated correctly before bringing it to the specified garbage station on the designated garbage collection day.

【Things to keep in mind when taking out garbage】

When taking out burnable and non-burnable garbage or plastic container wrapping, use only the bags specified by Fukui city.

Be sure to reduce the amount of garbage by draining it well, reuse if possible, or recycle by separating recyclable from non-recyclable garbage before taking out the garbage.

Bring garbage to the specified garbage station before 7:00 am. Be sure to separate recyclable/non-recyclable or burnable/non-burnable garbage.

Put no more than 5 kilograms of trash into one bag.

There are some garbage stations that can't be used for recyclable garbage disposal (empty cans and bottles, dry batteries, plastic bottles, fluorescent bulbs, cardboard boxes, paper containers & packages). Ask your residents' association or a management company of your apartment for the proper place to take out such garbage.

Always write the name of your residents' association or apartment.

The garbage, taken out without following the above-mentioned rules, will not be collected. Do as expected again and take out the garbage on the next garbage collection day. Let's keep garbage disposal rules.

* Some of the above-written rules of garbage separation and disposal are different in Miyama, Koshino and Shimizu. Contact the Division in charge for further information.

Gas

Two types of gas are used in Fukui City – city gas and LP (liquefied petroleum) gas.

(1) City gas

Please apply to Gas & Water Service Center of Fukui Public Enterprise Bureau before moving into your new place of living and starting using gas.

* Make sure to contact the Division if you decide to stop using gas. The gas fee will be settled.

(2) LP gas

Consult with your landlord.

【Payment methods】

(1) Bank transfer

This service can be applied for at a banking institution. Make sure to bring a gas bill, your bankbook and personal seal.

(2) Cash payment

Your gas bill can be paid directly in a convenience store or banking institution.

Water supply

When you want to start using water, apply to Gas & Water Service Center of Fukui Public Enterprise Bureau two or three days beforehand.

* Make sure to contact the Division two or three days beforehand if you decide to stop using water. The water fee will be settled.

【Payment methods】

(1) Bank transfer

This service can be applied for at a banking institution. Make sure to bring your water and sewage bill, bankbook and personal seal.

(2) Cash payment

Your water and sewage bill can be paid directly in a convenience store or banking institution.

Please apply to Hokuriku Denryoku (Hokuriku Electric Power Company) when you want to use electricity. Contact the same company if you decide to stop using electricity due to the removal or other reasons.

Tel: 0120-167540

【Fee payment】

Every month an electricity meter reader comes to read your electricity meter and issue a Hokuriku Denryoku notice that shows the amount of electricity used and approximate sum to be paid. The current month bill will be sent to you by Hokuriku Denryoku later. Bring this bill to a banking institution or convenience store to make the payment.

Payment can also be made by bank transfer. The necessary procedures can be done at the banking institution, which you want to use for these transactions. Make sure to bring a Hokuriku Denryoku notice, your bankbook and personal seal.

It sometimes takes about one month to complete the necessary procedures. Until then pay by the mailed bills as usual. You will be notified about the beginning of bank transfer by Electricity Bill Bank Transfer Beginning notice sent to you by mail.

【In case of removal】

Apply to Hokuriku Denryoku about electricity disuse as soon as your removal is decided.

(Call toll free: 0120-776453, open 24 hours a day)

【Telephone line installation】

For installing telephone line, call 116.

【International phone calls】

You can buy an international telephone card to make international calls from your cell phone or home phone at some convenience stores. Calling rate varies according to the companies issuing those cards.

< International dial call >

➤ NTT Communications – 0033

0033 + 010 + Country code No. + Area code + Phone number

➤ Soft Bank Telecom – 0061

0061 + 010 + Country code No. + Area code + Phone number

➤ KDDI – 001

001 + 010 + Country code No. + Area code + Phone number

Operating companies contact numbers

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| ● NTT Communications | 0120-506506 |
| ● Soft Bank Telecom | 0120-030061 |
| ● KDDI | 0057 |

【Useful phone numbers】

Telephone directory service	104
Telephone problems/malfunction	113
Phone installation/moving	116
Domestic collect calls	106
International collect calls	0051 or 0057 (KDD)
Fire/Rescue/Ambulance	119
Police/Traffic accidents	110
Fukui Citizens International Association	97-5020
Fukui International Association	28-8800
NTT West Japan Customer Guidance Center	0120-019000

【Standard way of renting a residence】

The standard way of renting an apartment is through real estate sales representatives.

The room size is usually given in the number of tatami mats. One tatami mat is approximately 180 cm×90 cm. One tsubo is equivalent to two tatami mats.

During the contractual process, a Japanese guarantor and the deposit will be requested in most cases.

Deposit	A deposit is given to the landlord. The amount is about two to three times the monthly rent. If there are any damages when you move, the room will be repaired using the deposit. It is important to go over the contents of the contract before you sign it.
Rent	The rent is charged monthly (the amount is stated in your contract).
Key money	Generally the amount about one to two times the monthly rent is paid to the landlord. It is unnecessary in some cases.
Commission	This commission is paid to the real estate agency and is not returned.

【Public residence】 Housing Policy Division : Tel 20-5570

Public residence is aimed at those who need a residence with a cheaper rent. All buildings are constructed and managed by the city.

You can apply if you satisfy tenant requirements. In case of a vacant residence the tenant is decided by application order or drawing.

< Public residence list >

Housing complex	Location	Housing complex	Location
Tsukimi	Tsukimi 2 chome	Nittazuka	Nittazuka 2 chome
Fuchi	Fuchimachi	Kyoden	Omiya 2 chome
Ebata	Ebata cho	Miyuki	Miyuki 2 chome
Fuku	Fukushin machi	Shinbo	Shinbo 1 chome, Maruyama 2 chome
Yashiro	Undokoen 1 and 2 chome		
Kamogawara	Kamogawara 3 chome	Ueno	Ueno honmachi shin
Akari	Akari cho, Momozono 1 chome	Morita higashi	Kawai yoriyasu cho, Urushihara cho
Tachiya	Asuwa 3 chome	Koshino	Gumizaki cho

* Contact Public Housing Group, Construction & Housing Division of Fukui Prefecture if you want to rent prefectural residence. Tel: 20-0507

Postal symbol: 〒

Mailboxes can be found on a street corner. They are red and square in shape. There is a postal symbol 〒 written on them. There are two slots in the red mailbox. The one on the left is for dropping national mail and the one on the right is for international and national express mail.

【Domestic mail】

The postage on the postcard is ¥52. The postage on the sealed letter starts from ¥82 and depends on its size and height. Parcels, express and registered mail can also be sent.

【Overseas mail】

Overseas mail (letters and documents) can be sent by sea, air, SAL (surface air mail) or EMS.

【Postal savings, remittance, etc】

Services provided by the post office: savings, money remittance and automatic payment for utilities. Money can also be remitted to a foreign country.

Fukui Chuo (Central) Post Office (3-1-28 Ote, Fukui City)	Tel: 0776-24-0042
Postal Services Inquiry Center	free dial: 0120-232886
Postal Inquiry Service (in English)	Tel: 0570-046-111

<Fukui Central Post Office>

Days	Mail	Savings & Insurance	ATM
Monday – Friday	9 a.m. – 7 p.m.	9 a.m. – 6 p.m.	7 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	closed	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Sunday & Holidays	9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	closed	9 a.m. – 7p.m.

* Yuyu Counter (Late hours counter), which is open 24 hours a day, accepts mail as well as sells stamps and revenue stamps.

* More detailed information can be found at the following home pages:

- Post Office home page (<http://www.post.japanpost.jp>)
- Postal Savings home page (<http://www.yu-cho.japanpost.jp>)
- Postal Health Insurance home page (<http://www.jp-life.japanpost.jp/>)

Using a bank (on the example of Fukui Bank)

【Opening an account】

There are several types of deposits: regular, fixed, installment savings, etc.

When opening an account, have your ID (Zairyu (Alien registration) card or passport) and personal seal with you. Fill out an application form available at a financial institution (write your name, address, etc.) and stamp it with your Inkan. Inkan (personal seal) can be made at an Inkan store.

Business hours 9 am to 3 pm on weekdays.

【Cash card】

It is possible to apply for a cash card when you open an account. Such over counter services as deposits, withdrawals and account balance can be done by ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) if you have a cash card with a PIN code. The bank does not accept your birth date or phone number as a PIN code. Choose a number, which is more difficult to guess.

ATMs can be found at such public places as banks, stations, department stores, shopping centers, supermarkets, hospitals, etc.

【Deposits, withdrawals and paying to an account】

Write the desired amount of money, your name and bank account in the blank available at the bank counter and submit it with your bankbook. You need to stamp the blank with your personal seal if you want to withdraw money. Your identity might also need to be proved when withdrawing cash or paying cash to an account so make sure to have an ID with your photo.

【Automatic transfers and payment into the account】

To pay monthly public utilities bills (electricity, gas, water, etc.) through automatic transfers from a designated account on a certain date, fill out and stamp with your personal seal the application form at a bank or other financial institution.

【Foreign currency】

Most banks accept American dollars in cash and travelers' checks as well as travelers' checks in yen. Ask for further information at a bank.

Essential things for living in Japan

【Personal seal (inkan)】

We recommend you to make your own Inkan (personal seal). Inkan is often called Hanko and is used in the same way as a person's signature. Hanko can be made at an Inkan store. Your name can be written in Katakana or you can use your initials.

Daily life in Japan

【Residents' association (neighborhood association)】

Each neighborhood has a residents' association which is set up to organize events, keep the streets clean, clean away the snow from the street and provide help in case of calamities. Public Relations Magazine published by Fukui Municipal Office as well as other information bulletins are distributed through the residents' associations. Joining a residents' association will give you a unique chance to experience everyday life of local people.

【Koban(Police box)】

Besides police stations there are branch offices so-called Koban(police boxes). They can be found in each city district. There are a few police officer there and one of the main duties is to maintain safety in their district. They not only go to the scene of robbery or theft but also keep the left and lost articles, guide you to your destination and patrol the district.

【The front entrance】

Take off your shoes at the front entrance. Placing your shoes properly after you take them off in the same direction as you entered a house is considered to be a good manner.

【Taking a bath】

A bathroom and a toilet are separated in most Japanese houses. Compared to a western bathtub the Japanese one is rather deep.

Clean and rinse your body off before getting into the bathtub. Don't wash your body in the bathtub, especially if you are in a public bath.

Consultation

【City consultation】 Citizen Services and Consultation Section Tel: 20-5303

In Fukui city the following consultations can be obtained at Citizen Services and Consultation Section:

Anxiety consultation: various anxieties or troubles you have in your daily life

Troubles regarding human rights: troubles at home and with neighbors, other troubles.

Administration consultation: your ideas and complaints to Japanese government, independent administrative corporations and special public institutions are welcome.

Consultation with a certified social insurance consult: Health insurance, national pension, employment insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and other labor issues such as lay-off/wage/over-time work/sexual harassment/power harassment and etc.

【Interpretation help at the city office】

Community Development and International Affairs Division Tel: 20-5300

If you need help with interpretation in a city Division, interpretation services in the following languages are available at present: English, Chinese, and Portuguese. The days and time of each language available differ. Please contact the Division in question or Community Development and International Affairs Division in advance.

【Consultations in foreign languages】

Fukui International Association (Fukui prefecture)

There is a consultation counter at Information and Consultation Corner of Fukui International Activities Plaza (FIA). Consultations are available in English, Chinese and Portuguese Consultation time depends on the language, so please check in advance.

- (1) Legal consultation society for foreigners
life troubles in general, other worries.
- (2) Administration society for foreigners who need help with the country
entry and residence procedures
naturalization, permanent residency, alterations and renewal of residence
status, etc.

【 Japanese language courses 】

Foreigners staying in Fukui can take Japanese language courses for beginners or private lessons according to your Japanese ability at Fukui Citizens International Association (FCIA).

Fukui Citizens International Association (FCIA)

Address: 3-12-20 Ote, Fukui City, 910-0005

Tel: 0776-97-5020

Homepage: <http://www.fcia.jp/>

Before returning to one's country

(1) Inform your landlord at least one month prior to the time you leave.

(2) Submit necessary change notices to Fukui City Hall

contact Citizen ' s Affairs Division Tel: 20-5286

If your child goes to a municipal elementary or junior high school, please submit a notice of leaving school to the school in question.

Return your national insurance card to Health Insurance and Pension Division

(contact Health Insurance and Pension Division, Tel: 20-5383).

Contact City Tax Division if you have to pay a local inhabitants tax or light weight vehicle tax (those individuals who are subject to taxation) or if you have been staying in Japan more than one year.

(contact City Tax Division, Tel: 20-5306).

(3) Electricity, gas, water and other notice

Telephone	contact NTT (Tel: 116)
Electricity	Dial the phone number on your electricity bill.
Gas	Contact Gas & Water Service Center (Tel: 20-5621) if you use city gas or dial the phone number on your gas bill if you use LP gas one week before moving out.
Water	Contact Gas & Water Service Center (Tel: 20-5621) one week before moving out.
Mail	Report to the nearest post office.

【Traffic rules and manners】

In Japan pedestrians keep to the right and bicycles and vehicles keep to the left. When you are on the road, always act according to the traffic signals and traffic signs and follow the instructions of the police. Remember that pedestrians have priority over bicycles and vehicles.

(1) Pedestrians

Walk along the sidewalk if there is any.

Keep to the right if there is no sidewalk.

Always stop and turn right and left before crossing the road. Use a crosswalk to cross the road if there is one nearby.

Wear light-color clothes and reflective items when going out at night.

(2) Bicycles

Use the first line of the road's left side. Don't cross the road diagonally.

The sidewalk can be used for bicycles if it has the traffic sign "Open to bicycles".

Don't ride with an open umbrella or tandem. Don't use a cell phone when riding a bicycles.

Turn on the lights at nighttime.

Don't ride a bicycle with alcohol in your body.

Lock your bicycle any time you leave it.

(3) Vehicles and motorbikes

Never drive without a driver's license or when with alcohol in your body (even a little). If you act in violation of the law, you will carry a very severe punishment.

Always wear a helmet when riding a motorbike and fasten a seatbelt when driving a vehicle. Use a child seat when transporting a child of under six in a car.

When driving, don't talk on the cell phone while holding it in your hand.

Give way to fire engines, ambulances, squad cars and other emergency vehicles.

In the evening turn on the lights early.

(4) Traffic accidents

Stop driving your vehicle immediately and move it to a safe place. Park the vehicle and turn off the engine.

First give first aid to the injured, and dial 119 to call an ambulance and ask them to transport the injured party to the hospital.

Dial 110 to contact the police. Any traffic accident (big or small) must be reported to the police. If you fail to report the traffic accident, you will carry a severe punishment for a hit-and-run accident.

No area code is needed when dialing 110 (police) or 119 (ambulance and fire engine). These numbers are same all over Japan, free to dial and accepted 24 hours a day. Report your name, location and situation conditions correctly.

If you can't speak Japanese, ask someone present at the scene of the accident or a friend who can speak Japanese to contact the police.

In some cases when you have a traffic accident, you might have to pay compensation to the injured party, carry an administrative punishment (driver's license withdrawal, suspension, etc.) or pay a penalty (fine).

(5) Traffic offense

In case of a small traffic offense, the penalty fee is need to be paid at a designated bank or post office by the "Traffic Offense ticket(blue)" within 8 days of the offense.

【Driver's license】

You are supposed to have either a Japanese or international driver's license in order to be able to drive a vehicle or ride a motorbike in Japan.

(1) International driver's license

Obtained in one's home country, an international driver's license is valid for one year since the date of issue. However, an international driver's license must be issued by the country which is a signatory to the Geneva Convention. Some countries' international driver's licenses cannot be used in Japan. Contact the given-below centers for further information.

(2) Changing one's home country's driver's license into a Japanese one

A Japanese driver's license is issued if you successfully pass an examination about knowledge and skills needed for driving.

Contact the given-below centers about the requirements and documents necessary to go through this procedure.

Fukui Prefectural Driver's Education Center (Tel: 0776-51-2820)
Address: 58-10 Haribara, Harue cho, Sakai city, 919-0476

【Related institutions】

(1) Automobile inspection, registration, change of the owner's name, putting a car out of service procedures can be made at:

Chubu Carrier Service Bureau, Fukui Land Transportation Bureau
(Riku'un Kyoku) Tel: 050-5540-2057

Address: 1402 Nishitani 1 chome, Fukui city, 918-8023

Light-Weight Automobile Inspection Association, Fukui Office

Tel: 050-3816-1774 Address: 138-11-3 Asozu cho, Fukui city, 918-8181

(2) Contact the following organization if you have any questions about a traffic accident

Fukui Prefectural Traffic Accident Consultation Office

Tel: 0776-20-0518 Address: Prefectural Staff Welfare Hall 16-10
Matsumoto 3 chome Fukui city, 910-0005

【Fukui City Transportation】

(1) Buying JR train tickets

Tickets can be bought at the ticket office or by ticket dispenser machines at the station.

(2) Riding a bus

Remember to take a numbered ticket indicating the bus fare zone, when you get on the bus.

When the bus starts approaching the bus stop you want to get off, inform the driver by pressing the button next to the window frame.

When the bus stops, check the number on your ticket with the fare board and insert the corresponding fare into the fare box.

(3) Community bus (Smile Bus)

In cooperation with Fukui Town Management Inc. there is a community bus running in Fukui downtown. There are four routes at the moment. Buses run every thirty minutes. The fare is ¥100, paid in advance. This bus is a very convenient means of transportation.

(refer to the next page for the route map)

(4) Echizen railroad

Echizen line connects Fukui with Mikuni Port and Katsuyama City. This railroad is very convenient for getting to Eiheji Temple, Awara Hot Spring, Mikuni Sunset Beach, etc.

(5) Fukui railroad (Fukutetsu Fukubu line)

Fukubu line connects three cities: Fukui, Sabae and Echizen. Use this railroad to visit the following festivals:

- Cherry Blossoms festival (April) in Fukui City
- Azalea festival (May) in Sabae City
- Phoenix festival (August) in Fukui City
- Chrysanthemum Dolls festival (September) in Echizen City