

KAWARABAN

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Suica and icsca

In this issue of Kawaraban we will tackle the IC cards Suica and icsca. IC cards work on trains, subways, and buses, and they allow passengers to pay fares by simply touching their card to the card reader portion of the ticket gate or bus entrance.

◆Suica

◇Types

Suica is the prepaid IC card issued by East Japan Railway Company (JR East). Suica is available for purchase at Midori no Madoguchi ticket offices or automated ticket machines at JR stations. A deposit of 500 yen is required with purchase. The different Suica types and their individual features are explained below.

Name	Purchase Requirements	Reissue
Suica Card	N/A	Unavailable
My Suica	Registration of name, date of birth, sex, etc.	Available
Suica Commuter Pass	Registration of name, date of birth, sex, etc. Can be added to Suica Card or My Suica	Available



*There is also a "Mobile Suica" feature compatible with cell phone mobile payment functions.

◇Use

In addition to all JR lines, Suica can be used on Sendai Subway, city buses, and Miyagi Kotsu local bus lines within Sendai. Additionally, Suica can be used for payment when shopping and dining inside stations at KIOSKS and restaurants, as well as outside stations at convenience stores, etc.

◇Charging

Money can be added to cards at any time. Charging is possible inside JR stations using automated ticket machines bearing the IC mark, multi-functional ticket machines, and fare adjustment machines. It is possible to charge up to 20,000 yen in cash. Ticket machine displays can be switched to English.

◇Points

When using a Suica card at partner businesses such as convenience stores, you will be able to accumulate points. Online registration is required for this service. These points can be used to charge the Suica.

◆icsca

◇Types

icsca is the prepaid IC card issued by the Sendai City Transportation Bureau. icsca is available for purchase at subway station offices and automated ticket machines or at bus offices. A deposit of 500 yen is required with purchase. The different icsca types and their individual features are explained below.



Name	Purchase Requirements	Reissue
icsca (unregistered)	N/A	Unavailable
icsca (registered)	Registration of name, date of birth, sex, etc.	Available
Icsca Commuter Pass	Registration of name, date of birth, sex, etc. Can be added to a registered icsca card	Available
“Gakuto Sendai” City Bus and Subway Free Pass for Students*	Proof of school commute Is added to a registered icsca card	Available

*This pass is for students. Mode of transportation and period (1, 3, or 6 months) may be selected.

◇Use

icsca passes can be used on Sendai Subway, city buses, and Miyagi Kotsu local bus lines within Sendai. In addition, icsca can now be used on JR lines within Miyagi Prefecture (excluding certain stations).

◇Charging

Charging is possible at subway station ticket machines, fare adjustment machines, and onboard city buses and Miyagi Kotsu local bus lines within Sendai. Ticket machine displays can be switched to English.

◇Points

icsca allows the user to collect points each month based on the number of rides and fare total (excluding commuter pass use). The points can be used to charge the icsca for future subway and bus use. Points can be confirmed and exchanged at subway station ticket machines. Points are valid for one year from reward date.

◎Other Information

①Reciprocal use of Suica and icsca

As of March of this year, Suica and icsca can be used interchangeably, allowing for one card to be used on JR trains, Sendai Subway, and buses. Details are below.

Details of Use		icsca	Suica
Rail	Sendai Subway Nanboku and Tozai Lines	○	○
	JR lines in Miyagi Prefecture	○	○
	Sendai Airport Access Line	*2	*1
	JR lines outside of Miyagi	×	○
Bus	Sendai City Bus and Miyagi Kotsu local bus lines within Sendai	○	○
Commuter pass routes connecting either subway or bus with JR lines and/or Sendai Airport Access Line		○	△ *3

*1 As of April 2016, Suica cannot be used on the Tohoku Line north of Kogota Station, on the Ishinomaki Line (except Kogota and Ishinomaki Stations), on the Kesenuma Line (except Kogota Station), and on the Senzan Line west of Ayashi Station (except Sakunami Station).

*2 Stations not accepting Suica are also unable to accept icsca.

*3 Commuter passes for routes with transfers between JR lines (including Sendai Airport Access Line) and buses can be used with icsca, but are not available for Suica.

②Joy Card, Skip Card, and Bus Card

Sales of these three types of subway and bus transportation passes concluded at the end of last year. However, previously purchased passes may still be used until October 31, 2016. Additionally, after October 1, money remaining on these cards can be refunded in cash.

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● 〒981-0914 仙台市青葉区堤通雨宮町 4-17 宮城県仙台合同庁舎 7 階
● TEL : 022(275)3796 FAX : 022(272)5063 E-mail : mail@mia-miyagi.jp
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