



## Japan 2016 Crime & Safety Report: Nagoya

Travel Health and Safety; Stolen items; Financial Security; Theft; Assault; Rape/Sexual Violence; Anti-American sentiment; Riots/Civil Unrest; Earthquakes; Tsunamis; Drug Trafficking

East Asia & Pacific > Japan; East Asia & Pacific > Japan > Nagoya

7/6/2016

### Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Post Crime Rating: Low

#### Crime Threats

Crime has a minimal impact on the work and life of the community. The general crime rate is below the U.S. national average. Non-violent crimes, especially financial crimes that include the use of stolen credit cards and credit card numbers, do occur. Crimes against U.S. citizens usually involve personal disputes, theft, or vandalism. Pickpocketing and other petty crimes do take place in crowded shopping areas, bars/nightclubs, train stations, and airports. Every year, a small number of U.S. citizens report their passports lost or stolen at Chubu International Airport.

Violent crime is rare but does exist. U.S. citizens have been the victims of physical/sexual assaults; drink-spiking; drug overdoses; and thefts of purses, wallets, cash, and credit cards

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at bars or clubs. A very small number of homicides are reported in/around Nagoya every year, but there have not been American victims reported.

## Areas of Concern

Sakae and the Naka-ku neighborhood south of Nagoya station are entertainment districts that are considered moderate risk for crime.

The Fukushima Nuclear Reactor is a continuing nuclear incident. The government maintains a 20-kilometer exclusion zone around the plant. All U.S. persons should avoid personal travel to this area.

## Transportation-Safety Situation

### Road Safety and Road Conditions

Road conditions and road safety standards meet/exceed U.S standards except in the most remote areas or islands. Roads are well-maintained, and extensive lighting exists.

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Vehicle accidents, including those involving pedestrians, are common. Traffic enforcement includes extensive use of cameras.

### Public Transportation Conditions

The overall transportation system is an efficient and safe system. The railway system is a combination of local trains and high-speed trains.

### Aviation/Airport Conditions

Chubu International Airport has limited trans-Pacific service to the U.S. and Europe but relatively robust service to East and Southeast Asia.

### Terrorism Threat

Post Terrorism Rating: Low

### Local, Regional, and International Terrorism Threats/Concerns

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There are no known indigenous terrorist organizations, and Japan is not a known base of support or sympathy for terrorists.

In 2014, there was a rise of ISIL-related sympathizers among Japanese nationals. Media has reported on Japanese nationals who travelled or attempted to travel to Syria to join ISIL.

While Japan has experienced no terrorist incidents in the last decade, all visitors should be familiar with the contents of the Department of State's periodic worldwide cautionary statement. This statement expresses the Department's concern about continued threat of attacks, demonstrations, and other violent actions against American citizens and American interests abroad.

#### Anti-American/Anti-Western Sentiment

The U.S. Consulate is occasionally the target of peaceful demonstrations, usually protesting the U.S. military presence on Japanese soil.

#### **Political, Economic, Religious, and Ethnic Violence**

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Post Political Violence Rating: Low

## Civil Unrest

Violent demonstrations and acts of civil disobedience are generally limited. Most protests are peaceful. Numerous demonstrations with the number of participants varying in size from a few to several thousand took place in 2014. Demonstrators are required to apply for a permit from the government prior to any activity. The police closely monitor demonstrations, and information is usually passed to the RSO.

## Post-specific Concerns

### Environmental Hazards

Japan is located in an active seismic region known as the “Ring of Fire” and often experiences minor tremors and earthquakes. Japan has suffered from large earthquakes in major metropolitan areas, and the 9.0 earthquake north of Tokyo in 2011 resulted in a tsunami that caused widespread damage to coastal cities and the Fukushima nuclear reactor. As demonstrated in 2011, coastal cities remain susceptible to tsunamis, which stem from earthquake epicenters in the ocean and can arrive on shore within minutes. Japan has made great advances in building, railway, and road construction that minimizes collateral damage in the metropolitan areas. All U.S. persons should have an emergency plan for earthquakes and tsunamis. These plans should include contingencies for communications and evacuations.

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## Privacy Concerns

There are very strict privacy laws that govern the release of personal information.

## Personnel Background Concerns

Hate-related crimes rarely occur, though some U.S. citizens have reported being the target of comments or actions because of their nationality or race. Crimes based on sexual orientation are exceptionally rare although same-sex couples may experience harassment for outward displays of intense physical affection.

## Drug-related Crimes

Drug-related crime takes place. Illegal drugs (methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, synthetic drugs) exist. However, narco-violence remains rare.

## Police Response

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The Nagoya City Police Department is very proactive and responsive when dealing with all types of criminal activity. Nagoya police officers are typically the primary first law enforcement responders in the case of any emergency.

Police substations, called Kobans, are located throughout cities. They are staffed by one or more police officers and are open 24/7. Police are well trained and can be counted on to provide travelers with assistance. The quality of interpreting from Japanese to English can vary, and for some U.S. citizen victims, this has caused a problem.

Japan has strict laws regarding the use and possession of dangerous weapons. Firearms are illegal without a proper license. Carrying a pocket knife (including Swiss Army-style knife), craft/hunting knife, or box cutter in public is illegal. Violators can be subject to arrest and incarceration.

#### How to Handle Incidents of Police Detention or Harassment

U.S. Embassy Tokyo's American Citizen Services provides assistance to American citizens. The U.S. Embassy Tokyo is staffed 24/7 and is located at 1-10-5 Akasaka, Minato-Ku Tokyo (tel: 03-3224-5000). The U.S. Consulate in Nagoya may be contacted during business hours at (052) 581-4501.

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## Crime Victim Assistance

The police emergency number is 110. Response is dependable although may be hampered by the Japanese/English language barrier.

Some U.S. citizens report that police procedures appear to be less sensitive and responsive to a victim's concerns, particularly in cases of domestic violence or sexual assault or when the victim and the perpetrator are foreigners. Few victims' assistance resources or battered women's shelters exist in major urban areas, and they are generally unavailable in rural areas. Investigations of sexual assault crimes are often conducted without female police officers present, and police typically ask about the victim's sexual history and previous relationships.

## Police/Security Agencies

The National Police Agency, Prefectural Police Department, city police, and police Kobans comprise Japan's police system.

The National Police Agency is responsible for the administration of police services.

Prefectural Police Departments maintain a regional responsibility.

The city police provide police services at a more local level.

And, the Koban are the most typical point of interaction for people with the police.

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## Medical Emergencies

The emergency number for fire and ambulance service is 119. This number may not work from cell phones, and English-speaking dispatchers may not be available.

## Contact Information for Recommended Hospitals/Clinics

Consult the Embassy's American Citizen Services website at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/tacs-main.html> for information on English-speaking medical facilities.

## Recommended Insurance Posture

Travelers should verify the validity of their medical insurance prior to personal travel. Medical caregivers require full payment at the time of treatment or proof of the ability to pay before treating a foreigner who is not a member of the Japanese national health insurance plan.

## Country-specific Vaccination and Health Guidance

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For CDC country-specific vaccination and health guidance please visit the CDC at: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/japan.htm>.

## **OSAC Country Council Information**

The OSAC Country Council is active in Tokyo, meeting on a monthly basis at the Embassy or a pre-arranged location. Additional or interested members are always welcomed and may obtain further information by accessing <https://www.osac.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>. The Embassy's Regional Security Office can be reached at 03-3224-5000 from phones in Japan or 81-3-3224-5000 when calling from outside Japan. Additionally, the RSO can also be reached at: [DSRSOTKY@state.gov](mailto:DSRSOTKY@state.gov). To reach OSAC's East Asia Pacific team, please email [OSACEAP@state.gov](mailto:OSACEAP@state.gov).

## **U.S. Consulate Location and Contact Information**

### Consulate Address and Hours of Operation

The U.S. Consulate in Nagoya is located at Nagoya International Center Bldg. 6F; 1-47-1 Nagono, Nakamura-ku, Nagoya 450-0001

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General Business Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon-Fri. The Embassy and all our Consulates are closed on American and Japanese holidays.

#### Consulate Contact Numbers

Switchboard: (052)581-4501

Website: <http://nagoya.usconsulate.gov/>

#### Nearby Posts

Embassy Tokyo: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/>

Consulate Osaka/Kobe: <http://osaka.usconsulate.gov/>

Consulate Naha: <http://naha.usconsulate.gov/>

Consulate Sapporo: <http://sapporo.usconsulate.gov/>

Consulate Fukuoka: <http://fukuoka.usconsulate.gov/>

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## Consulate Guidance

A check of the Embassy's American Citizen Services website is also recommended to obtain the latest Japan-specific threat information.

## Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

### Situational Awareness Best Practices

All visitors should use common sense and take basic security precautions just as they would in the U.S. Travelers should always strive to maintain a low profile and should always be aware of their surroundings. All visitors should use caution in all entertainment and nightlife districts throughout Nagoya and the rest of Japan.

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