RANTAU TOKYO TOURS

Understanding Different Travel Service Providers in Japan

Educational reference for travellers and website visitors

Travel services in Japan may involve different business structures and regulatory requirements. The categories below describe their general functions and important limitations.

1. Licensed Travel Agencies

旅行業

Travel agencies registered under Japan's Travel Agency Act may organise, arrange, or sell travel services within the scope of their registration. The applicable registration category and permitted activities should be checked before booking.

2. Licensed Passenger Transportation Operators

旅客自動車運送事業

Commercial passenger transportation requires the applicable transport authorisation. Operators must comply with relevant vehicle, driver, safety-management, and operational rules. A green number plate alone does not establish that every service or journey is authorised.

3. Travel Planning and Land Arrangement Services

旅行サービス手配業 (where applicable)

Travel planning may include itinerary design, booking support, and coordination with hotels, guides, or transport operators. Some arrangements performed for travel businesses fall within the regulated travel service arrangement business category and require registration; not every planning service has the same legal status.

4. Personal Guide and Land Arrangement Services

Guides may offer sightseeing assistance, interpretation, and local coordination. Personal guiding or itinerary assistance does not, by itself, grant permission to conduct paid passenger transport or activities that require travel business registration. Providers should clearly identify the licensed transport operator when transportation is included.

Important: These are explanatory service descriptions, not four equivalent Japanese licence categories. Registration and authorisation depend on the actual services provided. This guide is general educational information, not legal advice.

Suggested website link text

Learn More: Understanding Travel Service Providers in Japan

Place this link below Section 2 on the Education & Information page. It can point to this single PDF, keeping the main page concise.