

Riding the Bus

Tachikawa Station to NINJAL

These directions assume that your starting point is inside Tachikawa Station near the ticket gates that train passengers pass through.

[1] Exit the Station

Begin by finding the **north exit**. The ticket gates are one level above ground level, and when you exit the station, you will be on an elevated plaza. Turn left and walk west.



looking north from the north exit of Tachikawa Station

[2] Find the Stairway for Bus Stop Number 2

You will see an overhead sign with an arrow pointing to the stairway for bus stops 1, 2, and 3. You will be facing east as you go down, and stop number 2 is the nearest one to the foot of the stairs.



stairway for bus stop #2

[3] Get in Line at Bus Stop Number 2

All buses that leave from stop number 2 stop at NINJAL. If the bus is already there, just get on. If not, there will probably be a line of people waiting, so just go to the end of the line. The guy wearing a baseball cap in the picture below is first in line.



[4] Take a Boarding Ticket

Board the bus through the rear door and pull a boarding ticket (*seiriken*) from the machine just inside the door (shown in the picture at the left). You will need to hold onto the ticket until you get off. (Your bus fare depends on how far you travel, and your boarding ticket has a number printed on it to show where you got on.)



[5] Prepare Exact Change

Make sure have exact change. The fare is ¥190. If necessary, you can break a ¥1,000-yen note or a ¥500 or ¥100 coin in the machine next to the driver (shown in the picture on the right). The slot for paper money is on the front, where the upward-pointing red arrow is. The slot for coins is on top. The machine does not subtract your bus fare from the amount you put in; it simply gives you coins in small enough denominations so that you can pay your fare with exact change. If you need to do this, try to do it as soon as you get on the bus so that you will not delay the bus by making change when you need to get off. You cannot actually pay your fare until you get off.

Almost everyone who lives in Tokyo carries an IC (integrated circuit) card for paying bus and train fares, so you may be the only person on your bus who actually takes a boarding ticket and pays with cash.



[6] Listen for Your Stop

There are recorded announcements and visual displays that tell passengers what the next stop is, but these are in Japanese only. NINJAL is at the fourth stop on the route. The recorded announcement will say *Jichi daigakkō, Kokuritu kokugo kenkyūjo*, and the visual display will read 自治大学校・国立国語研究所. The preceding three stops are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| (1) <i>Akebono-chō</i> | 曙町 |
| (2) <i>Saigai iryō sentā higashi</i> | 災害医療センター東 |
| (3) <i>Midori-chō</i> | 緑町 |

[7] Request Your Stop

There will be a stop-request button (like the one in the picture at the right) within reach no matter where you are sitting or standing on the bus, and the driver will not stop unless someone pushes one of these buttons. Pushing the button triggers a chiming sound, followed by an announcement that the bus will stop at the next stop. If you happen to be the only person on your bus who wants to get off at NINJAL, you will have to push the button yourself. If you miss the stop and see the NINJAL building out the windows on the left side of the bus, push one of the buttons right away and get off at the next stop. It's only a little farther from the front door to NINJAL.



[8] Pay Your Fare



Drop both your boarding ticket and ¥190 in coins into the fare box on top of the machine next to the driver (shown in the picture at the left) and exit through the front door. Watch out for reckless bicyclists as you step onto the sidewalk.

[7] Returning to Tachikawa Station

If you to take the bus from NINJAL back to Tachikawa Station, you will have to walk north from the NINJAL building to the crosswalk at the traffic signal. Cross to the opposite side of the big street that runs in front of the NINJAL building and go to the bus shelter on your right. You will need to take a boarding ticket and pay your fare with exact change, but you will not have to worry about pushing the stop-request button, since Tachikawa Station is the last stop.

Please be advised that the buses going to Tachikawa Station are often very crowded at rush hour, especially if it happens to be raining, and they are often several minutes behind schedule.

You are likely to see buses pass by without stopping. These are on different routes and are not supposed to stop at NINJAL.



bus shelter across the street from NINJAL