

Points to note in using ETC

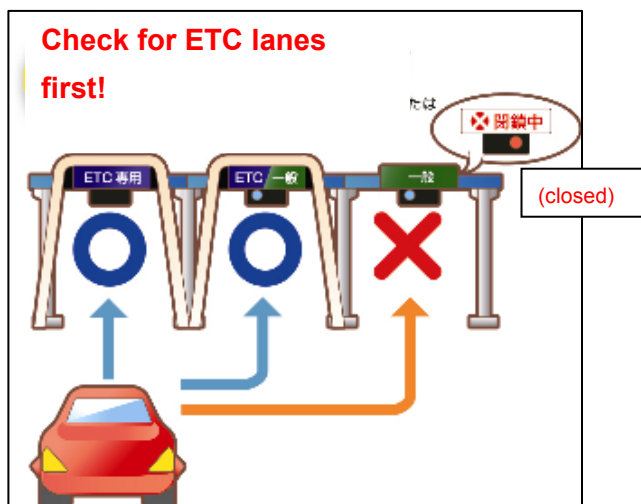
Expressways in Hokkaido

Expressways in service in Hokkaido total 590 km in length. These are toll expressways. Drivers receive a ticket at the entrance tollgate and pay the toll depending on the distance driven at the exit tollgate. Expressways in Sapporo and eastern Hokkaido use a different system: Drivers pay a fixed toll at the tollgate entrance or on the expressway.

What is ETC?

The ETC (Electronic Toll Collection) system enables drivers to pay a toll without stopping at a tollgate. In this system, the data necessary for payment of the toll are transmitted by radio between the road antenna at the tollgate and the car's onboard equipment (OBE), into which the ETC card (an IC card) is inserted.

- When driving on expressways using the ETC system, pass through lanes designated as ETC (indicated with the sign: ETC専用) or lanes designated for ETC cars and cash payment cars (indicated with the sign: ETC/一般). The signs of ETC専用 and ETC/一般 are immediately before the respective lanes.
- The ETC system has not been installed on the Doh-to Expressway between Tomamu and Ashoro/Honbetsu. Drivers on that section must stop at the tollgate and hand the ETC card to the attendant.
- The entrance and exit lanes have opening and closing gates. When the relevant data are not transmitted properly by radio due to the user's failure to have properly inserted the ETC card or from other causes, a "STOP" sign is shown on the roadside indicator and the gate remains closed.
- When the signal light of the ETC lane is red, instead use a lane with a staffed booth.
 - When the signal light of the ETC lane at the entrance tollgate is red, use a staffed lane and receive a ticket there. When getting off the expressway, be sure to pass through a staffed lane and give the attendant your ETC card (the gate of the ETC lane at the exit won't open).
 - When the signal light of the ETC lane at the exit tollgate is red, pass through a staffed lane and give the attendant your ETC card.
- * The ETC専用 and ETC/一般 signs or signals are posted above respective lanes.



Additional points of note

■ Is your ETC card inserted properly?

The gate won't open if you have not properly inserted the ETC. When getting into your car, insert the card correctly into the OBE and ensure that it is working properly.

■ Pass through the ETC lane no faster than 20 km/h!

Unforeseen circumstances may occur in an ETC lane, including the sudden stoppage of vehicles in front of your car or failure of the gate to open because of the mistaken entrance into the ETC lane of a non-ETC car or a car that does not have the ETC card inserted into the OBE.

■ Keep a safe distance between your car and the car ahead when entering the ETC lane.

Vehicles in front of your car might stop suddenly.

■ **Never reverse**

In the event that your car stops suddenly in the ETC lane, never reverse. That could put you at risk of rear-end collisions with following cars and collisions with attendants. Wait for the attendant.

■ **Never enter an ETC lane when its signal light is red.**

Hokkaido Expressway Pass (HEP) users

The indicator at the tollgate and the ETC onboard monitor will show the toll to be paid by non-HEP users. If the conditions for use of HEP are met, the user will not be charged that amount.