1) IF SOMEBODY ASKS FOR YOUR “GAIJIN CARD”:* a hotelier, a JR staff member, etc., tell them that only the police can demand it, under “The Foreign Registry Law, Section 13, Clause 2. Foreigners, when asked to show their Gaijin Cards by immigration investigation officials (as outlined in separate laws), police, coast guard, or any other national or local public official or group empowered by the Ministry of Justice as part of the execution of their duties, must show.”

2) If the Police ask for your I.D.: ask why. Because, under Police Execution of Duties Law Section 2: “A police officer is able to ask for a person’s ID, but only if based on a reasonable judgment of a situation where the policemen sees some strange conduct and some crime is being committed, or else he has enough reason to suspect (utagau ni tariru soutou na riyuu) that a person will commit or has committed a crime, or else it has been acknowledged that a particular person knows a crime will be committed. In these cases a police officer may stop a person for questioning.”

3) IF THE POLICE COME UP WITH A REASON FOR DEMANDING I.D.: such as, if you are riding a bicycle, stopping you on the suspicion that you may have stolen it then, as a foreign resident you will ultimately have to show your I.D. BUT, under The Foreign Registry Law, Section 13, Clause 3, “Public officials governed by the previous clause, if asking for the Gaijin Card outside of their workplace, must carry a certificate of their identity and present it if asked.”

Then, write his info down, because he will take yours down.

4) If the Police try to take you to the Police “Box” (kouban): they cannot do so against your will, unless they formally arrest you, under the Shokums Shikkei Hoo Article 2, Clause Two: “It is possible to ask a particular person to accompany the [police] to a nearby police station, police branch [i.e. kouban], or any police administration area for questioning if it is determined that this place is unsuitable for questioning because it obstructs traffic or is disadvantageous to the questioner.” and Clause Three: “Unless there is a regulation relating to criminal action, officials may not confine, bring back to any police administration area, or else coerce a person to reply to questions against his will.”