

# Go Roundabouts in Gifu Prefecture

6/28/2023  
Sohun

## [ 1 ] Roundabout in Tajimi City

Location : Oyabu Hatanda , Oyabu Town , Tajimi City , Gifu Prefecture

Date of visit : 6/24/2023

Directions : From Tajimi City to Kani City , follow the old road along the Taita Line. After passing Hime Station and going a little further , on the left side of the road , there is a traffic light or a sign that says "Gifu Prefecture Recycling Center" and "Kyodo Steel Co . , Ltd.". Turn left there. Soon , there is a railroad crossing on the Taita Line. After crossing it and going a little further, you will come to a roundabout.



【You can see the characters  
"ゆずれ" or "Give up"】



【There are three cars  
in the roundabout】

## [ 2 ] Roundabout in Anpachi Town

Location : Naka , Anpachi Town , Anpachi District , Gifu Prefecture

Date of visit : 6/25/2023

Directions : Take the Meishin Expressway from Nagoya toward Kyoto. Exit at Anpachi Smart Interchange , turn right immediately , and there is a roundabout.



【You can see a "Right Turn" sign】



【There are two cars  
in the roundabout】

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## [ 3 ] Roundabout in Front of the Prefectural Office

Location : Yabuta Minami , Gifu City

Date of visit : 6/25/2023

Directions : Head toward the Gifu Prefectural Office. There is a roundabout in front of the Gifu Prefectural Office. The distance between the government building and the roundabout is closer than the distance between the government building and the visitor parking lot. The shape of the roundabout is not four-way , but three-way.



**【You can see the Gifu Prefectural Office Building】**



**【There are three cars in the roundabout】**

## [ 4 ] New roundabout in Tajimi City

Location : Hakusancho 5-chome , Tajimi City

Date of visit : 11/10/2024

Directions : There is a roundabout in front of the clothing store "ZAK-ZAK". Nearby is the shopping center "Valor" and the ramen restaurant "Rai-Rai-Tei."

When I visited the roundabouts [1],[2], and [3] above in June 2023 , this roundabout no longer existed. This will be the forth roundabout in Gifu Prefecture. It was installed on a road with much busier traffic than the three roundabouts that existed in Gifu Prefecture until now. As a result , the number of cars entering this roundabout was significantly higher than those entering the roundabouts [1],[2], and [3] above.



**【Cars coming in one after another】**



**【Smooth flow of cars】**



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## [ 5 ] At the End

From 2004 to 2005 , I lived in Kuala Lumpur , the capital of Malaysia. There were many rare things that Japan does not have , and one of them was a roundabout.

There were some intersections with traffic lights , but most were roundabouts. I had heard that in Malaysia , due to the unstable power supply , roundabouts are used instead of intersections with traffic lights that require power. It was also said that the history of British rule had an impact. The escalator in the shopping mall often stopped due to a power outage while shopping. At that time , I thought "Malaysia is still developing , so it's just the beginning."

However , I heard that roundabouts are attracting attention as a way to deal with power outages during earthquakes. At that time , the experience of the roundabout in Malaysia was revived and I felt nostalgic. Then , I decided to visit the three roundabouts that have been installed in Gifu Prefecture so far.

My first impression after visiting the roundabouts was that they were quiet everywhere. I remember when I first tried to enter a roundabout in Malaysia , I was afraid to enter because the roundabout was full of cars. Roundabouts in Malaysia were always full of cars. However , all three roundabouts in Gifu Prefecture that I visited this time were almost empty.

I visited the three roundabouts mentioned above in June 2023. In 2024 , I heard that a fourth roundabout had been built in Tajimi , so I went to check it out.

The newly constructed roundabout in Tajimi was installed in the middle of the city , where there is a lot of traffic , so cars were coming and going without interruption , unlike the roundabout in Gifu Prefecture that I had previously visited. Drivers who were probably confused at first by the roundabout had now gotten used to it , and traffic was flowing smoothly and without any trouble.

Looking at this newly constructed roundabout in Tajimi , I got the impression that even intersections with traffic lights on relatively busy roads could be replaced with roundabouts.



**【A sign at a Malaysian roundabout】**