

Japan guardrail bands

by brikiiee

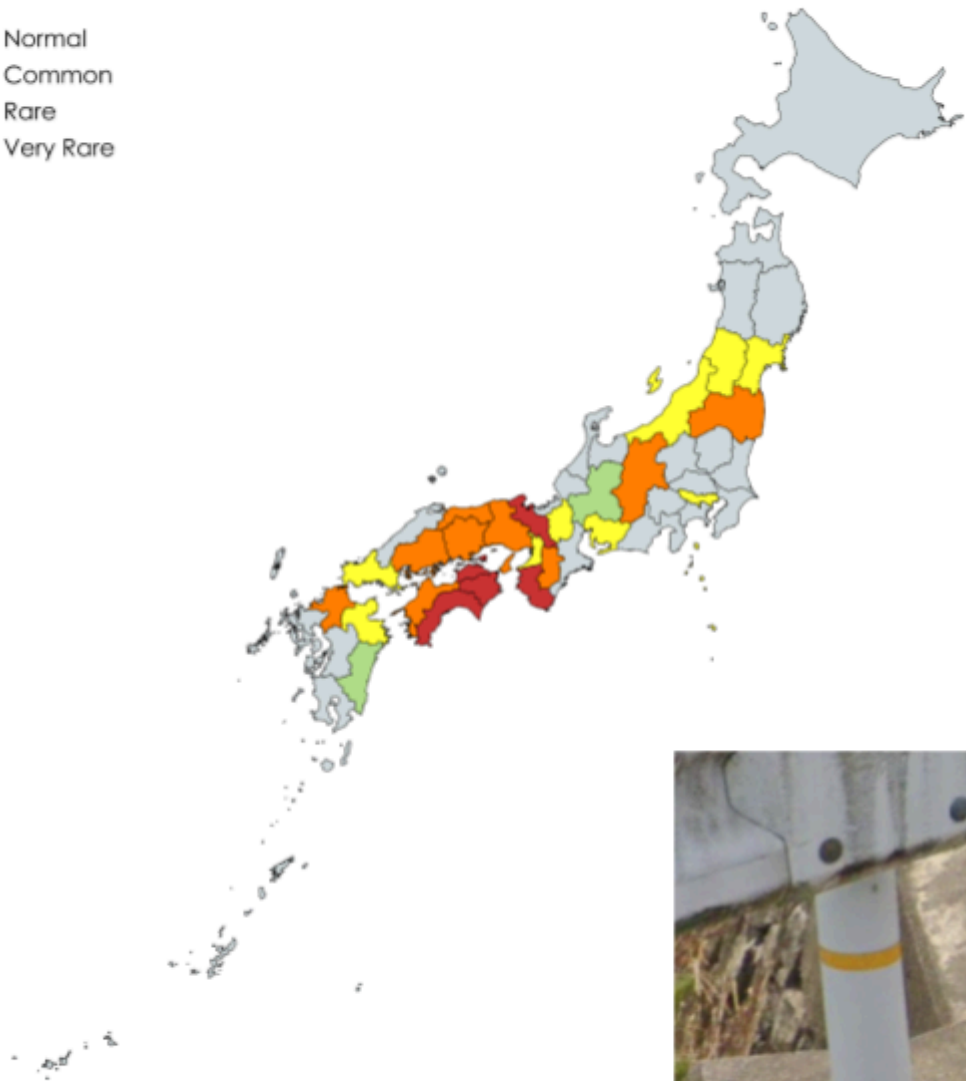
Huge thank you to **_soundofsilence** and **dazainlh** for providing me with a lot of extra info

Guardrail bands will look like this and as the name suggests you will find it on some guardrails. Note that sometimes in more rural places the band will be gray or black because of mud or other things. Further along this doc you will see that they come in all sorts of colors and shapes. And that some bands might be found more in certain prefectures than in others. In the infographic this will be shown by different rarities.

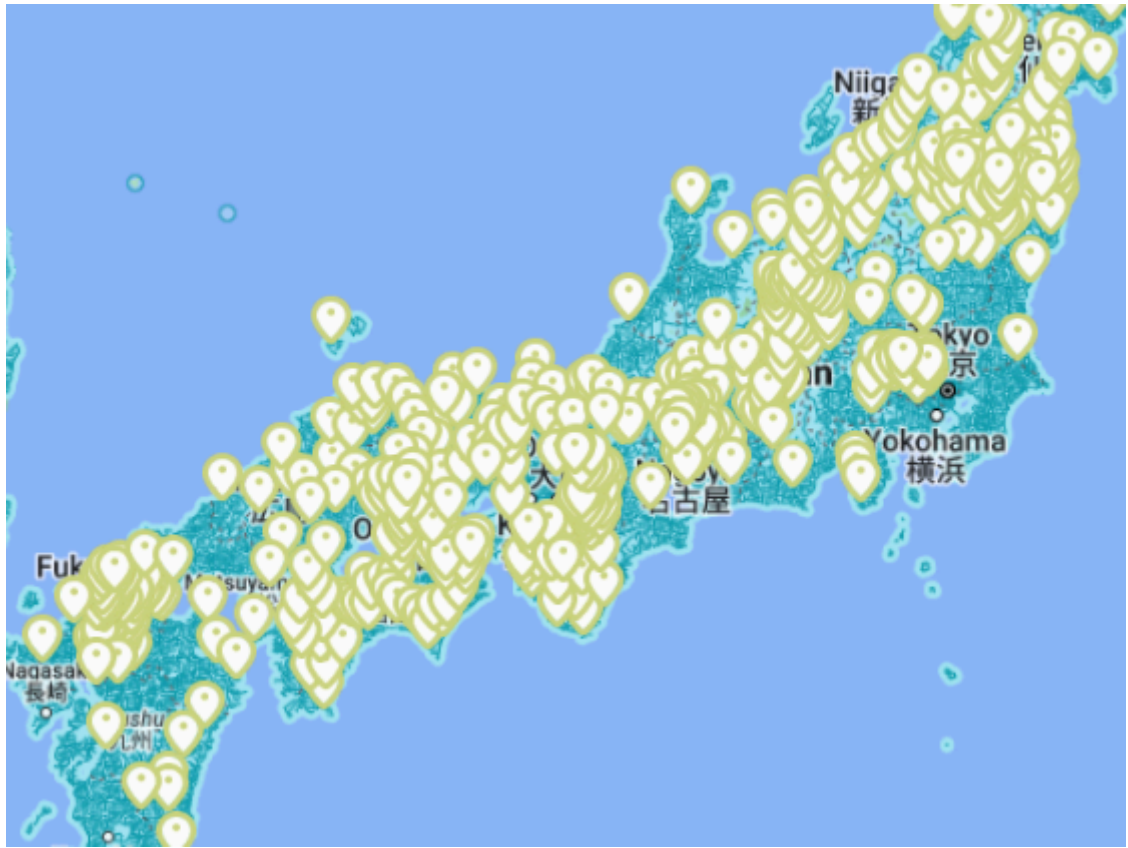


1. Yellow guardrail bands

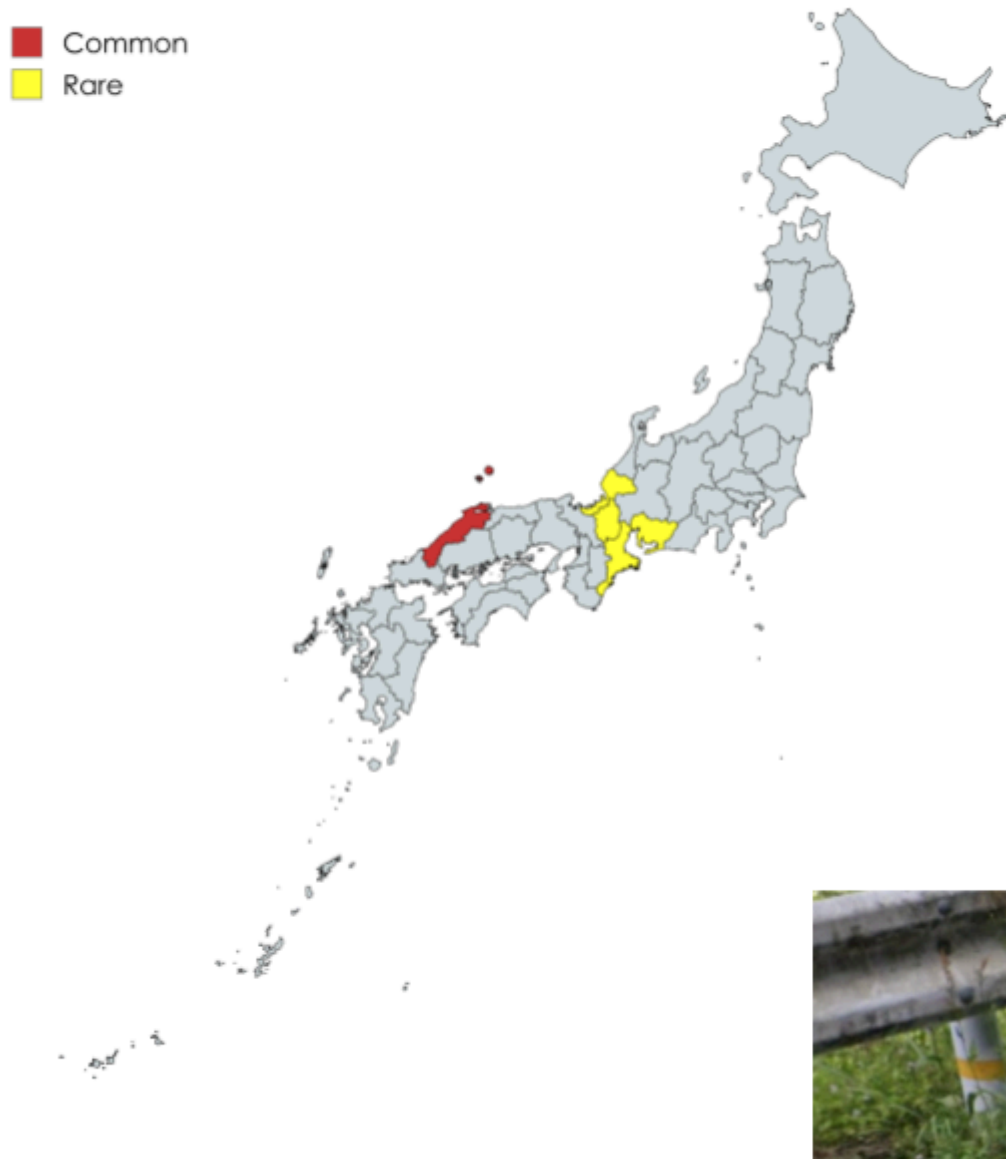
■ Normal
■ Common
■ Rare
■ Very Rare



These are the yellow guardrail bands, they are the most common across Japan, and probably the most useful. Only using this information to region guess Japan will sadly not be enough though. To make this be useful you will first need to know some Japan basics to at least know the region you are in to then further region guess the prefectures using this. For every infographic the gray part basically means that it is extremely rare to be found.



2. Thick yellow guardrail bands

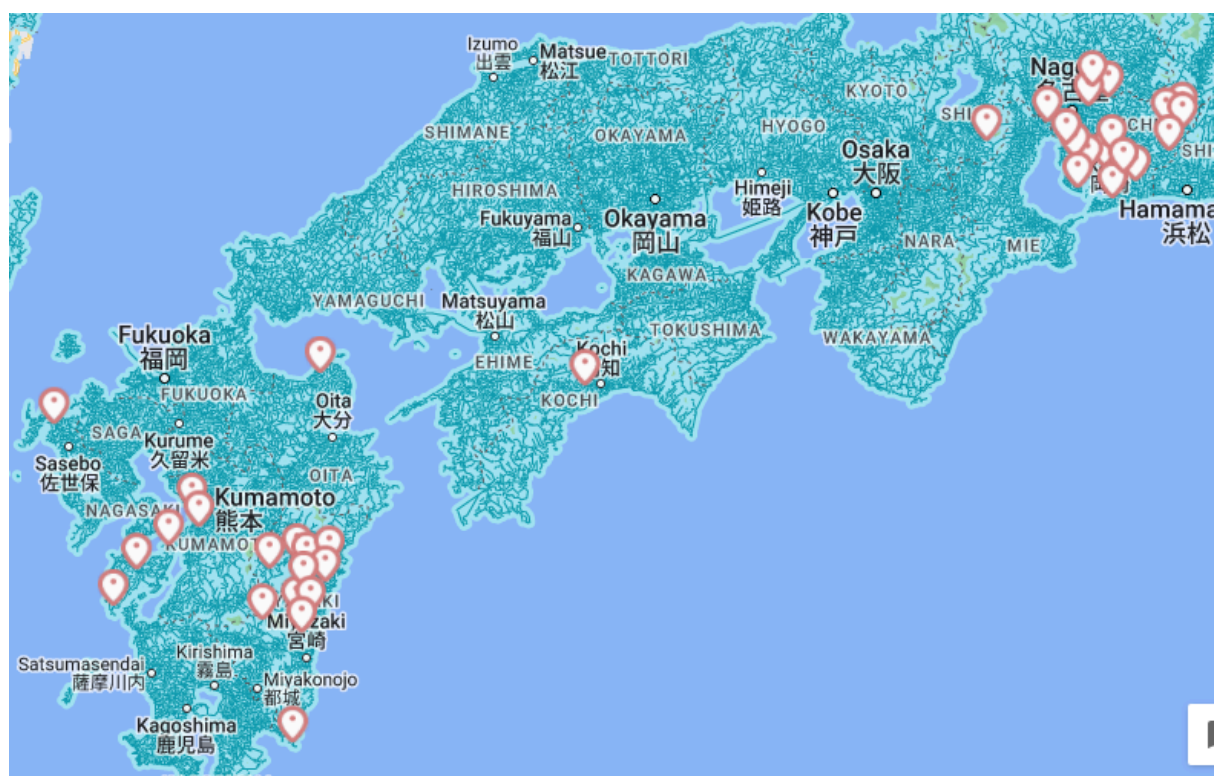


The “thick” variant of the yellow guardrail is in fact a thicker version. Sometimes they will be even thicker than in this infographic (Okinoshima). You really have to watch out that you don’t confuse the thinner and the thicker version.

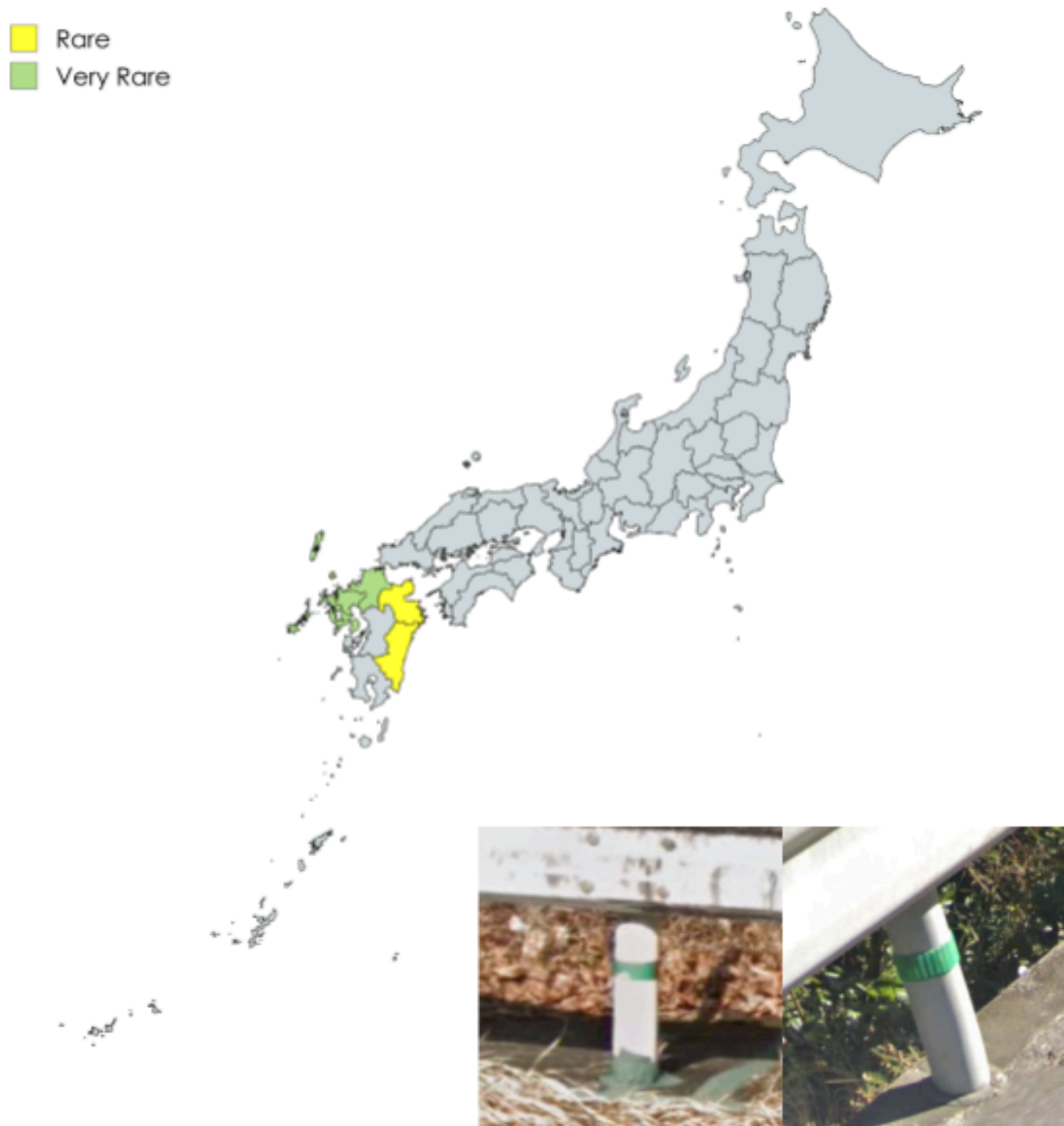
3. Red guardrail bands



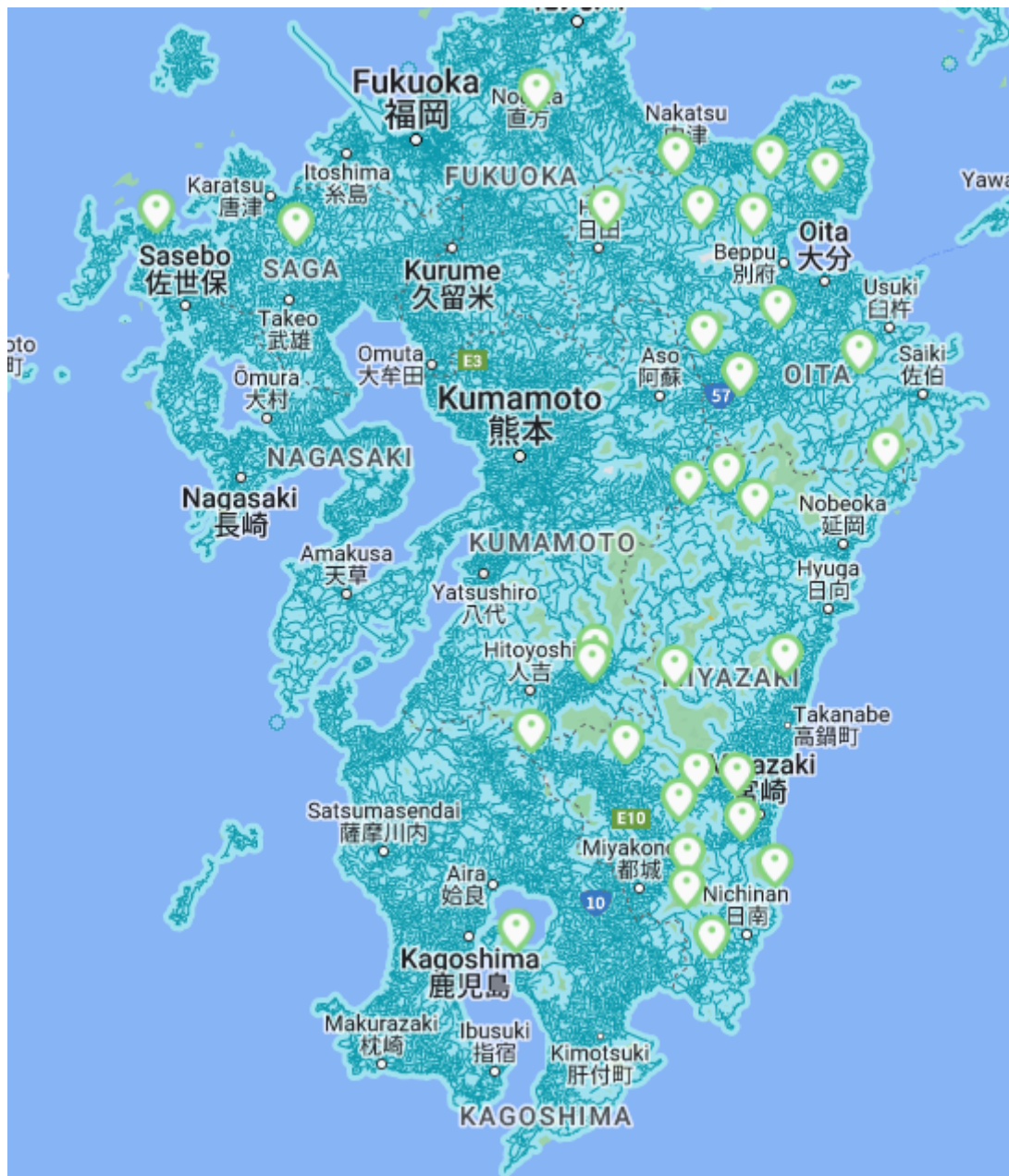
This is the red variant which is pretty useful to region guess on its own. Aichi sometimes combos thick yellow and red in an alternating pattern. I have seen this in shikoku as well only one time.



4. Green guardrail bands



The green guardrail bands are even more useful to region guess and in most games should be an easy Oita/Miyazaki send.



5. Blue guardrail bands

The blue guardrail bands are on its own very rare, so it was pretty pointless to make a map of it. That is why I will show you this screenshot by soundofsilence. The 4 dots from Wakayama to Mie are on the same road, which is the 42. Since late 2024, northern Tsushima uses thicker blue bands on the 382.



6. Yellow and white bands



This is a yellow and white band that can look like a thick yellow band but it is half yellow and half white. It appears in **Shimane, Ehime, Yamaguchi** and **Yamanashi** (on yellow and white guardrails). Mostly on national or prefectural roads. But the **Yamanashi** ones are getting removed in 2023 coverage it seems.



7. Northern Tohoku zebra wrap

This zebra-like wrap can be found on fences in northern Tohoku.

8. Kyoto red-yellow stripes



In Kyoto you can find this red-yellow stripe sticker on steel crowd barriers. They can look a lot like the shikoku stripes.