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GLOBE-TROTTER TRAVEL GUIDEBOOK www.arukikata.co.jp

2024-25

TOKYO 東京23区

23 Wards

New

Featuring recommendations both old and new!

A whole new side to Tokyo awaits!

A guide to modern Tokyo and old Edo!

Gakken

TOKYO 23 Wards

Chiyoda
Chuo
Minato
Shibuya
Shinjuku
Toshima
Bunkyo
Shinagawa
Meguro
Ota
Setagaya
Nakano
Suginami
Nerima
Itabashi
Kita
Adachi
Katsushika
Arakawa
Taito
Sumida
Koto
Edogawa

Please send us your thoughts on this English digest!

Fill out the survey and receive a special Chikyu-no-Arukikata wallpaper for your phone!

*Available until March 31, 2025.

Scan here!

https://arukikata.jp/tkyncp

【Note regarding referenced pages included in this publication】

Please note that this publication is the digest version of the original *Chikyu-no-Arukikata: TOKYO 23 Wards*. As a result, referenced pages may be inaccurate or missing from this publication.

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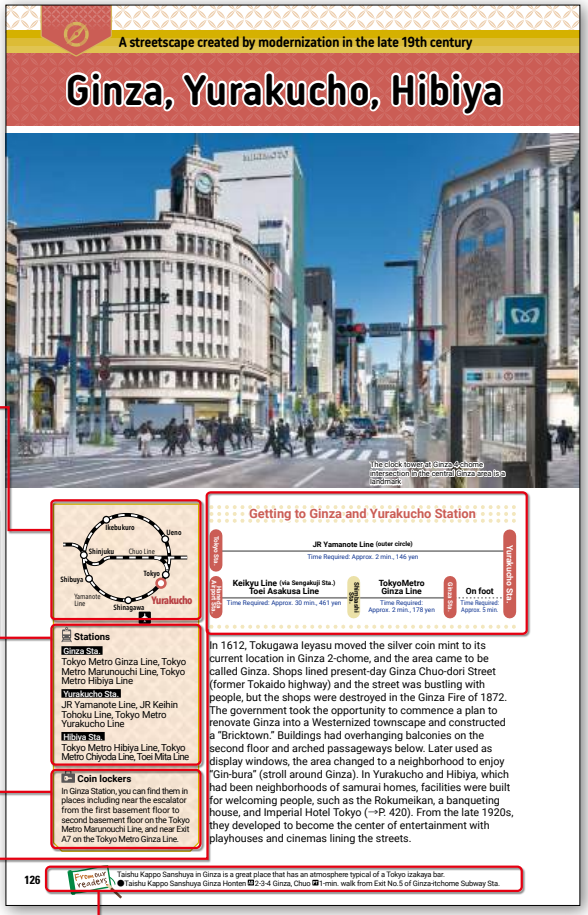
Using the Neighborhood Guides



Indicates the approximate location of the neighborhood.

Indicates the names of stations available in the neighborhood's vicinity.

This is an example of information on coin lockers available in the vicinity of stations in the neighborhood.

Indicates the route, approximate travel times, and estimated fares when traveling from Tokyo Station or Haneda Airport by train. Depending on the station, there may be multiple routes with a range of travel times and fares. Please use this data as an example only.

Reviews and insider tips from our readers.

Data Section Key

MAP Supp. P.5-A1
Shows the location on the supplement*

- AD Address
- TEL Telephone number
- TF Toll-free number
- Opening hours
- Regular closings
- FEE Entry fee for one adult
- P Parking availability
- PT Closest station and station exit when using public transportation and approximate travel time from station
- IN Check-in time
- OUT Check-out time
- NR No. of guest rooms
- URL URL (http:// or https:// is omitted)
- CC Accepted cards
  - A American Express
  - D Diners Club International
  - J JCB
  - M Mastercard
  - V Visa

*Since this publication is the digest version, there is no supplement section.

Map Key

Icons Used in This Guidebook

- Experience
- Sightseeing spot
- Dining
- Store
- Bar
- Hotel
- Tourist information
- **P.000** Page number

Convenience Stores

- 7-ELEVEN
- FamilyMart
- Lawson

Fast Food

- McDonald's
- Kentucky Fried Chicken
- MOS BURGER
- FRESHNESS BURGER

Cafés

- Doutor Coffee Shop
- Starbucks Coffee
- CAFFE VELOCE

Icons

- Prefectural office
- City office
- Accommodation
- School
- Post office
- Police station/ Police box
- Fire station
- Bank
- Temple
- Shrine
- Hospital
- Airport
- Peak
- Traffic light

Railways

- Shinkansen
- JR
- Private railway
- Subway
- Central Exit A1 Station exit

Roads

- Expressway/Toll road
- 1 National Route
- Local road

Accommodation Key

- Toilet
- Shower
- Bathtub
- Refrigerator
- Laundry facility
- Store

Accommodations shown with the toilet, shower, bathtub, and refrigerator icons provide these facilities inside guestrooms. Accommodations shown with the laundry facility and store icons provide these facilities within the building. When an accommodation provides a laundry service only, the laundry facility icon will be shown half grayed out. Accommodations shown with the store icon also include those that sell hotel souvenirs and similar.

Purpose of this Guidebook

This guidebook is aimed at travelers who want to carefully take in everything the TOKYO 23 Wards have to offer, whether on a day trip or a longer stay. Care has been taken to ensure that this guidebook is as user-friendly as possible, while also providing sufficient information for both visitors to Tokyo and residents alike to discover the city's unique appeal.

Disclaimer for Using Information in this Guidebook

While the editors of this guidebook strive to include only the most up-to-date and accurate information possible, local regulations and procedures are frequently updated, and differences in opinion concerning their interpretation may arise. We shall assume no liability whatsoever for any loss or inconvenience caused by the use of this guidebook, whether based on such grounds, or in the absence of gross negligence on our part. Further, those who use this guidebook should take full responsibility in determining whether the information and advice included herein is appropriate for their individual situation and position.

Information Compilation and Research Period

This guidebook has been created using data compiled between October 2022 and February 2023. Additional research was also conducted through May 2023. Addresses, prices, and other data herein are essentially correct as of this time. As a general rule, prices are shown with tax included. Regular closings do not include Golden Week, *Obon*, and Year-end/New Year holidays, however facilities may be closed during these periods. Further, as a general rule, hotel rates include tax and service charges, while check-in and check-out times shown are based on basic accommodation plans. These times may vary depending on plan and room type. Data is expected to change over time. Moreover, facilities may change their opening hours, etc. or close temporarily as measures against the spread of COVID-19. It is recommended that you check the latest information in advance with this in mind.

Updates and Corrections to Information After Publication

Information that has been changed or corrected after the publication of this guidebook is updated to the latest data wherever possible (this does not include changes to hotel and restaurant pricing). This updated data can be found under "Updates and Corrections" on the product page of the Arukikata website. Please make use of the information at the following link before your trip.

URL www.arukikata.co.jp/travel-support/(in Japanese)

Basic Information about Tokyo

Tokyo Crest

This was confirmed as the mark for Tokyo City at an assembly meeting in December 1889. In 1943, when Tokyo City was merged with Tokyo Prefecture to form the Tokyo Metropolis, the mark was carried over and adopted as the crest of Tokyo. The crest shows a sun at the center radiating energy in six directions. It symbolizes Tokyo as the center of Japan.

Tokyo Flag

The flag features the crest of Tokyo on a solid background of Edo purple, which was the symbolic color of Edo (the former name for Tokyo). The aspect ratio of the flag is 2:3. The flag was officially adopted on October 1, 1964, directly prior to the opening ceremony of the TOKYO 1964 Olympic Games.

Tokyo Symbol and Logo

The symbol of Tokyo is composed of three identical arcs placed together to form the letter T in Tokyo. The symbol's base color of green represents "vibrancy, growth, charm, and tranquility." The symbol was officially adopted in June 1989.

Tokyo Anthem

The creation of an anthem for Tokyo was decided in October 1946. Members of the public were invited to submit song lyrics in a public contest, with Shigehisa Harada's lyrics selected from a total of 6,532 entries. Following that, another contest was held for a melody to accompany the lyrics. Hiroshi Kasuya's work was selected for the Tokyo Anthem, which was announced in April 1947 .

Tokyo Flower: Somei-Yoshino Cherry Tree

The *Somei-yoshino* cherry tree is said to have originated by way of improvements made to the *yamazakura* (Japanese mountain cherry) species by horticulturalists living in Somei-mura, Edo (present-day Komagome, Toshima City) sometime between the Edo period (1603–1868) and early Meiji era (1868–1912). It was officially adopted as the Tokyo Flower in June 1984.

Tokyo Tree: Ginkgo Biloba

A tree selection committee set up by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government selected the three tree species of Japanese zelkova, Ginkgo biloba, and *Somei-yoshino* cherry as candidates, with the final decision put to a public vote for Tokyo residents.

The winner was officially announced on November 14, 1966.

Tokyo Bird: Yurikamome (Black-Headed Gull)

Flocks of black-headed gulls (yurikamome), with their white plumage and vermilion-colored beaks and legs, can be seen around Tokyo Bay and the Sumida and Tama rivers from late October to April. The species was officially selected as the bird of Tokyo on October 1, 1965.

Location of Tokyo Metropolitan Government Buildings

While not enshrined in law, Tokyo is the capital city of Japan. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government buildings are located in Shinjuku City.

Area of Tokyo

2194.05 square kilometers
(special-ward area, Tama area, and islands)
The special-ward area cover 627.53 square kilometers
*Taken from the "About Our City" section on the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's website
*As of January 2022

Population of Tokyo

Total population of Tokyo: 14,042,127
Population of the special-ward area: 9,722,792
*Basic resident register
*As of December 2022

Population of Japan

124,490,000
*Statistics Bureau of Japan
*As of March 2023 (approximate value)

Governor of Tokyo

Yuriko Koike (20th incumbent)
*As of June 1, 2023
The term of office for the Governor of Tokyo, the head of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, is four years. An election is held to select one person as the Governor of Tokyo from candidates all over Tokyo Metropolis, with the result decided through a vote by Tokyo's residents.

Budget of Tokyo

The total general account expenditure for fiscal 2022 was 7.801 trillion yen. Tax revenue (metropolitan tax) totaled 5.6308 trillion yen*. Tokyo's budget is 15.2 trillion yen, a figure comparable to the national budgets of Norway (18.5 trillion yen) and Sweden (14.6 trillion yen). Nationwide, the general account for fiscal 2022 was 110.3 trillion yen, while tax revenue totaled 68.35 trillion yen.
*Tokyo's budget and taxes taken from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Finance's website

Composition of TOKYO 23 Wards

23 Wards / Tama Area

Three Areas Make Up Tokyo: Special-ward Area (TOKYO 23 Wards), Tama Area, and Islands

Tokyo is generally split into the three areas: the special-ward area (23 cities, formerly Tokyo City), the Tama area (26 cities, 3 towns, and 1 village), and the islands (Izu and Ogasawara island chains).

Special-ward area (23 cities): Chiyoda, Chuo, Minato, Shinjuku, Bunkyo, Taito, Sumida, Koto, Shinagawa, Meguro, Ota, Setagaya, Shibuya, Nakano, Suginami, Toshima, Kita, Arakawa, Itabashi, Nerima, Adachi, Katsushika, Edogawa

23 Cities Grouped into Four Larger Areas

TOKYO 23 Wards (cities) are grouped into four larger areas, as follows.
Three central cities: Chiyoda, Chuo, Minato
Four sub-center cities: Shibuya, Shinjuku, Toshima, and Bunkyo
Western cities: Shinagawa, Meguro, Ota, Setagaya, Suginami, Nerima, Itabashi, Kita, Nakano
*The three cities south of the Imperial Palace (Edo Castle)—Shinagawa, Meguro, and Ota—are also collectively known as the "three Jonan ('south of the castle') area cities"
Eastern cities: Adachi, Katsushika, Arakawa, Taito, Sumida, Koto, Edogawa

TOKYO 23 Wards (cities)

Alternative Categories for the TOKYO 23 Wards (cities)

Real estate adverts and similar often divide the cities into the areas of Jonan, Johoku, Joto, and Josai. With the Imperial Palace (formerly Edo Castle) at the center, Jonan is 'south of the castle,' Johoku 'north of the castle,' Joto 'east of the castle,' and Josai 'west of the castle,' respectively. Since the Imperial Palace itself is located within Chiyoda City, the city is not included in the 22 cities categorized in the four areas above.
Meanwhile, the "X central cities" classification is used when dividing TOKYO 23 Wards into those in the city center and those surrounding the center. Chiyoda, Minato, and Chuo, which are collectively called the "three central cities," are home to many companies listed on the TSE; almost 70% are located in these three cities alone. Chiyoda, Chuo, Minato, Shibuya, Shinjuku, and Bunkyo are also grouped together as the "six central cities." This classification is used in the real estate industry to analyze data and research trends in real estate.

What are *shitamachi* and *yamanote*?

The terms *shitamachi* and *yamanote* seem to have been in use since the late 17th century, during the Edo period. However, since *shitamachi* and *yamanote* are ambiguous terms based on an area's image, the actual areas they cover vary from person to person. When the terms were first used, the *shitamachi* area included the west bank of the Sumida River from Asakusa in the north to the vicinity of Shiba in the south, with Nihonbashi, Kyobashi, and Kanda in the middle, as well as Honjo and Fukagawa on the other side of the river. This area was later extended to the Edogawa River, which flows along the border between Eastern Tokyo and Chiba Prefecture. Meanwhile, the *yamanote* area was originally limited to Hongo, Koishikawa, Ushigome, and Akasaka, which are all found within the Yamanote Line loop. However, following the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, the *yamanote* area was expanded to the newly residential areas of Nakano, Suginami, and Setagaya.

Special Days

Tokyo Citizens' Day

October 1	This day was enacted in 1952 as a day for "all Tokyo residents to enjoy together, enhancing their sense of autonomy and promoting the development of Tokyo and the welfare of its citizens." To that end, admission to zoos, botanical gardens, museums, and other facilities managed by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government is free on that day.

National Holidays

New Year's Day (January 1)	Celebrating the beginning of a new year.
Coming of Age Day (2nd Monday in January)	Celebrating and offering encouragement to young people newly entering adulthood who are trying to navigate the world on their own.
National Foundation Day (February 11)	Reflecting on the establishment of the nation and nourishing a love for the country.
Emperor's Birthday (February 23)	Celebrating the Emperor's birthday.
Vernal Equinox Day (Around March 20 to 21)	Admiring nature and respecting living creatures.
Showa Day (April 29)	Reflecting on the Showa era (1926–1989), a time of turbulence followed by recovery, and thinking about the future of the nation.
Constitution Memorial Day (May 3)	Commemorating the enforcement of the Constitution of Japan and looking forward to the nation's growth.
Greenery Day (May 4)	Getting closer to nature and showing gratitude for its many wonders to cultivate a richness of spirit.
Children's Day (May 5)	Appreciating the individualism of children and promoting their well-being, along with thanking mothers and caregivers.
Marine Day (3rd Monday in July)	Showing gratitude for the ocean's bounties and wishing for the prosperity of Japan as a maritime nation.
Mountain Day (August 11)	Taking the opportunity to get closer to mountains and appreciate the benefits they offer us.
Respect for the Aged Day (3rd Monday in September)	Showing love and respect toward elderly people, who have served society for many years, and celebrating long, healthy lives.
Autumnal Equinox Day (Around September 22 to 23)	Revering ancestors and remembering those who have passed away.
Sports Day (2nd Monday in October)	Enjoying sports, cultivating a spirit of respect for others, and hoping for the creation of a healthy and active society.
Culture Day (November 3)	Promoting culture with a love for freedom and peace.
Labor Thanksgiving Day (November 23)	Valuing people's labor and celebrating production, as well as offering the chance for citizens to thank one other for their support.

*Taken from the Cabinet Office's website
•National holidays are designated as holidays.
•If a national holiday falls on a Sunday, the closest day after the national holiday that is not a national holiday is designated as a holiday.
•If the days prior and following a certain day are national holidays, that day (limited to days that are not national holidays) is designated as a holiday.

Tokyo Peace Day

March 10

The Bombing of Tokyo (→P. 320) in the early morning of March 10, 1945, left Tokyo a burnt-out wasteland with over 100,000 lives lost in the aftermath. In July 1990, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government took an oath never to allow a repeat of the horrors of war, enacting the Tokyo Peace Day Ordinance as the capital of the peaceful nation of Japan. March 10 was established as Tokyo Peace Day.

Travel Times from Major Cities Outside the Capital

By Plane (from Regional Airports to Haneda Airport)

Sapporo (New Chitose Airport)	about 1 hr. 35 min.
Osaka (Itami Airport)	about 1 hr. 10 min.
Hiroshima (Hiroshima Airport)	about 1 hr. 25 min.
Matsuyama (Matsuyama Airport)	about 1 hr. 25 min.
Fukuoka (Fukuoka Airport)	about 1 hr. 35 min.
Kagoshima (Kagoshima Airport)	about 2 hrs.
Okinawa (Naha Airport)	about 2 hrs. 25 min.

By Shinkansen (from Regional Stations to Tokyo Station)

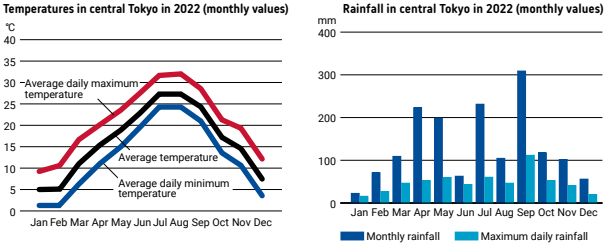
Sendai	about 1 hr. 40 min.
Niigata	about 1 hr. 40 min.
Nagoya	about 1 hr. 35 min.
Kanazawa	about 2 hrs. 30 min.
Shin-Osaka	about 2 hrs. 35 min.
Hiroshima	about 3 hrs. 55 min.
Hakata	about 4 hrs. 55 min.

▶ Driving to Tokyo →P.440

Climate of TOKYO 23 Wards

The TOKYO 23 Wards to the eastern part of the Tama area and the Izu Islands have a climate typical of the Pacific Ocean side of Japan, while the western part of the Tama area has a climate more typical to the central highland region. Located at the heart of Japan, central Tokyo has four distinct seasons, with hot and humid summers but clear skies and lots of dry days in winter. Typhoons pass over Japan around July to September, leading to marked changes in atmospheric pressure. Tokyo's climate is undergoing changes with the advancing urban heat island effect, with temperatures having risen by about 3°C over the past century. The number of tropical nights, or nights where temperatures do not drop below 25°C, has also doubled over the last 40 years. This trend is particularly apparent in central Tokyo, where temperatures in summer are extremely high not only during the daytime, but also at night. Meanwhile, the waterfront areas in the city overlooking Tokyo Bay, such as Haneda Airport, Kasai Rinkai Park, and Odaiba, experience smaller changes in temperature over the year.

Temperatures / Rainfall in Central Tokyo



*Taken from Japan Meteorological Agency climate statistics

Safety and Trouble

While Tokyo is generally considered to be a safe city, visitors should take care not to get involved in bad situations in crowded areas and at busy periods. Take precautions to avoid becoming a victim of bag-snatching or suitcase theft.
Further, public transportation authorities may implement planned shutdowns due to typhoons, torrential rains, and other natural disasters. Check the weather forecast and other weather information before your visit. Damage from earthquakes also a real possibility. It is therefore important to confirm your nearest evacuation shelter and what to do in the event of an earthquake.

Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department
TEL **03-3581-4321 (main phone number)**
URL www.keishicho.metro.tokyo.lg.jp

▶ **Safety Information**
→P. 462

Other Information

▶ **Customs and Manners**
→P.464

Smoking

Tokyo Metropolitan Ordinance to Prevent Exposure to Second-Hand Smoke
As a general rule, smoking is prohibited in restaurants in Tokyo as of April 2020. If a dedicated room has been designated for smoking cigarettes and/or e-cigarettes within a restaurant, smoking is permitted in that room only, and a sign to that effect must be posted at the entrance to the store (or facility) (restaurants must post a sign even if smoking is prohibited). Visitors should also take care if they choose to smoke outdoors, such as on the street and in parks, as this is also prohibited in certain areas of Tokyo. Some local authorities also impose fines by ordinance for smoking while walking on the street or littering cigarette butts in no-smoking zones. Cigarette smokers should be careful where and when they smoke and follow the rules in each area.

Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureaus of Social Welfare and Public Health
▶Details on the Tokyo Metropolitan Ordinance to Prevent Exposure to Second-Hand Smoke
URL www.fukushihoken.metro.tokyo.jp/kensui/tokyo/kangaekata_public.html

Shinjuku City Ordinance to Prevent Damages Caused by Littering of Cans, etc. and Smoking on the Street
This ordinance calls for an end to littering of cigarette butts, cans and bottles, drinks containers, gum, and other waste in Shinjuku City and a ban on smoking on the street. In Shinjuku City, smoking spaces have been set up in places where second-hand smoke is a concern.

Environmental Planning Section, Environmental Quality Division, Shinjuku City
▶Details on the Shinjuku City Ordinance to Prevent Damages Caused by Littering of Cans, etc. and Smoking on the Street
URL www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/content/000021032.pdf

Escalators

In Tokyo, it is customary to stand on the left side of the escalator and leave the right side open for people to walk up. However, the Japan Elevator Association has called for the prohibition of walking on escalators on the premise that "the safety standard for using escalators is to stand still on a single step."

\ A must-read for travelers and residents alike! /

Quick Guide to the TOKYO 23 Wards

The Chapter 2 Neighborhoods Guides starting on P. 125 present areas divided in a way that makes them easy to walk around, so while areas are roughly separated into cities, there may be some overlap. Having said that, it is good to refresh one's knowledge of the TOKYO 23 Wards (cities) and their individual characteristics.

Sub-Center Cities P. 192

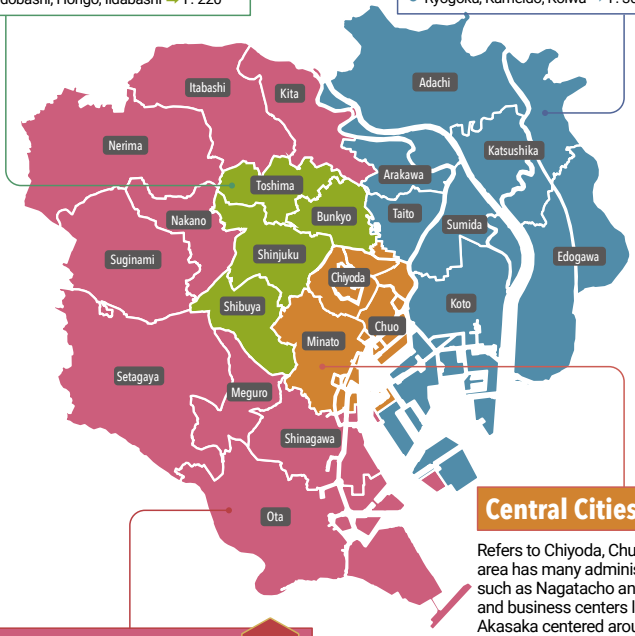
This area includes cities with huge terminal stations, such as Shinjuku, Shibuya, and Ikebukuro. The area is used by people commuting into central Tokyo for work and study, along with huge numbers of people coming from the Tokyo suburbs to enjoy the many stores, attractions, and events in Harajuku, Omotesando, and Suidobashi, where the Tokyo Dome is located.

- Shibuya, Harajuku, Omotesando ➡ P. 194
- Shinjuku, Shin-Okubo, Waseda ➡ P. 206
- Ikebukuro, Sugamo, Zoshigaya ➡ P. 212
- Suidobashi, Hongo, Iidabashi ➡ P. 220

Eastern Cities P. 268

Adachi, Katsushika, and Edogawa are close to Chiba Prefecture, with many transit passengers from Chiba and Ibaraki prefectures passing through terminal station Kita Senju located in Adachi City. Meanwhile, major tourist attractions such as TOKYO SKYTREE® in Sumida City, and Asakusa and Ueno in Taito City attract a high percentage of international tourists.

- Asakusa, Oshiage, Kuramae ➡ P. 270
- Ueno, Yushima, Yanesen ➡ P. 280
- Katsushika, Kita Senju, Nishiarai ➡ P. 292
- Ryogoku, Kameido, Koiwa ➡ P. 300



Central Cities P. 126

Refers to Chiyoda, Chuo, and Minato. This area has many administrative districts such as Nagatacho and Kasumigaseki and business centers like Marunouchi and Akasaka centered around the Imperial Palace. Marunouchi, Ginza, and Tsukiji are particularly iconic tourist spots. This section also includes some information on neighboring areas in Koto City, such as Kiyosumi Shirakawa and Odaiba.

- Marunouchi, Imperial Palace, Nagatacho ➡ P. 128
- Nihonbashi, Hatchobori, Kayabacho ➡ P. 140
- Ningyocho, Monzennakacho, Kiyosumi Shirakawa ➡ P. 148
- Ginza, Yurakucho, Hibiya ➡ P. 156
- Tsukiji, Tsukishima, Tsukudajima ➡ P. 166
- Shimbashi, Odaiba, Toyosu ➡ P. 176
- Roppongi, Azabu, Akasaka ➡ P. 186

Western Cities P. 230

In the north, Kita and Itabashi border Saitama Prefecture, while in the south, Setagaya and Ota share a border with Kanagawa Prefecture across the river. Meanwhile, Nerima, Suginami, and Setagaya sit alongside the Tama area, with some stations on the JR Chuo and Seibu lines having exits located in different cities.

- Shinagawa, Omori, Kamata ➡ P. 232
- Ebisu, Meguro, Daikanyama ➡ P. 240
- Shimokitazawa, Sangenjaya, Setagaya ➡ P. 248
- Nakano, Koenji, Nerima ➡ P. 256
- Oji, Akabane, Itabashi ➡ P. 262

Central Cities

The center of Japan and location of the Imperial Palace

Chiyoda City

Despite being the address of the National Diet Building and Tokyo Station, Chiyoda is the city with the smallest population (→P. 94). On the other hand, it also has the largest number of people commuting for work or study. Surprisingly, Akihabara also falls within Chiyoda City.

A historical town with many long-established stores

Chuo City

Dotted with numerous stores and restaurants originating in the Edo period (1603–1868), Chuo City is also a center for finance and commerce. In addition to Nihonbashi, the starting point of the Tokaido highway, there are many food-related establishments in Tsukiji and Tsukishima.

From business to entertainment

Minato City

While neighborhoods such as Akasaka and Shimbashi are well-known business districts, Roppongi and other spots offer great nightlife scenes. Takanawa and Azabu, meanwhile, are wealthy residential neighborhoods with luxury apartments that are home to the rich and famous.

Sub-Center Cities

The cutting edge of popular culture

Shibuya City

This city is primarily associated with the neighborhoods of Shibuya and Harajuku, but it also has many peaceful ones with specialist stores and fashionable bistros, including Omotesando, Ebisu, and Hiroo.

A melting pot of diverse elements

Shinjuku City

With skyscrapers grouped together at subcenters around the Tokyo Metropolitan Government buildings, as well as neighborhoods such as Kabukicho in Shinjuku, an urban atmosphere permeates throughout the city. However, another aspect is the atmospheric neighborhoods such as Kagurazaka.

Numerous *shitamachi* areas for old and young alike

Toshima City

Toshima City covers all demographics: from Minami-Nagasaki, where the titans of the manga world once gathered, and Otome Road in Ikebukuro, which is lined with anime-related stores aimed at young women, to Sugamo, the Harajuku for grandmas.

The ultimate academic city

Bunkyo City

Home to higher educational institutions such as the University of Tokyo and major publishing houses, the city was also where the literati once lived. As the name "bunkyo," a homonym of the word 'education' in Japanese, suggests, this truly is an academic city.

Western Cities

A post town on the Tokaido highway was once located here

Shinagawa City

This area has long flourished as a hub for transportation and trade, with waterfront areas lined with skyscrapers and districts such as Ebara, where shopping arcades blend into the neighborhood. Interestingly, Shinagawa Station is in Minato City, while Meguro Station is in Shinagawa City.

The largest population of the TOKYO 23 Wards

Setagaya City

Setagaya has entertainment districts that embrace subcultures like Shimokitazawa and Sangenjaya, but it also encompasses quiet residential neighborhoods like Den-en-chofu and Seijo, which are home to the wealthy, along with family-friendly ones such as Futako-tamagawa.

Produce and anime and the Seibu Line and...

Nerima City

Nerima has lots of farmland, and its daikon radish is a local specialty. The city offers visitors a tranquil atmosphere. It is also the birthplace of Japanese anime, with anime production companies located all over. Head in and out of central Tokyo via the Seibu Ikebukuro and Shinjuku lines.

Urban yet sophisticated and a great place to live

Meguro City

Served by three Tokyu railway lines, the fashionable residential neighborhoods of Nakameguro, Toritsu-daigaku, and Jiyugaoka are desirable places where people want to live. The city also has many small and cozy cafés and stores.

A unique town where enthusiasts of all stripes flock

Nakano City

While only located five minutes from Shinjuku on the Chuo Line, the lower rents make Nakano a great place for people who live alone. The city also attracts fans of various subcultures. The city also has excellent transport links, served by both the Seibu Shinjuku and Marunouchi lines.

An advanced place for medical care with plenty of hospitals

Itabashi City

Between Nerima and Kita lies Itabashi City. Its residential towns include Narimasu, which is directly connected to Ikebukuro by train. Another good point is that Itabashi has the highest number of hospital beds of the TOKYO 23 Wards. Nishi-takashimadaira Station, the final stop on the Toei Mita Line, is also in Itabashi.

The location of Haneda Airport, the gateway to Tokyo

Ota City

Ota City has the largest area of the TOKYO 23 Wards due to the space needed for Haneda Airport. The city greatly differs from the other end to the other: while the eastern side, including Kamata, is taken up by an industrial district, one part of the affluent residential neighborhood of Den-en-chofu can be found within Ota City.

A residential city full of greenery

Suginami City

Notwithstanding its chaotic charm, with Koenji, the cool place to live for many comedians and musicians and known for its famous Awa Dance Festival, and Asagaya, whose station front is crowded with drinking spots, Suginami is home to a wide demographic from younger people to families.

Hugely convenient with the largest number of JR stations

Kita City

One of the high points of Kita City is its convenient access to the city center, with the city served by a number of JR stations including Akabane, Oji, Tabata, and Jujo. Industrialist Eiichi Shibusawa (1840–1931) settled in Kita City at once time. The city is also the birthplace of the Western-style papermaking industry.

Eastern Cities

The starting point of highways surrounded by rivers

Adachi City

Formerly a post town along the Oshu and Nikko highways, Kita Senju still serves as a connection point for people living in Chiba and Ibaraki prefectures as a station on the Tsukuba Express and JR Joban lines.

Enjoy the heartwarming Sakura Tram

Arakawa City

The Toden Arakawa Line (Sakura Tram) runs east to west, with the city also featuring another retro landmark, Arakawa Amusement Park. In the north, visitors will find the Sumida and Arakawa rivers, along with settings imbued with the traditional atmosphere of *shitamachi*.

Tokyo landmarks can be found all over

Sumida City

Full of vintage shopping arcades, public bathhouses, and other long-established stores from the good old days, the city is also where visitors can find symbols both old and new: the sacred site of sumo tournaments at Kokugikan Arena alongside the brand-new TOKYO SKYTREE®. Meanwhile, fireworks displays originated in Ryogoku.

Tora-san and Ryo-san are the top two favorites

Katsushika City

Tora-san and Ryo-san are such famous characters that they are the first thing people think of when they hear the word "Katsushika." Shibamata, a highlight of Katsushika City and the favorite haunt of Tora-san in the movie series *Otoko wa Tsurai yo*, was designated an Important Cultural Landscape of Japan.

Features major tourist attractions

Taito City

The two major neighborhoods in Taito City are Asakusa, which has flourished as a tourist spot since the Edo period, and Ueno, which served as a transportation hub. The city often welcomes lively crowds of tourists with its many ancient and traditional ceremonies and events.

A water town with canals flowing throughout

Koto City

Koto City covers a large and varied area, with old-fashioned neighborhoods like Kiyosumi Shirakawa and Monzennakacho in the north, and waterfront areas including Toyosu Market and a part of Odaiba in the south.

The giant Ferris wheel is a symbolic presence

Edogawa City

Edogawa is long and narrow, bordered on both sides by the Arakawa and Edogawa rivers. The city has great transport access, with Koiwa in the north and Kasai Rinkai Park in the southernmost part served by the JR Sobu Line, Tokyo Metro Tozai Line, Toei Shinjuku Line, and others.

Jam-packed with brand-new, eye-catching stores and facilities!

The Latest & Hottest Info on the TOKYO 23 Wards

Complexes for shopping, dining, and entertainment are popping up all over!

Opened in April 2023

Entertainment facilities for "pursuing your favorite things"

Tokyu Kabukicho Tower

This roughly 225-meter tall skyscraper is 48 floors high and five floors deep, housing restaurants such as Shinjuku Kabuki Hall – Kabuki Yokocho, the 109CINEMAS PREMIUM SHINJUKU movie theater, the Zepp Shinjuku (TOKYO) live music hall, two hotels, a theater, and more. The exterior was designed to look like a fountain.

MAP Supp. P. 34-A2 Shinjuku

AD 1-29-1 Kabukicho, Shinjuku ◔ Depends on the facility ✕ Depends on the facility PT 1-min. walk from the Front Exit of Seibu-Shinjuku Sta. on the Seibu Shinjuku Line

Hotel

The tower is home to two luxury hotels: BELLUSTAR TOKYO, A Pan Pacific Hotel and HOTEL GROOVE SHINJUKU, A PARKROYAL Hotel.

Bar

For nighttime drinks and entertainment, head over to ZEROTOKYO, located in BELLUSTAR TOKYO, A Pan Pacific Hotel.

Theater

THEATER MILANO-Za takes on the mantle of Shinjuku MILANO-Za, featuring theatrical hits.

Setagaya Daita is leveling up

Opened in January 2023

nakahara-sou

All eyes are on Setagaya Daita. Shimokitazawa is within walking distance too!

This compact complex was designed and planned by UDS, the design firm behind ONSEN RYOKAN YUEN SHINJUKU (→P. 434). Inside, you'll find a wood-fire restaurant and a snazzy cocktail bar.

MAP Supp. P. 50-A2 Setagaya Daita

AD 5-10-7 Daita, Setagaya ◔ Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT 3-min. walk from Setagaya-Daita Sta. on the Odakyu Line

A renovated complex

Opened in March 2023

PAPILLON BLDG.

It was designed to revitalize the communities in Sunshine City and the larger Ikebukuro area

This new hub in Ikebukuro is managed by Sunshine City, and features a pub (appropriately named "PUB") that serves craft beers and an event space called "GARDEN."

MAP Supp. P. 37-A3 Ikebukuro

AD 1-4-4 Higashi-ikebukuro, Toshima TEL 090-3131-0144 (main phone number) ◔ 11:30 AM–11:00 PM ✕ No regular closings PT 2-min. walk from the East Exit of JR Ikebukuro Sta.

❶

Opened in March 2023

Check out all the tenants setting up shop

Tokyo Midtown Yaesu

This large-scale complex houses a B1F–3F retail zone with a myriad of stores new to Tokyo; Yaesu Public, a three-zone public space; Bulgari Hotel Tokyo, which opened in April 2023; and more! You can even get on and off express buses at the new Bus Terminal Tokyo Yaesu on the B2F level.

MAP Supp. P. 20-B2 Yaesu

AD 2-2-1 Yaesu, Chuo TEL 03-6225-2234 (Tokyo Midtown Yaesu Call Center: 11:00 AM–7:00 PM) Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT Directly linked underground to JR Tokyo Sta. via the Yaesu Shopping Mall (Yaechika)

❷

❸

❶Two floors deep and 45 floors high
❷A total of 57 flagship businesses and commercial facilities
❸ALLSTANDS, a standing bar

Marvel at the design

Left: The entrance features HOSOO textiles

Right: The elevator hall's walls were plastered by a master artisan

Coming Soon **Opened on June 16, 2023**

Two large entertainment facilities

A museum without a map

MORI Building DIGITAL ART MUSEUM: teamLab Borderless

After closing in August 2022, Odaiba's teamLab Borderless will move to a new location for a fresh start. It will be located in Azabudai Hills, which is expected to finish construction and open for business in 2023. Their new museum will allow you to "wander, explore, and discover in one continuous borderless world" like never before.

AD 1-2-4 Azabudai, Minato ✕ FEE TBA PT Directly linked to subway Kamiyacho Sta. and Roppongi-itchome Sta.

teamLab Borderless at Azabudai Hills, Tokyo © teamLab

Debuting in the former Toshimaen amusement park

Warner Bros. Studio Tour Tokyo The Making of Harry Potter

Go behind the scenes of the Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts films to learn about how they were produced and have fun on various sets. The image above is a rendering of the entrance.

AD 1-1-7 Kasugacho, Nerima Check the website (depends on the season) ✕ Check the website FEE 6,300 yen; 5,200 yen for junior high and high school students; and 3,800 yen for children ages 4-6 and elementary school students (advance reservations required) PT 2-min. walk from Toshimaen Sta. on the Seibu Toshima and Toei Oedo Lines

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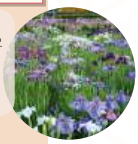
Enjoy the four seasons in Tokyo!

TOKYO 23 Wards Event Calendar

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Early	**Hakone Ekiden** A long-distance relay race between universities over the course of two days (January 2 and 3)			**Gishisai** A festival held twice a year at Sengakuji Temple (→P. 234) in honor of the 47 *ronin* (masterless samurai) from Ako who were laid to rest there (the winter festival is held on December 14, the date of the incident)		
	Torikoe Jinja Shrine's Tondo-yaki A traditional event to bid farewell to the Toshigami, the Shinto deity of the New Year, after welcoming them in for the New Year. On January 8, New Year's decorations are brought to the shrine and burned. Coming into contact with the flames or smoke is said to bring a year's worth of good health				**Meiji Jingu Shrine's Spring Grand Festival** A special stage is set up before the gods, featuring *bugaku* (court dances and music), *noh* and *kyogen* theater, Satsuma *biwa* (Japanese lute) performances, and more	
		Tokyo International Gift Show Japan's largest international trade fair for personal gifts and daily necessities. Held twice a year in February and September				**Torikoe Jinja Shrine's Torikoe Festival** An annual festival held at Torikoe Jinja Shrine with about 1,360 years of history
		Inari Jinja Shrine's Hatsuuma-sai A festival held at Inari Jinja Shrine on the first day of the horse every year			**Kanda Myojin Shrine's Kanda Festival** One of the three great festivals of Edo, held every year at Kanda Myojin Shrine (→P. 222)	
		Sensoji Temple's Dance of the Seven Lucky Gods *Kyogen* theater is reenacted at the Setsubun-e Celebration as an offering in praise of the virtuous deeds of Kannon, the bodhisattva of mercy				
	◀ The Setagaya Boro-ichi flea market held on the 15th and 16th of December and January		**Tokyo Marathon** A marathon sporting event held in Tokyo that was first run in 2007			
				Ikegami Honmonji Temple Spring Festival Features concerts, Ikegami *taiko* drum performances, local merchants' association events, and more		
Mid	**Setagaya Boro-ichi** A flea market that has been held since 1578 (→P. 84). Designated an Intangible Folk Cultural Property of Tokyo and features roughly 700 stalls selling the market's renowned *daikan mochi* rice cakes, antiques, and more (held on the 15th and 16th of December and January)			**Waseda-Keio Regatta** A boat race held on the Sumida River between the rowing clubs of Waseda University and Keio University with over 100 years of history		
					Sanja Festival An annual festival held at Asakusa Jinja Shrine (→P. 277). Features the Shinji Binzasara-mai, a dance that was designated an Intangible Cultural Property of Tokyo	
	Furusato Matsuri Tokyo An annual event held at the Tokyo Dome where Japanese festivals and regional cuisine from across Japan collide					**International Tokyo Toy Show** A toy exhibition hosted by the Japan Toy Association every year around June and July
		International Hotel & Restaurant Show A trade-only expo for hospitality and food services hosted by the Japan Management Association (JMA)				**Sanno Festival** One of the three great festivals of Edo, held every year at Hie Jinja Shrine (→P. 191)
	Kanda Myojin Shrine's Daikoku Festival A Shinto priest dressed up as Daikoku, the god of wealth, shakes a lucky mallet over the heads of those who have just come of age to purify them		**Tokyo Girls Collection** An annual Japanese fashion event started in 2005			**Namiyoke Jinja Shrine's Tsukiji Lion Dance Festival** An annual event held at Tsukiji's Namiyoke Jinja Shrine (→P. 169). The main festival is held once every three years
				Yoyogi Park Earth Day Tokyo A festival celebrating Earth Day, an occasion to think about our planet and to take action, featuring NGO and NPO booths		
	1 Plum blossom festivals Around February, Japanese plum blossoms slowly come into bloom. Tokyo has several plum blossom festivals, such as those held at the Mukojima-Hyakkaen Gardens (→P. 275), Yushima Tenmangu Shrine (→P. 288), and Kameido Tenjin Shrine (→P. 302)					
					3 Spring Rose Festival Held at the Kyu-Furukawa Gardens (→P. 289), which retain their original early Taisho-era (1912–1926) style	
Late	**Usokae Shinji (Bullfinch Exchange)** A festival held annually in January to pray for good luck and fortune. Held at shrines such as Kameido Tenjin Shrine (→P. 302) and Yushima Tenmangu Shrine (→P. 288)			**Confucius Festival (Sekiten)** A festival held on the 4th Sunday of April at Yushima Seido Temple (→P. 328). Offerings of sake and vegetables are made to honor Confucius and his teachings		
					Game Market A Tokyo-based convention for "analog games" (tabletop, board, etc.) held in spring and fall	
			Tokyo Motorcycle Show One of Japan's largest trade shows for motorcycles and motorcycle parts, held annually over three days			
				Yasukuni Jinja Shrine's Annual Spring Rites Ritual performances, a special exhibition of flower offerings, and more are held on the shrine grounds during the Rites		
	2 Kameido Tenjin Shrine Wisteria Festival One of the best places in Tokyo to see wisterias, with 15 trellises featuring roughly 50 bunches of them on the shrine grounds. They bloom from April to May				**4 Katsushika Iris Festival** At Horikiri Shobuen Iris Garden (→P. 294), which is a Famous Spot of Edo, and Mizumoto Park (→P. 294), the irises reach full bloom, and there are events too	
			Tokyo Big Sight's AnimeJapan An anime festival in which many anime production companies participate to spread anime throughout Japan and the rest of the world			

Tokyo is jam-packed with events all year round, from Shinto rituals steeped in ancient traditions to seasonal flower festivals and expos for anime fans and gamers! Check this calendar alongside the Events feature that starts on P. 334.

July

Iriya Morning Glory Festival (Morning Glory Market) — An annual three-day morning glory market held at Iriya's Kishimojin (Shingenji Temple) on July 6, 7, and 8

Japanese Lantern Plant Fair — Held on July 9 and 10 and features roughly 100 stalls selling Japanese lantern plants on the grounds of Sensoji Temple (→P. 277)

Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple Bon Odori Festival — One of Tokyo's biggest *bon odori* festivals, held for four days starting from the last Wednesday of July or the first Wednesday of August

Sumiyoshi Jinja Shrine's Tsukuda Festival — An annual festival held at Sumiyoshi Jinja Shrine, which has been venerated for over 400 years. The main festival is held once every three years

Edogawa City Fireworks Festival — One of Tokyo's two biggest fireworks festivals. Held every year on the 1st Saturday of August (→P. 336)

Jingu Gaien Fireworks Festival — Held in Meiji Jingu Gaien, a park in the heart of Tokyo

▲The Edogawa City Fireworks Festival is held by the Edogawa River

August

Nishiarai Daishi Temple's Wind Chime Festival — An event where tons of wind chimes from across Japan are brought together, displayed, and sold

Tomioka Hachimangu Shrine Festival — One of the three great festivals of Edo, also known as the Fukagawa Hachiman Festival

Kasai Rinkai Park Summer Festival — Tropical vibes are in the air at this festival held in Kasai Rinkai Park (→P. 304)

Shiba Daijingu Shrine's Daradara Festival — The longest festival in Japan, celebrated for 10 straight days

Tokyo Yosakoi (Fukuro Festival) — A joint event held alongside the Fukuro Festival in Ikebukuro in September and October, featuring dances, bands, and more

Asakusa Samba Carnival — A samba parade and contest held in Asakusa

▼Gorgeous dancers at the Asakusa Samba Carnival

Edogawa Local Goldfish Festival — An event held in Edogawa City's Gyosen Park with stalls exhibiting and selling goldfish, as well as goldfish scooping games

Sumida River Fireworks Festival — One of Tokyo's two biggest fireworks festivals, held annually on the last Saturday of July

Shinjuku Eisa Festival — A famous traditional Okinawan event that has become a staple of summer in Shinjuku

Odaiba Summer Festival — Held for two days at Odaiba Rainbow Park

▲The Shinjuku Eisa Festival held around Shinjuku

Shinagawa Shukuba Festival — A procession of people dressed in Edo-period clothing that passes through the former Tokaido highway's Shinagawa post station

September

Hibiya Park Gardening Show — Showcases winning gardening contest works from pro and amateur gardeners alike

Oedo Mikoshi Festival — A blast to Tokyo's past in Kiba Park, based around *mikoshi* portable shrines and the *shitamachi*

Jingu Gaien Ginkgo Festival — Held from around mid-November to early December in line with ginkgo season. Features food stalls

▶Beautiful ginkgo trees in Meiji Jingu Gaien

Sensoji Temple's Hagoita Fair — A year-end staple with rows of decorative *hagoita* (wooden paddle) stalls on the temple grounds

Tokyo Michiterasu — Light-up displays encircle the Marunouchi area, the gateway to Tokyo, spreading holiday cheer

◀Scour the secondhand bookstores scattered around Jimbocho Station for rare books!

Kanda Used Book Festival — The bookstores and bookshelves lining Yasukuni-dori Ave. form a "corridor of books," a sight you can only see in fall

International Robot Exhibition — One of the largest robot trade shows in the world

Comic Market — One of the world's largest *dojinshi* (self-published work) conventions, popularly known as Comiket and held at Tokyo Big Sight in August and December

October

Tokyo Citizens' Day — October 1

Meiji Jingu Shrine's Festival to Thank Dolls — A festival to give thanks to our beloved dolls and offer them to Meiji Jingu Shrine

Tori-no-ichi Fair — A festival held annually on November's days of the rooster. Asakusa's Otori Jinja Shrine (→P. 279), the birthplace of the event, and shrines such as Hanazono Jinja Shrine (→P. 208) and Meguro City's Otori Jinja Shrine (→P. 245) become crowded with people

November

December

Nihonbashi-Kyobashi Festival — Includes Chuo-dori Street's Oedo Kakki Parade, which features traditional dances from across Japan

Tokyo International Film Festival — A festival featuring a line-up of movies from around the world, spanning various genres and including new works too

*Event periods may vary from year to year.

Flower festivals and events galore!

Tour the Four Seasons in Tokyo

Here are some seasonal events and flower-viewing spots that breathe life into Tokyo. Start planning here alongside the Event Calendar (→ P. 16) and Seasons for Traveling (→ P. 452).

Cherry blossoms along the Chidori-ga-fuchi Greenway →P. 129

Spring

First things first—check when cherry blossom season starts and where to see them. The roughly 700-meter long Chidori-ga-fuchi Greenway promenade is a great place to start, as well as places like Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden (→P. 208) and Yoyogi Park (→P. 202). The flower festivals held at various temples and shrines are also worth seeing. While the heart of Tokyo has a relatively mild climate, it can get pretty chilly at night, so make sure to have a coat with you.

- Cherry blossom season: Early March–early April
- Flower festivals: The Bunkyo Azalea Festival (April), the Kameido Tenjin Shrine Wisteria Festival (April–May), and more

Roses at the Kyu-Furukawa Gardens →P. 289

Rapeseed flowers at the Hama-rikyu Gardens →P. 168

Tokyo Koenji Awa-Odori →P. 337

Summer

Tokyo summers are hot. Looking over Tokyo's nightscape from a rooftop bar or beer garden with a drink in hand is a classy memory from your travels you won't forget. Summer is the season of festivals, with a myriad of events that scream Tokyo like the Sumida River Fireworks Festival (→P. 336), and you can bet they'll be packed. Make sure to get any public transportation and accommodation arrangements sorted out ahead of time. Check out the *noryo* (cooling-down) events held by various neighborhood associations.

- Festivals: Sensoji Temple's Japanese Lantern Plant Fair (July 9–10), the Iriya Morning Glory Festival (early July), and more
- Fireworks festivals: The Sumida River Fireworks Festival (last Saturday of July), the Edogawa City Fireworks Festival (first Saturday of August), and more

Edogawa City Fireworks Festival →P. 336

Ginkgo trees lined up at Meiji Jingu Gaien

Even though the Meiji Jingu Gaien redevelopment project will shake things up, the rows of ginkgo trees in fall will remain a sight to see! You might catch people taking pictures in the middle of the road on rare occasions, but please follow the rules and don't copy them!

MAP Supp. P. 28-A1 Aoyama
AD Near 2 Kita-aoyama, Minato
PT 5-min. walk from Exit 1 of Aoyama-itchome Subway Sta.

Hanazono Jinja Shrine's Tori-no-ichi Fair →P. 208

Light-up of the fall foliage at the Rikugien Gardens →P. 331

Fall

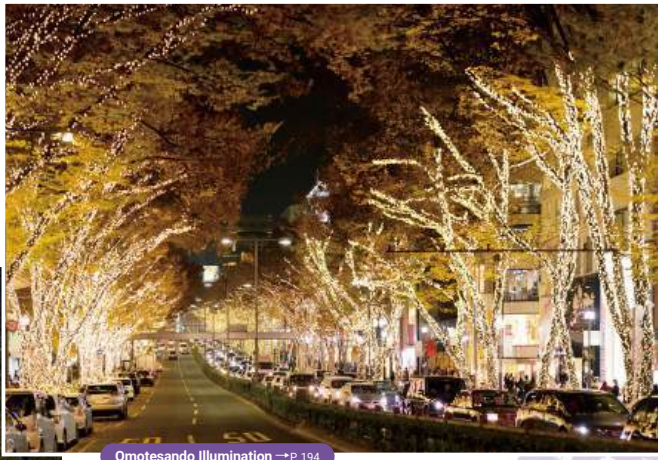
The fall colors of famous, beautiful gardens like the Rikugien Gardens and Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens (→P. 228) approach their peak beauty. Tori-no-ichi fairs and chrysanthemum festivals are held just about everywhere, so why not tour some of them? In recent years, Halloween season has been the talk of the town. While many people will be in costume around Shibuya Scramble Crossing (→P. 196), it's good to be on your best behavior. September and October often retain the heat of summer, but once November comes around, the city suddenly switches into winter mode.

- Fall foliage season: Mid-November–early December
- Flower festivals: The Jingu Gaien Ginkgo Festival (mid-November–early December) and chrysanthemum festivals such as those at Meiji Jingu Shrine and Kameido Tenjin Shrine (late October–November)

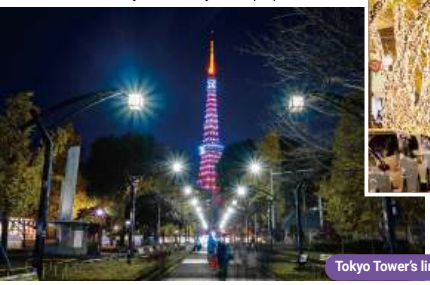
Meiji Jingu Shrine's Chrysanthemum Festival →P. 204

Winter

Starting around the latter half of November, stunning light-up displays emerge, shops and restaurants sparkle with decorations, and the areas around Omotesando, Roppongi, and Marunouchi become hotspots for couples. After those wrap up, the year-end and New Year holidays roll around. On December 31, many people queue up outside Kanda Yabu Soba (→P. 32) for *toshikoshi* soba noodles to usher in the New Year. Big temples and shrines become crowded with *hatsumode* goers looking to make their first prayers for the New Year. Snowfall is possible from January to February, so be prepared!



Omotesando Illumination →P. 194



Tokyo Tower's limited illumination →P. 54

- Main light-ups: Roppongi Hills (→P. 189), Tokyo Midtown (→P. 189), Yebisu Garden Place (→P. 242), and more

Get the most out of the TOKYO 23 Wards
Multi-Day & One-Day Trip Itineraries

Here are our editors' top picks from their visits and research. Use the travel times as a general guide.

Itinerary A
3 day, 2 nights

You can't miss these spots in the TOKYO 23 Wards!

Cover all the must-see spots

This is the perfect itinerary for first-time visitors who have yet to check out all the famous spots and unexpectedly old stores in Tokyo.

START

Day 1

11:00 AM **Explore the park and various facilities in Ueno**

Various facilities are scattered throughout Ueno Park, including the National Museum of Nature and Science (→P. 283), the Tokyo National Museum (→P. 283), and the National Museum of Western Art (→P. 283). Ueno Seiyoken (→P. 51) is also a good place to have lunch in the park.

Ueno Park→P. 282
Ueno Zoological Gardens→P. 282

+ 17 min.

12:30 PM **Experience Edomae sushi at Bentenyama Miyako Sushi**

Have a leisurely lunch at a restaurant considered one of the pioneers of Edomae sushi. To get the most out of the experience, sit at the counter to chat with and watch the 5th and 6th owner/chefs at work. Relaxing with a lunchtime drink is the perfect way to kick off your trip.

Bentenyama Miyako Sushi→P. 28

5 min.

2:00 PM **Visit Sensoji Temple and browse Nakamise Shopping Street**

This is one of the most iconic sightseeing spots in Tokyo. Walking from Kappabashi Dougu Street®, you will arrive at Sensoji Temple first. The precincts are large, with many things to see. While you're there, also pay a visit to Asakusa Jinja Shrine (→P. 278). Don't forget to try Japanese sweets along the Nakamise Shopping Street.

Sensoji Temple→P. 277
Nakamise Shopping Street→P. 62

7 min.

3:30 PM **Pick up useful items at Kappabashi Dougu Street®**

When your stomach's full, head toward Kappabashi. This shopping district offers the best selection of cooking utensils in Japan. Check out the plethora of kitchen gadgets, accessories, and miscellaneous items. If there's time, making food samples is another fun activity.

Kappabashi Dougu Street®→P. 394

12 min.

5:30 PM **Take an early dinner with tempura at Sansada**

After walking from Asakusa's Nakamise Shopping Street to the Kaminarimon Gate, it's about time for an early dinner. Indulge in tempura and *tendon* (tempura rice bowls) fried in sesame oil at Japan's oldest tempura restaurant. Takeout is available, so you can take food back to your hotel room to eat if you're tired.

Sansada→P. 30

7 min.

Beautifully lit up at night!

7:00 PM

Gaze at the Tokyo nightscape from the Sumida River Walk

The River Walk is situated beneath the TOBU SKYTREE Line bridge, spanning the Sumida River. The lights illuminating TOKYO SKYTREE® are visible from the Asakusa side—try to time a photo of it with a passing train. Depending on the time of day, *yakatabune* boats may also be passing by.

Sumida River Walk→P. 86

+ 25 min.

8:30 PM

Check in to The Tokyo Station Hotel

Head to the hotel after a full day of sightseeing in Tokyo. The hotel is conveniently linked to the Marunouchi South Exit of Tokyo Station, making it a breeze to venture out again the following day. If you have time, explore the station building and see the domed ceilings.

The Tokyo Station Hotel→P. 422

+ Bonus stop

Grab a drink in the hotel at Bar & Café Camellia

If you want to stay out a little longer, Camellia is the place to go for a sophisticated evening. The bar serves innovative cocktails, and counter seating makes it easy to use for solo visitors. You can also drop by during the day, when the café offers a variety of food items, including afternoon tea.

Day 2

10:00 AM

Join the Hato Bus Tokyo Panorama Drive tour to view central landmarks

Start the day with a bus tour that allows you to quickly and easily see the main landmarks. The tour covers the National Diet Building, Tokyo Tower, Rainbow Bridge, Toyosu Market, and Ginza–Marunouchi, helping you find your way around the city center. Take plenty of pictures.

Hato Bus Tokyo Panorama Drive→P. 116

+ 15 min.

11:30 AM

Delight in a lavish sukiyaki lunch at Iseju

Head to yet another long-standing restaurant founded in 1869. Top-quality Japanese Black Wagyu is used in Iseju's classic beef sukiyaki. The "light sukiyaki set" offers a smaller portion of meat and vegetables in case you're not too hungry. All seats are in private rooms, which is ideal for family travel.

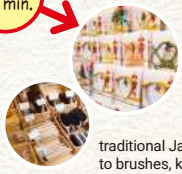
Iseju→P. 355

Tender, melting beef!

20 min.

1:30 PM

Shopping in Nihonbashi at centuries-old stores



Entering the second half of the trip, it's about time to pick out some souvenirs. Browse the many famous stores in the Nihonbashi area. There are stores offering everything from traditional Japanese sweets and paper crafts to brushes, knives, and brooms.

Eitaro Sohonpo Nihonbashi Main Store→P. 384
Haibara→P. 389 | Edoya→P. 388

Load up on the spoils ♪

10 min.

+ Bonus stop

Temples and shrines in Tokyo to improve your financial fortune!

Near the Currency Museum, we recommend visiting the Kabutocho area, Tokyo's equivalent of Wall Street, which is home to Koami Jinja (→P. 145), a shrine famous for its money-washing well. Also visit Gotokuji Temple (→P. 250), where there are tons of *maneki neko*, beckoning cat statutes said to bring good business, and Yoyogi Hachimangu Shrine (→P. 202), whose precincts include the Shusse Inari Shrine.

3:30 PM

Tour the Currency Museum in the Kabutocho financial district

+ 13 min.

Even though we use money on a daily basis, most of us know surprisingly little about it. This museum offers a fun-filled experience: learn about history, see actual gold coins (Oban) minted by the Edo-period Tokugawa Shogunate (1603–1868), and experience anti-counterfeiting technology.

Currency Museum→P. 147

6:00 PM

Enjoy dishes from Rengatei, a *yoshoku* pioneer

This is the go-to place for *yoshoku* (Western-style Japanese food) in Tokyo! Rengatei is considered the birthplace of such genre staples as *omurice* (rice omelet), *ebi fry* (fried shrimp), and *kaki fry* (fried oysters). Literary giant Shotaro Ikenami also famously visited the restaurant. It's best to go early to avoid peak hours, as no reservations are accepted.

Rengatei→P. 50, P. 347

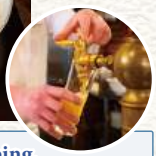
7:00 PM

Venture into the Lion, Japan's oldest existing beer hall!

6 min.

Beer Hall Lion Ginza 7-chome is another spot you'll want to visit. A gold-rimmed glass of Sapporo Premium Black Beer on tap, served by experienced staff, goes down smooth and is easy to drink, even for people who don't like beer. Also note the beer-themed interior.

Beer Hall Lion Ginza 7-chome→P. 416



+ Bonus stop

If you're bar hopping, make a stop at Bar Lupin

Novelist Osamu Dazai is known to have frequented this hidden bar nestled in the backstreets of Ginza. It's now a popular stop for fans of the anime *Bungo Stray Dogs*, so be sure to allow plenty of time for your visit. Osamu Dazai is said to have sat at the furthest seat at the bar.

Bar Lupin→P. 413

More Recommended Stops

Visiting the birthplaces of certain foods and products, featured in sections of this guidebook such as "Pioneering Foods" (→P. 346) and "Oldest in Tokyo" (→P. 380, 400, 416), is one of the themes of this trip. The Pioneering Foods feature showcases breads and sweets such as curry bread and *kuzumochi*. The "Oldest in Tokyo" columns introduce places such as the *dagashiya* (cheap snacks shop) in the Kishimojin Temple and a bento catering shop.

Day 3

10:00 AM Search for used book treasures in Kanda Book Town

The book town in Jimbocho, Kanda, is crammed with specialty bookstores representing various genres and themes. Dive into your special interest or find rare and valuable books to display. The used book market, typically held in October, is also worth visiting.

Kanda Book Town→P. 66

🚃 + 🚶 20 min.

12:00 PM Savor the curry at Restaurant & Cafe Manna by Shinjuku Nakamuraya

How about curry for lunch on the last day? Created in 1927, Manna's Pure Indian curry has 20 kinds of spices, chunky meat on the bone, and chutney. Also have a look at Sweets & Delica Bonna on the shopping floor.

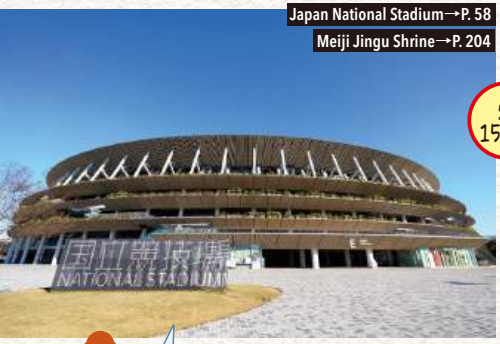
Restaurant & Cafe "Manna" by Shinjuku Nakamuraya→P. 370

🚃 + 🚶 22 min.

1:30 PM Stroll past the National Stadium and Meiji Jingu Shrine on the way to Shibuya

Get off the JR Sobu Line at Sendagaya Station and head for the Japan National Stadium. If you're lucky, you may be able to go inside, but just seeing the outside of the stadium and the 2020 and 1964 Olympic cauldrons is worth it. It's a 30-minute walk to Meiji Jingu Shrine, so it may helpful to take the train or use a bike share.

Japan National Stadium→P. 58
Meiji Jingu Shrine→P. 204



🚶 15 min.

GOAL

3:00 PM Reflect on the highlights of the trip at Lion Cafe

Take a break from walking at a café. For solo travelers, we especially recommend Meikyoku Kissa Lion, where private conversations are prohibited. Enjoy a cup of coffee while listening to the classical music playing on the speakers. JR Shibuya Station is about 10 minutes away on foot.

Lion Cafe→P. 378

+ Bonus stop

Have fun touring art and memorial museums in the Omotesando—Aoyama areas

Scattered in the area, you'll find the Nezu Museum (→P. 199), the Taro Okamoto Memorial Museum (→P. 200), WATARI-UM, the Watari Museum of Contemporary Art (→P. 201), and the Ota Memorial Museum of Art, which specializes in *ukiyo-e* prints and offers hosts unique special exhibitions (→P. 200). The Shoto and Komaba-todaimae areas also have specialized art and other museums.

Itinerary B
1 day

Experience a deeper side of Tokyo!

One Day of History and Activities

Travel back in history by visiting stores and restaurants established in the Edo period (1603–1868) and places associated with the Tokugawa Shogunate.

12 min.

START

10:30 AM Edo wind chime-making workshop at Shinohara Maruyoshi Fuurin

Experience making an Edo *furin* (wind chime) at this shop using Edo-period techniques. Under the guidance of the shop owner, the entire process from glass blowing to painting takes about an hour to an hour and a half. You can take the wind chime home right away, making it a great souvenir of Tokyo. There's a painting only workshop, too.

Shinohara Maruyoshi Fuurin→P. 37

3:30 PM Tour Kan'eiji Temple, Ueno Toshogu Shrine, and other spots associated with the Tokugawa Shogunate

+ 30 min.

Many temples associated with the shogunate, such as the grave of the Tokugawa family and the main halls built on their orders, are located in the TOKYO 23 Wards. In particular, Zojoji Temple (→P. 327) and Gokokuji Temple (→P. 330) are worth visiting. Japanese gardens such as Rikugien Gardens (→P. 331) and Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens (→P. 228) are also recommended.

Toeizan Kan'eiji Temple→P. 329
Ueno Toshogu Shrine→P. 328

+ 50 min.

6:00 PM Enjoy a special soak at Akebono-yu

+ 30 min.

Akebono-yu is said to be Tokyo's oldest existing *sento*, or public bath. Their greatest feature is the variety of baths they offer, including jet baths, electric baths, carbonated baths, and open-air baths. With a sauna and a restaurant, the two-floor building is just like a theme park.

Akebono-yu→P. 72

12:00 PM Try an author's favorite pork cutlet lunch at Ponta

This *yoshoku* restaurant was established in 1905 and is currently run by its fourth-generation owner. It rivals Isen Honten (→P. 348) as one of the "big three" *tonkatsu* (pork cutlet) restaurants in Ueno. Their cutlets are highly recommended and taste so good that even the famous businessman Jiro Shirasu and his wife, the writer Masako Shirasu, were regulars at the restaurant.

Ponta→P. 52

+ 12 min.

1:30 PM Travel back in time to Tokyo's past on the Kanda River Cruise®

Take a river cruise to tour the Kanda River, popularly known as the Kanda Josui waterworks during the Edo period, as well as the Nihonbashi Bridge and the Sumida River. An experienced guide will explain the facts and history of the sites. The river offers a magnificent view of Ochanomizu's artificial valley.

Kanda River Cruise®→P. 338

7:30 PM Enjoy Edomae soba noodles at Kanda Yabu Soba

Yabu soba, one of the top three buckwheat noodles in the Edo style (Edomae), can be distinguished by its greenish color. Try the *seiro soba* (cold soba noodles) with a perfectly thick dipping sauce and the crispy *ten-tane* (tempura).

Kanda Yabu Soba→P. 32

GOAL

+ 10 min.

9:00 PM Cap off the evening with a drink at Toshimaya Sake Shop, formerly the oldest izakaya in Tokyo

This standing *izakaya* (Japanese bar) was opened by Toshimaya Honten, which has existed longer than the Edo Shogunate. In addition to three different kinds of sake, the shop serves a wide selection of bar snacks such as *miso dengaku*, Toshimaya butter, and miso soybeans.

Toshimaya Sake Shop→P. 405

Itinerary C
1 day

Explore the food capital of Tokyo

Go on a One-Day Food Crawl

If eating delicious food is your top priority, this itinerary was made just for you.

9:00 AM

Shop and eat your way around Ota Market

Toyosu Market (→P. 182) and Tsukiji Outer Market (→P. 172) are fine, but this is the hidden gem. Ota Market's unique lineup of vendors includes everything from a popular restaurant specializing in seafood rice bowls to an eatery known for its fried foods. The tour route is easy to understand and well-maintained.

Ota Market→P. 238

🚃+🚶 30 min.

1:30 PM

Eat your fill of Kameido Daikon radish at Kameido Masumoto Honten

Tokyo grows its own traditional produce, called "Edo-Tokyo vegetables." This guidebook introduces restaurants where you can try local Kameido Daikon radishes (which look more like turnips), udon restaurants that use *komatsuna* (Japanese mustard spinach), and soba restaurants that serve *shintorina* (a type of mustard greens).

Kameido Masumoto Honten→P. 358

🚃+🚶 30 min.

3:30 PM

Shop at long-established stores in along Amazake Yokocho

This shopping street is lined with old shops offering everything from side dishes and rice dishes—such as Ningyocho Shinodazushi Sohonten (→P. 380), a long-established *inari sushi* shop, and Washiya, which serves *bettara-zuke* pickled radish, a Nihonbashi specialty—to Japanese sweets, *taiyaki*, and tofu. The caramel custard at Homitei (→P. 49) is also a must-try.

Amazake Yokocho→P. 61

Washiya→P. 385

🚃+🚶 25 min.

6:00 PM

Indulge in the famous sake and dishes at Koi to Unagi no Marumasuya Sohonten

An izakaya open before noon in the Akabane area. Pair their signature dishes—such as *unagi kabayaki* (grilled freshwater eel), *koi no arai* (carp sashimi), or *gyusuji nikomi* (beef tendon stew)—with Janchu Mojito, their original drink.

Koi to Unagi no Marumasuya Sohonten→P. 404

🚃+🚶 30 min.

8:00 PM

Bar hop at Shibuya Nonbei Yokocho

GOAL

Nonbei Yokocho is packed with cozy drinking establishments that evoke the feeling of old-time Japan. Stop by at Nadaichi (→P. 91) and Magurodokoro (→P. 91), which are more accessible to non-regulars, to get a taste of the atmosphere.

Shibuya Nonbei Yokocho→P. 90

🚃+🚶 30 min.

11:30 AM

Pick up "Fukiyose" at Ginza Kikunoya and *anpan* to-go at Kimuraya

Take the train and walk a bit to burn some calories. When you arrive in Ginza, pick up "Fukiyose," a box of Japanese-style dry sweets that are perfect as a gift for someone special, and Kimuraya's famous *anpan* (sweet buns filled with red bean paste) to eat at your hotel. Ginza Kimuraya also has a cafe.

Ginza Kikunoya Headquarters→P. 383

Ginza Kimuraya Sohonten→P. 351

From the creation of original gourmet foods to
A close-up look at the knowledge and lifestyles

History of Food Culture in Tokyo

A complete guide to long-established restaurants founded in the Edo period (1603–1868) and restaurants offering gourmet foods that originated in Edo!

The food culture of the Edo period

The food-service industry developed because of the many people from the countryside who came to work and samurai who were obligated to attend the shogun. It's believed restaurants originated with the opening of **Nara Chameshi** in Asakusa that served dishes such as *chameshi* (rice boiled in tea) and tofu soup, while sushi and tempura food stands were what would be called fast food today.

What did ordinary people eat?

At the start of the Edo period, people ate **2 meals a day**, breakfast and an evening meal. However, as lighting became widespread and fish and vegetable markets appeared, people were able to be out and about at night and 3 meals a day became the norm. **Rice, miso soup, and side dishes** became the established meal.

What about candy and sweets?

Simple *mochi* (glutinous rice cakes) and *dango* (sweet rice dumplings) made from rice were often eaten, but variations increased from the Genroku era (1688–1704) when **brown sugar became widely available.** Chomeiji Sakuramochi Yamamotoya (P. 383) and Fugetsudo (P. 382) were established in the middle of the Edo period.

What about sake? What was the taboo?

Sake shops combined with a bar that served drinks, such as Toshimaya Honten (P. 398), already existed and offered *dengaku-tofu* and *negima nabe* (hot pot) as side dishes. **Consuming meat was considered taboo,** but it was eaten under the pretext of being a curative remedy by using slang such as mountain whale to refer to boar meat.

The Big Four Edomae Foods

The roots of the excellent foods we eat today trace back to the Edo period, including the creation of *unagi kabayaki* (eel dipped and broiled in soy sauce) and *nigiri* sushi (sushi shaped by hand).

Sushi → P. 28

Tempura → P. 30

Soba → P. 32

Unagi → P. 31

the secrets of famous restaurants of Edokko (Tokyoites)

Discovering the food culture of Edo through a board game

Famous Edo Confectioners Sugoroku Board

(Source: National Diet Library)

The board game depicts well-known foods popular in Edo at the time. In addition to soba (buckwheat) noodles and sushi, sweets such as *eitai dango* can also be seen

丼 Rice bowl

Try Fukagawa meshi, which was the comfort food of Edo fishermen, and the *donburi meshi* (rice bowl) dishes served atop rice at the oldest tempura restaurant in Tokyo and Shamo Nabeya, founded in the middle of the Edo period.

Tendon → P. 30

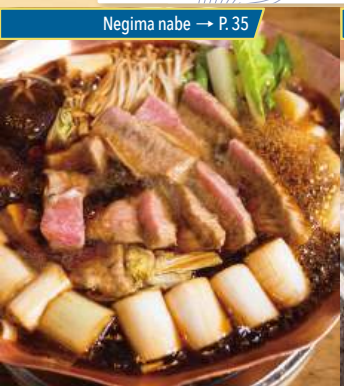
Oyakodon → P. 31

Fukagawa meshi → P. 34

鍋 Hot pot

The ordinary people of Edo loved *negima nabe* (hot pot), which makes clever use of fatty tuna, and other highly nutritious hot pot dishes made with loach and monkfish.

Negima nabe → P. 35



Dozeu nabe → P. 34

Anko nabe → P. 35

江戸前寿司
Edomae sushi

Fully savor Asaji 10-piece Sushi (7,150 yen), which includes simmered conger eel and thinly layered rolled omelet made with shiba shrimp paste

The origins of Edomae sushi

It's said that in 1827 Yohei Hanaya created and popularized sushi. He sold sushi rice and toppings shaped by hand at a food stall. Since cooling technology didn't exist back then, a variety of techniques were devised to increase shelf life.

At the counter, diners are served 2 pieces of sushi at a time

Enjoy sushi while conversing with the *oyakata* and sixth-generation owner

Keeping traditional techniques alive

Bentenyama Miyako Sushi

Bentenyama Miyako Sushi
Mr. Uchida,
5th-generation oyakata (owner)

The restaurant founder, Kinshichi trained in the Senju Miyako Sushi style that follows the tradition of the creator of Edomae sushi, Yohei Hanaya. Kinshichi set up shop under the bell tower at Sensoji Temple in 1866. Diners can experience the traditional flavors passed down through generations. The balance of vinegared sushi rice, specially prepared sushi toppings, fresh wasabi, and boiled soy sauce fully elicits the flavors.

MAP Supp. P. 42-B2 Asakusa

AD 2-1-16 Asakusa, Taito TEL 03-3844-0034 ◷ 12:00 PM–2:30 PM (L.O. 2:00 PM), 5:00 PM–9:00 PM (L.O. 8:00 PM), Sun., national holidays 12:00 PM–6:00 PM (L.O. 5:00 PM) ✕ Mon., 3rd Sun. of the month CC ADJMV PT 3-min. walk from Exit 7 of Asakusa Subway Sta.

Mr. Uchida shares the 5 key Edomae (Edo-style) techniques

1 Zuke (Steep)

Tuna is cut into pieces and parboiled, then steeped in soy sauce for around 3 hours.

2 Kobujime (Sandwich between kelp)

Flounder and marlin (introduced by the fifth-generation owner) are sandwiched in kelp for a day to concentrate the flavor.

3 Sujime (Marinate in vinegar)

Gizzard shad, which is classically used in Edomae sushi, is salted and seasoned with just the right amount of vinegar.

4 Tsume (Simmer)

A quick simmer is all that is needed to prepare the white meat of the conger eel.

5 Yude (Boil)

Japanese tiger prawn is boiled and cooled in ice water to remove the salt, then marinated in sweet vinegar for an entire day.

The lunch menu item, Nigiri Take (4,950 yen) includes thin layers of rolled egg-white omelet and rolled sushi

Founded in 1861
Kudanshita Sushimasa

The founder opened a food stall named Sushiyoshi in Nihonbashi. In the Meiji era, he began making sushi at Kabukigoya in Kanda Misakicho. The restaurant moved to its current location in 1923. It still serves the original sushi rice seasoned with red vinegar and sour pickled ginger, and practices the methods of preparing gizzard shad and conger eel that are essential to Edomae sushi.

Don't hesitate to stop in and eat!

Kudanshita Sushimasa
Mr. Tobari,
5th-generation owner

MAP Supp. P. 38-C2 Kudanshita

AD 1-4-1 Kudan-minami, Chiyoda
TEL 03-3261-0621 🕒 11:30 AM–2:00 PM (L.O. 1:30 PM), 5:30 PM–10:00 PM (L.O. 9:00 PM), Sat., Sun., national holidays 11:30 AM–2:00 PM (L.O. 1:30 PM), 5:30 PM–9:00 PM (L.O. 8:30 PM) ✕ Open year-round
CC ADJMV PT Right outside from Exit 6 of Kudanshita Subway Sta.

Left: See the skills of the restaurant manager, Mr. Ichikawa up close
Right: The 1st floor has a counter and tables

Nigiri Ume (2,920 yen) is colorful and a treat for the eyes

Top: There is a spacious counter and tables, as well as private rooms in back
Bottom: The business permit dating back more than a century and other items are on display

First-time diners and travelers are always welcome!

Shibaura Okame Sushi
Mr. Nagatani,
5th-generation owner

Serving sushi for over 160 years in Mita
Shibaura Okame Sushi

In 1856, the restaurant was opened in Shibaura, a fishing ground blessed with an abundance of seafood. It delivered food to temples, shrines, and feudal lord residences. The fifth-generation owner serves sushi that flexibly incorporates modern arrangements while observing traditional Edomae methods. He notes that the restaurant also welcomes many foreign visitors. Events such as *rakugo* (comic storytelling) are also held from time to time.

MAP Supp. P. 18-B2 Mita

AD 4-9-4 Shiba, Minato
TEL 03-3451-6430 🕒 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM（L.O.12:30 PM）、5:00 PM - 8:30 PM ✕ Sat., Sun., national holidays CC AJMV PT 8-min. walk from Exit A5/A6 of Mita Subway Sta.

天ぷら Tempura

Our *hanaage manju* is also a house specialty!

The Tempura (2,180 yen) menu item consists of shrimp, *kakiage*, and white fish filet

Japan's oldest tempura shop

The founder ran a food stand selling small fish, caught in waters near Edo, that were dipped in batter and deep fried in sesame seed oil. That was the start of Edomae tempura, which became popular among the public. It's not clear when tendon (tempura rice bowl) was created, but Sansada is regarded as the originator.

Kaminarimon Sansada
Mr. Sanada,
8th-generation owner

Top: The main restaurant faces Kaminarimon-dori St. Takeout is also sold at the entrance
Left: Sansada is also depicted in the woodblock print, "Famous Views of Tokyo: The Kinryuzan Sensoji Temple Streetscape" displayed in the restaurant

Special Tendon (2,360 yen) is served with a savory sauce. The foods served are identical to the Tempura menu item

The serving size is too big to be covered!

天丼 Tendon

The oldest tempura shop in Japan

Kaminarimon Sansada

In 1831, the restaurant's founder, Sadakichi came to Tokyo from Mikawa (present-day Aichi Prefecture). In 1837, he opened a tempura food stall in front of his home in Ningyocho, and the name changed from Mikawaya Sadakichi to Sansada. Edomae tempura is characterized by a brown batter fried in sesame seed oil. The tempura's light texture eaten with Sansada's specially made tempura dipping sauce and grated daikon radish is irresistible.

MAP Supp. P. 42-C2 Asakusa
AD 1-2-2 Asakusa, Taito TEL 03-3841-3200
C 11:00 AM - 9:30 PM (L.O.9:00 PM)
X No regular closings
CC ADJMV PT 1-min. walk from Exit 1 of Asakusa Subway Sta.

Tori Dashi Oyakodon (1,350 yen) is the perfect combination of soft, fluffy egg fragrant with chicken broth and Fumoto Akadori chicken

Tastes great even after it cools off

Oyakodon How did it originate?

After eating *shamo nabe* (chicken hot pot), beaten eggs were added to the remaining meat and soup stock, creating simmered chicken and egg. Oyakodon originated when Toku, the wife of the fifth-generation owner, served it atop rice to make it easier to eat. Made only with chicken, the Edomae flavor makes the most of soy sauce and mirin.

Takeout Senmonten
Mr. Yamada, restaurant manager

Top: There is a dining area inside
Left: Photos of the shop on display date from around 1890s to the Great Kanto Earthquake (1923)

A history of over 260 years

Tamahide Oyakodon Takeout Senmonten

The dish was created by Shamo Nabeya, which the founder started as a side business in 1760. This famous shop has appeared in various rankings and the writings of Junichiro Tanizaki since being chosen as one of the top five shops serving chicken dishes in the 1852 book ranking notable restaurants, *Edo Goko Shokun*. Currently, it is a takeout shop operating nearby the actual restaurant, which is being rebuilt.

MAP Supp. 22-A1 Ningyocho
AD 1-17-9 Nihonbashi Ningyocho, Chuo TEL 03-3668-7651
11:00 AM–3:00 PM, 4:00 PM–7:00 PM ✕ Mon., Tue., and occasional closings CC ADJMV PT Right outside from Exit A2 of Ningyocho Subway Sta.

Unaju Take (5,000 yen) is served with eel liver soup and pickles

Kawachiya and unagi

This restaurant has offered freshwater fish dishes made with fish, including carp and loach, since its founding when it was located on the banks of the Edogawa River. Unagi (eel) is also on the menu. The unagi is coated with a secret homemade sauce that brings out the flavor of soy sauce and stimulates the appetite.

The restaurant has spacious 1st and 2nd floors. There is also a lobby and inner courtyard

Come by after visiting the temple!

Kawachiya
Mr. Amamiya, 10th-generation owner

A long-established restaurant on Temple Street in Shibamata

Shibamata Kawachiya

The restaurant opened in 1778 as a teahouse serving freshwater fish dishes on the banks of the Edogawa River near Taishakuten Temple, which had a growing number of visitors. In 1900, it moved to its current location due to the temple approach passing through. Other popular menu items are the restaurant's carp dishes, including Koi Arai, which is carp sashimi, and Koi Koku, carp simmered in miso (1,100 yen each).

MAP Supp. P. 13-A3 Shibamata
AD 7-6-16 Shibamata, Katsushika
TEL 03-3657-4151
11:00 AM–7:00 PM (L.O. for food 6:30 PM, L.O. for drinks 7:45 PM)
✕ No regular closings
CC ADJMV PT 3-min. walk from Shibamata Sta. on the Keisei Line

The three big names in Edomae soba

Sarashina, Yabu, and Sunaba were created in the Edo period and are known as the three big names in soba. Each established branch shops and expanded.

Sarashina soba

This soba was developed by the fourth-generation owner of the Horii Tahei. With permission from the feudal lord Hoshina, the founder named the restaurant using a kanji character from the Hoshina name. Sarashina Horii's famous soba noodles go down smoothly and are pure white because they are made from the core of the buckwheat seeds.

Yabu soba

The name comes from Tsutaya (Nickname: Yabu Soba), a popular restaurant that was located on Dangozaka in Nezu at the end of the Edo period. The noodles have a greenish hue from the endocarp on the outside of the buckwheat seed that is milled. They pair perfectly with a strong-flavored dipping sauce.

Sunaba soba

The soba noodles originated with a soba shop that was opened on a sand storage site when Osaka Castle was under construction, but the shop that started that type of soba no longer exists in Osaka. It's distinctive for being made with the finest flour to produce soba noodles that are thin and white, and using egg as a binding agent.

Seiro Soba (908 yen) and Ten-Tane (1,694 yen)

Distinctive for vibrantly colored soba noodles

Kanda Yabu Soba

The restaurant opened in 1880, taking over the Tsutaya shop. It's said the green-hued soba noodles originated when the founder kneaded new shoots into the dough so the noodles would look tasty all year round. Today, the soba noodles are made with the highest grade of domestic flour at a ratio of 10 parts buckwheat flour to 1 part wheat flour. The rich dipping sauce is slightly salty, so it's best to dip the noodles halfway when eating.

Top: Diners can view a garden with beautiful greenery the same hue as the soba noodles from inside the restaurant
Bottom Left: There is a bronze statue of Shichibei Hotta, the founder

Mr. Hotta, 5th-generation owner, Kanda Yabu Soba

MAP Supp. P. 39-C4 Kanda

AD 2-10 Kanda Awajicho, Chiyoda TEL 03-3251-0287 ◔ 11:30 AM–8:30 PM (L.O. 8:00 PM) ✕ Wed. (may change when Wed. is a national holiday) CC ADJMV PT 2-min. walk from Exit A3 of Awajicho/Ogawamachi Subway Sta.

Sarashina Soba (1,000 yen) and Kakiage (1,210 yen)

There's nothing wrong with a drink at noon sitting on a tatami mat

The rolled omelet (770 yen) is also popular

Mr. Horii, 9th-generation owner, Sohonke Sarashina Horii

Founded in 1789

Sohonke Sarashina Horii Azabu-juban Honten

The founder switched from being a textile merchant to a soba restaurant owner on the recommendation of the feudal lord Hoshina. From the beginning, the restaurant delivered food to feudal lords' residences and the imperial residence. This led to the original form of Sarashina soba noodles of today, which are characterized by their white color, smoothness, and resistance to becoming soggy. The sweet dipping sauce and ease with which the noodles go down are a perfect match. The over 20 types of kawari-soba are also a must-try.

MAP **Supp. P. 28-C2 Azabu-juban**

AD 3-11-4 Motoazabu, Minato TEL 03-3403-3401 11:30 AM–3:30 PM (L.O. 3:00 PM), 5:00 PM–8:30 PM (L.O. 8:00 PM), Sat., Sun., national holidays 11:00 AM–8:30 PM (L.O. 8:00 PM) ✕ No regular closings CC ADJMV PT 5-min. walk from Exit 7 of Azabu-juban Subway Sta.

Tenzaru (1,550 yen) is served with vegetable tempura

Enjoy soba noodles prepared with select ingredients

Left: Old photos of Sunaba-kai (Sunaba Group) and historical items are displayed in the restaurant
Top: The quaint building was constructed in 1954 by temple/shrine carpenters

Sunaba Sohonke Mr. Nagaoka, 16th-generation owner

The longest established restaurant on Minowa Shopping Street

Sunaba Sohonke

This restaurant was founded in the middle of the Edo period in what is currently Kojimachi. It was mentioned in a book of fine foods that was published in 1848. The restaurant changed the blend ratio of buckwheat flour and uses water that has been steeped with *binchotan* charcoal. Experience soba noodles meticulously prepared with ingredients such as high-grade dried bonito that is steamed and grated.

MAP **Supp. P. 17-B4 Minowa**

AD 1-27-6 Minami-senju, Arakawa TEL 03-3891-5408 11:00 AM–5:00 PM ✕ Wed., Thur. CC Not accepted PT 2-min. walk from Minowabashi Sta. on the Toden Arakawa Line (Tokyo Sakura Tram)

The most popular menu item is Tatsumi Konomi (2,365 yen), which lets diners enjoy both Fukagawa meshi and *takikomi* (seasoned, mixed) rice

What are the origins of Fukagawa meshi?

It was created in Fukagawa, which prospered as a town of fishermen in the Edo period. Short-neck clams, a Fukagawa specialty, are quickly boiled with green onions in miso and poured over rice together with the soup. The dish became a daily staple of fishermen for being simple and highly nutritious.

Left: A package of ingredients for making Fukagawa meshi (810 yen) is also sold at the restaurant
Bottom: There are open-hearth tables and tatami mat seating

Tatsumi Konomi is also served with kudzu starch noodles and a side dish!

Ms. Nittoji, representative, Fukagawajuku Honten

Recreating the Edo flavor in Fukagawa

Fukagawajuku Honten

This shop specializing in Fukagawa meshi opened in 1987 after the owner learned the authentic taste from local fishermen. Its most particular specialty is striking the perfect balanced blend of red and white miso. Freshly caught, raw short-neck clams and green onion are added to that miso blend, then topped with very finely chopped seaweed to complete the dish. *Takikomi* rice was created in the Meiji period and eaten as boxed lunches by workers such as carpenters.

MAP Supp. P. 23-B3 Kiyosumi Shirakawa

AD 1-6-7 Miyoshi, Koto TEL 03-3642-7878 11:30 AM–3:00 PM (L.O. 2:30 PM), 5:00 PM–9:00 PM (L.O. 8:30 PM), Sat., Sun., national holidays 11:30 AM–5:00 PM (L.O. 4:30 PM) CLOSED Mon. (or the next day when Mon. is a national holiday) CC Not accepted PT 3-min. walk from Exit A3 of Kiyosumi-shirakawa Subway Sta.

Loach and Edo

It's said merchants working in Edo markets ate *dozeu* (loach) soup to gain energy. The restaurant prospered when it was named Dozeu, written using an odd number of characters which is thought to be lucky, and other restaurants followed suit.

The 1st floor has rattan tatami flooring that exudes an Edo vibe

Proud to have a history of over 200 years

Komakata Dozeu Asakusa Honten

Top: The recommended menu item is Dozeu Nabe (3,000 yen). Set meals are also available
Left: Photos of what the restaurant looked like in centuries are on display

The founder, Sukeshichi Echigoya opened a restaurant in 1801. The current building was constructed after the war and is characterized by the visible wooden beams and merchant-style architecture representative of the Edo period. The recommended dish, Dozeu Nabe is made by soaking the loach in sake before preparing it using the restaurant's original method. The dish is topped with a generous amount of green onion.

MAP Supp. P. 42-C1 Asakusa

AD 1-7-12 Komagata, Taito TEL 03-3842-4001 11:00 AM–8:30 PM (L.O. 8:00 PM) CLOSED No regular closings CC ADJMV PT 2-min. walk from Exit A1 of Asakusa Subway Sta.

Ichimon Nadai Edo Negima Nabe (4,800 yen, serves 2)

What are the origins of *negima nabe*?

At the time, the red flesh of tuna was preserved by steeping it in soy sauce and was highly valued. *Negima nabe* (green onion and tuna hot pot) is prepared with fatty tuna that spoils quickly, and was eaten among the common people.

Tatami mat seating with a *noren* curtain creates a wonderful ambience

Located in a 70-year-old renovated house

Asakusa Shuzen Ichimon Honten

The restaurant was founded approximately 50 years ago and is well-known not only for *negima nabe*, but also whale meat dishes. Money is exchanged for wooden tokens to place orders, with 100 yen = 1 mon. Menu prices are also written in tokens. The dish is prepared with fatty *kamatoro* (gill flesh), vegetables, and *senju negi* (green onion) procured from a specialty market. Tamari soy sauce is used to recreate the traditional color. The dish has a lighter flavor than its appearance suggests.

Enjoy the textures of *negima nabe*!

Mr. Hirakawa, owner, Asakusa Shuzen Ichimon Honten

Left: Warmed-up room-temperature sake is available at the counter. Diners fill their own cups
Right: There are tokens worth 1, 5, and 10 mon

MAP Supp. P. 42-A1 Asakusa

Ad 3-12-6 Asakusa, Taito Tel 03-3875-6800 Open 6:00 PM–10:00 PM (L.O. 9:00 PM), Sat., Sun., national holidays 5:00 PM–10:00 PM (L.O. 9:00 PM) Close Open year-round Cc Not accepted Pt 3-min. walk from Exit B of Asakusa Sta. on the Tsukuba Express

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Anko Nabe (3,800 yen, serves 1) is prepared by completely removing any odor and simmering monkfish in a secret soup stock

Anko nabe and Edo

The seasonal ban on monkfish fishing was lifted in November, so this dish was eaten in winter. For impatient Edokko (Tokyoites), Isegen removed the bones and prepared the fish so that it could be eaten as soon as it was simmered.

Top: The *ojiya* rice gruel (600 yen, serves 1) eaten at the end of the meal is excellent!
Right: 2nd-floor tatami seating creates a charming atmosphere

Isegen
Mr. Tachikawa, 7th-generation owner

Tokyo's only monkfish specialty shop

Isegen

The loach restaurant, Isesho was opened in 1830. That restaurant name and the name of the second-generation owner, Genshiro is where the name, Isegen comes from. At the time, the shop served a variety of hot pot dishes, but in the Taisho era it became a restaurant specializing in monkfish dishes. Diners can enjoy the taste of monkfish shipped in limited quantities that is caught in waters off of Kazamaura in Aomori Prefecture and kept fresh using the *ikejime* method.

MAP Supp. P. 39-C4 Kanda

Ad 1-11-1 Kanda Sudacho, Chiyoda Tel 03-3251-1229 Open 11:30 AM–2:00 PM (L.O. 1:30 PM), 5:00 PM–10:00 PM (L.O. 9:00 PM), Sat., Sun., national holidays 11:30 AM–10:00 PM (L.O. 9:00 PM) Close Mon. (Sun., national holidays, Mon. Apr.–Oct.) Cc ADJMV Pt 3-min. walk from subway Exit A3 of Awajicho/Ogawamachi Subway Sta.

Experience the Craftsmanship of Traditional Artisans

In Tokyo, there are many traditional crafts that have been passed down for generations. Experience the craftsmanship of these artisans by participating in a workshop to create your very own work of art.

Glass crafts that sparkle with intricate patterns

Sumida Edo Kiriko-kan

Sumida Edo Kiriko-kan is both a studio and a store dedicated to Edo Kiriko. You can join a workshop to make your own cut glassware or buy finished pieces decorated with traditional patterns, contemporary designs such as the TOKYO SKYTREE®, or even heat-resistant glass. The staff include Sumida Meisters, a title awarded to outstanding artisans in the ward, and visitors can watch their production process up close through the window. There are exhibits on the history of Edo Kiriko and how it is made, making it a great starting place to start learning about the craft.

We also have glassware for everyday use

MAP Supp. P. 45-B3 Kinshicho

AD 2-10-9 Taihei, Sumida TEL 03-3623-4148
10:00 AM–5:00 PM Mon., Sun., national holidays, summer break CC MV
PT 6-min. walk from the North Exit of JR Kinshicho Sta.

江戸切子 Edo kiriko

Edo kiriko (cut glass) is believed to trace its origins to 1834, when Kyubei Kagaya, a glass merchant in Odenmacho, Edo, applied the technique to glass products brought to Japan by the Portuguese. The technique developed further with the spread of glass cutting and glassware in the Meiji era (1868–1912), leading to the establishment of *Edo kiriko*, a style of glass cutting with delicate and diverse patterns.

Typical Edo kiriko patterns

Yarai **(Bamboo palisade)**

A fence pattern formed by diagonally crossed bamboo posts, whose gaps resemble an oncoming rain of arrows.

Hakkaku kagome **(Octagonal lattice)**

Derived from the lattice pattern of woven bamboo baskets, whose octagonal "eyes" are said to ward off evil spirits.

Soko giku **(Chrysanthemum bottom)**

The chrysanthemum design cut in the bottom of the glass will appear to be floating in your drink.

Ichimatsu **(Checkered)**

A lattice pattern that was favored by the Edo kabuki actor Ichimatsu Sanogawa.

Make your own Edo kiriko

Time required 90 min. Price 4,500 yen

1 Choose a glass from a variety of color and shape options. The color and shape affects the ease of cutting.

2 First, watch the artisan to understand the process. Then draw your favorite pattern on the glass by copying the sample pictures.

Straight line patterns are recommended

3 After getting a feel for the technique with a practice glass, it's time to cut your glass for real. Press the glass against a rotating disk to cut the pattern while viewing it from the inside of the glass.

Tip The thickness of the lines depends on the pressure applied, so holding the glass firmly with both hands is key. Thicker lines are easier to fix.

Finished!

Once you cut the pattern on the outside, finish your very own Edo Kiriko glass by adding your favorite pattern to the bottom of the glass!

Use it carefully at home!

The sound of Japanese summer

Shinohara Maruyoshi Fuurin

This shop is one of the few places that has inherited the glass-blowing techniques for making Edo-style wind chimes and still produces and sells them today. The name *Edo furin* was given to the product by the second-generation owner around 1965. Each piece made in the workshop at the back of the first floor has a slightly different shape, and it is said that no two pieces have the same sound. Two workshops are offered: painting only or glass blowing and painting, so anyone can learn the art of making *Edo furin*.

MAP Supp. P. 17-C3 Okachimachi

AD 4-25-10 Taito, Taito TEL 03-3832-0227
10:30 AM–6:00 PM Mon. CC ADJMV PT 1-min. walk from Exit A2 of Shin-okachimachi Subway Sta.

江戸風鈴 Edo furin

Edo furin are bell-shaped glass wind chimes. They are unique in that they are made by blowing glass rather than using a mold, and have a jagged edge around the opening, giving each piece a different shape and tone. Trendy designs or good-luck motifs are often painted on the inside the bell.

Typical Edo furin designs

Dragonflies

Dragonflies are symbols of victory in Japan because of their brave, forward-flying stance.

Goldfish

The goldfish is a lucky fish, said to ascend to the heavens and become a dragon, bringing financial fortune.

Fireworks

Fireworks are symbols of remembrance in Japan, historically used to ward off evil and bring comfort to departed souls.

Takarabune **("Treasure ship")**

A treasure ship on one side and a pine tree on the other, illustrating a Japanese pun meaning "waiting for treasure." A popular design from the Edo period.

Make your own Edo furin

Time required & price Painting Workshop: 30–90 min., 1,700 yen
Glass Blowing & Painting Workshop: 60–90 min., 2,300 yen

1 Watch as the artisan winds a small glass ball onto the pipe. Then, with a little practice, follow their example.

2 Blow the glass to inflate it. The artisan will turn the pipe as you blow to create a beautiful shape, even if it's your first time.

3 The artisan will sharpen the opening with a whetstone and prepare it for painting. Watercolor paint is used, so you can easily fix mistakes.

4 Paint a design of your choice on the inside of the wind chime. Goldfish, dragonflies, and fireworks are simple designs for beginners, consisting mostly of circles and straight lines.

Once the paint dries, attaching the paper strip with a string to finish the piece. Adding a line of graduated color around the edge creates a vivid impression.

Tip When painting a complex design, it's best to draw the outline on the outside first, then trace it on the inside. Don't forget to mirror any numbers or letters.

三 江戸べっ甲
Edo bekko

Bekko (tortoiseshell) crafts have a long history, starting in Nagasaki and spreading to Edo, which then became one of the three major tortoiseshell production areas in Japan. Products made from hawksbill turtle shells have been used as ornaments by nobles since ancient times because of their unique patterning, and in modern times they are widely appreciated in both Japanese and Western fashion.

Original products for sale

These adorable charms are shaped like cats, which match the cat town of Yanaka perfectly.

Each piece showcases a different design depending on the type of tortoiseshell used.

Clip-on earrings in a delightfully simple diamond shape. They can be changed to pierce earrings.

Made-to-order tortoiseshell glasses showcase the beautiful colors of the shell.

Crafts made from a natural material

Edo Bekko Tanaka

Edo Bekko Tanaka has been around for over 100 years. Currently, the shop is located in Yanaka and run by the third-generation owner, who combines traditional and modern techniques to create a variety of products, including tortoiseshell glasses. Especially popular are the original necklaces and earrings that reflect today's fashions and trends. In their workshop, you can learn each step of the production process and leave with one-of-a-kind accessories that will last a lifetime.

MAP Supp. P. 40-A1 Yanaka
AD 3-22-8 Yanaka, Taito
TEL 03-3828-9870 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sun., national holidays CC ADJMV
PT 5-min. walk from JR Nishi-Nippori Sta.

Make your own bekko accessory

Time required 120 min. Price 10,000 yen and up

1 After deciding on the accessory you want to make (such as earrings or a necklace), choose a piece of tortoiseshell with the color and mottling you like.

2 Use a marking tool to draw an outline on the part of your choice, then cut along the line with a wire saw.

3 Use several types of filing tools to refine the shape, then smooth the surface of the piece with a small knife.

Tip
Take your time during the filing process to get the hang of using the tools. Each piece will have a unique finish, depending on how it is filed down.

4 In the finishing process, the tortoiseshell is machine polished with polishing powder to give it a glossy finish.

Finished!
You now have a shiny and glossy piece of tortoiseshell! Attach the chain to complete your accessory.

四 江戸手描提灯
Edo hand-painted chochin

Chochin, or paper lanterns, date back to the Muromachi period (1336–1573). They became widespread in the Edo period (1603–1868). The development of a wholesale system in the following era led to the division of labor between *chochin* production and *chochin* painting. The "Edo characters" on the lanterns are painted with bold, sweeping lines and colors that are easily visible from a distance, and are applied using the *kago-ji* technique, in which the outline is drawn first and then filled in.

Edo hand-painted chochin for sale

Yumihari Chochin

Unlike hanging lanterns that swing, these are held in place with a bamboo bow.

Mini Chochin

These mini (25 cm) lanterns make the perfect gift.

Oto Chochin

A new type of lantern designed to amplify light and music from your smartphone.

MAP Supp. P. 17-B4
Minami-senju

AD 2-29-6 Minami-senju, Arakawa
TEL 03-3801-4757
9:00 AM–6:00 PM ✕ Sun., national holidays CC Not accepted PT 5-min. walk from the South Exit of JR Minami-Senju Sta.

Expressing Edo flair through lettering
Namidabashi Oshimaya

Perfect for gifts or as an interior decoration

This paper lantern shop has its roots in the Edo period and has specialized in hand-lettered *chochin* since 1913. Today, the third- and fourth-generation owners produce unique *chochin* decorated with family crests and names, which are used for various purposes, such as at Japanese festivals. In their *chochin*-making workshop, you can paint the essential Edo characters on the lanterns, whose visual impact and compact size make them the perfect souvenirs of Tokyo.

The studio is filled with lanterns large and small

Make your own Edo hand-painted chochin

Time required 60 min. Price 3,000 yen

1 Tell the artisan 1–2 characters you want to paint ahead of time. You can choose an egg-shaped or long and narrow lantern.

2 Trace the penciled outline with a brush. The trick is to paint boldly, emphasizing the stops and trailing ends of the characters.

3 Once you've completed the outline, it's time to fill it in. Choose your favorite color from 13 options and paint the shape with a brush.

Tip Don't rush to color the entire thing at once. Apply the paint carefully, working with the uneven shape of the lantern, to achieve a beautiful finish. Rotate the lantern as you go.

4 Erase the pencil lines and add any additional characters you want.

Finished!

Once the paint dries, you're done! The finished lantern is collapsible and you can take it home in a box.

五 江戸小紋・江戸更紗
Edo komon & Edo sarasa

Edo komon, a stencil dyeing method, results in finely detailed patterns that appear plain at first glance. This style was first used for *kamishimo*, a piece of formal attire worn by samurai, before it became popular among the general public. Meanwhile, chintz patterns, which originated in India over 3,000 years ago, have evolved in Japan in a unique way, resulting in the bright, complex, and multi-colored stencil-dyed prints known as *Edo sarasa* (Edo chintz).

Traditional dyed crafts with a fresh twist

Tomita Sen-Kogei

Founded in 1882, Tomita Sen-Kogei later moved to its current location along the Kanda River in search of clean water for dyeing. The studio uses the techniques of *Edo komon* and *Edo sarasa* to dye kimono fabrics as well as small items such as scarves and ties, and even leather and wooden items. Their shop carries the SARAKICHI brand of fashion accessories, in addition to a wide variety of products that are not limited to fabric items. Their workshop includes a tour of the studio, where you can learn about the dyeing process.

Tour the studio to learn about the dyeing process

Iro-nori (colored pastes) line the wall. Several types are blended together to achieve specific colors.

A steaming box is used to fix the dyes to the fabric. The shape has remained the same since long ago.

Visit the shop

Small items such as ties and handkerchiefs are available for sale at SARAKICHI, the studio shop.

Groundwater is used in the studio to wash away the paste

MAP Supp. P. 16-B1 Waseda
AD 3-6-14 Nishi-waseda, Shinjuku
TEL 03-3987-0701 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM–4:00 PM Sat., Sun., national holidays CC AJMV PT 2-min. walk from Omokagebashi Sta. on the Toden Arakawa Line (Tokyo Sakura Tram)

Make your own Edo komon tote bag

Time required 90–120 min. Price Tote bag/small cloth: 2,500 yen, Silk wrapping cloth: 4,500 yen

1 Choose a design and color for your tote bag. There are flower designs for each month of the year, including cosmos and morning glory. White and gold colors are available.

2 Place the stencil of your choice on the tote bag and use a *hera* (spatula-like tool) to spread the paste in one direction.

Tip
Aim to spread the paste evenly so that it is uniform in thickness. The trick is to your fingers to spread it all at once.

3 Slowly remove the stencil to reveal a white pattern on the fabric covering only the parts exposed by the stencil.

4 Write or draw your own signature or logo wherever you want on the bag, then tour the studio while the paste dries.

You can take the tote bag home on the same day. Other items, such as the small cloth, will be mailed to you a month later.

六 江戸木版画
Edo mokuhanga

Ukiyo-e, which gained huge popularity among the common people during the Edo period (1603–1868), was a uniquely Japanese technique for creating multicolored *mokuhanga* (woodblock prints) that also triggered the Japonism boom in the late 19th century. A single print is completed by three artisans: the artist who creates the original drawing, the carver who carves the blocks, and the printer who prints the blocks over and over again.

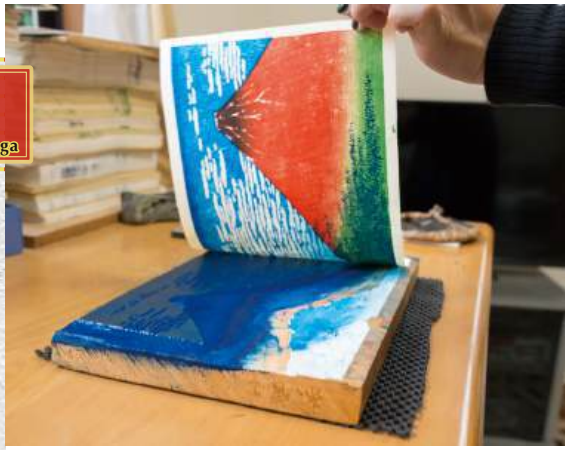
Edo mokuhanga prints

Original prints, including prints made to ward off epidemics, are on display.

Evening Snow at Kanbara, from the series "Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido," depicting impressively deep snow.

Kinryūzan Temple at Asakusa, a masterpiece from Utagawa Hiroshige's "One Hundred Famous Views of Edo" series.

This print depicts the Japanese lantern plant fair, a summer tradition in Asakusa. "Printed by Matsuzaki" is visible on the bottom left corner.



Images that capture Edo's urban culture

Each sheet is printed individually by hand

Matsuzaki Taihodo

This studio is run by Keizaburo Matsuzaki, who has over 75 years of experience as a printer of Edo *moku-hanga* (woodblock prints), which are made by several artisans who divide up the tasks. Mr. Matsuzaki, who is an intangible cultural property holder in Arakawa City, works daily with his apprentices in his studio on the second floor of his home. The works he prints range from famous *ukiyo*-e prints by Katsushika Hokusai and Utagawa Hiroshige to modern and contemporary prints, as well as wrapping paper and commemorative stamps. The delicate colors he produces using only four colors (black, indigo, red, and yellow) are truly the mark of a master craftsman.

MAP Supp. P. 17-A3 Machiya

AD 3-31-16 Machiya, Arakawa TEL 03-3892-3280 8:30 AM–11:00 AM, 12:00 PM–3:00 PM Sat., Sun., national holidays CC Not available PT 9-min. walk from Exit 1 of Machiya Subway Sta.

Make your own Edo mokuhanga

Time required 30–60 min. Price 610 yen

1 Choose a design. We chose *Red Fuji* from the "Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji" series, which we could complete by adding the last remaining color.

2 Mix the starch paste and ink, apply it to the carved woodblock, and spread it with brushes made of horse tail hair.

Tip Be careful with the amount of ink you use, as it can result in prints that are too light or blotchy. The ink spreads evenly with the paste.

3 Hold a piece of Japanese paper between your fingers and align it with the *kento*, a reference mark, while placing it on the block.

4 Use a *baren* (rubbing pad) to transfer the image. Be careful not to apply too much force, or you will apply color to unwanted areas.

Finished!

Remove the paper from the woodblock. It's finished! We added color in the order of these photos (from top to bottom) to achieve the final result.

Entertainment & Sport that flourished in Edo-era Tokyo

Enjoying Kabuki, Yose, and Sumo as a First Timer

A Tokyo trip is the first time many people will experience traditional entertainment and national sports. Here, you can find a full rundown, including terms that even novices should know, as well as guides to watching and spectating!

歌舞伎 Kabuki

The *hanamichi* runway stage, which transforms into various settings depending on the scene

What is Kabuki?

Kabuki is a traditional performing art originating in the Edo period (1603–1868) that has a history of over 400 years. This comprehensive art form, which entertains audiences with music, dancing, and drama, was designated an Important Intangible Cultural Property of Japan in 1965. It was also proclaimed a work of Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 2005.

Major Theaters in Tokyo

Shows a wide variety of performances

Shinbashi Enbujo Theatre

Established in 1925, Shinbashi Enbujo was initially a venue for geisha in Shinbashi to showcase their talents. Since 1940, it has served as Shochiku's main theater, not only as a venue for kabuki performances, but also Shinkigeki (new comedy) and Shinpa (new school) plays.

MAP Supp. P. 25-C4 Higashi-ginza

AD 6-18-2 Ginza, Chuo TEL 03-3541-2600 Depends on the show FEE Depends on the show PT 5-min. walk from Exit No.6 of Higashi-ginza Subway Sta.

History of Kabuki

Believed to have first emerged in the early Edo period, kabuki spread during the Genroku era in the late 17th century. Classic works are performed alongside newer plays based on manga and video games.

Originating in the Edo Period

The predecessor of kabuki is "kabuki dancing," which consisted of singing, dancing, and skits performed by a woman named Izumo no Okuni (year of birth and death unknown). At that time, it became popular to imitate the gestures of flamboyantly dressed in strange and showy clothing and hairstyles known as *kabukimono* (lit., 'those who deviate').

Emergence of Yaro Kabuki

After kabuki performances by women and boys were banned by the shogunate on the grounds that they were disruptive to public morals, the actors were principally men, and through this process, *onnagata* (male actors playing female roles) began to emerge.

Performances at Playhouses

The first playhouse is said to have been Saruwakaza, which was established by Kanzaburo Saruwaka (aka Kanzaburo Nakamura I; 1598–1658) in 1624. The phrase "maku no uchi bento" ("intermission lunch box') originates from the practice at that time of audience members eating lunch during intermissions.

Kabuki in the Meiji Era

Amid theater reforms during the Meiji era (1868–1912), the first iteration of the Kabukiza Theatre came to be in 1889. Danjuro IX (1838–1903), Kikugoro V (1844–1903), and Sadanji I (1842–1904), collectively known as "Dankikusa," an amalgamation of their family names, dominated the world of kabuki.

Watching Kabuki for the First Time

A shrine for Kabuki and symbol of Japan

Kabukiza Theatre

Since its founding in 1889 in Kobikicho, Kabukiza has undergone several renovations. The fifth reconstruction of the stately building is in-keeping with its characteristic design of a tiled roof and *karahafu* curved gable. The theater shows plays year-round, so you can make your kabuki debut with a performance that takes your fancy.

MAP Supp. P. 25-C4
AD 4-12-15 Ginza, Chuo
TEL 03-3545-6800 Depends on the show FEE Depends on the show
PT Directly linked to Exit 3 of Higashi-ginza Subway Sta.

Toward the box seats!

Dress Code

There is no set dress code, but we recommend choosing clothes that are comfortable to wear while sitting for several hours. Those sitting in box seats or first-class seats might want to dress up a little.

Etiquette

Observe basic theater etiquette, such as refraining from talking and keeping cell phones turned off. Eating and drinking are prohibited during performances. Please finish eating within intermissions.

So Much to Enjoy

4F Corridor

An exhibit with panels introducing famous former actors and a model of the building

Kabuki Inari Shrine

A shrine devoted to praying for a peaceful neighborhood, safety during kabuki performances, and large audiences

Rooftop Japanese Garden

A nature-rich area dotted with monuments connected to Kabuki

1. Purchasing Tickets

Check official websites for information on performances. Tickets can be purchased online, over the phone, and directly at theater box offices. If you wish to book specific seats, we recommend purchasing tickets on the day of general release.
URL Shochiku's ticket site https://www.shochiku.co.jp/global/en/

2. Getting to Your Seat

All seats are reserved. We recommend booking seats on the first floor, where you can see the stage and *hanamichi* runway stage up close. If you want to first soak up the atmosphere, try the box seats. Make sure to rent an audio guide (in Japanese only, for a fee) that explains the story and other elements before taking your seat.

3. Dining and Shopping During Intermissions

Many performances have 30-min. intermissions, so why not reserve a lunch box ("bento") at Yagura on the 2nd basement floor? You can also dine at one of the restaurants or check out the shops within the theater.
URL www.kabuki-za.co.jp/miyage

Kobikicho Square

Hinoki Tearoom

Top: The square on B2F with a teahouse and shops Bottom left: Kabuki-age rice crackers (five packets) for 500 yen and bottom right: Kabukiza raisin sandwich cookies (seven cookies) for 750 yen

Top: The tearoom on 1F. The most popular lunchtime dish is the original oriental curry for 1,000 yen Bottom: Kabuki Chaya in Kobikicho Square offers soba and udon noodle dishes, meal sets, and sweet treats

Kabuki Chaya Lunchroom

Keywords for Enjoying Kabuki

1 Major Plays and Genres

Even today, over 400 plays are still being performed. These can be divided into two main categories of *jidaimono*, historical dramas based on incidents that occurred in court or samurai society, and *sewamono*, contemporary dramas depicting the lives of ordinary people during the Edo period. There are also *matsubamemono*, which are adapted from *noh* (dance-drama) and *kyogen* (comic theater) plays.

2 Stage Terminology

Try to remember *hanamichi*, the runway stage extending from stage-right (*shimote*) to the audience seating, *joshikimaku*, the three-colored curtain used for scene changes, *mawari-butai*, the revolving platform in the center of the stage also used for scene changes, *seri*, a device which moves a portion of the stage up and down, and *kuro misu*, the black room at the *shimote* where musicians play instruments.

3 Acting and Directing Terms

Terms to note are *mie*, a striking pose held by an actor for a moment during the climax and similar scenes, *chu-nori*, where wire ropes are use to lift actors in the air above the audience or stage, and *roppo*, large, powerful movements of the arms and legs by actors usually as they withdraw down the *hanamichi*.

寄席 Yose

History of Yose

Yose came about only in the late Edo period (1603–1868), but modern-day *rakugo* and *kodan* (traditional storytelling) are also thought to have originated from ancient comedy stories and military chronicles such as *The Tale of the Heike*.

Azuchi-Momoyama Period
Anrakuan Sakuden (1554–1642), a priest of the Jodo sect of Buddhism and advisor to the shogun Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537–1598), wrote *Seisuisho* (lit. 'laughter to wake readers from sleep'), a collection of funny tales he had heard since childhood, and this work is said to be the progenitor of modern-day *rakugo*, with Sakuden considered its founder.

Edo Period
Rakugo and *koshaku* (lecture) storytellers began to appear around the beginning of the Genroku era (1688–1704). Within *rakugo*, theatrical and ghost stories accompanied with musical instruments became popular, and by the 1850s, there were said to be over 150 *yose* halls.

Meiji Era to the Present Day
As the number of people coming from Japan's provinces increased, funny and comical stories became more popular within *rakugo*, overtaking the more humanistic stories loved by the people of Edo (present-day Tokyo). With the development of radio, television, and vinyl records, *manzai* and *rokyoku* would also become widespread.

What is Yose?

Entertainment halls where audiences can enjoy a variety of performances, from *rakugo* (comic storytelling), *kodan* (traditional storytelling), and *rokyoku* (narrative singing), to *mandan* (comic monologue), magic, *daikagura* (juggling), and *kamikiri* (papercutting). Venues showing performances year-round are known as *joseki*.

Major Yose Halls Open Year-Round

Where many popular comedians got their start

Asakusa Engei Hall

Asakusa Engei Hall opened in 1964, with the Rakugo Association and Rakugo Geijutsu Kyokai taking over performances every 10 days. There is seating on both first and second floors; all seats are unreserved. As a rule, one ticket is valid for both noon and late afternoon showings.

MAP Supp. P. 42-B1 Asakusa

AD 1-43-12 Asakusa, Taito TEL 03-3841-6545 11:40 AM–4:30 PM, 4:40 PM–8:40 PM ✕ Open year-round FEE 3,000 yen, students 2,500 yen, children 1,500 yen; evening discount available CC Not accepted PT 1-min. walk from Exit A1 of Asakusa Sta.

A great location right next to Ikebukuro Station

Ikebukuro Engeijyo

Opened in 1951, the current iteration of Ikebukuro Engeijyo was completed in 1993. The hall seats 92, and a highlight is that the performers have more time to perform than at other halls, so you can enjoy their talents to the fullest.

MAP Supp. P. 36-A2 Ikebukuro

AD El Cruce B1F, 1-23-1 Nishi-ikebukuro, Toshima TEL 03-3971-4545 Upper/middle seating 12:30 PM–4:30 PM, 5:00 PM–8:30 PM, lower seating 2:00 PM–5:15 PM, 6:00 PM–8:30 PM ✕ Open year-round FEE Upper/middle seating 2,800 yen, students 2,500 yen, children 1,800 yen; lower seating 2,500 yen, students 2,300 yen, children 1,800 yen CC Not accepted PT 3-min. walk from West Exit of JR Ikebukuro Sta.

Boasts a history of over 150 years

Suzumoto Engei Hall

A historic entertainment hall founded in 1857. The huge space seats 285, with all seats unreserved. As a rule, performers are members of the Rakugo Association, with the program changing every 10 days.

MAP Supp. P. 46-C1 Ueno

AD 2-7-12 Ueno, Taito TEL 03-3834-5906 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM - 8:15 PM ✕ Open year-round FEE 3,000 yen, students 2,500 yen, children 1,500 yen CC Not accepted PT 1-min. walk from Exit A3 of Ueno-hirokoji Subway Sta.

Attending Yose for the First Time

The oldest surviving wooden-constructed Yose hall

Shinjuku Suehirotei

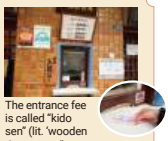
First built in 1897, the original building was destroyed by fire during World War II. The current building was rebuilt and began operation as Suehirotei in 1946. Suehirotei currently shows performances by members of the Rakugo Association and Rakugo Geijutsu Kyokai, as well as special performances at New Year's and other times of the year. The quaint box seats are a highlight.

MAP Supp. P. 35-B3 Shinjuku

AD 3-6-12 Shinjuku, Shinjuku TEL 03-3351-2974 12:00 PM–4:15 PM, 4:45 PM–8:30 PM Open year-round FEE 3,000 yen, 65 and over 2,700 yen, jr. high school students and above 2,500 yen, elementary school students 2,200 yen CC Not accepted PT 1-min. walk from Exit C3 of Shinjuku-sanchome Subway Sta.

1. Purchasing Tickets

Purchase tickets directly at the entrance (= *kido*). Payment is cash only. There are two showings per day: one at noon and one in the late afternoon/evening. Tickets are valid for both showings, but no re-entry is allowed. Tickets for special showings expected to draw large crowds will be sold through ticket agencies.



The entrance fee is called "kido sen" (lit. 'wooden door penny')

2. Seating is Unreserved

There are two floors with seating. The second floor will be opened when the first floor gets full. There is no reserved seating, so take a seat wherever you like. Please take off your shoes before entering the box seats or going up to the second floor.

Top: Box seats on either side of the first floor seating. Watching at the front is a spectacular experience Bottom: The second floor with a great view of the *koza* raised platform and audience seating

3. Curtain Opening

Noon showing: 12:00 PM–4:15 PM, late showing: 4:45 PM–8:30 PM; performances include *rakugo*, as well as a variety of other performing arts like *manzai* comedy shows, magic shows, and more. Audience members can switch seats between performers and eat and drink inside the venue.

Don't forget the shop

Learn How to Read the *Bangumi-Hyo*

The program listing the names of that day's performers is called the *bangumi-hyo*. Black characters are used to denote *rakugo* and *kodan* performances, while red characters are used to denote *kamikiri*, *mandan*, and the like. The term "*iromono*" (lit. 'things in color'), used for forms of entertainment other than *rakugo* and *kodan*, derives from this practice.

The final performer scheduled to appear is known as *shunin*, or master

Keywords for Enjoying Rakugo

1 Composition of Rakugo

The small talk at the start of the performance and anecdotes related to the main topic are called *makura*. These are then followed by the main topic. It is common to conclude with a witty punch line or pun, known as *ochi* or *sage*.

2 Major Performances and Genres

Hundreds of classical *rakugo* stories have been passed down since the Edo period. One of the most famous is *Jugemu*, about a boy with a ludicrously long name. There are also newly created "creative" and "new" *rakugo*, such as those set in the present day.

3 Associated Organizations and Ranks

There are four *rakugo* organizations in Tokyo, including the Rakugo Association, and each organization makes decisions on promoting its performers to a higher rank. The three ranks are as follows: the lowest, *zenza*, *futatsume*, and the highest, *shin'uchi*. Those who reach the rank of *shin'uchi* are called masters, and they will have their own apprentices.

4 Solo and Duo Performances

If there is a storyteller you like, it is best to see them in a solo performance (*dokuenkai*) as the main performer, or a two-person performance (*nininkai*) in which two storytellers familiar with one another give two performances each. The events vary, with some including longer stories and some with performances of new *rakugo* pieces.

Mr. Koito Takigawa

Associated with the Rakugo Geijutsu Kyokai. Takigawa is a talented *rakugo* storyteller who rose to the rank of *shin'uchi* in 2019. He is also busy with television appearances and modeling for fashion magazines.

What is a Grand Sumo Tournament?

Sumo is a traditional sport and the national sport of Japan. Tournaments organized by the Japan Sumo Association are called Grand Sumo Tournaments. Tournaments are held six times a year every other month from January. In addition to the three tournaments in Tokyo, tournaments are also held in Osaka, Aichi, and Fukuoka. Provisional tours (*jungyo*) are also held regionally in the main tournament off-season.

History of Sumo Tournaments

Sumo is said to have started over 1,500 years ago. During the Sengoku period (15th and 16th centuries), shogun and sumo fan Oda Nobunaga (1534–1582) apparently held sumo tournaments for the aristocracy and high-ranking samurai at Azuchi Castle in Shiga Prefecture.

Origin of Sumo

Sumo is believed to have originated from competitions of strength and matches of hand-to-hand combat that appeared as myths and legends in the ancient works, *Kojiki* and *Nihon Shoki*. It later became a court event held yearly as a ritual at festivals to predict the success of harvests.

Sumo in the Edo period

Professional sumo wrestlers began to emerge in this period, with public sumo tournaments held regularly throughout Japan. Later on, three major *rikishi* (sumo wrestlers), Tanikaze (1750–1795), Onogawa (1758–1806), and Raiden (1767–1825), appeared on the scene, establishing sumo's unshakeable position as a form of entertainment.

Meiji Era to the Present Day

It was not until 1909 that *yokozuna*, the highest ranking for *rikishi* on the *banzuke* (ranking list), was clearly defined. That same year, the former Ryogoku Kokugikan was fully built within the grounds of Ekoin (→P. 302), a temple that once hosted sumo tournaments.

Learn More at a Museum

Learn more about sumo

Sumo Museum

The museum is attached to the Kokugikan Arena and houses many artefacts collected by the museum's first director. At the special exhibitions, visitors can see valuable *kesho-mawashi* (ceremonial aprons), color-printed woodblock prints, *banzuke*, and other materials arranged around various themes.

There are ceremonial aprons, too!

Visitors can see *kesho-mawashi* actually worn by *rikishi* displayed in glass cases

There is so much content on the history of sumo, profiles of past *yokozuna*, and more

Touch panels

God of Sumo

Visitors to the exhibition room are given protective amulets and talismans from Nominosukune Shrine, which enshrines the legendary god of sumo, Nomi no Sukune.

MAP Supp. P. 44-B1 Ryogoku

AD Kokugikan Arena 1F, 1-3-28 Yokoami, Sumida TEL 03-3622-0366 🕒 12:30 PM–4:00 PM (last entry 3:30 PM) ✕ Sat., Sun., national holidays, temporary closures between exhibits (open every day during Tokyo Grand Sumo Tournaments) FEE Free (a spectator ticket is required during Tokyo Grand Sumo Tournaments) PT 1-min. walk from West Exit of JR Ryogoku Sta.

Watching Sumo for the First Time

If there was a sacred place for sumo, this is it

Kokugikan Arena

Kokugikan, which seats up to 10,000 people, holds Grand Sumo Tournaments in Tokyo three times a year in January, May, and September, along with other sports and live events outside of the tournaments. The present Kokugikan was opened in 1984 as the third-generation venue for sumo tournaments in use from January of the following year.

MAP Supp. P. 44-B1

Ryogoku

AD 1-3-28 Yokoami, Sumida
TEL 03-3623-5111 (Japan Sumo Association)
Depends on the show
Depends on the show
FEE Depends on the show
PT 1-min. walk from West Exit of JR Ryogoku Sta.

Etiquette and Rules

- Pack light as larger bags are not permitted.
- Jeering and booing is not allowed. Please respect the *rikishi* (sumo wrestlers).
- Moving seats is not permitted. Also, if you need to get up from your seat, please try to do so between matches.
- Eating, drinking, and photography are strictly prohibited in the ring-side *tamari* seats, so keep your focus on the wrestling.

1. Purchasing Tickets

An online advance lottery, along with a telephone lottery for ring-side *tamari* seating, are held about two months prior to the tournament. General tickets go on sale about one month prior to the start of the tournament. Chair seating from 2,500 yen, box seats sitting on tatami mats from 10,000 yen per person.
URL www.sumo.or.jp/Admission/isolate/

2. Getting to Your Seat

The highlight of the day, the *yokozuna* ceremonial presentation, is close to evening. Spectators are free to leave their seats and re-entry is allowed once, so why not try dining options such as the famous Kokugikan *yakitori* chicken skewers, along with *chanko nabe* (sumo stew) served on the basement floor? You could also take a stroll around the Ryogoku area.

3. Approximate Schedule of Events in the Ring

8:30 AM (approx.)	9:00 AM (approx.)	2:15 PM (approx.)	2:35 PM (approx.)	3:40 PM	3:55 PM	4:00 PM (approx.)	4:10 PM (approx.)	5:55 PM
Venue opens	Lowest division (*jonokuchi*) sumo matches Fifth highest division (*jonidan*) sumo matches Fourth highest division (*sandanme*) sumo matches Third highest division (*makushita*) sumo matches	Second highest division (*juryo*) ceremonial presentation	Second highest division sumo matches	Top division (*makuuchi*) ceremonial presentation	Highest ranked (*yokozuna*) ceremonial presentation	Intermission	Top division sumo matches	Bow-twirling ceremony

The crowd may be a little sparse, but matches begin in order of *banzuke* (ranking), from lowest to highest.

Sekitori ranked in the *juryo* division sporting a *kesho-mawashi* and elaborate *oicho* top knot appear on stage with their sights set on advancing to the *makuuchi* division.

Yokozuna enter the ring accompanied by two attendants on either side: the *tachimochi* (sword holder) on the right and the *tsuyuharai* (lit., 'dewdrop-sweeper') on the left. The audience cheers for the *shiko* foot stamping.

A ceremony in which *yumitori no rikishi* selected mainly from experienced *rikishi* in the *makushita* division twirl their bows in a spectacular manner.

Keywords for Enjoying Sumo

1 Banzuke and Promotion

The *banzuke*, or ranking list, has ten ranks. *Sekitori* include the highest ranked *rikishi*, called *yokozuna*, followed by *ozeki*, *sekiwake*, *komusubi*, *maegashira*, and *juryo*. The lower ranks are *makushita*, *sandanme*, *jonidan*, and *jonokuchi*. The *banzuke* rankings for an upcoming tournament are determined based on the results of the current tournament.

On the day before the tournament starts, *shizumemono* filled with auspicious items such as dried kelp and rice are buried in the center of the ring.

2 Basic Rules

The pose by *rikishi* of crouching down and lowering both hands to the ring is called *shikiri*, while the practice of two *rikishi* synchronizing their breathing and getting ready to charge is called *tachiai*. The winner is determined when (1) all but the sole of an opponent's foot lands outside the ring, or (2) an opponent's body moves outside the ring.

3 What is *Kimarite*?

The technique used at the moment victory is decided is called a *kimarite* (lit. 'deciding hand'). There are a total of 82 such techniques that have been recognized as *kimarite* so far. The basic techniques most often seen are *oshidashi* (frontal push out) and *yorikiri* (frontal force out), which together account for half of *kimarite*. Moreover, throwing techniques used as *kimarite* include *uwatenage* (overarm throw).

The Yoshoku Dishes Loved by Literary Greats and Cultural Titans

Follow in the footsteps of the literati through traditional yoshoku (Western-style Japanese food) dishes that continue to captivate both now and in the past.

Tale of the Ice Cream Soda

This item was the start of Shiseido Parlour's quest for authentic flavors modeled after American-style cuisine. The ice cream soda frequently makes an appearance in the works of authors Ogai Mori (1862–1922) and Osamu Dazai (1909–1948). It is even rumored that the former would not let his daughters eat ice cream from any shop other than Shiseido Parlour. From 1,200 yen; a variety of traditional and limited seasonal flavors are also available.

Tale of the Chicken Rice

This dish also had a fan in author Shotaro Ikenami (1923–1990), who was a frequent patron of Shiseido. Ikenami's first taste of Yoshoku was at the Shiseido Parlour as a teen. In an essay, he writes of his surprise at being served chicken rice on a silver plate. The sense of opulence at that time remains unchanged today. One serving is 2,700 yen.

❶The Salon de Café on the 3rd floor, which serves ice cream sodas and other treats ❷The impressive red brick exterior. The restaurant is on the 4th and 5th floors.

Continuously evolving with a focus on authenticity

Shiseido Parlour Ginza Tokyo

In 1902, Shiseido Pharmacy emerged as Japan's first-ever "soda fountain," a term for stores that made and sold soda water and ice cream, which was still a rare treat at that time. Later, it would change to its present style of also serving Western-style cuisine. Diners can fully enjoy traditional Western-style meals and desserts in the kind of refined space typical of a long-established Ginza restaurant.

MAP Supp. P. 24-C2 Ginza

AD Tokyo Ginza Shiseido Building, 8-8-3 Ginza, Chuo TEL 3F 03-5537-6231 (reservations not accepted) 4/5F 03-5537-6241 3F 11:00 AM–9:00 PM (L.O. 8:30 PM), Sun., national holidays until 8:00 PM (L.O. 7:30 PM), 4/5F 11:30 AM–9:30 PM (L.O. 8:30 PM) ✕ Mon. (open if Mon. is a national holiday) CC ADJMV PT 7-min. walk from Exit A2 of Ginza Subway Sta.

Tale of the Beef Curry

This Western-style beef curry, which follows a recipe that has remained virtually unchanged since the restaurant's founding, is 1,250 yen. Matsumotoro, a gathering spot for writers, poets, and artists, was described by author Soseki Natsume (1867–1916) as "a Western-style restaurant in the middle of a park." The restaurant also appears in a poem by Kotaro Takamura (1883–1956). They must have been familiar with the taste of this dish.

Top: Along with a spacious interior, outside terrace seating surrounded with greenery is also available Bottom: The piano played by Soong Ching-ling (1893–1981; aka Madame Sun Yat-sen) is on display

Traditional curry full of history

Hibiya Matsumotoro

Matsumotoro, established in 1903 at the same time as the opening of Hibiya Park, was the originator of the trend of "eating curry and drinking coffee at Matsumotoro," which was popular among so-called "modern boys and girls" at the time. As a show of appreciation to its customers, the restaurant still holds its 10-yen curry charity sale.

MAP Supp. P. 29-A4 Hibiya

AD 1-2 Hibiyakoen, Chiyoda; within Hibiya Park TEL 03-3503-1452 ◷ 1F 11:00 AM–9:00 PM (L.O. 8:00 PM), 3F until 10:00 PM (L.O. 9:00 PM) ✕ Open year-round CC ADJMV PT 2-min. walk from Exit A14 of Hibiya Subway Sta.

Tale of the Creamy Crab Croquette

These creamy crab croquettes filled with rich béchamel sauce and exquisite crab flavor are 1,210 yen per croquette. Writer Kuniko Mukoda (1929–1981) loved the taste of these croquettes, and her musings in an essay, in which she wrote, "the croquettes and rice at Homitei are great, too," suggest that she often visited the restaurant.

The three-story restaurant also offers counter seating

Mr. Sano, manager at Homitei

From a venue for geisha entertainment to a *yoshoku* restaurant

Homitei

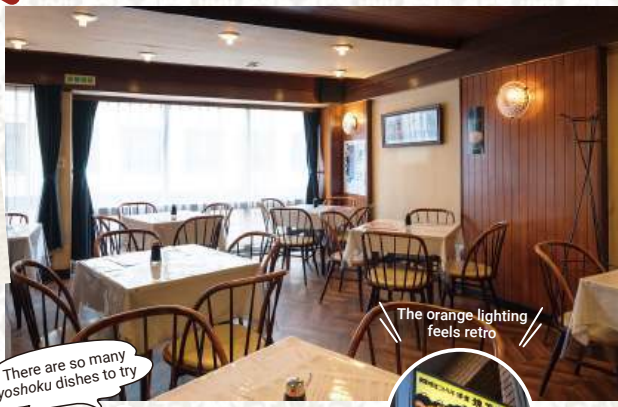
Founded in Ningyocho in 1933, Homitei features tatami rooms in the refined *sukiya* style associated with tea ceremonies. Supposedly, the practice of eating Western-style food with chopsticks was popular at the time, while geisha and *kabuki* actors from nearby establishments would frequent the restaurant. In 2018, the restaurant moved to Amazake Yokocho, with the restaurant's flavors passed down to the fifth generation.

MAP Supp. P. 22-A1 Ningyocho

AD 2-3-4 Nihonbashi Ningyocho, Chuo TEL 03-3666-5687 ◷ 11:00 AM–3:00 PM (L.O. 3:00 PM), 5:00 PM–10:00 PM (L.O. 9:00 PM), Sat., Sun., national holidays 11:00 AM–10:00 PM (L.O. 9:00 PM) ✕ Dec. 31, Jan. 1, and occasional closings CC ADJMV PT 1-min. walk from Exit A4 of Ningyocho Subway Sta.

Tale of the Original Pork Cutlet

This pork cutlet, which has been updated to better suit the Japanese palate, is the origin of Rengatei's deep-fried dishes. Many literary figures were familiar with the dish, with novelist Morio Kita (1927–2011) writing about the pleasure of eating freshly prepared pork cutlets with beer at Rengatei. Meanwhile, manga artist Osamu Tezuka (1928–1989), who had an office nearby, is also said to have frequented the restaurant with his friends.



Top: Author Shotaro Ikenami supposedly preferred to sit by the windows on the 2nd floor
Bottom: *Omurice* (rice omelet), *ebi fry* (fried shrimp), and *kaki fry* (fried oysters) also originated here (→ P. 347)

Mr. Koichiro Kida, 4th-generation owner of Rengatei

Savor the origin of popular *yoshoku* dishes

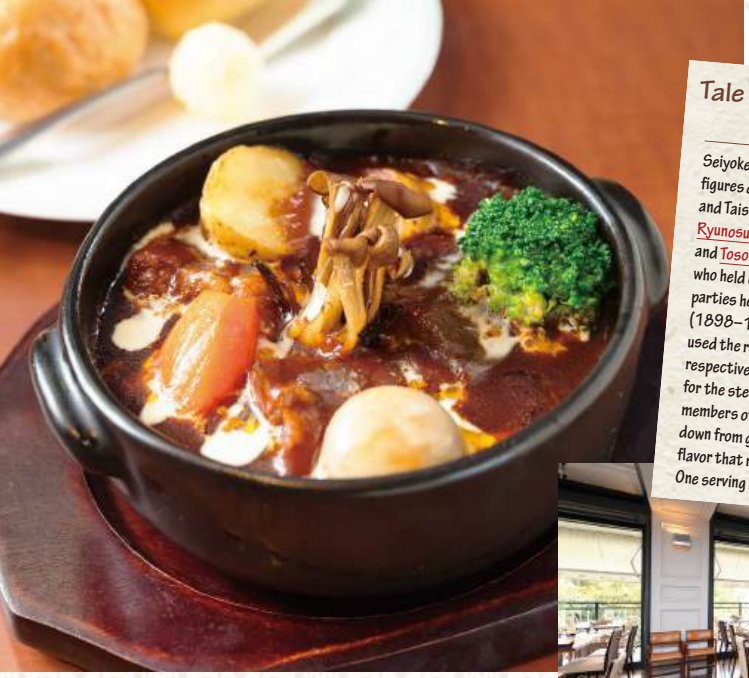
Rengatei

Rengatei has been open since 1895. Its name, meaning 'red brick restaurant,' originates from Ginza, which was a brick-making district at that time. The pork cutlet and many of the restaurant's other original creations have become firmly established as classic dishes in Japan. It is said that shredded cabbage became the accompaniment to breaded cutlets as a replacement for cooked vegetables due to a shortage of cooks during World War II.

MAP Supp. P. 25-A3
Ginza
AD 3-5-16 Ginza, Chuo
TEL 03-3561-3882
11:00 AM–3:00 PM (L.O. 2:00 PM), 5:30 PM–9:00 PM (L.O. 8:00 PM)
Sun. CC ADJMV
PT 3-min. walk from Exits A10/B1 of Ginza Subway Sta.

Tale of the Old-Fashioned Beef Stew

Seiyoken was used by various literary figures during the Meiji (1868–1912) and Taisho (1912–1926) eras, including Ryunosuke Akutagawa (1892–1927) and Toson Shimazaki (1872–1943), who held celebratory events and farewell parties here, along with Riichi Yokomitsu (1898–1947) and Kotaro Takamura, who used the restaurant as the venue for their respective wedding receptions. The recipe for the stew's demi-glace sauce savored by members of the literati has been passed down from generation to generation for a flavor that remains unchanged even today. One serving is 2,780 yen.



❶The restaurant's open interior filled with natural light through the windows
❷There are also terrace seats where you can fully take in the rich greenery of Ueno Park
❸The flavor of the 1,780-yen *hayashi* rice has garnered the dish many fans

Symbolizes Meiji-era Westernization through food

Ueno Seiyoken Main Dining Restaurant (Yoshoku)

Established in 1872, the year Japan opened up to the West, Seiyoken introduced Western-style cuisine to the whole of Japan. Four years later, the restaurant moved to its current location in Ueno Park upon the park's opening. Originally a social gathering spot for members of the imperial household, military personnel, and other high-ranking socialites, present-day Seiyoken welcomes people of all backgrounds to come and enjoy the flavors and atmosphere evoking the elegance of those days.

Left: The tins of cookies also on sale would make the perfect gift Right: The building stands by Shinobazu Pond

MAP Supp. P. 46-B1 Ueno
AD 4-58 Uenokoen, Taito TEL Restaurant 03-3821-2181, Grill Fukushima 03-3821-2180 ⏰ Restaurant 11:00 AM–5:00 PM (L.O. 4:00 PM), Sat., Sun., national holidays 10:30 AM–6:00 PM (L.O. 5:00 PM), Grill Fukushima (only open in evenings upon reservation) 11:00 AM–3:00 PM (L.O. 2:00 PM), 5:00 PM–9:00 PM (L.O. 8:00 PM), Sat., Sun., national holidays 11:00 AM–4:00 PM (L.O. 3:00 PM), 5:00 PM–9:00 PM (L.O. 8:00 PM) ✕ Mon. CC ADJMV PT 5-min. walk from the Park Exit of JR Ueno Sta.

Tale of the Katsu Curry

This dish of pork cutlet with curry supposedly originated in 1948 from a comment made by baseball player Shigeru Chiba (1919–2002), who was playing for the Giants at the time. It was said that he loved to eat the dish before matches not only because it was tasty and filling, but also because he superstitiously believed that it helped him to victory (*katsu* is a homonym of the verb 'to win'). The cutlet is made from domestic pork loin and comes on a plate with salad for 2,420 yen.

There's also a personal message from Shigeru Chiba

The fusion of a cultural icon's favorite dishes

Ginza Swiss Ginza Branch

Ginza Swiss opened in 1947 to offer Western-style cuisine, a luxury at the time, to a larger number of people. In addition to croquettes filled with crab cream or beef, many customers come for the *katsu* curry. The curry sauce blended with slow-simmered vegetables and meat goes perfectly with freshly made cutlets.

Top: A retro yet modern interior with counter seating and private rooms Bottom: The restaurant moved to a new location across the street in 2022

MAP Supp. P. 25-A3 Ginza

AD Okura Annex 2F, 3-4-4 Ginza, Chuo TEL 03-3563-3206 11:00 AM–9:00 PM (L.O. 8:30 PM) ✕ Open year-round CC ADJMV PT 2-min. walk from Exit No.8 of Ginza-itchome Subway Sta.

Tale of the Pork Cutlet

Official Jiro Shirasu (1902–1985) visited the restaurant frequently with his wife Masako (1910–1998), a writer and aesthete, with Masako supposedly having the restaurant's fried items delivered up to 10 days before her passing. At the entrance of the restaurant, there is a personal message left by novelist Haruo Sato (1892–1964), a patron of the restaurant, which translates as, "this is the taste of a nation that has not been vanquished." One serving of cutlet is 3,630 yen.

It tastes great without sauce

Mr. Yoshihiko Shimada, 4th-generation owner of Ponta Honke

Elegant dishes perfected with fat

Ponta Honke

Ponta has been located in Ueno since 1905, and its popular menu of fried dishes are created with great attention paid to the fat used for frying. The cutlets are fried in homemade lard made by boiling the fat trimmed from the meat. This gives them a lightness that allows diners to finish them off with no trouble. Only the lean part of the meat is used for this sumptuous dish, which is made with loving care.

Right: The relaxed interior with seating on the 1st and 2nd floors Bottom: The restaurant sign made of a single piece of wood and heavy wooden door welcome diners

MAP Supp. P. 46-C1 Okachimachi

AD 3-23-3 Ueno, Taito TEL 03-3831-2351 11:00 AM–2:00 PM (L.O. 1:45 PM), 4:30 PM–8:20 PM (L.O. 7:45 PM), Sun., national holidays 4:00 PM–8:20 PM (L.O. 7:45 PM) ✕ Mon. (the next day if Mon. is a national holiday) CC CADJMV PT 3-min. walk from the South Exit of JR Okachimachi Sta.

A drink that tells a history!

Welcoming VIPs from Overseas

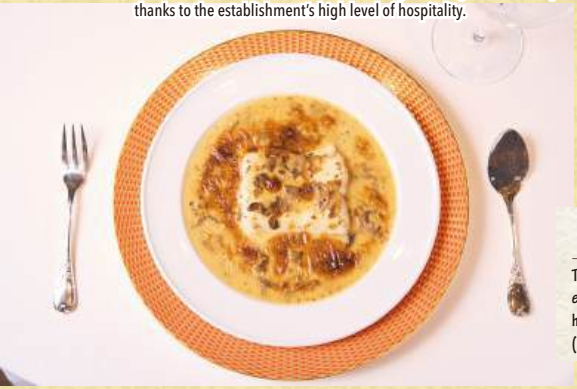
The Taste and History of Tokyo Kaikan

Tokyo Kaikan is patronized by numerous cultural figures from Japan and overseas. Traditional flavors have emerged throughout its history thanks to the establishment's high level of hospitality.

Kaikan-Style Gin Fizz

This drink, also a favorite of army general Douglas MacArthur (1880–1964), was created after a GHQ officer asked for milk to be added so that he wouldn't be caught drinking alcohol. Available at the Main Bar for 2,090 yen (excluding service fee).

Left: A technique called the Kaikan Stir, which involves moving the stirrer only with the fingertips Right: The prestigious and authentic bar



Sole Fillet Simmered in White Wine Bonne Femme

This dish has been on the menu since Tokyo Kaikan's establishment in 1922. The fluffy sole, mellow butter, and hollandaise sauce are richly flavored. One serving 6,820 yen (excluding service fee).

A social gathering spot for all throughout the ages

Tokyo Kaikan

Prunier, which serves traditional French cuisine

The first-generation main building was established in 1922 with the aim of becoming a social gathering spot open to all. Since then, the establishment has been used to host many state and official guests. Moreover, in recent years, it has also become known as a place where writers aspire to be as the venue for the Akutagawa and Naoki literary prize ceremonies. The third-generation new main building was opened in 2019. With this, the venerable tradition of hospitality that has continued for over a century will continue to appeal to many for years to come.

MAP Supp. P. 20-C1 Hibiya

AD 3-2-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda TEL 03-3215-2111 Restaurant Prunier 11:30 AM–2:30 PM (L.O. 1:30 PM), 5:30 PM–10:00 PM (L.O. 7:30 PM), Main Bar 11:30 AM–2:00 PM (L.O. 1:00 PM), 4:00 PM–10:00 PM (L.O. 9:00 PM) Restaurant Prunier: Mon. (the next day if Mon. is a national holiday), Main Bar: Sat., Sun., national holidays CC ADJMV PT Directly linked to Exit B5 of Tokyo Metro Hibiya Sta.

The Story of Tokyo Kaikan

Perfect for a social spot where many people gather together, the food at Tokyo Kaikan includes many dishes that would have been tasted by literary titans of the Showa era (1926–1989) and guests of state from overseas.

1922 Establishment

The first-generation main building, with Renaissance theme and much-loved chandeliers, was built.

1960s Appearances in Great Literary Works

The Collenia marble used for the lobby columns in the first-generation main building appears in Yasushi Inoue's (1907–1991) novel *The Fossil*.

1975 Welcoming HRM Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited Japan in 1975. The dishes that the Queen ate at her welcome luncheon here are still being served today.

Tokyo's 2 Major Landmark Towers

A Deep Dive into Changes and Current Highlights

Constructed as radio towers, these towers offer a ton of excitement in addition to amazing views. Now is the time to visit these two major towers that are filled with must-see attractions.

Tokyo Tower

Tokyo Tower Timeline

1957
May Nippon Television City Corporation is established
June Construction of the tower begins
1958
October The name "Tokyo Tower" is chosen
December The tower opens
1967
The Special Observatory opens
1977
The Great Shinto Shrine of the Tower is built
1989
Tokyo Tower lighting begins
2013
Registered as a national tangible cultural property

❶The steel tower and science museum (currently, Foot Town) when Tokyo Tower was under construction ❷The tower opened after approximately 1½ years of construction. Ribbon-cutting took place at the elevator to the observatory during the opening ceremony ❸The observatory was crowded with people when Tokyo Tower opened

What's the history behind the creation of Tokyo Tower?

In an era when televisions were becoming commonplace in homes, the radio towers owned by each broadcast station were inconvenient for viewers and spoiled the landscape. Therefore, Tokyo Tower was built as a general radio tower that broadcasts radio waves for all 7 television stations.

A variety of light displays

❶The Landmark Light changes color in summer and winter ❷❸The Infinity Diamond Veil began in 2019

Top Deck

Height 333m

Main Deck

Foot Town

Take an observation tour full of fun experiences!

Top Deck Tour

Packed with highlights, this tour takes you to the 250-meter tall Top Deck that can only be accessed by tour participants. In addition to a picture-taking service and guidance from staff, you can enjoy spots to snap photos.

Tour fees: Online tickets 2,800 yen, high school students 2,600 yen, elementary/jr. high school students 1,800 yen, preschoolers 1,200 yen; Ticket counter 3,000 yen, high school students 2,800 yen, elementary/jr. high school students 2,000 yen, preschoolers 1,400 yen
Time required: Approx. 60–90 min.

You'll be guided through a gallery to learn about the history of Tokyo Tower

Have a complimentary welcome drink while you're waiting

Arrive at the Top Deck, the tour's main attraction! 3D mirrors placed on the ceiling and walls create a futuristic atmosphere

Go back down to the directly managed shop to buy souvenirs

The thrilling glass floor is also fun

Top: Standing 100 m higher than the Main Deck, it offers a 360° sweeping view of Tokyo
Bottom: Inside, the deck offers terrific opportunities for Instagrammable photos

Climb up 600 steps

Open air outdoor stairs walk

There's also a course that lets you climb stairs all the way up to the Main Deck that stands at 150-meter high. Contrary to how it looks, you can reach the observatory in about 12–13 min., so don't hesitate to take the challenge. We recommend going down at night when the tower is lit up for a magical experience.

Opened on only Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays, participants are given an official certificate not available for sale

The highest shrine in all 23 cities

Great Shinto Shrine of the Tower

In 1977, the tallest shrine in the 23 cities was established on the Main Deck to pray for the safety and health of visitors to Tokyo Tower. The shrine draws its lineage from Ise Jingu and enshrines the deity, Amaterasu-Omikami. Many people visit to ask for blessings in matters including good luck in relationships and academic success.

Top: The ease with which the shrine can be visited is a draw Center: A single seal stamp (300 yen), which shows Tokyo Tower, features a seasonal depiction Bottom: People buy lucky charms to pray for good grades and riches in connection with the high location

The ever-evolving tower

Tokyo Tower

In 1958, Tokyo Tower was completed as the tallest tower in Japan. While it serves as a radio tower, it's also a popular tourist spot. In 2019, major renovations were carried out to create the Main Deck and Top Deck. With its international orange and white symbolic colors, the tower is still a beloved site today.

MAP Supp. P. 29-C3 Akabanebashi

AD 4-2-8 Shibakoen, Minato TEL 03-3433-5111 Main Deck 9:00 AM–10:30 PM (last entry 10:00 PM), Top Deck Tour 9:00 AM–10:45 PM (last tour 10:00 PM–10:15 PM), Open air outdoor stairs walk ascent 9:00 AM–4:00 PM, descent 9:00 AM–9:00 PM Open year-round FEE Main Deck 1,200 yen, high school students 1,000 yen, elementary/jr. high school students 700 yen, preschoolers 500 yen CC ADJMV PT 5-min. walk from the Akabanebashi Exit of Akabanebashi Subway Sta.

TOKYO SKYTREE®

TOKYO SKYTREE® Timeline

2006
March The building site for the new tower is selected

2008
June The name "TOKYO SKYTREE" is chosen
July Construction on TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN® begins

2012
March The name, Narihirabashi Station changes to TOKYO SKYTREE Station
May Grand opening

❶The site as it looked prior to the current tower being built ❷The presentation announcing the name, TOKYO SKYTREE ❸The nickname for the rail line becomes TOBU SKYTREE Line ❹Tembo Deck on the day of its grand opening

Why 634 meters?

Originally, the project planned for a height of around 610 meters, but 634 meters was decided on as the goal was to build the tallest freestanding radio tower. In Japanese, 634 can be read "musashi," which has a nice ring to the Japanese ear, is very familiar, and easily remembered. It's also associated with the old province name, Musashi that covered areas including Tokyo and Saitama.

Learn the history at 1F SKYTREE GALLERY

A collection of lighting patterns

❶❷❸ There are three lighting patterns. The regular lighting patterns called "Iki" and "Miyabi" represent Edo's spirit and aesthetics, respectively, while "Nobori" is a lively display of color ❹ Special blue lighting representing the "Earth" ❺ Special lighting, "Meika"

Tembo Galleria

Tembo Deck

Height 634m

TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN®

Celebrate your visit to Tokyo

Tembo Deck + Tembo Galleria

These observation decks stand 350 and 450 meters above ground. After arriving at Tembo Galleria, which stands at a height of 450 meters, walk up a gentle slope that affords a panoramic view of Tokyo to reach the highest point of 451.2 meters. A variety of events and exhibits are also carried out.

Ticket types		Adults Age 18 and older	Teens Age 12–17	Children Age 6–11
Tembo Deck + Tembo Galleria Combo ticket	Advance ticket	2,700 yen (3,000 yen)	2,150 yen (2,350 yen)	1,300 yen (1,400 yen)
	Same-day ticket	3,100 yen (3,400 yen)	2,350 yen (2,550 yen)	1,450 yen (1,550 yen)
Tembo Deck	Advance ticket	1,800 yen (2,000 yen)	1,400 yen (1,500 yen)	850 yen (900 yen)
	Same-day ticket	2,100 yen (2,300 yen)	1,550 yen (1,650 yen)	950 yen (1,000 yen)
Tembo Galleria	Same-day ticket	1,000 yen (1,100 yen)	800yen (900 yen)	500 yen (550 yen)

*Prices in ( ) are holiday pricing

❶Write down your wishes on a ribbon and tie it to the W1SH RIBBON ❷The shop also sells popular souvenirs ❸Tembo Deck is divided into 3 floors ❹Take a break at the SKYTREE CAFE

❹Stroll around the approx. 110-meter long walkway to reach the highest point, Sorakara Point, and snap a commemorative photo ❺The view on a clear day is stunning!

The concept is "a new *shitamachi*"

TOKYO Solamachi®

There are over 300 shops and restaurants in this commercial facility. Each area is divided into themes. Explore the 120-meter-passageway named Solamachi Shotengai Shopping District, and the Japan Souvenirs where you can buy exclusive souvenirs.

AD 1-1-2 Oshiage, Sumida ◔ 10:00 AM–9:00 PM, 6–7F/30–31F Restaurant & Cafe 11:00 AM–11:00 PM (Depends on some stores) ✕ No regular holidays CC Depends on the store

The Fashion Zone has a collection of various brands

See living creatures up close

Sumida Aquarium

You can encounter approx. 260 different creatures in this aquarium housed completely indoors. Based on the idea that the closer you get to animals the more you'll love them, the facility is distinctive for pool-type tanks without acrylic dividers so you can observe penguins, fur seals, jellyfish, and other creatures up close.

The huge Ogasawara Base, designed on the theme of the ocean world of the Ogasawara Islands, catches your attention.

AD TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN, Solamachi 5–6F TEL 03-5619-1821 ◔ 10:00 AM–8:00 PM, Sat., Sun., national holidays 9:00 AM–9:00 PM (last entry is 1 hr. before closing) ✕ Open year-round FEE 2,500 yen, high school students 1,800 yen, elementary/jr. high school students 1,200 yen, preschoolers 800 yen CC ADJMV

Immerse yourself in a starry night through light and sound

Konica Minolta Planetarium TENKU

You can enjoy many experience-based programs, including the Healing Planetarium which uses the latest 3D audio and original aromas, and the Mikazuki (crescent moon) seats which are limited to three seats.

Mikazuki seats are located in the front of the dome.

AD TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN East Yard 7F TEL 03-5610-3043 ◔ 10:30 AM–10:00 PM, Sat., Sun., national holidays from 9:30 AM (check the official website for screen times) ✕ Open year-round FEE General seats 1,600 yen, children 1,000 yen CC JMV

A new *shitamachi* symbol

TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN®

Centering around TOKYO SKYTREE® and TOKYO Solamachi, this "town" has numerous entertainment facilities, including an aquarium and planetarium. You'll get a sense of the aesthetics and the *shitamachi* atmosphere of old Japan from the shopping district sparkling with the light of *Edo kiriko* (Edo cut glass), the curve of Japanese swords, and a tower that incorporates elements such as the *mukuri* (camber) of traditional Japanese architecture.

MAP Supp. P. 43-C4 Oshiage

AD 1-1-2 Oshiage, Sumida TEL 0570-55-0634 (TOKYO SKYTREE Call Center) ◔ TOKYO SKYTREE 10:00 AM–9:00 PM (last entry 8:00 PM), hours differ for other facilities ✕ Depends on the facility CC ADJMV PT Brief walk from the East/West Exit of TOKYO SKYTREE Sta. on the TOBU SKYTREE Line or Exit B3 of Oshiage Subway/Keisei Sta.

©TOKYO-SKYTREE ©TOKYO-SKYTREETOWN

Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Tour the Legacy of Tokyo 2020

The Games are fresh in our memories. Explore what the renewed Japan National Stadium and newly built venues are like now.

It was designed by Kengo Kuma. Domestic lumber was used to create a space that emanates the warmth of wood. The Large Roof of lumber and steel beams and bowl-shaped three-layer stands overflowing with ambiance have garnered attention.

Heritage Zone

❶ Japan National Stadium

Since the Tokyo 1964 Games, the stadium has long been used as a stage for live performances and watching sports. In 2016, renovations began and were finished in 2019. During the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, it was called the Olympic Stadium and used as the main stadium. Today, too, large-scale events are held here.

MAP Supp. P. 31-A4 Sendagaya

AD 10-1 Kasumigaokamachi, Shinjuku ◔ Depends on the event. Check the official website for the Japan National Stadium Tour FEE Depends on the event. Japan National Stadium Tour 1,800 yen, high school students and under 1,000 yen PT 1-min. walk from Exit A2 of Kokuritsu-kyogijo Subway Sta.

Major competitions held

Olympics
- Opening Ceremony/ Closing Ceremony
- Track and field
- Football

Paralympics
- Opening Ceremony/ Closing Ceremony
- Track and field

2020 Olympic cauldron

A legacy of the Games handcrafted by artisans

1964 Olympic cauldron

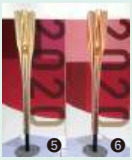
During the Tokyo 1964 Games, the lit Olympic flame was displayed on the highest part of stands

Participate in the Japan National Stadium Tour

The athlete experience

❶There's a winner's podium in the flash interview zone ❷❸You can also stand on the stadium field. There are hurdles and starting blocks on display, so you can pose and take photos like an athlete!

Tour a legacy



❹A signature wall signed by athletes ❺❻View Olympic torch relay torches in the interview zone

You can even enter the locker rooms that only team officials can enter

Shops

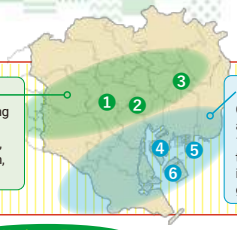
Items are sold such as commemorative keychains and original *kawara senbei* (12 rice crackers, 972 yen)

The planned concept for the venues

It's comprised of two zones, the Heritage Zone that has inherited the legacy of the Tokyo 1694 Games, and the Tokyo Bay Zone that symbolizes the city's future. The two zones expand across the city with the Athletes' Village in the middle, calling to mind the infinity symbol.

Heritage Zone
10 sites in areas including the Tama area such as Japan National Stadium, Yoyogi National Stadium, Nippon Budokan

Tokyo Bay Zone
Centering on the bay area of the 23 cities, 14 sites in Tokyo that include facilities introduced in this guidebook



Heritage Zone

Within the grounds are 8 small and large halls, and 31 conference rooms

Major competitions held
Olympics
- Weightlifting

Paralympics
- Powerlifting

❷ Tokyo International Forum

Opened in 1997. It's distinctive for its glass atrium building with a lobby space shaped like a gigantic boat. Every day various events are held inside the expansive facility, including exhibitions and concerts.

MORE→P. 161

Heritage Zone

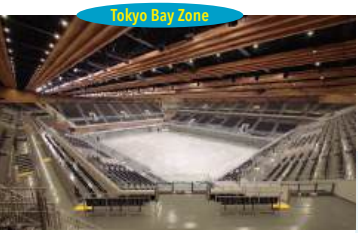
❸ Kokugikan Arena

It has a strong image as a sacred site for *sumo*, but the bowl-shaped venue enables spectators to watch the matches in the center from all directions. It was used for boxing in TOKYO 2020. MORE→P. 47

Pro boxing title matches were also held here in the past

Major competitions held
Olympics
- Boxing

Tokyo Bay Zone



The main arena is used for concerts, ceremonies, and other events

Major competitions held
Olympics
- Volleyball

Paralympics
- Wheelchair basketball

❹ Ariake Arena

This facility was newly established in the northern part of Tokyo's Ariake district. It has a main arena that can seat up to 15,000 and a sub arena that can be used for sports. It also has a restaurant, café, and sports gym.

MAP **Supp. P. 47-A2 Ariake**

AD 1-11-1 Ariake, Koto Depends on the event FEE Depends on the event PT 8-min. walk from Shin-toyosu Sta./Ariake-tennis-no-mori Sta. on the Yurikamome Line

Tokyo Bay Zone

❺ Yumenoshima Park Archery Field

Opened in 2019, it was used as an archery venue during the Games. Today, in addition to archery, it hosts various sports competitions, events, and hands-on classes. It's also open to the public as a large grassy area.

MAP **Supp. P. 14-A2 Shinkiba**

AD 2-1-2 Yumenoshima, Koto
Depends on the event
FEE Depends on the event PT 7-min. walk from JR Shin-Kiba Sta.

Yoga and sports classes are held that are open to everyone

Major competitions held
Olympics ● Archery | Paralympics ● Archery

Tokyo Bay Zone

❻ Sea Forest Waterway

This facility was newly built in canals on reclaimed land surrounded by greenery. There is a boathouse that can hold approx. 200 canoes and boats, and a grandstand that can seat approx. 2,000 spectators. Currently, it's a key site for water sports.

Major competitions held

Olympics	Paralympics
● Rowing	● Rowing
● Canoe (Sprint)	● Canoe

Water activity lessons are also held here

MAP **Supp. P. 14-B2 Shinkiba**

AD 3-6-44 Uminomori, Koto 9:00 AM–5:00 PM FEE Depends on the facility/event PT Take the bus from Tokyo Teleport Sta. on the Rinkai Line, get off at Kankyokyoku-chubo-godochosha-mae (Central Breakwater Landfill Joint Office, Bureau of Environment) and walk for 20 min.

A paradise of ready-made foods and sweets!

The Famous Shopping Streets of the TOKYO 23 Wards

While the TOKYO 23 Wards have an urban landscape, shopping streets steeped in a *shitamachi* atmosphere of old Japan can be found here and there. We'll introduce four major Tokyo shopping streets and the history behind the many shopping areas with "Ginza" in the name.

Enshrining Togenuki Jizo

Sugamo Jizo Dori Shopping Street

In the Edo period (1603–1868), Sugamo Jizo Dori Street thrived as Nakasendo highway. In 1891, Togenuki Jizoson Koganji Temple was moved from Ueno to Sugamo. In addition to the Togenuki Jizo statue, one of the Edoroku Jizoson (Six Jizou Guardians of Edo), and Sugamo Koshinzuka are also located here. The site became known as a place of religion. Today, there are approximately 200 shops lining the 780-meter long street. Also called **Harajuku for grandmas**, one of its characteristics is the abundance of clothing stores catering to the senior crowd. **Sugamo no Maruji, the originator of lucky red underpants**, was established in 1952 and sells lucky red underwear that brings health and happiness. It has an array of products to celebrate 60th birthdays and long life. There are also long-established Japanese sweet shops scattered about, including **Shiodaifuku Mizuno**, **Fukushimaya**, and **Shogetsudo**. On the 4th, 14th, and 24th of every month, a fair is held at Togenuki Jizo, with stalls setting up along the street and bringing in crowds.

MAP Supp. P. 16-B2 Sugamo

AD 4-22-8 Sugamo, Toshima TEL 03-3918-2101 Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT 2-min. walk from Exit A3 of Sugamo Subway Sta.

+α You can visit a temple, too!

Togenuki Jizoson Koganji Temple, a temple of the Soto Zen Buddhism, was founded in Yushima in 1596. Sho Kanzeon Bosatsu (Arai Kannon) is enshrined on the grounds. It's said that if you have an ailment, wash the corresponding part of the statue and you'll be healed.

MORE→P. 218

Be sure to stop by since it's located along Sugamo Jizo Dori Shopping Street

Must-try Japanese sweets

Unique for the oval shape that's considered good luck

Left: *Shiodaifuku* is sold at Shiodaifuku Mizuno and Shogetsudo
Right: There's always a line at Shiodaifuku Mizuno

Shiodaifuku Mizuno, founded in 1937, is known as the shop that conceived of *shiodaifuku* (*mochi* filled with slightly salted red bean paste). You'll want to fully enjoy the beautiful, high-quality fresh Japanese confectionery crafted in each season by **Fukushimaya**, founded in 1861. We also recommend the original *jizo monaka* (wafer filled with bean paste) sold by **Shogetsudo**.

Sugamo souvenirs

Sugamo Kintaroame sells *jizo ame* candy and Togenuki Jizoson *kawara-senbei* (rice cracers) branded with an image of a jizo statue. The *anpan* from **Kifukudo** and *dango* (rice dumpling) from **Iseya** are also popular.

Get bread and snacks at reasonable prices

Popular restaurants

You should check out the set meals at **Sugamo Tokiwa Shokudo Honten** (→P. 372), **Yatsumeya Nishimura**, an eel restaurant that opened in 1926, and **Jizo Soba Ohashiya**.

The deep-fried shrimp served at Sugamo Tokiwa Shokudo are generous in size. In addition to the main restaurant in Sugamo, there are also the Ekimae and Koshinzuka restaurants

Of course, the street is named after "amazake"

Amazake Yokocho

Visit Suitengu Shrine and then the shopping street

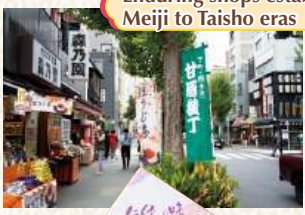
This shopping street runs from the Ningyocho shopping street to Kiyosubashi-dori Ave. You'll find all different kinds of shops lining both sides of the street. There are many Japanese sweet shops, such as **Gyokueido Hikokuro**, which sells Kyoto-style sweets, and **Yanagiya**, which sells *taiyaki* (a fish-shaped sweet). A shop selling hand-baked *senbei*, **Ningyocho Sokaya**, appears in the first episode of Keigo Higashino's drama set in Nihonbashi, "*Shinzanmono*" (Newcomer). Other Japanese sweet shops include **Bonmi** and **Ginza Akebono**. There are also many restaurants introduced in this guidebook, such as **Homitei** (→P. 49). When you want to wet your whistle, check out **Yakitori Jugo**, the soba restaurant, **Toshimaya**, and **Sake no Mise Sasashin**. What's great is the variety to choose from, including no-frills Chinese eateries and bistros. There's even a tearoom.

Within walking distance from both Ningyocho and Suitengumae stations

MAP Supp. P. 22-A1 Ningyocho

AD 2-4 Nihonbashi Ningyocho, Chuo ◔ Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT Brief walk from Exit A1 of Ningyocho Subway Sta.

Enduring shops established in the Meiji to Taisho eras



Ningyocho Shinodazushi Sohonten (→P. 380), a shop specializing in *inarizushi* (sushi wrapped in fried tofu) packed in a box, was founded in 1877. The street is full of historical shops, such as **Morinoen**, which sells popular premium hojicha tea and dates back to 1914, and **Gyokueido Hikokuro** , a Japanese sweet shop originating in Kyoto that started in 1954.

Top: Morinoen also sells soft-serve ice cream flavored with hojicha
Bottom: Shinodazushi makes a variety of sushi sold in boxes

Lots of places to eat lunch and dinner

You can try a menu that includes "Yoshoku Bento" (Western-style lunch; 2,970 yen) served in a multi-tiered, stackable bento box at **Homitei**, a *yoshoku* restaurant that moved to Amazake Yokocho in 2018. The second floor of **Tofu no Futaba**, established in 1907, is a restaurant serving tofu dishes. You can eat a set meal at lunch, and a multi-course meal at dinner.

Top: The retro exterior of Homitei grabs your attention Bottom: For dessert, try the super popular Homitei custard pudding (660 yen)

Enjoy stylish cafés and bistros, too

The street offers new establishments alongside the long-standing ones. **Tiny Toria Tearoom** serves authentic afternoon tea that includes scones and savory foods. Or try places like the casual bistro, **bhive** and **PIZZA DA BABBO** where you can enjoy pizza baked in a pizza oven.

What's the origin of the name "Amazake Yokocho"?

Be sure to check out Tofu no Futaba where you can buy *amazake* sold as souvenirs

The name, Amazake Yokocho comes from the shop, Owariya that sold *amazake* (lit. 'sweet sake') that stood at the present-day entrance to the shopping street in the late 19th century. Since that time, the street has been bustling with people returning home from the Meijiza theater and entertainment halls in Ningyocho, and has been called "Amazake Yokocho." The street was widened after the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, and in 1988 was designated as one of the streets given nicknames in Chuo City. Owariya no longer exists, but there are several shops that sell *amazake*.

Famous foods you'll want to give as gifts

Yanagiya is a must-see *taiyaki* shop boasting over a century of history. Known as one of Tokyo's top three *taiyaki* places, the wonderful sweets are made fresh right before your eyes. The *tamagoyaki* (rolled omelet) from **Toritada** is another of Yokocho's famous foods. Some types of *tamagoyaki* are sold in limited numbers each day, so it's best to get there early. Don't forget the *ningyoyaki* (doll-shaped red bean cakes) shaped like the seven lucky gods that are sold at **Itakuraya**!

It's OK to buy just one *ningyoyaki*, too

Left: You can buy just one *taiyaki*
Upper right: Itakuraya makes *ningyoyaki* by hand Right: The *tamagoyaki* from Toritada is also popular

One of Japan's oldest shopping streets

Asakusa Nakamise

It's said the beginnings of Nakamise date back to sometime around 1700s. Back then, local people in Asakusa who were engaged in cleaning the precincts of Sensoji Temple were granted permission to open shops on the temple grounds and along the approach. There were teahouses in the area called "*yakudana*" stretching from Denpoin Temple to Niomon Gate, while around Kaminarimon Gate there were shops called "*hiramise*" that sold items such as toys, snacks, and souvenirs. In 1885, a Western-style Nakamise made of brick was built, but it was repeatedly rebuilt due to the Great Kanto Earthquake and war. The current Nakamise was constructed after World War II. The row of shops extending approximately 250 meters from Kaminarimon Gate to Hozomon Gate has become a major sightseeing spot visited by many international tourists. The shop shutters are painted with scenes from Asakusa, so you can get a different impression of Nakamise walking around after the shops are closed. Be aware that eating while walking is considered bad manners.

MAP Supp. P. 42-C1 Asakusa

AD 1-36-3 Asakusa, Taito TEL 03-3844-3350
Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store
PT 3-min. walk from Exit A4 of Asakusa Subway Sta.

Use a map to stroll around

Pick up the Nakamise Guide Map at the entrance to the general information facility, Nakamise Kaikan Hall. The hall also has the portable shrine used in Asakusa Sanja Festival (→P. 335) on display. You should also take advantage of Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center (→P. 271) to get tourist information.

Nakamise Kaikan Hall is open 10:00 AM–5:00 PM

+α A site you won't want to miss

You can't tour Asakusa without visiting Sensoji Temple. There's a lot to see on the temple grounds, so allow plenty of time to look around. We recommend you also visit Asakusa Jinja Shrine (→P. 278) and Asakusa Rokku next door. MORE→P. 277

Visit the impressive Main Hall at Sensoji Temple

Popular Product ① Ningyoyaki

There are many different sizes

The numerous shops selling these sweets include **Ningyoyaki Kimuraya Honten** where you can see *ningyoyaki* (doll-shaped red bean cakes) being made, **Kimuraya Ningyoyaki Honpo** that's recognizable for its dove logo, and **Mihatodo** that bakes its sweets by machine on site. The distinctive shapes associated with Asakusa include the god of thunder, a five-story pagoda, lantern, and dove.

Top: The packaging differs for *tsubuan* (chunky red bean paste) and *koshian* (smooth red bean paste)
Bottom: Cute *ningyoyaki* baked in Asakusa-themed shapes make great gifts

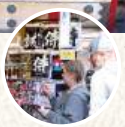
Popular Product ② Age-manju

The most famous shop is **Asakusa Kokonoe** located near Sensoji Temple. Besides the standard flavor, the shop sells over 10 different types of *age-manju* (deep-fried cakes with sweet filling). Happily, it's okay to buy just one freshly made *age-manju*. These sweets are also sold at **Kikusuido** and **Nakatomi Shoten**. Have fun trying the many varieties of unique flavors that differ by shop.

The crisp coating and red bean paste are slightly sweet

Over 80 long-established shops

Shops founded in the Edo period (1603-1868) are still around today, such as **Isekan**, a wholesale seaweed shop, and **Ichibanya** that bakes *senbei* by hand. Also take a look at **Azuma**, which has recreated the taste of *kibidango* (rice dumpling) from the Edo period.



Top: There are also *senbei* shops representative of Asakusa
Bottom: Many shops sell Japanese sundries and accessories

See the professionals' skills up close

There are also shops where you can watch the professionals make the sweets right in front of you. You can also buy freshly made sweets right there and then, so check it out. Some shops make *ningyoyaki* by machine in the shop. This means each one is wrapped for cleanliness and can be eaten while still hot.

Both the work done by hand and machine are interesting to see

Its charm is being able to find everything from A to Z amid the chaos

Ueno Ameyoko Shopping Street

The shopping street is commonly called Ameyoko. It started as a black market that emerged after World War II. At the time in Ameyoko, around 400 demobilized troops who had returned from Manchuria banded together to form an association and controlled shop openings. There are two theories about where the name Ameyoko comes from. The first says that when sugar was hard to come by many ameya (candy shops) were selling sweet potato candy. The name morphed from "Ameya Yokocho" to "Ameyoko." The second theory says because there were so many foreign goods from America, the name morphed from "America Yokocho" to "Ameyoko." Today, there are over 400 shops selling everything from fresh foods to fruit, clothing, and food and drink at bars along an approximately 500-meter stretch under the bridge from Ueno Station to Okachimachi Station. In addition, Ameyoko Center Building (→P. 78), an underground food market offering an abundance of Asian groceries, is in the middle of Ameyoko. There's also Marishiten Tokudaiji Temple that people visit for good luck, protection against misfortune, and business success.

MAP Supp. P. 46-C2 Ueno

AD 6-10 Ueno, Taito TEL 03-3832-5053 Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT Brief walk from the Main Entrance of Keisei-Ueno Sta. on the Keisei Line

The seafood is also worth exploring

Seasonal fish are on display and available for purchase by anyone

This shopping street is also known for fresh fish and shellfish, such as crabs and shrimp. Along with seafood, New Year's foods such as *kamaboko* (steamed seasoned fish paste) and herring roe also go on sale in December. Well-known shops include **Ishiyama Shoten** and **Marushige Shoten**.

Be sure to eat your way around the shopping street!

Fruit is also sold individually

Ameyoko is known for sliced fruit. Seasonal fruits including pineapple on a stick, strawberries, and melons are available at reasonable prices. You should also try the *menchi katsu* (deep-fried minced meat cutlet) from **Niku no Ohyama Ueno store**, a wholesale butcher that opened in 1932.

A generous serving of pineapple

Plenty of places to go day drinking

The atmosphere of the open-air establishments is fantastic

Top: Numerous shops serve Shanghai-style pan-fried *xiaolongbao*
Bottom: Skewered mutton is perfect for carrying around when walking

There are especially a lot of Chinese eateries to choose from, including **Heisei Fukujun** that serves *biangbiang* noodles—an amazingly good Asian dish, **Saikoshun Shanghai Xiao Long Bao**, a pan-fried *xiaolongbao* specialty shop, and **Tentenraku** where you can also try some unusual flavors. You'll find a wide range of bar-like establishments, such as **Kacchan**, a tempura and drinks place, **Uokusa**, a fish shop where you can drink, and **Motsuyaki Daitoryo**. There are also some places where you can stand and have a quick drink.

A string of sporting goods shops

There's an area packed with sporting goods shops, such as **London Sports**, that sells items including sportswear and shoes. Ameyoko is one place to go to find goods at cheap prices.

Items including clothing and backpacks are sold

Try your hand at "tatakiuri" sales and haggling

Ameyoko's famous *tatakiuri* sales performance at **Shimura Shoten** is something you must experience at least once. You can buy various kinds of chocolate that differ by season at low prices offered only at a wholesale shop. Challenge yourself to haggling at each store when buying in bulk or around closing time.

Bags are filled chock full of chocolates

Feast your eyes on these must-eat specialties!

Tour the Three Great Ginza Shopping Streets

Why "Ginza"?

It's said that there are over 100 "Ginzas" in just Tokyo. In its heyday, the Ginza Dori Shopping Street was Japan's busiest shopping district, and Ginza was one of the first neighborhoods to recover after World War II. In emulation of the "Ginza" success story, "Ginza" shopping streets sprang up all across Japan after the war, with Togoshi Ginza being the first.

The nearby Togoshi-ginza Station was renovated to have a wooden design

The original "Ginza" shopping street

Togoshi Ginza Shopping Street

This shopping street has a rich history with the real Ginza. It was created following the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, and it took over the piles of bricks from Ginza that were left behind in the earthquake's wake and used to help mitigate flooding issues in the area. Cheap eats are famous across their 400-odd shops, both old and new, and the quirky croquettes served by about 20 of them are must-haves. At the top of the list, there's **Goto Kamaboko's** *oden* croquette. The *daikon* radish inside can provide a delightful crunch. Dedicated shopping hours are from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM from Monday to Saturday, or 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Sundays and national holidays. With no trucks or cars allowed, it's the perfect time to eat your way up and down the shopping street. If you want to sit and eat, you can relax over at Togoshi Park, a roughly 10-minute walk from Togoshi-ginza Station.

MAP Supp. P. 18-C1 Togoshi

AD 1-15-16 Togoshi, Shinagawa TEL 03-3788-1474 Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT Brief walk from Exit A2 of Togoshi Subway Sta.

It's the longest in the Kanto region?!

The story goes that merchants devastated by the Great Kanto Earthquake flocked here from Tokyo's *shitamachi* and Yokohama. They would later set up shop around Togoshi-ginza Station, which opened in 1927, forming the longest shopping street in the Kanto region. It takes about 20 minutes to walk from one end of this roughly 1.3-kilometer-long street to the other if you take your time peering into each store.

The shopping street map right outside the ticket gates

Check out the three main areas!

Shoeikai Shopping Street

If you want to explore the Togoshi Ginza Shopping Street in its entirety, we recommend starting from the Shoeikai Shopping Street, which covers the area from Togoshi-ginza Station westward. **Nakatsu Karaage Kei** has their flagship store here, and their authentic Oita-style *karaage* fried chicken is the talk of the town.

Top: Note the location of its nine gates on your stroll Bottom: The street bustles with shoppers

Togoshi Ginza Shopping Street (Central)

In the longest stretch at the center of the shopping street, you'll find tons of food crawl options like **Goto Kamaboko's** *oden* and **Ryuki's** pan-fried *xiaolongbao*. Check out the new shops, such as Onigiri **Togoshiya**, which opened in 2020.

Top: A shopping street map and an information center with a bathroom are in this area Bottom: *Oden* skewers, perfect for eating on the go

Ginroku Shopping Street

Located in the eastern-most area extending from the central zone, this street got its name from the fact that it received bricks from Ginza Roku (6)-chome after the Great Kanto Earthquake. Apart from its timeless butchers, dairy shops, and other grocers, you'll find plenty of stores selling knick-knacks, flowers, and other items that provide a glimpse into local life.

Their mascot Togoshi Ginjiro will be there to welcome you

An array of *sozai* dishes at Jujo prices awaits

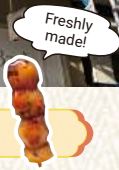
Jujo Ginza Shopping Street

This roughly 520-meter long shopping street stretches north from JR Jujo Station, featuring over 200 stores along its central main street and the offshoots on its east and west. The shopping street developed from around 1902 to 1907 due to the establishment of military facilities nearby, and is undeniably characterized by a large number of shops selling fresh produce and *sozai* (prepared dishes) at low prices. Decorated with eye-catching POP displays, their storefronts sell all kinds of *sozai*, from fried foods to *yakitori* chicken skewers, for as little as a few tens of yen. Your eyes won't be able to resist. Most of the shopping street is sheltered under an arcade roof, so you can feel free to eat on the go, even on rainy days.

MAP Supp. P. 16-A1 Jujo

AD 1-4-8 Jujonakahara, Kita TEL 03-3907-3860
Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store
PT 1-min. walk from the North Exit of JR Jujo Sta.

Head straight from the station and you'll find the Jujo Fujimi Ginza Shopping Street



Japanese sweets from long-established shops!

Try some timeless sweets, such as **Darumaya Mochigashi-ten's** *mitarashi dango* rice dumplings or **Musashiya's** hand-grilled *senbei* rice crackers. While **Aisaika** specializes in side dishes, they also have cheesecakes and other items for around 200 yen.

Their fried foods are delish!

You have to try the local specialties, such as **Meat & Delica Shioya's** Jujo minced meat *katsu* or **Toridai's** chicken balls. There are even shops selling croquettes for 45 yen a pop!

Fried foods for as low as 10 yen per piece

A shopping street perfect for food crawls

You can feel free to buy any of them one at a time, and they'll even give you a plastic bag for your skewers if you mention that you'll be eating immediately.

There are rest areas with tables and chairs

Nostalgia is in the air

Sunamachi Ginza Shopping Street

Originating before World War II, shops slowly started to trickle in after the war, and around 1963, the 670-meter long shopping street we know today was born, selling vegetables, meat, and fish at low prices. The shopping street still has a distinctly Showa-era vibe and gets even livelier during the "Bakaneichi" fair held on the 10th of every month. There are more than 180 shops across its two areas. In its western half, you'll find **Tenpei,** known for their juicy, thick tempura, as well as **Umemura,** which serves *shio udon* noodles, a Sunamachi Ginza specialty. Head into the eastern half and you'll encounter a wide range of tantalizing culinary options, such as **Asariyasan's** *asari meshi* (rice with clams) or **Unakuri 5's** *unagi* (grilled eel) skewers.

MAP Supp. P. 12-C2 Minami-sunamachi

AD Near 3 to 5 Kitasuna, Koto TEL 03-3644-5854
Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store
PT Brief walk from the Kitasuna-nichome bus stop on Toei Bus 07 for Monzen-nakacho from Nishi-ojima Subway Sta.

Featured on a popular TV drama

Tezukuri no Mise Sakai's minced tuna *katsu* is a go-to favorite. They have a special bag for eating on the go, and you can pour as much sauce as you want.

A Showa-era townscape

Even without a nearby train station, it's always full of life

Sunamachi Ginza burned down during the Bombing of Tokyo, but redeveloped alongside the community. You'll find mom-and-pop shops here that are adored by the community, selling everything from day-to-day items to groceries.

A diverse line-up of food

In addition to the fried foods, *oden*, *yakitori*, seafood, and other side dishes available here, you'll also find plenty of cafes and tea shops scattered around to keep you coming back for more. Many shops are closed on Wednesdays.

Top: Takezawa Shoten's *yakitori* are served hot off the grill
Bottom: Enjoy tea brewed from real tea leaves

One of the largest book towns in the world!

Kanda Book Town's Quaint Bookstores

Kanda Book Town's allure lies in its one-of-a-kind genres and scholarly book shop owners. Explore the town and find that one book you've been looking for!

Two stores to experience Japanese literature

Here's what I recommend!
The boxed first edition of Junichiro Tanizaki's *The Tattoo*. The cover design of this kochoboon butterfly book is stunning and it's a great collector's item.

Rare books crafted by legendary wordsmiths

Gyokueido Shoten

4th-generation owner
Mr. Saito

After opening its doors in Hongo in 1902, Gyokueido moved to Jimbocho in 1926. The first floor mainly deals with first editions, while the second floor features books that are rare in terms of both scarcity and content. Go up the staircase lined with autographs and poems written by authors and you'll see a myriad of valuable works, including manuscripts, letters, and postcards, also written by authors. Browse as much as you'd like on the second floor.

First editions and limited-edition books by the dozen

❶Works by Murakami are popular ❷A manuscript handwritten by Yukio Mishima, displayed on the second floor ❸Left: Kafu Nagai's A Strange Tale from East of the River; Right: Tanizaki's Quicksand

MAP Supp. P. 39-C3

AD 1-1 Kanda Jimbocho, Chiyoda TEL 03-3294-8044 (old books); 03-3294-8045 (rare books) 10:30 AM–6:30 PM ✕Sun., national holidays CC ADJMV PT 2-min. walk from Exit A7 of Jimbocho Subway Sta.

Here's what I recommend!
House on Fire was the swan song for Decadent School writer Kazuo Dan.

Literature buffs flock here

Keyaki Shoten

Mr. Sakoda

Opened in 1987 with a niche for contemporary Japanese literature, this bookstore has a collection of old books, individually and meticulously preserved in waxed paper. The store mainly deals in first-edition books, featuring a treasure trove of literary gems from Decadent School writers like Ango Sakaguchi (1906–1955) and Osamu Dazai (1909–1948), as well as winners of prestigious awards like the Akutagawa Prize and Naoki Prize. Apparently, a lot of people stop by in search of books signed by popular authors like Haruki Murakami (born 1949) and Natsuhiko Kyogoku (born 1963).

Numerous autographed books

❶A row of first-edition Dazai books ❷A shelf of Akutagawa/Naoki Prize-winning works ❸ Left: Sakaguchi's *The Idiot*; Right: An autographed copy of *Sayonara no Gishiki* by Miyuki Miyabe

MAP Supp. P. 39-C3

AD 6F, 1-9 Kanda Jimbocho, Chiyoda TEL 03-3291-1479 11:00 AM–7:00 PM ✕Sun., national holidays CC ADJMV PT 1-min. walk from Exit A7 of Jimbocho Subway Sta.

How Jimbocho became a book town

Many shops face north to protect books from direct sun damage

A number of schools were established in the Jimbocho area from the late 1800s, sparking a surge in shops aiming to cater to their students, with some selling brand-new books and others specializing in used textbooks. The story goes that this community eventually became today's Kanda Book Town.

Three stores to learn about Edo/Tokyo

Experience authentic Edo culture

Ohya Shobo

❶Bargain bin books also available in-store ❷Utagawa Kuniyoshi's *The Story of Nippondaemon and the Cat* ❸*Yokai Catalog* for 1,500 yen

This long-time resident of Kanda Book Town opened in 1882 and handles a wide range of books published during the Edo period (1603–1868). This invaluable bookstore houses antique maps, *ukiyo-e* prints, and traditionally bound *wahon* books with handwritten shelf labels, allowing customers to experience Edo culture first-hand. The current fourth-generation owner began selling old books on *yokai* monsters to help introduce Edo to younger generations, with *Yokai Catalog* being quite popular.

Here's what I recommend! *Hyakumonogatari*, which was popular during the Edo period. It features all kinds of yokai.

4th-generation owner Ms. Koketsu

Pick up a book and start reading

Find materials on yokai

MAP Supp. P. 39-C3

Ad 1-1 Kanda Jimbocho, Chiyoda TEL 03-3291-0062 11:00 AM–6:00 PM Sun., national holidays Cc ADJMV PT 3-min. walk from Exit A7 of Jimbocho Subway Sta.

Here's what I recommend! Hand-tinted postcards were valuable in their time and remain rare finds today.

Travel back in time

Nagamori Shoten

Mr. Nagamori

After opening independently in 2002, Nagamori Shoten set up their current location on Suzuran Dori Street in 2021. They have a considerable collection of travel guides, antique maps, wartime materials, and pre-WWII picture postcards, and both specialists and collectors alike frequent the place in search of materials in their area of interest. Just looking at their wares will take you on a journey, invoking a literary wanderlust to find that one book you've been looking for.

Materials from across Japan

❶Many people travel with these old timetables ❷There are even railway handbooks with impressive bird's-eye view maps ❸Maps of Tokyo from the late 1800s to late 1900s ❹Distinctly retro designs

MAP Supp. P. 39-C3

Ad 1-11-2 Kanda Jimbocho, Chiyoda TEL 03-3518-9780 11:00 AM–6:00 PM Sun., national holidays Cc ADJMV PT 1-min. walk from Exit A7 of Jimbocho Subway Sta.

Here's what I recommend! In *Butai no Danjuro*, you'll find invaluable depictions of Ichikawa Danjuro IX.

Take your first step into the world of Japanese classical performing arts

Tezuka Shobo

Mr. Tezuka

The shelves are filled with books on Japanese classical performing arts, theater, and music, categorized into various genres such as *kabuki*, *noh*, *kyogen*, *rakugo*, and theater. While fans unsurprisingly come here in search of invaluable works by pro *rakugo* performers and *kabuki* actors, there are plenty of beginner-friendly materials, including handbooks and magazines.

Photo books and CDs galore

❶Books from the Edo period to the present ❷You'll definitely find that one book you've been looking for ❸Works authored by leading Showa-era rakugo performer San'yutei Enshō ❹There are even Edo-period woodblock playbills

MAP Supp. P. 39-C3

Ad 1-27 Kanda Jimbocho, Chiyoda TEL 03-3294-3338 12:00 PM–7:00 PM Sun., national holidays Cc ADJMV PT 2-min. walk from Exit A7 of Jimbocho Subway Sta.

Three stores to take your hobbies to the next level!

You might even find a new hobby

Yukyudo Book Store

Niche topics are their specialty

Established in Jimbocho in 1915, this store has evolved through the ages, initially focusing on academic tomes and later expanding to include mountain-related books in the second generation, cookbooks in the third, and art books in the fourth. New discoveries await with each visit. Cookbooks are a particularly popular genre for pros and amateurs alike.

❸

❹

❶

❷

3rd-generation owner Mr. Suwa

Here's what I recommend!
Yukio Tabuchi's *Mountain Design*. It's a photo book from one of Japan's leading mountain photographers.

❶Books on mountains, flora, and fauna line the second floor ❷There are a number of huge multi-volume cookbooks ❸Old issues of *Yama to Keikoku* (Mountain and Valley) ❹There are even books on alcohol

MAP Supp. P. 39-C3
AD 1-3-2 Kanda Jimbocho, Chiyoda TEL 03-3291-0773
10:15 AM–6:45 PM, national holidays 10:45 AM–6:15 PM ✕ Sun., Dec. 28–Jan. 4 CC ADJMV PT 3-min. walk from Exit A7 of Jimbocho Subway Sta.

Enter a world of Showa-era retro manga

Yumeno Book Shop

Named after Sally Yumeno from Sally the Witch, this store opened in 2015 as a successor to Nakano Shoten Manga-bu, which had been in Jimbocho for more than 40 years. The shop has over 20,000 manga comics, magazines for young boys and girls, merch, and other items for sale, allowing customers to thoroughly enjoy themselves while basking in the nostalgia.

Here's what I recommend!
A Showa-era karaoke record. The art was done by Kazuo Kamimura and is something you won't forget.

Mr. Nishiyama

A treasure trove of decorative items

❶

❷

❸

❹

❶Shonen and other out-of-print manga issues ❷Laminated covers ❸Lots of valuable merch from around 1930s to today ❹The manga are in chronological order, making it easy to find what you're looking for

MAP Supp. P. 39-C3 AD 2F, 2-3 Kanda Jimbocho, Chiyoda
TEL 03-6256-8993 10:00 AM–6:30 PM, Sun., national holidays 11:00 AM–5:30 PM ✕ 1st, 3rd Sun. of the month, Dec. 31–Jan. 3 CC ADJMV PT 1-min. walk from Exit A6 of Jimbocho Subway Sta.

One-of-a-kind *karuta* playing cards

Okuno Karutaten

Countless varieties of *karuta*

Opened in 1921 as a wholesaler of indoor games like *go, shogi,* and *hanafuda*, they moved to Jimbocho after World War II and started doing retail in 1979. They sell a wide range of games from around the world. Today, they boast over 100 kinds of a Japanese card game called *karuta*, including some original products, which are sure to be fun for all ages. Special exhibitions are held on the second floor from time to time.

Edo-iroha *karuta*

Reprints of Sumio Kawakami's works

Third-generation owner Ms. Okuno is committed to popularizing karuta

MAP Supp. P. 39-B3 AD 2-26 Kanda Jimbocho, Chiyoda
TEL 03-3264-8031 11:00 AM–6:00 PM, Sun., national holidays 12:00 PM–5:00 PM ✕ 2nd, 3rd Sun. of the month CC ADJMV PT 3-min. walk from Exit A4 of Jimbocho Subway Sta.

Histories of Some Large Bookstores

In this section, you'll find the histories of Japan's leading large bookstores, which have quenched people's thirst for knowledge for generations.

The keeper of Jimbocho's history

Books Sanseido Jimbocho Honten (temporarily in Ogawamachi)

Brief history of Books Sanseido

1881 (Meiji 14)	The bookstore Sanshodo Shoten opened on Jimbocho-dori St. (present-day Suzuran-dori St.)
1915 (Taisho 4)	The publishing and printing departments were spun off to form Books Sanseido
1929 (Showa 4)	They doubled their sales space as a "department store for students"
1981 (Showa 56)	They celebrated their 100th anniversary and opened their Shinkanda Flagship Store (present-day Jimbocho Flagship Store)
2022 (Reiwa 4)	The Jimbocho Flagship Store started temporary operations in Ogawamachi.

1881

Around 1934

2023

Books Sanseido's story starts in 1881, when they set up shop on what is now Suzuran Dori Street. They published a great number of dictionaries at a time when printing was still in its infancy, with their publishing and printing departments later going independent. In the 1920s, they gradually became known as a "department store for students," diversifying beyond new books to include stationery, tobacco, cosmetics, and other items. Renovated in 1981, the Jimbocho Flagship Store temporarily moved to Ogawamachi in 2022 for reconstruction, which is set to conclude in 2025 or 2026.

Employees working in kimono around 1925

MAP Supp. P. 39-C3 Kanda
AD 2-5 Kanda Ogawamachi, Chiyoda
TEL 03-3233-3312 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM Jan. 1 CC ADJMV PT 3-min. walk from Exit A6 of Ogawamachi Subway Sta.

A pioneer among large bookstores

Maruzen Nihonbashi

Brief history of Maruzen Nihonbashi

1910 (Meiji 43)	The company building, Japan's first steel-framed building, was completed
1952 (Showa 27)	The Nihonbashi store, a steel reinforced concrete building, was completed
2004 (Heisei 16)	It closed for reconstruction due to deterioration
2007 (Heisei 19)	The Nihonbashi store reopened

Maruzen Shosha was incorporated in Yokohama in 1869 amid rapid modernization, with the aim of introducing Western culture and its products to Japan. The following year, Maruzen opened their Nihonbashi store, bringing in a diverse array of products to satisfy people's intellectual curiosity, from fountain pens and typewriters to, of course, books. In 1910, a steel-framed building was completed, the first of its kind in Japan, and featured striking red bricks. After burning down in the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, it was reborn in 1952, this time as Tokyo's first steel reinforced concrete building in the post-World War II era. The present-day Nihonbashi store was rebuilt, reopening in 2007.

1910

1952

2007

MAP Supp. P. 21-B3 Nihonbashi
AD 2-3-10 Nihonbashi, Chuo
TEL 03-6214-2001
9:30 AM - 8:30 PM
Open year-round
CC ADJMV
PT Directly linked to Exit B3 of Nihonbashi Subway Sta.

Maruzen and hayashi rice

Yuteki Hayashi, the founder of Maruzen. It is said that this dish, featuring stewed vegetables and meat over rice, was originally called "Mr. Hayashi's rice," hence "hayashi rice."

Served to this day at MARUZEN café

Their popularity still hasn't faded!

Relaxing spaces with interesting murals and pleasant lighting

Old-Fashioned Bathhouses and Saunas

Historical bathhouses, the latest renovated bathhouses, and highly popular saunas. Below are some places to relax your tired body after traveling.

Basic Bathing Fee in Tokyo

♨ Adult 500 yen ♨ Child (ages 6 to 11) 200 yen
♨ Preschooler (age 5 or younger) 100 yen

Separate charges apply for sauna, towel, and other rental fees and vary by bathhouse

Three Bathhouses Designated as a Registered Tangible Cultural Property

❶There are three types of baths: hot (46°C), medium temperature, and lukewarm ❷The fifth-generation owner couple welcomes visitors ❸The balcony overlooks a pond with swimming carp ❹The entrance with a hip-and-gable roof and the three-tiered gable roof are must-sees ❺The changing room is spacious. When a man is at the attendant's counter, he is blindfolded

A famous bathhouse founded in the early 20th century

Takinogawa-Inari-Yu

Founded in 1913, the current shrine-style building was constructed in 1930. It is a well-known filming location for various movies and TV dramas, including the movie *Thermae Romae*. An old-fashioned attendant's counter remains. The vivid mural in the bathing area is repainted regularly. This bathhouse has a special custom of purchasing new wooden buckets at the beginning of each new year.

MAP Supp. P. 16-A2 Itabashi

AD 6-27-14 Takinogawa, Kita TEL 03-3916-0523
3:00 PM–12:30 AM ✕ Every Wed., Thu. once a month CC Not accepted PT 7-min. walk from the East Exit of JR Itabashi Sta. or Exit A3 of Nishi-sugamo Subway Sta.

❶A bright bathing area with a striking painting of Mt. Fuji. The baths include a 44°C hot bath and a jet bath ❷Take a peek at the gallery with one of the varied craft beers on the menu ❸Interacting with staff of various ages makes for an enjoyable time ❹Wooden structure with an impressive curved gable roof

The third-generation owner contributes to community development

Kosugi-Yu

This is a popular bathhouse in Koenji established in 1933. There are four different baths, and visitors can alternate between dipping in hot and cold water. A selection of amenities, drinks, and ice cream are available. A retail space sells items connected with that day's bath scent. After bathing, spend a leisurely time with manga and picture books in the relaxation area that doubles as a monthly rotating gallery.

MAP Supp. P. 9-C3 Koenji

AD 3-32-17 Koenji-kita, Suginami
TEL 03-3337-6198 ◷ 3:30 PM–1:30 AM, Sat., Sun., national holidays 8:00 AM– (last admission 1:00 AM) ✕ Thu. CC AJMV
PT 5-min. walk from the North Exit of JR Koenji Sta.

❶The impressive rock mountain is made of lava from Mt. Fuji ❷The changing room has wide lockers and large mirrors, which are said to be remnants from the time when it was frequented by peddlers and geishas ❸The building is a valuable wooden structure with a coffered, latticed ceiling in the changing room ❹The splendid tile roof catches the eye

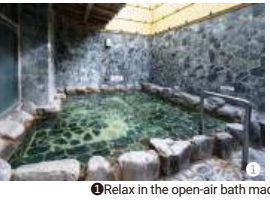
A morning bath for total relaxation

Tsubame-Yu

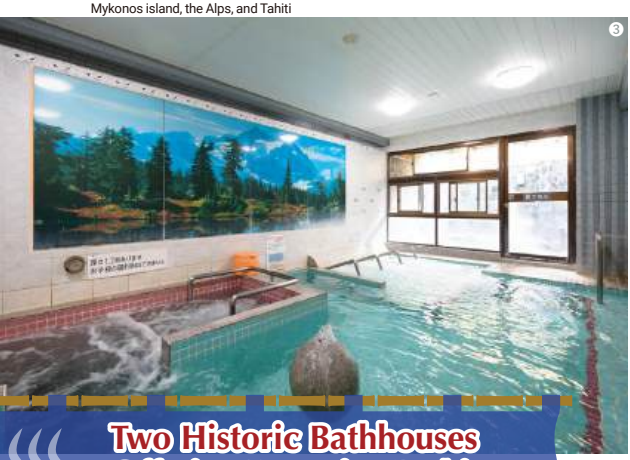
This bathhouse operates from 6 AM. Many regulars come at this hour for the water that has just been heated to as high as 46°C. It is common to see travelers pulling their suitcases, having arrived in Tokyo early in the morning. The current structure built in 1950 and the rock mountain in the bathing area are designated as Registered Tangible Cultural Properties.

MAP Supp. P. 46-C1 Ueno

AD 3-14-5 Ueno, Taito ◷ 03-3831-7305 ◷ 6:00 AM–8:00 PM (last admission 7:30 PM) ✕ Mon., Tue. CC Not accepted
PT 4-min.walk from the South Exit of JR Okachimachi Sta.



❶Relax in the open-air bath made of stones ❷On the second floor, enjoy a bedrock bath under a quaint gazebo, as well as a sauna and other facilities ❸The first floor has a spacious bath. The open-air bath is behind it ❹The murals depict landscapes from around the world, including Mykonos island, the Alps, and Tahiti



Two Historic Bathhouses Offering Extensive Bathing Options

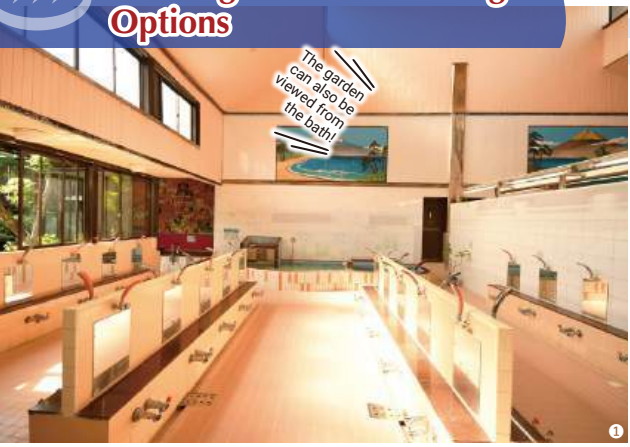
The oldest surviving bathhouse in Tokyo

Akebono-Yu

This bathhouse has been operating since 1773 and is now run by the 19th-generation owner. The building is two stories and has 12 types of baths, making it popular with families. The baths are filled with mildly hot (about 40°C) natural hot spring water. Plan to spend plenty of time trying out the jet bath, bedrock bath, milk enzyme bath, bubble bath, and more. The uniquely designed open-air bath is reached by passing through the indoor bath.

MAP Supp. P. 13-C3 Funabori

AD 3-12-11 Funabori, Edogawa TEL 03-3680-5611 3:30 PM–11:00 PM, Sun., national holidays 2:00 PM–12:00 AM Thu., Fri. CC Not accepted PT 5-min. walk from the South Exit of Funabori Subway Sta.



Dubbed the "King of Garden"

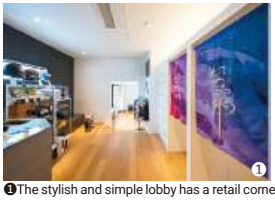
Takara-Yu

This bathhouse, established in 1927, is often used for filming TV dramas. Featuring a balcony and a well-maintained garden, it is also known as the "King of Garden." The bathing area is decorated with murals of Mt. Fuji viewed from *Miho no Matsubara* by Morio Nakajima and scenes from hell. The women's bath has an authentic Finnish sauna (included in the bathhouse fee). The men's and women's baths are switched every Wednesday only.

MAP Supp. P. 17-A4 Kita-senju

AD 27-1 Senjumotomachi, Adachi TEL 03-3881-2660 3:00 PM–11:00 PM Fri. CC Not accepted PT 20-min. walk from Exit 2 of JR Kita-senju Sta.

❶There are a total of five types of baths, including a sitting jet bath, electric bath, germanium bath, and medicinal bath ❷The shrine-style building was rebuilt in 1938 ❸Create your own löyly, the Finnish word for steam, by pouring water over sauna stones heated by a heater ❹Take a break on the balcony overlooking the garden



❶The stylish and simple lobby has a retail corner ❷The sauna in the men's bath has a cool-down space where the outdoor breeze blows through ❸A calm atmosphere modern bathhouse with indirect illumination ❹The large landmark mural of a whale was made in collaboration with the Whale Festival held in Ebisu

Two Modernized Bathhouses in Omotesando and Shibuya

A long-established but continuously evolving bathhouse

Kairyo-Yu

Founded in 1916, this age-old bathhouse was renovated in 2018 under the current fourth-generation owner. In 2022, the sauna in the men's bath was expanded. The bathhouse features mural paintings by contemporary artists, creating an art space with an exceptional atmosphere. It has carbonated, medium-temperature, and cold baths filled with soft water, which is gentle on the skin. The men's bath has a convection sauna and the women's has a far infrared sauna (450 yen).

MAP Supp. P. 49-A1 Shibuya

AD 2-19-9 Higashi, Shibuya TEL 03-3400-5782 12:00 PM - 11:30 PM Sat. CC Not accepted PT 9-min. walk from the New South Exit of JR Shibuya Sta.

A century-old bathhouse in the city center

Minami Aoyama Shimizu-Yu

The exact founding year is unknown, but it is believed to have been operating around 1903 on what is now Aoyama Killer Street. Soft water is used for all facilities, even the showers and taps of the bathing areas. Indulge in skin-friendly baths, such as the silk bath and high-concentration carbonated bath. There are towel rentals and clothes for sale, so you can come empty-handed.

MAP Supp. P. 31-B4 Omotesando

AD 3-12-3 Minami-aoyama, Minato TEL 03-3401-4404 12:00 PM–12:00 AM (last entry 11:30 PM), Sat., Sun., national holidays until 11:00 PM (last entry 10:30 PM) Fri. CC Not accepted PT 2-min.walk from A4 Exit of Omote-sando Subway Sta.

❶Enjoy spa-like options with three types of jet baths and rain shower heads ❷The bathhouse is located on the first floor of a condo and has an urban exterior ❸The rest area sells drinks and soft serve ice cream ❹Both the men's and women's baths come with a sauna (1,060 yen including bathing fee)

Saunas where you'll want to spend the whole day! Here are Three to Find Your Sweet Spot

Book saunas online or in person

❶

❷

❸

❶❷❸The men's sauna features walls made of *hiba* cypress wood and Maifan stones. There is also a spacious cold bath that's 90 cm deep and an outside open cooling space. ❹Check out the background illustrations drawn by manga artist Yoriko Hoshi ❺The beer bar serves original craft beers ❻The glass doors make it unintimidating for first timers to enter

A hotel and bar inclusive bathhouse

Kogane-Yu

This bathhouse has been in operation since before World War II. In 2020, it underwent major renovations, including the addition of a beer bar and a DJ booth. The men's sauna has an automatic löyly system, while the women's has a self-serve löyly system with aroma water that changes daily (weekdays: men 500 yen, women 300 yen, Sat., Sun., and national holidays: men 550 yen, women 350 yen). The men's and women's baths are switched every Wednesday only.

MAP Supp. P. 45-B3 Kinshicho

AD Kanazawa Mansion 1F, 4-14-6 Taihei, Sumida TEL 03-3622-5009 6:00 AM–9:00 AM, 11:00 AM–12:30 AM, Sat. 6:00 AM–9:00 AM, 3:00 PM–12:30 AM ✕ 2nd and 4th Mon. of the month CC Not accepted PT 6-min. walk from the North Exit of JR Kinshicho Sta.

There's also a place to stay overnight!

Kogane-yu Inn's overnight plan starts from 5,800 yen. The unlimited bath and sauna plan allows access to the baths wearing Kogane-yu's loungewear and includes towel rental.

The capsule hotel is clean

❹

❺

❻

❶A sauna master performs an aufguss ritual frequently ❷The lounge, full of manga and magazines, also has reclining chairs with TVs ❸A popular ham and egg set (850 yen) served in the restaurant ❹Take a cold plunge and cool down in the 6–7°C penguin room

The oldest surviving sauna in Tokyo

Sauna Center

The founder, who was in the hotel industry, opened this facility in 1979, wanting to create a place where businessmen who missed the last train can get some sleep. After expanding the cold bath and renovating the sauna, it was reopened in 2018. Sauna Center is for men only. The bathing fee starts from 1,500 yen (3 hours, open from 5:00 AM to 1:00 AM of the following day). The second and third floors are a capsule hotel.

MAP Supp. P. 41-C4

Uguisudani

AD 2-4-7 Shitaya, Taito TEL 03-3876-0016 24 hours a day ✕ Open year-round CC MV PT 3-min. walk from the South Exit of JR Uguisudani Sta.

❶Enclosed by *hinoki* cypress, enjoy "roasted green tea löyly" and other löyly aromas that change monthly ❷The baths use soft water and range from jet bath to carbonated bath ❸The open-air bath is a medicinal bath with a daily-changing scent. Sometimes it is a Chinese herbal bath ❹An approx. 7 meter-long outdoor pool

Has an outdoor pool which is uncommon

Aqua Higashi Nakano

This long-established bathhouse is believed to have been founded before 1923. After a complete renovation in 2010, both the men's and women's baths have an outdoor pool and poolside area where you can cool off in the open air. Both also feature a clean bathing area. The sauna, equipped with a far infrared heater and an automatic löyly/fanning heater (500 yen, jr. high school student 400 yen, elementary school student 300 yen), is spacious with a cap of 14 people.

MAP Supp. P. 9-C3

Higashi-nakano

AD 4-9-22 Higashi-nakano, Nakano TEL 03-5330-1126 3:00 PM–12:00 AM ✕ Mon. (the next day if Mon. is a national holiday) CC Not accepted PT 3-min. walk from the East Exit of JR Higashi-Nakano Sta.

Get a taste of foreign culture, no passport needed

Constantly Evolving Asian Towns in TOKYO

Tokyo has culturally diverse areas that have become increasingly vibrant in recent years. These are representative neighborhoods, along with our editors' recommended stores.

A representative multicultural neighborhood

1 Shin-Okubo

Shin-Okubo has a different feel between daytime and evening

While many people may associate Shin-Okubo with Koreatown, it is actually a rich mosaic of Asian and Islamic cultures. Start at JR Shin-Okubo Station. Head right on Okubo Dori Avenue in front of you and you will find rows of Korean restaurants and shops, as well as stores in alleys such as **Ikemen Dori Street**. However, if you turn left out of the station, a whole different world will appear. For example, if you cross Okubo Dori Avenue and turn into a narrow alley, you enter **Islam Yokocho** lined with stores specializing in halal food and spices. If you continue walking left on Okubo Dori Avenue toward JR Okubo Station, you will come across various Chinese shops. If you turn left immediately out of the station into an alley, you will find Thai restaurants and a stronger presence of Southeast Asian and South Asian cultures, including Vietnam and Nepal.

MAP Supp. P. 16-C1

PT Brief walk from JR Shin-Okubo Sta.

History of Shin-Okubo

Late 1800s to 1920s

After Tokugawa Ieyasu entered Edo (now Tokyo) in 1590, he ordered the Teppogumi Hyakunin-tai, a group of 100 musketeer guards, to live in the Okubo area, and it became known as "Hyakunin-cho." It was a rural landscape with traces of the Tokugawa period until around the 1890s, from which the neighborhood began to develop with the opening of Okubo Station in 1895 and Shin-Okubo Station in 1914. Residents at the time included literary figures such as Toson Shimazaki, Doppo Kunikida, and Yakumo Koizumi.

Postwar 1950s

Many foreigners including missionaries and teachers are said to have originally lived in this area. There were also numerous facilities that welcomed international students, including the International Students Institute established in neighboring Kita-Shinjuku in 1935. This too may have contributed to Shin-Okubo's multiculturalism. In 1950, the Korean-founded Lotte confectionery manufacturer built a plant in Shinjuku (it closed in 2013). Korean residents employed by the plant increased, and Korean restaurants began to dot the area.

1960s to 1990s

From the rapid economic growth period to the economic bubble period, Japanese language schools and vocational schools for foreigners were established one after another in the area stretching from Shin-Okubo to Takadanobaba. It began to attract people from South Asia and Southeast Asia in search for work. Also, it became a place to live for people from Taiwan, China, Thailand, and other Asian countries working in nightlife districts like Shinjuku Kabukicho, leading to the opening of authentic restaurants and grocery stores.

Korean Wave (Hallyu) in the 2000s

The airing of the Korean drama *Winter Sonata* in 2003 and the FIFA Korea/Japan World Cup in the previous year triggered the Korean Wave (Hallyu) in Japan. Korean culture has grown in popularity, from K-POP in the 2010s to makeup, food, and much more. Following the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, many Koreans and Chinese returned to their countries. In their place, people from Southeast Asia and South Asia came to Japan in search for work and have thrived.

Islam Yokocho

Cross the intersection in front of JR Shin-Okubo Station and turn into an alley at Matsumoto Kiyoshi. At **Green NASCO** with a noticeable green sign, shelves are lined with spices and halal ingredients. On the fourth floor, there is a simple Islamic mosque. Next door is the restaurant **NASCO Food Court**. Other shops include **Barahi**, which sells Nepali timur pepper, preserved foods, and Southeast Asian ingredients, and **The Jannat Halal Food**, which is run by a Bangladeshi owner.

The exotic mood at night is also intriguing

Koreatown

Koreatown occupies the largest area in Shin-Okubo. Here, you can find everything from Korean BBQ restaurants to K-POP idol merchandise. Large supermarkets such as **Kankoku Hiroba** and **Seoul Ichiba** carry Korean food products at reasonable prices. For traditional establishments, head to **Daehanminguk**, which serves home-style cooking, **Tonchang+** on Shokuan-dori Ave., which sparked *samgyeopsal*'s popularity, or **Sijang Dakalbi** for cheese *dakgalbi*, which is said to have originated in Japan.

Ikemen Dori Street is lined with cosmetics stores

Four areas in Shin-Okubo

Nepal guidebook editor's pick

The Nepalese restaurant **Solti Khaja Ghar** serves traditional dishes, such as *dal bhat* and *momo* dumplings. Tea leaves for chai ("chiya" in Nepal) can also be purchased.

Korea guidebook editor's pick

Matsuya is famous for *gamjatang*. Its hot pot is also excellent, and the hidden specialty, *geotjeori* kimchi is so delicious, you can't stop eating it! I always order takeout to bring home too.

Thailand/Vietnam area

Thai eateries are concentrated along a narrow alley that is immediately to the left when you exit the station. Among them are **Khun Mae**, which has two locations including its main store, and **SOM-O Shin-Okubo**, which has superb *tom yum goong*. Vietnamese restaurants are scattered throughout the area, including many stylish ones, such as **Vietnam-chan** and **333**.

Since it's close to the station, there are many coin lockers along the street

Thailand guidebook editor's pick

The *poo nim pad pong* curry at **Baan Tum** is a must-try! It's a bit of a walk from the station but well worth it.

Chinese area

The area around JR Okubo Station is rich in Chinese and Taiwanese culture. Worth a visit is **Tokyo Ma Zhu Miao Temple**, which enshrines Yue Lao, the god of matchmaking from Taipei. Food offerings are wide-ranging, such as **Yangguofu**, a *malatang* chain, and **Yuanji**, which sells *tanghulu* (candied fruit on a stick). We also recommend **Enjishan** near Shin-Okubo Station.

Tokyo Ma Zhu Miao Temple, a Taiwanese spiritual sanctuary in Tokyo

China guidebook editor's pick

Kakyo Supermarket sells Chinese ingredients. The conversations and scents will make you feel like you're in China! They have everything from hot pot seasonings to frozen foods.

Tokyo's oldest Koreatown

2 Ueno / Nippori

Tokyo's oldest Koreatown is located in the Ueno–Nippori area. Since before World War II, many Koreans and their descendants have lived in Arakawa City. After Koreans who came from Jeju Island started a chili pepper market in 1950, Korean restaurants and shops began to spring up in the Mikawashima neighborhood. **Higashi-ueno Koreatown** also developed after the war. Around 1948, Ueno Shinzen Market, which branched off from the Okachimachi shopping district, was established in its current location. This was because there were already shops here selling BBQ meat, kimchi, traditional clothing, and other Korean items. The **Ueno Ameyoko Shopping Street** (→P. 63) and its periphery have many Chinese restaurants, as well as "real" authentic specialty stores carrying regional Chinese dishes and delicacies. The basement food market in **Ueno Ameyoko Center Building** is particularly chaotic.

MAP Supp. P. 17-B3–C3

PT 6-min. walk from the Main Exit of JR Ueno Sta., JR Nippori Sta.–Mikawashima Sta. area

Korea guidebook editor's pick

Chonhakutong's *buchimgae*, *bossam*, and other dishes are all homestyle cooking and always delicious. It's the go-to place when having a meal with my Korean language teacher.

Koreatown in Higashi-ueno

Hangul characters can be seen on the shop fronts

Higashi-ueno is reachable by turning down a street from Showa Dori Avenue, which runs parallel to the train tracks between JR Ueno and Okachimachi stations. The address is Higashi-ueno 2-chome. Unlike the bustling area of Shin-Okubo filled with K-POP idol and cosmetic shops, long-established eateries and grocery stores are nestled quietly. **Marukin**, which has a variety of Korean seasonings and homemade kimchi, and **Ueno Nikuten**, which sells offal for BBQ, have signs that stand out. Kimchi bought in this area is highly reputed and has many repeat customers. If you're unsure about where to buy kimchi, head to specialty stores **Kyoei** or **Daiichi Bussan Ueno Main Store**. For places to eat, there are many BBQ restaurants clustered in a small section. A must-visit is the famous **Masankan**. The *gomtang* offered at lunch by the *samgyeopsal* specialty store **Haeundae** is gently flavored and reasonably priced.

Take a stroll down narrow, atmospheric back alleys

Koreatown in the Nippori–Mikawashima area

Shops line a narrow street off the main street

Hangul characters are particularly noticeable in the Mikawashima area. **Mikawashima Korean Market** has several Korean food stores. At the very back is **Maruman Shop**, where you can find foods such as kimchi, *kkakdugi* and processed fresh meat. Among the small markets, **Kimchi no Korai** is well stocked with frozen foods, packaged noodles, and more. Food establishments are scattered around the stretch from Mikawashima Station to the Nippori Fabric Town area, such as **Moranbong**, a BBQ restaurant where you can savor Jeju Island's *jari mulhoe* specialty and homestyle dishes, and **Busanya**, a famous *samgyeopsal* restaurant.

The Chinese presence is also increasing

Ameyoko has everything from Japanese-Chinese restaurants to the "real" McCoy

The Ueno Ameyoko Shopping Street area has many highly authentic shops. Recent openings include **Dalian Menzi**, which sells Dalian-style snacks, and **Dongbei Wang Xunjiang**, which sells sausages and has a branch in Ikebukuro. Japanese-Chinese eateries, such as **Chin Chin Ken**, are still thriving as well. Other must-visit places include **Cuiyun**, a Sichuan restaurant with a lot of fans, **Laojiupu**, an authentic Chinese restaurant, and **Jiunian Shiban**, a newly opened restaurant known for its interior design inspired by 1990s China. In Mikawashima, you can also find "Korean Chinese," which developed uniquely from Chinese cuisine brought to Korea. **Tokyo Garden** and **Semi** serve *jjajangmyeon* and *jjamppong*.

Head to the basement food market in Ueno Ameyoko Center Building!

Go down the steps and enter an all-different world

Among the shops in Ameyoko, this place is so reminiscent of local markets that you wonder if you're shopping locally. The building is occupied by stores primarily selling Asian foods, as well as seafood and meat. Originally founded as a delicacy store, **Nozawaya** is said to sell over 1,000 Asian foods. It has any and all conceivable products, from spices to frozen foods, not only from China and Korea but also from Southeast Asia and South Asia. Don't miss **Arai Shoten**, which mainly sells Southeast Asian ingredients, and **Chugoku Bussan Hai Yu**.

A Chinatown near a major city station

3 Ikebukuro Station, North Exit

When asked about Chinatowns in the Tokyo area, Yokohama Chinatown might first come to mind. But did you know there's also a Chinatown outside of Ikebukuro Station's North Exit? "**Ikebukuro Chinatown**," which was coined by Chinatown researcher Kiyomi Yamashita, consists of about 20 shops centered around the North Exit. The reasons for its formation may include an increase in new Chinese immigrants known as *xin huaqiao* in the late 1980s, the presence of numerous Japanese language schools in the vicinity, and the relatively low rent around Ikebukuro Station, a terminal station. Another significant factor was the opening of a Chinese supermarket, **Zhiyin Chinese Foods**, in 1991, now occupied by Youyi Shangdian. Before going bankrupt in 2009, Zhiyin operated businesses catering to Chinese people, such as bookstores, travel agencies, and restaurants. The establishment of Yangguangcheng supermarket in 2002 further accelerated the establishment of Chinatown.

MAP Supp. P. 36-A1–A2

PT 1-min. walk from the North Exit of JR Ikebukuro Sta.

Chinatown

Yangguangcheng is lit up ever more brightly in the evening

Serving as a landmark near the North Exit of Ikebukuro Station is **Yangguangcheng**. It is stocked with rows of Chinese food and alcohol and is open 24 hours a day. **Youyi Shangdian**, located on the fourth floor of Yamato Sangyo Building, is a Chinese supermarket with one of the best selections in Tokyo. It has an array of products from spices like chili peppers to herbal ingredients and seasonings, as well as Shaoxing wine, local beers, and other alcoholic beverages. A Chinese book and DVD store occupies the second floor of the same building. Many restaurants feature hot pot, such as **Xiao Fei Yang** and **Shisen Hinabejo**, and **Xiao Wei Yang** serving Mongolian hot pot. **Eiri** is a long-established restaurant serving Northeast Chinese cuisine.

We recommend the food court

A food court opened in 2019 next to the Chinese grocery store Youyi Shangdian. It covers a wide range of genres, including drinks and sweets. Some menus are written only in Chinese.

There are also hearty rice dishes

Payment is made using a special IC card. If you don't have one, you can borrow one from the staff and charge it at Youyi Shangdian's cash register.

Commonly known as "Little India"

4 Kasai / Nishi-kasai

According to Edogawa City's 2022 statistics, more than 5,000 Indians live in the city. The increase in the Indian population is attributed to the "Year 2000 problem." Many engineers were sent to Japan from India, which was already known as an IT powerhouse. They began to live in areas around Nishi-kasai and Kasai, which offer transfer-free access to business districts including Otemachi, Kayabacho, and Nihonbashi. Today, shops and restaurants are scattered around the North Exit of Nishi-kasai Station, and there is the **Edogawa India Culture Center** near Kasai Station. While stores that were featured in the media and became tourist spots have product names and menu items written in Japanese, Japanese may not be understood at other stores. An event called the **Tokyo Diwali Festival Nishi-kasai** is held once a year in Nishi-kasai where you can take in the food stalls and stage performances.

MAP Supp. P. 15-A3

PT Subway Kasai Sta.–Nishi-kasai Sta. area

Nishi-kasai, a hub of famous shops

A trip to India starts from the North Exit of Nishi-kasai Station

Shanti Tea, a tea shop produced by a former public relations officer of the Tea Board of India, sells quality tea leaves from all areas of India. **TMVS Foods**, which carries a variety of South Indian ingredients, sells mainly spices but sometimes also vegetables directly imported from India. A highlight of this neighborhood is regional dishes. For example, **Reka Indian Home Food** serves traditional West Indian cuisine based on Ayurveda, and **Amudhasurabhi** specializes in South Indian Tamil cuisine.

Head to Edogawa India Culture Center

The second floor of **Reka Cafe and Indian Home Food Kasai Main Store** is occupied by **Edogawa India Culture Center**, which promotes understanding of Indian history and culture. Various classes are offered, from yoga, tabla, and cooking, to philosophy and languages. Consider participating if they interest you. There is also an Indian temple, open for visits from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

Edogawa India Culture Center organizes the Ganesh Chaturthi festival

"Little Yangon"

5 Takadanobaba

A democracy movement in 1988 forced many to flee Myanmar (then Burma) to escape military oppression. At a time when foreigners could not easily rent housing in Japan, a Japanese landlord who had ties to Myanmar and owned apartments around Nakai Station on the Seibu Shinjuku Line is said to have helped the escapees rent without a guarantor. Thanks to him, a large number of Myanmar people came through their connections. Many worked in Shinjuku and Shin-Okubo and gradually settled in Takadanobaba from which they could commute without changing trains. Myanmar shops are currently scattered around the stretch from the Takadanobaba Station area in Shinjuku City to Takada in Toshima City.

MAP Supp. P. 16-B1–C1

PT JR Takadanobaba Sta. area

Myanmar guidebook editor's pick

Myanmar's foods suit the Japanese palate. Be sure to order the "Danpauk Set" lunch at **Nong Inlay** in TAK11!

Visit a building with Myanmar-related shops!

Right outside the Waseda Exit of JR Takadanobaba Station is **TAK11** occupied by a number of Myanmar-related shops. The grocery store **FUJI Myanmar Store** on the eighth floor is stocked with prepared foods and sweets and is highly recommended. **Nong Inlay**, a restaurant run by the Shan, an ethnic group in Myanmar's mountains, features dishes made with glutinous rice and fermented foods. Its sister store, **Taunggyi Cafe & Bar**, also in the same building, offers not only Shan but also Myanmar sweets and drinks.

The elevator is located along the tracks, so be sure not to miss it

Myanmar restaurants are scattered in the vicinity

TAK11 is not the only option. If you are looking for more Myanmar restaurants, we recommend **Baba Myanmar Noodle**, a Myanmar noodle specialty shop with over 20 types of noodle dishes, and **Swe Myanmar**, a shop opened by a couple from Yangon where you can find its famous *danbauk* and noodle dish *mohinga*.

Sign written in both Japanese and Burmese

"Little Dhaka" after the capital

6 Jujo / Higashi-jujo

Though not certain, it is said that a Bangladeshi community formed after a Bangladeshi opened a halal shop near Higashi-jujo Station about 30 years ago, and Bangladeshi students and others began to gather here. Today, more than 1,000 Bangladeshi people live in Kita City, mostly in the area from JR Akabane Station to Jujo Station. Some shops offer Friday-only menu items as Friday is a holy day and the day of Friday prayer for Muslims. Jujo also has Vietnamese, Nepalese, and other shops, making it unexpectedly multicultural.

MAP Supp. P. 16-A1–A2

PT JR Jujo Sta.–Higashi-jujo Sta. area

Bangladesh guidebook editor's pick

There is an array of stores selling not only Bangladeshi groceries but also halal foods. Be sure to check out **Higashi-jujo Halal Mart**.

Bangladeshis reside in the Akabane to Jujo area

We recommend the dry curry at **Bengal Restaurant**, which is run by a family from southeastern Bangladesh. **Moiful**, which sells curry and naan, is perfect for ordering to go. There are also many grocery stores offering a large selection of products, including **Mazumder Halal Food**, which is part of a Bengali restaurant chain and carries ingredients sourced from Bangladesh, and **Sonali Star**, a halal grocery store that also stocks Southeast Asian products.

Also visit Jujo Ginza Shopping Street (→P. 65)

The North Exit side of Higashi-jujo Station also has many shops

The **Madina Masjid Tokyo** mosque is near the North Exit. Places to eat include halal grocery store **Al Barakah**, which offers some Bangladeshi dishes, and **Tiger**, a popular restaurant among Bengalis that serves dal soup and curry. Ask about Bangladeshi dishes as they are not listed on the menu.

For the mosque right by the North Exit, look for this blue sign

Welcome to "Little Thailand"

7 Kinshicho

The Kinshicho area originally had many "Philippine pubs" and was apparently known as "Little Manila" at one time. However, the Filipino population gradually decreased, and conversely, the Thai population increased. It is unclear when and why the neighborhood began to be called "Little Thailand." It was 1986 that **Thailand Shop**, a venerable Thai restaurant and grocery store, opened, and more Thai stores seemed to have appeared from this time. Little Thailand's highlight is its wide range of offerings, ranging from a restaurant district to pubs, "snack bars," spa/massage parlors, and even a culture school. For massages, there are **New Sukhotai Kinshicho**, **Traditional Thai Massage Ruanthai**, and **Viphada Thai Spa**. **Tit Cai Thai Food**, a Thai cooking school run by Thai cuisine expert Megumi Nagasawa is also in Kinshicho.

MAP Supp. P. 45-B3–C3
PT JR Kinshicho Sta. North/South Exit area

Both the South and North Exit sides have Thai eateries

Many are open until late at night

Both the North and South Exit sides have numerous eateries. On the North Exit side, there are places such as **Sabaichai Thai Restaurant**, which is highly reputed for its *poo pad pong* curry, **Chang Thai**, which has affordable lunch dishes, and **Thailand** serving its signature Thai hotpot. You can also eat Thai food at **TINUN olinas Kinshicho** in the foot court of the olinas Kinshicho shopping mall. Asian grocery store **Yaosho** is also near the North Exit. On the South Exit side, there are **Keawjai Koutobashi** and **Puan Thai**, which serve a number of representative Thai dishes, and **Thai Izakaya Esan Sakon Nakhon**, which offers Isaan cuisine. Some establishments are open until early morning.

Even a Thai Education and Culture Center!

The culture school was established in 2007 to increase awareness of traditional Thai culture, including the Thai language, Thai cuisine, and the Thai art of fruit carving. Group lessons in Thai cooking start at 4,400 yen per session. For Thai language lessons, various options ranging from group to private sessions are available.

Here you can learn about Thai culture in depth

Other "Little XX" neighborhoods!

Little Manila in Takenotsuka

Upon exiting the East Exit of Takenotsuka Station on the TOBU SKYTREE Line, you will find an area packed with "Philippine pubs" within a 200-meter radius. Many signs contain local place names and/or are written in Tagalog. For authentic Filipino cuisine, head to **New Hungry**. There is no menu, but you can consult with the owner in Japanese. The weekend-only buffet can get crowded but is highly recommended.

The neon pub and snack bar signs make it feel like Shinjuku Kabukicho

Kagurazaka is known as "Little Paris"

The reason is that many French people live here, and Institut Français Tokyo, a French language school and an official French government institution, is also nearby. The slopes and narrow cobblestone streets are said to resemble the streets of Paris. You can find authentic French food at bistros, wine bars, and patisseries.

Daitabashi is Okinawa Town!?

This is a neighborhood in Tokyo where you can feel the Okinawan vibes. From the North Exit of Daitabashi Station on the Keio Line, cross Koshu Kaido Avenue and you will see Izumi Meitengai. The word "Okinawa Town" is written on the red entrance gate, and the street is lined with Okinawa-themed pubs. Unlike Okinawa Town in Yokohama's Tsurumi district, which traces its origin to the arrival of migrant workers from Okinawa, the Okinawa Town in Daitabashi was created as part of a neighborhood revitalization project in 2005. Scholars researching Okinawa lived in Suginami City, and partly due to such fate, it was decided that an Okinawa-themed street would be established here. Visitors are encouraged to taste a wide variety of *awamori*.

Many places open late afternoon or later

Mensore Daito Ichiba market in a corner of Izumi Meitengai

Antiquarians, gather 'round!

Find Your Favorite Items at Antique and Handicraft Markets

There are many large-scale markets in the highly populated TOKYO 23 Wards.
These are some of the antique and handicraft markets held at temples, shrines, parks, and plazas!

Shopping Guide

❶ It's best to go early morning

The best time to go is right after opening, when it's not crowded. Popular items may sell out by the afternoon.

❷ Bring cash

Many places do not accept credit cards. It's better to bring 1,000 yen bills and small change.

❸ Tips on price negotiation

You might get a discount if you buy in bulk. Try to negotiate while engaging in a casual conversation.

Find vintage treasures

Oedo Antique Market

This is one of the largest outdoor antique markets in Japan, which started in 2003 on the 400th anniversary of the founding of Edo (now Tokyo). It is held on the first and third Sunday of every month at Tokyo International Forum. Boasting about 250 vendors each time, the market offers everything from hidden antique gems found overseas by expert appraisers, to beautiful ancient artworks. There are many repeat visitors. Its convenient location also draws foreign tourists and people new to antiques; the atmosphere is inviting. Since September 2012, the market is also held occasionally at Yoyogi Park.

MAP Supp. P. 20-C1 Yurakucho

AD Tokyo International Forum Plaza, 3-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda TEL 03-6407-6011 (an automated phone system provides information from the previous evening) 1st, 3rd. Sun. of every month, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM (check the official website) PT Brief walk from the Int'l Forum Exit of JR Yurakucho Sta.

❶❺The plaza is filled with shops ❷Brief walk from the Int'l Forum Exit of JR Yurakucho Sta. Follow the flags to find your way ❸Ms. Koshida from Kimono no Koshida attends to customers considerately ❹The crowd increases in the afternoon

Popular Shops with Many Regular Customers

Among the numerous vendors, these six are popular according to the organizer and are our staff's top picks.

antique shop menu

This vendor normally runs a shop and café in Hiratsuka. You can find a range of antique furniture and practical cutlery, which they purchase in the UK about three times a year.

There are large furniture pieces, such as wooden chairs, tables, and shelves. View the actual items to see if you like them

Glasses, tableware, and British-themed goods are displayed beautifully. It is fun just looking at them

Rotensho Sano

It has a large selection of items collected by the owner, an antique enthusiast of over 30 years, including nostalgic household goods, paper items, and junk.

Displayed are stationery, such as crayons, paints, and ink bottles, and vintage tools, such as incense clocks. A must-visit for fans of 20th century retro antiques!

Kobijutsu Fuku

This vendor has been participating in the Oedo Antique Market since it began, and has a store in Tochigi. It mainly offers Old Imari blue-and-white porcelain plates and sake cups from over 300 to 400 years ago.

Each has a different pattern and shape. Give yourself plenty of time to view and choose. Relatively reasonable items, such as small plates, start at the 20,000 yen range

Art

It has mainly prints by *ukiyo-e* artists from the 17th through the 19th centuries, as well as tobacco cases, *inro*, and other containers.

They are works by Utagawa Hiroshige and other artists. Many people stop to admire the vibrant prints displayed in the tent, including many foreign visitors.

Kobijutsu Asaka

An assortment of items is sold, from Buddhist statues to tea ceremony utensils, flower vases, lacquerware, Japanese accessories, kimonos, and obi sashes.

The items change each time to ensure that customers enjoy every visit to the shop

It has a large selection of *maruobi* sashes. Prices start at 5,000 yen each

Kimono no Koshida

Sells primarily recycled kimonos, along with Japanese accessories, such as bags and *zori* sandals. Since it is an online shop and has no physical store, visit the shop at the antique market.

It also carries an array of Japanese accessories, such as sash clips, sash cords, and thin sash fabric. Find your favorite ones

The items range from contemporary to antique. Beginners should consult with the staff dressed in kimonos to find what they are looking for

Opened in the late 1500s

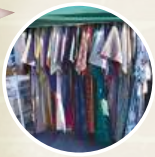
Setagaya Boro-ichi

Originally called "Raku-ichi," the market dates back to 1578, when Hojo Ujimasa, the lord of Odawara Castle who governed the Kanto region, established a market in Setagaya Shinjuku. Although it lost its liveliness when the Edo government was formed, it later evolved into an annual year-end market. From 1874, it began to be held on December 15 and January 15. Today, it is held twice a year over two days on December 15 to 16 and January 15 to 16. It has become a major event along the Setagaya train line, featuring around 700 stalls selling vintage kimonos, secondhand clothing, and food.

Try the famous daikan mochi!

Its sales began in 1975. Freshly made *mochi* is filled with a generous amount of sweet red bean paste. The line is long time each time; the wait is one to two hours

Antique kimonos!



By the 1890s, the market mainly sold secondhand clothing and *boro* rags, and came to be called "Boro-ichi." This became the official name after World War II. Today, it still has many shops specializing in antique kimonos and fabric products

Vegetable stalls!

There is also a space selling fresh vegetables and fruits from all over Japan

Munch on delicious food!

In addition to classic street foods like yakitori, yakisoba, and *tonjiru* pork soup, there are also many stalls serving Korean and other Asian cuisines

MAP Supp. P. 50-C1 Setagaya

AD Boroichi-dori St. and its vicinity, 1 Setagaya, Setagaya Dec. 15/16, Jan. 15/16, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM PT 3-min. walk from Setagaya Sta. and Kamimachi Sta. on the Tokyu Setagaya Line

Look out for the food stalls

Zoshigaya Handicraft Market

Since its start in 2006, the market has been held monthly at Kishimojindo Temple in Zoshigaya (→P. 218). From July 2023, it is also held simultaneously at Otori Jinja Shrine. Each time, around 160 shops set up stalls of mostly handmade sweets and crafts. A major highlight is that, in addition to a craft section with handcrafts and hand-knitted items, the market has a food section, offering baked goods, bread, jam, in-house roasted coffee, and more. For a list of vendors and a map of the stalls, check prior announcements on the blog (Ins https://tezukuri-ichi.jugem.jp/, Japanese only).

Right: While you're at the precincts, visit Kishimojindo Temple bustling with people
Above: It's best to come early to have a selection in handmade accessories and other items as they are one-of-a kind

MAP Supp. P. 37-C3 Zoshigaya

AD Kishimojindo Temple, 3-15-20 Zoshigaya, Toshima 10:00 AM–4:00 PM (check the website for the date, canceled if raining) PT 5-min. walk from Exit 2 of Zoshigaya Subway Sta.

Above: One of the best things about a handicraft market is being able to hear stories and details from artists about their creations. It's no wonder you develop an attachment to your purchases
Left: Nezu Jinja Shrine, visited by people of all ages, has lush greenery and is fun just to stroll around

At a shrine with a long history

Nezu Jinja Shrine Handicraft Market

It is held at Nezu Jinja Shrine (→P. 287), a popular place with visitors known for its azaleas in the spring. The handicraft market is run by Aozora Koten, which organizes numerous markets featuring handmade items, primarily in Tokyo. You can find a wide selection, from glass crafts and stuffed animals to clothing and woodworks. The market is held at Nezu Jinja Shrine on the third Saturday of every month in principle. Each time, about 30 to 40 stalls line the approach immediately behind the torii gate. This area called Yanesen has cafes and shops, which attracts many tourists and first-timers and helps create a welcoming atmosphere.

MAP Supp. P. 40-C1 Nezu

AD Nezu Jinja Shrine, 1-28-9 Nezu, Bunkyo 10:00 AM–4:00 PM (check the website for the date, canceled if raining) PT 5-min. walk from Exit 1 of Nezu Subway Sta.

Other Antique and Handicraft Markets

Every 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sun. of the month

Tomioka Hachimangu Shrine Antique Market

This market, which started in 1994, has diverse offerings, including Japanese antiques, ancient artwork, and kimonos. Popular among collectors recently are postcards and other paper items.

If small items and crafts are purchased together, the price of each product may be cheaper

Every Sunday

Shinjuku Hanazono Jinja Shrine Aozora Antique Market

It is open from around 6:30 AM until sunset. Due to its prime location in Shinjuku, tourists make up many of the visitors. Numerous shops line the path from the gate to the main hall. Take a walk in the picturesque precincts and have a look at the finds, such as containers, accessories, and vintage Japanese craft.

Every 2nd Sat. of the month

Gokokuji Temple Antique Market

It has a long history dating back to around 1975. After a temporary interruption, it was revived in its current form in 2013. Stalls are set up around the main hall, past the Furomon Gate (→P. 330). The market is open from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Held occasionally

Tokyo Handmade Marche

With over 700 booths, it is one of Tokyo's largest handcraft events. It is held mainly in spring and autumn. At Tokyo Dome City Prism Hall, creators from all over Japan come to open pop-up shops, hold workshops, and much more.

Every 4th Sun. of the month

Nishiogi teshigotoichi

It is held in a cozy, at-home atmosphere at Iogi Hall, a wooden building constructed around 1932. A list of exhibitors is on the official website (www.teshigoro.com, Japanese only). They include not only handcraft creators, but also fortune-tellers specializing in name readings and palm readings.

Full satisfaction at no cost!

Places for Nighttime Views

Our editors selected nine places recommended for taking in the nighttime cityscape, which can be visited at no charge. Discover how Tokyo captivates at night.

1 Illuminations Viewable Up Close

The illuminations stand out against the night sky

Sumida River Walk

The trains, TOKYO SKYTREE®, and the Sumida River are all enveloped in light to create a spectacular nighttime view

Completed in 2020, this 160-meter long promenade connects Asakusa and TOKYO SKYTREE® in the shortest distance. You can view the Sumida River through a glass floor, and see up close the trains of the TOBU SKYTREE Line whizz by right next to it. The bridge not only has a color scheme that matches TOKYO SKYTREE®; after sunset, they light up together, creating a captivating nighttime view with a visual sense of unity. The "Lover's Sanctuary," which offers a perfect nighttime view for making a marriage proposal, is also a must-see.

Left: You may see a *yakatabune* boat and TOKYO SKYTREE® dazzling together
Right: Seasonal and event-specific illumination events are also conducted

MAP Supp. P. 42-C2 Asakusa
AD 1 Mukojima, Sumida TEL 03-5962-0102
7:00 AM–10:00 PM Open year-round
PT 5-min walk from Exit 5 of Asakusa Subway Sta.

You can see planes taking off close to you, and further in the distance, the nighttime view of the bay area

Take in the dynamic sounds and scenery

Haneda Airport Terminals 1 and 2 Observation Deck

The observation decks at Haneda Airport's Terminals 1 to 3 offer stunning nighttime airport views from their respective locations. In addition to planes taking off and landing on the runway, the rooftop of Terminal 1 provides views of the Keihin Industrial Zone and the control tower, while Terminal 2 overlooks Tokyo Bay, Makuhari, and the Boso Peninsula. Chairs and tables are available at all terminals, so be sure to enjoy the airport at night to your heart's content.

The illuminated observation deck is magical

MAP Supp. P. 14-C1 Haneda
AD Hanedakuko, Ota TEL 03-5757-8111 Terminals 1 and 2 6:30 AM–10:00 PM
Open year-round PT Directly linked to Haneda Airport Terminal 1·2 Sta. of the Keikyu Line

Top: A spacious area with a beautifully maintained lawn
Bottom: The rooftop garden looks different between day and night

Nighttime view of skyscrapers and a station building

KITTE Garden

A roughly 1,500-m² rooftop garden that spans the sixth floor of KITTE, located near the Marunouchi South Exit of Tokyo Station. The Tokyo Station building is illuminated in a warm orange color. The surrounding skyscrapers and the cars passing in front of the station emit countless dots of light. Together, they create an urban nighttime view that can be seen only here. The rooftop has spacious benches. Spend a luxurious time surrounded by greenery.

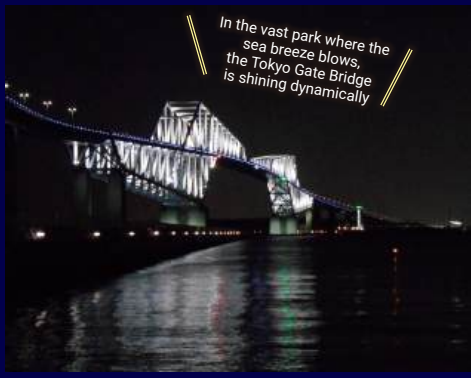
MAP Supp. P. 00-A1 Marunouchi

AD KITTE 6F, 2-7-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda TEL 03-3216-2811 11:00 AM–11:00 PM, Sun., national holidays until 10:00 PM ✕ Jan. 1, statutory inspection dates PT 1-min. walk from the Marunouchi South Exit of JR Tokyo Sta.

The place to view the famous bridge over Tokyo Bay

Wakasu Seaside Park

This seaside park facing Tokyo Bay is a little-known place boasting views of the striking Tokyo Gate Bridge, also called the "Dinosaur Bridge." The bridge lights up in a different color every month from sunset until midnight. Pay attention to the lights that change color and move on the hour every hour. The open park has a range of outdoor leisure facilities, such as a cycling route and a campsite. You can spend an entire day here and enjoy the nighttime view as well.



At the breakwater for fishing, you can look right up at the bridge

MAP Supp. P. 18-B2 Shinkiba

AD 3-1-2 Wakasu, Koto TEL 03-3522-3225 Open to the public ✕ Open year-round PT From JR Shin-Kiba Sta., take the Toei bus headed to Wakasu Campsite and get off at Wakasu-camp-jo-mae (Wakasu Campsite)

2 Illuminations Viewable from an Observatory

In the southeast direction, you can see Tokyo Tower shining in the distance, and below you, the skyscrapers of Shinjuku

A very urban nightscape

Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building Observatories

At 202 meters above ground, the observatories offer a panoramic view of the city's nightscape that includes Tokyo Tower and Roppongi Hills. Panels explain what to look out for in each direction. 2D codes are also displayed to learn about 32 sightseeing spots in the areas. Read about them while seeing how the scenery changes from place to place. A café is found on the same floor, so you can enjoy yourself at your leisure.

Right: Spacious benches Left: Southwest view of the Tokyo Opera City and more

MAP Supp. P. 34-B1 Nishi-shinjuku

Ad Tokyo Metropolitan Government No.1 Building 45F, 2-8-1 Nishi-shinjuku, Shinjuku TEL 03-5320-7890 ◔ 9:30 AM–10:00 PM (last entry 9:30 PM) ✕ South Observatory 1st and 3rd Tue. (the next day if Tue. is a national holiday), Tokyo Metropolitan Government's inspection dates, Dec. 29–31, Jan. 2–3 (check the website for details); the North Observatory is currently closed PT Directly linked to Tochomae Subway Sta.

Amazing panoramic view of TOKYO SKYTREE® in the east and all the way to Yokohama, Saitama, and Ibaraki!

The best view in Nerima City

Nerima City Office Observation Lobby

The observation lobby is located on the 20th floor of the city office's main building, 80 meters above ground. Large glass windows on the north and south sides provide views of seasonal scenery. Using the observation map, discover the nighttime view of Nerima City rich in greenery. At the highly reputed observation restaurant on the same floor, you can enjoy a meal while admiring the nighttime view in a romantic atmosphere. It is a popular spot among locals and non-locals alike.

Mt. Fuji can be seen on clear days at this fine restaurant serving course meals

MAP Supp. P. 9-B3 Nerima

Ad Nerima City Office Main Building 20F, 6-12-1 Toyotama-kita, Nerima TEL 03-5984-1091 ◔ 9:00 AM–9:30 PM ✕ 4th Sun. of the month, Dec. 29–Jan. 3 PT 5-min. walk from the West Exit of Nerima Sta. on the Seibu Ikebukuro Line

A 360-degree panoramic nighttime view

Tower Hall Funabori Observation Deck

This observation deck is at Tower Hall Funabori, an Edogawa landmark with facilities including concert halls, a movie theater, and a wedding venue. The dedicated elevator takes you right up to the observation deck 103 meters above ground. Unfolding before your eyes is a wide-open nighttime view, unobstructed by anything in the vicinity. It offers a sweeping view of Chiba and Ibaraki in the distance. Beyond the Arakawa River, skyscrapers in central Tokyo are covered in countless lights. Right below you, you can see a high traffic of people and feel the hustle and bustle of the city.

The beautiful curve of the Metropolitan Expy's Central Circular Route along the Arakawa River in the northwest is a must-see!

During the regularly held View Lounge, alcoholic and other beverages are served in the relaxed atmosphere of the observation deck

MAP Supp. P. 13-C3 Funabori

AD 4-1-1 Funabori, Edogawa TEL 03-5676-2211
9:00 AM–9:30 PM ✕ Dec. 28–Jan. 4, maintenance and inspection dates
PT 1-min. walk from the North Exit of Funabori Subway Sta.

The nightscape of Odaiba and Shiodome, and Rainbow Bridge in the southeast

A breathtaking view in a sophisticated setting

Yebisu Garden Place Tower Observation Space SKY LOUNGE

Located on the 38th restaurant floor, the lounge offers a sweeping panoramic view with no high-rise buildings nearby to obstruct it. The north side overlooks the illuminated skyscrapers near Shibuya and Shinjuku stations. Enjoy a bird's-eye view of famous tourist attractions in all directions, including Tokyo Tower and Rainbow Bridge. The lighting in the nighttime observation space exudes luxury and creates a relaxed, upscale atmosphere.

MAP Supp. P. 49-B2 Ebisu

AD Yebisu Garden Place Tower 38F, 4-20 Ebisu, Shibuya TEL 03-5423-7111 11:00 AM–11:30 PM ✕ Statutory inspection dates PT 5-min. walk from the East Exit of JR Ebisu Sta.

Gaze into the nighttime view to your heart's content from a 167-meter tall skyscraper

View of the sparkling Tokyo Bay from a high-rise

Caretta Shiodome SKYVIEW

Take the glass shuttle elevator from the B2 floor to the observation space. You can take in the scenery as you ascend. At 200 meters above ground, the vast Hama-rikyu Gardens can be seen below. The nighttime view of the bay area, illuminated by the lights on the Rainbow Bridge, is particularly stunning. The restaurants on the 46th and 47th floors are popular for commanding nighttime views different from those from the observation space.

There is a four-person bench in front of the glass window

A nighttime view of the city lights reflected on the waters of the eastern bay

MAP Supp. P. 26-A1 Shinbashi

AD Caretta Shiodome 46F, 1-8-2 Higashi-shinbashi, Minato TEL 03-6218-2100 11:00 AM–11:30 PM ✕ Jan. 1–2 (excl. some shops) PT Brief walk from Exit 6 of Shiodome Subway Sta.

The night in Tokyo is far from over!

Yokocho Bar Hopping

Old-fashioned drinking establishments can be found amid boozy *yokocho* back streets, located not only in low-key *shitamachi* areas but also in bustling urban neighborhoods like Shibuya and Shinjuku. Slip back in time at these drinking districts in Tokyo.

Top: Shops are mainly along the Yamanote Line tracks. The arch-shaped neon signs and willow trees exude a retro vibe Right: The alley has mainly long-established shops, as well as a wine bar and bistro

A drinking district retaining Showa-era vibes

Shibuya Nonbei Yokocho

This bar district started out as a black market around Dogenzaka after World War II. In 1950, owners of 40 food stalls won a lottery and set up their shops here. About 40 shops line the alley today. As the sun sets, retro red lanterns begin to light up, and shops prepare to open. Many are tiny shops that become full with a few customers at the counter. The close distance between you and the owner will stir your passion for travel.

MAP Supp. P. 33-B3 Shibuya

Ad 1-25 Shibuya, Shibuya **C** Depends on the store **X** Depends on the store **Pr** 1-min. walk from the Hachiko Exit of JR Shibuya Sta.

Large-sized oden ingredients are soaked in Kansai-style broth

Operating for four generations in Nonbei Yokocho

Nadaichi

This is the oldest establishment in the alleyway dating back over 70 years. It has been inherited by the fourth-generation owner who continues to preserve age-old flavors. You can choose and order what you want from about 30 different *oden* ingredients. Each ingredient is affordable, starting at 200 yen. *Satsuma-age* deep-fried fish cake is 300 yen and *tsumire* fish ball is 400 yen.

❶We chose the sakura shrimp *satsuma-age*, *kuruma-fu* wheat gluten, and daikon radish recommended by the owner ❷First-time visitors will not feel intimidated ❸The U-shaped counter sits about ten people ❹The large-sized ingredients soaked in broth pair well with sake

6:00 PM–11:30 PM (L.O.11:00 PM) ✕ Sun., national holidays
CC Not accepted

Our two recommendations in Shibuya Nonbei Yokocho!

Take gulps of sake with fresh sashimi on the side

❶❷The building has two floors. You take off your shoes at the entrance. Both the first and second floors have counter seating ❸❹"Bluefin Tuna Cheek Sashimi," beautifully arranged with the chef's skillful technique, 1,200 yen. Tuna cheek is a rare delicacy

The place for tuna sashimi

Maguro Dokoro

This eatery was inherited by the second-generation owner of Nadaichi and opened by his grandson, the current chef. It has a reputation for fresh seafood sourced daily from the market. A range of tuna is served. Medium fatty tuna is 1,600 yen, lean tuna 1,400 yen, and tuna from the head 1,500 yen. The daily sashimi is popular. You can also order from Nadaichi's menu. Sake starts at 700 yen per cup.

6:00 PM–11:30 PM (L.O.11:00 PM) ✕ Sun., national holidays
CC Not accepted

Daytime drinking and bar hopping for a pleasant buzz

Drinking Districts in the TOKYO 23 Wards

Shinjuku Golden Gai

新宿 Shinjuku

With origins dating back to a postwar black market, this area has developed into a drinking district with around 280 establishments. Most places have cover charges or service fees, so be sure to check the pricing system in advance.

OK Yokocho

赤羽 Akabane

This is a representative drinking district of the Akabane area, alongside Akabane Ichibangai, which has Koi to Unagi no Marumasuya Sohonten (→P. 404). Some establishments are in both districts, like the seafood *izakaya* Torobako. There are about 30 eateries and pubs. Daytime drinking is possible here.

Omoide Yokocho

新宿 Shinjuku

Around 60 eateries, mainly *motsuyaki* and yakitori restaurants, line the streets from Shinjuku Station's West Exit area to the Omekaido Overbridge. Famous ones include Kabuto, which only has set course menus, and Daini Horaiya, which serves exquisite *motsuyaki* (grilled offal).

Senbero (Dive Bar) District

立石 Tateishi

Many shops in this neighborhood's Nonbe Yokocho have relocated due to redevelopment. Some areas are slated for demolition. You want to experience its retro atmosphere while it still remains.

Ameya Yokocho

上野 Ueno

Commonly called "Ameyoko Shopping Street" (→P. 63), the prices are cheap, and many places have *tachinomi* (standing) bars that are open from the afternoon. It is a great place for bar hopping. The food, including fresh fish and deep-fried dishes, is delicious!

Sankaku Chitai

三軒茶屋 Sangenjaya

It refers to a triangular area enclosed by Route 246 and Setagaya-dori Avenue. In addition to long-established shops, it is seeing a rise in stylish bars and bistros run by young owners. Editor M's recommendation is Akaoni, a mecca for sake enthusiasts.

Gado-shita (lit., 'under the train tracks')

有楽町/新橋 Yurakucho/Shimbashi

The Yurakucho–Shimbashi area, where bars still exist from the postwar years, was once a drinkers' mecca. Today, the commercial facility Hibiya OKUROJI, which has shops and bars, is gaining attention.

Hoppy Street

浅草 Asakusa

The street starts from the Asakusa Rokku area. It got its name from a cheap beverage called "Hoppy" that was popular when beer was expensive. Many shops are known for their stewed dishes.

Avid drinkers' Our editors' recommended drinking places

Writer K

The area around Kawabata Dori Street near JR Asakaya Station has many bars that are recommended for solo drinking. It's a fun area for groups too! I also recommend the "Ogikubo de Kanpai" bar hopping event held twice a year in Ogikubo nextdoor.

Editor S

Shinjuku Golden Gai has long buildings clustered together in a narrow area, and it's fun just to walk through it. Words like "retro" and "good old days" do not fully capture this otherworldly drinking district.

Producer S

The Senbero drinking district in Tateishi is a treasure trove of delicious food. I will line up for the fried chicken at Torifusa. Grilled offal at Uchida is a must, finishing off with dumplings from Lanzhou.

Famous eateries are joining the scene! Trending New-Style *Yokocho*

Check out the modern food alleys popping up in Tokyo. Explore new shops opened by chefs from popular restaurants and more.

Concept: "Every day is a festival"

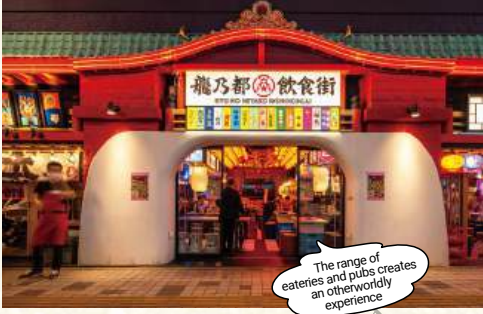
Shibuya Yokocho

Located in the MIYASHITA PARK commercial facility, which opened in 2020, this 100-meter long alley has 19 shops. The plaza hosts various events, such as DJ performances and festivals.

MAP Supp. P. 33-B3 Shibuya

AD 6-20-10 Jingumae, Shibuya ◔ Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT 2-min. walk from the B2 Exit of JR Shibuya Sta.

Ordering from other shops is allowed. Compare foods from different eateries



A "club yokocho" opened in 2022

Ryu no Miyako Inshokugai Shinjuku Higashiguchi Yokocho

This entertainment-focused two-story dining complex has 17 shops, such as a Chinese diner and Hong Kong street food. You will feel like you are stepping into a dragon palace. The interior is complete with a dragon sculpture on the ceiling.

MAP Supp. P. 35-B3 Shinjuku

AD Sugichu Building 1F and B1F, 3-36-12 Shinjuku, Shinjuku ◔ Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT 1-min. walk from the East Exit of JR Shinjuku Sta.

The neon signs enliven photos and create an international vibe

Bar hop with family and friends

Many places have both à la carte and course meal options

A Japanese retro atmosphere

Ebisu Yokocho

Opening in 2008 on the site of the former Yamashita Shopping Center near Ebisu Station, this is one of the pioneers of the new, modern-style yokochos. There are 19 shops, including Japanese eateries serving fish and oden and a bistro.

MAP Supp. P. 49-A1 Ebisu

AD 1-7-4 Ebisu, Shibuya ◔ Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT 2-min. walk from the West Exit of JR Ebisu Sta.

All stores accept cashless payments

THE RESTAURANT

Among its 17 shops are Sushidan, an authentic Edomae sushi restaurant opened by young sushi chef Hiroyuki Sato from Hakkoku, modern Vietnamese restaurant An Com, and OXOMOCO, the first Japanese branch opened by a modern Mexican restaurant in NY.

MAP Supp. P. 49-A2 Hiroo

AD GEMS HIROO CROSS EAT PLAY WORKS, 5-4-16 Hiroo, Shibuya ◔ Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT 1-min. walk from Exit 2 of Hiroo Subway Sta.

Shown as rankings

The TOKYO 23 Wards Compared in Detail

All 23 are distinct and unique. We present conventional comparisons (population, area) to more niche rankings.

Population Top 3

More in areas further away from the city center

1st	Setagaya City: 916,208
2nd	Nerima City: 738,358
3rd	Ota City: 728,703

Source: Population and Area by Municipality, www.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/tosei/tokyoto/profile/gaiyo/kushichoson.html (in Japanese)

The areas around Setagaya's Futako-tamagawa and Kinuta Park are home to many families. Setagaya City also has upscale residential areas like Den-en-chofu. Nerima City is popular among a wide range of age groups due to its convenient transportation, more reasonable rent, and other reasons. Chiyoda City has the smallest population with 66,687 people.

Futako-tamagawa Station has numerous commercial facilities and stores that are kid friendly

Area Top 3

Ranked 1st is the city with the airport!

1st	Ota City: 60.42 km^2
2nd	Setagaya City: 58.08 km^2
3rd	Adachi City: 53.20 km^2

Source: Population and Area by Municipality, www.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/tosei/tokyoto/profile/gaiyo/kushichoson.html (in Japanese)

Setagaya and Ota cities, which ranked among the top three in population, are ranked high once again. Haneda Airport in Ota City occupies about one-third of the city's area. Adachi City's area is almost identical to that of Tokyo City when there used to be 15 wards (→P. 318).

Minumadai-shinsuikoen Station is the last stop on the Toneri Liner, which runs north-south through Adachi City

No. of Parks Top 3

Great places for activities

1st	Ota City: 509
2nd	Edogawa City: 494
3rd	Nerima City: 475

Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Park Area and Population Ratios by Municipality (as of April 1, 2022)

Ota, the city with the largest area, also has the most parks. There are also barbecue spaces and campgrounds. Edogawa City has Kasai Rinkai Park (→P. 304) and the Edogawa City Shizen Zoo in Gyosen Park (→P. 305).

The Ferris wheel at Kasai Rinkai Park is a landmark of Edogawa City

No. of Library Books Top 3

Use for reading and studying

1st	Setagaya City: 1,973,147
2nd	Suginami City: 1,972,729
3rd	Nerima City: 1,874,681

Source: FY2022 Tokyo Metropolitan Public Library Survey (Summary Table)

Setagaya and Nerima cities are in the list, indicating a correlation with population. Setagaya City has the most number of libraries, followed by Adachi City and Ota City (source: Tokyo Toshokan Seiha!). It calculates to Suginami and Nerima cities having more books per library.

This guidebook introduces the Fukagawa Library in Koto City (→P. 152)

No. of Sloped Roads Top 3

Note the origin of Minato City's sloped roads

1st	Minato City: 130
2nd	Bunkyo City: 127
3rd	Shinjuku City: 114

Source: List of "Sloped Roads in Tokyo" [23 Wards] (The Slope Society of Japan)

Minato City spans the eastern edge of the Musashino Plateau as well as lowland and reclaimed land facing Tokyo Bay. Therefore, it has a sloped terrain with the northwest being higher and the southeast being lower. Bunkyo City's reasons include having five plateaus and having valleys carved out by erosion.

Visit sloped roads on the OMO3 Tokyo Akasaka (→P. 433) tour

What I like about my city!

Editor M, Shibuya City resident

The area around Yoyogi-Uehara has many privately run shops, such as bakeries, pastry shops, and bistros. Over the course of multiple visits, you can quickly become close with the owners.Everyone makes you feel at home. I love it!

It has to be the excellent access! You can get to central Tokyo in just 15 to 20 minutes. The city itself is calm. I especially find peace in the nature of Shakujii Park.

Writer K, Nerima City resident

From our readers

"NPO Hokkorino Support School for Childrearing Moms" in Kita City, Tokyo. If you're feeling overwhelmed by parenting, you can take a break here! (PN: Yuyuyu) www.hokkori-no.com

Chapter 1
Transportation Guide

Guide to Railways in the TOKYO 23 Wards

A Comprehensive Overview into a Gateway to Travel!
Complete Guide to Tokyo Station

Complete Guide to Buses in the TOKYO 23 Wards

Tour the Highlights of the TOKYO 23 Wards More Efficiently
Hato Bus & SKY Duck Tokyo Tours

Guide to Water Transportation in the TOKYO 23 Wards

Bicycle Sharing

Taxis

Shown as rankings
TOKYO 23 Wards Compared in Detail
[Transportation]

Guide to Railways in the TOKYO 23 Wards

Check P. 446 for getting around within the TOKYO 23 Wards

The TOKYO 23 Wards are well served by a network of railway lines, and many sightseeing spots are within walking distance from stations, making it possible to do plenty of sightseeing by train alone. Here, you can find an overview of all lines within the TOKYO 23 Wards operated by 14 railway companies, including Japan Railways (JR), private railways, and subways, as well as the discount tickets offered by each company. Don't forget to take advantage of convenient transit apps to skillfully navigate the Tokyo railway system!

Railways in the TOKYO 23 Wards

Railways operating within the TOKYO 23 Wards fall into the three categories of JR East, private railways, and subways. While most major tourist attractions can be accessed via the JR and subway lines, it is a good idea to know the areas and lines that each specializes in to get around even more efficiently.

Operates the Yamanote Line, a major artery through the city

JR East

Fare

▶ Base fare	150 yen
▶ IC card	146 yen

The Yamanote, Chuo, and Sobu lines, which transport the highest numbers of passengers in Japan, as well as the Shonan-Shinjuku and Keihin-Tohoku lines, which cross north to south between Saitama and Kanagawa prefectures, are linked together to provide user-friendly routes for traveling within the TOKYO 23 Wards. There are also many other lines that provide convenient access from the wider Kanto region. The Saikyo Line takes passengers into Tokyo from Saitama, while the Keiyo and Sobu lines are used to travel from the Chiba area.

Yamanote Line

One loop through the TOKYO 23 Wards takes about one hour

The Yamanote Line is an approximately 34.5-km long loop line that runs through the TOKYO 23 Wards area. With stops at many large terminal stations, the line is essential for traveling to major cities, making it one of the busiest in Tokyo. Trains run every three to five minutes, with those running clockwise displayed as "outer circle" and those running counterclockwise displayed as "inner circle".

Chuo Line (Rapid)

There are various services in addition to the rapid service

Departing from Tokyo Station, the Chuo Line passes through Shinjuku, Ogikubo, and other stations to Takao Station. Rapid trains do not stop at Nishi-Ogikubo, Asagaya, and Koenji stations on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays, so it is necessary to transfer to the Chuo-Sobu Line (Local) running between Mitaka and Ochanomizu stations to alight at these stations.

Saikyo Line

The Saikyo Line connects Omiya Station in Saitama Prefecture to Osaki Station in Shinagawa City via the sub-center areas of Shibuya, Shinjuku, Ikebukuro, and Akabane stations. Between Ikebukuro and Osaki stations, the line shares tracks with the Shonan-Shinjuku Line. Trains on both lines only stop at the major stations, while trains on the parallel Yamanote Line stop at each station.

Shonan-Shinjuku Line

The Shonan-Shinjuku Line connects the areas of Omiya Station in Saitama Prefecture and Ofuna Station in Kanagawa Prefecture, passing via Shinjuku Station and other sub-center areas. From Omiya Station, the Utsunomiya Line travels to Tochigi and the Takasaki Line travels to Gunma, while from Ofuna Station, the Yokosuka Line travels to Zushi and the Tokaido Line travels to Odawara, both in Kanagawa Prefecture.

Chuo-Sobu Line (Local)

The Chuo and Sobu lines, whose all-stop local lines have been integrated into the local Chuo-Sobu Line, are split into the Chuo Line between Mitaka and Ochanomizu stations in the west and the Sobu Line in the east from Ochanomizu Station onward. Trains run on a timetable essentially independent from the Chuo and Sobu rapid lines, and are distinguishable by the yellow of their line color.

Keihin-Tohoku Line

The Keihin-Tohoku Line crosses the TOKYO 23 Wards from north to south between Omiya Station in Saitama Prefecture and Ofuna Station in Kanagawa Prefecture. The Ueno-Tokyo Line, which travels along almost the same route, provides an express service that only stops at the major stations.

Joban Line

Rapid trains run from Shinagawa and Ueno stations to Toride Station in Ibaraki Prefecture, with some trains traveling on to stations north of Toride. Meanwhile, all-stop local trains offer a direct through-service to the Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line.

Keiyo Line

Trains on the Keiyo Line travel from Tokyo Station to Soga Station in Chiba Prefecture via Shin-Kiba and other stations. The Keiyo Line platform at Tokyo Station is located some distance from the normal JR lines and Shinkansen (bullet train) exit, so take care when changing trains.

Sobu Line (Rapid)

Along the entire Sobu Line connecting Tokyo and Chiba, the section between Kinshicho and Chiba stations is referred to as the Sobu Line (Rapid). West of Kinshicho Station, trains operate on the Chuo-Sobu Line (Local) and are distinguishable from the rapid service.

From our readers

I remember the first time I rode the Yamanote Line after coming to Tokyo from another region. After missing the train I wanted, I asked the station attendant in a panic when the next train would arrive, only to be told that trains come every five minutes, which knocked the wind out my sails, lol. (PN: Happa)

Subways

All 13 subway lines of the Tokyo Metro, managed by the Tokyo Metro Co., and the Toei Subway, managed by the Tokyo Metropolitan Bureau of Transportation, operate mainly within the Yamanote Line loop. Each station is displayed with a number, so use this number to help you when transferring between lines. Also check out the discount tickets that can be used across both companies' lines (→ P. 103).

Tokyo Metro

A network across the TOKYO 23 Wards in all directions

Fare		
	▸ Base fare	180 yen
	▸ IC card	178 yen

The Tokyo Subway is known by users as the Tokyo Metro. A total of nine lines operate within Tokyo, spreading out like a net across all areas within the TOKYO 23 Wards. There are many lines (excluding the Ginza and Marunouchi lines) offering direct through-services to other train lines. For efficient transfers, we recommend using the Tokyo Metro my! App to check service statuses and routes. A discount of 70 yen will be applied when transferring from Tokyo Metro to Toei Subway lines.

Ginza Line

The Ginza Line is Japan's oldest subway line, running from Asakusa Station to Shibuya Station via Ueno, Nihombashi, Ginza, and Shimbashi stations. There is no direct through-service to other train lines.

Marunouchi Line

The main line departs from Ogikubo Station and connects to Ikebukuro Station in a U-shape via Yotsuya and Tokyo stations. There is no direct through-service to other train lines.

Hibiya Line

From Naka-meguro Station, trains on the Hibiya Line travel to Kita-senju Station via Roppongi, Ginza, Akihabara, and Ueno stations. There is a direct through-service to the TOBU SKYTREE Line from Kita-senju Station.

Tozai Line

Just like its name (lit. 'East-West'), the Tozai Line crosses east to west, from Nakano Station to Nishi-funabashi Station in Chiba Prefecture. It passes through Iidabashi, Nihombashi, and Monzen-nakacho stations to Kasai Station, before crossing into Chiba.

Chiyoda Line

Departing from Kita-ayase Station, the Chiyoda Line runs through Nishi-nippori, Otemachi, Kasumigaseki, Omote-sando, and other stations, before switching to a direct through-service with the Odakyu Odawara Line at the final station, Yoyogi-uehara.

Yurakucho Line

The Yurakucho Line runs from Shin-kiba Station, located along Tokyo Bay, to Wakoshi Station in Saitama Prefecture. On the way to Saitama, trains pass through Tsukishima, Yurakucho, Ichigaya, and Ikebukuro stations.

Hanzomon Line

The Hanzomon Line joins Shibuya Station in the west to Oshiage Station in the east, providing direct through-services to the Tokyu Den-en-toshi Line from Shibuya and the TOBU SKYTREE Line from Oshiage.

Namboku Line

Namboku Line trains travel between Meguro Station in the south and Akabane-iwabuchi Station in the north toward Saitama. On the way, they pass through Nagatacho, Korakuen, Komagome, and Oji stations.

Fukutoshin Line

The Fukutoshin Line operates in the sub-center areas of Shibuya, Shinjuku, and Ikebukuro, departing from Shibuya Station and connecting to Wakoshi Station in Saitama Prefecture. Many of the trains connect to a direct through-service.

Toei Subway

Four lines operated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Fare		
	▸ Base fare	180 yen
	▸ IC card	178 yen

Toei Subway has a total of four lines. Along with the Oedo Line, which has an impressive number six shaped route, the Shinjuku Line, which travels all the way to Chiba, and the Mita Line, which extends from north to south, offer access to all four points on the compass. The three lines other than the Oedo Line also interoperate with other companies. The Asakusa Line is particularly convenient in this respect as it provides access to Haneda and Narita airports. You can also download and use the Toei Kotsu App to help you get around.

Asakusa Line

The Asakusa Line connects Oshiage Station, which offers a direct through-service with the Keisei Line, to Nishi-magome Station. Sengakuji Station is also a stop on the Airport Line Express, offering a direct connection with the Keikyu Line for connecting to Haneda and Narita airports.

Mita Line

The Mita Line crosses north to south from Meguro Station, which offers a direct through-service with the Tokyu Meguro Line, to Nishi-takashimadaira Station in Itabashi City. It passes through Hibiya, Otemachi, and Sugamo stations.

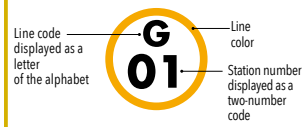
Shinjuku Line

The Shinjuku Line runs from Shinjuku Station to Motoyawata Station in Chiba Prefecture via Ichigaya, Jimbocho, and other stations. From Shinjuku Station, there is a direct through-service to the Keio Line via the Keio New Line.

Oedo Line

This number six shaped line consists of a section branching out between Tochomae and Hikarigaoka stations via Nerima Station, as well as a circular section running through Tochomae, Shiodome, Tsukishima, and Ueno-okachimachi stations, and back round to Tochomae Station.

Check the Station Numbering



Stations where multiple lines converge have several different numbering codes

Ex. Shinjuku-sanchome Station

These are shown to help passengers understand at a glance how to transfer between lines connected in complex ways. If there are many connections, there will be as many types of numbering codes.

Tokyo tips

If you want to enter the area behind the ticket gates of a station with extensive commercial facilities, such as Tokyo Station, you can purchase an admission ticket to enjoy shopping without needing to board a train. The ticket is also convenient for times you suddenly need to use the restroom, or when you want to see someone off at the platform.

Private Railways

Almost all the 12 private railway companies operating in the TOKYO 23 Wards have lines that branch out from the Yamanote Line. Understanding the areas where each of them primarily operates will give you much more clarity regarding complex routes. This is a guide to the private railways in the TOKYO 23 Wards, from major routes to slightly more niche lines.

Thorough coverage of cities in the southwest

Tokyu Railway

Fare		
	▸ Base fare	140 yen
	▸ IC card	140 yen

There are seven lines serving the TOKYO 23 Wards, mainly in Shibuya, Meguro, Shinagawa, Setagaya, and the southwestern part of Ota City, as well as lines extending as far as eastern Kanagawa Prefecture, including the Tokyu Shin-yokohama Line connecting Hiyoshi and Shin-yokohama stations. Don't miss the Tokyu Line Triangle Pass (470 yen, 240 yen for children) for one-day unlimited journeys between Shibuya and Jiyugaoka stations on the Toyoko Line, Shibuya and Futako-tamagawa stations on the Den-en-toshi Line, and Futako-tamagawa and Jiyugaoka stations on the Oimachi Line, along with the Setagaya Line Explorer Ticket (380 yen, 190 yen for children) for one-day unlimited journeys on the Setagaya Line.

Meguro Line

The 3020 series, which was launched in 2019

The Meguro Line connects Meguro Station with Hiyoshi Station in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture. Between Hiyoshi and Den-en-chofu stations, the line runs parallel to the Toyoko Line, so passengers can transfer lines when heading toward Shibuya or Yokohama. At Meguro Station, there are direct through-services to the Tokyo Metro Namboku Line and Toei Mita Line.

Toyoko Line

The Toyoko Line's main train, the 5050 series

The Toyoko Line connecting Tokyo and Yokohama operates between Shibuya and Yokohama stations via Daikan-yama, Naka-meguro, Jiyugaoka, and other stations. At Shibuya Station, the line offers a direct through-service with the Tokyo Metro Fukutoshin Line, via which passengers can access the Tobu Tojo and Seibu Ikebukuro lines.

Den-en-toshi Line

The Den-en-toshi Line runs from Shibuya Station, which offers a direct through-service to the Tokyo Metro Hanzomon Line, to Chuo-rinkan Station in Kanagawa Prefecture. The section between Futako-tamagawa and Mizonokuchi stations runs parallel to the Oimachi Line, making it possible to transfer between the two lines.

Tokyu Tamagawa Line

The Tokyu Tamagawa Line operates three-car trains that provide an all-stop local service between Tamagawa and Kamata stations. At Tamagawa Station, it is possible to transfer to the Toyoko and Meguro lines, and at Kamata Station, the Ikegami Line.

Setagaya Line

The Setagaya Line connects Sangen-jaya and Shimo-takaido stations. From Shimo-takaido, passengers can transfer to the Keio Line. The streetcar-style tramway line, a rarity even in Tokyo, has a flat rate fare across all sections of 160 yen.

Oimachi Line

The Oimachi Line connects Oimachi Station in Shinagawa City to Mizonokuchi Station in Kanagawa Prefecture. Q SEAT, a paid seat reservation service for trains departing from Oimachi Station, has been introduced for use during weekday evenings.

Ikegami Line

The Ikegami Line operates three-car trains that provide an all-stop local service between Gotanda and Kamata stations. This line is also convenient for accessing tourist attractions such as Senzokuike Park, Ikegami Honmonji Temple, and Togoshi Ginza Shopping Street.

Extends from origin points in Shinjuku and Shibuya

Keio Railway

Fare		
	▸ Base fare	130 yen
	▸ IC card	126 yen

As its main route connects central Tokyo and Hachioji, the second character of both ('kyo' from Tokyo and 'o' from Hachioji) has been combined to give the line name of Keio. In the TOKYO 23 Wards, the Keio Line runs east to west between Shinjuku and Hachioji stations, while the Inokashira Line runs north to south between Shibuya and Kichijoji stations. In addition, many trains on the Keio New Line offer a direct through-service to the Toei Shinjuku Line, therefore eliminating the need to change trains. For those traveling to the cities from the Tama area, the Keio Liner offers a paid reserved seat service on all its seats, making for a comfortable journey.

Keio Line

The Keio Line originates at Shinjuku Station and passes through Chofu and Fuchu stations in the Tama area to Keio-hachioji Station. Transfers are possible to the Keio New Line at Sasazuka Station, the Inokashira Line at Meidaimae Station, and the Tokyu Setagaya Line at Shimo-takaido Station. There are five different train services, so take care when boarding.

Trains depart from Shinjuku Station

Inokashira Line

The Inokashira Line originates at Shibuya Station and runs north to south to Kichijoji Station, which is served by the Chuo-Sobu Line (Local). At a mid-point station, Shimo-kitazawa, passengers can transfer to the Odakyu Odawara Line. The Inokashira Line platform at Shibuya Station is directly connected with the Shibuya Mark City complex.

Keio New Line

The section along the Keio Line between Shinjuku and Sasazuka stations is called the Keio New Line. It stops at Hatsudai and Hatagaya stations, which are skipped by all Keio Line trains. The line offers a direct through-service to the Toei Shinjuku Line, and it also serves as a link between Sasazuka Station and areas to the west.

From our readers

The Keio Inokashira Line is very crowded during commuter rush hours in the morning and evening. If you are not in a hurry, it's better to take the slightly emptier all-station local trains. (PN: Homma)

Connects Shinjuku with Kanagawa and Tama New Town

Odakyu Electric Railway

Fare ▸ Base fare 140 yen ▸ IC Card 136 yen

Within the TOKYO 23 Wards, the Odawara Line connects its starting point of Shinjuku Station with Odawara, the gateway to the Hakone region, while outside the cities, the Enoshima Line travels to the Shonan area and the Tama Line travels to Tama New Town. Odakyu also operates the all seats reserved Limited Express 'Romancecar' service. The stations that trains stop at vary depending on the service, so please take care when boarding. From 2022, the child IC fare has been set at a flat rate of 50 yen across all sections, for extra savings when traveling with children.

Odawara Line

The Odawara Line runs from Shinjuku Station via Shimo-Kitazawa and other stations to Odawara and Hakone, along with the Shonan area and Tama New Town. From Yoyogi-Uehara Station, some trains travel straight through to the Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line, which offers convenient access to central Tokyo. After Ayase Station on the Chiyoda Line, some trains also offer a direct through-service to the JR Joban Line.

The 5000 series, which began operation in 2020

Two key routes traveling in the northwest

Seibu Railway

Fare
- ▸ Base fare 160 yen
- ▸ IC card 157 yen

Seibu Railway's two main routes are the Ikebukuro Line, which originates at Ikebukuro Station, and the Shinjuku Line, which originates at Seibu-Shinjuku Station. Both lines run through Tokorozawa Station, where the Seibu Railway has its headquarters. The former continues on to Chichibu, while the latter travels to Kawagoe, both located in the Saitama area. The Seibu-Yurakucho Line offers passengers direct through-services to the Tokyo Metro Yurakucho and Fukutoshin lines. The Fukutoshin Line also covers a wide travel area, with a direct through-service with the Tokyu Toyoko Line operating from Shibuya Station.

Ikebukuro Line

The 40000 series, which is equipped with accessible facilities

The Ikebukuro Line connects Ikebukuro Station, a transport hub connecting many train lines, to Agano Station in Saitama Prefecture via Nerima and other stations. Seven train services are in operation, including a paid limited express service and reserved-seat services.

Shinjuku Line

The 30000 series, nicknamed the Smile Train

The Shinjuku Line runs from Seibu-Shinjuku Station to the Kawagoe area in Saitama Prefecture. Seibu-Shinjuku Station is located about 500 meters away from Shinjuku Station, which is served by many train companies, so it is often more convenient to transfer at Takadanobaba Station.

Seibu-Yurakucho Line

The Seibu-Yurakucho Line connects Nerima Station on the Ikebukuro Line with Kotake-mukaihara Station on the Tokyo Metro Yurakucho and Fukutoshin lines. The Fukutoshin Line also offers a direct through-service from Shibuya Station to the Tokyu Toyoko Line.

Toshima Line

This line covers the short distance between Nerima and Toshimaen stations. At Toshimaen Station, a new facility will open in June 2023 on the site of the former Toshimaen amusement park (→P. 15).

Perfect for walking around the *shitamachi* areas

Tobu Railway

Fare
- ▸ Base fare 160 yen
- ▸ IC card 157 yen

The Tobu Railway has routes in the five prefectures of Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, Tochigi, and Gunma, with four different lines running within Tokyo. Major lines in Tokyo include the Tojo Line, which connects to the Kawagoe area, and the TOBU SKYTREE Line, the section between Asakusa and Tobu-dobutsu-koen stations on the Isesaki Line, which then continues all the way to Gunma Prefecture. A number of helpful tickets are also available, such as a ticket for unlimited travel around the TOKYO SKYTREE® neighborhood (from 510 yen), which allows you to tour Asakusa, Kameido, and Mukojima at a discount.

Tojo Line

The shiny orange 50000 series

The Tojo Line departs from Ikebukuro Station in the direction of Kawagoe, terminating at Yorii Station in Saitama Prefecture. It is used by many for sightseeing in the Saitama area and commuting for work and study. There is a direct through-service to the Tokyo Metro Yurakucho and Fukutoshin lines from Wakoshi Station.

TOBU SKYTREE Line

Direct through-services to two subways

This is the nickname of the section of line between Asakusa and Tobu-dobutsu-koen stations. It also includes Oshiage Station, which branches off from Hikifune Station. The line offers direct through-services from Kita-senju Station to the Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line and from Oshiage Station to the Tokyo Metro Hanzomon Line.

Kameido Line

The Kameido Line operates two-car trains between Hikifune and Kameido stations, making it possible to transfer to the SKYTREE Line at Hikifune Station and the JR Sobu Line at Kameido Station.

Daishi Line

This single-track, two-station line connects Nishiarai Station with Daishimae Station, where the Nishiarai Daishi Temple is located. Daishimae is an unmanned station, with ticket gates and ticket machines for the station installed at Nishiarai Station.

Tokyo tips Each company's transfer and other apps are listed in Travel Preparations & Techniques on P. 448. Download some of them prior to your trip.

There are many trains bound for Narita Airport

Keisei Electric Railway

Fare
- Base fare 140 yen
- IC card 136 yen

In addition to connecting central Tokyo with Narita Airport, this company's trains also link to Keikyu routes via the Toei Asakusa Line for a direct connection to Haneda Airport. There are several ways to get to Narita Airport, including the Skyliner (express fare required) from Keisei-Ueno or Nippori stations, which offers the fastest journey, access express trains that can be boarded at Shinagawa, Shimbashi, or Nihombashi stations, and rapid express trains via Keisei-Funabashi Station. Departure points, stops, and fares vary, so choose the best route for you.

Keisei Main Line

The Keisei Main Line connects Ueno with Narita Airport, departing from Keisei-Ueno Station and passing through Funabashi, Tsudanuma, and Sakura stations in Chiba Prefecture to Narita Airport Terminal 1 Station. There is no additional charge for taking rapid limited express or limited express trains, and trains leave relatively regularly.

The 3000 series, the leading train used by Keisei

Narita SKY ACCESS Line

The AE series at the time of its launch in 2010

This line connects Keisei-Takasago Station with Narita Airport stations. Services include the access express, which does not require an additional express fare, and the Skyliner, which connects Nippori Station to Narita Airport Terminal 2·3 Station in as little as 36 minutes.

Oshiage Line

This short line between Aoto and Oshiage stations offers a direct through-service with the Toei Asakusa Line. It connects to the Keikyu Line via the Toei Asakusa Line to provide access to Haneda Airport.

Kanamachi Line

Although this single-track line only stops at the three stations of Keisei-Takasago, Shibamata, and Keisei-Kanamachi, the route is busy as Shibamata is full of attractions, while Keisei-Kanamachi Station offers passengers a transfer to the JR Joban Line.

Necessary for travel to Haneda Airport

Keikyu Railway

Fare
- Base fare 140 yen
- IC card 136 yen

The route extends from the southwestern part of the TOKYO 23 Wards to Yokohama in Kanagawa Prefecture, connecting Shinagawa Station with Haneda Airport Terminal 1·2 Station in as little as 13 minutes, along with connecting with the Keisei and Hokuso lines via the Toei Asakusa Line.

Keikyu Main Line

The Keikyu Main Line runs along Tokyo Bay from Shinagawa Station toward Yokohama and Yokosuka, with many trains also offering a direct through-service to Haneda Airport. From Shinagawa Station, there is a direct through-service to the Toei Asakusa Line via Sengakuji Station, and from Oshiage Station, passengers can change to the Keisei Line for access to Narita Airport.

The 2100 series, with its distinctive red coloring

Keikyu Airport Line

This line connects Keikyu Kamata Station to Haneda Airport. Almost all trains offer a direct through-service to Shinagawa and Sengakuji stations on the Keikyu Main Line, however one of the five services, the Airport Limited Express, does not stop at Keikyu Kamata Station.

Two Lines Offering Convenient Access to the Odaiba Area

So many must-see views

Yurikamome

Fare ▸ Base fare 190 yen ▸ IC card 189 yen

Officially called the Tokyo Waterfront New Transit Waterfront Line, Yurikamome trains depart from Shimbashi Station and travel through the Odaiba area to Toyosu Station. Passengers pass by the Rainbow Bridge, Odaiba, Tokyo Big Sight, Toyosu Market, and many other areas of interest, so why not buy the discount ticket (→P. 104) and take a trip along the line?

A new transportation system that is unmanned and automated

Also great for access from Shibuya, Shinjuku, and Ikebukuro

Rinkai Line

Fare ▸ Base fare 210 yen ▸ IC card 210 yen

The Rinkai Line operates between Shin-kiba and Osaki stations. It crosses Tokyo Port between Tokyo Teleport and Tennozu Isle stations in the Odaiba area, connecting Koto and Shinagawa cities. The line operates a direct through-service with the JR Saikyo Line, which provides access to the Odaiba area from various subcenters of Tokyo for convenient travel from Shibuya, Shinjuku, and Ikebukuro.

Connects Shin-kiba and Osaki stations in 19 minutes

From our readers

The best seats on the Yurikamome are the front-row seats in the first car, which offer an amazing view. Even adults get excited to feel like a train driver, especially when passing an oncoming train!! (PN: Toshikatsu)

Automated travel to the northernmost point of the TOKYO 23 Wards

Nippori-Toneri Liner

Fare ▸Base fare 170 yen ▸IC card 168 yen

Toneri derives from the name of an official position from the Yamato court (4th to 7th centuries)

Launched in 2008, this relatively new line stretches 9.7 km from Nippori Station to Minumadai-shinsuikoen Station via Toneri Station in Adachi City. The line is characterized by its new transportation system featuring trains that run via computer-controlled automated operation and an entire line raised on elevated tracks, providing wide-open views during rides. Along the line, there are many places where passengers can get off and experience nature and history, such as the Nishiarai Daishi Temple and Toneri Park. At Kumanomae Station, it is possible to transfer to the Tokyo Sakura Tram (Toden Arakawa Line).

Operates between Akihabara and Tsukuba

Tsukuba Express (TX)

Fare ▸Base fare 170 yen ▸IC card 168 yen

The TX-2000 series connecting Akihabara to Tsukuba, a distance of about 58 km

All four services depart from Akihabara Station, traveling through Saitama and Chiba and arriving at Tsukuba Station in Ibaraki Prefecture in as little as 45 minutes. The line is convenient for commuters heading to work and school, but since it also passes through Asakusa, Minami-Senju, and Kita-Senju stations in the cities, it is also convenient for exploring the *shitamachi* areas and transferring to JR and subway lines. While the TX Asakusa Station shares a name with the other Asakusa Station, which is served by all other lines, it is located a 7 to 8-minute walk away, so please be aware of this when changing trains.

Other Railway Lines

Travels through the Tokyo Bay area to Haneda Airport

Tokyo Monorail

Fare ▸Base fare 160 yen ▸IC card 157 yen

Enjoy the dynamic views of the coast from the train windows

The Tokyo Monorail offers a direct link between central Tokyo and Haneda Airport. It departs from Hamamatsucho Station, which is served by the Yamanote Line, connecting with Haneda Airport Terminal 2 Station in as little as 18 minutes. Check out the Monorail Hanewari Roundtrip Ticket (800 yen, 400 yen for children) for a discounted round-trip ticket between Haneda Airport and central Tokyo (Hamamatsucho), the Tokyo Monorail unlimited one-day pass (700 yen, 350 yen for children, weekends and national holidays only) for convenient access to Oi Racetrack and Ota Market, and many other special tickets available for purchase.

Tokyo's only tram, for a nostalgic ride

Tokyo Sakura Tram (Toden Arakawa Line)

Fare ▸Base fare 170 yen ▸IC card 168 yen

A flat rate fare across the entire line. Board at the front and alight at the back

Popularly known as the Tokyo Sakura Tram, this is the only remaining tram in Tokyo. Single-driver cars operate between 30 stops from Minowabashi Station in Arakawa City to Waseda Station in Shinjuku City. In spring, the cherry blossoms are in full bloom, while spring and fall offer splendid roses. There are also many historical spots along the line, such as notable ruins and retro shopping streets. We recommend using the Toden 1Day Pass (→P. 104) to stop along the way and enjoy the atmosphere of the *shitamachi* (→P. 298).

Tokyo tips

If trains are delayed or canceled, replacement services are provided that allow passengers to transfer to other lines and make a detour to help them reach their destinations. Please be aware that this only applies to the areas covered by your commuter pass, ticket, or multiple-trip ticket.

Guide to Discount Tickets
Available for Use in the TOKYO 23 Wards

Prior to heading out on your trip, check the following for information on tickets that allow you to get around the TOKYO 23 Wards at a discount!

Transportation IC Cards That Can Be Used Nationwide

Add money to your IC card in advance at a station ticket machine or convenience store, then simply tap your card when boarding for smooth travel. Fares are applied in increments of one yen, with some trains and buses offering a slightly lower fare for IC card users, so definitely take advantage of this. You can also download each card's respective app to use the card on your phone.

Suica

Suica IC cards are issued by JR East and can be purchased at reserved seat ticket machines, multifunction ticket machines, and Midori-no-madoguchi ticket offices at JR East stations. Children's Suica cards for elementary school students (12 years old) and younger are also available.

Suica is a registered trademark of JR East

PASMO

PASMO IC cards can be purchased at any station or bus ticket office that handles PASMO, however please be aware that credit cards cannot be used for payment. PASMO cards registered to a user that can be reissued in case of loss are also available.

PASMO is a registered trademark of PASMO Co., Ltd.

Ten varieties valid across Japan

- Kitaca (JR Hokkaido)
- TOICA (JR Central)
- manaca (Transportation Bureau City of Nagoya, etc.)
- ICOCA (JR West)
- PiTaPa (Kansai Railway Pass)
- SUGOCA (JR Kyushu)
- nimoca (Nishi-Nippon Railroad)
- HAYAKAKEN (Fukuoka City Transportation Bureau)

Convenient Tickets for Exploring the TOKYO 23 Wards

Tokyo Combination Ticket

CHIKA TOKU eligible

▶ Fare 1,600 yen ▶ Period One day

This ticket offers one day of unlimited journeys on non-reserved seats in ordinary cars of ordinary trains (including rapid trains) operated by JR East in the TOKYO 23 Wards, all Tokyo Metro and Toei Subway lines, the Nippori-Toneri Liner, the Toden Arakawa Line, and all Toei Bus routes (the difference in fare must be paid for late-night buses; excludes route Koto 01) from the first to last departures on that day. You can use the Yamanote Line, subway, and other services to travel over a wide area for a reasonable price.

Sales Locations

Tickets available via Mobile Suica or at reserved seat ticket machines at major stations in Tokyo operated by JR East, ticket machines at Tokyo Metro Line stations (excluding Kita-senju, Naka-meguro, Nakano, Yoyogi-uehara, and Wakoshi stations on the Hibiya Line and Shibuya and Meguro stations on the Hanzomon and Fukutoshin lines), ticket machines at Toei Subway Line stations (excluding Oshiage, Shirokane-takanawa, Shirokanedai, and Meguro stations, and Shinjuku Station on the Shinjuku Line), and ticket machines at all Nippori-Toneri Liner stations.

JR East Tokyo Metropolitan District Pass (Tokunai Pass)

▶ Fare 760 yen ▶ Period One day

This ticket offers unlimited travel for one day on non-reserved seats in ordinary cars of ordinary trains (including rapid trains) within a specified free area. In addition to physical magnetic tickets, the ticket can also be loaded onto Suica IC cards and Mobile Suica. You can pay an additional fee to upgrade to limited express trains, Green Car seats, and other services, making it convenient for accessing the TOKYO 23 Wards from the Tama area or wider Kanto region.

Sales Locations

Sold through the Mobile Suica app (same-day ticket only) and reserved seat ticket machines at major JR East stations in the TOKYO 23 Wards. Please be aware that this ticket cannot be purchased at Midori-no-madoguchi ticket offices. In addition, the ticket can be purchased from certain travel agencies, but only as part of a bundle with another travel product (transportation, hotel, etc.) whose destination includes the specified free area covered by the ticket.

From our readers

There are many trains and buses operating in Tokyo, and there are also as many discount tickets for those services. Most of the well-known tourist attractions are accessible by JR and subway train lines, so if in doubt, choose a ticket offered by one of them. (PN: Nijiko)

Toei Bus — Toei Bus 1Day Pass

▶ Fare 500 yen ▶ Period One day

This ticket allows unlimited journeys for one day on Toei buses operating over a wide area across the TOKYO 23 Wards, from central Tokyo to the eastern cities (excluding route Koto 01). The base fare for Toei buses is 210 yen, so we recommend this ticket for those who plan to spend a day sightseeing in the city. IC tickets that can be loaded onto Suica and PASMO cards are also available. To use late-night buses, the difference in fare must be paid (210 yen, 100 yen for children).

Sales Locations

Tickets can be purchased onboard Toei buses in the TOKYO 23 Wards (excluding route Koto 01), at Toei Bus offices and branches (excluding Ome Branch), Toyo-Soshajo, and Toei Bus commuter pass sales offices. Please be aware that advance tickets cannot be purchased onboard buses. When loading the pass onto Suica and PASMO cards, only same-day tickets can be purchased onboard buses.

Tokyo Metro — Tokyo Metro 24-hour Ticket

CHIKA TOKU eligible

▶ Fare 600 yen ▶ Period 24 hours from first use

This ticket allows users to freely ride all nine Tokyo Metro lines running through the cities for 24 hours from the first use. The ticket can be used over two days within a 24-hour period, so you can start using it in the afternoon and still have plenty of time to spare. Tokyo Metro covers the inner section of the Yamanote Line loop, an area with numerous sightseeing spots, so this ticket is also a great option for those who do not have a specific plan in mind.

Sales Locations

Advance tickets can be purchased at Tokyo Metro commuter pass sales offices (excluding Nakano, Nishi-funabashi, and Shibuya stations), while same-day tickets are available for purchase at ticket machines. Meanwhile, PASMO IC card tickets are available for purchase at ticket machines at Tokyo Metro stations (excluding Kita-senju, Naka-meguro, Nakano, Nishi-funabashi, Yoyogi-uehara, and Wakoshi stations on the Hibiya Line and Shibuya and Meguro stations on the Hanzomon and Fukutoshin lines) and commuter pass sales offices (excluding Nakano, Nishi-funabashi, and Shibuya stations).

Toei Subway — Toei 1Day Pass

CHIKA TOKU eligible

▶ Fare 700 yen ▶ Period One day

This ticket allows unlimited rides for one day on all Toei Subway lines, the Nippori-Toneri Liner connecting Nippori with Adachi City, the Tokyo Sakura Tram (Toden Arakawa Line) connecting Minowabashi and Waseda stations, and Toei buses (excluding route Koto 01). Both buses and trains are included for a much wider travel area.

Sales Locations

Same-day tickets (mainly magnetic tickets) can be purchased onboard Toei buses and the Tokyo Sakura Tram (Toden Arakawa Line), Toei Bus commuter pass sales offices, commuter pass sales offices in front of Otsuka Station on the Toden Arakawa Line and at Nippori Station on the Toei Subway and Nippori-Toneri Liner, and from automatic ticket machines or automatic commuter pass ticket machines at all Toei Subway and Nippori-Toneri Liner stations. PASMO IC card tickets are also available (same-day ticket only).

Tokyo Metro/Toei Subway — Common One-Day Ticket for Tokyo Metro & Toei Subway

CHIKA TOKU eligible

▶ Fare 900 yen ▶ Period One day

This discount ticket allows one day of unlimited travel on a total of 13 subway lines operated by the Tokyo Metro and Toei Subway, which run all throughout the TOKYO 23 Wards, from the first to last departures on that day. You can efficiently travel between major districts in Tokyo for 900 yen, making it a great choice for sightseeing around the city. Make sure to also check the areas where each line operates in advance (→P. 97).

Sales Locations

Both same-day and advance tickets are available. Same-day tickets can be purchased from ticket machines at all Toei Subway and Tokyo Metro line stations. Advance tickets can be purchased at Toei Subway Line station offices (excluding Oshiage, Meguro, Shirokanedai, and Shirokane-takanawa stations, and Shinjuku Station on the Shinjuku Line) and Tokyo Metro commuter pass sales offices (excluding Nakano, Nishi-funabashi, and Shibuya stations). PASMO IC card tickets are also available.

CHIKA TOKU Offers Special Benefits

Show a one-day pass issued by the Tokyo Metro or Toei Subway to receive discounts, gifts, and other benefits at over 230 spots in Tokyo. The service can be used at a wide variety of facilities, including museums, theaters, restaurants, stores, and hotels, so make sure to take advantage to your heart's content while hopping on and off at places around the city. For more information on eligible facilities, check out the website to search by area (split into eight areas) and category.
URL chikatoku.enjoytokyo.jp/

Tokyo tips

The Tokyo Subway Ticket, which allows unlimited journeys on the Tokyo Metro and Toei Subway, can be used by visitors to Tokyo from Japan and overseas, except for residents of Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, and Yamanashi prefectures. 24-hour, 48-hour, and 72-hour tickets are available.

Convenient Tickets for Exploring the Odaiba Area

Yurikamome — Yurikamome Line One-Day Pass

▶ Fare 820 yen ▶ Period One day

This ticket allows riders to freely hop on and off the Yurikamome between Shimbashi and Toyosu stations for one day. Trains run throughout the entire Odaiba area, making it convenient and affordable to explore the vicinity. Not only that, but there are many fun things to see during the ride, including a view of Tokyo Tower from the train window. The Rainbow Bridge comes into view between Shibaura-futo and Odaiba-kaihinkoen stations, and at night, a fantastic illuminated nightscape opens up before you.

Sales Locations

Tickets are sold at automatic ticket machines at all Yurikamome Line stations and ticket sales offices at Yurikamome Shimbashi and Toyosu stations.

Rinkai Line — Rinkai Line 1 day ticket

▶ Fare 730 yen ▶ Period One day

This ticket allows holders to freely ride the Rinkai Line between Shin-kiba and Osaki stations for one day. Located in the heart of Odaiba, Tokyo Teleport Station provides excellent access to popular spots. The one-day pass comes with extra benefits: show it at 18 places in and around Odaiba, including shopping malls, hotels, and cultural facilities, to receive discount coupons and original gifts.

Sales Locations

Tickets are sold at sales offices and automatic ticket machines at all Rinkai Line stations (Osaki Station only has automatic ticket machines available).

Convenient Tickets for Exploring the *Shitamachi* Area

Tobu Railway — Taito-Sumida Tokyo *Shitamachi* Excursion Ticket

▶ Fare One-day: 500 yen; two-day: 700 yen

This ticket offers unlimited travel on trains between Kita-senju and Asakusa stations, Hikifune and Oshiage stations, and Hikifune and Kameido stations, as well as on loop buses in Taito and Sumida cities. The Skytree Shuttle® Ueno-Asakusa Line only runs on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays.

Sales Locations

On sale at all Tobu Railway stations between Asakusa and Kita-senju, and Hikifune and Kameido, TOBU Tourist Information Center Asakusa, Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center, Parks Ueno, Ryogoku Tourist Information Center, front desks at Tobu Hotel Levant Tokyo, Asakusa Tobu Hotel, and Hotel Sunroute Asakusa, and at multicopy machines at 7-Eleven stores nationwide.

Toei Subway — Toden 1Day Pass

CHIKA TOKU eligible

▶ Fare 400 yen ▶ Period One day

This ticket offers one day of unlimited rides on the Tokyo Sakura Tram (Toden Arakawa Line), which operates between Minowabashi and Waseda stations. Along the route, there are many historical sites, shopping streets, parks, and other places to stop by.

Sales Locations

Advance tickets can be purchased at the Arakawa Streetcar Office, Toden commuter pass sales offices, and Minowabashi Reminiscence Hall (Omoidekan). Same-day tickets can be purchased at the above locations, along with onboard Toden trams. The Toden 1Day IC Card Pass, which can be used with PASMO and Suica, is only valid on the day of purchase onboard Toden trams (the IC Pass is not eligible for CHIKA TOKU benefits).

Convenient Tickets for Going to/from Haneda Airport

Welcome! Tokyo Subway Ticket

▶ Fare 1,200 yen ▶ Period One day

This ticket covers a one-way ticket from any of the Keikyu Railway Haneda Airport stations to Sengakuji Station, plus unlimited journeys for one day on all Toei Subway and Tokyo Metro Lines. It is perfect for those who plan to go sightseeing around Tokyo after arriving at Haneda Airport in the morning, as it allows you to explore the city via subway. Those who want round-trip travel between Haneda Airport and Sengakuji Station should use the One-Day Subway Pass from Haneda Airport (1,400 yen).

Sales Locations

Sold at Haneda Airport Terminal 1·2 and Haneda Airport Terminal 3 stations on the Keikyu Line.

Monorail and Yamanote Line Discount Ticket

▶ Fare 500 yen ▶ Period One day

For a single 500-yen coin, this ticket allows you to alight at any station on the JR Yamanote Line from one of the Haneda Airport stations on the Tokyo Monorail via Hamamatsucho Station (valid for a single one-way trip only). As a reference, the regular fare from Haneda Airport to Tokyo Station is 670 yen, to Shinjuku Station is 710 yen, and to Ikebukuro Station is 780 yen. With this ticket, you can get to one of these bases for sightseeing for just 500 yen. The ticket is only available on Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, and long holidays.

Sales Locations

Sold at Haneda Airport Terminal 1, 2, or 3 stations on the Tokyo Monorail Line or at automated ticket machines at regional airports.

From our readers

I used the one-day pass to get off randomly at stops on the Toden Arakawa Line! I had a very satisfying trip for only 400 yen, including a visit to a handmade crafts market at Kishimojin Temple and snacking on food sold at a shopping street in Sugamo! (PN: Garden)

List of Convenient Tickets for Use on Private Railways

Discount tickets are available not only for JR and subway lines, but also for private railways in the TOKYO 23 Wards. As well as tickets that are useful for those using private railways, there are various other tickets on sale, including those that can be used in combination with subways and buses. The following is an overview of tickets that you may want to use in accordance with your arrival/departure points.

Railways Company	Ticket Name	Respective Private Railway	Tokyo Metro	Toei Subway	Respective Bus	Others
Tokyu Railway	Tokyu Lines/Toei Subway/Tokyo Metro Common 1-Day Ticket	○	○	○		
	Tokyu Tokyo Metro Pass *Valid for one round trip on Tokyu Lines	○	○			
	Tokyu Line/Tokyu Buses One-Day Unlimited Ride Pass	○			○	
Tokyu Railway Seibu Railway	Tokyu Line Seibu Line Unlimited Ticket *Round trip between any Tokyu Line station and Shibuya Station All Seibu Lines	○	○ *Section between Shibuya and Kotake-mukaihara stations			
Keio Railway	Common One-day Pass for Tokyo Metro & Toei Subway from Keio *Round trip between any Keio Line station and Shinjuku/Shibuya stations	○	○	○		
	Tokyo Metro Pass from Keio *Round trip between any Keio Line station and Shinjuku/Shibuya stations	○	○			
	Tokyo Explorer Ticket *Round trip between any Keio Line station and Shinjuku Station	○		○	○ *Toei Bus	○ *Toden, Nippori-Toneri Liner
	Keio Inokashira Line 1 Day Ticket	○				
Odakyu Electric Railway	Odakyu Tokyo Metro Pass *Odakyu Line (Shinjuku to Yoyogi-Uehara stations) Includes a round-trip discount ticket for the Odakyu Line (departure station to Yoyogi-Uehara Station)	○	○			
	Odakyu Line 1Day Ticket	○				
Seibu Railway	Seibu Tokyo Metro Pass *Round trip between any Seibu Line station and Ikebukuro/Kotake-mukaihara/Takadanobaba/Seibu-Shinjuku stations	○	○			
Tobu Railway	Tobu Tokyo Metro Pass *Round trip between departure station on Tobu Lines (excluding Tojo and Ogose lines) and Kita-senju Station, plus one-day travel ticket between Kita-senju and Asakusa stations, and Hikifune and Oshiage stations on the TOBU SKYTREE Line, and Tokyo Metro Lines	○	○			
Keikyu Railway	Tokyo Day Trip Pass *Round trip between any Keikyu Line station and Sengakuji Station	○	○	○		
	Tokyo 1-Day Ticket *Round trip between any Keikyu Line station and Shinagawa Station (unlimited travel between Shinagawa and Sengakuji stations)	○		○	○ *Toei Bus	○ *Toden, Nippori-Toneri Liner
Tsukuba Express	TX Tokyo Metro Pass *Round trip between any Tsukuba Express (TX) Line station and Kita-Senju Station, unlimited travel between Kita-senju and Akihabara stations	○	○			
	Tokyo Explorer Ticket *Round trip between any Tsukuba Express (TX) Line station and Shin-Okachimachi Station, possible to get off at TX Asakusa/TX Kita-Senju stations	○		○	○ *Toei Bus	○ *Toden, Nippori-Toneri Liner

*Denotes the area(s) covered

Tokyo tips

The Keisei Skyliner, which connects central Tokyo with Narita Airport, offers a discount ticket called the Hands-Free Travel with Skyliner voucher (4,350 yen), which includes a luggage delivery service from the airport and one-way Skyliner ticket (including travel fare).

A Comprehensive Overview into a Gateway to Travel! Complete Guide to

1F

While it may seem like a huge maze, entering through any ticket gate will eventually lead you to the JR and Shinkansen (bullet train) lines, so pass through the nearest ticket gate and follow the signs. You can get from the Yaesu side to the Marunouchi side without entering the ticket gates using the Northern Free Passage.

Record of Tokyo Station

The First Avenue area at Tokyo Station, which opened in 2020

Osumi Tamaya, the origin of the strawberry bean *daifuku*, has a store inside Tokyo Gift Palette, where they sell Shinkansen *monaka*, red-bean filled wafers in the shape of the Tokaido Shinkansen N700S series. The package also features an N700S design.

Record of Tokyo Station

A café for communication where Japanese culture is shared

In addition to an information counter for travelers, JAPAN RAIL CAFE TOKYO also offers a café space with free Wi-Fi and power outlets.

Record of Tokyo Station

Discover the famed whiteboard at the Nihonbashi Exit

At the far end of Yaesu is the Nihonbashi Exit. Near the ticket gates for the Tokaido and Sanyo Shinkansen lines, which are managed by JR-Central, is a whiteboard with train illustrations and announcements all depicted by hand that has become viral among train enthusiasts with the hashtag "#東京駅ホワイトボード" (#TokyoStation whiteboard)

Record of Tokyo Station

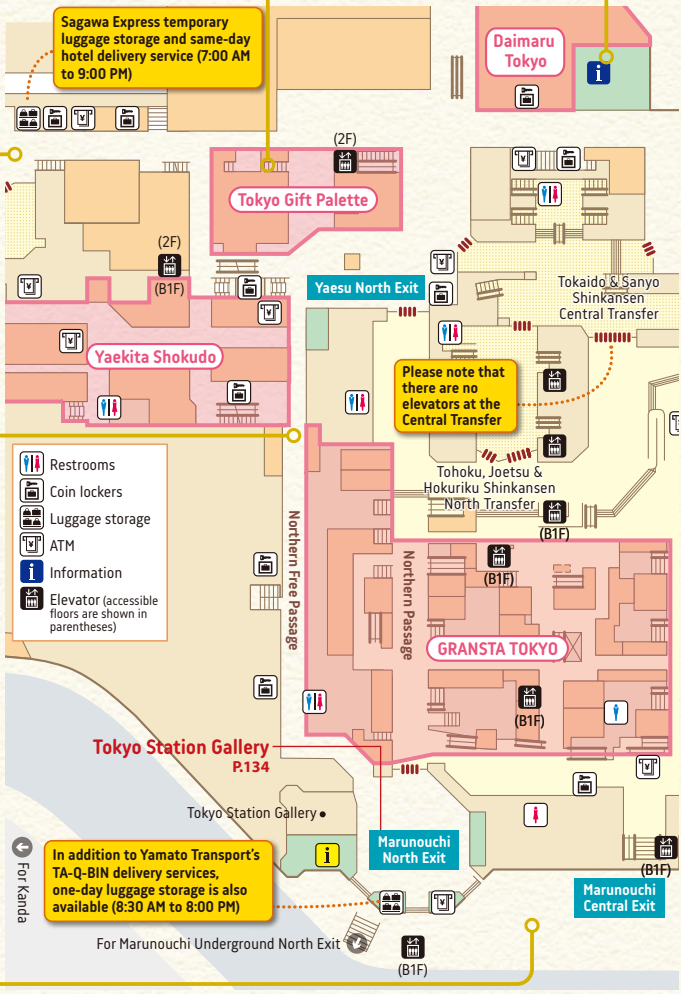
Move between Yaesu and Marunouchi using just one passage

Getting to and from Yaesu and Marunouchi on the first floor is easy as it is just a straight line! The Northern Free Passage between Yaekita Shokudo and the Yaesu North Exit ticket gates can be used to pass through the station in about five minutes.

Record of Tokyo Station

A true form enshrined in bronze in Marunouchi Station Plaza

Masaru Inoue (1843–1910) was known as the "father of Japanese railways." Why not check out the statue of him in Marunouchi Station Plaza?



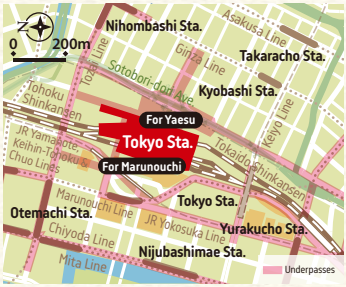
Tokyo Station

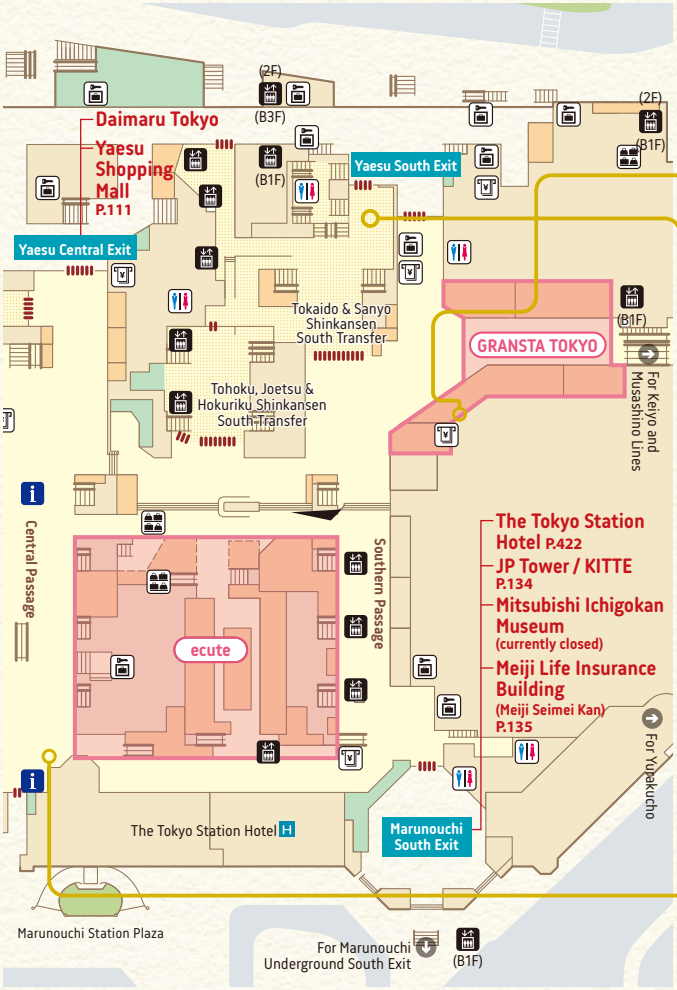
You cannot avoid passing through this enormous terminal station when traveling in Tokyo. This guide not only provides historical tidbits and other anecdotes about the station, but also offers guidance on how to navigate the underpasses efficiently!

Map of Area around Tokyo Station

The Yaesu Shopping Mall (Yaechika), which extends underground in the direction of Yaesu, comes to an end in the vicinity of Nihonbashi and Kyobashi. The Artizon Museum (→P. 143) and Maruzen Nihonbashi (→P. 69) are close by. There is also a direct connection to Tokyo Midtown Yaesu (→P. 15) via the underground shopping mall. The Marunouchi area is full of commercial complexes such as the Marunouchi and Shin-Marunouchi buildings, while the Imperial Palace (→P. 130) is also within walking distance.

The brand-new multiplex, Tokyo Midtown Yaesu





Record of Tokyo Station

The Yamanote Line outer circle platform, home to the oldest pair of pillars

You can find a pillar on each of platforms 5 and 6 with "Meiji 41 (1909 CE)" written on them in raised letters. These date back to the original construction of Tokyo Station (tours will resume as station renovation works progress).

Record of Tokyo Station

Monument to a man who poured his passion into the Shinkansen

The shinkansen monument at Tokyo Station, which stands at the south end of platforms 18 and 19, was built to commemorate the fourth president of Japanese National Railways (JNR), Shinji Sogo (1884–1981). Known as the "father of the shinkansen," Sogo was instrumental in the construction of the Tokaido Shinkansen.

Record of Tokyo Station

Don't miss the only post box with a model of the station building on top!

The post box is right by the Marunouchi central ticket gates. You can also get postage stamps and postcards (with a second-class postage value or higher) stamped with a landscape seal (*fuke-in*) depicting the station building.

B1F

Many people, even those who live, work, or study in Tokyo, find the underground area in Tokyo Station difficult to navigate! Once you learn the tricks, you will have convenient access to nearby stations such as Yurakucho and Otemachi, so take the plunge while following the guides to navigating the underpasses on P. 110.

Record of Tokyo Station

Tokyo Banana's flagship and largest store has opened!

Tokyo Bananas (→P. 387), the flagship store of the cake brand Tokyo Banana, opened in 2022 on the First Avenue at Tokyo Station. The store also offers a lineup of non-cake items, including curry bread and cream and red bean paste donuts.

You can also purchase the brand's classic items

Record of Tokyo Station

Folding screen paintings from the Edo period are on display

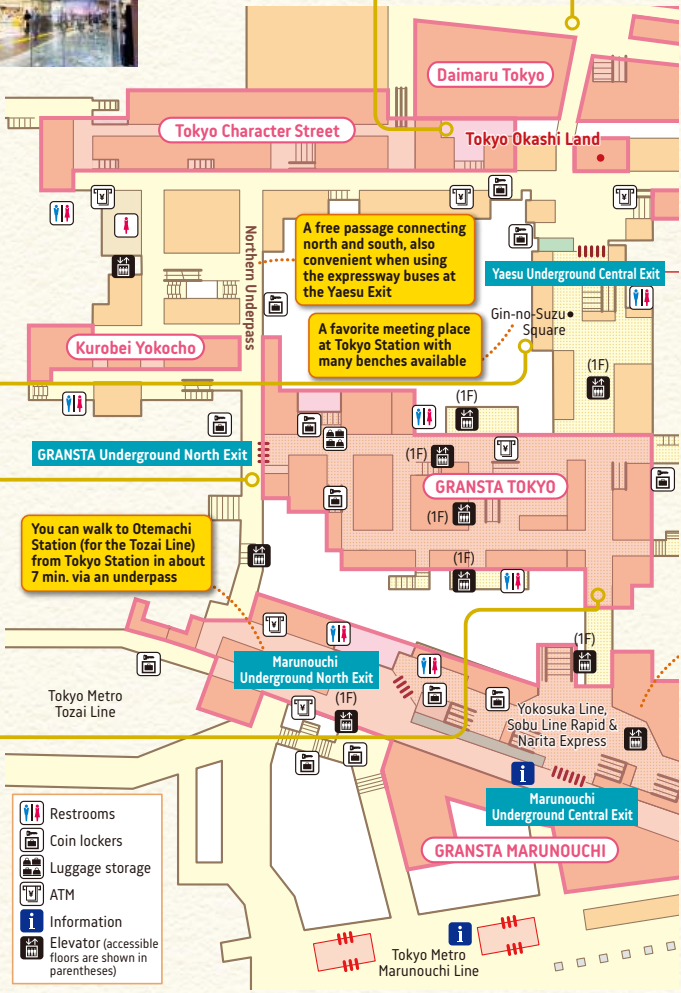
At EDO-TOKYO-YAESU HISTORY, located along Sotobori Chika 1st Street in the Yaesu Shopping Mall, visitors can get up close to history through a display of folding screen paintings depicting scenes from the Edo period (1603–1868).

The Gin no Suzu lit up

Record of Tokyo Station

The current Gin no Suzu, a station landmark, is the fourth generation!

The first Gin no Suzu, or 'silver bell,' was installed in 1968. At the time, many people were having trouble finding a meeting spot in the station, giving rise to the idea of hanging a giant shrine bell. The current bell was installed in 2007.



Record of Tokyo Station

Free passage from Yaesu to Marunouchi

The Northern Underpass allows for relatively smooth passage through the station, even underground. It may look simple on the map, but there are many signs making it quite tricky to navigate, so please use P. 110 to help you.

Record of Tokyo Station

Marunouchi Zaka, an actual slope inside the station

This 40-meter long slope was named Marunouchi Zaka upon the opening of a new area at GRANSTA.

Commercial Facilities Inside the Ticket Gates at Tokyo Station

GRANSTA

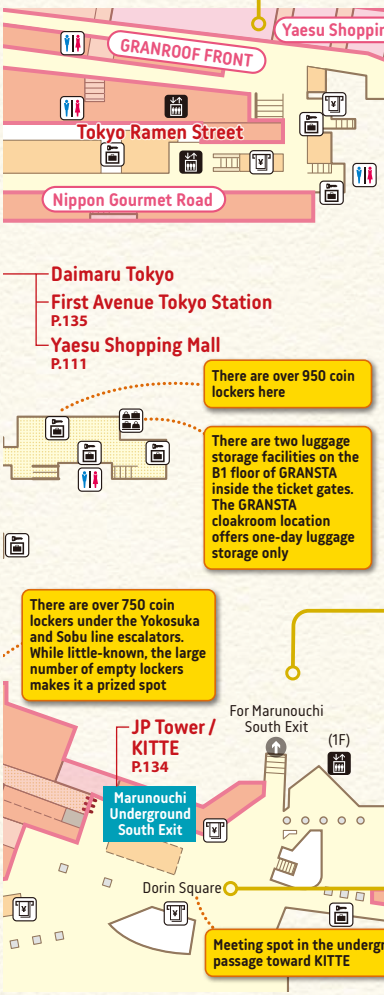
GRANSTA is a commercial complex within Tokyo Station comprising the following three facilities. GRANSTA TOKYO is filled with stores over two floors inside the ticket gates, from the first floor to the first basement level. Meanwhile, GRANSTA MARUNOUCHI is also a shopping complex located just outside the Marunouchi underground ticket gates. For dining, head to GRANSTA YAEKITA for the Kurobei Yokocho restaurant street, Yaekita Shokudo food court, and Kitamachi Sakaba bar street.

There is also a GRANSTA Underground North Exit

ecute

ecute is situated just inside the JR Marunouchi South Exit ticket gates. Also located close by the Shinkansen South Transfer Gate, the complex offers a diverse range of items including bento box lunches, sandwiches, and desserts. Don't forget to also check out the pop-up stores that are only open for a limited period of time. There is also a service available where customers can reserve bento boxes online in advance to be picked up in-store.

Along with food counters, shoppers will also find gift stores, book shops, cafés, and more



Record of Tokyo Station

A bust commemorating the origin of the name "Yaesu"

This statue is found on Sotobori Chika 1st Street. The leading theory is that the name "Yaesu" is derived from the Japanese name of the Dutch navigator Jan Joosten van Lodensteyn (d. 1623), Ya Yosu (Yaosu → Yaesu), whose ship drifted ashore in Japan.

There is also a display on the history of van Lodensteyn

Record of Tokyo Station

A relief created in 1947

This gypsum relief, created by architect Junpei Nakamura (1887–1977), was originally displayed in the waiting area of the General Head Quarters' Railway Transportation Office in 1947.

Record of Tokyo Station

Powerful driving wheels at a meeting place

Here, you can find a set of three driving wheels from a C62 steam locomotive that once ran along the Tokaido Line. They were conserved to commemorate the 100th anniversary of JNR and the opening of the Tokyo subway station, and have now become a meeting place like Gin no Suzu.

Get around using the shortest route!

Thorough Guide to Walking Around the Underpasses

The underground areas of Tokyo Station seem like a huge labyrinth. Our staff actually navigated three tricky-to-find places on foot in order to show you how to do the same!

Yaesu → Marunouchi

It is not possible to pass through from the south side, so first aim for the North Underground Passage. There is also the similar Northern Free Passage on the first floor.

1 Head left at the Yaesu Underground Central Exit

START

Check out the signs at Tokyo Character Street pointing you to the Marunouchi side.

2 Keep walking with your eyes up

Turn left following the signs and head straight along the underpass for some time.

3 If you can see the stairs, you have reached the Marunouchi side

Go down via the stairs or elevator. Either is fine.

4 The key phrase is to "turn left"

GOAL

Turn left and you will reach the Marunouchi side underpass, then head straight and you will find the JR Marunouchi Underground North Exit.

Transferring to Otemachi Station

This shows the way to Otemachi Station from the Marunouchi Underground North Exit. First head for the Tozai Line, and from there, you can find the other lines.

1 Marunouchi Underground North Exit ticket gates

START

Exit the ticket gates and walk along on the right side, and you will see signs for Otemachi.

2 Pass right through

Pass straight through and take the escalator further down to the underground floor.

3 The Tozai Line will be right in front!

Just beyond that are the Tozai Line Otemachi Station ticket gates. For other lines, keep walking to the left.

4 Turn right at OOTEMORI

Go through the underground entrance of the commercial facility OOTEMORI and walk along the passage.

5 Hanzomon & Marunouchi lines

After passing through OOTEMORI, follow the signs and you will see the Hanzomon and Marunouchi lines.

6 Chiyoda & Toei Mita lines

GOAL

Head directly to the Tozai Line, then turn right for the Chiyoda Line. The Mita Line is on the side opposite to the Chiyoda Line ticket gates.

Walking to Yurakucho Station

You can actually walk from Tokyo Station to Yurakucho. Follow the signs for the JR Keiyo Line, which is located slightly apart from the other lines, and it will be easier to find your way.

1 Marunouchi Underground South Exit at Tokyo Station!

START

Pass straight through the underground south exit. Look out for the signs displaying "for Yurakucho."

2 Commercial facilities on both sides

Go down the stairs. There will be commercial buildings on the way, but keep heading straight down to the underground.

3 You can also see the JR Keiyo Line ticket gates

At the bottom, turn left and go straight until you see the entrance of Tokyo International Forum.

4 Go into the building to get to Yurakucho Station!

GOAL

Head to the first floor of the International Forum and continue forward, and you will arrive at JR Yurakucho Station.

From our readers

I used the Northern Free Passage on the first floor level to get to the Marunouchi Exit from the Yaesu side of Tokyo Station. It was surprisingly quick to navigate when following the well-marked signs. (PN: Mamoru)

Learn More about Tokyo Station

Tokyo Station has been the stage of many historical events. Certain marks come in and out of view if you look down while walking around. Here, you can find even more trivia about the station, which has been adopted as the image for a new banknote from 2024.

Investigation 1 Take the same image as the one used on the new 10,000 yen note

New banknotes are scheduled to go into circulation around the first half of fiscal 2024. This will be the first change since 2004, with new designs for the 10,000 yen, 5,000 yen, and 1,000 yen notes. The front side of the 10,000 yen note will feature Eiichi Shibusawa (1840–1931), the "father of Japanese capitalism" (→P. 266), while the reverse side will feature Tokyo Station's Marunouchi Station Building. The dome can be seen on the left side of the banknote, which suggests that the image was taken from outside the Marunouchi North Exit.

Exit via the North Exit and take the photo from the opposite side of the crosswalk

Investigation 2 Unravel tile secrets!

Tokyo Station is served by train lines managed by both JR-East and JR-Central, and it is said that the tiles change color at the boundary line of each company's jurisdiction. Moreover, a tile at the Yaesu Central Exit and the ticket machines at the Marunouchi South Exit mark the respective locations where former prime ministers Osachi Hamaguchi (1870–1931) and Takashi Hara (1856–1921) were attacked, with details on each incident displayed nearby.

Top: A special tile to show the site where former Prime Minister Hamaguchi was attacked
Bottom: The spot where former Prime Minister Hara was assassinated

Investigation 3 'Yaechika' trivia

The underground shopping mall at the Yaesu Exit is commonly known as 'Yaechika.' It is split between Chiyoda and Chuo cities across Sotobori Chika 1st Street. Aroma Coffee, where patrons can enjoy siphon coffee, has a slanted ceiling because the underground shopping mall was originally built adjoining an underground parking lot, and the café was located at the bottom of the ramp leading to the parking lot.

A statue of Jan Joosten van Lodensteyn, the origin of the word Yaesu, has also been erected here

Investigation 4 Learn about the history of Tokyo Station

Timeline		
	1914 (Taisho 3)	Opening of Tokyo Station. Yamanote and Keihin lines begin operation
	1915 (Taisho 4)	Opening of The Tokyo Station Hotel (→ P. 422)
	1948 (Showa 23)	Yaesuguchi Station Building completed
	1964 (Showa 39)	Launch of Tokaido Shinkansen
	2003 (Heisei 15)	Marunouchi Station Building designated Important Cultural Property of Japan
	2014 (Heisei 26)	100-year anniversary of opening

See P. 136 for information on the Marunouchi Station Building

Construction of Central Station began in 1908. Six years later, the station was opened with the new name of Tokyo Station. At that time, only the Marunouchi Station Building existed; Yaesuguchi would not be opened until 1929. Tokyo Midtown Yaesu and other new spots have been popping up around the station.

Tokyo tips

Other recent events not included in the timeline include the opening of GRANROOF on the Yaesu side in 2013 and the completion of Marunouchi Station Plaza in 2017. With a mix of historic buildings and cutting-edge commercial facilities, the station is still evolving today.

Complete Guide to Buses in the TOKYO 23 Wards

A comprehensive guide to various buses operating in the cities that are perfect for smooth travel and touring famous sites.

Basic Way to Ride Buses in the TOKYO 23 Wards

① Check the destination

Since there can be numerous established bus stops, check the destination and route number. After the bus arrives, you should again check the destination/stopover points displayed on the front, rear, and sides of the bus before boarding.

② Board the bus

Fixed-fare zones are used for nearly all of the TOKYO 23 Wards, and fares are generally paid in advance as you board the bus. Board using the front door, then tap your IC card or insert money into the farebox (1,000 yen bills are the highest denomination accepted).

Most fareboxes don't make change for large bills

③ Get off the bus

When the onboard monitor or PA system announces the destination, push the stop button placed near your seat or hanging strap. Once the bus has stopped, wait your turn to exit from the rear door.

Coverage from within central Tokyo to the *shitamachi* area

Toei Bus

Fare ▸ Base fare 210 yen ▸ IC card 210 yen

Essential for traveling around the TOKYO 23 Wards

Major Tourist Sites

- Tokyo Tower (→P. 54)
- The Mitsubishi Archives (→P. 288)
- Tsukiji Outer Market (→P. 172)
- Currency Museum (→P. 147)

It operates over a wide region within central Tokyo, from the central region that includes the urban area and sub-center area, to the eastern part of the TOKYO 23 Wards centering on part of Edogawa City, and the cities of Koto, Sumida, Taito, and Arakawa. The central region covers major areas that are tourist spots, such as Ikebukuro, Shinjuku, Shibuya, Shinagawa, Tokyo, Ueno, Asakusa, and Roppongi. The Toei Bus 1Day Pass (→P. 103) is also available for unlimited travel for one day on all Toei Bus.

Primarily starts at Shibuya Station and extends west

Odakyu Bus

Fare ▸ Base fare 220 yen ▸ IC card 220 yen

Operates centering on Setagaya City

Major Tourist Sites

- Cerulean Tower Noh Theatre (→P. 332)
- Setagaya Art Museum (→P. 252)
- Shoin Jinja Shrine (→P. 250)

In addition to starting at Shibuya Station and primarily running through Shibuya and Setagaya cities, it also operates in Suginami City along the Keio Line and a part of Meguro City along the Tokyu Den-en-toshi Line. There are bus stops scattered throughout the Keio Line area and Odakyu Odawara Line in Setagaya City, so you'll want to use it when traveling around this north-south area. There is also a 1-day IC card pass (600 yen, 300 yen for children) that can be bought on the bus.

Convenient for traveling the area along the Chuo Line

Kanto Bus

Fare ▸ Base fare 220 yen* ▸ IC card 220 yen*

Operates numerous routes along the Chuo Line

Major Tourist Sites

- Koenji Junjo Shopping Street (→P. 259)
- Nakano Sun Mall Shopping Street (→P. 258)
- Kaichu Inari Shrine (→P. 210)

It fully covers the area centering on the JR Chuo Line that runs from Nishi-Ogikubo Station to Shinjuku Station within the TOKYO 23 Wards. There are particularly a lot of routes north of the JR Chuo Line, making it handy for traveling from the JR Chuo Line toward Nerima spanning from the Seibu-Shinjuku Line to the Ikebukuro Line area. The 1-day pass (600 yen, 300 yen for children) is helpful when traveling. *Some sections are 180 yen or 200 yen. The route Hyaku 01 from Takadanobaba Station to Higashi-nakano Station is 210 yen.

Indispensable for touring the Shinjuku/Shibuya area

Keio Bus

Fare ▸ Base fare 220 yen ▸ IC card 220 yen

Excellent for traveling to tourist sites

Major Tourist Sites

- The Japan Folk Crafts Museum (→P. 203)
- Omiya Hachimangu Shrine (→P. 259)
- Yoyogi Park (→P. 202)
- Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden (→P. 208)
- Tokyo Camii & Diyanet Turkish Culture Center (→P. 202)

It operates over a wide area from the vicinity of the Keio Line in Setagaya City to Asagaya, Nakano, Nerima, Shibuya, and Shinjuku stations. There are many bus stops around Shinjuku and Shibuya stations, as well as community buses serving all of Shibuya City for 100 yen per ride. Be sure to use it when visiting the Shinjuku/Shibuya area where there are numerous tourist sites. There is also the 1-day IC pass that can be used to travel in fixed-fare zones within Tokyo (500 yen, 250 yen for children).

From our readers

When you're traveling around Tokyo by bus, downloading a bus app to your smartphone will allow you to travel in an organized way. I recommend NAVITIME Bus Transit JAPAN that lets you check timetables, transit routes, fares, and bus stops. (PN: Hana)

Operates in an extensive range in the southern area of the TOKYO 23 Wards

Tokyu Bus

Fare ▸ Base fare 220 yen ▸ IC card 220 yen

Routes extend from within the cities to Kawasaki

Major Tourist Sites

- Meguro Fudoson Temple (→P. 245)
- Todoroki Valley (→P. 252)
- Ikegami Honmonji Temple (→P. 237)
- Shinagawa Jinja Shrine (→P. 234)
- Yebisu Garden Place (→P. 242)

Within the TOKYO 23 Wards, it operates over a wide area primarily along the Tokyu Line that centers on the cities of Shibuya, Meguro, Setagaya, Shinagawa, and Ota. There is also a direct route running from Meguro-dori Ave. to Tokyo Station. In addition to the Tokyu Bus 1-day pass (520 yen, 260 yen for children), you can enjoy a tour of places such as Shibuya on SHIBUYA STREET RIDE (3,000 yen, 1,500 yen for children; advance-booking discount available), an open-top regular tour bus that started operating in 2023.

Great access to the Tokyo Bay area

Keikyu Bus

Fare ▸ Base fare 220 yen ▸ IC card 220 yen

Also operates shuttle buses to Haneda Airport

Major Tourist Sites

- Ota Market (→P. 238)
- Oi Racetrack (→P. 237)
- The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) (→P. 181)
- Shinagawa Aquarium (→P. 236)

In addition to route buses running primarily along the Keikyu Line centering on the bay area in Shinagawa and Ota cities, there is also service to Odaiba over Tokyo Bay. It offers numerous airport buses convenient for getting to Haneda Airport. Within the TOKYO 23 Wards, it enables mutual access over a wide region, including Kita-Senju Station, Kinshicho Station/TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN®, Tokyo Station, Shibuya Station, Futako-tamagawa Station, Oimachi/Osaki/Musashi-koyama stations, Omori Station, and Kamata Station.

Runs numerous routes centering on Nerima City

Seibu Bus

Fare ▸ Base fare 220 yen* ▸ IC card 220 yen*

Useful for sightseeing in the Nerima area

Major Tourist Sites

- Observation Lobby, Nerima City Office (→P. 88)
- Makino Memorial Garden (→P. 261)
- Chihiro Art Museum Tokyo (→P. 260)

While it operates primarily along the Seibu Shinjuku and Ikebukuro lines in Nerima City, there are also routes in the vicinity of Ikebukuro Station, Suginami City, and a part of Itabashi City (a portion uses a distance-based fare system). It runs in well-defined areas, such as from Ogikubo Station to Iogi Station, and Nerima-Takanodai Station to Narimasu Station on the Tobu Tojo Line via Hikarigaoka and other stations. It's convenient when traveling north-south. *Some routes spanning the TOKYO 23 Wards (part of Musashino City) and Tama/Saitama regions are 180 yen.

Operates over a wide area in the cities of Itabashi and Kita

Kokusai Kogyo Bus

Fare ▸ Base fare 220 yen ▸ IC card 220 yen

Runs through many major stations that are starting points

Major Tourist Sites

- Akatsuka Botanical Garden (→P. 265)
- Itabashi Art Museum (→P. 264)
- Itabashi Botanical Garden (→P. 264)

It has numerous routes in Itabashi and Kita cities, and comprehensive coverage in areas not reached by rail. Plus, it also runs in the vicinity of Ikebukuro Station, Nerima City, and a part of Adachi City, and provides access in the east up to Nishiarai Station on the Tobu Isesaki Line. The IC one-day pass (700 yen, 350 yen for children) can be used not only on route buses, but also on some community bus routes on the RinRin GO bus in Itabashi City and Midori Bus in Nerima City.

Convenient for walking around the expansive *shitamachi* areas

Keisei Bus

Fare ▸ Base fare 220 yen ▸ IC card 220 yen

Mainly operates *shitamachi* routes

Major Tourist Sites

- Mizumoto Park (→P. 294)
- Shibamata Taishakuten Temple (→P. 294)
- The Japanese Sword Museum (→P. 303)
- TOKYO SKYTREE® (→P. 56)

Besides running route buses centering on Edogawa and Katsushika cities, it also operates community buses in Sumida, Taito, and Arakawa cities. In Sumida City, community buses run 3 circular routes, which are convenient for touring sightseeing spots. Plus, it operates several express buses to Narita and Haneda airports from various places in Tokyo, including Airport Bus TYO-NRT (1,300 yen one way) that links Tokyo Station and Narita Airport.

Operating routes centering on Adachi and Katsushika cities

Tobu Bus

Fare ▸ Base fare 220 yen*1 ▸ IC card 220 yen*1

Also has many routes in the Takenotsuka vicinity

Major Tourist Sites

- Nishiarai Daishi Temple (→P. 297)
- Adachi Park of Living Things (→P. 296)
- Banknote & Postage Stamp Museum (→P. 265)

Originating at locations such as Kita-senju and Ayase stations, it operates throughout Adachi City and is great for strolling around the city. There are also some routes around Kameari Station in Katsushika City and the vicinity of Oji Station in Kita City. The Adachi 1-Day Pass (500 yen, 250 yen for children) for one-day unlimited journeys is also available. Tickets can be purchased at Adachi/Nishiarai/Katsushika bus offices and the Kita-senju Station commuter pass sales office, as well as through the Japan Transit Planner smartphone app.

*1) Base fares are being increased at each bus company through 2023. For example, the base fare for Tobu Bus will be revised from July 22, 2023 to 230 yen for cash and IC card payments.

A List of Major Community Buses Operating in the TOKYO 23 Wards

20 of the TOKYO 23 Wards operate community buses. There are surprisingly quite a few buses that are helpful when touring the TOKYO 23 Wards, such as buses with routes that cover back roads where trains and ordinary buses don't run, and those that tour sightseeing spots. Not only are there an abundance of routes, but happily the fares are also reasonable. Look out for the delightful bus designs and names associated with characteristics of each city.

City	Name	Number of Routes	Fare	IC Card
Minato	Chii Bus	Tamachi, Akasaka, Shiba, Azabu East, Azabu West, Aoyama, Takanawa, and Shibaura-Konan (8 routes)	100 yen	○
	Odaiba Rainbow Bus	Line 01 via Tamachi Sta. East Exit, Line 02 via Shibaura 3-chome (2 routes)	220 yen	×
Chiyoda	Kazaguruma	Kojimachi, Fujimi/Jimbocho, Uchikanda, and Akihabara (4 routes)	100 yen	○
Chuo	Edo Bus	North and South loops (2 routes)	100 yen	○
Shinjuku	Shinjuku WE Bus	Kabukicho/Nishi-shinjuku loop, Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, and Morning & night (3 routes)	100 yen	○
Shibuya	Hachiko Bus	Ebisu/Daikanyama loop, Uehara/Tomigaya, Honmachi/Sasazuka loop, and Jingumae/Sendagaya (4 routes)	100 yen	○
Bunkyo	B-guru	Sendagi/Komagome, Mejirodai/Kohinata, and Hongo/Yushima (3 routes)	100 yen	○
Toshima	IKE BUS	Ikebukuro Sta. East Exit Loop (Route A), Ikebukuro Sta. East/West exits Loop (Route B) (2 routes)	100 yen	×
Sumida	Sumida Hyakkei	Mukojima/Kanegafuchi, Yahiro/Tachibana, and Ryogoku/Kinshicho (3 routes)	100 yen	○
Shinagawa	Shina Bus	Nishi-Oi Sta.–Omori Sta. North Exit (1 route)	220 yen	○
Setagaya	Setagaya Kururin	Soshigaya/Seijo Area loop (1 route)	210 yen	○
Ota	Tamachan Bus	Musashi-nitta Sta.–Shinmaruko/Yaguchi loop (1 route)	160 yen	○
Suginami	Sugimaru	Keyaki Line (Asagaya Sta.–Hamadayama Sta.), Sakura Line (Hamadayama Sta. South–Shimo-takaido Sta. Entrance), Kaede Line (Nishi-Ogikubo Sta.–Kugayama Sta.) (3 routes)	100 yen	○
Nerima	Midori Bus	Hoya, Kitamachi, Sekimachi, Hikawadai, Oizumi, and Minami-oizumi (6 routes)	220 yen	○
Itabashi	RinRin GO	Itabashi Market–Shin-takashimadaira Sta.–Shimo-akatsuka Sta. loop (1 route)	220 yen	○
Kita	K Bus	Oji/Komagome and Tabata loop (2 routes)	100 yen	○
Taito	Megurin	North Megurin (around Asakusa), North Megurin (around Negishi), South Megurin, East-West Megurin, Gururi Megurin (North-South) (5 routes)	100 yen	○
Arakawa	Sakura/Shioiri Sakura	Sakura (counter-clockwise), Sakura (clockwise), Shioiri Sakura (3 routes)	180 yen	○ (178 yen)
Adachi	Harukaze	Nishiarai/Ayase, Ayase/Mutsugi, Nishiarai/Toneri, City Hall/Shikahama Line, Kita-senju Sta. West Side Area Loop, Kita-Senju/Shikahama, Nishiarai/Mutsugi, Odai/Miyagi Loop, Aoi/Kameari, Nishiarai/Koya, Horinouchi/Tsubaki Loop, and Nishiarai/Kameari (12 routes)	Depends on the route	Not accepted on some routes
Katsushika	Rainbow Katsushika	WelPia Katsushika/Kameari Sta. South Exit Line /Shinjuku loop, and Kameari Sta./Nishi-kameari/Ayase Sta. Line (2 routes)	210 yen	○
Koto	Shiokaze	Kiba and Tatsumi (2 routes)	100 yen	○

From our readers

On the Hato Bus open-top bus tour I felt like I could reach up and touch traffic signals and got an impressive view of Tokyo Tower! I enjoyed the tour guide's detailed explanations, too. I'd like to go again when I have time. (PN: Kuroneko)

Tour Buses

You're sure to find a plan that suits your preferences out of the myriad available, such as fun-filled tours that include foods and shopping, tours that you can readily join when you have a little time, and tours for savoring authentic cuisine.

Attractive for an array of tours

Hato Bus

A variety of tours are available that can be enjoyed not only by tourists, but city residents as well. There are short, 1–3 hour tours that hit Tokyo sightseeing spots and day-long tours, too. Tours on a double-decker, open-top bus let you experience views in a free-and-easy atmosphere, while the well-known bus guides from Hato Bus will make the tour even more fun.

There are also many tours open to people traveling alone, so feel free to join

Recommended Tour

Tokyo Panorama Drive

Ride on a double-decker, open-top bus and take a 1-hour tour of notable Tokyo sights including Tokyo Tower and the National Diet Building. The view from Rainbow Bridge over Tokyo Bay is a must-see! (→P. 116)

Sightseeing tours that you can readily join

SKY Bus Tokyo

On the double-decker, open-top SKY Bus, you can enjoy touring famous sites in Tokyo. No reservations are needed. Purchase same-day tickets at ticket booths located in places such as Tokyo Marunouchi and board with ease. In addition, the sightseeing SKY Hop Bus has bus stops at various tourist sites, and you can freely hop on and off.

The tours have tons of photo spots including the National Diet Bldg.

Recommended Tour

Imperial Palace-Ginza-Marunouchi Tour

This is the best go-to tour for first-time visitors to Tokyo. In approx. 50 min. you can tour Marunouchi, Chidorigafuchi Mort, the National Diet Building, and Ginza. There are lots of highlights unique to an open-top bus. You'll feel close to the trees and pass under elevated structures by a hair. Tours are operated 3–4 times a day and charge 1,800 yen for adults and 900 yen for children.

TEL 03-3215-0008 (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM)

Fully savor cuisine against a backdrop of famous sites

Restaurant Bus Tokyo

Departing from Tokyo Station Marunouchi Building, on this tour you can delight in cuisine served in courses while touring around famous spots such as Tokyo Tower, Odaiba, and Ginza. The double-decker, open-top bus offers a tranquil space with comfortable seating and tables for sitting face to face. While enjoying the view outside the windows, you can indulge in an authentic Western-style meal served in courses.

Birthday and anniversary plans are also available, so it's also perfect for making memories

Recommended Tour

Western Dinner Course

The bus leaves from Tokyo Marunouchi. Give a toast against the backdrop of Tokyo Tower and Rainbow Bridge while enjoying French cuisine and alcohol (separate fee)! Fees start at 12,800 yen per person and include approx. 30 min. of time to freely stroll about.

TEL 0570-200-770 (10:00 AM - 6:00 PM)

Free Shuttle Buses

Here are three buses that anyone can ride for free. There's a convenient app that tells you the current location of the bus (showing major stops on the listed routes).

Linking Yaesu, Nihonbashi, and Kyobashi

Metro Link Nihonbashi

Kyobashi 2-chome → Yaesu Shopping Mall → Tokyo Sta. Yaesu Exit → Nihombashi Subway Sta. → Mitsui Memorial Museum → JR Shin-Nihombashi Sta. → Nihonbashi Muromachi 1-chome → Nihonbashi Minamizume → Nihonbashi 2-chome → Nihonbashi 3-chome → Takaracho Subway Sta.

A design evoking history

Operating Hours Approx. every 10 min. daily 10:00 AM–8:00 PM, excluding Jan. 1.

Runs in a north-south loop from Tokyo Station to Nihonbashi. It's eco-friendly with low pollution, low noise, and low platforms.

Operating from Hamacho to Ningyocho and Kabutocho

Metro Link Nihonbashi E-Line

Ningyocho 1-chome → Kayabacho/Kabutocho Tosho-mae → Nihonbashi 2-chome → Tokyo Sta. Yaesu Exit → Mitsukoshimae Subway Sta. → Nihonbashi Muromachi 1-chome → Hamacho 2-chome Meijiza-mae → Hamacho 3-chome Tomare-mae → Suitengumae Subway Sta. → Tokyo City Air Terminal

Look for the bright yellow color

Operating Hours Approx. every 22 min. 8:00 AM–6:00 PM weekdays, 10:00 AM–8:00 PM on Sat., Sun., and national holidays, excluding Jan. 1.

The loop route runs from Tokyo Station to the Nihonbashi area, as well as Hamacho, Ningyocho, and Kabutocho where there are many notable sites.

Linking Otemachi, Marunouchi, and Yurakucho

Marunouchi Shuttle

Dai-ichi Life → Hibiya → Shin Kokusai Bldg. → Shin-Marunouchi Bldg. → Tokyo Sankei Bldg. → Nikkei Bldg. → Yomiuri Shimbun → Yusen Bldg.

Red arrows on white buses

Operating Hours Every 12–18 min. 8:00 AM–8:00 PM weekdays, from 10:00 AM on Sat., Sun., and national holidays, except for Jan. 1.

Starting at Shin-Marunouchi Bldg., there is also a business route running 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM weekdays linking Otemachi to Yurakucho.

Tokyo tips

IKE Bus, the community bus that runs in Ikebukuro, operates tours of notable sites in Toshima City primarily on weekends. You can experience a slightly different tour of Ikebukuro since it goes to backstreets that ordinary buses can't. (→P. 219)

Tour the Highlights of the TOKYO 23 Wards More Efficiently

Hato Bus & SKY Duck Tokyo Tours

You're sure to make new discoveries on a 1–2 hour bus tour around Tokyo's sightseeing spots!

Hato Bus

Tokyo Tower – Odaiba

Tokyo Panorama Drive

The perfect bus tour for first-time visitors to Tokyo that hits all the well-known tourist sites.

The most popular tour

Tokyo Panorama Drive Tour

This hour-long tour is great for enjoying city landmarks such as Tokyo Tower and Rainbow Bridge. Luckily, approximately 10 tour buses leave per day at average intervals of 30 minutes, so you can catch one when have some spare time.

MAP **Supp. P. 20-C2 Marunouchi**

AD Tokyo Sta. Marunouchi South Exit TEL 03-3761-1100 (Hato Bus Reservation Center, 9:00 AM–5:30 PM) Several tour buses depart 9:30 AM–4:00 PM No regular closings (check official website) FEE 2,000 yen, 1,000 yen for ages 6–11, 600 yen for ages 5 and under, Sat., Sun., national holidays 2,200 yen, 1,100 yen for ages 6–11, 600 yen for ages 5 and under CC ADJMV PT 2-min. walk from the Marunouchi South Exit ticket gate of JR Tokyo Sta.

The open-top bus gives a 360° panoramic view

Taking a bus

Buying a ticket

You can buy tickets in advance on the official website. If there are seats available, you can make same-day reservations, so buy a ticket directly from the Tokyo Hato Bus Office at the Marunouchi South Exit boarding point in Tokyo Station.

Left: Tell them the time slot you prefer, pay, and get your ticket Right: Look for the yellow sign marking the bus office

Other Hato Bus tours

- Two Major Bridges Drive (Rainbow Bridge & Tokyo Gate Bridge) by double-decker bus Astromega
- Instant gratification! TOKYO SKYTREE® & a Stroll in Asakusa
- A Short Tokyo Trip (Tokyo Tower & Rainbow Bridge) by double-decker bus Astromega

Cautions when riding the bus

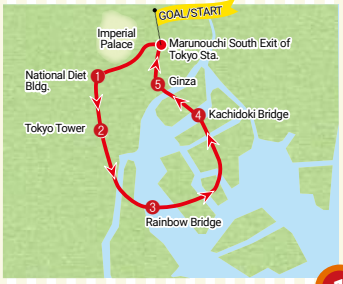
- Be sure to dress warmly at night and in winter as there is no roof and may be quite windy at times.
- Don't forget sun protection, especially in summer, since there is strong sunlight during the day.
- Do not use a smartphone selfie stick, umbrella, or parasol. You can bring a plastic bottle with a lid or a thermos for a drink.
- When it rains, rain gear will be handed out free of charge. Operation may be suspended just before departure in case of inclement weather or a sudden change in weather.

From our readers

I took the Hato Bus Tokyo Panorama Drive tour. It was my first time in Tokyo, so it was great to be able to go around major tourist spots. I was also able to take lots of photos. (PN: Aruru)

Tokyo Panorama Drive

Time required: Approx. 1 hr.



Climb aboard and go!

The Tokyo Hato Bus Office and boarding point is a 2-minute walk from the Marunouchi South Exit in Tokyo Station. Please go to the boarding point 10 minutes before departure time. All seats are reserved.

Top: A bus guide provides thorough explanations
Right: Getting on a double-decker bus

1 National Diet Building

Departing from Marunouchi, the bus passes by sites of abundant greenery such as the Imperial Palace outer garden and Hibiya Park to reach the first highlight, the National Diet Building that you'll see right in front of you.

It's best to get as close as possible to take photos

2 Tokyo Tower

Tokyo Tower (left page) looks even more impressive viewed from a double-decker bus against a blue sky!

You can snap a selfie with the Tokyo Tower at the right angle

3 Rainbow Bridge

Once on the Metropolitan Expy., the bus heads to the Rainbow Bridge in Odaiba, another tour highlight. You'll get the ultimate panoramic view of the bay area.

Crossing over a 798-meter long suspension bridge

4 Kachidoki Bridge

After taking the Harumi Exit to get off the Metropolitan Expy., the bus heads to Toyosu Market and Kachidoki Bridge. You'll be able to fully experience the *shitamachi* atmosphere in the Sumida River area.

Top: Kachidoki Bridge connects the Tsukiji and Tsukishima areas Right: Pass under road signs with barely room to spare

5 Ginza–Marunouchi

Here's the ideal chance to take pics of high-rise buildings in Ginza and Yurakucho from a high vantage point. Pass under elevated structures with height restrictions by a hair and return to where you started, Marunouchi, Tokyo Station.

Left: The Ginza 4-chome intersection where the easily recognizable Wako Bldg. stands Right: If you're lucky, a shinkansen will pass close by

Tokyo tips

Hato Bus has half-day and 1-day tours that travel to Tokyo tourist spots, as well as seasonal tours. For more information, check the official website. URL www.hatobus.co.jp/tokyo

SKY Duck

Find out all about *shitamachi* on a bus that runs on water and land

TOKYO SKYTREE® Tour

Take a *shitamachi* tour where even Tokyo residents and seasoned Tokyo travelers make new discoveries!

You can enjoy both roads and rivers

SKY Duck Tokyo TOKYO SKYTREE® Tour

This tour departs from Oshiage and travels on an amphibious bus around Kinshicho, Kameido, and the Oshima area. You can experience a different kind of Tokyo sightseeing tour while getting a glimpse at *shitamachi* life, including little-known local shopping streets and the gentle Kyu-Nakagawa River.

MAP **Supp. P. 43-C4 Oshiage**

Ad SKY Duck Tokyo TOKYO SKYTREE Ekimae Bus Office Tel. 03-3215-0008 (Hours 9:30 AM–6:00 PM) Departs Sat., Sun., national holidays 10:00 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:40 PM (check official website) No regular closings (check official website) Fee 3,000 yen, 1,500 yen for children ages 4 and up Ac MV PT 3-min. walk from the Main Exit of TOKYO SKYTREE Sta. on the TOBU SKYTREE Line

Buses are painted with a trademark whale

All about the SKY Duck

What's an amphibious bus?

As the name says, the bus can operate on both land and water. On land, it runs just like an ordinary bus, and on water it runs by screw propeller. Drivers must be licensed to drive both a bus and a boat. During the tour, a quiz is given on the amphibious bus.

Top: The steering wheel used for driving on roads and water is different
Right: It runs on water by a screw propeller

The bus office is located on the corner of the Narihira 1-chome intersection

How to buy a ticket

The tour introduced here is only held on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays, so it's best to make reservations in advance either online or by telephone. You can make a same-day reservation if seats are available. Go to the bus office to check in and get your ticket.

Cautions

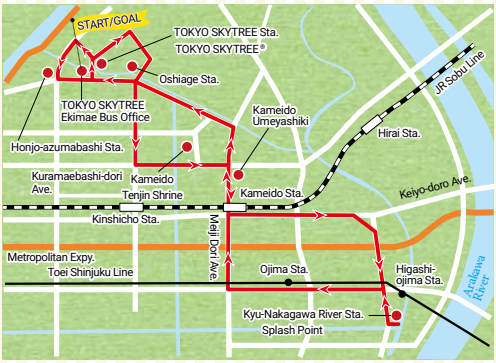
- There is a roof, but make sure your hat and belongings aren't blown away as there may be strong winds.
- In summer, a sunshade will be put over the roof. Use of umbrellas or parasols is not allowed at any time during the year.
- Operation may be suspended due to weather or river conditions.

From our readers

I enjoyed the SKY Duck tour around Odaiba both on land and water. People shouted with delight when the bus splashed. The bus guide was also interesting. (PN: TAIYO)

TOKYO SKYTREE® Tour

Time required: Approx. 1.5 hours



START

Climb aboard and go!

When you've gotten your ticket, go to the boarding site next to the bus office to depart. An energetic bus guide will provide nonstop tourist information and trivia.

Top: A very knowledgeable bus guide provides explanations
Bottom: There's a SKY Duck sign at the boarding site

1 Kameido area

The bus heads south to the Kameido area. You can see tourist spots like Kameido Tenjin Shrine (→P. 302) and Kameido Umeyashiki from the bus.

Top: An area with several rivers flowing north-south
Right: A hexagon-shaped pedestrian bridge built after the image of a turtle shell

2 Splash into Kyu-Nakagawa River

The bus switches to water mode at Kyu-Nakagawa River Sta. and splashes into Kyu-Nakagawa River as the bus guide shouts encouragement! Entering and floating on water is a strange feeling.

You may get wet from the water spray, so be careful when using smartphones, etc.

3 Cruising

The bus slowly enters Kyu-Nakagawa River. Sometimes students practicing canoeing and people running along the river can be seen.

A photo of the bus taken from Shin-ohashi-dori Ave.

Top: Looking at the Metropolitan Expy. and Higashi-ojima Sta. on the Toei Shinjuku Line straight ahead
Bottom: Taking a commemorative photo of the arched Heisei Bridge

A landmark rising in the distance

4 Break time

When the cruise is over, it's time to clean off the bus at River Sta. There are vending machines, so you can use the time to get a drink or use the restroom.

5 TOKYO SKYTREE®

Taking a different route on the way back, the tour ends with a drive around TOKYO SKYTREE®.

GOAL

Tokyo tips

The SKY Duck Odaiba: Toyosu/Tokyo View Tour that travels around Odaiba and the Toyosu area, and the SKY Duck Odaiba: Odaiba Panorama Tour are also popular. Go to the official website for details. URL www.skybus.jp

Guide to Water Transportation in the TOKYO 23 Wards

A variety of vessels perfect for traveling and sightseeing operate across Tokyo's waterways, offering plenty of views that can only be enjoyed from the water!

Sightseeing Cruises

Sightseeing cruises provide dynamic and wide-open sceneries that cannot be seen from land. There are also options offering high-class dining for a unique and special sightseeing experience.

Explore the Port of Tokyo on a small boat that travels freely

Tokyo Water Taxi

Since these trips are chartered, you can safely ride with children, and pets are welcome, too

Tokyo's first water taxi, an eight-seater boat in an eye-catching happy yellow color. Boarding is available at 20 locations in the Tokyo Bay zone. In addition to the recommended tours, arrangements can be made for personalized routes. As of 2023, reservations can be made the day before or on the same day via the official website. The service is convenient for traveling between tourist spots such as TOKYO SKYTREE® and Odaiba, taking passengers along various routes just like a water ride. It is also great for avoiding traffic.

Recommended Tour

Port of Tokyo Professional Zone Cruise

Get up close to clusters of gantry cranes used to maneuver large ships and international freight that are normally inaccessible to the general public. This tour is also recommended for its romantic passage under the illuminated bridges along the Sumida River, along with the panoramic night views of high-rises from the water.

TEL 03-6673-2528 ◔ 11:00 AM–8:00 PM ✕ Mon. (the next day if Mon. is a national holiday) ¥¥¥ 15 min. from 5,000 yen, extra charge for evening cruises after 5:00 PM (a dead mileage charge may apply depending on departure and destination points)

A wide range of themed cruises around the Port of Tokyo

Zeal Cruise

While onboard, enjoy a relaxed cruise around the Port of Tokyo accompanied with a guide

A full range of tours operate in and around the Port of Tokyo, including those off the coast of Haneda Airport. The cruises offer powerful, photo-worthy views, such as a close-up of planes taking off and landing at the airport and Tokyo Gate Bridge, in addition to a tour around the huge cranes at the container terminal. Tours can be booked from one person. Alongside year-round cruises, including tours along the Sumida and Kanda rivers, there are also a number of seasonal and event-specific tours.

Recommended Tour

Watch Jet Planes off the Coast of Haneda Airport! Cruise

This 90-minute tour allows participants to fully take in the dynamic views of aircraft taking off and landing at Haneda Airport from the water. On the way, you can enjoy plenty of sights, such as passing by the Rainbow Bridge and the giant containers at the Port of Tokyo.

TEL 03-3454-0432
◔ 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
✕ Open year-round ¥¥¥ Depends on the tour

Experience the history of Tokyo then and now

Kanda River Cruise®

→P. 338

Travel in an open-top boat for a feeling of freedom

This cruise offers a 90-minute tour of the Nihonbashi, Kanda, and Sumida rivers. Passengers can get a normally unseen view of the bridges from directly below. The tour also includes a guide onboard giving information on the history of Edo (Tokyo), as well as the latest updates.

Romantic scenes of the city

Symphony Cruise

→P. 408

Take a sunset cruise to view the stunning setting sun

These restaurant cruises tour the coast of Tokyo Bay, taking in Odaiba, Tokyo Gate Bridge, Haneda Airport, and other sights. There are four departures a day, each offering different sceneries and menus.

Enjoy the night view and cuisine in a traditional tatami room

Yakatabune Harumiya

→P. 410

Enjoy panoramic night views unfolding across Tokyo Bay

Passengers can savor authentic multi-course Japanese cuisine such as Edomae seafood tempura while watching the illuminations from a yakatabune-style boat that cruises along the Sumida River and Tokyo Bay. Various season-specific plans are also available.

From our readers

There is such a large variety of seasonal tours offered by sightseeing cruise companies in Tokyo. All four seasons offer something new, such as cherry blossom viewing in spring, the Sumida River Fireworks Festival in summer, and limited Christmas-themed cruises in winter. I make sure to book early as cruises fill up quickly. (PN: Ponzu)

Cruises

Tokyo was once known as the "water capital" due to its many canals and waterways that carried boats in and out of the city. These days, cruises play this role, with vessels operating along the Sumida River and connecting to Tokyo Bay.

Travel from Asakusa to Odaiba in a ship straight from a sci-fi movie

TOKYO CRUISE

This service links Asakusa to Odaiba, traveling up and down the Sumida River on a variety of routes. The Emeraldus, Hotaluna, and Himiko, designed by manga artist Leiji Matsumoto (1938–2023), are packed with Easter eggs from Matsumoto's works that will excite passengers just by being onboard, such as fun announcements made by characters from *Galaxy Express 999*. Reservations can be made on the website up to five minutes prior to departure. The timetable changes depending on the season and event, and services will be suspended when the tide is high or for scheduled maintenance.

A futuristic design inspired by spaceships

Boarding Points & Routes

Boarding Point	Boat Name	Destination / Travel Time	Departures	One-way Fare
Asakusa PT 1-min. walk from Exit 4 of Asakusa Subway Sta.	Emeraldus	▶ 55 min. Odaiba Marine Park	Two to three departures a day (Operation suspended twice a month)	• Odaiba 1,720 yen
	Hotaluna	▶ 40 min. Hinode Pier ▶ 60 min. Odaiba Marine Park	Two to three departures a day (Operation suspended twice a month)	• Hinode Pier 1,200 yen • Odaiba 1,720 yen
	Ryoma Dokan, etc.	▶ 35 min. Hamarikyu ▶ 40 min. Hinode Pier	Three departures a day	• Hamarikyu (incl. garden admission fee) 1,040 yen • Hinode Pier 860 yen
Hinode Pier PT 2-min. walk from Exit 1A of Hinode Sta. on the Yurikamome Line	Hotaluna (certain departures)	▶ 40 min. Asakusa	11:00 AM to 3:10 PM Every 35 to 60 min.	860 yen Hotaluna 1,200 yen
	Hotaluna	▶ 20 min. Odaiba Marine Park	Two to three departures a day	Hotaluna 860 yen
Odaiba Marine Park PT 5-min. walk from Exit 2A of Daiba Sta. on the Yurikamome Line	Hotaluna	▶ 20 min. Hinode Pier ▶ 55 min. Asakusa	Two to three departures a day (Operation suspended twice a month)	• Hinode Pier 860 yen • Asakusa 1,720 yen
	Emeraldus	▶ 55 min. Asakusa		
	Himiko	▶ 20 min. Toyosu	Two departures a day	840 yen
Toyosu PT 3-min. walk from Exit 2a of Toyosu Subway Sta.	Himiko	▶ 35 min. Asakusa	One departure a day	1,200 yen

No reservation needed for riding between Ryogoku and Odaiba

Tokyo Waterfront Line

Route

Ryogoku River Center
↑↓
Asakusa Nitenmon Gate
↑
WATERS Takeshiba
↑↓
Odaiba Marine Park

This liner departs from Ryogoku, connecting with Asakusa, Takeshiba, and Odaiba. Tickets for the regular service are sold on the same day, so passengers can hop on freely. The open deck offers wide-open 360-degree views. We recommend bringing your own food and drink onboard to enjoy the views over a light meal or drink. Night cruises are also available on weekends (2,400 yen, reservations required via the official website).

Left: A 90-min. night cruise around Tokyo's two major towers
Top: Check the timetable on the official website for regular and other departures

TEL 03-5608-8869 (closed on Mon.)
FEE Ryogoku to Odaiba 1,200 yen, night cruise 2,400 yen

Tokyo tips

TOKYO CRUISE's Emeraldus also has semi-private compartments available. We recommend relaxing on the boat with a drink in hand, which can be purchased at the onboard café. Weekdays 3,000 to 3,500 yen, Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays 3,500 to 4,000 yen.

Bicycle Sharing

After downloading the dedicated app, just unlock the bicycle using the panel and hop on. You can return bikes to any bicycle station!

Many stations are in areas convenient for sightseeing

docomo Bike Share

Stations are located in 1,200 spots (10,200 bicycles) across a total of 14 cities, including Chiyoda, Chuo, Minato, Shinjuku, Bunkyo, Sumida, Koto, Shinagawa, Meguro, Ota, Shibuya, Nakano, Suginami, and Nerima. Bikes can be used after registering as a member via the app. The app also allows users to reserve bikes and find stations where bikes can be picked up or returned. Damage insurance is available.

TEL 0570-783-6772 FEE 165 yen per 30 min. For 1,650 yen, the bicycle can be used until 11:59 PM on the same day

Ride comfortably with electric assist

Get on and off throughout the entire city area

HELLO CYCLING

Stations are located in all TOKYO 23 Wards, with many based in the areas of Taito, Sumida, and Edogawa, making it convenient to ride around Ueno, Asakusa, TOKYO SKYTREE®, and other attractions. The service also offers damage insurance. Users can register as a member on the app to make advance reservations for a smooth experience.

TEL 050-3821-8282 FEE 130 yen for 30 min. (100 yen for each additional 15 min.), 1,800 yen for 12 hours

The yellow bicycle stations are eye-catching

Great for longer trips in the northern cities

PIPPA

There are seven bicycle parking ports located mainly in the cities of Toshima, Itabashi, and Kita. You can simply tap the app to temporarily park your bicycle. Plans start from 110 yen (for 30 min. use), with a discount plan available for 24-hour use. The bicycles are lightweight and come equipped with three-speed shifters, so hilly roads are no problem. Users are automatically enrolled in bicycle insurance.

TEL 0120-288-870 FEE 110 yen for 30 min. (55 yen for each additional 30 min.), 550 yen for 24 hours, 880 yen for 72 hours

Great for getting on and off whenever you want

Ideal for using from 12 hours to two days

COGICOGI

The company has bicycle parking ports in a total of eight cities, including Shinjuku, Shibuya, Minato, Chiyoda, Chuo, Meguro, Taito, and Sumida. Three plans are available from 12 to 48 hours, and damage insurance is included. Bicycles can be used as many times as you want within the plan time, which is ideal for those who want to use their bike over many hours. If you want to ride for longer, it costs 110 yen for each additional hour.

FEE 12 hours 2,310 yen, 24 hours 2,640 yen, 48 hours 3,960 yen

For those who want to use bicycles throughout an overnight trip

For those who want to get around on an electric scooter

LUUP

Cycle ports are mainly located in areas packed with tourist attractions, such as Shibuya, Shinjuku, Ikebukuro, Roppongi, Ginza, Nihonbashi, and the Tokyo Bay area. You can choose between electric assist bicycles or electric scooters (depending on the area), which allow you to travel short distances in a deft manner. Damage insurance is included.

TEL 0800-080-4333 FEE Base fare of 50 yen plus a time-based fare of 15 yen per min.

Electric scooters have a maximum speed of 20 km/h

From our readers

Shared bicycles in Tokyo are really useful for when you want to go to places not served by trains, or when buses are infrequent. Many bicycles are equipped with electric assist, which makes bike rides less tiring than you think. (PN: Marimo)

Taxis

Flexible taxis are ideal for when your destination is far from the station, during bad weather, or when you have a lot of luggage.

Not all taxis accept cards or e-money

Taxi Fares

*When using Nihon Kotsu Co., Ltd. taxis

Base Fare	Additional Fare
Distance-based fare 500 yen (1,096 m)	100 yen per 255 m
Time-based fare (ordinary car) 5,360 yen	2,450 yen per 30 min.
Time/distance combined fare (for speeds of 10 km/h or lower or when on standby. Excludes pick-up or high speeds)	100 yen per 1 min. 35 sec.
Fare increase for late nights/early mornings (10:00 PM to 5:00 AM the next day)	Double rate
Pick-up/dead mileage fare	300 yen

How to Ride

Track down a taxi passing through the city with a sign showing "vacant (空車)" or "higher fare (割増)," get in a taxi at a taxi stand in front of a station or near a commercial complex, or grab a taxi waiting on the street. If there are no taxis nearby, you can either phone a taxi company or use an app to call a taxi, which conveniently also provides information on fares and an arrival time prior to the ride.

Estimated Fares

- Tokyo Station to Tokyo Tower 1,900 yen
- Tokyo Station to Sensoji Temple 2,400 yen
- Tokyo Station to Toyosu Market 2,600 yen
- Tokyo Station to Meiji Jingu Shrine 3,800 yen

Sightseeing Taxis

A sightseeing taxi is the most efficient way to get around the city without worrying about time, where to get on and off, or luggage. The time-based fare makes it a potential option, especially for large groups. In addition to model and limited-period routes, custom-made tours are also available.

Enjoying sightseeing around Tokyo in a relaxed manner from the car window

Tour the city with a knowledgeable driver

Nihon Kotsu Tokyo Guide Taxi

All drivers in charge of tours are certified Tokyo City Guides, so you can enjoy their expertise along with your tour. Drivers are also happy to take pictures, perfect for creating lasting memories. The company offers sightseeing tours that can be enjoyed in about three to four hours, as well as original routes starting at 21,110 yen for 3.5 hours (2,950 yen per 30 min.).

Recommended Tour

Kengo Kuma Architectural Tour in Tokyo

The tour, created under the direction of architect Kengo Kuma (born 1954) and others, tours the Japan National Stadium, Nezu Museum, and other major architectural landmarks in Tokyo over about 3.5 hours. Guided tours of the design, highlights, and anecdotes concerning each building are given by the driver, who has taken lectures in advance.

TOKYO EAST Standard Plan

This 3.5-hour tour departs from the area around Tokyo Station and travels around the city center between the Imperial Palace, Nihonbashi, Asakusa, and Akihabara, which are home to plenty of key sightseeing spots. It is also ideal for visitors sightseeing in Tokyo for the first time, as they can enjoy the lively and varied atmospheres of each area through the car window.

Enjoy sightseeing in Tokyo from a different perspective than usual

A full range of plans arranged by purpose

Tokyo Drive

Tours can be selected by time for three, five, or seven hours, or by event or area. In addition to taxi cabs, which can be reserved up to three hours in advance, there are also limousines available.

Recommended Tour

Tour of Views to the Airport

This tour is ideal for those checking out of their hotels and heading to Haneda Airport. Over 3 hours, a driver will take you around popular spots such as Shinjuku, Shibuya, and Odaiba.

A wide variety of tours, from several hours to a whole day

Hinomaru Kotsu Tokyo Sightseeing Taxi

A diverse range of tours are on offer, including shopping, visits to temples and shrines, and hands-on experiences, ranging between about three to eight hours depending on the tour. There are also tours that involve drivers alighting with passengers and acting as a guide.

Recommended Tour

Walk-and-Eat Tour at Shopping Streets

Starting at the Tsukiji Outer Market, this 6-hr. tour will take you to Yanaka Ginza, Nakamise in Asakusa, Ameyoko, and other shopping streets in the *shitamachi*, where you can get your fill of gourmet food.

Arrangements can be made in increments of one hour

Hitachi Sightseeing Taxi

A range of sightseeing tours for each season and event are available, each from three to six hours that can be selected in one-hour increments. Various vehicle types can be reserved, including standard cars, along with station wagons that can accommodate up to six passengers.

Recommended Tour

Gem Night View Course

Travel around Tokyo Tower, Rainbow Bridge, Odaiba, Toyosu Gururi Park, and more, then enjoy the night scenery of the city center looking out from the Bay area.

Tokyo tips

Some sightseeing taxis offer tours with drivers who can speak English or other foreign languages, so overseas tourists can also enjoy them. If you require a guide who speaks a foreign language, you will need to pay an additional charge in addition to the regular fare.

Shown as rankings

Transportation

The TOKYO 23 Wards Compared in Detail

The TOKYO 23 Wards are so crowded during commuter rush hours that its packed trains have become infamous. Let's take a deeper look at the stations with the most passengers.

Top 3 stations by no. of passengers per day

1st	Shinjuku Station (JR-East): 1,520,086
2nd	Shibuya Station (Tokyu Railway): 1,134,494
3rd	Ikebukuro Station (JR-East): 1,113,560

Source: National Land Numerical Information (Data on Number of Passengers Boarding and Alighting by Station) (MLIT National Spatial Planning and Regional Policy Bureau, FY2017)

Major stations in the sub-center areas (→P. 192) dominate the top three places. There is a marked difference between Shinjuku Station, which holds the Guinness World Record for the world's busiest station, and the station ranked in next place. Second place was Shibuya Station, which is the final station on the Tokyu Toyoko and Den-en-toshi lines.

Shinjuku Station is a lively area full of large crowds even outside of rush hour

Top 3 cities by daytime population density

Concentrated around the Marunouchi and Kasumigaseki areas

1st	Minato City: 940,785
2nd	Setagaya City: 856,870
3rd	Chiyoda City: 853,068

Source: 1 Daytime population and de jure population, daytime/nighttime population ratio - Tokyo Metropolitan Government statistics

Data on the daytime population of Tokyo and the movement of commuters and students coming in for work and study has been compiled based on aggregate results in respect of locations of employment and enrolment. Cities with a large concentration of corporate offices and administrative districts tend to be ranked higher, such as Chiyoda City (→P. 94), which is ranked in third place but has the smallest de jure population of all the cities.

The headquarters of many large companies can be found in the vicinity of Marunouchi and Otemachi

Top 3 JR East stations by no. of passengers

1st	Shinjuku Station: 522,178
2nd	Ikebukuro Station: 407,490
3rd	Tokyo Station: 282,638

Source: Number of passengers by station in FY2021 (JR-East, data taken only for stations in the TOKYO 23 Wards)

Shinjuku and Ikebukuro stations, which were also ranked first and second during the COVID-19 pandemic, take the two top places. In third place is Tokyo Station, located in Chiyoda City, which is also ranked in the top three for daytime population density. Fourth place and below were Shibuya, Shinagawa, Kita-Senju, and Shimbashi.

The Yamanote Line, which stops at all three stations ranked highest for number of passengers

Topp 3 Tokyo Metro stations by no. of passengers

1st	Ikebukuro Station: 403,964
2nd	Otemachi Station: 238,306
3rd	Kita-senju Station: 198,711

Source: Table of traffic performance by station (FY2021 daily average) (Tokyo Metro)

Ikebukuro Station, where the JR-East and Seibu lines converge, is top of the list. Second-place Otemachi Station has such a large number of users because it is served by five train lines, connects with many private railways, and is also within walking distance of Tokyo Station. Kita-senju may be surprising, however the station serves a large number of passengers coming from Chiba and Ibaraki on the Tsukuba Express and Tobu Railway lines.

Kita-senju Station, which connects Tsukuba and Akihabara via the Tsukuba Express

Top 3 Toei Subway stations by no. of passengers

1st	Shinjuku Station: 110,104
2nd	Oshiage Station: 82,461
3rd	Sengakuji Station: 72,223

Source: List of passengers by station, April 2021–March 2022 (Bureau of Transportation, Tokyo Metropolitan Government)

As expected, Shinjuku Station is also the winner here as a stop on both the Shinjuku and Oedo lines. Second-place Oshiage Station is served by the Asakusa Line. Another major factor to its popularity is that it is the closest station to TOKYO SKYTREE®. Sengakuji Station is connected not only with the Asakusa Line, but also to the Keihin Main Line, which brings in many passengers from the Kanagawa area.

Interconnected with the Asakusa and Keisei lines for great airport access

My favorite parts of the city where I commute for work or study!

Assistant W
Studying in Toshima City

The Ikebukuro area has lots of huge bookstores, including Junkudo, Sanseido, and animate. There are also many parks near the station where you can eat lunch, such as the park near the station's East Exit with its wide lawn.

The area is close to the shinkansen trains at Shinagawa Station, along with Haneda Airport, making it perfect for those of us who love to travel and frequently go on business trips. It is urban, yet surprisingly well-balanced with retro shopping streets and public bathhouses.

Producer S Working in Shinagawa City

From our readers

I work in Marunouchi. I don't have to worry about preparing lunch each day, and there are so many places I can run to when I forget something or need a gift for someone that I can't work anywhere else! (PN: Nontan)

Chapter 2

Neighborhood (NBHD) Guides

Central Cities

Marunouchi, Imperial Palace, Nagatacho
Nihonbashi, Hatchobori, Kayabacho
Ningyocho, Monzennakacho, Kiyosumi Shirakawa
Ginza, Yurakucho, Hibiya
Tsukiji, Tsukishima, Tsukudajima
Shimbashi, Odaiba, Toyosu
Roppongi, Azabu, Akasaka

Sub-Center Cities

Shibuya, Harajuku, Omotesando
Shinjuku, Shin-Okubo, Waseda
Ikebukuro, Sugamo, Zoshigaya
Suidobashi, Hongo, Iidabashi

Western Cities

Shinagawa, Omori, Kamata
Ebisu, Meguro, Daikanyama
Shimokitazawa, Sangenjaya, Setagaya
Nakano, Koenji, Nerima
Oji, Akabane, Itabashi

Eastern Cities

Asakusa, Oshiage, Kuramae
Ueno, Yushima, Yanesen
Katsushika, Kita-senju, Nishiarai
Ryogoku, Kameido, Koiwa

Overview

Central Cities

The central cities consist mainly of Chiyoda, Chuo, and Minato cities. This area flourished as the base of the Edo Shogunate. Today, the heart of the capital is home to government offices, financial institutions, and corporate offices.

1 Marunouchi, Imperial Palace, Nagatacho

The political center of Japan from 1603 to the present day

P.128 MAP Supp. P. 20–21

On the west side of the Imperial Palace (→P. 130) is Nagatacho where the National Diet Building (→P. 132) and other government offices are concentrated. On the east side, Marunouchi and Otemachi serve as business districts where major corporations are headquartered. This neighborhood functions as the heart of Tokyo. It is also a great place for shopping. There are numerous shopping complexes, including First Avenue Tokyo Station (→P. 135) at Tokyo Station and the JP Tower KITTE commercial complex (→P. 134) near the station. The area around the Imperial Palace is rich in greenery and history. There are cultural facilities, such as the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (→P. 132). In spring, Kitanomaru Garden (→P. 131) becomes one of the best cherry blossom viewing spots.

Exit Tokyo Station from the Marunouchi side and walk for about 5 minutes to see the lush greenery of the Imperial Palace grounds

2 Nihonbashi, Hatchobori, Kayabacho

A former economic center lined with old and new shops

P.140 MAP Supp. P. 20–21

Nihonbashi (→P. 142), the starting point of the Five Routes, has long prospered as a castle town. It still has a mix of old and new, including cultural facilities like the Mitsui Memorial Museum (→P. 142), department stores such as Nihombashi Mitsukoshi (→P. 144), and many established shops dating back to the Edo period (1603–1868). Also a financial district, the stretch between Nihonbashi and Kayabacho has historic spots, including the Bank of Japan Head Office (→P. 147) and the birthplace of banks, Kabuto Jinja Shrine (→P. 146). Walk through the Currency Museum (→P. 147) and learn about the neighborhood's history.

If you want to see the Nihonbashi Bridge up close, get on the Kanda River Cruise® (→P. 338) and learn about its history

3 Ningyocho, Monzennakacho, Kiyosumi Shirakawa

Explore streets that retain traces of Tokyo's old *shitamachi* and its cuisines

P.148 MAP Supp. P. 22–23

Ningyocho once had a vibrant puppetry scene, and many puppeteers lived here. It is scattered with places that evoke the Edo period. Amazake Yokocho (→P. 61), where many old eateries remain, is perfect for walking and eating. Also visit Suitengu Shrine (→P. 153) and the Meijiza theater (→P. 152). The area from Monzennakacho to Kiyosumi Shirakawa also has ties to poet Matsuo Basho (1644–1694) and surveyor and cartographer Ino Tadataka (1745–1818). There is plenty to see, such as the site of Saito-an (→P. 155), considered the place where Basho left for his journey along *The Narrow Road to the Interior*.

After watching a performance at Meijiza theater, it's nice to walk through Amazake Yokocho and visit Suitengu Shrine

5 things to do in the central cities

1. Experience all there is to do at Tokyo Tower ▶ P. 54
2. Tour shops in Nihonbashi founded in the Edo period ▶ P. 388
3. Visit the gastronomical paradise at Tsukiji Outer Market ▶ P. 172
4. Explore every corner of Tokyo Station ▶ P. 106, 136
5. Get a monkey charm at Hie Jinja Shrine ▶ P. 191

4 Ginza, Yurakucho, Hibiya

Enjoy yourself in this glamorous neighborhood from morning until night

P.156 MAP Supp. P. 24–25

This is one of Japan's premier shopping districts, lined with department stores like Ginza Mitsukoshi (→P. 158) and high-end boutiques. The Hibiya area is known for its movie and stage theaters, including the Imperial Theatre (→P. 161) and the Tokyo Takarazuka Theater (→P. 161). In addition to shopping, you can delight your palate at venerable restaurants or immerse yourself in the arts. The possibilities are endless.

Lined with various shops, Ginza-dori Avenue becomes a pedestrian-only promenade in the afternoon on weekends and national holidays

5 Tsukiji, Tsukishima, Tsukudajima

A small area rich in history and filled with good food

P.166 MAP Supp. P. 26–27

This historic area was created on reclaimed land. The Tsukiji Outer Market (→P. 172) is bustling with people even after the inner market relocated to Toyosu. It is also teeming with *shitamachi* local delicacies, such as *monjayaki* along the Tsukishima Monja Street (→P. 171). Around Tsukiji, immerse in history at Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple (→P. 168) and Hama-rikyu Gardens (→P. 168).

Visit the Tsukiji Outer Market in the morning and wander through in the afternoon

6 Shimbashi, Odaiba, Toyosu

Stroll through the Tokyo Bay area's captivating places

P.176 MAP Supp. P. 26, 47

Odaiba has a variety of indoor and outdoor entertainment options, including the Rainbow Bridge promenade (→P. 180) and the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) (→P. 181). Not very far away is Toyosu Market (→P. 182). Shimbashi, a famous haven for businessmen, has historic areas, such as the Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens (→P. 178). Both adults and children can spend a full day here.

Many boats operate and offer panoramic night views in the Odaiba area

7 Roppongi, Azabu, Akasaka

A neighborhood where skyscrapers and history blend seamlessly

P.186 MAP Supp. P. 28–29

Roppongi is home to two major landmarks, Roppongi Hills (→P. 189) and Tokyo Midtown (→P. 189). There is an array of cultural facilities, such as the National Art Center, Tokyo (→P. 189), and large commercial complexes. Alternatively, step away from the lively area to must-visit places where you can experience history and Japanese traditions, such as Akasaka's Hie Jinja Shrine (→P. 191) and State Guest House, Akasaka Palace (→P. 188).

Tokyo Tower (→P. 54) stands tall in Shiba Park near Azabu

A streetscape created by modernization in the late 19th century

Ginza, Yurakucho, Hibiya

The clock tower at Ginza 4-chome intersection in the central Ginza area is a landmark

Stations

Ginza Sta.
Tokyo Metro Ginza Line, Tokyo Metro Marunouchi Line, Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line

Yurakucho Sta.
JR Yamanote Line, JR Keihin Tohoku Line, Tokyo Metro Yurakucho Line

Hibiya Sta.
Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line, Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line, Toei Mita Line

Coin lockers

In Ginza Station, you can find them in places including near the escalator from the first basement floor to second basement floor on the Tokyo Metro Marunouchi Line, and near Exit A7 on the Tokyo Metro Ginza Line.

Getting to Ginza and Yurakucho Station

Tokyo Sta. → Yurakucho Sta.
JR Yamanote Line (outer circle)
Time Required: Approx. 2 min., 146 yen

Haneda Airport Sta. → Yurakucho Sta.
Keikyu Line (via Sengakuji Sta.) / Toei Asakusa Line — Time Required: Approx. 30 min., 461 yen
Shinbashi Sta.
TokyoMetro Ginza Line — Time Required: Approx. 2 min., 178 yen
Ginza Sta.
On foot — Time Required: Approx. 5 min.

In 1612, Tokugawa Ieyasu moved the silver coin mint to its current location in Ginza 2-chome, and the area came to be called Ginza. Shops lined present-day Ginza Chuo-dori Street (former Tokaido highway) and the street was bustling with people, but the shops were destroyed in the Ginza Fire of 1872. The government took the opportunity to commence a plan to renovate Ginza into a Westernized townscape and constructed a "Bricktown." Buildings had overhanging balconies on the second floor and arched passageways below. Later used as display windows, the area changed to a neighborhood to enjoy "Gin-bura" (stroll around Ginza). In Yurakucho and Hibiya, which had been neighborhoods of samurai homes, facilities were built for welcoming people, such as the Rokumeikan, a banqueting house, and Imperial Hotel Tokyo (→P. 420). From the late 1920s, they developed to become the center of entertainment with playhouses and cinemas lining the streets.

From our readers

Taishu Kappo Sanshuya in Ginza is a great place that has an atmosphere typical of a Tokyo izakaya bar.
●Taishu Kappo Sanshuya Ginza Honten Ad 2-3-4 Ginza, Chuo Pr 1-min. walk from Exit No.5 of Ginza-itchome Subway Sta.

Walking Around

Walk around Ginza with its rows of commercial buildings

In Ginza, there are shops selling local specialties from around Japan. There are 10-plus of these shops in Tokyo Kotsu Kaikan

Start walking from JR Yurakucho Station, which is one train stop to the south of Tokyo Station. There are commercial facilities clustered in front of the Central Exit in the direction of Ginza, including Yurakucho ITOCiA that has Marui, Yurakucho Mullion that has Hankyu Men's and Lumine, and Tokyo Kotsu Kaikan. As you walk further toward Ginza, you'll come across Sukiyabashi Crossing where Harumi-dori Avenue and Sotobori-dori Avenue intersect. Tokyu Plaza Ginza is on the corner. A trending topic is the New Ginza Sony Park slated to be completed in 2024. It will stand on the site of the Sony Building that had been a familiar sight since its construction in 1966. From Sukiyabashi Crossing, as you walk on Harumi-dori Avenue toward Higashi-ginza, you'll see Ginza 4-chome intersection where Ginza landmarks stand, including Wako Main Store (Seiko House Ginza), which has a clock tower as a symbol, and Ginza Mitsukoshi.

Walking from Yurakucho toward Hibiya

To walk toward Hibiya, the route is easier to understand if you start at JR Yurakucho Station. When you leave by the Hibiya Exit, you'll see the Bic Camera Yurakucho Store in front of you, and Tokyo International Forum and the Imperial Theatre on the north side. On the south side, there is Tokyo Midtown Hibiya, while the vicinity is encircled by places of note such as the Tokyo Takarazuka Theater, Nissay Theatre, and Imperial Hotel Tokyo.

The north side of Hibiya Park is next to Hibiyabori Moat, the moat for the Imperial Palace

A walking route

1. Tokyo International Forum (→ P. 161) — 3-min. walk
2. Imperial Theatre (→ P. 161) — 5-min. walk
3. Tokyo Midtown Hibiya (→ P. 162) — 3-min. walk
4. Hibiya Park (→ P. 162) — 10-min. walk
5. GINZA SIX (→ P. 159)

TOKYO TAILS — Places of interest for acquired tastes

Hibiya OKUROJI opened in 2020 located in the underpass that connects JR Yurakucho Station and Shimbashi Station. Based on the concept of a passageway for discerning adults, there are 27 restaurants and 14 shops housed along a 300-meter long space. The striking brick arch was modeled after the Berlin Viaduct. It was constructed under the guidance of a German engineer and has been in use since 1910.

TOKYO TAILS — Look out for store decorations and display windows in Matsuya Ginza!

As a part of the Matsuya Regional Co-Creation Project, the know-how of Matsuya Design is leveraged to incorporate traditional crafts and industries from various places around Japan into store decorations displayed for a limited time. Endeavors to date include indigo dye (Tokushima Prefecture), kumiko woodwork (Kochi Prefecture), and Nebuta (Aomori Prefecture).

Go to P. 158 for Matsuya Ginza

What to do in this area

- Explore the retro Okuno Building P. 163
- Get proof of your Gin-bura experience P. 377
- Try original foods P. 347

Bulletin

Ginza Wakamatsu, creator of *"anmitsu"*

Ginza Wakamatsu is known as the shop that originated the sweet, *anmitsu*. In 1894, it opened as the first sweet red-bean soup shop in Ginza. In response to regular customers' request for something sweeter, the second-generation owner, Hanjiro Mori combined homemade red bean paste with *mitsumame* (small cubes of agar jelly), and topped it with sweet brown sugar syrup to create "*anmitsu*." It's made with adzuki beans from Tokachi, red peas from Furano, agar from Miyake Island in Izu, and brown sugar syrup made using brown sugar from Amami Oshima. The bean paste is cooked for a short time and goes down smoothly. It's a flavor that can only be produced by a sweet red-bean soup shop. The shop is scheduled to move in 2024 due to renovations to Ginza Core where it's located.

The pine-shaped bean jelly atop the sweet bean paste is the symbol of Ginza Wakamatsu

Tokyo tips

If you walk toward GINZA SIX on Ginza Chuo-dori Street from Ginza 4-chome, you'll reach Shimbashi Station, and if you walk toward Matsuya Ginza, you'll reach Ginza-itchome Station. Walk a little further, and you'll arrive at Kyobashi Station. All of them are within walking distance of 10 minutes. Walk 5 min. from Harumi-dori Avenue toward Higashi Ginza and you'll find the Kabukiza Theatre.

MAP Supp. P. 25-B3

Wako Main Store (Seiko House Ginza)

Ad 4-5-11 Ginza, Chuo
Tel 03-3562-2111
◷ 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
✕ Open year-round
PT Directly linked to Exit B1 of Ginza Subway Sta.

The hourly chime was started in 1954. It is designated as a Heritage of Industrial Modernization by the METI

The Ginza landmark known by its clock tower

Wako Main Store (Seiko House Ginza)

Wako is a specialty shop that carries goods such as watches, men's and women's items, and food. It was previously the K. Hattori (watch and clock retail and repair store) which now belongs to the Seiko Group. The first clock tower was completed in 1894. The second, and current, building was completed in 1932. The Westminster Chimes ring out 45 seconds before every hour, and the last note strikes at the exact hour.

Historical model exhibit at Grand Seiko Flagship Boutique Ginza

MAP Supp. P. 25-B3

Ginza Mitsukoshi

Ad 4-6-16 Ginza, Chuo
Tel 03-3562-1111 (main phone number)
◷ 10:00 AM–8:00 PM, Restaurants 11:00 AM–11:00 PM (depends on the store)
✕ No regular closings
PT Brief walk from Exit A7 of Ginza Subway Sta.

One of the faces of Ginza 4-chome intersection

Ginza Mitsukoshi

Its origins go back to 1673 when Takatoshi Mitsui (1622–1694) opened Echigoya. In 1904, Mitsui Gofukuten Co., Ltd. was established. With the release of the department store declaration, it became Mitsukoshi, Japan's first department store. The Ginza Store opened in 1930. It was expanded with the construction of a new building integrated into the existing main building in 2010 and drew crowds to central Ginza.

In 2020, the Ginza Chandelier was created on the building's exterior as the new face of Ginza

MAP Supp. P. 25-B3

Matsuya Ginza

Ad 3-6-1 Ginza, Chuo
Tel 03-3567-1211 (main phone number)
◷ 10:00 AM–8:00 PM, Sun., or the last day of consecutive holidays until 7:30 PM
✕ Jan. 1
PT Directly linked to Exit A12 of Ginza Subway Sta.

You can see dynamic decorations in every season in the open-ceiling space

Continuing to support good design

Matsuya Ginza

Tsuruya Gofukuten was established in 1869. The Ginza Store opened in 1925, and in 1955 it established Design Collection, a groundbreaking shop carrying a selection of different brands, as the first Good Design Movement site in Japan. On its 150th anniversary, it once again promoted Matsuya Design and is making endeavors for "enriched lifestyles through design."

The glass surface of the exterior wall measuring approx. 120 meters is lit up starting before sunset until 10:00 PM

From our readers

Sushi no Midori inevitably has customers lined up waiting, but there are also a lot of foreigners and you can easily experience sushi in Ginza. ●Umegaoka Sushi no Midori Ginza Ad Tokyo Kosokudoro Yamashita Bldg. 1F, 7-2 Ginza, Chuo

The largest shopping complex in the Ginza 6-chome area

GINZA SIX

It opened with the aim of being a complex possessing 6-star value and carrying on the history and pride of Ginza. As an international tourist site, it also has a Tourist Service Center, Tourist Bus Drop-off and Pick-up Point, and "Kanze-ryu" Noh Theater.

The exterior design is based on the traditional Japanese designs of "*hisashi*" (eaves) and "*noren*" (curtains hung at the entrance of stores)

MAP Supp. P. 25-B3

GINZA SIX
AD 6-10-1 Ginza, Chuo
TEL 03-6891-3390
Shops 10:30 AM–8:30 PM, Restaurants 11:00 AM–11:00 PM (depends on the store)
✕ No regular closings
PT Directly linked to underground passageway of Ginza Subway Sta.

The only building of modern architecture on Showa-dori Ave., Ginza

MUSEE GINZA

Completed in 1932, it is one of the buildings constructed after the Great Kanto Earthquake and was originally the office of a store selling oil. Though it was slated to be demolished in 2013, in a reversal of fortune it has been preserved as a gallery. Their modern art looks beautiful contrasted with the building's Showa-era retro vibes.

The exterior is noteworthy for decorative tiles, which were particularly rare for scratch tiles made in Japan that were popular around the 1930s

MAP Supp. P. 19-A3

MUSSE GINZA
AD Kawasaki Brand Design Bldg.1-20-17 Ginza, Chuo
1:30 PM–3:00 PM (priority given to appointments) ✕ Mon.–Thur.
FEE Free
PT 3-min. walk from Exit No.10 of Ginza-itchome Subway Sta.

Permanent exhibits of modern artworks and end-of-century Vienna craftworks

Its mission to "discover and create new beauty"

Shiseido Gallery

Opened in 1919, it is said to be the oldest art gallery still operating in Japan. The Tsubaki-kai artists exhibition group was created when the gallery reopened after suspending activities due to World War II. It still continues today with different member artists participating.

The venue for the eighth Tsubaki-kai "Tsubaki-kai 8: This New World 2nd SEASON 'QUEST'"

MAP Supp. P. 24-C2

Shiseido Gallery
AD Tokyo Ginza Shiseido Building B1F 8-8-3 Ginza, Chuo
TEL 03-3572-3901
11:00 AM–7:00 PM, Sun., national holidays until 6:00 PM
✕ Mon. FEE Free PT 4-min. walk from Exit A2 of Ginza Subway Sta.

Located in the basement floor of the Tokyo Ginza Shiseido Building, which houses facilities such as the Shiseido Parlour

Goldfish × art woven by light, sound, and incense

Art Aquarium Museum GINZA

This art museum expresses the culture of goldfish appreciation that has continued since the 17th century as artwork. It also exhibits artwork based on traditional crafts and artworks created in collaboration with artists.

A Show of Kingyo, that lets visitors view goldfish from above. Nishijin brocade, each one different, adorns the stands

MAP Supp. P. 25-B3

Art Aquarium Museum GINZA
AD Ginza Mitsukoshi, New Bldg. (Reception: New Bldg. 9F) 4-6-16 Ginza, Chuo TEL 03-3528-6721 10:00 AM–7:00 PM (last entry 6:00 PM) ✕ No regular closings FEE Same-day ticket 2,400 yen, free for up to 2 preschool-age children per adult PT Brief walk from Exit A7 of Ginza Subway Sta.

The colors and patterns of each goldfish differ. There are also many valuable varieties on display

Tokyo tips Art Aquarium Museum GINZA also has exhibit spaces displaying goldfish swimming in Edo Kiriko glass, a tradition passed on since the 1800s, and artwork by the *ukiyo-e* artist, Utagawa Kuniyoshi depicting goldfish and carp.

MAP Supp. P. 24-B2

galerie nichido

AD 5-3-16 Ginza, Chuo
TEL 03-3571-2553
10:30 AM–6:30 PM, Sat. 11:00 AM–6:00 PM
Sun., national holidays
PT Brief walk from Exit B7 of Ginza Subway Sta.

In addition to Tokyo, it also has galleries in Nagoya, Fukuoka, Karuizawa, Paris, and Taipei

MAP Supp. P. 24-B2

ZUKAN MUSEUM GINZA powered by Shogakukan no Zukan NEO

AD 5-2-1 Ginza, Chuo TEL 03-6228-5611
11:00 AM–5:00 PM, Fri. until 8:00 PM Sat., Sun., national holidays 10:00 AM–7:00 PM Same as Tokyo Plaza Ginza closings PT 1-min. walk from Exit C2/C3 of Ginza Subway Sta.

The "stone of recording," a tool with curious powers, navigates the adventures

MAP Supp. P. 20-C1

Idemitsu Museum of Arts

AD Teigeki Bldg. 9F, 3-1-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda TEL 050-5541-8600 (Hello Dial)
10:00 AM–5:00 PM (last entry 4:30 PM)
Mon. (open when Mon. is a national holiday, closed the next day)
FEE 1,200 yen, high school/university students 800 yen, jr. high school students and younger are free (must be accompanied by an adult) PT 5-min. walk from the Int'l Forum Exit of JR Yurakucho Sta.

The tea ceremony room, Choseki-an and lobby where you can view the vicinity of the Imperial Palace are also popular

MAP Supp. P. 20-C1

Mitsuo Aida Museum

AD Tokyo Int'l Forum B1F, 3-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda TEL 03-6212-3200
10:00 AM–5:00 PM (last entry, 4:30 PM) Mon., when exhibitions are changed FEE 1,000 yen, jr. high/high school students/ages 70 and older 800 yen, elementary school students 300 yen, free for preschoolers PT 3-min.walk from the Int'l Forum Exit of JR Yurakucho Sta.

There is an adjoining café where you can sit and appreciate the experience. The shop also has one-of-a-kind items

A historical gallery conducting exhibits of works by the general public and appraisal events

galerie nichido

It was founded in 1928 as a shop dealing in Western-style oil paintings. Based on its extensive collection of materials, it has also published collections of paintings by artists such as Morikazu Kumagai (1880–1977), Takeji Fujishima (1867–1943), and Tsuguharu Fujita (1886–1968). Since 1966, it has also hosted the Showa-kai-ten exhibition to foster young artists.

It handles artwork from hundreds of artists, both living and deceased, primarily centering on oil paintings, sculptures, and woodblock prints

Immerse yourself in the world of illustrated books at this novel, experience-based facility

ZUKAN MUSEUM GINZA powered by Shogakukan no Zukan NEO

This experience-based facility lets visitors encounter living creatures from various habitats that could only be seen in illustrated books before. At this facility, which fuses digital renderings with reality, you can experience firsthand the passage of time and changes in weather.

When you reach the goal, you can check what you recorded about the creatures you encountered. It's also a popular photo spot

Possesses 2 national treasures and 57 important cultural properties

Idemitsu Museum of Arts

This art museum opened in 1966 to exhibit and show to the public artworks collected by Sazo Idemitsu (1885–1981), founder of the Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. It holds exhibitions six times a year, primarily displaying items such as Japanese paintings and calligraphic works, and Chinese and Japanese ceramics.

There are no permanent exhibits. Theme-based exhibitions are held to show pieces from the approximately 10,000-item collection

An art museum for a leisurely art experience

Mitsuo Aida Museum

The art museum for Mitsuo Aida (1924–1991) continues to explore his calligraphy and words as a writer and poet. Based on the concept of a place to spend two hours of your life, the approximately 2,300 square meters of space exhibits around 100 pieces.

The exhibit rooms are quiet spaces where you can forget the noise of the city

From our readers

At Restaurant Azuma, you can enjoy classic Western-style foods at reasonable prices. At night, you can also drink alcohol with the specialty, "ju-ju yaki" as a side dish. (PN: Goripon) AD 6-7-6 Ginza, Chuo

Various events are held, from international conferences to concerts

Tokyo International Forum

In 1997, this convention and art center was opened where Tokyo Metropolitan Government Offices once stood. It's comprised of three sections, the Glass Building, Hall Building, and Plaza, with eight small-and-large halls, and 31 conference rooms. Based on the theme, "a boat of diversity," 134 artworks by 50 artists from Japan and abroad are displayed in the facility.

The Glass Building's architecture reminiscent of a boat is impressive. It was designed by Rafael Viñoly

MAP Supp. P. 20-C1

Tokyo International Forum
AD 3-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda
TEL 03-5221-9000
🕒 7:00 AM - 11:30 PM
✕ Open year-round
PT Brief walk from the Int'l Forum Exit of JR Yurakucho Sta.

People come and go at the shops and green space in the Plaza situated in between the Glass Bldg. and Hall Bldg.

The motto is merging popular appeal with artistry

Imperial Theatre

In 1911, it was opened as the first Western-style theater in Japan by Eiichi Shibusawa (1840–1931) and others who wanted Japan to stand shoulder to shoulder with modern nations. The current building was renovated by Toho Co., Ltd. in 1966. Since the 1990s, primarily musicals have been performed here. There are many art pieces inside. Don't miss the stained glass created by the painter, Genichiro Inokuma (1902–1993).

The seating has a capacity of approx. 1,800 and gives the audience the feeling of being close to the stage. There is also an orchestra pit

MAP Supp. P. 20-C1

Imperial Theatre
AD 3-1-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda
TEL 03-3213-7221
🕒 Depends on the show (scheduled to be temporarily closed from 2025 for partial reconstruction)
✕ Depends on the show
FEE Depends on the show
PT Directly linked to Exit B3 of Yurakucho Subway Sta.

The Imperial Palace moat can be viewed from the 2nd-floor Café IMPERIAL, which faces Hibiya-dori Ave.

The live performances are wonderful at this theater exclusive to the Takarazuka Revue

Tokyo Takarazuka Theater

The Takarazuka Revue was established in Hyogo Prefecture in 1914 by Ichizo Kobayashi (1873–1957). In 1934, this theater was opened as a Tokyo location. The present-day building was renovated and reopened in 2001. Performances in a variety of genres are given with live orchestra music and state-of-the-art stage equipment unique to a specialized theater.

The red carpet and chandelier in the entrance exude an elegant air

MAP Supp. P. 24-A1

Tokyo Takarazuka Theater
AD Inside the Tokyo Takarazuka Bldg., 1-1-3 Yurakucho, Chiyoda
TEL 0570-00-5100 (Takarazuka Revue Information Center)
🕒 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
✕ Mon. FEE SS seat 12,500 yen, S seat 9,500 yen, A seat 5,500 yen, B seat 3,500 yen PT 5-min. walk from the Hibiya Exit of JR Yurakucho Sta. or Exit A13 of Hibiya Subway Sta.

The theater is located inside the Tokyo Takarazuka Bldg., which also houses a cinema and offices

Tokyo tips

Ichizo Kobayashi developed a variety of businesses, including Hankyu Railway and Toho. After opening the Tokyo Takarazuka Theater, he also opened the Hibiya Movie Theater (Hibiya Eiga Gekijo) and Yurakuza. Yurakucho and Hibiya developed into an entertainment area with the addition of Nihon Gekijo and the Imperial Theatre.

MAP Supp. P. 24-A1

Nissay Theatre

AD 1-1-1 Yurakucho, Chiyoda
TEL 03-3503-3111
Depends on the performance
Depends on the performance
Depends on the performance
PT 1-min. walk from Exit A13 of Hibiya Subway Sta.

The theater celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2023

Nissay Theatre

It was constructed to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Nippon Life Insurance Company. There have been a variety of public performances since the inaugural showing in 1963. The theater also hosts operas, family-friendly performances, and viewings for schools. It was designed by Togo Murano (1891–1984). All the walls and ceiling have curved surfaces, creating a fantastical space.

There are glass-tile mosaics on the walls, and hard plaster and pearl oysters used on the ceiling

MAP Supp. P. 29-B4

Hibiya Park

AD Hibiyakoen, Chiyoda
TEL 03-3501-6428 (Hibiya Park Service Center)
Open to the public
Open year-round
Free (fees for some facilities)
PT Brief walk from Exit A10/A14 of Hibiya Subway Sta. or Exit B2 of Kasumigaseki Sta.

The ginkgo tree Dr. Honda swore to protect with his own life is estimated to be 400–500 years old.

A green oasis in a business area

Hibiya Park

It was designed in 1903 by Dr. Seiroku Honda (1866–1952) as Japan's first Western-style park. The first flower beds were planted with many foreign flowers the Japanese had never seen before, such as tulips and pansies, and the park proved popular. The Big Fountain is the park's symbol and operates every day from 8:00 AM–9:00 PM, excluding scheduled cleaning days. You can enjoy 24 different patterns across 28-minute cycles.

The park stands on ground that was once a feudal lord's residence in the Edo period and then a parade ground for the army in the Meiji era

MAP Supp. P. 24-A1

Tokyo Midtown Hibiya

AD 1-1-2 Yurakucho, Chiyoda
TEL 03-5157-1251 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Shops 11:00 AM–8:00 PM, Restaurants until 11:00 PM (depends on the store)
Jan. 1
PT Directly linked to Exit A11 of Hibiya Subway Sta.

When you enter the main entrance on the 1st floor, you'll see a 3-story open atrium

An area that mixes business with pleasure

Tokyo Midtown Hibiya

This compound development built by Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd. is comprised of offices and commercial tenants in a 35-story building with four underground levels. The office floors afford a view of Hibiya Park, while BASE Q, a hub for business development, is on the sixth floor. On the commercial floors, there are 60 shops of all kinds, including TOHO Cinemas Hibiya.

The upper floors were designed on the concept of a "dancing tower," derived from the Rokumeikan

From our readers

The monaka (wafer cake) from Kuya, a long-standing Japanese sweets shop, is amazing!
AD 6-7-19 Ginza, Chuo PT 2-min. walk from Exit B3 of Ginza Subway Sta.

Retro traces of the Showa era remain

Enter the Ginza Okuno Building

Called Ginza Apartment in the Showa era (1926-1989), we take a look at the Okuno Building which still has an artistic air about it even today, over 90 years since construction.

Upscale Showa-era apartments

Okuno Building

The Okuno Building was an upscale apartment building in Ginza designed by Ryoichi Kawamoto, the architect who worked on the Dojunkai Apartments. It's comprised of two buildings, the main one built in 1932 and the newer one built in 1934. Currently, it houses shops and galleries.

Considered the first elevator in a private building

The elevator has doors that open and close manually, and can still be used today. Both the outer and inner doors are closed when riding in it, and you must not forget to close them when getting off.

❶❷The building is seven stories with both stairs and an elevator. Buildings made of reinforced concrete capable of withstanding earthquakes were rare at the time ❸Check out the shops in the 1st-floor entrance

MAP Supp. P. 25-A4
Ginza

AD 1-9-8 Ginza, Chuo
Depends on the store
Depends on the store
PT 1-min. walk from Exit No.10 of Ginza-itchome Subway Sta.

Shops and spaces you'll want to visit

Preserving traces of the past

The Ginza Okuno Building Room 306 Project

The project is an endeavor to preserve the room. The last occupant was Ms. Suda who ran Suda Beauty Salon there and turned it into an apartment when she closed her business. The project members leased Room 306 before it was subject to renovation and have continued to preserve it. They open it up to the public on an irregular basis and give tours.

The three mirrors hanging on the wall speak to its past as a beauty parlor. Some details remain, such as the small window of the telephone stand

AD Okuno Building 3F Check the official website's calendar for dates when the room is opened up No regular closings FEE Free

A shop distinctive for its round window

Y's ARTS

This charming shop is owned by the artist, Yoshihiko Tsutsumi. It primarily sells European antiques and has an amazing collection that includes ceramics, silver, glass, bronze, and even art pieces. The glass case is brimming with vintage items. You'll want to peruse it to find something you like.

Located right inside the entrance, there are antique goods closely packed on display up the wall and ceiling

AD Okuno Building 1F TEL 03-3564-5123 12:00 PM–7:00 PM
Wed., Sun. and occasional closings CC ADJMV

A rich variety of antiques

anti-Q

The shop opened in Omotesando in 2004. It has been in Okuno Building since 2010 and handles an array of antiques from pottery to decorative gold and silver items, sculptures, paintings, leather goods, and toys. Among them is an assortment of mannequins that is rare in Japan.

The shop has an array of valuable antiques. The 1st-floor shop is easily spotted for the black and gold door facing the street

AD Okuno Building 1F TEL 03-3563-2500
12:00 PM–7:00 PM Wed. CC ADJMV

Rows and rows of adorable items

sputnikplus

The shop primarily sells items such as antiques, vintage teddy bears, and dolls that have been purchased in various European locations, including Vienna and Berlin. There are also Eastern European textiles and folk costumes with delicate stitching. The best part is choosing what to buy while looking over each pattern.

Since the owner regularly goes on buying trips, you're sure to find something new every time you visit

AD Okuno Building 5F TEL 03-6228-7948 2:00 PM–7:00 PM
No regular closings CC ADJMV

Tokyo tips

When speaking of retro Showa buildings in Ginza, the Kojun Building comes to mind. Built in 1880, it was the oldest social club in Japan established through the advocacy of Yukichi Fukuzawa. Today, it is a commercial facility housing shops and restaurants.

Stories of Department Stores: The past and present

We delve into how long-standing department stores that are paradigms of Japan have transformed from establishment to present day, together with a look at historical photos.

Declaring the launch of the department store

Mitsukoshi

Mitsukoshi, which is known as Japan's first department store, celebrated its 350th anniversary in 2023. It built the foundation for a variety of department stores leading up to today.

The birth of the department store and Mitsukoshi

Large Perspective Picture of Echigoya Draper's Shop in Surugacho by Masanobu Okumura

1673

Echigoya, a kimono fabrics shop, in the Edo period was bustling

The exterior of the store in 1904 after changing the name to Mitsukoshi Gofukuten (kimono fabrics shop)

1 The long-standing department store started as a kimono fabrics shop

Many long-established department stores in Japan began as dry-goods dealers in the 17th century. Mitsukoshi also started as a kimono fabrics shop established as Echigoya in 1673. It appealed to residents through unique business methods that are common today. This includes starting the practice of offering rolls of cloth by the segment, proclaiming it would sell even small pieces, and being the first in the world to use price labels by conducting cash transactions in front of the shop for advertised prices.

2 Introducing display cases

1895

Inside the shop with rows of display cases, some with glass

Display cases appeared as the kimono fabrics shop transformed into a modern department store. Some were introduced in 1895. Five years later, the practice of *zauri* (serving customers who were seated) was abandoned and the entire shop put goods on display with rows of display cases. The unprecedented style, in which customers were free to browse and choose products, was enthusiastically received, and the shop did brisk business.

3 The department store declaration

1904

Announcing the new store name, Mitsukoshi Gofukuten Co., Ltd.

A full-page ad in major newspapers nationwide revealed the store's new name and department store declaration. This announced its new start from a traditional dry-goods shop to Japan's first department store.

4 A new building furnished with the latest conveniences

1914

Lion statues stand at the main entrance

A new five-story building of white brick was completed with one basement floor. Modeled after department stores in the West, the new building boasted the latest facilities, such as Japan's first escalator, and a rich variety of goods. It was applauded as the greatest construction east of the Suez Canal.

Present day

After being expanded and renovated, the main building was designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan in 2016

A short timeline of Mitsukoshi

1673 (Enpo 1)	The founder, Takatoshi Mitsui opens Echigoya
1683 (Tenna 3)	After moving location, the store also conducts business as a money exchanger (currently, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation)
1893 (Meiji 26)	The shop name is reorganized into Mitsui Gofukuten
1900 (Meiji 33)	All *zauri* sales are abolished and the entire store displays goods in display cases
1904 (Meiji 37)	The store emblem is revised to its current one and Mitsukoshi Gofukuten Co., Ltd. established. The department store declaration is released
1914 (Taisho 3)	A new Renaissance-style building is completed in Nihonbashi
1930 (Showa 5)	The Ginza store opens. Thereafter, the store expands nationwide
2016 (Heisei 28)	The main building of the store is designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan

Founded as a secondhand clothing and cotton cloth store

Takashimaya

Takashimaya, which was founded in Kyoto, implemented new endeavors, including being the first kimono fabrics shop to establish a store window and display large outdoor ads.

The main, new, and east buildings are interconnected

The history of Takashimaya

1831

Takashimaya was founded as a secondhand clothing and cotton cloth store in 1831. The owners imported goods and observed the West, and actively incorporated Western culture. In 1896, the store was the first dry-goods shop to establish a store window.

The store window displaying mannequins

1933

The store expanded to Tokyo in 1900 and opened the Tokyo Nihombashi Store (currently, Nihombashi Store) in 1933. The building was designed by Teitaro Takahashi who received first prize in a design drawing competition. The architectural style integrates East and West.

Construction was completed in 1933 on the Nihombashi Store, which features ornate decorations

Present day

Following additions designed by Togo Murano, the Nihombashi Store Main Building became the first department store building to be designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan in 2009. In 2018, Nihombashi Takashimaya S.C. opened as a fusion of a department store and specialty shops.

The best large dining hall in the East

The well-loved dining hall closed its doors in 2004 after 74 years

Takashimaya also ran a restaurant ahead of other department stores. It established a large dining hall at the Osaka Nankai Store (currently, Osaka Store) in 1938. At one point, it was so successful that it seated as many as 1,000.

A short timeline of Takashimaya

1831 (Tenpo 2)	The founder, Shinshichi Iida establishes Takashimaya
1896 (Meiji 29)	It is the first dry-goods store to establish a display window
1933 (Showa 8)	The Nihombashi Store opens, equipped with central air conditioning
1969 (Showa 44)	The Tamagawa Store opens as a true suburban shop
2009 (Heisei 21)	The main building is designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan

A Ginza department store

Matsuya

Established over 150 years ago, it continues to evolve and connect as the only department store with its main store in Ginza.

The history of Matsuya

1869

Founded in 1869, it bought out Matsuya Gofukuten (dry-goods shop) in Kanda Imagawabashi in 1889 and expanded to Tokyo the next year.

Tsuruya Gofukuten was established in Yokohama

1925

In 1925, the Ginza Store opened with an impressive open ceiling space in the central hall and the first cafeteria-style dining hall in a department store.

Present day

It continues to be at the leading edge, with a major enlargement and renovation after World War II and renewals that suit the times.

Left: The central hall of the Ginza Store
Right: Matsuya Ginza today gives a modern impression

A permanent rooftop play area

The Asakusa Store, which is the first terminal building in Tokyo, was the first department store to have a permanent sports land on the roof.

A short timeline of Matsuya

1869 (Meiji 2)	Tsuruya Gofukuten is established in Yokohama
1925 (Taisho 14)	The Ginza Store, boasting eight floors, opens
1931 (Showa 6)	The Asakusa Store, which directly connects to the train station, opens
2019 (Reiwa 1)	Matsuya celebrates 150 years in business

A Ginza landmark

Seiko House Ginza / Wako

The history of Wako

1894

In 1894, construction on the first clock tower was finished. The following year the new shop, K. Hattori (watch and clock retail and repair store) was opened.

The exterior of the first clock tower

1932

Construction was completed on the second iteration of the clock tower designed in Neo-Renaissance style. The doors of Wako store were opened in 1952.

Right: Natural stone was used on the exterior
Bottom: Bells chime to announce on the hour

Present day

In 1947, Wako was established by succeeding the retail department of K. Hattori. The Westminster Chimes have rung out since 1954.

A short timeline of Wako

1881 (Meiji 14)	K. Hattori (watch and clock retail and repair store) is established
1894 (Meiji 27)	The first clock tower is completed at Ginza 4-chome
1932 (Showa 7)	After an earthquake, the second clock tower is completed
1947 (Showa 22)	Wako Co., Ltd. is founded

Residential neighborhoods surrounded by emerging commercial areas

Shimokitazawa, Sangenjaya, Setagaya

Undergoing large-scale redevelopment, the Shimo-Kitazawa Station neighborhood is an area to look out for

Stations

Shimo-Kitazawa Sta.
Keio Inokashira Line, Odakyu Odawara Line

Sangen-jaya Sta.
Tokyu Den-en-toshi Line, Tokyu Setagaya Line

Setagaya Sta.
Tokyu Setagaya Line

Coin lockers

You can find them in places including at Shimo-Kitazawa Station between the Odakyu Line Central Exit and the Keio Line Central Exit, and at Sangenjaya Station on the Tokyu Den-en-toshi Line, near the escalator to the North Exit after leaving the Central Exit.

Getting to Shimo-Kitazawa Station

Tokyo Sta. → **JR Chuo Line (Rapid)** — Time Required: Approx. 13 min., 208 yen → Shinjuku Sta. → **Odakyu Odawara Line** — Time Required: Approx. 7 min., 167 yen → Shimo-Kitazawa Sta.

Haneda Airport Sta. → **Keikyu Line** — Time Required: Approx. 20 min., 292 yen → Shinagawa Sta. → **JR Yamanote Line (outer circle)** — Time Required: Approx. 13 min., 178 yen → Shibuya Sta. → **Keio Inokashira Line** — Time Required: Approx. 3 min., 126 yen → Shimo-Kitazawa Sta.

Around the 1570s, the Setagaya Shinjuku post town, created by the Later Hojo family, flourished as a transportation hub where a merchants' market was held (now the Setagaya Boro-ichi). In the Edo period (1603–1868), about half of the villages in Setagaya became the territory of the Ii family. In the Meiji era (1868–1912), military facilities were built between Ikejiri and Mishuku. The Tamagawa Electric Railway opened in 1907, the Odawara Express Railway in 1927, and the present Keio Inokashira Line in 1933. After World War II, people moved in from heavily damaged areas, and the neighborhood rapidly developed into a commercial district. In 1982, the Honda Theater opened in Shimokitazawa, and it came to be known as a "theater neighborhood." Sangenjaya thrived as a rest stop for those making pilgrimages to Mt. Oyama during the Edo period. Its name, meaning three teahouses, comes from the three teahouses that existed. The area that became a black market after World War II is called Sankaku Chitai and is packed with eateries and bars.

From our readers

Bakeries, specialty stores, and other stylish shops are springing up along the Setagaya Line. It's fun to get off at each station and explore. I like to end the day by izakaya (Japanese bar) hopping in Sangenjaya. (PN: Azumi)

Walking Around

A redevelopment area that is attracting attention

Honda Theater and other theaters are scattered between Chazawa-dori Street and Shimo-Kitazawa Station

Shimokitazawa has a vast array of offerings, from live music houses and theaters, to vintage clothes shops and subculture. In recent years, this neighborhood has seen a rise of small commercial complexes. The Odakyu Line between Higashi-Kitazawa Station, Shimo-Kitazawa Station, and Setagaya-Daita Station has been relocated underground. The stretch of land above ground where the approx. 1.7-kilometer tracks used to lay is now the Shimokita Senrogai complex, consisting of 13 facilities. Shimo-Kitazawa Station is directly linked to Shimokita Ekiue. The East Exit opens to Shimokita Senrogai Akichi. If you cross Chazawa-dori Street, you will find reload, ADRIFT, and other complexes, which lead you to Higashi-Kitazawa Station in about 10 minutes. If you go out the South West Exit of Shimo-Kitazawa Station, you will see BONUS TRACK and the Yuen Bettei Daita hot spring inn on the way to Setagaya-Daita Station. Near Shimo-Kitazawa Station, which intersects with the Keio Inokashira Line, you will find MIKAN SHIMOKITA under an overpass walking toward Shibuya. The new nakahara-sou (→P. 14) is also worth checking out.

Get on a tram

Sangenjaya Station is about a 5-minute ride from Shibuya Station on the Tokyu Den-en-toshi Line. From Shimokitazawa, you can reach the station by walking about 2.5 kilometers southward along Chazawa-dori Street, between Shimokita Senrogai Akichi and reload. The Tokyu Setagaya Line tram runs from Sangenjaya Station to Shimo-takaido Station. The stations in between include Setagaya, Shoin-jinja-mae, and Miyanosaka, which is closest to Gotokuji Temple. To visit places in Setagaya City, the Tokyu Oimachi Line is also useful.

The Setagaya Boro-ichi flea market held along the Setagaya Line in December and January is bustling with people

A walking route

1. reload (→ P. 251)
   - 1-min. walk
2. Shimokita Senrogai Akichi (→ P. 251)
   - 4-min. walk
3. MIKAN SHIMOKITA (→ P. 251)
   - 2-min. walk
4. (tefu) lounge (→ P. 251)
   - 5-min. walk
5. BONUS TRACK (→ P. 251)

TOKYO TAILS — Setagaya's area is the 2nd largest in TOKYO 23 Wards

Setagaya is the second largest of the TOKYO 23 Wards. Much of it is residential, including areas between the Keio Line's Daitabashi and Chitose-karasuyama stations, the Odakyu Line's Higashi-Kitazawa and Seijogakuen-mae stations, and the Tokyu Den-en-toshi Line's Ikejiri-ohashi and Futako-tamagawa stations. Setagaya also has the Komazawa Olympic Park, Kinuta Park, and Todoroki Valley.

TOKYO TAILS — Greenway over the culverted Kuhonbutsu River

The Kuhonbutsugawa Nature Path crossing Setagaya and Meguro cities runs about 1.6 kilometers from Kuhombutsu Joshinji Temple, where nine Amida Buddha statues are enshrined, to Midorigaoka Station on the Tokyu Oimachi Line. The path is lined with beautiful trees and stylish shops, particularly around Jiyugaoka Station.

What to do in this area

- Explore the Setagaya Boro-ichi → P. 84
- Try Setagaya's vegetables and fruit → P. 360

Bulletin

One of the largest bread festivals in Japan

Many of Japan's leading quality bakeries are concentrated in Setagaya. Under the concept of "Setagaya, the city of bread," the Setagaya Bread Festival was launched as a local event in 2011 in Mishuku, located between Sangenjaya and Ikejiri-ohashi, and has grown into one of the largest bread events in Japan. In addition to popular bakeries, the festival features jams and other bread accompaniments, foods and drinks that go with bread, and limited-edition bread. Seminars and workshops on bread are also held.

As many as 240 bakeries have participated in the past

Tokyo tips

Jiyugaoka Station's name comes from Jiyugaoka Gakuen, the predecessor of Tomoe Gakuen school, which is depicted in the book *Totto-chan: The Little Girl at the Window* (written by Tetsuko Kuroyanagi and published by Kodansha Bunko). Until Kuhombutsu Station opened, it was the nearest station to Kuhombutsu Joshinji Temple and was called Kuhombutsu Station.

MAP Supp. P. 50-B1

Gotokuji Temple

AD 2-24-7 Gotokuji, Setagaya
TEL 03-3426-1437
Late Mar.–late Sep., 6:00 AM–6:00 PM; late Sep.–late Mar., until 5:00 PM
Open year-round FEE Free
PT 5-min. walk from Exit 1 of Miyanosaka Sta. on the Tokyu Setagaya Line

The 22.5-meter-tall three-story pagoda enshrines the statues of Shakyamuni Buddha, Kasyapa, and Ananda

The Ii Family Cemetery contains the graves of Naosuke, the 13th chief councilor of the late Edo period, as well as the domain's successive lords and their wives

MAP Supp. P. 50-C1

Shoin Jinja Shrine

AD 4-35-1 Wakabayashi, Setagaya
TEL 03-3421-4834
7:00 AM–5:00 PM
No regular closings (shrine office only)
FEE Free
PT 3-min. walk from Shoin-jinja-mae Sta. on the Tokyu Setagaya Line

A replica of the Shokasonjuku. It is said to have taught about 90 students

Houses many cultural properties related to the Ii family

Gotokuji Temple

Setagaya became a territory of the Hikone Domain in 1633. One day, Ii Naotaka (1590–1659), the lord of the domain, was beckoned by a cat to Kotokuin Temple on his return from falconry. By stopping by, Naotaka had the good fortune of not only avoiding a thunderstorm that hit, but also talking with the priest. The Ii family decided that this would be their family temple in Edo (now Tokyo) and renamed it Gotokuji Temple in 1659. The cat that brought fortune was called "Manekineko," and Shofuku-den (fortune beckoning hall) was built. Inside the hall, a standing statue of the Shofuku Kannon bodhisattva is enshrined.

Top: A portrait of Ii Naosuke by Ii Naoyasu (a temple treasure) is displayed in the Ho-do main hall
Bottom: Manekineko of various sizes are offered by visitors praying for the safety of their family, successful business, and good fortune

Enshrines Yoshida Shoin

Shoin Jinja Shrine

Yoshida Shoin (1830–1859), an intellectual, was executed in the Ansei Purge. His disciples, including Takasugi Shinsaku (1839–1867) and Ito Hirobumi (1841–1909), buried his remains here, which was under the jurisdiction of the Choshu Domain. Although the grave was destroyed once during the Choshu expedition by the Edo Shogunate, Kido Takayoshi (1833–1877) built a new gravestone in 1868, and his disciples constructed a shrine in 1882. The main sanctuary that was originally built is now the inner sanctum. The current shrine building was constructed in 1927/28. The Shokasonjuku academy's building has been reconstructed on the east side of the shrine building.

Top: The gravestone of Yoshida Shoin who presided over Shokasonjuku. The academy produced many individuals who became the driving force of modern Japan
Bottom: Shrine building. The Yoshida family crest, a manji surrounded by five gourds, can be seen in various places.

From our readers

Tsuge Shimokitazawa Honten is an izakaya (Japanese bar) with many local fans.
AD 5-29-16 Daizawa, Setagaya PT 8-min. walk from the South Exit of Setagaya-Daita Sta. on the Odakyu Odawara Line

A space for collaboration and unlimited creativity

Shimokita Senrogai Akichi

In Shimokita Senrogai, you can rent spaces, such as a kitchen space and event space, to help you do what you want to do. The possibilities are limitless. There is also a cafe.

There is also a food truck area that can be rented for as short as half a day

MAP Supp. P. 50-B2

Shimokita Senrogai Akichi
AD 2-33-12 Kitazawa, Setagaya
🕒 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
✕ Mon. (open if Mon. is a national holiday)
PT 4-min. walk from the East Exit of Shimo-Kitazawa Sta. on the Odakyu Line

Spaces that support new endeavors and private businesses

BONUS TRACK

This commercial complex brings together 13 stores, including eateries and retail stores, under the concept of "A new style of shopping center that is visited and nurtured by everyone." Flea markets and other events are held in the plaza on the premises.

Hakko Department, Honya B&B, and other shops are inside

MAP Supp. P. 50-A2

BONUS TRACK
AD 2-36-12 to15 Daita, Setagaya
TEL Depends on the store
🕒 Depends on the store
✕ Depends on the store
PT 5-min. walk from the South West Exit of Shimo-Kitazawa Sta. on the Odakyu Line

A hub of sophisticated individual shops

reload

At its specialty shops and cafes serving foods and drinks made with carefully selected ingredients, you can see the character and preferences of the shop owners. Unlike conventional commercial buildings, you can stroll through as you do through a city's alleyways.

OGAWA COFFEE LABORATORY and other shops are inside

MAP Supp. P. 50-A2

reload
AD 3-19-20 Kitazawa, Setagaya
TEL Depends on the store
🕒 Depends on the store
✕ Depends on the store
PT 4-min. walk from the East Exit of Shimo-Kitazawa Sta. on the Odakyu Line and the Keio Central Exit of Shimo-kitazawa Sta. on the Keio Inokashira Line

Its concept is a "neighborhood lounge"

(tefu) lounge

This five-story complex opened in NANSEI PLUS. It consists of a natural foods supermarket, a coffee stand, a cafe lounge, a mini theater, a shared office, and rental spaces.

There is also an outdoor space that blends into daily life

MAP Supp. P. 50-A2

(tefu) lounge
AD 2-21-22 Kitazawa, Setagaya
TEL Depends on the store
🕒 Depends on the store
✕ Depends on the store
PT Brief walk from the South West Exit of Shimo-Kitazawa Sta. on the Odakyu Line

An ever-changing district, a place to work and play

MIKAN SHIMOKITA

Comprised of five zones, this facility is located under the elevated tracks of the Keio Inokashira Line, near Shimo-kitazawa Station on the Shibuya side. It has both a commercial area with cafes and restaurants, and the SYCL by KEIO workplace, where you can work like you play.

There are A to E zones and parking spaces for 562 bicycles

MAP Supp. P. 50-A2

MIKAN SHIMOKITA
AD 2-11-15 Kitazawa, Setagaya
TEL Depends on the store
🕒 Depends on the store
✕ Depends on the store
PT Brief walk from the East Exit of Shimo-kitazawa Sta. on the Keio Inokashira Line

Tokyo tips

Shimokita Senrogai Akichi, BONUS TRACK, reload, and (tefu) lounge are all part of Shimokita Senrogai. This area, the former site of the Odakyu Line tracks that were moved underground, became well known as a filming location for the popular Japanese TV drama Silent.

A neighborhood of small theaters and live music houses

Walking Around Shimokitazawa

This neighborhood, colloquially known as "Shimokita," is also referred to as a "vintage clothing haven" and "subculture haven." It also has a vibrant theater and live music scene.

The Shimokitazawa South Shopping Street is lined with an eclectic mix of shops and eateries, including restaurant chains, vintage clothing stores, goods stores, and *izakaya* (Japanese bars)

It matured into a "theater neighborhood," driven by the passionate vision of a theater owner and actor

The Shimokitazawa area is teeming with theaters and live music houses within a 500-meter radius, including the landmark Honda Theater. Shimokitazawa became known as a "theater neighborhood," mainly as a result of the efforts of Kazuo Honda, who is both a theater owner and actor. Originally a film actor in his youth, Honda opened a bar in Shimokitazawa following the bankruptcy of the film company he belonged to and ran a successful business. However, that did not change his mind about providing opportunities for young aspiring actors, leading him to head an actor training school called Honda Studio and renovate a floor of an apartment into a rehearsal space. This was the beginning of The Suzunari, the first small theater Honda created. It was used as a full-fledged theater from 1975. The following year, he opened Honda Theater dedicated to stage plays. At 386 seats, it has the largest capacity in the Honda Theater Group. The theater inaugurated with the play, *The Secret Garden*, by Juro Kara. The cast included Akira Emoto, an actor who has an active television and stage career even today.

Subsequently, small theaters began to gain popularity in the 1980s. This period saw the rise of Hideki Noda, who founded a theater company while still in university and produced numerous masterworks, as well as playwright-director Shoji Kokami. The 1990s saw the emergence of Keralino Sandorovich and Suzuki Matsuo, along with his agency Otona Keikaku. Honda too opened a number of small theaters that form the Honda Theater Group. Ekimae Theater was opened in 1984, followed by OFF-OFF Theater (formerly Shimokitazawa Long Run Theater) on the same floor in 1993 and Geki in 1997. After a brief hiatus, Rakuen opened in 2007 under the concept of a "theater for adults," followed by Theater 711 in 2009 and B1 in 2014. Shinjuku Theater Tops was opened in Shinjuku in 2021. To this day, Honda, the head of the Honda Theater Group, performs on its stages as an actor.

Besides the Honda Theater Group, there are other small theaters. Kitazawa Town Hall, located on Chazawa-dori Street, serves as a *kominkan* (community learning center) and has gathering spaces and meeting rooms. There are also many small-capacity theaters used for *yose* (Japanese vaudeville), comedy shows, and other performances, including Theater Minerva, which was established in 2013, and shimokita-dawn, which opened in 2017.

Theaters and live houses are concentrated near Chazawa-dori Street and outside the East Exit of Shimo-Kitazawa Station. This area is lined with long-established eateries, such as Min-tei (→P. 365)

From our readers

If I had to name a famous coffee shop in Shimokitazawa, it is Cafe Trois Chambres. I love to relax with a good cup of coffee and cheesecake. (PN: Kaede) AD Yuasa Building 2F, 5-36-14 Daizawa, Setagaya

Unique commercial complexes have opened in succession, such as MIKAN SHIMOKITA (→P. 251) and Shimokita Senrogai Akichi (→P. 251)

Shimokitazawa was where you heard future Japanese stars perform before making their major debuts

In Shimokitazawa, it is common to see young people carrying guitar cases on their backs, getting off the train, and heading to a live music house. Oftentimes, you also see people entering record and instrument stores and checking out music equipment and new releases.

One of the oldest live houses in the Shimokitazawa area is Shimokitazawa LOFT, which opened in 1975. Now primarily an acoustic music venue, it has produced many musicians, from Eiichi Ohtaki in the past to more recent artists like miwa. Shimokitazawa has become a place where band members dream of playing in, owing largely to the influence of Shimokitazawa Yaneura, which was founded in Shibuya in 1975, the same year as Shimokitazawa LOFT, before moving to Shimokitazawa in 1986. Until it closed its doors in 2015, this venue became a sacred place, hosting top-rated names such as THE BLUE HEARTS, Spitz, RC SUCCESSION, and THEE MICHELLE GUN ELEPHANT early in their careers.

At Shimokitazawa SHELTER, the stage is close to the audience, and a sense of unity is fostered. There is live music or an event going on almost daily

Furthermore, Shimokitazawa SHELTER opened in 1991. Being a sister venue to Shinjuku LOFT, famous artists performed here from the outset. Numerous bands, even headliners at concert hall tours or summer festivals, still perform at Shimokitazawa SHELTER on the first day of their tours or on their debut anniversaries. In 1993, CLUB251 opened, followed by GARAGE and CLUB Que in 1994. BUMP OF CHICKEN's first live performance in Tokyo was at CLUB251 and NUMBER GIRL's at Shimokitazawa SHELTER. Like them, many bands and artists gathered at Shimokitazawa dreaming of their debut and eventually rose to stardom. There are still a number of live houses that hold 100 to 200 people, such as Shimokitazawa MOSAiC and Shimokitazawa ReG. Festivals involving live houses in the entire Shimokitazawa area are also actively held, one of them being KNOCKOUT FES.

Live houses mentioned in the text

Shimokitazawa SHELTER

It opened as a sister venue to Shinjuku LOFT, a long-established live house. It has an underground stage and audience area and holds 250 people standing. Initially after opening, melodic hardcore bands, such as Hi-STANDARD, as well as THEE MICHELLE GUN ELEPHANT and THE ELEPHANT KASHIMASHI performed. Playing at the live house has become a gateway to success.

MAP Supp. P. 50-A2 Shimokitazawa

AD Senda Building B1F, 2-6-10 Kitazawa, Setagaya TEL 03-3466-7430 Depends on the show FEE Depends on the show CC AJMV PT 3-min. walk from the East Exit of Shimo-kitazawa Sta. on the Keio Inokashira Line

Shimokitazawa Rokudemonai Yoru

It was opened by three staff members of the legendary live house, Shimokitazawa Yaneura, which regretfully closed its doors in 2015. Located at the site of Yaneura, it holds 120 people standing. Young band members are constantly honing their skills here as friendly rivals. You can enter the bar without paying a cover charge even if you don't have a ticket. Some days it is open until the early morning.

MAP Supp. P. 50-A2 Shimokitazawa

AD Louis Building 3F, 2-6-5 Kitazawa, Setagaya TEL 03-6804-9567 Depends on the show FEE Depends on the show CC Not accepted PT 3-min. walk from the East Exit of Shimo-kitazawa Sta. on the Keio Inokashira Line

Tokyo tips

The popularity of the TV anime *Bocchi the Rock!* has recently brought attention to the music scene in Shimokitazawa. Live House STARRY, where the protagonist's band Kessoku Band, played is modeled on Shimokitazawa SHELTER.

Timeline of the TOKYO 23 Wards

Period	Western Calendar	Japanese Calendar	TOKYO 23 Wards	Japan / World
Kyusekki / Jomon	ca. 30,000 years ago		• Knife-shaped stone tools are said to have existed (Moro site, Itabashi City) • A microlith culture is said to have existed (Megurisawa-kita site, Setagaya City, among others)	• Obsidian stone tools excavated from the Iwajuku site (Mt. Akagi, Gunma), confirming the existence of Paleolithic humans
	Over 10,000 years ago		• Oldest stone tools in Kita City excavated at the Akabanedai site	
	ca. 5,000 years ago		• Shell mounds are increasingly formed from the latter half of the period • Omori Shell Mounds created Omori Shell Mounds Garden →P. 237	
Yayoi	400 BCE–300 CE		• Yayoi culture developed in the Kanto region • A large-scale moat settlement emerged in Asukayama (Asukayama site)	• Rice cultivation and metal culture are introduced
Kofun	3rd c.–7th c.		• People began to live in the Tokyo lowlands and settlements developed • Noge Otsuka Tumulus (Setagaya City) is believed to have been constructed	• Buddhism introduced from Baekje
Asuka	628	Suiko 36	• Sensoji Temple built Sensoji Temple →P. 277	• The Roman Empire divided into Eastern and Western halves (395) • Taika Reforms (645) • Taiho Code enacted (701)
	7th c.		• Musashi Province (present-day Saitama Prefecture, Tokyo Metropolis, and parts of Kanagawa Prefectures) established	
Nara	701	Taiho 1	• The provincial capital of Musashi Province established in Fuchu by the Taiho Code	• Heijo-kyo established (710) • Heian-kyo established (794) • Eruption of Mt. Fuji (800)
	730	Tenpyo 2	• Kanda Myojin Shrine built Kanda Myojin Shrine →P. 222	
	755	Tenpyo-shoho 7	• Soldiers dispatched from Musashi Province and dedicated poems	
	757–765	Tenpyo-hoji era	• Musashi Kokubunji Temple in Kokubunji built	
Heian	939	Tengyo 2	• Taira no Masakado started a rebellion	
	1063	Kohei 6	• Omiya Hachimangu Shrine built Omiya Hachimangu Shrine →P. 259	• Zhao Kuangyin established the Song Dynasty (960) • The birth of the samurai (around the 10th c.) • Christianity split into Eastern and Western branches (1054)
	1156	Hogen 1	• The seven leagues of Musashi became the main force in the Hogen Rebellion	
	1159	Heiji 1	• Heiji Rebellion. Samurai from Musashi, who belonged to Minamoto no Yoshitomo, were defeated	
	1180	Jisho 4	• Minamoto no Yoritomo appointed Edo Shigenaga as the overseer of Musashi provincial affairs	
Kamakura	1187	Bunji 3	• Shinagawa Jinja Shrine built Shinagawa Jinja Shrine →P. 234	
	1207	Kenei 2	• Land cultivation in Musashino ordered by the shogunate	
	1212	Kenryaku 2	• Yoyogi Hachimangu Shrine built Yoyogi Hachimangu Shrine →P. 202	• Jokyu War (1221)
	1282	Koan 5	• Ikegami Honmonji Temple built Ikegami Honmonji Temple →P. 237	
	1333	Genko 3	• Nitta Yoshisada opened an attack against the shogunate	
Muromachi	1352	Shohei 7 Bunna 1	• Battle of Musashino. Nitta Yoshioki and others defeated Ashikaga Takauji in the Battles of Hitomigahara and Kanaibara	• Establishment of the Muromachi Shogunate (1336) • Hundred Years' War (1339)
	1393	Meitoku 4	• Zojoji Temple built Zojoji Temple →P. 327	
	1456	Kosho 2	• Ota Dokan began construction of Edo Castle	
	1457	Choroku 1	• Ota Dokan built Edo Castle Ruins of Edo Castle →P. 138	
	1466	Bunsho 1	• Koami Jinja Shrine built Koami Jinja Shrine →P. 145	• Onin War (1467)
	1478	Bunmei 10	• Hie Jinja Shrine built Hie Jinja Shrine →P. 191	
	1524	Daiei 4	• Hojo Ujitsuna invaded Musashi, won the Battle of Takanawahara, and entered Edo Castle	• Lutheran Reformation (1517) • Battle of Okehazama (1560)
	1533	Tenbun 2	• Kaichu Inari Shrine built Kaichu Inari Shrine →P. 210	
Azuchi-Momoyama	1578	Tensho 6	• Hojo Ujimasa issued a merchants' market decree for Setagaya Shinjuku Setagaya Boro-ichi →P. 84	• Oda Nobunaga began construction of Azuchi Castle (1576) • Honnoji Incident (1582) • Unification of Japan completed by Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1590) • Battle of Sekigahara (1600)
	1590	Tensho 18	• Ibasen founded Ibasen →P. 391 • Edo Castle opened, and Tokugawa Ieyasu entered Edo	
	1592	Bunroku 1	• Construction began of Edo Castle's Nishi no Maru bailey. The Hibiya Inlet is reclaimed this year	

The birthplace of Japanese archaeology

Its history dates back 1,300 years

It is said that he built the Todoroki Fudoson Temple in the late Heian period.

Period	Western Calendar	Japanese Calendar	TOKYO 23 Wards	Japan / World
	1594	Bunroku 3	• Senju-ohashi Bridge built Senji-ohashi Bridge →P. 306	
	1596	Keicho 1	• Toshimaya Honten founded Toshimaya Honten →P. 398	
Edo	1600	Keicho 5	• Tokugawa Ieyasu defeated Ishida Mitsunari and others in the Battle of Sekigahara	
	1603	Keicho 8	• Ieyasu appointed shogun and established the Edo Shogunate	
	1604	Keicho 9	• Renovation work on Edo Castle began	
	1607	Keicho 12	• Izumo no Okuni performed kabuki dance at Edo Castle • The stone walls of the keep and the five-story keep of Edo Castle are completed	
	1617	Genna 3	• Shoji Jin'emon established a licensed pleasure district in Fukiya-cho (Yoshiwara pleasure district)	
	1623	Genna 9	• Tokugawa Iemitsu became the third shogun	
	1625	Kan'ei 2	• The Tokugawa family's Kan'eiji family temple is built Toeizan Kan'eiji Temple →P. 329	
	1635	Kan'ei 12	• The Kan'ei Decree is issued, revising the laws for samurai and establishing the schedule for their alternate attendance • 江戸城会場、徳川家康、江戸に入府	• The Later Jin Dynasty renamed the Qing Dynasty (1636) • Completion of the national seclusion policy (1641)
	1651	Kan'ei 4	• Konjikiden golden hall built in Ueno Toshogu Shrine Ueno Toshogu Shrine →P. 327 • Tokugawa Ietsuna became the fourth shogun	Stalls, street vendors, and theaters for shows and plays began to line up. Ryogoku became one of the most lively districts in Edo.
	1657	Meireki 3	• Great Fire of Meireki	
	1661	Kanbun 1	• Ryogoku Bridge built Ryogoku Bridge →P. 306	
	1675	Enpo 3	• Shuetsu founded Shuetsu Ueno Main Store →P. 385	
	1680	Enpo 8	• Tokugawa Tsunayoshi became the fifth shogun	
	1684	Jyokyo 1	• Edo Shogunate's medicinal herb garden relocated Koishikawa Botanical Garden →P. 229	
	1686	Genroku 1	• Kanda Festival held at Edo Castle for the first time	
	1689	Genroku 2	• Kuroeya founded Kuroeya →P. 391 • From the site of Saito-an, Matsuo Basho left for his journey along The Narrow Road to the Interior Site of Saito-an →P. 155	• The Glorious Revolution in England (1688) and the War of the Spanish Succession (1701) • Ashfall in Edo due to the eruption of Hoei of Mt. Fuji (1707)
	1702	Genroku 15	• Ako roshi (masterless samurai) attacked the lord Kira's residence in Honjo Matsuzaka-cho and killed Kira Site of Kira residence →P. 303 • Sasamaki Kenuki Sushi Sohonten founded Sasamaki Kenuki Sushi Sohonten →P. 380	
	1704	Hoei 1	• Saruya founded Saruya →P. 392	
	1709	Hoei 6	• Tokugawa Ienobu became the sixth shogun	The Nakamura-za, Ichimura-za, and Morita-za, which had official permission for performances, gained popularity as the "Three Theaters of Edo."
	1713	Shotoku 3	• Tokugawa Ietsugu became the seventh shogun	
	1714	Shotoku4	• Establishment of the "Three Theaters of Edo" • Those involved in the Ejima-Ikushima Incident punished	
	1716	Kyoho 1	• Tokugawa Yoshimune became the eighth shogun. Commencement of the Kyoho Reforms	
	1717	Kyoho 2	• Chomeiji Sakuramochi Yamamotoya founded Chomeiji Sakuramochi Yamamotoya →P. 383	
	1721	Kyoho 6	• Proposals box installed at the hyojosho judicial chamber as part of the Kyoho Reforms	
	1732	Kyoho 17	A massive locust outbreak in the Kinki, Chugoku, Shikoku, and Kyushu regions caused severe damage (Kyoho famine)	
	1745	Enkyo 2	• Tokugawa Ieshige became the ninth shogun	
	1747	Enkyo 4	• Ueno-Fugetsudo founded Ueno-Fugetsudo Honten →P. 382	
	1760	Horeki 10	• Tokugawa Ieharu became the tenth shogun • Tamahide founded Tamahide Oyakodon Takeout Senmonten →P. 31	• The Industrial Revolution began in England (around 1760) • Declaration of U.S. independence (1776) • Outbreak of the French Revolution (1789)
	1773	Anei 2	• Akebono-Yu founded Akebono-Yu →P. 72	
	1778	Anei 7	• Shibamata Kawachiya founded around this time Shibamata Kawachiya →P. 31	

Sells the original Fukujinzuke relish

Sales began in front of the Chomeiji Temple gate

Period	Western Calendar	Japanese Calendar	TOKYO 23 Wards	Japan / World
	1781	Tenmei 1	• Kamikawaguchiya founded Kamikawaguchiya →P. 400	
	1783	Tenmei 3	• Eruption of Mt. Asama, ashfall in Edo • Ubukeya founded Ubukeya →P. 390	
	1787	Tenmei 7	• Matsudaira Sadanobu became chief roju • Tokugawa Ienari became the eleventh shogun	
	1789	Kansei 1	• Sohonke Sarashina Horii founded Sohonke Sarashina Horii Azabu-Juban Honten →P. 33	
	1801	Kyowa 1	• Komakata Dozeu founded Komakata Dozeu Asakusa Honten →P. 34	
	1805	Bunka 2	• Funabashiya founded Funabashiya Kameido Tenjin Shrine Main Shop →P. 353	
	1806	Bunka 3	• Haibara founded Haibara →P. 389	
	1819	Bunsei 2	• Habutae Dango founded Habutae Dango Honten →P. 322	
	1830	Tenpo 1	• Isegen founded Isegen →P. 35 • Shirokiya Denbei founded Shirokiya Denbei →P. 393	
	1837	Tenpo 8	• Ganso Tsukudani Tenyasu founded Ganso Tsukudani Tenyasu →P. 383 • Kaminarimon Sansada founded Kaminarimon Sansada →P. 30	
	1841	Tenpo 12	• Roju Mizuno Tadakuni began the Tenpo Reforms	
	1848	Kaei 1	• Sunaba Sohonke founded Sunaba Sohonke →P. 31	
	1850	Kaei 3	• Nihonbashi Benmatsu founded Nihonbashi Benmatsu Sohonten Nihonbashi Main Store →P. 380	
	1853	Kaei 6	• The predecessor of Asakusa Hanayashiki opened Asakusa Hanayashiki →P. 272	
	1854	Ansei 1	• Commodore Perry returned. Signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity between Japan and the United States	
	1856	Ansei 3	• Shibaura Okame Sushi founded Shibaura Okame Sushi →P. 29	
	1857	Ansei 4	• The "Eitaro" store name is established Eitaro Sohonpo Nihonbashi Main Store →P. 384	
	1858	Ansei 5	• Ansei Purge led by Ii Naosuke and others • Major cholera outbreak in Edo	
	1860	Ansei 7	• Tairo (Great Elder) Ii Naosuke assassinated by Mito roshi (masterless samurai) at Sakurada Gate (Sakurada Gate Incident)	
	1861	Bunkyu 1	• Kudanshita Sushimasa founded Kudanshita Sushimasa →P. 29	
	1864	Genji 1	• Isetatsu founded Isetatsu →P. 393	
	1866	Keio 2	• Tokugawa Yoshinobu became the fifteenth shogun • Bentenyama Miyako Sushi founded Bentenyama Miyako Sushi →P. 28	
	1867	Keio 3	• Restoration of imperial rule	
	1868	Keio 4	• Edo was renamed Tokyo	Saigo Takamori and Katsu Kaishu met and decided to surrender Edo Castle.
Meiji	1868	Meiji 1	• Era name changed to Meiji in September. Administrative system of Tokyo-fu (prefecture) established	
	1869	Meiji 2	• Domain lords returned lands and people to the emperor • Ginza Kimuraya founded Ginza Kimuraya →P. 351 • The predecessor of Maruzen Nihonbashi founded Maruzen Nihonbashi →P. 69 • Iseju founded Iseju →P. 355	
	1871	Meiji 4	• Domains abolished and prefectures established	
	1872	Meiji 5	• The first railway line opened between Shimbashi and Yokohama • Omori Shell Mounds and Jomon pottery are excavated • Ueno Seiyoken founded Ueno Seiyoken Honten Restaurant (Yoshoku) →P. 51	
	1873	Meiji 6	• Kanda Fukuju founded around this time Kanda Fukuju →P. 239	
	1877	Meiji 10	• Meikado, the predecessor of Cattlea, founded Cattlea →P. 351, 371 • Shinodazushi founded Ningyocho Shinodazushi Sohonten →P. 380	

Kuzumochi became an Edo delicacy

- Siebold arrived in Nagasaki (1823)
- American merchant ship Morrison entered Uraga but was turned away (1837)

- Outbreak of the Opium War in the Qing Dynasty (1840)
- Commodore Perry's fleet arrived in Uraga (1853)
- Outbreak of the American Civil War (1861)
- Signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Japan and the United States (1858)

Sells various Japanese sweets

- Namamugi Incident (1862)
- Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln (1865)
- Signing of the Satsuma-Choshu Alliance (1866)
- Suez Canal opened (1869)
- Boshin War ended (1869)

Period	Western Calendar	Japanese Calendar	TOKYO 23 Wards	Japan / World
	1878	Meiji 11	• Tokyo Prefecture reorganized into 15 wards and 6 districts	
	1880	Meiji 13	• Kanda Yabu Soba founded **Kanda Yabu Soba →P. 32** • Kamiya Bar founded **Kamiya Bar →P. 412** Kanda Book Town created in the 1880s. Kanda Book Town→P. 66	
	1881	Meiji 14	• Books Sanseido founded **Books Sanseido Jimbocho Flagship Store (temporarily in Ogawamachi) →P. 69**	 Present-day Suzuran Dori Street
	1882	Meiji 15	• Tokyo Horsecar Railway opened a horse-drawn railway line between Shimbashi and Nihonbashi • Ohya Shobo founded **Ohya Shobo →P. 67**	
	1885	Meiji 18	• Nippon Railway line opened between Shinagawa and Akabane • Ginza Yoshida founded **Ginza Yoshida →P. 349**	
	1886	Meiji 19	• Iseya Tanji Kimono Fabric Shop opened **Isetan Shinjuku →P. 209**	
	1888	Meiji 21	• City system and town and village system promulgated	• Promulgation of the Constitution of the Empire of Japan (1889) • Enforcement of the city system and town and village system (1889) • Promulgation of the Imperial Rescript on Education (1890)
	1889	Meiji 22	• Tokyo City established. A railway line opened between Shinjuku and Hachioji stations (Kobu Railway) • Tsukiji Sushisay founded **Tsukiji Sushisay →P. 173**	
	1890	Meiji 23	• Japan's first freight-only station, Akihabara Freight Terminal, established • Imperial Hotel founded **Imperial Hotel Tokyo →P. 420**	 Note the beautiful traditional architecture
	1893	Meiji 26	• The Santama region is transferred from Kanagawa Prefecture to Tokyo Prefecture	
	1894	Meiji 27	• First clock tower completed on the corner of Ginza 4-chome **Wako Main Store (Seiko House Ginza) →P. 165**	• Outbreak of the First Sino-Japanese War (1894)
	1895	Meiji 28	• Rengatei founded **Rengatei →P. 50, 347**	
	1896	Meiji 29	• The present main building of the Bank of Japan Head Office completed **Bank of Japan Head Office →P. 147**	 A new K Hattori (watch and clock retail and repair store)
	1897	Meiji 30	• Minoya founded **Minoya →P. 357** • Mizushin Saikan founded **Mizushin Saikan →P. 368**	
	1901	Meiji 34	• Shokudo Morikawa founded around this time **Shokudo Morikawa →P. 373** • Shinjuku Nakamuraya founded as "Nakamuraya" **Restaurant & Cafe "Manna" by Shinjuku Nakamuraya→P. 370**	
	1902	Meiji 35	• Shiseido Parlour founded **Shiseido Parlour Ginza Tokyo →P. 48** • Gyokueido Shoten founded **Gyokueido Shoten →P. 66**	
	1903	Meiji 36	• Tokyo Electric Train Railway began tram service between Shinagawa and Shimbashi • Hibiya Park opened **Hibiya Park →P. 162** • Hibiya Matsumotoro founded **Hibiya Matsumotoro →P. 49** • Denkiya Hall founded **Denkiya Hall →P. 379** • Minami Aoyama Shimizu-Yu likely already in operation around this time **Minami Aoyama Shimizu-Yu→P. 73**	 A new building furnished with the latest conveniences
	1904	Meiji 37	• Japan declared war on Russia, and the Russo-Japanese War began • Japan's first department store, Mitsukoshi, established **Nihombashi Mitsukoshi →P. 144**	
	1905	Meiji 38	• Kameido Masumoto Honten founded **Kameido Masumoto Honten →P. 358** • Ponta Honke founded **Ponta Honke →P. 52** • Paris Ogawaken founded **Paris Ogawaken Shimbashi →P. 352**	• First Russian Revolution began (1905) • Annexation of Korea (1910) • Xinhai Revolution (1911) • Establishment of the Republic of China (1912)
	1906	Meiji 39	• Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden established as an imperial garden **Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden →P. 208** • Yosuko Saikan founded **Yosuko Saikan →P. 366**	
	1909	Meiji 42	• Kanmidokoro Mitsubachi founded **Kanmidokoro Mitsubachi →P. 352** • Tori Kappo Suegen founded **Tori Kappo Suegen →P. 356** • Kaisendon Oedo founded **Tsukiji Kaisendon Oedo at Toyosu Market →P. 185**	 Yukio Mishima has also eaten here
	1910	Meiji 43	• Asamatsu-an founded **Asamatsu-an →P. 371**	
	1911	Meiji 44	• Tokyo City Electric Power Bureau established and began tram operations • Oji Electric Tramway began tram service • Ginza Cafe Paulista founded **Ginza Cafe Paulista→P. 377** Tram line opened between Asukayamaue and Otsuka (now the Arakawa Line between Asukayama and Otsuka-ekimae)	
	1912	Meiji 45	• Manseibashi Station completed • Aji no Manraku founded **Aji no Manraku →P. 362**	

Period	Western Calendar	Japanese Calendar	TOKYO 23 Wards	Japan / World
Taisho	1912	Taisho 1	• Several tool and implement shops opened in Kappabashi Kappabashi Dougu Street® →P. 394	• Launch of the First Movement to Protect the Constitutional Government (1912)
	1913	Taisho 2	• Usagiya founded Usagiya →P.323 • Namidabashi Oshimaya founded Namidabashi Oshimaya →P. 39 • Takinogawa-Inari-Yu founded Takinogawa-Inari-Yu →P. 70	
	1914	Taisho 3	• Tokyo Station completed Tokyo Station →P. 106, Tokyo Station Marunouchi Station Building →P. 136 • Tomita Sen-Kogei founded Tomita Sen-Kogei →P. 40 • Edo-Ichi founded Edo-Ichi →P. 175 • Senriken founded Senriken →P. 184	• Outbreak of World War I (1914)
	1915	Taisho 4	• Musashino Railway (now Seibu Ikebukuro Line) opened • The Tokyo Station Hotel opened The Tokyo Station Hotel →P. 422 • Yukyudo Book Store founded Yukyudo Book Store →P. 68 • Shinohara Maruyoshi Fuurin founded Shinohara Maruyoshi Fuurin →P. 37	 Overlooking the Marunouchi Station Building at Tokyo Station
	1916	Taisho 5	• Kairyo-Yu founded Kairyo-Yu →P. 73	
	1917	Taisho 6	• Akagaki founded Akagaki →P. 403	
	1918	Taisho 7	• Den-en-toshi Company established. Meguro-Kamata Electric Railway Company established • Kawakin founded Kawakin Senzoku Branch →P. 371	
	1919	Taisho 8	• The Ministry of Home Affairs enacted the City Planning Act • Kyu Asakura House built Kyu Asakura House →P. 242	
	1920	Taisho 9	• Tokyo Underground Railway Company founded • Meiji Jingu Shrine built Meiji Jingu Shrine →P. 204 • Tokyo Kaikan founded Tokyo Kaikan →P. 53	• Establishment of the League of Nations (1920) • Washington Conference held (1921)
	1921	Taisho 10	• Okuno Karutaten founded as "Okuno Ikkyo Shoten" Okuno Karutaten →P. 68	
	1922	Taisho 11	• "Arakawa Amusement Park," now a public amusement park, opened Arakawa Amusement Park →P. 296	 The only public amusement park in the TOKYO 23 Wards
	1923	Taisho 12	• Great Kanto Earthquake • Aqua Higashi Nakano already in operation around this time Aqua Higashi Nakano →P. 75	
	1924	Taisho 13	• Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens opened to the public Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens →P. 178 • Tsukiji Shouro founded Tsukiji Shouro →P. 174	
	1925	Taisho 14	• Radio broadcasting began from the Shibaura temporary transmission station • Construction began of the Tokyo Underground Railway (now Tokyo Metro) between Asakusa and Ueno • Yamariki founded Yamariki Main Building →P. 403	• Enactment of the Universal Suffrage Act (1925) • Enactment of the Peace Preservation Act (1925) • Japanese financial crisis (1927)
	1926	Taisho 15	• Meiji Jingu Gaien completed Meiji Jingu Gaien →P. 19 • Lion Cafe founded Lion Cafe →P. 378	
Showa	1927	Showa 2	• Seibu Railway (now Seibu Shinjuku Line) and Odawara Express Railway (now Odakyu Odawara Line) opened • Ginza Line, Japan's first subway (Tokyo Underground Railway) line, opened • Takara-Yu founded Takara-Yu →P. 72	
	1928	Showa 3	• Bar Lupin founded Bar Lupin →P. 413 • Mikawaya founded Mikawaya →P. 367	
	1930	Showa 5	• Kanto Earthquake Disaster Memorial Hall built • Isen Honten founded Isen Honten →P. 348 • Washiya founded Washiya →P. 385	• Great Depression began (1929) • Mukden Incident (1931)
	1931	Showa 6	• Haneda Airport completed and commenced passenger aircraft departures and landings Haneda Airport Terminals 1 and 2 Observation Deck →P. 86 • Meguro Gajoen, the predecessor of Hotel Gajoen Tokyo, founded	
	1932	Showa 7	• Dai-Tokyo (Greater Tokyo) city established. The number of wards rose to 35, and the population exceeded 5 million • Kogane-Yu founded Kogane-Yu →P. 74 • Okuno Building completed Okuno Building →P. 163 • Kiyosumi Gardens opened to the public Kiyosumi Gardens →P. 150	• May 15 Incident (May 15, 1932) • Establishment of the Hitler cabinet in Germany (1933) • February 26 Incident (Feb. 26, 1936)
	1933	Showa 8	• Teito Electric Railway (now Keio Inokashira Line) opened (bet. Shibuya and Inokashira-koen) • Kosugi-Yu founded Kosugi-Yu →P. 71 • Homitei founded Homitei →P. 49, 61	

Period	Western Calendar	Japanese Calendar	TOKYO 23 Wards	Japan / World
	1934	Showa 9	• Tokyo Takarazuka Theater opened Tokyo Takarazuka Theater →P. 161 • Edogawa Rampo moved to the Edogawa Rampo Residence The Edogawa Rampo Residence →P. 325 • Japan's oldest existing beer hall opened Beer Hall Lion Ginza 7-chome →P. 416	 The building is a registered tangible cultural property
	1936	Showa 11	• National Diet Building completed National Diet Building →P. 132 • Nogata Shokudo founded Nogata Shokudo →P. 375	
	1937	Showa 12	• Chanko Kawasaki founded Chanko Kawasaki →P. 35 • Ikebukuro Miharado founded Ikebukuro Miharado →P. 357	• Outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937) • Promulgation of the National Mobilization Act (1938)
	1938	Showa 13	• Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens opened to the public Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens →P. 228	
	1939	Showa 14	• Tokyo Green Space Plan formulated • Subway in service the full line between Asakusa and Shibuya	• Outbreak of World War II (1939) • Tripartite Pact between Japan, Germany, and Italy (1940)
	1940	Showa 15	• Imperial Palace grounds development project • Kachidoki Bridge completed Kachidoki Bridge →P. 169	
	1941	Showa 16	• Tokyo Port opened	• Outbreak of the Pacific War (1941)
	1942	Showa 17	• First air raid by U.S. military aircraft on Tokyo	
	1943	Showa 18	• The Metropolis of Tokyo formed; metropolitan administration system established; metropolis governor appointed by the government	
	1944	Showa 19	• Nakajima Aircraft Co. Musashi Plant air raided by U.S. military bombers	
	1945	Showa 20	• Tokyo's city center burned to the ground by the Bombing of Tokyo (→P. 320) • Adachi Fish Market opened Adachi Fish Market →P. 293	 Japan after the air raid
	1947	Showa 22	• 22 wards established (23 wards after Nerima became an independent ward in August). Public election of the metropolis governor • Ginza Swiss founded Ginza Swiss Ginza Branch →P. 52 • Ginza West founded Ginza West Honten →P. 376 • Kitsuneya founded Kitsuneya →P. 174	• Atomic bombings of Hiroshima (Aug. 6) and Nagasaki (Aug. 9) (1945) • Defeat of Japan in World War II and acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration (Aug. 15, 1945)
	1949	Showa 24	• The Japanese National Railways public enterprise established • Ryokan Sawanoya opened Ryokan Sawanoya →P. 435 • Ogikubo Chuka-soba Harukiya founded Ogikubo Chuka-soba Harukiya →P. 363 • Tokyo University of the Arts established Tokyo University of the Arts →P. 290	• Outbreak of the Korean War (1950) • Signing of the Treaty of San Francisco and the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty (1951) • Bloody May Day (1952) • Promulgation of the Capital Region Development Act (1956)
	1950	Showa 25	• Coffee L'Ambre founded Coffee L'Ambre →P. 379 • Jobansen Shokudo founded Jobansen Shokudo →P. 375 • Mizuguchi Shokudo founded Mizuguchi Shokudo →P. 374 • Koi to Unagi no Marumasuya Sohonten founded Koi to Unagi no Marumasuya Sohonten →P. 404 • Monja Kondo founded Monja Kondo →P. 350 • Sanyo Shokudo founded Sanyo Shokudo →P. 239 • Raishuken began operating in Asakusa Raishuken →P. 363 • Tsubame-Yu rebuilt Tsubame-Yu →P. 71	A famous ramen restaurant in Shibuya!
	1951	Showa 26	• Teito Rapid Transit Authority began civil engineering work on the Marunouchi Line between Ikebukuro and Ochanomizu stations	
	1952	Showa 27	• Kiraku founded Kiraku →P. 362 • Ichiban Hanten founded Ichiban Hanten →P. 341 • Horyu founded Horyu →P. 369	
	1954	Showa 29	• Teito Rapid Transit Authority opened the Marunouchi Line between Ikebukuro and Ochanomizu stations • The Metropolis Assembly passed a resolution to create the subway system by the Metropolitan Government • Hilltop Hotel opened Hilltop Hotel →P. 424 • Akatsuka founded Akatsuka →P. 404	 The observation deck is bustling with people
	1956	Showa 31	• Kotobuki Shokudo founded Kotobuki Shokudo →P. 373 • Matsuzaki Daihodo founded Matsuzaki Daihodo →P. 41	
	1957	Showa 32	• Café Benisica founded Café Benisica →P. 348	
	1958	Showa 33	• Tokyo Tower opened Tokyo Tower →P. 54 • Ban founded in Nakameguro	
	1959	Showa 34	• Tokyo's hosting of the Olympic Games decided • Rairaiken founded Rairaiken →P. 365	• Start of color television broadcasting (1960) • Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) • Assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy (1963)
	1960	Showa 35	• The first Toei Subway Line opened between Oshiage and Asakusabashi stations	

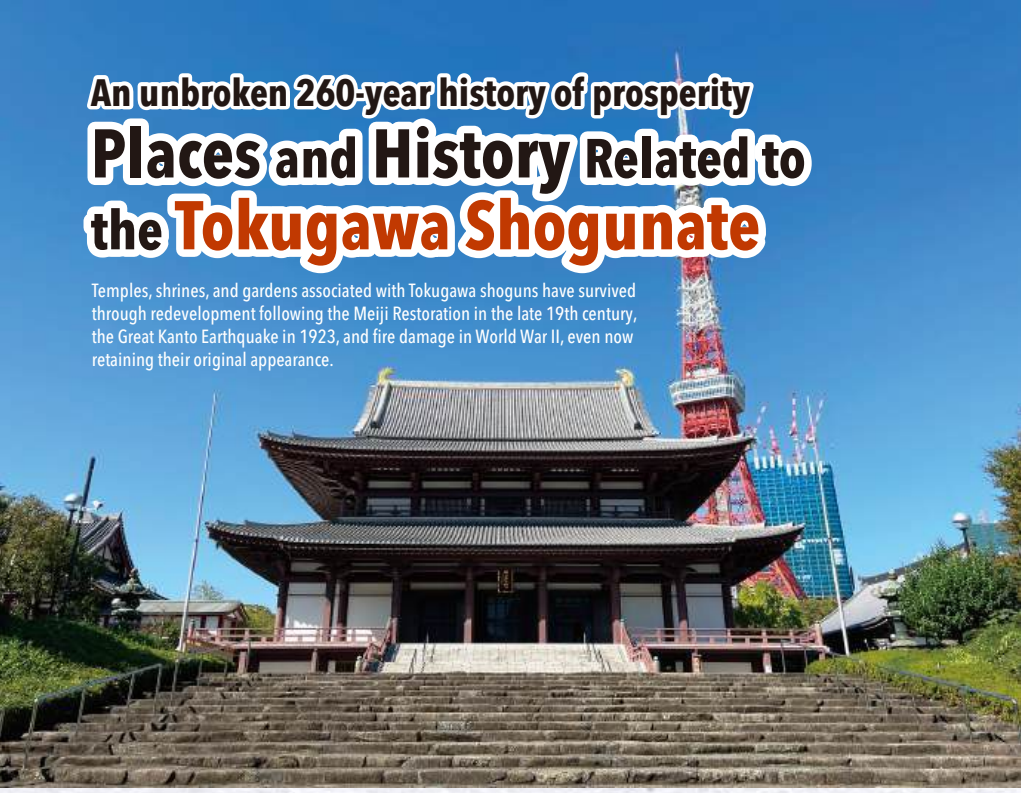
Period	Western Calendar	Japanese Calendar	TOKYO 23 Wards	Japan / World
	1961	Showa 36	• DIG, the predecessor of DUG jazz Café & Bar, founded • Ramen Manrai founded Ramen Manrai →P. 364	
	1962	Showa 37	• The Tokyo Metropolis population exceeded 10 million • Hotel Okura Main Building, the predecessor of The Okura Tokyo, opened • Daini Chikara Shuzo founded Daini Chikara Shuzo →P. 341 • Daiwa Sushi founded Daiwa Sushi →P. 184	
	1963	Showa 38	• The predecessor of Tokyo Hilton Hotel (now The Capitol Hotel Tokyu) opened • Kojyo founded Kojyo →P. 377 • Kohien founded Kohien →P. 359	 Serves Japanese pancakes too
	1964	Showa 39	• Tokyo Olympic Games held (October 10) • Min-tei founded Min-tei →P. 365	
	1965	Showa 40	• Akasaka Minmin founded Akasaka Minmin →P. 369 • Hokaen founded Hokaen →P. 368	
	1966	Showa 41	• Tokyo Hiyoko Co., Ltd. founded Tokyo Hiyoko →P. 386	
	1968	Showa 43	• New Imperial Palace completed. University protests continued around this time • Japan's first skyscraper, Kasumigaseki Building, opened • Chojuan founded Chojuan →P. 359	• Yasunari Kawabata awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature (1968) • Ogasawara Islands returned and incorporated into the Tokyo Metropolis (1968)
	1970	Showa 45	• Yukio Mishima committed suicide at the Ground Self-Defense Force Eastern Army Headquarters	• Okinawa reverted to Japan (1972) • Normalization of Japan-China relations (1972)
	1973	Showa 48	• Sugamo Tokiwa Shokudo founded Sugamo Tokiwa Shokudo Honten →P. 374	
	1975	Showa 50	• Public election of mayors of the TOKYO 23 Wards conducted for the first time in 24 years • Odaiba Marine Park opened Odaiba Marine Park →P. 180	
	1976	Showa 51	• Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka arrested over the Lockheed scandal (July 27)	
	1977	Showa 52	• Takano founded around this time Takano →P. 369	
	1978	Showa 53	• Sunshine City opened Sunshine City →P. 214 • Tantantei founded Tantantei →P. 364	
	1979	Showa 54	• SHIBUYA109 Shibuya Store opened SHIBUYA109 Shibuya Store →P. 197	 A Shibuya landmark
	1982	Showa 57	• Maco founded Maco →P. 174	
	1983	Showa 58	• Ni Hao Honten founded Ni Hao Honten →P. 349	• Tokyo Disneyland opened (1983) • JAL plane crashed into Mt. Osutaka in Gunma (1985) • Eruption of Mt. Mihara on Izu Oshima (1986) • Division and privatization of Japanese National Railways (1987)
	1985	Showa 60	• Current Kokugikan Arena opened Kokugikan Arena →P. 47	
	1987	Showa 62	• Fukagawajuku Honten founded Fukagawajuku Honten →P. 34 • Keyaki Shoten founded Keyaki Shoten →P. 66	
	1988	Showa 63	• Yebisu Garden Place opened Yebisu Garden Place →P. 242 • BLUE NOTE TOKYO founded BLUE NOTE TOKYO →P. 406	
Heisei	1989	Heisei 1	• Ota Market opened Ota Market →P. 238	• Consumption tax introduced in Japan (1989) • Fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) • Iraq's invasion of Kuwait (1990) • Super Famicom launched (1990) • Outbreak of the Gulf War (1991)
	1991	Heisei 3	• Tokyo Metropolitan Government Offices moved to Shinjuku Tokyo Metropolitan Government No. 1 Building →P. 208, Tokyo Metropolitan Government Observatories →P. 88 • Tokyo Banana launched Tokyo Banana →P. 387 • Shimokitazawa SHELTER founded Shimokitazawa SHELTER →P. 255	
	1992	Heisei 4	• 1st Tokyo City Marathon, the predecessor of the Tokyo Marathon, held • Hayashi Fumiko Memorial Hall opened Shinjuku City Hayashi Fumiko Memorial Hall →P. 325	
	1993	Heisei 5	• Tokyo Port Connecting Bridge "Rainbow Bridge" opened Rainbow Bridge promenade →P. 180 • TABATA Memorial Museum of Writers and Artists opened TABATA Memorial Museum of Writers and Artists →P. 325	• Shirakami-Sanchi (natural), Yakushima (natural), Horyuji Temple (cultural), and Himeji Castle (cultural) were designated a World Heritage Site (1993)
	1994	Heisei 6	• Yebisu Garden Place Tower opened Yebisu Garden Place Tower SKY LOUNGE →P. 89	
	1995	Heisei 7	• Tokyo subway sarin attack	• Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (Jan. 17, 1995)
	1996	Heisei 8	• Current Nerima City Office Main Building completed Nerima City Office Observation Lobby →P. 88	
	1997	Heisei 9	• Tokyo International Forum opened Tokyo International Forum →P. 59, 161 • MORI BAR founded MORI BAR →P. 414	

Period	Western Calendar	Japanese Calendar	TOKYO 23 Wards	Japan / World
	1999	Heisei 11	• Tower Hall Funabori opened Tower Hall Funabori Observation Deck →P. 89	
	2000	Heisei 12	• Volcanic eruption and ashfall on Miyakejima Island • Oedo Line's full line opened	• Kyushu-Okinawa Summit (2000) • 9/11 attacks (2001)
	2001	Heisei 13	• Cerulean Tower Noh Theatre opened Cerulean Tower Noh Theatre →P. 332 • Ikenami Shotaro Memorial Museum opened Ikenami Shotaro Memorial Museum →P. 324	
	2002	Heisei 14	• Shiodome Station on the Oedo and Yurikamome lines opened • Nagamori Shoten founded Nagamori Shoten →P. 67 • Caretta Shiodome opened Caretta Shiodome →179, Caretta Shiodome SKY VIEW →P. 89	 Held at the Tokyo International Forum
	2003	Heisei 15	• Roppongi Hills opened Roppongi Hills →P. 189 • Oedo Antique Market launched Oedo Antique Market →P. 82	
	2004	Heisei 16	• Sumida Edo Kiriko-kan separated and became independent from long-established glass manufacturer Hirota Glass Co., Ltd. Sumida Edo Kiriko-kan →P. 36	
	2005	Heisei 17	• The Prince Park Tower Tokyo opened The Prince Park Tower Tokyo →P. 429 • COTTON CLUB opened COTTON CLUB →P. 407 • Motsuyaki Ban opened in Yutenji Motsuyaki Ban →P. 402	• JR Fukuchiyama Line derailment accident (2005) • Enactment of the Postal Service Privatization Act (2005)
	2007	Heisei 19	• DUG jazz Cafe & Bar began operating in its current location DUG jazz Café & Bar →P. 414 • Billboard Live Tokyo opened Billboard Live Tokyo →P. 407	
	2008	Heisei 20	• Ebisu Yokocho opened Ebisu Yokocho →P. 93	
	2010	Heisei 22	• The Capitol Hotel Tokyu and The Capitol Bar opened The Capitol Hotel Tokyu →P. 430, The Capitol Bar →P. 415	
	2011	Heisei 23	• Tokyo Port Brewery opened Tokyo Port Brewery →P. 399	• Great East Japan Earthquake (Mar. 11, 2011) • Ogasawara Islands inscribed as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site (2011) • London Olympic Games held (2012)
	2012	Heisei 24	• TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN®founded TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN® →P. 56 • Bunkyo City Mori Ogai Memorial Museum opened Bunkyo City Mori Ogai Memorial Museum →P. 324	
	2013	Heisei 25	• Hosting of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games decided • JP Tower KITTE opened JP Tower KITTE →P. 134 • Setagaya Ichigo Juku founded Setagaya Ichigo Juku →P. 361 • Rebranded Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo opened Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo →P. 426 • Current Kabukiza Theatre completed Kabukiza Theatre →P. 43	
	2015	Heisei 27	• Yumeno Book Shop began operating Yumeno Book Shop →P. 68 • Shimokitazawa Rokudemonai Yoru founded Shimokitazawa Rokudemonai Yoru →P. 255 • Koryoriya Ishii founded Koryoriya Ishii →P. 360 • Kamata Shokudo founded Kamata Shokudo →P. 360	• Sochi Winter Olympic Games held (2014) • "Washi, craftsmanship of Japanese hand-made paper" inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity List (2014) • Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games held (2016) • PyeongChang Olympic Games held (2018)
	2016	Heisei 28	• The National Museum of Western Art inscribed as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site The National Museum of Western Art →P. 283 • Toshima City Tokiwaso Manga Museum opened Toshima City Tokiwaso Manga Museum →P. 340	
	2017	Heisei 29	• Yoshimura Akira Literature Museum opened Yoshimura Akira Literature Museum →P. 325 • Shinjuku City Natsume Soseki Memorial Museum opened Shinjuku City Natsume Soseki Memorial Museum →P. 324 • Hotel Gajoen Tokyo began operating Hotel Gajoen Tokyo →P. 247	
	2018	Heisei 30	• Tokyo Midtown Hibiya opened Tokyo Midtown Hibiya →P. 162 • Toyosu Market established Toyosu Market →P. 182	• Crown Prince Naruhito ascended the throne as the 126th emperor, and the era name changed to "Reiwa" (May 1, 2019) • Rugby World Cup held in Japan. Ajinomoto Stadium in Chofu was one of the venues.
Reiwa	2019	Reiwa 1	• The Okura Tokyo opened The Okura Tokyo →P. 418 • ONSEN RYOKAN YUEN SHINJUKU opened ONSEN RYOKAN YUEN SHINJUKU →P. 434 • Japan National Stadium completed Japan National Stadium →P. 58	
	2020	Reiwa 2	• mesm Tokyo, Autograph Collection opened mesm Tokyo, Autograph Collection →P. 428 • Sumida River Walk opened Sumida River Walk →P. 86 • MIYASHITA PARK and Shibuya Yokocho opened MIYASHITA PARK →P. 197, Shibuya Yokocho →P. 93 • THE GATE HOTEL RYOGOKU by HULIC opened THE GATE HOTEL RYOGOKU by HULIC →P. 431	• Global outbreak of COVID-19 (2020) • Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games postponed (2020) • UK left the EU (2021) • Beijing Winter Olympic Games (2022) • Russian military's invasion of Ukraine (2022)
	2021	Reiwa 3	• Tokyo 2020 held Tokyo 2020 venues →P. 58	
	2023	Reiwa 5	• Tokyo Midtown Yaesu opened Tokyo Midtown Yaesu →P. 15 • Tokyu Kabukicho Tower opened Tokyu Kabukicho Tower →P. 14	

An unbroken 260-year history of prosperity

Places and History Related to the Tokugawa Shogunate

Temples, shrines, and gardens associated with Tokugawa shoguns have survived through redevelopment following the Meiji Restoration in the late 19th century, the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, and fire damage in World War II, even now retaining their original appearance.



The contrast between the Daiden at Zojoji Temple and Tokyo Tower is impressive

Key Shogun and their Accomplishments

After death, he was made a guardian deity of Edo

First Shogun Ieyasu

1575 (Tensho 3)
Defeated Takeda Katsuyori at the Battle of Nagashino

1600 (Keicho 5)
Defeated Ishida Mitsunari and others at the Battle of Sekigahara

1603 (Keicho 8)
Became shogun (officially *sei-i taishogun*) and established the Edo shogunate

After establishing the Edo Shogunate, Ieyasu eliminated all internal troubles and external threats by blocking entry to the West and chipping away the power of the Toyotomi clan, thereby establishing a foundation of peace and tranquility in Japan. After death, he was deified and is worshipped as Tosho Daigongen ('Great Deity of the East Shining Light').

A well-known shogun from period dramas

Eighth Shogun Yoshimune

1716 (Kyoho 1)
Became the eighth shogun and promoted the Kyoho Reforms

1721 (Kyoho 6)
Set up a box for collecting proposals from ordinary people

1742 (Kanpo 2)
Established the *Kujikata Osadamegaki* fundamental code of law

Yoshimune is unique as a shogun in that he was not a direct heir, but originated from the Kii Domain, one of the three noble families established to produce more heirs for the Tokugawa family. With the Kyoho Reforms, he pushed forward financial reconstruction through simplicity and frugality, and together with Ooka Tadasuke (1677–1751), Yoshimune founded the Edo fire brigade, set up a proposals box and a free hospital in Koishikawa, and more.

Established foreign policy and clarified positions in the shogunate

Third Shogun Iemitsu

1623 (Genna 9)
Became the third shogun

1632 (Kan'ei 9)
Created a framework for positions such as *roju* and *wakadoshiyori*

In respect of domestic policies, Iemitsu made it obligatory for daimyo to alternate between living in their domain and the capital of Edo, as well as establishing the positions of *metsuke* and *ometsuke* (inspectors of daimyo). Toward outside powers, he took a hard line in eliminating and suppressing Christianity, and established an isolationist foreign policy known as *sakoku*.

Known for his edicts for respecting all living things

Fifth Shogun Tsunayoshi

1680 (Enpo 8)
Became the fifth shogun

1685 (Jyokyo 2)
Issued edicts on compassion for living things

An avid scholar, Tsunayoshi promoted a civilian government that emphasized Confucianism, establishing the Confucian temple Yushima Seido Temple and similar. On the other hand, extreme policies, such as his appointment of a lover to the high position of chamberlain and the issuance of edicts on compassion for living things, led to opposition.

The last shogun, who returned power to the Emperor

15th Shogun Yoshinobu

1866 (Keio 2)
Became the 15th shogun

1867 (Keio 3)
Taisei Hokan: the transfer of power back to the Emperor

Yoshinobu became shogun in 1866 amid chaos during movements to expel Westerners and Western culture (so-called "barbarians") and the rise of the Satsuma and Choshu domains. Despite transferring power back to the Emperor the following year, the outbreak of the Boshin War led to him spending some time in darkness and despair.

Due to earthquake-proofing work at the Daiden of Zojoji Temple, the Daiden will be closed until the end of August 2023, while the Zojoji Treasures Gallery will be closed until the end of December 2023. For details, please see the website (www.zojoji.or.jp).

Ieyasu made it the Tokugawa family temple

Zojoji Temple

Zojoji Temple was founded in 1393. After Ieyasu settled in Edo (Tokyo), it became a family temple of the Tokugawa family in 1590. Ieyasu later unified the entire country and established the shogunate in Edo, and Zojoji Temple also prospered under the Tokugawa family's patronage, with a splendid cemetery and other buildings being built. The grounds of the temple were much larger than they are today, covering an area of almost one square kilometer. After the Meiji Restoration, the grounds were confiscated by the new government, and difficulties continued with the Daiden, or main hall, being destroyed by fire on two occasions. The Daiden was rebuilt in the early 1900s, but many of the temple's halls were once again destroyed by fire in World War II, with much of the postwar period being devoted to their reconstruction.

MAP Supp. P. 29-C4 Shiba Park

AD 4-7-35 Shibakoen, Minato TEL 03-3432-1431
Open to the public (temple office 9:00 AM–5:00 PM) Open year-round
Pf 3-min. walk from Exit A1 of Onarimon Subway Sta.

The cast bronze gates at the entrance to the cemetery were relocated from the mausoleum of sixth Shogun Ienobu (1662–1712)

1 Cemetery of Tokugawa Shoguns

The original Tokugawa family mausoleums were once located at the site of Tokyo Prince Hotel and The Prince Park Tower Tokyo. They were relocated to their present site in 1958 after the main buildings were burned down and destroyed in World War II. Within the cemetery there are a total of eight stone or copper pagodas, and a total of 38 people, including six shoguns and five of their wives and children, are interred here.

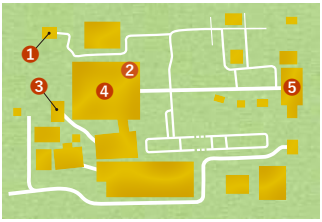
2 Zojoji Treasures Gallery

The gallery was opened in 2015 in the basement floor of the Daiden. The centerpiece of the exhibit is the scale model of the Taitokuin Mausoleum. This is a detailed 1:10 scale model of the tomb of second shogun Hidetada (1579–1632) created in 1910, which was lent and returned from the UK. It shows us the magnificent appearance of the building before it was destroyed by fire.

The entrance to the Zojoji Treasures Gallery. In addition to the regular exhibition with the scale model of the Taitokuin Mausoleum, the gallery also holds special exhibitions

The tranquil atmosphere of Teikyoan. The tearoom comprises two tatami rooms measuring 4.5 tatami mats in size

Temple Grounds Map



3 Teikyoan

This tearoom is associated with Princess Kazu (1846–1877), the wife of 14th Shogun Iemochi (1846–1866). (Princess Kazu was the younger sister of Emperor Komei (1831–1866). She was forced to marry a non-royal (Tokugawa) under the policy to join the shogunate with the Imperial Family.) In 1980, the tearoom was moved to its current location east of the Daiden and renovated. The name Teikyo is derived from part of Princess Kazu's posthumous Buddhist name. As part of its collection, Zojoji has *kasaya* (monk's robes) and other items said to have been bestowed by the princess. The impressive appearance of Teikyoan, made of naturally processed wood, calms the soul. Normally closed to the public, the tearoom is opened every so often for tea ceremonies and other events.

The entrance to Teikyoan. The teahouse sits unobtrusively in a rich, verdant space

4 Daiden

The stairway leading up to the Daiden has 25 steps to represent 25 Bodhisattvas

This building is the main hall where the principal image of the Amida Buddha is enshrined. The hall has been destroyed by fire three times since 1873, with the present building rebuilt in 1974. The Ankokuden hall to the right enshrines as its principal image the Black Image of Amida Buddha, a statue normally hidden from public view that Ieyasu kept on his person as a *nenjibutsu*.

5 Sangedatsumon Gate

While much of the Zojoji Temple complex was destroyed by fire, this gate remained standing during attacks in World War II. The current gate was rebuilt in 1622, and it is the only building on the grounds of Zojoji that was built in the early 1600s. It has also been designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan. Sangedatsu ('liberation from the three poisons') refers to the three practices that lead to enlightenment from worldly desires: emptiness, formlessness, and lack of desire. On the second floor, which is closed to the public, a statue of Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha, is enshrined flanked by two bodhisattvas and 16 Arhats, the most dedicated of the Buddha's disciples.

The front gate of Zojoji is Daimon ('Great Gate'), while Sangedatsumon is the inner gate

A shrine building from the early Edo period that shines in gold

Ueno Toshogu Shrine

The Toshogu Shrine in Nikko is dedicated to Ieyasu, who was posthumously made into a deity named Tosho Daigongen. Ueno Toshogu was built in 1627 in a corner of Kan'eiji Temple, with the third Shogun, Iemitsu, which included adding the Konjikiden, or golden hall, in 1651 for those who could not travel all the way to Nikko to visit the main shrine. The Shaden, or main shrine building, was miraculously spared from damage during the large earthquake and World War II, retaining its original appearance from over 300 years ago.

MAP Supp. P. 46-A1 Ueno

AD 9-88 Uenokoen, Taito TEL 03-3822-3455 (shrine office) 9:00 AM–4:30 PM, Mar.–Sep. until 5:30 PM Open year-round PT 10-min. walk from the Park Exit of JR Ueno Sta.

Shaden

Those who pay the attendance fee can see the magnificent decorations from up close to the Shaden

Also known as Konjikiden (Golden Hall), the main hall where Ieyasu is enshrined is designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan. Many of the gorgeous pillars and sculptures were covered in gold leaf then painted in vibrant colors, rebuilt by Iemitsu in accordance with the shrine at Nikko. Restoration work to restore the building to its glorious appearance from the early 1600s was completed in 2013. The interior of the Shaden is closed to the public.

Large ginkgo trees within the temple grounds were used as roofing materials

A Sacred Tree and Meditation Pavilion

A sacred camphor tree said to be 600 years old towers above to the south of the Shaden. South of the tree is a terrace called Meditation Pavilion, where visitors can look upon the sacred tree with a tranquil and peaceful spirit. Along with the Shrine Amulet Place of Conferment, the Meditation Pavilion was designed by up-and-coming architect Hiroshi Nakamura (born 1974) as a space for prayer.

Shinobazu-guchi Torii

The torii gate at Toshogu Shrine, originally located within Momijiyama at Edo Castle, was relocated here in 1873. The gate is made of granite, and while much less eye-catching than the Great Stone Torii, an Important Cultural Property located on the main approach, it is valuable as one of few structures remaining from Edo Castle.

Shinobazu-guchi torii gate faces out onto Dobutsuen-dori St., which leads toward the zoo

Taiseiden Hall

The main hall enshrines Confucius and the four sages Mencius, Yanzi, Zengzi, and Zisi. Most of the buildings at the Yushima Seido Temple were destroyed in the Great Kanto Earthquake, including Taiseiden, which was rebuilt with reinforced concrete in 1935. The statue of Confucius was brought to Japan by Zhu Zhiyu (1600–1682), a surviving vassal of the Ming dynasty (1368–1644), and was later presented to Emperor Taisho (1879–1926), who then bestowed it to the temple.

The building has been restored to its original appearance from 1797

The center of Confucianism in the Edo Period

Historic Landmark Yushima Seido Temple

Yushima began as a sacred temple built for the philosopher Confucius (551–479 BCE) in 1690 on the orders of fifth Shogun Tsunayoshi, who was familiar with Confucian teachings. Later, the area flourished as a center for learning with the opening of Shohei-zaka Gakumonjo, an academy directly managed by the shogunate.

MAP Supp. P. 39-B4 Yushima

AD 1-4-25 Yushima, Bunkyo TEL 03-3251-4606 9:30 AM–5:00 PM, winter until 4:00 PM (Taiseiden is open to the public on Sat., Sun., national holidays 10:00 AM–closing) Aug. 13–17, Dec. 29–31 FEE Free PT 2-min. walk from the Hijiri-bashi Exit of JR Ochanomizu Sta.

Bronze Statue of Confucius

This statue was donated by a Taiwanese philanthropist in 1975. At around 4.6 meters high and weighing 1.5 tons, it is said to be the world's largest bronze statue of Confucius. A festival known as Sekiten is held here on the fourth Sunday of April each year to venerate Confucius.

The Chinese pistache near the statue of Confucius was brought as seeds from Confucius' hometown of Qufu, China

Tokyo tips

The Chiyoda City Tourism Association has published an article titled "Nine places related with Ieyasu." Please also check this out.
URL visit-chiyoda.tokyo/app/feature/detail/130

A temple to quell the demon's gate at Edo Castle

Toeizan Kan'eiji Temple

Kan'eiji Temple, part of the Tendai sect, was built by Tenkai (1536–1643), a priest of the highest rank, in 1625. The high priest Tenkai was revered by three generations of Tokugawa shogun: Ieyasu, Hidetada, and Iemitsu. He built the temple in Ueno to the northeast of Edo Castle facing the demon's gate with the hope of peace and security for the shogunate and the whole nation. Toei refers to Mt. Hiei in the east. The temple was extremely prosperous during the Edo period (1603–1868), and its vast grounds once covered the entire area of Ueno Park and more. However, it continually suffered periods of hardship, including during the Boshin War (1868–1869), when most of the temple buildings were destroyed by fire in a fierce battle following an invasion by the *shogitai*, an elite team of samurai, as well as in 1870 when the temple land was confiscated by the government. Some of the buildings survived the large earthquake and damage during World War II, preserving the temple's history to the present day.

MAP Supp. P. 41-C3 Uguisudani

AD 1-14-11 Ueno Sakuragi, Taito TEL 03-3821-4440
9:00 AM–5:00 PM Open year-round PT 9-min. walk from the North Exit of JR Uguisudani Sta.

1 Mausoleum of Successive Lords of the Tokugawa Shogunate

Like Zojoji Temple, Kan'eiji Temple also houses a mausoleum for Tokugawa shoguns. Six shoguns (fourth Shogun Ietsuna, fifth Shogun Tsunayoshi, eighth Shogun Yoshimune, 10th Shogun Ieharu, 11th Shogun Ienari, and 13th Shogun Iesada), as well as Iesada's wife Tenshoin are buried there. Most of the buildings in the mausoleum, including the Haiden, or hall of worship, were destroyed in World War II, with only the Imperial Scroll Gate of the Jokenin-den (where Tsunayoshi is interred) and water basin remaining as vestiges of the Edo period. Both are designated Important Cultural Properties. The pagoda tomb is still in its original state, making for an interesting contrast between the ornate bronze structure for Tsunayoshi and this simple stone structure for Yoshimune. The mausoleum is normally closed to the public.

Benzaiten, a deity enshrined at Shinobazu Pond, is one of the Seven Lucky Gods in Yanaka

2 Bentendo Temple

When building Kan'eiji Temple, the high priest Tenkai supposedly arranged the structures on the temple grounds in a form resembling the layout of temples and shrines in Kyoto. Shinobazu Pond represents Lake Biwa, with a small island in the pond enlarged to resemble Chikubu Island in Lake Biwa, while Bentendo Temple was built to resemble Hogonji Temple on Chikubu Island. The present hall was rebuilt in 1958 after being destroyed by fire during World War II. The small Daikokutendo hall is also found on the island.

Temple Grounds Map

The pagoda was donated to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government by Kan'eiji in 1958

3 Former Kan'eiji Five-Storied Pagoda

The five-storied pagoda towering above within the Ueno Zoological Gardens originally belonged to Toshogu Shrine, due to the syncretism of Shinto with Buddhism. First built in 1631, the pagoda burned down and was rebuilt eight years later in 1639. It was scheduled to be torn down following the separation of Shintoism and Buddhism after the Meiji Restoration, however it was given to Kan'eiji Temple, which preserves it to this day.

4 Kompon Chudo Hall

The main hall may seem small for the Tokugawa family temple, but the reason for this is that the original hall was destroyed by fire during the Boshin War. The present hall was actually the main hall at Kawagoe Kitain Temple built in 1638, which was moved to Kan'eiji (then, Daijiin) in 1879. The principal image is a statue normally hidden from public view of Yakushi Ruriko Nyorai, which is said to have been carved by monk Saicho (767–822). It has been designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan.

The Kompon Chudo hall in the Edo period was much larger than this building, which was moved here from Kawagoe. It was located on the site of the large fountain in Ueno Park

Built by Tenkai at his own expense for ordinary people

5 Kiyomizu Kannondo Hall

This hall was built in 1631 by Tenkai, a priest of the highest rank who founded Kan'eiji Temple. It was modeled after Kiyomizudera Temple in Kyoto, with a wide veranda (stage) integrated with the main hall. Miraculously escaping being burned down, the hall has retained its appearance from the Edo period. The principal image of the temple is a statue normally hidden from public view of Senju Kannon Bosatsu, which was moved here from Kiyomizudera.

Tokyo tips

There was once a huge Buddha in Ueno. From the Edo period onward, it fell down many times due to earthquakes and fires. After collapsing during the Great Kanto Earthquake, the trunk was given up for metal during World War II, and now only the face section remains. Many people say a prayer to the face so that they "won't fall/fail any longer" in their entrance exams.

The Kannondo has been designated an Important Cultural Property

The main hall has survived from the late 1600s

Gokokuji Temple

Gokokuji was built in 1681 at the behest of Keishoin (1627–1705), the mother of the fifth Shogun Tsunayoshi. In the following year, the main hall was completed with its principal image the statue of Nyoirin Kanzeon Bosatsu in amber (normally hidden from public view), which Keishoin kept on her person as a nenjibutsu. While some of the buildings were destroyed by fire, the Kannondo and other buildings have kept their original appearance from the Edo period.

MAP **Supp. P. 16-B2 Gokokuji**

AD 5-40-1 Otsuka, Bunkyo TEL 03-3941-0764 10:00 AM–4:00 PM (12:00 PM–1:00 PM hall closure; admission may not be possible during events, etc.) ✕ Open year-round PT Brief walk from Exit 1 of Gokokuji Subway Sta.

Kannondo Hall

The main hall, where the principal image normally hidden from public view is enshrined. Constructed in 1697 by order of the shogunate, the building has survived to the present day. The front gate, Niomon, was also built during the Edo period.

Bell Tower

The bell tower is said to have been built in the middle of the Edo period. Since there are very few bell towers from that period remaining in the city, it is culturally valuable. On the bell, donated in 1682, are inscribed particulars regarding the construction of Kannondo.

The style of the construction is known as a multistory hip-and-gable roof with a flared, skirt-like base

The characters for "Furo" on the gate's signboard were written by the 16th head of the Tokugawa family, Tokugawa Iesato (1863–1940)

Furomon Gate

Furomon was erected in 1938 between the main gate, Niomon, and Kannondo. The gate's design was based on the gate at Kuramadera Temple in Kyoto. It was donated by Kunizo Mio (Kumazo Harumi; 1891–1966), an art dealer and politician.

Goshaden

The main shrine was built in 1730 by order of Yoshimune. While it may appear small and modest for a donation by a shogun, it can also be said to be an expression of Yoshimune's frugal mindset. Miraculously, the structure has not been destroyed by fire. It has been designated a Tangible Cultural Property by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

Although it looks simple, the shrine features many huge and magnificent decorations

A shrine with over 1,000 years of history

Akasaka Hikawa Jinja Shrine

Hikawa Jinja is said to have been established in 951. In 1729, eighth Shogun Yoshimune ordered Elder Mizuno Tadayuki (1669–1731) to build a shrine hall at the present location, with the shrine relocated the following year. After that, the shrine was placed under the patronage of the shogunate, and articles associated with the Tokugawa family are still kept at the shrine as shrine treasures. Having avoided fire damage during World War II, the main shrine from the Edo period survives to this day.

MAP **Supp. P. 28-B2 Akasaka**

AD 6-10-12 Akasaka, Minato TEL 03-3583-1935 6:00 AM–5:30 PM (shrine office 9:00 AM–5:00 PM) ✕ Open year-round PT 8-min. walk from Exit 6 of Akasaka Subway Sta.

The person who named Shiawase Inari was naval commander Katsu Kaishu (1823–1899). "Shiawase" can also mean 'happiness' or 'combining aspirations'

Shiawase Inari Shrine

The name, meaning 'four combined,' is read as "shiawase," which also means 'happiness.' It originated in 1898, when four *inari*, or harvest deities, were enshrined together.

Rainwater Barrel

This is a barrel for collecting rainwater to be used in case of fire. The iron barrel was made by sixth-generation metal-caster, Kamaroku, on official business of the shogunate.

The work of Kamaroku is this rainwater barrel in front of the inner gate

Tokyo tips

Hanzomon gate is a five-minute walk from Tokyo Metro Hanzomon Station. It is said to have been named after samurai Hattori Hanzo, the leader of a ninja clan from Iga and a trusted confidante of Tokugawa Ieyasu who was assigned to guard the gate at that time.

Fujishiro-toge

This is the tallest artificial hill in Rikugien, offering a panoramic view of the garden. The summit, which is 35 meters high, is called "Fujimi-yama" ('view from the peak'). It is said that in the Edo period, Mt. Fuji could be seen on the right, and Mt. Tsukuba on the left.

Naka-no-shima Island and Tazuno-hashi Bridge viewed from Fujishiro-toge

Site of the residence of Chamberlain Yanagisawa Yoshiyasu

Rikugien Gardens

Yanagisawa Yoshiyasu (1658–1714), chamberlain to fifth Shogun Tsunayoshi, built a suburban villa on the land he received from Tsunayoshi, calling the gardens Rikugien. It took seven years, starting in 1695, to create this mountain and pond-style strolling garden, in which 88 famed scenic spots associated with *waka* poetry are reproduced.

MAP Supp. P. 16-B2 Komagome

AD 6 Honkomagome, Bunkyo TEL 03-3941-2222 (Rikugien Gardens Service Center) 9:00 AM–5:00 PM (last entry 4:30 PM) ✕ Dec. 29–Jan. 1 FEE 300 yen, 65 and over 150 yen, elementary school students and below and middle school students living or studying in Tokyo enter for free PT 7-min. walk from the South Exit of JR Komagome Sta.

Illumination

During the cherry blossom season in spring and the autumn foliage season in fall, the garden opens in the evening and the foliage is lit up for a limited time as a special nighttime viewing event. Many people visit each year, particularly in the spring when the weeping cherry trees are at their most spectacular.

There have apparently been days where as many as 40,000 people a day have visited the park when the weeping cherry trees are lit up

There's more Places Related to the Tokugawa Shogunate

There is also an exhibit related to dog kennels from the Tsunayoshi era

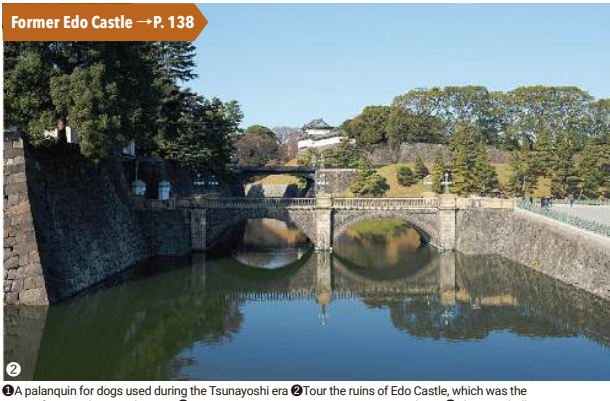
Nakano Historical Museum

This local museum displays exhibits and explains the history and local culture of the Nakano area. There was once a large-scale facility in the vicinity of the current Nakano City Office used to house stray dogs during the time of fifth Shogun Tsunayoshi in accordance with his edicts on compassion for living things. There is an interesting replica of a palanquin used to carry dogs.

MAP Supp. P. 9-B3 Numabukuro

AD 4-3-4 Egota, Nakano TEL 03-3319-9221 9:00 AM–5:00 PM (last entry 4:30 PM) ✕ Mon., 3rd Sun. FEE Free PT 8-min. walk from the North Exit of Numabukuro Sta. on the Seibu Shinjuku Line

Former Edo Castle →P. 138



❶A palanquin for dogs used during the Tsunayoshi era ❷Tour the ruins of Edo Castle, which was the stage of various historical events ❸Sanno Torii, a unique gateway to Hie Jinja Shrine ❹The main hall at Kanda Myojin Shrine, a Registered Tangible Cultural Property of Japan

Hie Jinja Shrine →P. 191

Kanda Myojin Shrine → P.222

Tokyo tips

The scope of Edo (Gofunai) was defined by a red line on a map of Edo from 1818. The eastern end reached the facing side of the Arakawa River, the western end from Nakai to Yoyogi-Uehara, the southern end Shinagawa, and the northern end from Oji to Minami-senju. The area controlled by the town magistrate equates to the area within the Yamanote Line loop, plus the area in front of Kinshicho.

Pilgrimage to Places Featured in Anime & Manga Set in Tokyo

Embark on a journey to places associated with famous titles, from nostalgic manga series to the latest works!

1 Tokiwaso, a Legendary Apartment where Titans of the Manga World Gathered

What is Tokiwaso?

Located in Shiinamachi (present-day Minami-nagasaki) in Toshima City, Tokiwaso was an apartment building where a young Osamu Tezuka (1928–1989), Fujiko Fujio Ⓐ (1934–2022), Fujiko F. Fujio (1933–1996), Shotaro Ishinomori (1938–1998), Fujio Akatsuka (1935–2008), and other leading Japanese manga artists began their careers. The building was demolished in 1982 due to deterioration and no longer exists.

❶The building exterior, which still retains the appearance of the past ❷The bowls in the communal kitchen bear the name of Matsuba, a Chinese restaurant often visited by the residents ❸The manga lounge also displays a timeline of manga-related events and other information ❹A manga artist's room featuring a detailed reproduction of their desk and other items

A hallowed site for manga and must-visit for fans

Toshima City Tokiwaso Manga Museum

Opened in 2020, this museum recreates the Tokiwaso apartment interior. The first floor features a manga lounge and planned exhibition room exhibiting works by manga artists associated with the building, while the second floor recreates the artists' rooms and communal kitchen and lavatory of that time, as well as featuring a permanent exhibition room that introduces the history of Shiinamachi, where Tokiwaso once stood.

MAP Supp. P. 9-B3 Minami-nagasaki

AD 3-9-22 Minami-nagasaki, Toshima TEL 03-6912-7706 ◔ 10:00 AM–6:00 PM (last entry 5:30 PM) ✕ Mon. (the following weekday if Mon. is a national holiday), the museum may be closed temporarily when exhibitions are changed FEE Fee required for the entire museum during special exhibitions CC Not accepted PT 5-min. walk from Exit A2 of Ochiai-minami-nagasaki Subway Sta.

Other spots around Tokiwaso

Tokiwaso Manga Station

This is a library of around 6,000 manga books that visitors can freely pick up and read. The manga available are mainly titles created by manga artists who lived in Tokiwaso.

Tokiwaso Street Showa Retro Museum

This cultural facility was opened in 2022. Don't miss the exhibits that give a sense of life in the Showa era (1926–1989), along with the dioramas that recreate the streets of the past in Toshima City.

Toshima City Tokiwaso-dori Oyasumidokoro

The first floor is a space where visitors can view materials associated with Tokiwaso and purchase related goods, while the second floor features a recreation of the room of manga artist Hiroo Terada (1931–1992).

From our readers

I visited the Toshima City Tokiwaso Manga Museum. I was really impressed with how it recreated the era in which these superstars of the manga world lived! (PN: Mangakko)

Special Shanghai Yakisoba Invented by Osamu Tezuka

This dish was created in response to Tezuka's request for yakisoba fried noodles mixed with his favorite ingredients, such as *happosai*, a mix of vegetables, seafood, and pork, along with mushrooms and chicken. 1780 yen

❶After the noodles are boiled, the vegetables are fried in oil, with the dish finished by topping with a starchy sauce ❷The restaurant interior was updated in 2021. There is also seating on the second floor ❸The restaurant moved to its current location in 1960

2 A Dining Spot Frequented by Manga Artists from Tokiwaso

Fried Japanese glass shrimp and simmered tofu loved by Fujiko Fujio A

Although Fujio was said to be a vegetarian, his favorite dishes were fried Japanese glass shrimp (825 yen) and simmered tofu (550 yen), both from his hometown of Toyama Prefecture.

MAP Supp. P. 9-C3 Nakano

AD 5-32-15 Nakano, Nakano TEL 03-3385-6471 2:00 PM–11:00 PM (L.O. 10:00 PM) Sun. CC ADJMV PT 3-min. walk from the North Exit of JR Nakano Sta.

A Chinese restaurant that has served patrons for over 70 years

Ichiban Hanten

After opening in Shirokanedai in 1952, the restaurant was relaunched as Ichiban in Takadanobaba. The first-generation chef created authentic flavors after honing his skills at official residences and embassies, and the second and third generations carried on the restaurant's legacy while keeping the menu from that time. The Special Canton Yakisoba with firm fried noodles and rich starchy sauce was also invented by Tezuka.

MAP Supp. P. 16-B1 Takadanobaba

AD 4-28-18 Takadanobaba, Shinjuku TEL 03-3368-7215 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM, 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM (L.O.10:00 PM) Tue., Wed. CC Not accepted PT 6-min. walk from the Waseda Exit of JR Takadanobaba Sta.

❶Fujiko Fujio A is said to have liked to drink Tateyama sake and Takezo sweet potato shochu, both from Toyama Prefecture, his hometown ❷Hand-written illustrations and signatures are displayed in the restaurant

The menu offers a selection of over 200 items

Daini Chikara Shuzo

This long-standing Nakano bar was established in 1962. The spacious interior has both counter and table seats, along with a small raised tatami area, creating an atmosphere that welcomes even first-time visitors. The bar is renowned for its seasonal fish dishes, and the huge menu ranging from sashimi to grilled, simmered, and fried dishes is part of its charm.

Tokyo tips

Located a 10-minute walk from Shiinamachi Station on the Seibu Ikebukuro Line, the Chinese restaurant Matsuba is a famous spot that was once frequented by manga artists back when they lived in Tokiwaso. Make sure to try the old-fashioned ramen loved by the masters. AD 3-4-11 Minami-nagasaki, Toshima

3 Follow the Footsteps of Leading Showa-Era Manga Artists

Top: Characters from *Sazae-san* welcome you to the permanent exhibition room on the first floor Bottom: The store, which sells books and other goods, and attached coffee shop

Discover the origins of a long-running animation

Hasegawa Machiko Memorial Museum

This two-story museum opened in 2020. The first floor is a space where visitors can enjoy the world of works by manga artist Machiko Hasegawa (1920–1992), including *Sazae-san* and *Granny Mischief*, while the second floor features a permanent exhibition that displays materials tracing her life. Special exhibitions are also held three to four times a year.

There is also the Hasegawa Machiko Art Museum

This art museum opened its doors in 1985. Artworks that Hasegawa collected with her sister are exhibited as part of the Collection Exhibition.

MAP Supp. P. 11-A3 Sakurashinmachi

AD 1-30-6 Sakurashinmachi, Setagaya TEL 03-3701-8766 10:00 AM–5:30 PM (last entry 4:30 PM) Mon. (the next day if Mon. is a national holiday), when exhibitions are changed FEE 900 yen, 65 and over 800 yen, high school/university students 500 yen, elementary/jr. high school students 400 yen CC ADJMV PT 7-min. walk from the West Exit of Sakura-shimmachi Sta. on the Tokyu Den-en-toshi Line

Top: Signed messages from manga artists who have visited the Norakuro Museum are also on display
Bottom left: A reproduction of Tagawa's work area featuring his desk and drawing equipment Bottom right: Norakuro Square, where you can view Tagawa's writings and manga materials

Speaking of manga artists associated with the Fukagawa area

Tagawa Suiho Norakuro Museum

This is a memorial museum for Suiho Tagawa (1899–1989), a manga artist who rose in popularity after his comic *Private Second-Class Norakuro* was published in 1931. The museum opened in 1999 in Koto City, which is where Tagawa spent his childhood and teenage years. Exhibits include a collection of books and original drawings of the character *Norakuro*, as well as the desk and drawing equipment used by the artist. Visitors can also learn about Tagawa's life and the Fukagawa area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Plush toys, small items, and other Norakuro goods produced up to present are on display

MAP Supp. P. 23-A4 Morishita

AD Koto City Morishita Culture Center 1F, 3-12-17 Morishita, Koto TEL 03-5600-8666 9:00 AM–9:00 PM Mon. (open if Mon. is a national holiday) FEE Free CC Not accepted PT 8-min. walk from Exit A6 of Morishita Subway Sta.

Contemporary Manga Series Set in Tokyo

One of the most popular manga series of the Heisei era (1989–2019) was ***KochiKame: Tokyo Beat Cops***. Statues of characters such as Kankichi Ryotsu are still standing in front of Kameari Station. Meanwhile, Azabujuban was the setting for ***Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon***. Akasaka Hikawa Jinja Shrine (→P. 330) is said to be the model for Hikawa Shrine, the family home of Sailor Mars, Rei Hino. ***Gals!!***, which was serialized in the magazine Ribon, features Shibuya *gyaru*, young women belonging to a subversive fashion subculture primarily in the 1990s and 2000s, as its protagonists, and the stairs of the SHIBUYA109 shopping mall (→P. 197) often make an appearance in the story. Another series, ***March Comes in Like a Lion***, models its world on the Tsukuda and Sumida River areas, depicting Tsukuda Park (→P. 171) and the Chuo-ohashi Bridge.

The sequel *Gals!!* was serializedon an app until 2022

Tokyo tips

The anime *Skip and Loafer*, which aired from April 2023, also featured scenes where main character Mitsumi Iwakura played with her friends in Shibuya and visited Ueno Zoo with her male friend Sosuke.

4 Visit the Scenes from Hit Anime & Manga

Ochanomizu_Hijiri Bridge

Suzume

The area around Ochanomizu Station, which appears in the anime several times. The scene where the worm emerges from the end of the tunnel can be seen from Hijiri Bridge, which is located outside the Hijiri-bashi Exit ticket gates of JR Ochanomizu Station. There is also a scene where the main character Suzume jumps into the river from the bridge.

Numabukuro_ Numabukuro Hikawa Jinja Shrine

Tokyo Revengers

Tamagawa Musashi Shrine, where Mikey, Draken, and four others came together to form the Tokyo Manji Gang, was modeled after Numabukuro Hikawa Jinja Shrine in Nakano, which is located a two-minute walk from the North Exit of Numabukuro Station. The gang's formation was discussed in front of the Kaguraden, a sacred hall for music and dance.

Shibuya_Area around Shibuya Station

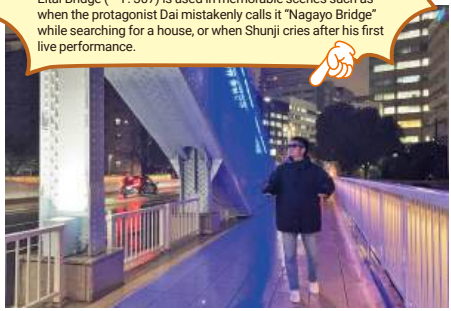
Jujutsu Kaisen

The "Shibuya Incident" appears in volumes 10 to 15 of the original manga. In addition to the Cerulean Tower, New South Exit of JR Shibuya Station, and Shibuya Hikarie—the models for the waiting areas for each team—the area around the Shibuya Hikarie 1 ticket gates where main character Yuji Itadori fought Choso is also a must-see spot.

Monzennakacho_Eitai Bridge

BLUE GIANT

The area along the Sumida River appears many times, sometimes even showing up on the manga covers. In particular, Eitai Bridge (→P. 307) is used in memorable scenes such as when the protagonist Dai mistakenly calls it "Nagayo Bridge" while searching for a house, or when Shunji cries after his first live performance.



Tokyo tips

The west side of Sunshine 60-dori Street in Ikebukuro is commonly known as Otome Road. Aimed at young women ('*otome*'), the area is packed with shops dedicated to self-published fan works and anime goods stores. The main animate store in Ikebukuro, which underwent renovation in 2023, is another can't-miss spot for manga fans.

A Familiar Sight at Both Rakugo and Sumo
The History and Appeal of Edomoji

Edomoji are Japanese typefaces that emerged during the Edo period (1603–1868). Explore their origins and how they evolved to the present day. **moji* means "character" or "lettering"

Mr. Unokichi Tachibana
Calligrapher specializing in Tachibana-style Yosemoji and Edomoji

Sumoji

Sumoji is a typeface often seen on *banzuke-hyo* (ranking lists) and similar at sumo tournaments. It is also called Negishi-style after its creator, Kenkichi Negishi, who was a publisher of *banzuke-hyo*. After the *banzuke-hyo* came under the jurisdiction of the Japan Sumo Association, *Sumoji* calligraphy became a required skill for referees, who would practice it after initiation. The straight, thick lines are formed without gaps and are written with some force, earning *Sumoji* the alternate name of *chikaramoji* ('letters of strength'). Another characteristic is the contrast between the thick characters used for top ranked *rikishi* and the very fine characters used for the lowest ranked.

Edomoji

Also known as *kagomoji* ('cage letters'), the *Edomoji* typeface refers to characters written in the *kago utsushi* style, which involves creating the outline of characters before filling them in. This was originally used in cases where it was difficult to write with a single brush stroke, such as on large signboards or the uneven surfaces of paper lanterns. Since *kagomoji* have been handed down across many generations of paper lantern-makers and artisans creating designs to be dyed on fabrics, such as short coats and hand towels, their form differs depending on the usage purpose. *Senjafuda*, votive slips posted by pilgrims at shrines and temples, are one such example. The lettering used is formed into clear, thick characters that are recognizable from a distance.

Kantei-style

This typeface is also called *shibaimoji* or *kabukimoji* ('theater letters' and *'kabuki* letters,' respectively), and is mainly used on signboards and flyers for *kabuki* and *kyogen* plays. It is said to originate from Kanroku Okazakiya, a calligrapher of the Oie school who was asked to write the characters for a poster for the Nakamuraza Theater's 1779 spring show *Gohiiki Nennen Soga*. This style of lettering is a popular one in which the characters fully fill the frame and are curled inward using thick strokes. It was supposedly named *Kantei* style after Kantei, Okazakiya's artist name.

Yosemoji

Yose handbills originated in 1798, when theaters started advertising performances by posting handbills with the headline attraction of "quick wit and chatty storytelling." Later, during the 1830s and 40s, Eijiro, a dyer in Kanda, created the basis for the typeface, which has been passed down from generation to generation. The tradition almost died out at one time, but Mr. Tachibana's teacher, Ukon Tachibana, kept it alive while perfecting *yosemoji*. The characters are written with as little blank space as possible to signify "packed seats" and slightly lifted right-ward in a single stroke for the wish that "tomorrow will be more prosperous than today."

Edomoji arranged in modern ways

UNOS Co., Ltd.

The workshop and store are headed by Mr. Unokichi Tachibana, the master of Tachibana-style Yosemoji. On top of standard activities, the company also engages in a wide range of activities through new ideas not restricted by tradition, such as collaborating with overseas brands using *Edomoji* and designing mini *senjafuda* stickers.

MAP Supp. P. 39-A4 Yushima

AD 2-33-9 Yushima, Bunkyo TEL 03-6240-1711
9:30 AM–5:30 PM CC Not accepted PT 6-min. walk from Exit 3 of Yushima Subway Sta.

There's also an attached store

A wide variety of products are available, including *senjafuda* name stickers (400 yen for a pack of 10), mini stickers (400 yen for a pack of 15), and lucky tablets (300 yen)

Located close to Yushima Tenmangu Shrine, many students visit on school trips

Tokyo tips

Mr. Tachibana says that in the entertainment districts, *senjafuda* stickers were created and handed out to geisha and maiko in place of business cards. The stickers given to maiko apparently included the pun, "*okane ga **maiko**mu*" (money will come fluttering in)," with the giver hoping that they would stick them inside their purses.

COLUMN
Oldest in Tokyo
vol. 1

Edo-style takeout is popular in the modern age!

Gorgeous Bento & Sushi

Bento lunch boxes have become a unique part of Japanese culture. Here are three stores that still make bento in the same way to offer flavors unchanged from the past.

History of Bento

While the origin of bento lunch boxes is unknown, it is thought to be linked to the customs of ancient peoples, who would take food with them on journeys and hunts as a portable meal. There is also a theory stemming from the food filled in containers that Oda Nobunaga (1534–1582), a *daimyo* lord during the Warring States period of the 15th and 16th centuries, would serve to huge numbers of people at his castle, which he supposedly called "bento." *Maku no uchi* bento ('intermission lunch boxes') were devised in the Edo period (1603–1868) (→P. 42), while *ekiben* ('station lunch boxes') were created in the Meiji era (1868–1912), alongside the launch of the railways.

❶Shiro-zume (bento with white rice), 1,145 yen. Characterized by its rich taste from the days of Edo

Said to be Japan's oldest extant bento shop

Founded in 1850

Nihonbashi Benmatsu Sohonten Nihonbashi Main Store

Benmatsu started out as a small restaurant in Nihonbashi Fish Market called Higuchiya. Higuchiya would wrap up the leftovers for fish market workers to take home when they did not have enough time to eat, and this practice is said to be the origin of box lunch bento. During the time of third-generation owner Matsujiro, the restaurant was turned into a bento shop with the new name, "Benmatsu."

MAP Supp. P. 21 -A4 Nihonbashi

AD 1-10-7 Nihonbashi Muromachi, Chuo TEL 03-3279-2361 ◔ 9:30 AM–3:00 PM, Sat., Sun., national holidays until 12:30 PM (only for purchases reserved in advance) ✕ Open year-round CC Not accepted PT 3-min. walk from Exit A1 of Mitsukoshimae Subway Sta.

❷Sasamaki kenuki sushi (nigiri sushi wrapped in bamboo leaves), 10 pieces for 2,459 yen

You can eat in-store as well as take food to go

Founded in 1702

Sasamaki Kenuki Sushi Sohonten

The name of the bento comes from its preparation method. The small fish bones are removed with tweezers (*kenuki*), then the sushi is wrapped (*maki*) in bamboo leaves (*sasa*), which have a sterilizing effect. In the past, a large amount of salt and vinegar were used to better preserve the fish. The bento currently includes nigiri topped with red seabream, silver-skinned fish, white fish, minced fish oboro, omelet, nori seaweed, and more. The selection changes with the seasons.

MAP Supp. P. 39-C4 Shin-ochanomizu

AD Udagawa Bldg. 1F, 2-12 Kanda Ogawamachi, Chiyoda TEL 03-3291-2570 ◔ 10:00 AM–6:30 PM, Sat. until 5:00 PM ✕ Sun. national holidays CC ADJMV PT 3-min. walk from Exit B5 of Shin-ochanomizu Subway Sta.

❸Shinoda box lunch, six pieces for 745 yen

Sushi rolls and pressed sushi are also on sale in-store

Founded in 1877 in Ningyocho

Ningyocho Shinodazushi Sohonten

This shop got its start when the first-generation owner began selling his favorite *inari* sushi (vinegared rice inside tofu pockets) with the name of "Shinoda." The name comes from Shinoda Forest, which appears in the *kabuki* play *Kuzunoha Kowakare*. The size and preparation process have remained unchanged since the store's founding, giving a wonderfully mild taste free of additives.

MAP Supp. P. 22-A1 Ningyocho

AD 2-10-10 Nihonbashi Ningyocho, Chuo TEL 03-5614-9300 ◔ 10:00 AM–6:00 PM ✕ No regular closings CC ADJMV PT 3-min. walk from Exit A1 of Ningyocho Subway Sta.

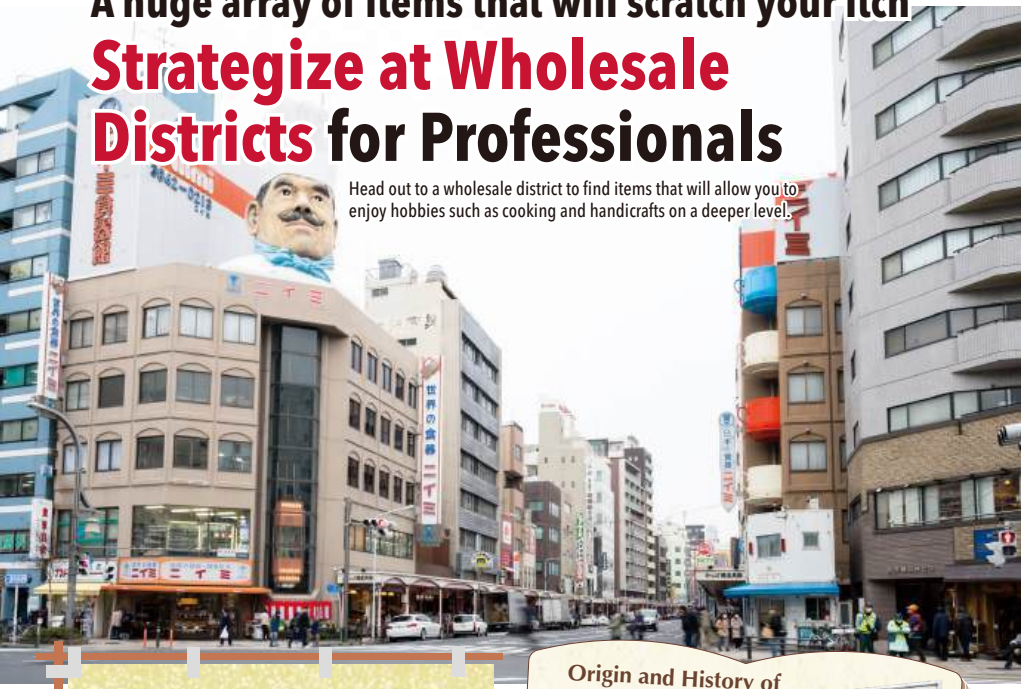
Tokyo tips

Along with the Nihonbashi branch, Benmatsu's bento are sold at department stores and supermarkets including Nihombashi Mitsukoshi (→P. 144), Ginza Mitsukoshi (→P. 158), and Isetan Shinjuku (→P. 209).

A huge array of items that will scratch your itch

Strategize at Wholesale Districts for Professionals

Head out to a wholesale district to find items that will allow you to enjoy hobbies such as cooking and handicrafts on a deeper level.



Japan's largest town for cooking tools and equipment

Kappabashi Dougu Street®

Difficulty ★☆☆ *All stores are usually open to the public, and many are welcoming to new customers.*

Kappabashi is a shopping district with stores lined along the 800-meter-long Shinbori-dori Avenue that runs from north to south from the Kikuyabashi intersection to Kototoi-dori Avenue. Here, you can find any kind of equipment related to food and beverages, from cooking tools to tableware. Long-established **Niimi Western Tableware** was founded in 1907. Its trademark is the eye-catching statue of a giant chef on its roof that overlooks the Kikuyabashi intersection. There is also **Iidaya**, whose original Ever series of cooking tools is a big hit. Established in 1912, the store is now run by the sixth generation of the Iidaya family. Kappabashi Dougu Street is also home to stores specializing in plastic food samples, which originated in Japan and have formed their own unique culture. **Ganso Shokuhin Sample-Ya** is the first and most well-known, however other such stores include **Sato Food Sample** and **Tokyo Biken**. There are also stores that further specialize in certain types of cookware, including **Majimaya Confectionary Tool and Gear Shop**. Majimaya sells around 3,000 different cookie cutters and cake molds alone. You can also order custom-made cake molds and cake stamps. Also take a look at **Kanaya Brush**, a store specializing in all kinds of brushes, and **Union**, which offers a lineup of coffee-making tools and gadgets.

MAP Supp. P. 17-B4 Asakusa

AD 3-18-2 Matsugaya, Taito ◔ Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT 5-min. walk from Exit 1 of Tawaramachi Subway Sta.

Origin and History of Kappabashi

Kappabashi is said to have got its start in the 1910s to the 1920s when antique dealers began trading along both banks of the former Shinbori River (present-day Shinbori-dori Avenue). One story has it that the name "Kappabashi" (lit. 'raincoat bridge') originates from the mythical *kappa* water sprites helping merchant Kihachi Kappaya in the construction of the Shinbori River during the Edo period, while another theory is that the bridge was used to dry raincoats made by foot soldiers residing at a nearby villa.

A monument to the site of Kappabashi Bridge, located on Kappabashi-hondori Ave.

While the Shinbori River was turned into an underground culvert following the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, the Kappa and Kikuya bridges that once crossed the river still remain in essence as the names of intersections. You can also see a statue of Kappa Kawataro, erected to commemorate Kappabashi's 90th anniversary, on one of the street's corners.

From our readers Kappabashi Dougu Street is a fun place full of stores selling a variety of cooking tools and equipment! Those who like to cook should take care, as there will be so many things you'll want to buy. (PN: Kogumakko)

Three Well-Known Stores in the Kappabashi Area

A long-standing manufacturer in business for over 90 years
Ganso Shokuhin Sample-Ya

Small bowl of ramen 4,950 yen, with the noodles, soup, and other ingredients recreated in detail

Pancake clip for holding memos 2,530 yen

Piece of sushi 3,850 yen, perfect as an ornament

Bowl of oden pen stand 2,970 yen, with a piece of *chikuwa* fish cake to hold the pen

This food sample specialty store offers a diverse selection of products, including Sample'n DIY replica food kits for making your own food samples (from 1,980 yen). A hands-on experience to make tempura and lettuce costs 2,500 yen per person.

MAP Supp. P. 17-B4 Asakusa

AD 3-7-6 Nishi-asakusa, Taito TEL 0120-171-839 10:00 AM–5:30 PM Open year-round CC MV PT 5-min. walk from Exit A2 of Asakusa Sta. on the Tsukuba Express

A cookware store established in 1912
Iidaya

Ever Peeler 3,300 yen and Ever Oroshi (grater) 4,180 yen

Iidaya original 22 cm Ever Grill Stainless 22,000 yen

24 cm frying pan with deeply curved bottom 17,600 yen

Rice cooking pot for one cup of rice 4,400 yen

Iidaya offers a varied lineup of products to meet all your cooking needs, including its original Ever series. A store highlight is the ladle section, which features ladles all the way from 1 cc to 2,000 cc.

MAP Supp. P. 17-B4 Asakusa

AD 2-21-6 Nishi-asakusa, Taito TEL 03-3842-3757 10:00 AM–6:00 PM Open year-round CC ADJMV PT 5-min. walk from Exit A2 of Asakusa Sta. on the Tsukuba Express

A lineup of long-loved, great quality products
KAMA-ASA

The store showcases a selection of around 60 knives. They can also engrave your name on the blade

There is so much variety on offer, such as this Japanese bamboo steamer (left) and Chinese bamboo steamer set

Kansai-style thick copper omelet pan 10.5 cm 8,800 yen

KAMA-ASA was established in 1908. The store specializes in cookware, with a focus on cooking pots and knives. You can also find a range of KAMA-ASA original products that have been carefully designed to create great tasting food, with particular attention paid to their shape and ease of use.

MAP Supp. P. 17-B4 Asakusa

AD 2-24-1 Matsugaya, Taito TEL 03-3841-9355 10:00 AM–5:30 PM Open year-round CC ADJMV PT 5-min. walk from Exit A2 of Asakusa Sta. on the Tsukuba Express

Tokyo tips

Kappabashi Dougu Street is about 800 meters long, so we recommend roughly deciding which stores you want to visit before heading out, then selecting the closest station; whether the Tsukuba Express Asakusa Station, or Tawaramachi Station on the subway and a short walk.

Handicraft fans won't be able to resist

Nippori Fabric Town

Difficulty ★☆☆ *You can feel comfortable knowing that many hobbyists also come here to look for materials.*

This wholesale district stretches along Nippori Chuo-dori Street from the South Exit of Nippori Station. There are over 90 stores here specializing in textile materials, as well as buttons, sewing patterns, fabrics, and more. The Nippori Fabric Town Map can be downloaded from the official website of the Tokyo Nippori Fabric Wholesale Cooperatives.

MAP Supp. P. 41-A3 Nippori

AD 4-33-3 Higashi-nippori, Arakawa
Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store
PT 3-min.walk from the South Exit of JR Nippori Sta.

Tomato, which carries a variety of fabrics, has multiple locations, including the main shop and select and interior stores

History of Nippori Fabric Town

In the early Taisho era (1912–1926), men selling rags and offcuts moved en masse from Asakusa to the Nippori and Mikawashima area. By the start of the Showa era (1926 onward), around 20 stores were operating in the town. After World War II, vendors sold surplus disposed of or sold by the Occupation Forces, second-hand American clothing, and patchwork cloth, known as *hagire*.

The Tokyo Nippori Fabric Wholesale Cooperatives were established in 1969

The fabric town, where pros of the fashion and sewing world also come to shop. Here, people stroll around with an eye out for what they're looking for. Don't forget to also visit the back streets

The wide variety of products on sale includes knitted fabric and wool, fur, and leather; there is even a store dedicated to traditional Japanese patterned fabrics. Explore the stores that align with what you want to create or how you will use your purchase

Buttons are on sale in an endless variety of sizes, colors, and shapes. Some stores also offer vintage items imported from overseas

Find what you are looking for from among finely gradated sewing machine thread. Buy in bulk at a reasonable cost

There is a plethora of sewing patterns for aprons, children's smocks, *jinbei* summer loungewear, and more for you to enjoy looking through

From our readers

Nippori Fabric Town is a place I visit often. Just looking at the many types of buttons, threads, fabrics, and other items makes me so happy. It's a must-visit for those who enjoy needlecraft. (PN: Omame Shogun)

From traditional Japanese footwear to leather shoes

Hanakawado Shoes and Footwear Wholesale Street

Difficulty ★★☆ Individual stores offer a pared-down selection of items, so it may be a little difficult to find what you are looking for.

Around Edo-dori Avenue in Asakusa, stores line up selling leather goods such as shoes and bags, as well as Japanese-style thonged sandals known as *zori* and regular sandals. These days, shops are spread out few and far between throughout the alleys. The Hanakawado Hakidaore-ichi shoe market is held each year in late December in Hanakawado Park. The market welcomes members of the public to come and purchase items.

MAP Supp. P. 42-C2 Asakusa

AD 2-4-15 Hanakawado, Taito ◷ Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT 4-min. walk from Exit 5 of Asakusa Sta. on the Tobu Line

Some places display regular and *zori* sandals right at the front of the store, making it easy to enter for travelers. Sometimes *zori* can be had for a real bargain

Sandals and other types of footwear that can be paired with both modern and traditional-style clothing are also on sale. Check with the store whether you can make an individual purchase or try things on

History of Hanakawado Shoes and Footwear Wholesale Street

In the Edo period, a shogunate-approved playhouse was relocated to the northern part of Hanakawado, and since this brought many actors and people involved with the theater to come and live in the area, wholesale stores selling traditional Japanese footwear began popping up. From around 1887, the popularization of Western-style clothing alongside *geta* wooden sandals and *zori* led to the area developing into a wholesale district.

A monument to the birthplace of the footwear wholesale street now stands within Hanakawado Park

There are also lots of fun items for children

Asakusabashi Wholesale District

Difficulty ★★☆ Some stores are not open to the public, so you'll need to check with each store.

Stores line both sides of Edo-dori Ave. You can also see the brown facade of the main store of doll manufacturer and wholesaler Kyugetsu Asakusabashi

This district of specialty stores is located along Edo-dori Avenue from Asakusabashi Station on the JR Sobu Line. These days, the number of toy and fireworks wholesalers, as well as handicraft stores, is growing. Some of the more remarkable places include wholesale stores carrying a huge variety of products such as party goods, balloons, artificial flowers, and parts for accessories.

MAP Supp. P. 12-C1 Asakusabashi

AD Asakusabashi, Taito ◷ Depends on the store ✕ Depends on the store PT Brief walk from Exit A1 of JR Asakusabashi Sta.

History of Asakusabashi Wholesale District

The district is said to have originated with decorative doll wholesalers including Kyugetsu and Yoshitoku, which were established in the Edo period. At that time, toys were called "hand games." The wholesale district took form once stores began to carry not just *hina* dolls, but also hand game products.

Find a huge lineup of goods, including wholesalers selling a wide range of brushes

Fireworks wholesaler Hasegawa Shoten, artificial flower wholesaler Sekisyo Masuya, Kishi's Party Store, and others are open to the public

Tokyo tips Other wholesale districts include Nihonbashi Yokoyamacho Bakurocho Wholesale Town for clothing and accessories and the toy wholesale district at Kuramae. However, these districts are aimed at business customers and most stores do not sell to the general public.

Travel Planning

Think about the style of travel that suits you

Once you've decided on your Tokyo travel itinerary, make a list of the neighborhoods and tourist sites you want to be sure to see. When your travel plan is pretty much determined, consider what kind of travel is right for you, whether it's a package tour or independent travel, while keeping your budget in mind.

◆Package tours and open-itinerary tours

There are two types of tours offered by travel agencies and airline companies. One is package tours that bundle everything together, including transportation, lodging, sightseeing, and meals. The other is open-itinerary tours that only bundle round-trip transportation and lodging.

■Package tours

Package tours to Tokyo are carried out from major cities throughout Japan. You should check the official websites of travel agencies and airline companies, as well as local travel agents.

First-time visitors to Tokyo will feel at ease utilizing a package tour that bundles visits to sightseeing spots and meals along with lodging and transportation, such as rail and air travel to Tokyo. It offers major advantages. All arrangements are taken care of simply by signing up for a tour, and various bothersome paperwork isn't required. The value of using a package tour is particularly high in certain instances, such as when getting reservations in peak seasons is difficult for independent travelers. In package tours, group discounts are applied to fees for things such as airfare, lodging, and facility use, so prices are lower than for independent travel. However, tour fees increase in peak seasons such as Golden Week, summer break, and year-end/New Year's holidays. Even so, in many cases it's cheaper than making arrangements on your own.

■Open-itinerary tours

Open-itinerary tours that just bundle round-trip transportation and lodging offer a high degree of freedom. In most cases, the fee is less than making arrangements for airfare, shinkansen travel, and hotels on your own. That's because travel agencies purchase transportation and hotel stays at a cheaper price than individuals making arrangements. Convenience is also an advantage since individual elements such as transportation and lodging don't have to be separately arranged. The biggest merit of an open itinerary is that you're free to go to tourist sites, restaurants, and other places you prefer and stay there as long as you like. In other words, you can tour around very much as if you're traveling independently.

However, there are also disadvantages to taking these kinds of tours offered by travel agencies and airline companies. When it's

■Cancellation fees

When you must cancel your travel plans for an unforeseen reason, a cancellation fee becomes necessary for things such as package tours, airfare, and hotel fees. Always check the rules regarding cancellation fees when making a reservation. The maximum cancellation fee for package tours provided by travel agencies (Agent Organized Tours) is established by the Standard Terms and Conditions for Travel Business from the Japan Tourism Agency. When traveling within Japan, it is incurred starting 20 days prior to the travel start date. At 20 days prior to travel, it's stipulated as being up to 20% of the travel fee. Thereafter, it's up to 30% seven days prior to travel, 40% one day prior, 50% on the day of travel, and 100% after travel commences.

■Watch for LCC sales!

Keeping transportation costs down is key to low-budget travel. Traveling by air can be economical when going to Tokyo from Hokkaido, Kyushu, or the Kansai area such as Osaka. In some cases, it can even be cheaper than an express bus. For that reason, you should consider using a low-cost carrier (LCC). LCCs frequently carry out limited-time offers. You'll receive information on sales if you register as a member on the LCC's official website.

●Peach Aviation Limited
URL www.flypeach.com
●Jetstar Japan
URL www.jetstar.com/jp

On an open-itinerary tour, you can try making traditional crafts without worrying about the time

From our readers

I want to be able to leisurely look around art museums without time constraints, so I prefer independent travel. However, I join optional tours through VELTRA for things like unusual hands-on experiences. (PN: Michako) URL www.veltra.com/jp

necessary to change your schedule for some reason, the process may be troublesome and rescheduling fees or extra fees may be incurred. When taking a tour, be sure to carefully read the website and other information, and check the various terms and conditions.

◆Independent travel

Today, making travel arrangements online has become mainstream. If you can capably make reservations, you can reasonably travel even on your own.

For example, at times airline companies hold campaigns offering special fares for a limited time, and hotel reservation sites offer discounted prices. By putting together these components, you can travel more cheaply than on an open-itinerary tour.

First, you should research information on transportation and hotels during the period you'll be traveling to check whether traveling independently or on an open-itinerary tour is cheaper.

The true pleasure of independent travel is being able to gather information and design a trip that suits you. Tailoring a schedule to your own physical condition and strength to create a unique Tokyo tour is also an advantage distinctive to independent travel.

◆Travel planning hints and points to note

Whether on an open-itinerary tour or traveling independently, after arriving in Tokyo you'll put together your own travel plans. Here are some points to note for having a successful stay in Tokyo, and hints to make your trip even better.

■Leave some room in your schedule

In Tokyo, there are many places and shops you'll want to visit, and many things you'll want to do. However, don't pack too much into your limited schedule. Tokyo has an abundance of public transportation, such as JR, private railways, and subways, but they're tricky to master for people unfamiliar with the area. It can be difficult to arrive at your destination without trouble. Make sure to leave as much room in your schedule as possible. Having a relaxed schedule is beneficial since it allows you to readily make changes due to weather or physical condition.

■Play things by ear to accommodate your physical condition

Making yourself stick to a schedule when you're feeling unwell or tired from traveling will have an adverse effect. Change your schedule and make time to leisurely rest at your hotel. We also recommend buying takeout at a department store basement shop or a restaurant and eating in your hotel room, rather than eating out. Also, instead of being particular about traveling by train or bus, play things by ear and travel by other means, such as a taxi.

■Thorough information gathering

Research and make a note of the business hours and closings in advance for the list of places you want to visit, such as museums, sightseeing spots, restaurants, and cafés. Sometimes art museums and other places close temporarily to change exhibits or for other reasons. When packing and before leaving home, frequently check weather information and bring clothes to suit the season.

■When you're unsure, depend on locals

When you're lost or unsure about what to order at a restaurant, don't just rely on guidebooks and smartphone apps. Ask the people around you. Unless they're in a big hurry, they'll often be kind enough to help.

■Create a memo with emergency information

You'll have to handle trouble on your own when taking an open-itinerary tour or traveling independently. Before setting out on your travels, you should create a memo so that you won't panic in an emergency. Many people manage information using their smartphone, but it's possible to lose that smartphone. Create a memo containing information including contact info in case you lose your credit cards or ATM cards, the phone number of your hotel, and the phone numbers of family members who are emergency contacts. Don't keep it in the bag you take with you, but leave it someplace like your suitcase.

It's also great to enjoy gourmet takeout from a long-established restaurant (→P. 380)

Tokyo tips When you're tired and worn out, but want something delicious to eat that's nearby, why not use Uber Eats and have food delivered to your hotel? We recommend it since registered establishments include shops that people line up for and famous restaurants.

Customs and Manners

Many people living in Tokyo have moved there for reasons such as school or work. There are few unique manners and customs, so there's no need to be nervous about them. Try to behave in a way that abides by rules and manners within the bounds of common sense.

Manners to observe on transportation

◆Trains

The massive congestion at rush hour in Tokyo, when people commute to work and school, is well known. Crowded trains can sometimes be dangerous, so you'll want to avoid them when traveling with small children. It's also best to pack your belongings as compactly as possible.

●When boarding trains

In addition to train lines that have different places to stand, depending on the train type such as "local" and "rapid," the demarcated lines play a role in conveying various information

- At stations, people line up to board trains. Please stand in the indicated lines on the platform. At large stations serving multiple train lines, there is sometimes a space established to the side for boarding the next train.
- The yellow lines with an uneven surface are Braille blocks. Do not stand or place belongings on top of the lines.
- When the train arrives, stand to the side of the doors and let passengers get off before boarding.
- It's very dangerous to forcibly push onto the train just before it departs. There is no need to hurry, as trains run frequently. Trains on the Yamanote Line depart every three to five minutes on weekdays, and every two to seven minutes on the subway.

●On board

- Consider how you carry your belongings during rush hour and other crowded times. You should place items such as backpacks and shoulder bags on the overhead rack or clutch them in front of you to avoid inconveniencing other passengers.
- Switch your cell phone to silent mode and refrain from talking on the phone.
- If you're standing near the door when the train stops at a station en route, briefly step onto the platform so you don't block passengers getting off.

◆Taxis

Using a taxi can be very helpful when you have a lot to carry or are tired. However, in Tokyo it's not uncommon for taxis to become caught in traffic, take time, and be expensive. When in a hurry, we recommend using the subway or other rail services. When using a taxi, be sure to get a receipt in case you leave something behind.

■Women-only train cars

Many railway companies in Tokyo have women-only train cars. Railway sectors and fixed times differ by company. Generally, they are established in sectors that become crowded on weekday mornings and evenings when people commute to school and work. In addition to women, boys in elementary school (up to 6th grade), and persons with disabilities and their caregivers can also use them.

Look for the pink sticker that says, "Women Only"

■Eating and drinking on trains

On trains (excluding long-distance trains and shinkansen) and buses running in central Tokyo, it's generally best not to consume anything but beverages. Though it's not prohibited, it's difficult to eat and drink without inconveniencing others.

From our readers

When I tried to get on a train, it happened to be rush hour and I was packed in and almost crushed... I wish I'd tried at a slightly different time. (PN: Yoshiko)

●When riding taxis

Ordinarily, people catch taxis at taxi stands at train stations and tourist sites. We also recommend using a taxi-hailing app. When using a taxi-hailing app, consider places that are easy for the taxi to stop. In some cases, stopping at places such as pedestrian crossings, intersections, and bus stops is prohibited.

●Inside taxis

Once inside the taxi, buckle your seatbelt and tell the driver your destination. In rare instances, the driver may be unfamiliar with the geography, so you should give the address. When paying with a credit card or transportation IC card, you should check whether it's accepted when getting in the taxi or making a reservation.

◆Bicycles

Numerous traffic accidents involving bicycles occur. The December 1, 2019 revision to the Road Traffic Act has made the law tougher on distracted driving, which includes using a smartphone when driving. Operating a bicycle while using a smartphone violates the Road Traffic Act. Article 70 "Safe Driving Obligation" and Item 6, Paragraph 1 of Article 71 state the obligation to observe "rules that a public safety commission establishes in consideration of road or traffic conditions, having found it to be necessary to do so in order to prevent road hazards or otherwise ensure traffic safety." When in violation, you can be fined up to 50,000 yen. According to Article 8 of the Tokyo Road Traffic Regulations drawn up by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, when operating a bicycle, you must not talk on a smartphone or look at its screen. In addition, when using an umbrella or holding items and operating a bicycle with one hand, you will be fined up to 50,000 yen.

Other manners

◆Talking on cell phones

On trains and buses, set your cell phone to silent mode and refrain from talking on it. In addition, you're asked to turn off your cell phone when it's crowded and you're near priority seats. You should also switch on silent mode when touring places such as shrines, temples, art galleries, and museums. Turn off your cell phone when in movie theaters and playhouses.

In addition, map apps are convenient, but walking while looking at your smartphone is very dangerous. Since checking a map also impedes traffic, please stop in a place that is out of other people's way when looking at maps.

◆Taking photos

When taking photos using your smartphone or digital camera, be very careful not to infringe on rights, including copyrights and portrait rights. When uploading photos you took to social media, bear in mind infringement of portrait rights and take measures such as blurring photos and videos.

Since taking photos inside art galleries and museums is often prohibited, always check when entering the facility.

Using a sightseeing taxi is one way to get a sense of the geography (→P. 123)

■Taxi-hailing apps that can be used in TOKYO 23 Wards

If you download a taxi-hailing app to your smartphone, you can call a taxi when necessary.

●GO

There are two ways to pay, inside the taxi or with GO Pay. GO Pay can be used by registering a credit card (d payment can also be used). When you reserve a taxi, a reservation fee separate from the taxi fare will be charged. A pick-up fee may also be charged, depending on the taxi company.
URL go.mo-t.com

●S.RIDE
URL www.sride.jp

●Uber Taxi
URL www.uber.com/jp/ja/ride/ubertaxi/

■Drones require a permit

In Tokyo where buildings are clustered close together, there is almost no place where a drone can be flown. If you wish to film something, you must apply to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to get permission.

Tokyo tips

Recently, taking a "pilgrimage to a sacred place" has been attracting attention. Touring places associated with anime and idols as a fan is an appealing trip, but making loud disturbances and entering places off limits, such as private land, is unacceptable. If there is a sign noting photos are prohibited, then you should abide by it.

■Dress code for visiting religious facilities

Wear clean clothing. Women should avoid wearing clothes that expose a lot of skin, such as sleeveless shirts and miniskirts.

The worship hall on the 2nd floor of the Tokyo Camii & Diyanet Turkish Culture Center requires visitors to wear a scarf. You can borrow one at the entrance.

■Search for a smoking area

You can search for a smoking area using the following websites.

●CLUB JT
URL www.clubjt.jp/map

●Tokyo Kitsuen Navi
URL tobacco.tokyo.jp

◆Shrines and temples

Shrines and temples are religious facilities. There are worshipers there, so refrain from making a disturbance or talking loudly. In addition, when touring mosques and churches such as the Tokyo Camii and Diyanet Turkish Culture Center (→P. 202) and Holy Resurrection Cathedral (→P. 222) introduced in this guidebook, check the manners and rules for each facility. The manner of offering prayers differs for shrines and temples, but the general method is noted below.

- When passing through shrine and temple gates, remove your hat and bow.
- At a shrine, the middle of the approach is for deities, so you should walk along either side. When crossing over the middle, bow your head slightly.
- At the place for ritual cleansing of hands and mouth with water, use the dipper to wash both hands, then pour water into your cupped hand and rinse your mouth.
- When you reach the hall of worship, toss in some monetary offering, lightly ring the bell, and bow. Generally, at shrines you bow twice, clap your hands twice, and bow again once. At temples, you put your hands together in prayer.
- When leaving, you should also turn back toward the shrine or temple gate after passing through and bow.

The number of times you clap can differ, depending on the shrine

◆Smoking

When making hotel reservations, search for "smoking" on reservation sites to find hotels that have smoking rooms. Some of the luxury hotels introduced in this guidebook have smoking rooms

Tokyo has thorough measures against secondhand smoke in place. Smoking is prohibited in all public areas at restaurants and hotels (lobbies, hallways, etc.). There are also many non-smoking guest rooms at hotels. Smoking is also prohibited throughout train stations for JR and private railway companies, as well as at bus stops. E-cigarettes are treated in an identical manner. When smoking, you must use designated smoking rooms and areas. You must carry a portable ashtray with you.

In addition, in nearly all of the TOKYO 23 Wards, smoking on the street is prohibited either entirely or in part. Minato City has stipulated that you must take care so that people in outdoor public places do not inhale tobacco smoke, even when smoking on private property. In Taito City, smoking is prohibited from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM in all public places. In Kita City, JR Oji Station, JR Akabane Station, JR Tabata Station, and the vicinity of the East Exit of JR Itabashi Station have been designated non-smoking areas. Walking while smoking, littering cigarette butts, and standing around and smoking are also prohibited.

From our readers

You may take in a show, such as a musical or *kabuki*. Switch your cell phone to silent mode. Whispering is strictly prohibited. Be sure to remove anything such as a tall hat. Large personal items will get in the way of others, so take as few items as possible.

◆Drinking alcohol

Many people drink alcohol in parks during cherry blossom viewing season and other times. However, it's a breach of etiquette to drink to the point of intoxication in public places.

During cherry blossom viewing season, you should take care not to overindulge

In late October 2022, Shibuya City announced a measure to prohibit drinking alcohol in public places during Halloween. You should practice moderation when sightseeing, especially in event season.

◆Hot springs/deluxe public baths

Some visitors may experience a public bathhouse for the first time on their trip. Generally, if you abide by the following rules there shouldn't be a problem, but you'll want to avoid talking in a loud voice and using your cell phone or taking photos in the changing room without permission. There are also several rules for using the sauna. For instance, you must wash your whole body before entering the sauna, wipe yourself dry, and wring out the towel before entering. Also, rinse off any sweat when entering the cold bath.

- Most public baths sell items such as towels, soap, and shampoo, so you can stop by without bringing anything.
- After entering, remove your shoes and put them in a shoe box, and pay at the attendant's booth (reception). Take off your clothes in the changing room and put them in a locker. The locker key is on a wristband.
- Cover the front of your body with a towel and enter the bath area. Take a shower or douse yourself with hot water to lightly rinse off your body, before getting in the bath.
- It's a breach of etiquette to bring a towel or washcloth into the bathtub. If you have long hair, you should tie it up so that it doesn't soak in the hot water.
- Before leaving the bath area, wipe yourself with a towel that's been wrung out so that you don't get the changing room wet.

◆Escalators

In Tokyo, it's customary to stand on the left side of the escalator and leave the right side open for people to walk up. However, the Japan Elevator Association has called for the prohibition of walking on escalators on the premise that "the safety standard for using escalators is to stand still on a single step." It also says you should stand inside the yellow line on the step.

Observe the rules to enjoy your trip

In some public baths, the manners and rules are posted

■Tattoos are not accepted

People with a tattoo may be refused entry into public baths and deluxe public baths. You must also be aware that the same is true of tattoo stickers and body paint.

From our readers

An Uguisudani public bath featuring saunas

The public bath I recommend is Hidamari no Izumi Hagi no Yu. Both the interior and baths are clean, and there's a wide variety of facilities, such as a large salt sauna and open-air baths. It opens early, so people who arrive in Tokyo early in the morning should definitely give it a try.

■Hidamari no Izumi Hagi no Yu
AD 2-13-13 Negishi, Taito
🕒 6:00 AM–9:00 AM, 11:00 AM–1:00 AM the next day (last entry 30 min. before closing)
✕ Every 3rd Tue. of the month

You can enjoy a variety of baths, including a carbonated spring and cold-water bath

Tokyo tips On the official websites for Tokyo Sento and Sauna Ikitai, a lot of information is provided on public baths and saunas in central Tokyo. ●Tokyo Sento URL www.1010.or.jp ●Sauna Ikitai URL sauna-ikitai.com

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