TAITO, TOKYO Travel Guide

Explore the Charm of Tokyo's Old Downtown Area

Shitamachi Sightseeing

UENO, ASAKUSA, YANAKA
and more
A trip to Tokyo would not be complete without visiting Taito, an area where the old and the new exist in grand harmony. Come and discover the amazing nature of Ueno, the nostalgic shopping street leading to Asakusa’s Sensoji Temple and Yanaka cat town, a paradise for feline lovers.

Ancient Glamour
Located northeast of the heart of Tokyo, Taito City – comprising Ueno, Asakusa and Yanaka – is a bustling mix of both modern features and historic beauty. Best known for lush parks, ancient temples, classic restaurants and year-round cultural festivals, the neighborhood lures millions of tourists each year. Being Tokyo’s shitamachi, or old downtown, Taito is one the few places that still preserve the old world charm of Edo (Tokyo’s former name).

Taito’s glamour dates back to the Edo period (1603-1867). As the area around the Sumida River, old Tokyo’s main artery of trade, the area quickly grew into a hub of commercial activity and entertainment, and the network of merchants, artisans and peasants here flourished.

To this day, these commerical establishments continue to serve as a sentimental reminder of the dazzling past. Along almost every street you will find century-old restaurants and shops, offering authentic traditional delicacies, adorable handicraft and unique souvenirs for family and friends back home.

Shitamachi Sightseeing
Walking is perhaps the best way to explore Taito, the smallest of the 23 wards of Tokyo with an area of only 10 sq km. Most of the attractions are close to one another and the locals are always eager to help a lost traveler. Public transportation is also a convienent and efficient way to get around, as trains and bus services run frequently. The Taito area can be roughly divided into four parts: Ueno, Asakusa, Yanaka and Asakusabashi.
Yanaka is off the mainstream tourist route, but offers a peek into a tranquil little neighborhood steeped in history, Buddhist temples, old Japanese houses, cozy mom-and-pop shops and cute kittens seemingly posing for a snapshot. With many pre-war buildings still standing, Yanaka Ginza, a shopping street lined with traditional shops, has a timeless atmosphere loved by literary figures and artists alike.

Taito’s attractions have a timeless charm and can be visited easily on foot. Find out the best way to enjoy the area in this guide packed with tips and useful information!

Ueno is the perfect place for cultural exploration and artistic enjoyment. Here you’ll find authentic shrines and temples, national museums, numerous galleries, a world-class zoo and cherry blossoms during spring. Japanese performing arts such as rakugo, or comical story-telling, are on show almost every day.

The huge red lantern at Kaminarimon Gate in Asakusa is a favorite photo spot for tourists. After taking a photo, try out the traditional snacks sold along Nakamise, a pedestrian walk leading to the Sensoji Temple, Tokyo’s oldest temple founded in the 7th century. Asakusa was the epicenter of Edo culture and the rich heritage continues today via seasonal events.

### Event Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>Hatsumode</td>
<td>Sensoji Temple</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hatsumode: the first shrine visit of a year to pray for good fortune</td>
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<td>End of March to early April</td>
<td>Sakura Matsuri</td>
<td>Ueno Park, Sumida Park</td>
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<td>Sakura matsuri: a festival to celebrate the blooming of cherry blossoms</td>
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<td>Early April</td>
<td>Asakusa Kannon-ura Ichyo-Sakura Matsuri</td>
<td>Komatsubashi-dori St.</td>
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<td>Asakusa Kannon-ura Ichyo-Sakura Matsuri: a festival where people dressed in Edo attire parade a street lined with Ichyo-Sakura blossoms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early May</td>
<td>Sanja Matsuri</td>
<td>Asakusa Shrine</td>
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<td>Sanja Matsuri: a festival that dates back to the Edo period and is one of the most famous festivals in Tokyo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early July</td>
<td>Shitamachi Tanabata Matsuri</td>
<td>Kappabashi-hondori St.</td>
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<td>Shitamachi Tanabata Matsuri: Kappabashi-hondori St. is decorated with tanabata displays</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 17-19</td>
<td>Hagoita Market</td>
<td>Sensoji Temple</td>
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<td>Hagoita Market: about 50 stalls sell hagoita, a traditional decorative wooden paddle, at the market</td>
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*Images and maps are not included in the natural text representation.*
UENO
The Cultural Hub of Tokyo

Eight minutes by train from Tokyo Station, the area is famous for scenic spots, state-of-the-art museums and Japan’s oldest zoo. On weekends and holidays in spring, families and couples flock here to have an outdoor picnic under cherry trees.

1 Ueno Park
Ueno Park is a spacious public park next to Ueno Station. The area was once the grounds of Kaneiji Temple, which used to be the city’s largest and wealthiest temple during the Edo period until it became a park in 1876. It is one of Tokyo’s most beloved locations for hanami, or cherry blossom viewing in spring. An impressive number of 1,200 sakura trees can be found along the park’s main street as well as Shinobazu Pond. Many excellent museums, including the Tokyo National Museum, The National Museum of Western Art and National Museum of Nature and Science are located here as well.

Address: 9-88, Ueno-koen, Taito
Hours: 9am-4:30pm
URL: http://www.uenotoshogu.com/en/

2 Ueno Toshogu Shrine
Ueno Toshogu Shrine was founded in 1627 and dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1867). The main hall, skillfully built and intricately designed, has survived every single earthquake and war since the last renovation in 1651. The shrine is not only of great artistic value but of great historical importance, as it is one of the oldest architectures in present day Tokyo. Located within Ueno Park, the shrine is enclosed by greens, woods and nature, with cherry blossoms blooming in spring and glittering golden foliage in autumn.

Address: 4-17, Ueno-koen, Taito
Hours: 6am-5pm

3 Ueno Hanazono Inari Shrine
The vermilion torii gates that frame the scenic hill to this shrine gives one the illusion of being at Kyoto’s Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine. This is no coincidence as both worship Inari, the Shinto god of harvest. There are about 3,000 such shrines across Japan. Since foxes are said to be the deity’s messengers, the entrance of an Inari shrine is usually marked with a pair of fox statues, representing a male and female.

Address: 4-17, Ueno-koen, Taito
Hours: 6am-5pm

4 Shinobazu Pond
Lotus plants, carps, turtles and cormorants. Were it not for the high rise buildings in the backdrop, the cornucopia of flora and fauna that this pond is blessed with would make its urban location hard to believe. Situated in the south of Ueno Park, Shinobazu Pond is divided into three parts: the lotus pond, the boat pond where you can rent a row boat or pedal-powered swan boat, and the cormorant pond, a great place for birdwatching.
5 Tokyo National Museum
As Japan’s first museum, this establishment itself is a precious piece of history. Here, you can get to know Japan through an extensive collection of over 110,000 exhibits, which include 87 National Treasures and 634 Important Cultural Properties. Learn about Japanese heritage and culture through artworks such as ukiyo-e and various antiques including samurai swords and kimonos. Floor guides and some exhibition panels are available in English, Chinese, and Korean.
Address: 13-9, Ueno-koen, Taito
Hours: 9:30am-5pm (closed on Mondays)
URL: https://www.tnm.jp/?lang=en

6 Shitamachi Museum
To experience the Japanese way of living before the emergence of convenience stores, head to the Shitamachi Museum which takes you back in time about 100 years. Take off your shoes, enter the life-size replica of a merchant’s shop and coppersmith’s workshop, and be wowed by the nostalgic time-slip. The second floor features an interactive space where visitors can play with all sort of toys from the past. Parts of a real sento, or a public bathhouse, are also displayed to show how life was in the shitamachi area a century ago.
Address: 2-1, Ueno-koen, Taito
Hours: 9:30am-4:30pm (closed on Mondays)
URL: http://www.taitocity.net/zaidan/english/shitamachi/

7 Ameyoko Street Market
Ameyoko started out as a black market after World War II, when food was scarce. Ame is thought to stand for either candy or American goods, which were sold here from the beginning years. Today’s Ameyoko has more than 400 shops offering classic street food and imported goods. It is a mecca for cheap buys, so expect to see locals and tourists alike hunting for clothes, watches, jewelry, and pretty much everything you can imagine.
URL: http://www.ameyoko.net/ (Japanese)

8 Former Iwasaki House garden
Former Iwasaki House is extraordinary, even without any specific knowledge about architecture. The Iwasaki family-founders of Mitsubishi, a global conglomerate—used to live on the luxurious estate from 1896 till the end of World War II. The estate includes a Jacobean-style residence, a Swiss-style billiards house and, of course, a traditional Japanese house. The 17,000 sq m garden is excellent for anyone who wants to get a glimpse of high life in the Meiji period (1868-1912).
Address: 1-3-45, Ikenohata, Taito
Hours: 9am-5pm
URL: https://www.tokyo-park.or.jp/park/format/index035.html#googtrans_en

Savvy Sightseeing Tips from the Editor

Former Iwasaki House garden

SPECIALTY

TONKATSU

Tonkatsu is a dish of Japanese-style deep fried pork cutlet served with a heap of juliened cabbage. This is Japanese comfort food at its heartiest. Japanese students often have it before exams or sport competitions because katsu is a homonym for victory. For a really authentic tonkatsu experience, head over to Ponta Honke.

Ponta Honke
Address: 3-23-3, Ueno, Taito
Hours: 11am-2pm, 4:30pm-8pm (closed on Mondays)
Asakusa was already one of Tokyo’s most bustling and lively districts in the early years of the Edo period. Today, the area is known for its historic atmosphere, ancient architecture and warm hospitality.

1  Sensoji Temple

Sensoji Temple dates back to the 7th century, making it the oldest temple in Tokyo. Dedicated to bodhisattva Kannon, this temple consists of a main hall and a five-story pagoda. Since both were destroyed during World War II, the current buildings are post-war reconstructions. Many events and festivals are held here throughout the year. The most famous of all would be Sanja Matsuri, a parade celebration involving musical floats and portable shrines.

Address: 2-3-1, Asakusa, Taito
Hours: 6am-5pm
URL: http://www.senso-ji.jp/(Japanese)

2  Nakamise Shopping Street

Nakamise is a pedestrian shopping street of approximately 250m leading directly to Sensoji Temple that can be traced back to the Edo period. It starts right after passing the vermilion-lacquered Kaminarimon Gate. Along the street you will find shops that sell traditional souvenirs ranging from decorated folding fans to chopsticks, paper lanterns, kimonos and Japanese clogs.

URL: http://asakusa-nakamise.jp/e-index.html

3  Kaminarimon Gate

The Kaminarimon Gate is iconic to Asakusa and marks the entrance to Sensoji Temple. The paper lantern at the center of the gate stands 3.9m tall and weights about 700 kg. Kaminarimon can be translated as thunder gate and the two huge statues displayed on the front are Fujin (god of wind) and Raijin (god of thunder). The statues on the backside are Tenryu (dragon of heaven) and Kinryu (golden dragon).

4  Marugoto Nippon

Marugoto Nippon literally means “everything Japan” and that’s exactly what this 4th floor megastore is about. With signature crafts and carefully selected delicacies from all of Japan’s 47 prefectures, this is your ultimate one-stop souvenir plaza. The 4th floor is home to restaurants specializing in regional cuisine.

Address: 2-6-7, Asakusa, Taito
Hours: 10am-8pm (3F until 9pm, 4F until 11pm)
**5 Sumida Park**
Located along the Sumida River, this beautiful park stretches for several hundred meters. It boasts 640 cherry trees that attract flocks of visitors every spring for hanami, or flower viewing. Aside from cherry blossoms, the firework festival in the summer is also not to be missed.

**6 Tokyo Cruise**
River cruises are available at the west bank of Sumida River. Visitors can choose from two lines: the Sumida River Line, which stops at Hinode Pier via Hamarikyu, and the Asakusa Odaiba Direct Line, which goes all the way to Odaiba Seaside Park. Get a full view of Tokyo’s urban landscape and historical bridges as you cruise away in style.
Address: 1-1-1, Hanakawado, Taito
Hours: Services start from 9:30am
URL: https://www.suijobus.co.jp/en/

**7 Asakusa Kannon Ura Area**
At first glance, the streets behind Sensoji Temple appear to be no more than a typical residential neighborhood. Take a closer look and you will find a significant number of classic Japanese restaurants called ryotei. Dinner here is often accompanied by geisha, women highly trained in the traditions of music, dancing and entertaining. The Asakusa Kenban, an agency that sends geisha to these ryotei, can be found here as well.
Asakusa Kenban
Address: 3-33-5, Asakusa, Taito

**SPECIALTY SUKIYAKI**
Sukiyaki is one of the first dishes the Japanese invented after the nation started to consume beef and other meats. Thinly-sliced beef, vegetables and other ingredients are simmered in a mixture of soy sauce, mirin and sugar. Dipping the ingredients in a raw egg before eating is what makes this hot pot unique. Asakusa has been famous for sukiyaki – or gyunabe (beef hot pot) as it was originally known – since the late 19th century. You can still savor the shitamachi style at long-established restaurants as Asakusa Imahan and Chinya.

Asakusa Imahan
Address: 3-1-12, Nishi-Asakusa, Taito
Hours: 11:30am-9:30pm
URL: https://www.asakusaimahan.co.jp/english

**8 Edo Taito Traditional Crafts Museum**
Ever wanted to add an elegant, stylish Japanese touch to your interior? Exhibiting around 350 Japanese handicrafts, this two-story museum is the place to look for inspiration and ideas. Every weekend, experienced craftsmen show visitors how to turn silver, wood and other raw materials into art. Do-it-yourself classrooms are also held periodically. The museum is open free-of-charge daily.
Address: 2-22-13, Asakusa, Taito
Hours: 10am-6pm (closed on Second and Fourth Tuesdays)
URL: https://www.city.taito.lg.jp/index/kurashi/shigoto/tradition/kogeikan/
At Yanaka, Tokyo’s cat town, humans and cats alike enjoy the laid-back atmosphere. It is one of the few areas in Tokyo where you can enjoy retro cityscapes of old. If you are looking for a less touristy, more authentic travel experience, Yanaka is your pick.

**1 Yanaka Cemetery**

With leafy trees, shrubs and flowers along the stone paths, this spacious cemetery feels more like a scenic park. More often than not, you’ll spot cats relaxing under the sun or taking an afternoon nap in the shades. Amongst the more than 7,000 souls that rest here are a significant number of famous historical figures, such as Japan’s last shogun Tokugawa Yoshinobu (1837-1913) and other shogun. The place is even more picturesque in April, when myriads of cherry trees along the central avenue are in full blossom.

Address: 7-5-24, Yanaka, Taito
Hours: 8:30am-5:15pm
URL: [https://www.tokyo-park.or.jp/reien/park/index073.html](https://www.tokyo-park.or.jp/reien/park/index073.html)

**2 Yanaka Ginza**

Yanaka Ginza is a nice little shopping street with shops selling traditional handicrafts, Japanese-style sweets, bento lunchboxes, personalized name stamps and much more. While the 170m main street might be a bit short, more greatness awaits in the side-alleys. Shops tucked away in unusual spots are waiting for you to be discovered. While wandering through this shopping street full of cute items, why not pick up some cat-themed souvenirs?

Address: 3-8-11, Yanaka, Taito
URL: [https://www.yanakaginza.com](https://www.yanakaginza.com) (Japanese)
**Cat Town**

Cats are an icon of Yanaka, so expect to be greeted by friendly cats while strolling the streets. There are many cat-themed shops in the area. For feline lovers, Kaiun Yanakado is the place to visit. This nostalgic mom-and-pop store sells manekineko, or fortune cat figures, in all sizes, shapes and colors. For something more original, make your own manekineko at Café Nekoemon next to Kaiun Yanakado while enjoying a cup of coffee. Cat goods shop Nora is also a couple of blocks away from here. The shop specializes in all sorts of goodies with cat designs, ranging from t-shirts, bags, clocks to cases for glasses.

**Kaiun Yanakado**
Address: 5-4-3, Yanaka, Taito
Hours: 10:30am-5:30pm
URL: [https://www.yanakado.com/](https://www.yanakado.com/)

**Cat Goods Shop Nora**
Address: 7-18-13, Yanaka, Taito
Hours: 12pm-5pm (11am-6pm on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays)

**Café Nekoemon**
Address: 5-4-2, Yanaka, Taito
Hours: 11am-6pm

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**Savvy Sightseeing Tips from the Editor**

**Explore the Hidden Beauty by Bike**

With countless small alleys dotted with shops, cafes and boutiques, Yanaka is best explored on a bike. Enjoy the unexpected pleasures that happen on the way, stop for a chat with locals, and have a cup of coffee along the road. tokyobike gallery Yanaka, a bike shop within an old Japanese-style house with a modern, fancy interior, offers three different bike models for rent at reasonable prices.

**Tokyobike Rentals Yanaka**
Address: 4-2-39, Yanaka, Taito
Hours: 10am-7:30pm (closed on Tuesdays)
Other Recommended Areas

Taito’s charm goes on

The amicable, easy-going atmosphere at these areas give visitors a rare opportunity to mingle with locals. Compared to Asakusa or Ueno, these areas are more quiet and people are generally more relaxed. Go off the beaten track and be rewarded with not just hidden gem spots, but also make friends with the welcoming locals.

Iriya Kishimojin (Shingenji Temple)

Iriya Kishimojin is a temple dedicated to the goddess of childbirth and child-rearing. It is famous for the Asagao (Morning Glory) Festival, which is held from July 6 to 8. Every year, 120 producers of morning glory and 100 other fair stalls flock in to take part in this large celebration. The history of the event goes back to the Edo period.
Address: 1-12-16, Shitaya, Taito

Torikoe Shrine

Torikoe Shrine has a history of about 1,360 years and is known for holding a huge festival every summer. The highlight of this magnificent festival is the parade of a nearly four-ton mikoshi, or portable shrine, down the neighborhood. Locals dressed in festive costumes lead the procession with colorful flags in hand.
Address: 2-4-1, Torikoe, Taito

Tokyo’s Best Hostels

Nui. and toco. are two ideal hostels to feel and experience Japanese everyday life. Both have a café/bar at the first floor, where locals come to mingle with international guests. Located nearby are cozy little restaurants you won’t find in most guidebooks and public baths frequented by people from the neighborhood. toco. is housed in a 90-year-old traditional Japanese house that remains as one of the few truly authentic spots left in Tokyo.

Nui.
Address: 2-14-13, Kuramae, Taito
URL: https://backpackersjapan.co.jp/nuihostel/english.html

toco.
Address: 2-13-21, Shitaya, Taito
URL: https://backpackersjapan.co.jp/toco/english.html
Funayado Ship Inn (Yakatabune Boat)

Funayado are services that provide cruising trips on Yakatabune, traditional Japanese-style wooden boats on which you can have dinner while appreciating river sceneries. Most of the Funayado are located in the Asakusabashi area. Yakatabune became a popular form of entertainment for upper class merchants and samurai during the Edo period. Today, passengers are served traditional Japanese cuisine on low tables while seated on tatami mats.

Tokyo Yakatabune Association
Address: 1-5-11, Yanagibashi, Taito
URL: https://www.yakatabune-kumiai.jp/en/

Kappabashi Kitchen ware Town

A short walk from Asakusa takes you to Kappabashi, a shopping street that has a century-long history. The place boasts the world's largest cookware market, attracting chefs from afar. Since Kappabashi was not meant to be a tourist destination in the first place, you will encounter more people in chef whites than those carrying backpacks. From noren shop curtains to sushi knives, everything necessary to open a restaurant – except fresh produce – can be purchased along this 800m long street. With more than 170 shops, you are sure to find something within your budget. There are also a couple of shops that sell plastic food samples: sushi, tempura, ramen, dumplings, hamburger, beer, parfait – you name it!
One way to see the shitamachi sights is via the Taito City Loop Bus, or Megurin, that plies four different routes to major tourist destinations within the area every 15-20 minutes.

Touring around the sprawling Ueno Park, Sensoji Temple and the cozy Yanaka Ginza shopping street, Megurin’s four different routes take you to all there is to see and do in Taito for a cheap price. With local sceneries on the way, the journey itself is half the fun! Of course, getting off at a random stop and finding yet to be discovered hidden gems is also an option.

The Megurin is not only convenient, but most lines also have an adorable retro look that takes you back in time. The buses come in four different colors to help users distinguish the routes. For a touch of fun, the buses even have their own original mascots!

How to Ride
Pay when you get on from the front. Press the "get off" button on the bus before your stop and leave from the back.

The Fare
Each ride is 100 yen and an All-Day Pass costs 300 yen. A repeater pass that can be used 11 times and a monthly pass are available at 1,000 yen and 3,000 yen respectively. IC cards as PASMO and Suica can also be used to pay.

URL: http://www.city.taito.lg.jp/index/kurashi/kotsu/megurin/rosenzu.html
As Tokyo’s shitamachi, craftsmen, artists and performers have been active in Taito for centuries. Over the years, the area has developed as a cultural hub that is home to many Japanese arts and crafts. From witnessing a Japanese tea ceremony to learning how to make wax food samples, Taito boasts a great number of facilities that allow tourists to directly experience such cultural assets.

Asakusa Jidaiya is a comprehensive facility for Japanese cultures and arts where you can hop on a rickshaw, take a Japanese calligraphy lesson and even wear a kimono. Café Nekoemon is a café where you can get creative and decorate your own manekineko (Japanese fortune cat statue). If you have ever wondered how the wax food samples you see in front of Japanese restaurants are made, Ganso Shokuhin Sample-ya Kappabashi Showroom has the answer. It is hard to believe that the lettuces and tempura you learn to make here, are not the real thing!

Experiencing a Japanese tea ceremony

I still remember my first tea ceremony lesson. Strongly influenced by Zen Buddhism, each movement in the tea ceremony – from preparing the tea to serving it – carries a meaning deeper than appearance. For example, as a thoughtful gesture, the host always skillfully serves the cup with the painted side facing the guest. In return, as a considerate guest, one should turn the cup outward so that the mouth does not touch the design when taking a sip. All of this is done without speaking a single word. The only sounds that reached my ears were the wind blowing and water flowing. This lesson changed my perspective on Japan in many ways and is worth every single yen.

Shop Information

Asakusa Jidaiya
Various Japanese cultural experience courses, including Japanese calligraphy, tea ceremony, kimono wearing, drumming and more.
Address: 2-3-5, Kaminarimon, Taito
URL: https://www.jidaiya.biz/index-e.html

Café Nekoemon
Do-it-yourself manekineko course
Address: 5-4-2, Yanaka, Taito
Hours: 11am-6pm
URL: https://www.yanakado.com/ (Japanese)

Ganso Shokuhin Sample-ya Kappabashi Showroom
Sample food making
Address: 3-7-6, Nishi-Asakusa, Taito
Hours: 10am-5:30pm
URL: https://www.ganso-sample.com/en/
Taito is the ideal point of departure to explore Japan in all its fascinating aspects. Thanks to bullet trains, traveling to historic, scenic attractions in the north is made possible in half a day. If you’ve never been on a bullet train, now is the time to book the ultimate experience in speed, service and comfort.

The Tohoku Shinkansen is a bullet train line in Japan that opened in 1982. It connects Tokyo with various locations in Tohoku region, the northeastern part of Honshu (mainland). With the opening of the Hokkaido Shinkansen in March 2016, travelers are able to extend their route further to Hakodate. Tohoku is known for excellent cuisine, unrivaled natural beauty, vibrant festivals and warm hospitality.

Kanazawa from Ueno can be reached as fast as 2 hours and 25 minutes by Hokuriku Shinkansen. Toyama, a city known for its fresh seafood caught at the Toyama Bay, is a major stop on the way. The Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route and the UNESCO World Heritage Site Gokayama, a mountain village known for its iconic houses of thatched roofs are in Toyama as well. The train also stops at Karuizawa (a resort town Beatles’ band member John Lennon frequented) and Nagano.

With the Joetsu Shinkansen, you can have breakfast in Tokyo, ski all day at one of the many ski resorts in Niigata Prefecture and still manage to be back in Tokyo for dinner. Skiers can get off at Echigo Yuzawa Station and either take a bus or rental car to their chosen hills. After a good ski, don’t forget to dip into an outdoor onsen to relax the body and soul, and enjoy sake tasting at Ponshukan, a sake museum located within the station building.
The Tobu Line is the fastest and most comfortable way to get to Nikko and Aizu from Tokyo. The area features the perfect blend of history and natural splendor.

**Tobu Railways**

The first major stop on the Tobu private railway from Asakusa is Nikko. Most visitors spend half a day here touring around the UNESCO World Heritage Sites-Toshogu, Rinnoji Temple and Futarasan Shrine-before setting foot at Kinugawa-Onsen, a hot spring resort embedded in spectacular landscape. Continue for a couple of stops on the railway and you will reach Aizu region, where you can still see the old streetscapes of Japan.

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**Taito's Neighbors**

All of the following major destinations in Tokyo are easy to access from Taito!

- **Ginza**
  Ginza is one of the most luxurious shopping streets in the world. Experience the ultimate glamor and elegance of Tokyo nowhere else than in this modern, chic area.

- **Shinjuku**
  Shinjuku is a kaleidoscope of treasures, offering everything from huge department stores, movie theaters, observation decks to authentic Japanese pub izakaya.

- **Tokyo Marunouchi**
  The Imperial Palace is just a short walking distance from Tokyo Station. The wide moats and massive stone walls alone make it an impressive sight.

- **Shibuya**
  This bustling fashion district is a must-see for any traveler. Be amazed by the Shibuya Crossing and see how thousands of pedestrians all cross at the same time without running into each other.
Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center

The avant-garde building in front of Sensoji Temple's Kaminarimon Gate is Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center. The staff here can help you search, show you and support you with anything you need in Taito City in English, Japanese, Chinese or Korean. Free wireless LAN and currency exchange services are available during the business hours for your convenience. The center comes equipped with a café, a nursing room and an observation terrace at the 8th floor that provides a view of Sensoji Temple and Nakamise Shopping Street with Tokyo Skytree in the background.

Hours: 9am-8pm (the Observation terrace is open until 10pm)     Address: 2-18-9, Kaminarimon, Taito
URL: http://www.city.taito.lg.jp/index/bunka_kanko/oyakudachi/kankocenter/

Tokyo Systemized Goodwill Guide

TOKYO SGG CLUB provides free sightseeing information and a choice of a free guided walking tour of Asakusa, the Ueno Park area and the Imperial Palace East Gardens area.

URL: https://tokyosgg.jp/ 03-6280-6710 (Open Every Day 9:30a.m.-5:00p.m.)

For more information and/or inquiries about Taito City, please contact Taito City Tourism Division or refer to Visit Authentic TOKYO, the area's official tourist information website.

Taito City Tourism Division
Address: 4-5-6, Higashi-Ueno, Taito
Tel: 03-5246-1111
URL: https://authentic-tokyo.com/ (Click on "Select Language" for automatic translation to your preferred language)