

TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

Tourist Information Centers with their multi-language staffs are invaluable places for obtaining detailed information on just about any subject. Visit certified local Tourist Information Centers.

Visas are required for some nationalities. Check with a Japanese embassy/consulate.

The currency is Yen (¥), convertible at the airport, international hotels and major banks. A 8% consumption tax is added to most goods and services.

Cash and Credit Cards Cash can be carried in Tokyo without anxiety. You will need cash for smaller dining spots and stores. Major credit cards are widely accepted in Tokyo.

ATM Service Major foreign credit, debit and cash cards can be used at some Post Office ATMs marked with the 'International ATM Service', some Seven Bank ATMs that can be found in Seven-Eleven convenience stores and some AEON Bank ATMs.

Climate Tokyo has 4 distinct seasons. Summer is hot and humid (25.2°C/77.4°F), autumn is comfortable (17.6°C/63.7°F), winter is cold, sunny and dry with occasional light snowfalls (5.2°C/41.4°F) and spring is mild with scattered showers (14.1°C/57.4°F). Mid-June to mid-July is the rainy season and September/October brings typhoons.

Electricity

100 volts AC. 50 Hz in Tokyo and eastern Japan, 60 Hz in Osaka and western Japan. Sockets take a two-prong plug with flat-sided prongs.

Emergency calls

Police: Tel.110

Fire and Ambulance: Tel.119

Police in English & Several Other Foreign Languages: Tel.03-3503-8484

AMDA International Medical Information Center: Tel.03-5285-8088

Tokyo Metropolitan Health & Medical Information Center: Tel.03-5285-8181



Tourist Information Center

ENTERTAINMENT

Never happened a lack of something to do is in Tokyo even during the evening. Movie theaters feature the latest films, both imported and domestic, and some theaters specialize in revival and 'classic' films. Listings can usually be found in one of the English-language daily newspapers.

Classical concerts and recitals, rock and jazz sessions by both visiting and local musicians are performed regularly at the many theaters, halls and clubs around town. Several resident symphony orchestras have full schedules. Tickets are sold at ticket agencies in the city.

Theaters presenting local and touring plays, operas and ballets abound and range from the stately New National Theatre to the Globe Tokyo, a reproduction of Shakespeare's original. Well-attended Kabuki productions run for most of the year and the various schools of Noh play offer frequent demonstrations of their art at their various specialized theaters. The all-women Takarazuka Revue, too, often puts on spectacular performance.

For the thirsty, the number of drinking establishments is infinite. Small 'red lantern' places which usually have one hanging beside the door, cater mainly to a regular clientele and serve mostly traditional snacks. "Izakaya" (Japanese-style pub) are popular with business people and university students. Rock clubs, "karaoke" singing bars, beer halls and clubs abound. Clubs are mainly concentrated in the Roppongi area.

There are various types of family entertainment including Ueno Zoological Gardens, which is the oldest zoo in Japan, several aquariums, many amusement and theme parks, such as Toshimaen, Tokyo Dome City, Tokyo Disney Resort, and Sanrio Puroland which is an indoor theme park where you can meet the world-famous Hello Kitty and other Sanrio characters.



Tokyo Zoological Park Society

SPORTS

Sumo wrestling, with Tokyo tournaments in January, May and September, Nippon Professional Baseball's season is from Apr-Oct, and football(J.LEAGUE)are the most popular spectator sports in the country. Sumo dates back some 1,500 years and baseball and football only just over a hundred, but it is difficult to tell which has the more avid fans.

The martial arts (Budō) such as Judo, Kendo, Karate, Kyudo and Aikido are mostly practiced at schools, with exhibitions only occasionally open to the public.



Sumo Wrestling ©NIHON SUMO KYOKAI

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

A range of cultural experiences in English is available.

Ikebana, the art of flower arrangements, emphasizes simplicity and precision of form with the aim of symbolizing the various aspects of nature.

■ **Sogetsu**: <http://www.sogetsu.or.jp/e/>

■ **Ohara School**: <http://www.ohararyu.or.jp/english/index.html>

■ **Ikebana International**

<http://www.ikebanahq.org/lessons.php>

The art of tea ceremony, or **Chanoyu**, is an aesthetic form of spiritual refinement that was originally very popular among the ruling samurai.

■ **Tea Ceremony in Tokyo**

<https://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/pdf/special/teaceremonyintokyo.pdf>

Tour Operators offers very unique tours to experience Japanese culture.

<http://japan-tours.jnto.go.jp/eng/index.php>

■ **Experience Japanese Culture,From The Traditional To The Brand New**

<https://www.gotokyo.org/en/tourists/attractions/experience/index.html>



Tea ceremony at Happo-en



Ikebana ©JNTO

SHOPPING

Shopping in Tokyo is an experience to remember. The sheer volume of merchandise and the endless variety of constantly changing goods attractively displayed have created a consumer's paradise.

The department store chains offer a bewildering array of products both Japanese and Western style, from flowers and food to Kimono and brand name designer clothes. They also frequently sponsor a variety of art exhibitions and cultural events. They usually have English-speaking assistants, and packing and shipping services. The Ginza, traditionally the most exclusive shopping area with a number of department stores and specialty shops, is being challenged by the Aoyama, Shibuya, Harajuku and Shinjuku areas where the young, trendy and affluent gather during the day.

Discount shopping is also to be found in the larger supermarkets and in the wholesale Asakusabashi (for traditional goods) and Kappabashi (for any kind of restaurant/dining/tableware; plastic food display) districts. At the other end of the spectrum are the arcades in or near the major hotels. For that special souvenir, try one of the flea markets held once or twice a month at certain temple and shrine compounds, where everything from genuine antiques to yesterday's bric-a-brac are offered for sale.

100-yen (1 coin) shops offer a wide variety of miscellaneous daily goods as well as small souvenirs, and can be found throughout the city.

Electronics enthusiasts find contentment in Akihabara, where electronics and parts for any conceivable appliance or audio-visual equipment are stocked in abundance. Shinjuku and Ikebukuro are also famous places for shopping. Tax-free shops are plentiful in Tokyo.

For the fashion-conscious, whether haute couture or the latest fad, the connecting Harajuku, Omotesando, Aoyama, Shibuya area is where you will more than likely find that special boutique with just what you wanted. Tokyoites are discriminating shoppers, and this is reflected in the shopping scene.



Shopping Omotesando ©TCVB

ANNUAL EVENTS IN TOKYO

The festivals of Japan are perhaps one of the country's greatest sources of enjoyment.

Listed here are only some of the major festivals in Tokyo. If you want to visit a festival during your stay, contact Tourist Information Centers.

January 1: New Year's Day. From the first to third, many companies and businesses are closed. Many people visit temples and shrines to pray for good health and happiness in the coming year.

January 6: *Dezomeshiki* or New Year's Fire Review with acrobatic stunts on top of tall ladders at Tokyo Big Site.

Mid-January (for 15 days) First Sumo Tournament at Ryogoku Kokugikan

February 3 or 4: *Setsubun* or bean-throwing festival is observed at leading temples and shrines across the country.

Mid-May (for 15 days) Third Sumo Tournament at Ryogoku Kokugikan

Mid-May Kanda Matsuri (Festival) of Kanda Myojin Shrine (held every odd-year). Dozens of *Mikoshi* (portable shrines) are on parade.

3rd Fri., Sat. & Sun. of May: Sanja Matsuri (Festival) of Asakusa-jinja Shrine, featuring a parade of 3 large portable shrines and 100 small ones.

Mid-June: Sanno Matsuri (Festival) of Hie-jinja Shrine features a procession of portable shrines through the busy streets of Akasaka District, every even year.

Last Sat. of July: Sumida River Fireworks Festival

Mid-September (for 15 days): Fifth Sumo Tournament at Ryogoku Kokugikan

Mid-October - Mid-November: Chrysanthemum Exhibitions at Yushima-tenjin Shrine and Sensoji Temple (Asakusa Kannon).

November 15: *Shichi-Go-San* is the shrine visiting day for children aged 3, 5 and 7 in appreciation of their good health given them by the guardian gods.

December 17-19: *Hagita-Ichi* (Battledore Fair) of Sensoji Temple (Asakusa Kannon).

SIDE TRIPS FROM TOKYO

Mt. Takao is 599 meters (1,965 feet) high and located in western Tokyo. It is rich in nature and is designated as a quasi-national park. About an hour from the center of Tokyo, it is a popular spot for mountain hiking. The autumn leaves in November and the plum blossom in February are particularly beautiful, attracting many people to the mountain. There is also a famous temple near the peak.

Kawagoe, 1 hr. by rail from Tokyo, flourished as a castle town in the 17th century during the Edo Period. The city has been designated an important preservation district for groups of historic buildings where rows of magnificent merchants' houses in the traditional storehouse-style stand side-by-side. It is called 'Ko-edo,' or 'Little Edo,' because of its city architecture. The feudal lord of Kawagoe Castle ordered a bell tolling the time he built in the 17th century. The Bell Tower has been rebuilt several times, and the present 4th-generation bell is a symbol of Kawagoe, together with the streets lined with these traditional houses.

Yokohama, 30 min. by rail from Tokyo, is the foremost port in Japan. A city with a colorful past, it has a long list of sites worth seeing. Among them are the Silk Center and the

Yokohama Doll Museum. Yamashita Park is the oldest park in Japan to be laid out along the sea, and has a historic ship permanently docked. The restaurants in Chinatown are legendary for their cuisine. The Landmark Tower has observation deck on the 69th floor.

Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum is a unique museum on ramen noodles as well as a small theme park that recreates a town of the Showa period (about 50 years ago). You can taste selected ramen restaurants from across the nation.

Kamakura, 1 hr. by rail from Tokyo, is an ancient city of some 120 temples and 41 shrines set in a semi-circle of protective hills. The administrative and military center of Japan from the 12th to 14th centuries, it retains a great deal of the charm of old Japan. It is also the home of the Great Buddha, considered one of the most beautiful statue in the world.

Hakone, 1 hr. 30 min. by rail from Tokyo, is a famous hot spring resort area set in the beautiful mountains which comprise the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. Among the variety of attractions the area has to offer is the outstanding Open-Air Museum of sculptures by noted artists from around the world. A small Picasso Museum is also on the grounds. On fine days magnificent views of Mt. Fuji are possible.

Mt. Fuji & the Five Lakes can be reached in 2 hrs. from Shinjuku. Mt. Fuji is Japan's highest mountain at 3,776 meters (12,388 feet) and is one of the world's most symmetrical cones. Around its broad base can be found many lakes, waterfalls, virgin forests, ice caves and various alpine plants. The region is an ideal recreation area year-round.

Fuji-Q Highland is a huge amusement park at the foot of Mt. Fuji. The park is popular for having many intense thrilling rides.

Gotemba Premium Outlets* can be reached in 100 min. by bus from Tokyo or Shinjuku.

Nikko, 2 hrs. by rail from Tokyo, is the shrine complex that inspired the saying, 'Never say splendid until you've seen Nikko'. Set in a lush cryptomeria forest, the magnificent Nikko Toshogu Shrine complex dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate, demonstrates the superb skill of the Edo period artisans. Carved, lacquered, painted and gilded, the buildings are inclined to dazzle one with the wealth of finely worked detail. Be sure to look for the famous 'See no evil, say no evil, hear no evil' monkeys. Nearby is delicate, dramatic Kegon Falls that descend in a pure line from the indigo waters of Lake Chuzenji. Another interesting side trip is **Edo Wonderland** at Kinugawa Onsen, where the life style of old Edo, present-day Tokyo, is re-created.



Mount Takao Station ©TCVB

Free Travel Information and Language Assistance

Tourist Information Center (TIC) of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its services range from providing travel information and free literature on Tokyo to offering suggestions on tour itineraries.

Shin-Tokyo Building 1F, 3-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-0005
Tel. 03-3201-3331
Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed: Jan. 1)



Tourist Information Centers (Narita International Airport):

Terminal 1:

Arrival Fl., Passenger Terminal 1 Bldg.,
Narita International Airport, Chiba 282-0004

Tel. 0476-30-3363

Open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day year-round

Terminal 2:

Arrival Fl., Passenger Terminal 2 Bldg.,
Narita International Airport, Chiba 282-0004

Tel. 0476-34-5877

Open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day year-round

JNTO Japan National Tourism Organization
日本政府観光局
<http://www.jnto.go.jp>



Overseas Offices

Seoul:	#202, Hotel President 2F Euiro 16, Jung-gu, Seoul, Korea	Tel: 02-777-8601
Beijing:	Beijing Fortune Bldg., Suite 410.5, Dong San Huan Bei Lu, Chao Yang District, Beijing 100004, China	Tel: 010-6590-8598
Shanghai:	Room 2111, Shanghai International Trade Centre, 2201, West Yan An Road, Shanghai 200036, China	Tel: 021-5466-2908
Hong Kong:	Unit 807-809, 8/F, Prosperity Millennia Plaza, 663 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong	Tel: 2968-5688
Delhi:	Unit No.203, 2nd Floor, East Wing, World Mark 1, Assef-11, Aerocity, New Delhi-110037	Tel: 011-4905-7650
Jakarta:	Summitmas 1, 2F, Jalan Jenderal Sudirman, Kaveling 61-82 Jakarta Selatan 12190, Indonesia	Tel: 21-252-0742
Singapore:	15 Raffles Quay #15-09, Hotel Leong Building, Singapore 048581	Tel: 6223-8205
Bangkok:	10th Floor Unit 1016, Sarns Mit Tower, 159 Sukhumvit 21St, Bangkok 10110, Thailand	Tel: 02-261-3525
Hanoi:	Unit 4.09 on the 4th Floor, CornerStone Building, 16 Phan Chu Trinh Street, Huan Kiem District, Hanoi, Vietnam	Tel: 024-3719-5950
Kuala Lumpur:	141 Floor, Chulan Tower, 3 Jalan Conlay, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Tel: 03-2712-4770
Sydney:	Suite 1, Level 4, 55 Clarence Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia	Tel: 02-9279-2177
New York:	One Grand Central Place, 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 448, New York, NY 10165, U.S.A.	Tel: 212-757-5640
Los Angeles:	797 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 4325, Los Angeles, CA 90017, U.S.A.	Tel: 213-623-1952
Toronto:	481 University Avenue, Suite 711, Toronto, MSQ 2E9, Canada	Tel: 416-366-7140
Rome:	3rd Floor, Via Barberis 95, 00187 Rome, Italy	Tel: 06-5444-3407
London:	3rd Floor, 32 Queensway, London, W2 3RX, U.K.	Tel: 020-7986-5670
Madrid:	Carrera de San Jeronimo 15 - 3C, Madrid, 28014 Spain	Tel: 91-077-0070
Frankfurt:	Kaiserstrasse 11, 60311 Frankfurt am Main, Germany	Tel: 069-20203
Paris:	4, rue de Ventadour 75001 Paris, France	Tel: 01-42-96-20-29
Moscow:	3rd Floor, 5, Bryanskaya Street, Moscow, Russia	Tel: 495-995-0120

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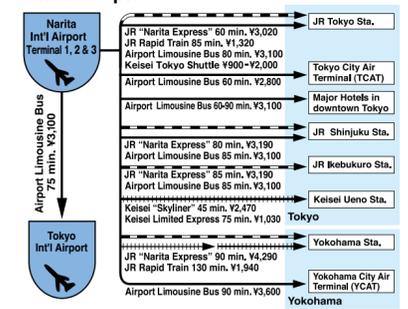
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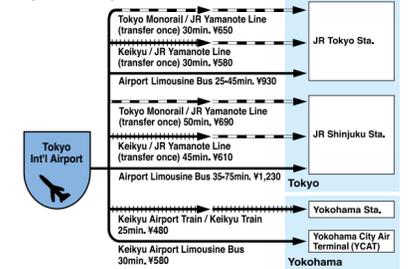
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GETTING THERE

Narita Int'l Airport



Tokyo Int'l Airport



Notes: 1. Average time & fare required shown.
2. Please allow enough time, since buses may be delayed due to traffic.

Useful web sites

- **East Japan Railway Company(JR-EAST)**
Tel.050-2016-1603 (JR East)
<http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/>
- **Keisei Railways : Keisei Skyliner / Keisei Limited express**
<http://www.keisei.co.jp/keisei/tetudou/skyliner/us/>
- **Airport Limousine Bus**
Tel.03-3665-7220
<http://www.limosinebus.co.jp/en/>
- **Tokyo Metro**
Tel.0120-104106
<http://www.tokymetro.jp/en/>

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations range from the best world-class hotels (¥30,000 — ¥100,000, excluding tax and service charge, for a single room) that offer a multitude of services to more moderate 'business' hotels (¥8,500 — ¥15,000, excluding tax and service charge, for a single room).

Traditional-style inns, Ryokan, let you experience some of the graciousness of old Japan; and your bedding is folded up and stored away during the day. Fresh tatami mats, softly sliding doors and luxurious Japanese baths (¥12,000 — ¥40,000 per person including two meals, tax and service charge are extra).

All hotels are clean, safe and comfortable. Budget accommodations such as youth hostels (¥3,450 — ¥4,050 excluding meals, plus tax) are also available.

Useful web sites

You can find every kind of accommodations.

- **Japan Hotel & Ryokan Search**
<http://www.jnto.go.jp/ja-search/eng/index.php>
- **Japan Hotel Association**
<http://www.j-hotel.or.jp/en/>
- **Japan Ryokan & Hotel Association**
<http://www.ryokan.or.jp/english/>
- **Japan City Hotel Association**
<http://www.jcha.or.jp/en/>
- **Japanese Inn Group**
<http://www.japaneseinn.org.com>
- **Japan Youth Hostels Inc.**
<http://www.jyh.or.jp/e/>

DINING

People in Tokyo are known for their preference for eating out and there are more than enough restaurants to satisfy them. Almost every kind of cuisine in the world is available, and eating establishments range from 5-star quality to modest vendors in stalls around the stations.

Fast food chains are also represented in force, both local and international ones. Most moderately-priced restaurants still have plastic models of what they serve in the window, and most traditional-style Japanese restaurants still specialize in one kind of cuisine.

Many coffee shops serve 'set' breakfasts and lunches, while standard restaurants, which serve dishes with elements of both Western and Japanese foods, have reasonably-priced luncheon 'sets'. Department stores invariably have a restaurant floor with a variety of Western, Asian and Japanese restaurants — usually toward the top — and their basement food floors and larger supermarkets have prepared foods 'to go'.

Truly fine restaurants are now plentiful and several world-renowned restaurants have opened up branches in Tokyo, although the smaller 'bistro' type can be equally as delicious.



©TCVB

Useful tickets

1. **NEX TOKYO Round Trip Ticket : 4,000 yen**
Special discount round ticket for overseas visitors when traveling from Narita Airport to major stations in the Tokyo area. Only available at Narita Airport (JR EAST Travel Service Center or JR Ticket Office).
http://www.jreast.co.jp/e/pass/nex_round.html
2. **Tokyo Metropolitan District Pass (Tokunai Pass): 750 yen**
Allows unlimited rides on JR East trains within the Tokyo area.
3. **Tokyo 1-day Ticket : 1,590 yen**
Allows unlimited one-day use on all Tokyo Metro lines, Toei subway, buses, trams as well as JR lines within the Tokyo area.
4. **Tokyo Metro One-day Open Tickets : 600 yen**
<http://www.tokymetro.jp/en/ticket/value/1day/>
5. **Tokyo Subway Ticket (24-hour: 800yen,48-hour:1,200yen, 72-hour:1,500yen)**
<http://www.tokymetro.jp/en/ticket/value/travel/>
6. **Toei 1-day Economy Pass: 700 yen : Allows unlimited one-day use on all Toei Metro lines and buses.**
7. **Yui-kamome One-day Pass: 820 yen**
8. **Suica and Pasmo**
Prepaid IC cards for travel on JR, subways, buses and private railways in almost all areas in Japan.
On purchasing a new card, deposit of 500 yen is needed (included in the total card amount).



Tokyo Metro



JR Yamanote Line

©JREAST

Guided Tours

It is not surprising that Tokyo, given its size and history, has more than its share of attractions to intrigue the visitor of every persuasion—from the imposing and grand to the subtle and poignant.

Tour companies offer fine morning, afternoon, day and night or special interest tours, with English-speaking guides. These are particularly convenient for the visitor pressed for time or for a first overall view of Tokyo.

JAPANESE.com http://www.japanican.com/en/tour/	Hato Bus Tour http://www.hatobus.com/en/ Tel.03-3435-6081
Club Tourism YOKOSO Japan Tour http://www.yokosojapan-tour.com Tel.03-6734-5115	Japan Gray Line Tour http://www.jgl.co.jp/inbound/ Tel.03-5275-6511
Japan Holiday Tours http://www.nbcw.co.jp/jt/index.html	

AREAS FOR STROLLING

The Imperial Palace Area (皇居) D, E4

Formerly Edo Castle, it is still surrounded by the innermost moat. Handsome gates and old guard towers are set at intervals around the site. The main entrance is approached by the elegant Nijubashi Bridge and is occasionally open to the public.

The East Gardens

The East Gardens (Higashi Gyoen), where the donjon once stood.

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (enter by 4:00 p.m. Mar-Apr.14 & Sep-Oct) / 5:00 p.m.(enter by 4:30 p.m. Apr.15 - Aug) / 4:00 p.m. (enter by 3:30 p.m. Nov- Feb.) Closed: Mon., Fri., Dec.23 & from Dec.28-Jan.3. It may close without notice in circumstances due to court functions or other occasions.

Marunouchi (丸の内) E4

Marunouchi spreading out on the west side of Tokyo Station is the largest office town in Japan. The construction of replacements for old buildings is presently being promoted, and compound buildings with offices, shops and first-class hotels are going up one after another.



Imperial Palace

Asakusa (浅草) G2

With the Sensoji Temple at its center, this lively area personifies the atmosphere of old 'downtown' Edo and offers glimpses into a more traditional life style. Kappabashi, which sells wholesale anything you would possibly want in the way of dishes, is within easy walking distance.

Tokyo Skytree® is the tallest free-standing broadcasting tower in the world at 634 meters (2,080 feet)tall. (as of Mar.,2018) There is the glass-walled observatory deck at 450 meters tall offer panoramic view of the city.



Tokyo Skytree® © TCVR

Ueno (上野) F2

The highlight of Ueno is Ueno Park which is a concentration of cultural institutions such as the first zoo in Japan, Ueno Zoological Gardens, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo Bunka Kaikan (Cultural Hall), National Museum of Western Art, National Museum of Nature and Science and Tokyo National Museum, all offering recreation and relaxation for the citizens. The park is particularly crowded in late Mar. to early April when people gather to enjoy the view of the evanescent cherry blossoms.

There is Ameya-yokocho Market, or "Ameyoko" in the area under the elevated railway from JR Ueno Station to Okachimachi Station. There are over 500 shops that sell everything from basic foods to high-class imported goods at reasonable prices, and thus it is always crowded with shoppers.

Akihabara (秋葉原) F3

Akihabara, the world's largest and most famous electronics district has also gained a reputation as a mecca for *Otaku*, or fanatics of anime, computer games or so-called "Cosplay." There are many anime related stores where you can find animation figures, costumes and manga.

Ginza (銀座) E5

Ginza is one of the most famous downtowns of Japan. Ginza means a silver mint, and its name derives from establishment of the silver coin mint in the 1600's. There are large department stores such as Mitsukoshi, Matsuya and many large-size store buildings dotted around 4-home in particular, where the street meets the intersection of Harumi-dori Avenue. In the whole area of Ginza, there are art galleries, innumerable restaurants and boutiques all competing each other of their styles, and every store boasts the tradition and its culture unique to Ginza. Many of world famous brand boutiques have opened their shops in Ginza which cast the town as an internationally noted area of top-fashion trend.



Ginza © TCVR

Tsukiji (築地) E6

Tsukiji located along the Sumida River lies next to the famous downtown area of Ginza in Tokyo. For most people, what springs to mind first when they hear the name 'Tsukiji' is the Tsukiji Market, also called 'Uogashi (fish market)'. This market handles the largest volume of fishery products in Japan, and the 480 kinds of products handled around-the-clock make this market globally unique.Tsukiji fish market will be moved to Toyosu in oct.,2018.

Hama-rikyu Gardens (浜離宮恩賜庭園) E6

The garden is a metropolitan garden of Tokyo located at the mouth of the Sumida River in Chuo-ku. It is called Hama-rikyu for short and cherished by all citizens. It is a landscape garden in a circular style with a tidal pond called Shioiri-no-ike. It was remodeled as a metropolitan garden on the site of the villa of the Tokugawa Shogun's family built in the 17th century. The garden has an atmosphere of utter tranquility where visitors can forget the passage of time. Visitors can also enjoy *matcha* (powdered green tea) and Japanese confections as refreshments at Nakajima-no-ochaya, a teahouse built on Nakajima Islet located in the middle of the pond.

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (enter by 4:30 p.m.)

Closed: Dec.29 - Jan.1

Ikebukuro (池袋) B1

It is a prominent downtown rivaling with the Ginza, Shinjuku, Shibuya and Asakusa. As it has often been selected as the scene for TV dramas and novels in recent years, the young people who are keen on the trend cast eager eyes on Ikebukuro. Sunshine City is the shopping and entertainment complex including an observatory 240 meters (787 feet) from the ground, NAMCO NAMJA TOWN which is the indoor theme park, aquarium, KONICA MINOLTA planetarium and the Ancient Orient Museum.

Shinjuku (新宿) A, B4

A high-rise shopping and entertainment hub. JR Shinjuku Station is an immense terminal, which serves the most passengers in Japan a day.

► Tokyo Metropolitan Government

One of Tokyo's landmarks with an observatory on the 45th floor. Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. (enter by 10:30 p.m.)

► Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden

This garden covers a large area of 58.3 hectares and offers rich greenery and tranquility, completely secluded from the hustle and bustle of Metropolitan Tokyo. It is renowned as an excellent place to see flowers and wild birds.

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed: Mon. & Dec.29-Jan.3 (If a Monday is a public holiday, then closed the following weekday.)

Shibuya (渋谷) B6

Shibuya is a popular shopping and entertainment paradise, particularly for the younger generation. Every street and area in the district has a completely different atmosphere. The Shibuya Center Street is crowded with a multitude of shops, including youth fashion shops, fast food restaurants and game centers, and it is famous as the place where new trends are born that quickly spread among the youth nationwide. Koehn-dori Street, which extends to Yoyogi Park, is a shopping street with a row of department stores and fashionable buildings that attract families in particular. This is a trendsetting place for youth culture.

Harajuku (原宿) B5

Harajuku is a collective term for the area that stretches from the Harajuku Station to Omotesando. On the west side of JR Harajuku Station, there is a wood of the Meiji-jingu Shrine that is famous for a Japanese iris field where irises bloom in profusion in the rainy season, June and a treasury that stores the articles Emperor Meiji cherished in the late 19th century. The east side of the station is known nationwide as the young people's town. On Takeshita-dori Street, in particular, this narrow pedestrian packed with young teenager in weekends.



Hama-rikyu Gardens © Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

Odaiba (お台場) F8

Odaiba, one exciting part of Tokyo Bay Development Area, also known as Rinkai Fukutoshin, is built on reclaimed land in the Port of Tokyo. The main access to Odaiba is via Yurikamome, a computerized unmanned transit system that crosses Rainbow Bridge at its entrance and runs through the area. Decks Tokyo Beach features Sega's Tokyo Joypolis (indoor theme park), many shops and restaurants. AQUA CITY ODAIBA is an entertainment complex (large cinema theaters) .Diver City Tokyo Plaza, is shopping complex adjacent to the 20-meters(65 feet)-high Gundam statue.

Other places of interest include Odaiba Kaihin Park, Miraikan(National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation), Museum of Maritime Science, Telecom Center Observatory, Fuji Television, Tokyo Big Sight (exhibition hall) and Panasonic Center. Oedo-Onsen Monogatari is a hot springs theme park where you can enjoy a variety of hot springs as well as the traditional lifestyle and culture of the earlier Edo Period.



Rainbow Bridge in Odaiba © Bureau of Port and Harbor, TMG

Omotesando/Aoyama (表参道 / 青山) B, C5

In Omotesando and its adjacent Aoyama, fashion designers began to set up their offices and studios after the Tokyo Olympics in 1964. Since then, more and more fashion stores for adults, fashionable coffee shops and restaurants have been built in this area. Aoyama with its zelkova tree lined avenue has the atmosphere that resemble those in European streets.



Omotesando © TCVR

Roppongi/Akasaka (六本木 / 赤坂) C5, 6

The town of Roppongi is filled with popular nightspots with visitors from abroad. There are many international shops and restaurants, so it should be easy to find something to suit your taste. This area is now developing into an artistic and cultural center with two major entertainment complexes. *Roppongi Hills* houses a cinema complex, restaurants, and the Mori Art Museum and on the 52nd floor is "Tokyo City View" where a 11m height of glass-walled observatory offers stunning views of the city. *Tokyo MIDTOWN* includes the Suntory museum of Arts,21 21 DESIGN SIGHT as well as international restaurants and boutiques.



Roppongi Hills Tokyo City View © TOKYO CITY VIEW

MUSEUMS

The list of museums in and around Tokyo is long, and many specialize in one particular area. If your field of interest is not represented in the selection below, consult with Tourist Information Centers. Admission prices vary. Generally closed Monday (or the day after if it is a national holiday) and the New Year's holidays. Enter 30 min. before closing time.

Tokyo National Museum (東京国立博物館) F2 boasts the longest history of any museum in Japan with an extensive collection of over 117,000 pieces associated with the fine arts and history of Japan and neighboring countries. Hours: 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m./Open until 9p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Closed: Mon. & the year end through New Year's holiday. Getting there: 10-min. walk from JR or subway Ueno Sta.

The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (東京国立近代美術館) E4 houses Japanese art since the Meiji period on the three upper floors, visiting collections on the ground floor. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m./8:00 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) Closed: Mon. , Dec. 28 - Jan. 1 & during changing exhibition. Getting there: 3-min. walk from subway Takebashi Sta.

The National Art Center, Tokyo (国立新美術館) C5 has Japan's largest exhibition space as a venue for various art exhibitions. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Closed: Tue. & the year end through New Year's holiday. Getting there: 1 - min. walk from Nogisaka Sta. or 5 - min. walk from Roppongi Sta.

The National Museum of Western Art (国立西洋美術館) F2 was designed by Le Corbusier and holds an impressive collection of Western art from the Renaissance to the present. Hours: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m./8:00 p.m. (Fri.) Closed: Mon. , Dec. 28 - Jan. 1 & during changing exhibition. Getting there: 1-min. walk from JR or subway Ueno Sta.

National Museum of Nature and Science (国立科学博物館)

F2 houses both international and Japanese achievements in biology, earth science and zoology. Hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m./8:00 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) Closed: Mon. & Dec. 28 - Jan. 1. Getting there: 5-min. walk from JR or subway Ueno Sta.

Miraikan National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (日本科学未来館) F8 allows visitors of all ages to interact with its exhibits in order to come away with a greater understanding of the recent scientific discoveries that are changing the way we view the world. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Closed: Tue. , Dec. 28 - Jan. 1 & during facility maintenance. Getting there: 4-min. walk from Telecom Center Sta. on Yurikamome Line

Edo-Tokyo Museum (江戸東京博物館) G3 houses various displays which enable visitors to learn the history, life styles and culture of Tokyo, including those in the Edo period. Hours: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m. (Sat.) Closed: Mon. & the year end through New Year's holiday. Getting there: 3-min. walk from JR Ryogoku Sta.

Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum (江戸東京たてもの園), the branch of the Edo-Tokyo Museum, preserves restored farm houses, residences, public bath house, Japanese-style pub, soy sauce store and other buildings of periods from the 19th to early 20th centuries. Hours: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Oct.-Mar.)/5:30 p.m. (Apr.-Sep.) Closed: Mon. & Dec. 28 - Jan. 4. Getting there: 5 min. from JR Musashi-Koganei Sta. by bus.

Idemitsu Museum of Arts (出光美術館) E5 has an excellent collection of calligraphy, woodblock prints and ceramics. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m./7:00 p.m. (Fri.) Closed: Mon., the year end through New Year's holiday & during changing exhibition. Getting there: Near subway Hibiya Sta. or 5-min. walk from JR Yurakucho Sta.

The Japan Folk Crafts Museum (日本民藝館) A5 features a collection of furniture, textiles and ceramics by unknown craftsmen

