



Tokyo

Photo: Clement Souchet/unsplash



Phattana Stock/shutterstock

Tokyo's technological leaps and passion for everything new have made the rest of the world sit up and take notice. A city made of smaller cities, Tokyo's neighbourhoods are individual and unique in what each can offer, from cultural sights to vast shopping malls. Get ready for a whirlwind of modernity and tradition in the neon-lit Japanese capital.



Pema Lama/unsplash



YP_photographer/shutterstock

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THE CITY



Jezael Melgoza/unsplash

Before you set your foot outside your hotel door, be aware of Tokyo's complicated address system. Very few streets have names; instead, they are identified by numbers indicating district (Chōme), block (Banchi) and house number (Gō). For example, "1-11-18, Shibuya, Shibuya-ku" would translate as the 18th building of the 11th block of the 1st area of Shibuya in Shibuya ward. Invest in a bilingual map of Tokyo and don't hesitate to ask the police for directions. Even the locals can get confused!

Once you have grasped the navigation system, Tokyo is a delight to get around. The metro is incredibly efficient, the city is clean, and people are courteous and friendly. Though addresses may be confusing, Tokyo is divided neatly into 23 wards ('tokubetsu-ku' or just 'ku'), each with a distinctive characteristic. Visit Taitō (Asakusa specifically) for old-town charm and temples, Chūō (especially Ginza) for shopping, and Akihabara district in Chiyoda ward for electronics galore. Blend old and new to get a taste of Tokyo's great diversity.

Endless variety is Tokyo's trump card. Few other world cities are as wonderfully idiosyncratic. International and local influences intertwine in cuisine, festivals, music, galleries, shopping and even accommodation. Bizarre and fast-moving,

yet peaceful and intrinsically religious, Tokyo's identity is above all, distinctly Japanese, despite existing as a world of its own.

DO & SEE



oneinchpunch/shutterstock

Whether you're a techie or want to take in some more traditional Japanese sights and sounds, this city can offer it all. Visit splendid Shinto shrines or indulge in some shopping on Tokyo's equivalent of Fifth Avenue.

Meiji Jingu



This nationally recognised Shinto shrine is considered one of Japan's primary symbols of the country's major religion. Take in the huge 11-metre cypress tree torii (gate) before wandering peacefully along winding paths to the wonderful inner buildings.

Near the main complex, the modern Meiji Jingu Museum displays personal artefacts of the imperial couple, from manuscripts to garments. For a small fee, the Inner Garden (Jingu Naien) reveals a landscape of seasonal beauty, most famous for its June iris blooms.

Photo: Nattee Chalermtiragool/shutterstock

Address: 1-1, Yoyogikamizonocho, Shibuya, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3379 5511

Internet: www.meijijingu.or.jp/en

Mount Fuji & Hakone 1-Day



Escape the hustle and bustle of Tokyo and discover Japan's natural wonders around World Heritage Mount Fuji and Hakone in just one day.

Visit the 5th Station of Mt Fuji, explore the Ninja House, and relax in a Japanese Garden. Later, experience the vibrant energy of Owakudani, the Great Boiling Valley, go for a landscape ride on a sky gondola, then feel the breeze from a Lake Ashi cruise.

Photo: Sean Pavone/shutterstock

Internet: www.jptours.co.jp/items/81026193

Senso-ji



The Senso-ji temple is Tokyo's oldest-established Buddhist temple. Though a major tourist attraction, this is primarily a traditional, local site

where worshippers cast coins, clap ceremoniously and bow in respect to an image of Kannon, the Goddess of Compassion.

Photo: IM_photo/shutterstock

Address: 2-3-1 Asakusa, Taito-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3842 0181

Internet: www.senso-ji.jp/english

More Info: Officially Kinryū-zan Sensō-ji, also known as Asakusa Kannon.

Kabuki-za



The stylised Kabuki-za theatre performance consists of elaborate choreography and makeup combined with colourful traditional nagauta music. In the 17th century, female kabuki performers were banned; men now play the roles of both genders most convincingly.

Photo: LO Kin-hei/shutterstock

Address: 4-12-15 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3545 6800

Internet:

www.kabukiweb.net/theatres/kabukiza/kabukiza-information

Shibuya Crossing



Crossing the streets in front of the Shibuya Station is an experience on its own. Approximately 3,000 people cross the road at a time. Many street artists gather in this area to show their performances. You can also find the statue of the famous and loyal dog Hachikō between the station and the intersection.

The crossing is most electrifying after dark, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings, when neon signs and enormous screens bathe the crowds in a kinetic glow. For the best perspective, head to Mag's Park, the rooftop observatory atop the Shibuya 109-2 department store, which offers a panoramic view of the human tide below.

Photo: f11photo/shutterstock

Go-Kart Tour

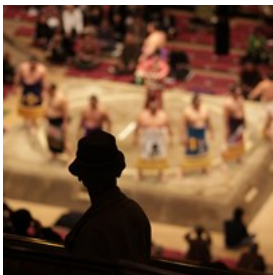


Experience Tokyo in a fun and unique way on a street go-kart tour dressed in costumes from your favourite game or anime character. Zip past

iconic landmarks such as the Rainbow Bridge and Tokyo Tower, and enjoy stunning views of Tokyo Bay.

Photo: 135pixels/shutterstock
Internet: www.kart.st/en

Sumo Wrestling



Sumo wrestling is possibly Japan's most recognised cultural event.

Dating back 2,000 years, Sumo is the country's national sport, and as

such combines religious, athletic, and traditional features. There are several places to watch, check the tour schedule on their website to find out which suits you best. There is also a Sumo museum.

Photo: J. Henning Buchholz/shutterstock
Address: Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Arena, Sumo Museum, 1-3-28 Yokoami, Sumida-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 3622 0366
Internet: www.sumo.or.jp/En/

Ryogoku



Ryōgoku is the spiritual home of sumo, Japan's national sport, where it's common to see wrestlers in traditional dress milling about the iconic

Kokugikan stadium. The district's identity is deeply rooted in the Edo period (1603-1868), a legacy preserved in its exceptional museums.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Edo-Tokyo Museum (reopening in spring 2026) offers a vast, immersive journey through the city's history, while the sleek Sumida Hokusai Museum celebrates the life and iconic woodblock prints of the local ukiyo-e master.

Beyond the museums, the area is saturated with sumo culture. You can taste Chankonabe (the wrestlers' hearty stew) in local restaurants and may glimpse trainees from nearby stables. With its historic Ekoin Temple and traditional craft workshops, Ryōgoku offers a compelling, culturally rich escape into old Tokyo.

Photo: J. Henning Buchholz/shutterstock
Address: Ryōgoku, Sumida-ku, Tokyo
Internet: www.japan-guide.com/e/e3022.html

Tokyo National Museum



For a taste of Japanese history, this is where you'll find Japan's largest collection of Asian artefacts. The main gallery, Honkan, displays

an impressive assortment of swords, masks, wood-block prints and kimonos while other must-see features include the 7th-century bronze-seated Buddhas in the Horyu-ji Homotusukan.

Photo: thebunwangs/shutterstock
Address: 13-9 Ueno Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 5777 8600
Internet: www.tnm.jp

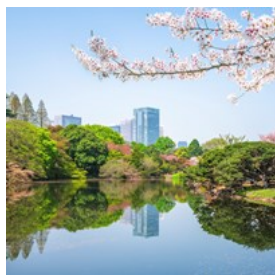
Mori Art Museum



At the top of Mori Tower in the vast Roppongi Hills, this one of the major contemporary art museums in Tokyo combines breathtaking views with fresh artistic talent. The museum has held exhibitions featuring a number of big-name artists from Japan and beyond, including Yayoi Kusama, Ai Weiwei, Anish Kapoor and Jeff Koons. Of particular note are the visual projections allowing guests to traverse through virtual imagery and environments. Also includes The Sun cafe, The Moon restaurant, a gift shop and a panoramic observation deck.

Photo: J. Henning Buchholz/shutterstock
Address: 52 & 53F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower, 6-10-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 5777 8600
Internet: www.mori.art.museum/en

Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden



Shinjuku Gyoen offers a serene escape from Tokyo's skyscraper district, blending traditional Japanese landscapes with elegant French formal gardens and expansive English lawns. Originally an imperial retreat (1906), it reopened to the public in 1949 and remains a favourite for picnics and cherry-blossom viewing. Don't miss the sleek greenhouse brimming with tropical plants, the historic Taiwanese pavilion overlooking reflective ponds, or Momijiyama's fiery autumn maples. With over a dozen cherry varieties, the bloom season stretches unusually long.

Photo: Richie Chan/shutterstock
Address: 11 Naito-machi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3350 0151
Internet:
www.env.go.jp/garden/shinjukugyoen/english/index.html

Tokyo Great Cycling Tour



To discover the city in a different way, a bike tour might be exactly what you're looking for. Tokyo Great Cycling Tour is a guided tour which will take you to the major tourist spots in Tokyo. You'll pass by the Tsukiji Jogai Market, Zojoji Temple, Roppongi District, Aoyama Cemetery, Meiji Jingu and Imperial Palace.

Photo: maroke/shutterstock
Address: Meeting point: 1-3-2, Shinkawa, Chuo-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 4590 2995
Internet: www.tokyocycling.jp
Email: info@tokyocycling.jp

Tokyo Disneyland



This amazing fantasyland also exists in Tokyo; a paradise for young and old. Tokyo Disneyland offers seven themed lands like the Adventureland where you can enjoy a jungle cruise or why not explore the Westernland and go on a mine train roller coaster? There is also an area called Fantasyland where you can wander around Prince Charming and Cinderella's castle.

Additionally, there is Tokyo DisneySea which is located in Tokyo Disney Resort. It also provides seven themed ports with lots of fun for all ages.

Photo: SweetLeMontea/shutterstock
Address: 1-1 Maihama, Urayasu-Shi, Chiba, Tokyo
Public Transport: Maihama JR Station
Phone: +81 45 330 5211

Internet: www.tokyodisneyresort.jp/en/tld

National Museum of Nature & Science



The National Museum of Nature and Science offers a comprehensive journey through Japan's natural history and scientific development. Its

collections span from pre-Meiji scientific instruments to modern technology, including a real rocket launcher and a digital seismograph tracking earthquakes in real time.

The museum is famous for its lifelike dinosaur exhibitions, a major draw for younger visitors, and houses the taxidermied figures of the loyal dog Hachikō and the Antarctic sled dogs Taro and Jiro. The Japan Gallery explores the archipelago's diverse ecosystems, featuring wildlife from Hokkaidō bears to Okinawan giant beetles. Other notable exhibits include an Edo-period mummy and an immersive 360-degree theatre.

Photo: Sarunyu L/shutterstock

Address: 7-20 Ueno Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 5777 8600

Internet: www.kahaku.go.jp/english

Kabukicho



Shinjuku's Kabukicho red-light district transforms after dark into a spectacle of neon-lit alleyways. The experience is defined by

its visual energy, from the looming Godzilla head to the blinking signs of robot-themed restaurants. While not officially part of the district, the nearby lanes of Golden Gai and Omoide Yokocho offer a contrasting, intimate

atmosphere with their tiny, traditional bars and eateries.

A relatively new addition to the neighbourhood, Thermae-Yu is a six-storey onsen. The complex uses natural hot spring water sourced daily from Shizuoka. With facilities open for 22 hours every day, it functions as a popular overnight refuge for those who have missed the last train, offering a place to rest until the city stirs again at dawn.

Photo: Tawei Yang/shutterstock

Address: Kabukicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Internet: www.japan.travel/en/spot/1668

Rainbow Bridge



The Rainbow Bridge is more than a transport link; it's a defining feature of Tokyo Bay's skyline, connecting the mainland to the futuristic

Odaiba district. Its 798-metre span includes dedicated pedestrian walkways on both its north and south sides. You can cross the bridge on foot in 20–30 minutes with uninterrupted views. The southern side provides the classic panorama of Odaiba's skyline, while the northern side frames Tokyo Tower against the city.

While officially named the Tokyo Bay Connector Bridge, it earns its popular name from the colourful illumination of its white towers at night, creating a romantic silhouette. Note that the walkways close at 9pm in summer and 6pm in winter. For the best photographs, time your crossing for sunset when the city lights begin to sparkle.

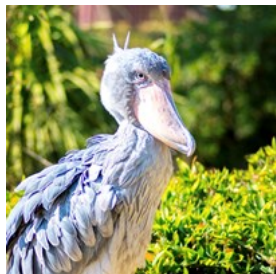
Photo: Travel mania/shutterstock

Address: Minato-ku, Tokyo

Opening hours: Walkways: April through October: daily

9am-9pm; November through March: daily 10am-6pm
Internet: www.visit-minato-city.tokyo/en/places/700
More Info: No bicycles are permitted.

Ueno Zoo



Ueno Zoo is the oldest zoo in Japan. It was founded in 1882, and today it holds 3,000 animals of more than 400 different species and provides all visitors a learning experience. In the East area, you will find pandas, native animals of Japan, mammals and ocean creatures. In the West area, you will find African animals, reptiles, small mammals, and a children's zoo.

Photo: Yoko Ken Chan/shutterstock
Address: 9-83, Ueno Park, Taito-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 3828 5171
Internet: www.tokyo-zoo.net/english

Shimokitazawa



Shimokitazawa, lovingly abbreviated to Shimokita, is a celebrated bohemian enclave just a few stops from Shibuya. It offers a distinct, relaxed counterpoint to Tokyo's central intensity. The labyrinth of narrow, pedestrian-friendly lanes is a haven for vintage clothing stores, independent boutiques and intimate live music venues. While recent developments like the Mikan Shimokita and Reload complexes have modernised the area around the station, the district's soul remains in its backstreets, packed with quirky cafés, second-hand bookshops and eclectic bars.

The neighbourhood is roughly divided into two distinct vibes. The south side buzzes with restaurants and nightlife, while the north offers a

more laid-back atmosphere for browsing and coffee. Despite ongoing gentrification, Shimokitazawa retains its creative, slightly scruffy spirit, making it the perfect place to spend an afternoon hunting for vintage treasures before settling into a cosy bar for the evening.

Photo: Susann Schuster/unsplash
Address: Shimokitazawa, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo

Nakano



Nakano provides a distinct experience for visitors interested in Tokyo's specialist subcultures. Less central than Akihabara, this neighbourhood draws a more knowing crowd of enthusiasts. The district serves as a central point for otaku culture, a Japanese term for people with dedicated, often deep interests in areas like anime, manga and video games. Its primary attraction is Nakano Broadway, a multi-level mall from the 1960s that houses a dense collection of specialist shops, including the flagship Mandarake complex, selling vintage toys, comics and collectables.

Access to the mall is through the Nakano Sun Mall, a covered shotengai (shopping arcade) filled with everyday shops and eateries. In recent years, Nakano Broadway has also developed a parallel reputation for its concentration of dealers in high-end vintage watches.

Photo: gritsalak karalak/shutterstock
Address: Nakano-ku, Tokyo
Internet:
www.gotokyo.org/en/destinations/western-tokyo/nakano

Tokyo Skytree



The area surrounding Tokyo Skytree represents a modern counterpart to the traditional atmosphere of nearby Asakusa. While the 634-metre tower itself draws visitors with its two observation decks, the district at its base functions as a comprehensive destination. The Tokyo Solamachi complex houses over 300 shops and restaurants, the Sumida Aquarium, and a planetarium.

This riverside part of Sumida Ward has been reshaped by the tower's development, creating a commercial hub with plazas and green spaces that offer dramatic perspectives of the structure itself.

Photo: Sean Pavone/shutterstock

Address: Tokyo Skytree Town, Oshiage, Sumida-ku

Internet: www.tokyo-skytree.jp/en

Ueno



The district of Ueno functions as a major transport hub and a concentrated centre for culture and commerce. Its core is Ueno Park, a spacious public ground that contains several major institutions. These include the Ueno Zoo, the Tokyo National Museum with its comprehensive Japanese collection, the National Museum of Nature and Science, and the National Museum of Western Art.

South of the station, the Ameya-Yokochō market street presents a different atmosphere. This crowded street with covered alleyways started as a post-war black market, and now features

vendors selling seafood, clothing and spices.

Photo: Madsolar/shutterstock

Address: Ueno, Taitō-ku, Tokyo

Internet: www.japan-guide.com/ad/kampai-in-ueno

Japanese Cooking Classes



If you really want to dive into the Japanese culture, you can't miss out on getting to know local cuisine and culinary traditions that go back centuries. Classes focusing on making sushi are the most popular ones, but you should consider learning to make a proper bowl of umami-rich ramen, crunchy gyozas, or a variety of healthy side dishes.

Photo: Orest Drozda/shutterstock

Internet: <https://washoku.site/sushimakingtokyo>

Yebisu Beer Museum



In this museum, you'll learn the history of the Yebisu beer, first produced in 1890. Partake in a guided tour or stroll through the museum on your own and end the tour in the tasting corner, where you can purchase 6 different kinds of brews, produced in the Yebisu halls.

Photo: View Apart/shutterstock

Address: 4-20-1 Ebisu, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 03 542 372 55

Internet: www.sapporobeer.jp/english

DINING



cowardlion/shutterstock

With over 300,000 restaurants, cafés and food stalls, Tokyo's greatest culinary challenge is its sheer abundance. While celebrated for clean, fresh flavours, the city's food scene invites deeper exploration, from world-class sushi to inventive small plates in a bustling izakaya or at a smoky yatai stall.

Fine dining here commands a premium, but venues like the New York Grill deliver exceptional cuisine and, in some cases, breathtaking city vistas. A smart strategy is to target high-end restaurants at lunch, when many offer more accessible set menus. For any popular spot, booking ahead is essential, particularly on weekends. It's also wise to note local customs; for instance, sticking chopsticks vertically into a bowl of rice is a ritual reserved for funerals.

Teshigotoya Seigetsu



Dinner at a traditional izakaya is not to be missed. Primarily serving as bar space, these 'sake places' are also renowned for their tapas-style

Japanese food. Seigetsu is a large izakaya but has been cleverly divided with delicate bamboo screens to give it a cosy feel. Relax in the

comfortable surroundings under subdued lighting in an interior that is pure Tokyo.

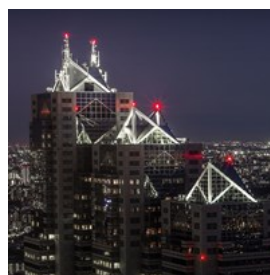
Photo: Chiristumo/shutterstock

Address: 2F Kamiya Building, 6-77, Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3269 4320

Internet: www.instagram.com/teshigotoya.seigetsu_kgrzk

New York Grill



Dine with the stars at the top of the Park Hyatt Hotel, where the modern seafood and meat dishes easily match the standard of the restaurant's

location. Dinner on a weeknight is a pleasure, but the Grill is particularly famous for its Sunday brunch, when expats take over the dining room.

Photo: Dimitri Lamour/shutterstock

Address: Park Hyatt Tokyo, 3-7-1-2, Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 5323 3458

Internet: www.restaurants.tokyo.park.hyatt.co.jp/en

Elio Locanda Italiana



Elio lies off the beaten track just enough to convince people they're eating in one of Tokyo's hidden treasures.

Receiving rave reviews

from its many regulars, steaming bowls of pasta are served up amidst noisy chatter from local residents. Service is polished, and the atmosphere is Mediterranean in attitude.

Photo: Melica/shutterstock

Address: 2-5-2, Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3239 6771

Internet: www.elio.co.jp/locanda

Brasserie Aux Amis



This Parisian-style bistro in Tokyo's business district serves country-style French classics. The menu, featuring juicy steaks and

the ubiquitous frites, is chalked onto large wall mirrors. A relaxed crowd fills the red leather banquettes, enjoying hearty lunches by day and more substantial four-course dinners each evening.

Photo: bylilyly/shutterstock

Address: 1/F Shin-Tokyo Building, 3-3-1, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 6212 1566

Internet: www.auxamis.com/brasserie

Pizzakaya Roppongi



Pizzakaya Roppongi brings a slice of California gourmet pizza to the table, pairing its creative pies with a selection of American

craft beers. The kitchen prioritises fresh ingredients, and the option of a half-and-half pizza makes it an easy choice for groups with different tastes.

Photo: Bondart Photography/shutterstock

Address: 2/F Koyama Building, 3-1-19, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3479 8383

Internet: www.pizzakaya.com

Toh-Ka-Lin



Toh-Ka-Lin has been serving some of the finest Chinese cuisine in Tokyo since Hotel Okura opened in 1962. At this stylish restaurant, located on the

12th floor, you can enjoy food such as Peking duck or authentic Cantonese dim sum, prepared by Chinese dumpling masters, while looking out over Tokyo's skyline. The restaurant also has one of the most extensive wine lists in the town.

Photo: J Thasit/shutterstock

Address: The Okura Prestige Tower, 2-10-4, Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3505 6068

Nirvanam



Nirvanam (or Nirvana in English) has many meanings but in a simple way it can be described as "bliss" — the highest state of satisfaction and

happiness. This is exactly what the restaurant strives to achieve by offering appropriate ambience, friendly service and authentic North and South Indian food. You will find this Indian restaurant in the heart of Tokyo, close to Tokyo Tower.

Photo: PI/shutterstock

Address: B1F Toranomon Jitsugyo Kaikan, 1-1-20, Minato-ku, Toranomon, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 5510 7875

Internet: www.nirvanam.jp

Burger Mania Hiroo



As the name suggests, Burger Mania serves burgers with every delicious filling. The interior design gives a fresh feeling and if the

weather permits there is an outdoor terrace where you can enjoy your food. Be sure to get here with an empty stomach since the staff serves generously sized burgers.

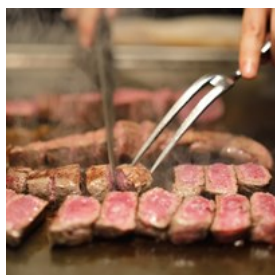
Photo: christy clow/shutterstock

Address: 2F, 5-15-25, Minamiazabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 5422 7899

Internet: www.burger-mania.com

Kobe Beef Kaiseki 511



The name of the restaurant 511 comes from the fact it only uses meat of the highest quality — A5 grade beef with a beef marbling

standard value of 11. At this renowned restaurant, you can relish the finest Kobe beef. With your tasty food, choose a glass of wine from the extensive wine list, all served by the attentive staff.

Photo: Kulit Na Nakorn/shutterstock

Address: B1F Deer Plaza Akasaka, 4-3-28, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 6685 0511

Internet: kobebeef511.jp/en

Salsita



Salsita is a charming small restaurant with authentic Mexican food. The chef offers mid-sized portions of food, which are only prepared from

fresh and high-quality ingredients. What would a Mexican restaurant be without its tequila? On the menu, you will find a wonderful selection of Mexican drinks.

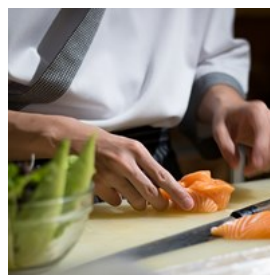
Photo: Wirestock Creators/shutterstock

Address: 4-5-65 Minamiazabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 50 5594 0809

Internet: www.instagram.com/salsita_mexican

Ise Sueyoshi



Highly acclaimed restaurant, praised by locals and tourists alike, and many overseas visitors are falling over themselves to get a table

at this petite spot. Ise Sueyoshi truly offers a unique dining experience by serving traditional Kaiseki (a traditional Japanese multi-course dinner). Chef Yuuki-san is passionate about his craft and has a deep understanding of the ingredients and the flavours of Japan.

Photo: one photo/shutterstock

Address: 4-2-15 Nishiazabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 6427 2314

Internet: www.ise-sueyoshi.com/top-en

Matsuya Ueno



Matsuya is a beef bowl restaurant chain that can be found all over Tokyo. They mainly offer gyudon, their beef on rice plates, but you can also order

Japanese curry and grilled chicken, in varying sizes. Every order comes with your choice of soup and salad dressing, as well as miso soup.

Photo: YDG/shutterstock

Address: Ishii Building, 4-9-5 Ueno, Taitō-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 80 5928 0661

Internet: www.matsuyafafoods.co.jp/english

Ikinari Steak



Offering high-quality steak at a reasonable cost, Ikinari Steak is a chain restaurant that lets you choose the weight of your meal, to be enjoyed either seated at a table or standing at one of the counters. The menu focuses entirely on beef, with options including black Angus but also the traditional Wagyu.

Photo: HikoPhotography/shutterstock

Address: 2-5-11 Shinjuku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 6273 2929

Internet: www.ikinaristeak.com/shopinfo/shinjuku-2

CAFÉS



oneinchpunch/shutterstock

Tokyo's café culture is a fascinating mix of tradition and modernity. The classic kissaten (tea-drinking shops that also serve coffee) dot the city, catering to a nation of caffeine enthusiasts. This love affair has even birthed unique sub-genres like the 24-hour manga café, offering comics, internet access, and a quiet space for night owls.

Within these spaces, a certain etiquette prevails. Embrace the spirit of *sado* (the "way of tea") by sipping your drink slowly to appreciate its

nuances. The atmosphere is typically one of quiet contemplation, so keep conversations hushed and take phone calls outside. When ordering, be prepared to pay at the counter. Cash is often preferred in smaller, traditional establishments.

Kayaba Coffee



Kayaba Coffee is a cherished piece of Yanaka's history. This kissaten (traditional Japanese coffee shop) first opened its doors in 1938 and, after a brief closure, was revived by local volunteers in 2008. Housed in a building from the early 1900s, it serves a classic menu of coffee, cheesecake, and light meals like omelettes and sandwiches. For the full experience, head upstairs to the tatami-mat seating area.

Photo: Daniel Hooper/unsplash

Address: 6-1-29 Yanaka, Taito-ku, Tokyo

Internet: www.taireki.com/en/kayaba.html

Shiro-Hige's Cream Puff Factory (TOLO)



Shiro-Hige's Cream Puff Factory is a small bakery and cafe in Setagaya, a short walk from the bohemian Shimokitazawa. It is known for its cream puffs, which are shaped like the character Totoro from Studio Ghibli films. The cafe has two parts: a ground-floor bakery for takeaway purchases and an upstairs cafe called TOLO, which serves light meals and coffee alongside the cream puffs.

The cream puffs come in flavours like custard, chocolate, and seasonal varieties. The cafe's interior features decorations that evoke a whimsical, Ghibli-inspired atmosphere. Due to

the limited seating, a queue can form for the cafe, though the takeaway service typically has a shorter wait.

Photo: trudyvianda/shutterstock

Address: 5-3-1 Daita, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 5787 6221

Internet:

www.thetravelpockets.com/new-blog/totoro-cafe-tokyo

Onibus Coffee Nakameguro



Onibus (literally "demon bus") Coffee operates from a renovated house directly beside Nakameguro Station.

Housed in a renovated traditional home, this specialty roastery is a pilgrimage site for serious coffee drinkers. The aesthetic is functional and minimally adorned, focusing squarely on expertly roasted single-origin beans from producers in Rwanda and Guatemala.

The menu is pleasingly straightforward: choose from espresso, americano, latte, or hand drip. While a few stools sit outside, this is primarily a grab-and-go spot, especially during extreme weather. For a more relaxed experience, seek out their larger, quieter outlets around Tokyo. Come for the precision and an Instagram-worthy photo, stay for the potent, no-frills caffeine hit.

Photo: note thanun/unsplash

Address: 2-14-1 Kamimeguro, Meguro-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 6412 8683

Internet: www.onibuscoffee.com

Koffee Mameya



Koffee Mameya in Omotesando operates more as a coffee bean gallery than a conventional cafe. The small, minimalist space

focuses on a curated selection of beans from respected Japanese and international roasters. The baristas provide individual consultations, discussing flavour profiles and brewing methods before you can sample a drink or purchase beans to take home.

This is a specialist destination for coffee enthusiasts, not a place for a casual sit-down. The personal service means queues are common, and the capacity is limited to a handful of standing customers. For a deeper exploration, their sister location in Kiyosumi-Shirakawa (Kōtō City, eastern Tokyo) offers a dedicated omakase-style coffee tasting.

Photo: Antonio Fadel/unsplash

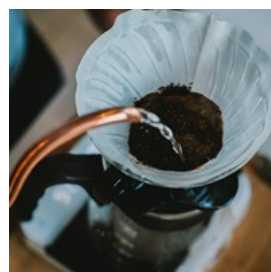
Address: 4-15-3 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 54139422

Internet: www.koffee-mameya.com

More Info: Koffee Mameya has a second location in Kōtō City in eastern Tokyo.

Yazawa Coffee Roasters



Yazawa Coffee Roasters is a small, take-out focused coffee shop located in a back alley of Tokyo's Katsushika ward. The owner operates as a solo

roaster and barista, personally preparing each order. The emphasis is on the quality of the beans, which are roasted on-site and available for purchase alongside basic merchandise.

As a one-person operation, service can be deliberate, especially when busy. The atmosphere is informal and neighbourhood-oriented, reflecting its local setting.

Photo: Aumnuaysin Pookraksa/shutterstock
Address: 1-14-5 Tateishi, Katsushika-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 3541 5360
Internet: yazawacoffee.base.shop

Higashiya



In the heart of Ginza, Higashiya presents the art of the Japanese tea ceremony with refined simplicity. This elegant shop and salon

specialises in handmade wagashi (traditional sweets crafted to reflect the seasons), which are served alongside a curated selection of premium teas. Stop by for an understated interior, a range of beautiful tableware and a serene escape from the district's buzz.

Photo: Vicky Ng/unsplash
Address: 1-7-7 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 3538 3230
Internet: www.higashiya.com/shop/ginza

Starbucks Reserve® Roastery



Housed in a striking four-storey building in Nakameguro, the Starbucks Reserve Roastery is a flagship experience and the

largest of its kind in Japan. Its scale and theatre make it a destination even for those who don't typically frequent the chain. Beyond the exclusive coffees, the menu expands to include signature cocktails, an extensive selection of teas, and a range of pastries and savoury dishes.

Note that daily access is managed via a ticketed entry system to manage crowds, so an early arrival is recommended.

Photo: Pixel-Shot/shutterstock
Address: 2-19-23 Aobadai, Meguro-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 6417 0202
Internet: www.starbucks.co.jp/reserve/roastery

Maidreamin Shibuya Store



Maidreamin in Shibuya is a well-known maid cafe, part of a national chain with a theme centred around a dreamlike, kawaii aesthetic. The

service is structured around set courses that include food, drinks and dessert, with items often decorated to appear adorable. A central part of the experience involves staff, dressed in maid costumes, performing short, choreographed songs.

The cafe operates on a pre-purchased course system rather than a standard à la carte menu. Staff make an effort to communicate with international visitors in English.

Photo: BonNontawat/shutterstock
Address: Karaoke Kan Shibuya, 30-1 Udagawacho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 6744 6726

Sakurai Japanese Tea Experience



Run by tea master Shinya Sakurai, this distinctive spot where past and present beautifully melt together is situated right outside Omotesando

station. A place where the guests are invited to discover and enjoy a great variety of top-quality Japanese teas. Shinya Sakurai dedicated 14

years of his life to becoming a tea master, pop in and enjoy the ultimate experience and taste of this hot beverage.

Photo: Nishihama/shutterstock

Address: 5F Spiral Building, 5-6-23 Minami Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 6451 1539
Internet: www.sakurai-tea.jp/en

Dean & Deluca



Dean & Deluca is a well-regarded café chain offering a solid selection of coffee and tea. Its locations, such as the one in Marunouchi which features an espresso bar and both indoor and terrace seating, provide a convenient spot for a light meal. The menu includes freshly prepared food, packaged bakery items like cakes and pies, and a range of salads.

Photo: mavo/shutterstock

Address: Mitsubishi UFJ Trust & Banking Central Branch 1F, 1-4-5 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 3284 7071
Internet: www.deandelucanyc.com/japan

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



west_photo/shutterstock

Most socialising done in Tokyo is away from home, hence the infinite number of venues that offer alcohol in the city, from the ubiquitous izakaya to the more exclusive glitzy bars. The nightlife in Tokyo has something to offer everyone. Whether you are looking for a hedonistic party, superclub sounds, or chilled-out beats, it's all here for the taking. Lounge about or dance the night away at Tokyo's best clubs.

Bar Hopping Night Tour in Shinjuku



Discover the well-concealed back-alley bars of Tokyo's Shinjuku on a fun Bar Hopping Night Tour. With the help of a local guide, visit hidden Shinjuku bars you would otherwise have a hard time finding alone. And between drinks and snacks, get fascinating insights into local life and culture.

Photo: CandyRetriever/shutterstock

Internet: www.magical-trip.com

Golden Gai



Golden Gai is a legendary district in Shinjuku, a warren of six narrow alleys crammed with over 200 tiny, character-filled bars. A relic of post-war Tokyo, it has evolved from a black market into a bohemian haunt for artists and musicians, retaining a palpable sense of history in its low-slung wooden buildings. Each bar is a deeply personal domain, often seating fewer than ten people and reflecting the unique taste of its owner.

While some bars maintain a traditional, locals-only policy, many now welcome curious travellers. The best approach is to wander the photogenic lanes and look for English signs or a welcoming gesture. Be prepared for small spaces, a cover charge, and an intimate, often non-verbal, interaction. It's less a bar crawl and more an immersion into a vanishing, fiercely independent side of Tokyo.

Photo: Tatsuya 000/unsplash

Address: 1-1-6 Kabukicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3209 6418

Internet: www.goldengai.jp

The Room



The Room is an intimate basement club in Shinjuku, known for attracting a hip, global crowd. As the name suggests, the space is compact and exclusive, fostering a close connection between the performers and the audience. The focus is on live music and quality DJ sets, with a calendar featuring jazz, soul, and hip-hop acts. Look for the distinctive red street

light marking the discreet basement entrance. Given its size and popularity, checking the monthly schedule online is essential for securing a spot in this sought-after, atmospheric venue.

Photo: Arina P Habich/shutterstock

Address: Daihachi Tohto Building B1F, 15-19 Sakuragaoka, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3461 7167

Internet: www.theroom.jp

Email: schedule@theroom.jp

H2 International Bar



H2 International Bar is a versatile and welcoming spot in Shinjuku that defies a single category, blending the roles of a sports bar, karaoke lounge and darts pub. Its main appeal is a genuinely international and social atmosphere where travellers and locals connect. The music policy is eclectic, spanning decades and genres from 60s soul to modern EDM, with free requests encouraged. Patrons can watch live sports broadcasts, sing karaoke, play darts, or enjoy a shisha. With free entry, a full cocktail menu, and a reliably lively vibe, it's a dependable choice for a fun, unpretentious night out.

Photo: Ground Picture/shutterstock

Address: Kaida Building 2F, 3-6-7 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 5315 4531

Internet: www.instagram.com/h2internationalbar

Odeon Tokyo



One of the most famous after-hours party spots in Tokyo, Odeon Tokyo is a stylish and sophisticated venue, a rendezvous for models, dancers and

partygoers. Chill out in the VIP area on the comfy sofas or dance the night away to all genres of music, either way, you will have the ultimate club experience.

Photo: bbernard/shutterstock

Address: Hana Tsubaki Building 3F, 3-15-23 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 3478 4555
Internet: www.odeon-bar.com

Mogambo Tokyo



In the heart of Roppongi, Mogambo Tokyo attracts a good mix of expats, tourists and locals, making it a fun place either for a drink or a date on the weekends, and on the weekends, it turns into a vibrant party hangout as the night falls. A place where friendships are formed and unforgettable nights out are guaranteed.

Photo: Pressmaster/shutterstock

Address: Yamato Building 2F, 7-14-5 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 6447 4844
Internet: www.mogambo.net

Geronimo Shot Bar



With a North American Indian theme, this small bar has an intriguing collection of Native American artefacts on the walls and ceiling.

Running its business for 24 years, Geronimo Shot Bar is still going strong with its lively and party ambience. From the speakers, a wide range of music selections is played to keep everyone happy. Pop in and see what the fuss is all about.

Photo: ChaiKetsiam/shutterstock

Address: Yamamuro Building 2F, 7-14-10 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 3478 7449
Internet: www.geronimoshotbar.com

New York Bar



From the 52nd floor of the Park Hyatt, the New York Bar delivers the breathtaking, cinematic Tokyo skyline made famous by Sofia

Coppola's "Lost in Translation". The ambience is pure jazz-age glamour, with live musicians providing the soundtrack against a backdrop of murals inspired by New York's legendary music halls.

The extensive menu spans classic cocktails, including a signature Old Fashioned and a nod to the film's LIT cocktail, to a wide selection of whisky, wine, and sake. For a late-night bite, options range from wagyu sliders to New York-style pizza. It's an experience that defines the city's upscale nightlife.

Photo: Kondor83/shutterstock

Address: 52F Park Hyatt Tokyo, 3-7-1-2 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
Phone: +81 3 5323 3458

SHOPPING



Siriwat Sriphojaroen/shutterstock

Shopping in Tokyo has become more of an art than a simple pleasure. If you've got cash to spend, this is the paradise of all shopping paradises. Shopping malls and department stores abound and specific areas are often devoted to certain wares to make life easier.

Roppongi is more than just hundreds of shops; it is a mini city of restaurants, clubs, cafés, cinemas, hotels and museums. This is where the expats gather to party, eat, drink, shop and just hang out, and it is about as far from traditional Japan as possible. Roppongi Hills, a mall comprising most of the above, is at the centre of this hive of activity and attracts a good percentage of Tokyo's serious shoppers. Housing high street, boutique and designer brands, you can safely expect to find everything you're looking for.

If you want to avoid more mainstream bookstores and spend some time looking for some hidden literary treasures, Kanda is where to go. Browse among the second-hand shops that line Yasukuni Dori and you're bound to stumble upon a few gems.

Roppongi Hills



Roppongi Hills is a landmark "city within a city", a vast integrated complex that redefined urban living in Tokyo upon its 2003 opening. Its centrepiece is the 54-storey Mori Tower, a vertical hub of commerce and culture. The tower's upper floors house two major attractions: the Tokyo City View observatory for panoramic vistas and the Mori Art Museum, a leading venue for contemporary art.

Beyond the tower, the complex unfolds with over 200 shops and restaurants, a cinema, the Grand Hyatt hotel, and the serene Mori Garden. Public art, including Louise Bourgeois' iconic Maman spider sculpture, is integrated throughout the open spaces.

Photo: Tsuyoshi Kozu/unsplash

Address: Roppongi Hills Mori Tower, 6-10-1, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Internet: www.roppongihills.com

Isetan Shinjuku Store



The Isetan Shinjuku Store began its life as a kimono retailer in 1886 and has since evolved into a landmark of high fashion. The department store styles itself as the 'world's greatest fashion museum'. This vast enterprise spans multiple floors, offering an extensive range of products from cosmetics and household goods to electronics, blending timeless classics with the very latest trends.

Photo: kz.w_photo/shutterstock

Address: 3-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3352 1111

Internet: www.mistore.jp/store/shinjuku.html

Ginza Mitsukoshi



Japan's oldest department store has stores in Ginza and Nihonbashi. Womenswear, accessories, menswear,

toys, childrenswear and restaurants from the fourth basement floor to the 12th floor.

Mitsukoshi welcomes visitors from all around the world, with free Wifi, a Tax-Free Counter and Foreign Tourist Information Centre.

Photo: [imtmphoto/shutterstock](#)

Address: 4-6-16 Ginza, Chūō-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3562 1111

Internet: www.mistore.jp/store/ginza.html

Shibuya 109



For a definitive look at Japanese youth fashion, head straight to Shibuya 109. Since its opening in 1979, this cylindrical landmark has become the

epicentre of Tokyo's iconic 'gyaru' subculture, a style once defined by dyed hair, deep tans and dramatic makeup. Spread across ten floors, its roughly 120 boutiques offer a concentrated hit of the latest trends in clothing, accessories and cosmetics. While its roots are in a specific aesthetic, the mall continues to draw a fashion-forward crowd, including local and international celebrities, solidifying its status as a barometer of Shibuya's ever-evolving style.

Photo: [Jezael Melgoza/unsplash](#)

Address: 2-29-1 Dogenzaka, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3477 5111

Internet: www.shibuya109.jp

Oriental Bazaar



Visit Tokyo's best-known gift shop to stock up on trinkets for friends back home. Get a kimono, washi paper, Japanese patterned fabric, sensu

fans, or a tea set. There are English-speaking staff on each floor. They also offer gift-wrapping and overseas shipping services.

Photo: [taka1022/shutterstock](#)

Address: 5-9-8 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 3 3400 3933

Internet: www.orientalbazaar.co.jp/en

Laox: Duty Free Flagship at Akihabara



Spanning seven floors, this vast duty-free complex is a one-stop shop for everything from household electronics and cosmetics to fashion and sports goods. It's a practical choice for tax-free shopping, offering a wide range of products that make for reliable travel souvenirs.

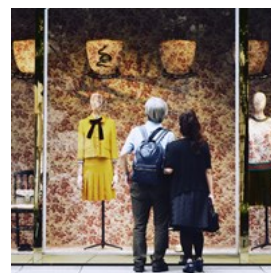
Photo: [PR Image Factory/shutterstock](#)

Address: Akihabara Electric Town, 1-2-9 Sotokanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Phone: +81 03 3253 7111

Internet: www.akiba.or.jp/wp_en/store/s111

Ginza



Ginza is Tokyo's definitive luxury quarter, a district where history and high fashion seamlessly intersect. Its name, meaning "silver mint",

harks back to its 17th-century origins, but today it is synonymous with global sophistication. The main thoroughfare, Chuo-dori, is lined with

flagship stores for elite brands like Chanel, Hermès, and the iconic Japanese department store Wako.

While the district is a paradise for label lovers, its appeal extends beyond shopping. The post-war architecture is now punctuated by modern complexes like Ginza Six, a multi-level destination of designer boutiques and dining. For a more local experience, the network of side streets reveals exclusive art galleries, intimate bistros, and traditional department stores like Mitsukoshi.

Photo: MarrySav/shutterstock
Address: Ginza, Chūō-ku, Tokyo

Harajuku



Harajuku is Tokyo's nexus of youth culture and cutting-edge fashion, centred on the famously crowded Takeshita Street. This

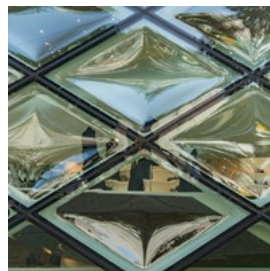
pedestrianised lane is a sensory overload of trendy boutiques, crepe stands and colourful street style. Just a short walk away, the tree-lined boulevard of Omotesando offers a more refined contrast, with its flagship designer stores and modernist architecture.

The district is defined by its iconic department stores, which act as fashion incubators. Laforet Harajuku (1-11-6 Jingumae) is a multi-level epicentre of avant-garde brands and subcultures, while the cylindrical 109 Store (2-29-1 Dogenzaka) in nearby Shibuya is a legendary hub for bold, teen-oriented trends. Beyond shopping, Harajuku offers a peaceful retreat at the adjacent Meiji Jingu shrine and Yoyogi Park.

Photo: noina/shutterstock

Address: Harajuku, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Aoyama



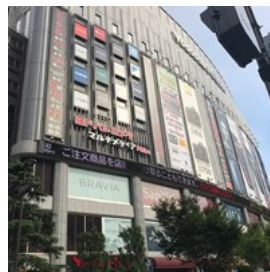
Aoyama, one of the wealthiest neighbourhoods in the city, offers a world of Japanese and international upmarket

brands. The sculptural Prada building here stands for everything this neighbourhood is about — sleek sophistication is the name of the game. Well-recognised Japanese designers including Yohji Yamamoto and Issey Miyake stand side by side with Prada and Louis Vuitton.

Photo: MarinaGreen/shutterstock
Address: Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Internet: www.gotokyo.org/en/destinations/western-tokyo/aoyama-and-omotesando

Akihabara



Welcome to Neon Land. Akihabara is the electronics capital of Japan and walking through its streets you can barely see in front of

you due to the amount of flashing shop signs and video screens. Street stalls sell the latest high-tech computer devices, while huge electronic retailers flog televisions at duty-free prices. Head for the duty-free stores if you want to speak to English staff, and bring your passport with you to qualify for tax-exempt goods. Akky (1-12-1 Sotokanda) is one of the best shops for this. Come out of Akihabara station and look for the glaringly obvious Electric Town exit.

Photo: Tobey96/shutterstock
Address: Akihabara, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Kappabashi Dori



Kappabashi Dori, or 'Kitchen Town', is a unique district dedicated entirely to the restaurant trade. Stretching between Ueno and Asakusa, its shops are a treasure trove of professional-grade kitchenware, from pots and pans to furniture and signage. The street is also famous for its stores selling hyper-realistic plastic food samples, a quintessential feature of Japanese restaurant displays. For visitors, it's the ideal place to find distinctive souvenirs, from beautiful lacquerware and ceramics to hand-painted chopsticks.

Photo: yoshi0511/shutterstock

Address: Kappabashi Dori, Taito-ku, Tokyo

Internet: www.kappabashi.or.jp/en

MEGA Don Quijote



MEGA Don Quijote is a chain of stores known for selling pretty much everything, from sake-flavoured Kit Kats to whimsical crab-shaped headgear. This particular location in Shibuya is the largest one in Tokyo, where you'll be able to purchase clothes, food, beauty products and toys. If you're looking for a souvenir to bring back home, this would be the ideal place to get something truly memorable.

Photo: PR Image Factory/shutterstock

Address: 28-6 Udagawacho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Internet:

www.donki.com/en/store/shop_detail.php?shop_id=442

TOURIST INFORMATION



noina/shutterstock

Narita International Airport (NRT)



Two airports serve Tokyo: Narita International Airport and Haneda International Airport (mainly for national flights). Narita Airport is

accessible by the Narita Express Train (N'EX), which is the fastest way to get from the city centre to the airport. It takes approximately 60 minutes to Tokyo Station and 40 minutes to Ueno Station. Trains depart every half hour. You may consider getting a N'EX TOKYO Round Trip Ticket in the JR EAST Travel Service Centers and from JR Ticket Offices at Terminal 1 or 2. This ticket allows you to transfer to any other JR stations within Tokyo once.

The Kesei Skyliner trains go from Narita to Ueno/Nippori station in about 45 minutes.

For a cheaper choice, the Access Express goes to Higashi-Ginza station in 65 minutes.

Limousine buses run regularly from Narita airport to key points in the city in 75-125 minutes.

Taxis are available for the 70-kilometre journey, but fares are astronomical.

Photo: Torjrtrx/shutterstock

Address: Narita International Airport, Tokyo

Internet: www.narita-airport.jp/en

Haneda Airport (HND)



the clock.

Haneda Airport is served by the Tokyo Monorail in approximately 20 minutes to Hamamatsucho Station, leaving every 10 minutes almost around

Keikyu's limousine buses run regularly from Haneda airport to key points in the city. For Tokyo city centre, it takes about 40 minutes.

Photo: Faula Photo Works/shutterstock

Address: Haneda Airport, Tokyo

Internet: www.tokyo-haneda.com/en/index.html

Best Time to Visit



During the high season, mid-June to mid-September and late April to early May, the weather in Tokyo is very hot and humid. It is also the peak tourist season, which you will quickly notice from long lines at the museums and higher accommodation rates. Early June through July is also the rainiest part of the year. By August, the heat is at its peak. This is the month many students and workers are on summer vacation.

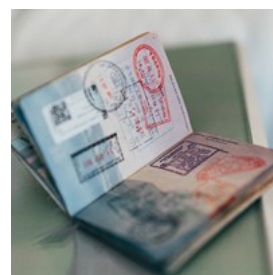
April and November, the weather is dry and sunny. It is considered a pleasant time to be in Tokyo. It is also in April when locals and visitors

flock to Tokyo's urban parks to witness the bloom of cherry blossom trees.

Winter is the low season (from January to March), and if you don't mind colder weather this is a good period to travel to Tokyo. The humidity is low and snow is rare. During this time the accommodation rates are slightly lower.

Photo: Sean Pavone/shutterstock

Passport & Visa



Travellers from most countries will need a visa to enter Japan unless they are from one of the visa-exempt countries.

Nationals from countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, Brazil, and many European countries can enter Japan visa-free for short-term stays (usually up to 90 days) for tourism, business, or visiting friends and relatives. However, visitors from countries not on the visa-exempt list must apply for a visa at a Japanese embassy or consulate before travelling. Always check the latest entry requirements as they can change.

Photo: ConvertKit/unsplash

Internet: www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

Public Transport



Tokyo has one of the most efficient train and subway systems in the world. Trains are clean and fast, and all stations have signs in English. The major train and subway systems are East Japan Railway (JR), Tokyo Metro, and Toei Subway. There are other railway companies. Each company has its own ticketing system. A variety

of tickets and passes are on offer to make it easier than buying individual tickets for every trip. You can also consider getting a prepaid Suica Travel pass to travel on JR, subways and buses. These can be purchased at JR 'Green Window' areas or ticket machines.

The East Japan Railway (JR) is represented by the green letters 'JR' logo, offering the fastest service but at a higher price. Overland train lines are colour-coded, the most frequently used line in Tokyo municipality is the Yamanote line (green).

Tokyo Metro is run by a private company. The subway consists of 9 lines with the light blue letter 'M' logo. Subways and trains operate from 5am to midnight. The prepaid card for Tokyo Metro is called Pasma.

Toei Subway operates 4 subway lines by the Bureau of Transportation with a green shape logo.

Buses in Tokyo are run by several different companies. It is less confusing to take the subway or train around the city, but bus routes are efficient. Nevertheless, few signs are in English which makes navigation difficult. Bus route guides in English are available at Toei subway stations and hotels.

Photo: Richie Chan/shutterstock
Internet: www.japan-guide.com/e/e2017.html

Taxi



Taxis are an expensive but convenient way to move around in Tokyo. Weekend rates are even more pricey, as are rides between 11pm and 5am.

Taxi stands are located in almost all busy areas and tipping is not expected.

In Tokyo, several ride-sharing and taxi-hailing apps are available to make transportation even more convenient, such as Uber, DiDi and GO.

Photo: ImagingL/shutterstock
Internet: www.introducingtokyo.com/taxi

Post

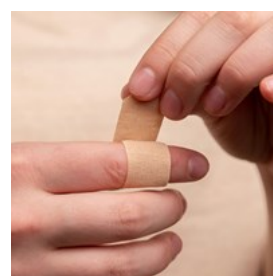


In Tokyo, the postboxes are red. The slot on the left is for domestic mail, and the right one is for international. English script is acceptable when

writing addresses and stamps can be purchased at convenience stores. Post offices are indicated by a red and white 'T' and are located everywhere.

Photo: photoNN/shutterstock
Address: Tokyo Central Post Office, 2-7-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat & Sun 9am-6pm
Phone: +81 570 001 736

Pharmacy



The word for pharmacy in Japanese is 'yakkyoku'. Generally, pharmacies are open from 9am to 6pm on weekdays and Saturdays, and closed on

Sundays, while drugstores are usually open 7

days a week and sometimes round the clock.

One of the biggest and most popular pharmacy chains is Matsumoto Kiyoshi. They have stores scattered around the whole island and offer original brands of drugs and medicines including cosmetics and beauty products. Other chains in Japan are SunDrug and Tsuruha Drug.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/unsplash

Address: Sundrug Shinjuku-dori, 3-26-14 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Opening hours: Daily 10am-11pm

Phone: +81 3 5366 5762

Electricity



Japan operates on a 100V supply voltage and 50/60Hz. The country uses Type A plugs, which have two flat-sided prongs.

Photo: Toru Kimura/shutterstock

Telephone



Country code: +81 Area code: (0)3

Photo: Torjrtrx/shutterstock

Population

Tokyo City: 14.25 million

Metro area: 41 million

Currency

Japanese Yen (JPY)

Internet

www.gotokyo.org/en

Newspapers

Tokyo Journal: www.tokyojournal.com

The Japan Times: www.japantimes.co.jp

The Asahi Shimbun: www.asahi.com/ajw

Emergency numbers

Police: 110

Fire & Ambulance: 119

Tourist information

Tokyo Tourist Information Center at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building

2 Chome-8-1, Nishishinjuku, Shinjuku City, Tokyo

+81 3 5321 3077

Open daily 9:30am-6:30pm

