

GaijinPot

TRAVEL | Tokyo Guide

Japan's most captivating city

Tokyo by the Numbers

3.5 million

people go through Shinjuku station, the busiest train station in the world, daily.

160,000

restaurants.

¥3,500-¥7,000

is the average cost of a few hours' stay at a Tokyo love hotel.

9.2 million

is the population of the Tokyo metropolitan area.



Recommended Districts and Wards of Tokyo

- Akihabara & Asakusa (Taito)** - The first is *the* anime and electronics district, and the latter is home of Sensoji Temple and where you can discover old Japan. (Also hit up Ueno area for big street-side markets.)
- Chiyoda** - Imperial Palace and Tokyo station. Do row boats at Chidorigafuchi. Try yakitori (skewered chicken) under Yurakucho station.
- Chuo** - High-end shopping at Ginza (try Ginza Six), Nihonbashi area, or visit the Tsukiji fish market—though, it has a new locale as of Oct. 2018.
- Edogawa** - The annual Edogawa Fireworks, plus Tokyo Sealife Park and the giant Ferris wheel at Kasai Rinkai Park.
- Ikebukuro (Toshima)** - Anime, shopping and a lot of cosplay.
- Minato** - Odaiba has a seaside entertainment center and Roppongi district is your ultimate clubbing hangout.
- Shibuya** - Fashion and night-life district, plus the famous "Shibuya Crossing." Visit Yoyogi park and Harajuku, the youth fashion district.
- Shinjuku** - Includes Tokyo's red-light district Kabukicho, plus shopping, food and entertainment. Visit Golden Gai or Omoide Yokocho (Piss Alley) for *izakaya* culture.
- Shinagawa** - Skyscrapers, Shinagawa station, plenty of bars and food, plus Shinagawa Aquarium.
- Sumida** - Home of Tokyo SkyTree, Sensoji Temple, Asahi Beer Headquarters and Nakamise Shopping Street. Top it all off with a walk along the Sumida River.



20 Tokyo Attractions & Cultural Experiences

1. View **Tokyo from above**. Visit Tokyo SkyTree, the tallest tower in Japan and one of the tallest in the world, Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building in Shinjuku, or Tokyo Tower in Shiba Park.

2. Go to a video game or virtual reality **arcade**. VR spots are in Shibuya, Shinjuku or Odaiba. Other multi-floor arcades are found all over, especially Akihabara.

3. **Eat ramen**. Try Ichiran, famous ramen chain serving up Fukuoka-style soul food noodles.

4. Try conveyor belt **sushi** and/ or **fugu** (blowfish) (Try at Genpin Fugu restaurant or Genki Sushi.)

5. Go to a **themed cafe**: a maid cafe, Kawaii Monster Cafe, a ninja cafe, Robot Restaurant, Alice In Wonderland cafe, etc.

6. Do a **day trip** from Tokyo. Head to the seaside at Kamakura/ Enoshima or the easy, breezy port city of Yokohama.



Rainbow Bridge in Odaiba in Minato ward.

7. Visit **Tokyo station**/Imperial Palace area, especially in spring for cherry blossoms.

8. Visit a traditional **shrine or temple** (Yasukuni Shrine/Meiji Shrine/ Sensoji Temple).

9. Visit one of Tokyo's vast **parks**: Yoyogi Park, Ueno Park, Shinjuku Park, Kasai Rinkai Park, Shiba Park.

10. Go to a traditional **hot spring bath** known as *onsen*. Try Sakura Onsen in Sugamo or Oedo Onsen in Odaiba.

11. Stroll in a traditional **Japanese garden**: Hamarikyū Gardens.

12. Explore a **lesser-known area** of Tokyo: Nerima, Koenji, Nakano, Meguro, or Shimokitazawa.

13. Go to a **manga or Internet cafe**.

14. Discover Japanese anime at its best at **Studio Ghibli** (must get tickets months in advance).

15. Sing at a **karaoke** box place like Big Echo or Karaoke Kan.

16. Stay at a **love hotel**. Found in Shibuya and Shinjuku but perhaps avoid the Ikebukuro district.

17. Sleep in a **capsule hotel**, or go to a hotel staffed by robots (First Cabin for a capsule experience; Henn na Hotel for the robots.)

18. Go to a history or art **museum**.

19. Visit a **theme park**: Tokyo Disneyland, Tokyo DisneySea, Sanrio Puroland, Asakusa Hanayashiki or Yomiuriland.

20. Take a **boat cruise** on Tokyo Bay or along the Sumida River.