

120 PLACES TO EAT OR BUY GOOD FOOD

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5 STATIONERY *shops to check out*

261 ITO-YA

2-7-15 Ginza
Chuo-ku ㊟
+81 (0)3-3561-8311
ito-ya.co.jp

Ito-ya, which opened in 1904, is a long-established stationery shop and reopened in 2015 after a renovation. The coffee counter on the ground floor starts serving at 8 am. You can buy and write postcards (you can even borrow a pen) in the Write & Post section on the second floor. There is even a post box!

262 LOFT

21-1 Udagawacho
Shibuya-ku ㊟
+81 (0)3-3462-3807
loft.co.jp

They sell a variety of products, including stationery as well as kitchen gadgets and interior design items but are mostly known for their amazing array of diaries and pens. From simple, practical ones to cute illustrated ones, they cater to every generation.

263 MARUZEN IKEBUKURO

AT: FUJIKYU EAST
NO.5 BUILDING
2-25-5 Minami-
Ikebukuro
Toshima-ku ㊟
+81 (0)3-5962-0870
maruzenjunkudo.co.jp

This shop opened in August 2017 and is probably the largest stationery shop in Tokyo. Interestingly enough there are cab ends of two locomotives on the ground floor (which have nothing to do with stationery). The place to go if you're in the market for a fountain pen.

264 MISUZUDO

2nd Fl.
3-18-3 Kanda Nishikicho
Chiyoda-ku ㊟
+81 (0)3-5282-3265
misuzudo-b.com

Located on the second floor of the leading paper distribution company Takeo's showroom. They sell original notebooks in various sizes as well as handmade postcards and provide bookbinding service. They also organise one-day bookbinding workshops. The place to find gadgets for bookbinding.

265 GEKKOSO

8-7-2 Ginza
Chuo-ku ㊟
+81 (0)3-3572-5605
gekkoso.jp

An art supply store, which opened in 1917. They sell original paints (oil colour, watercolour, and gouache) and all the tools you need to paint. Every product features their horn logo. Their other original goods, such as pen cases and notebooks, are also very popular.





ASAKUSA CULTURE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

15 NOTABLE BUILDINGS

5 buildings YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS — 156

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5 buildings BY TADAO ANDO — 160

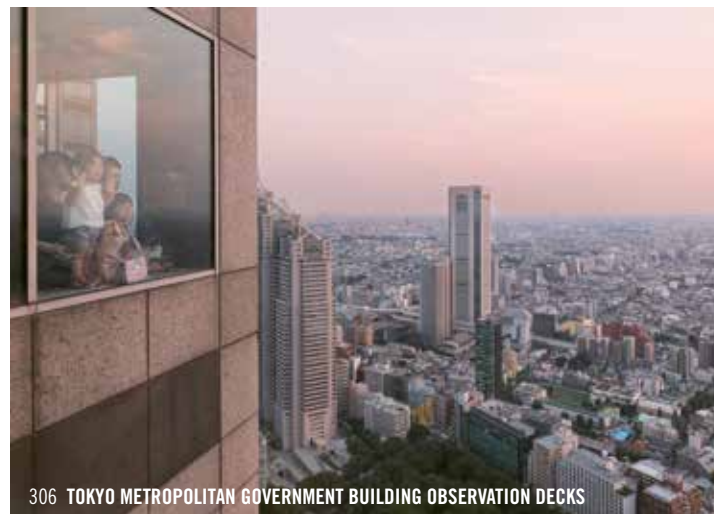
5

FREE OBSERVATORIES

- 306 **TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT BUILDING OBSERVATION DECKS**
 2-8-1 Nishi-Shinjuku
 Shinjuku-ku ㉔
 +81 (0)3-5320-7890
metro.tokyo.jp
- This observatory is located on the 45th floor of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Office Building. It opens on weekends even though the offices are closed. A great place to enjoy unobstructed views of Tokyo from 202 metres above the ground. There is a direct lift to the observatory from the ground floor.
- 307 **YEBISU GARDEN PLACE TOWER SKY LOUNGE**
 4-20 Ebisu
 Shibuya-ku ㉔
 +81 (0)3-5423-7111
gardenplace.jp
- This observatory is located in Yebisu Garden Place, which is a complex of commercial facilities built on the site of a former beer brewery. The lounge is located on the 38th and 39th floors. On a clear day you may even be able to spot Mount Fuji.
- 308 **HIKARIE**
 2-21-1 Shibuya
 Shibuya-ku ㉔
 +81 (0)3-5468-5892
hikarie.jp.e.ui.hp.transer.com
- Hikarie is situated in one of Tokyo's busiest areas, Shibuya. There is no real observatory here but you can visit the observation area on the 11th floor. From here, the town of Shibuya looks like a diorama. Open until midnight.

- 309 **BUNKYO CIVIC CENTER**
 1-16-21 Kasuga
 Bunkyo-ku ㉔
 +81 (0)3-5803-1162
- This facility is owned by Bunkyo City. On a beautiful day, you can see the skyscrapers in Shinjuku area as well as Mount Tsukuba and Mount Fuji. There is a restaurant, a cafe, and a concert hall in the same building.

- 310 **CARROT TOWER**
 4-1-1 Taishido
 Setagaya-ku ㉔
- This free observatory is located on the 26th floor of a high-rise building, which you can enter from Sangenjaya Station. It is open until 11 pm and has a restaurant on the same floor so you can enjoy dinner with a view.



5 places for JAPANESE TRADITIONAL CULTURE

341 KABUKI-ZA THEATRE

4-12-5 Ginza
Chuo-ku ⑧
+81 (0)3-3545-6800
kabuki-za.co.jp

This is one of the theatres where you can still attend traditional Kabuki performances. This unique Japanese theatre is over 400 years old. You can also enjoy a *bento* during the intermission. If you have a balcony seat, you can order a special bento, which will be delivered to your seat.

342 NATIONAL THEATRE

4-1 Hayabusacho
Chiyoda-ku ⑤
+81 (0)3-3265-7411
ntj.jac.go.jp

Here you can see Kabuki, Noh, and Bunraku performances. The National Engei Hall, where you can enjoy storytelling performances, such as *rakugo*, *kodan*, and *rokyoku*, is located next to the National Theatre. There is also an exhibition space which showcases objects used in these traditional performing arts.

343 KANZE NOH THEATRE

AT: GINZA SIX
6-10-1 Ginza
Chuo-ku ⑧
+81 (0)3-6274-6579
kanze.net

One of the Noh theatres in Tokyo, which opened in 2017 in the basement of the Ginza Six commercial complex. Though it does not have any eating facilities, there are plenty of restaurants in the building and nearby. Check out their range of merchandise, which you can only buy here.

344 KIOI SMALL HALL

6-5 Kioicho
Chiyoda-ku ⑤
+81 (0)3-5276-4500
kioi-hall.or.jp

A concert hall for Japanese traditional music. The musicians play the *koto*, *shamisen*, and other traditional instruments and are sometimes accompanied by dancers. The hall, which can accommodate up to 250 people, is so small you can hear and almost feel the musicians breathing.

345 SHINJUKU SUEHIROTEI

3-6-12 Shinjuku
Shinjuku-ku ⑦
+81 (0)3-3351-2974
suehirotei.com

A venerable entertainment hall where traditional *rakugo* storytelling performances are given. Nowadays you can take in a *rakugo* performance almost anywhere, but this long-established theatre has been open since 1897 and is a great place to learn more about the world of *Showa Genroku Rakugo Shinju*, a serialised anime. You can bring food and drinks (but no alcohol).



5 of the best BOUTIQUE hotels

426 TRUNK (HOTEL)

5-31 Jingumae
Shibuya-ku ㉓
+81 (0)3-5766-3210
trunk-hotel.com

Opened in 2017, and located between Shibuya and Harajuku, this hotel inspired a new trend in Japan's hotel industry. This is not just a hotel. Calling itself a 'hotel for socialising', it has a bar lounge and restaurants where you can do just that.

427 HOTEL CLASKA

1-3-18 Chuocho
Meguro-ku ㉓
+81 (03)-3719-8121
claska.com/hotel/index.html

This hotel is located on the fourth through the seventh floors of of the Claska complex. The rooms were all designed by contemporary architects and artists who are representative of today's Japan. There are four types of rooms: Modern, Tatami, Contemporary, and DIY. In Tatami rooms, you can enjoy a good combination of Japanese tradition and modern style.

428 LYURO TOKYO KIYOSUMI

1-1-7 Kiyosumi
Koto-ku ㉓
+81 (0)3-6458-5540
thesharehotels.com/lyuro

This hotel also opened in 2017 in Kiyosumi Shirakawa. This area has popped up on everyone's radar because of the many organic cafes and restaurants that opened here in recent years. Some of the rooms have a 'River View bath', where you can enjoy a relaxing time gazing at the Sumida River.

429 WIRED HOTEL

2-16-2 Asakusa
Taito-ku ㉓
+81 (0)3-5830-7931
wiredhotel.com

Another 'wabi-sabi modern' hotel that opened in 2017. They have several types of rooms, including a dorm-style room and more luxuriously appointed ones. All the rooms, including the dormitory, have been kitted out with Swedish top-quality brand Duxiana beds. In the cafe and bar Zakbaran, you can sample healthy desserts made with tofu.

430 HOTEL S

1-11-6 Nishi-Azabu
Minato-ku ㉓
+81 (0)3-5771-2469
hr-roppongi.jp/hotelS

Located between Roppongi Hills and the Nishi-Azabu crossing, this hotel is convenient for anyone interested in a taste of Tokyo's nightlife. Some of the rooms have organic soaps and other amenities that female guests will appreciate. There are 12 apartments designated for those who plan to stay for more than a month.



5 CYCLING trails

461 **EDOGAWA
CYCLING ROAD**
BY THE EDOGAWA RIVER
Edogawa-ku
edogawacr.com

A 60-kilometre trail from the inlet of the Edo River to the point where it splits from the Tone River. Most of the trail is paved, so it is relatively easy for everyone. Please note the road is not for cyclists only, meaning you must always make way for pedestrians.

462 **WAKASU SEASIDE PARK**
3-1-2 Wakasu
Koto-ku ⑬
+81 (0)3-3522-3225
tptc.co.jp/en/c_park/03_07

This six-kilometre trail along Tokyo Bay is almost flat, making it the ideal course if you want to bike with your children. Rental bikes (26 inches and 20 inches) and tandem bikes are available. They also have animal-shaped bicycles and tricycles for children.

463 **YOYOGI
CYCLING CENTRE**
2-1 Yoyogi Kamizonocho
Shibuya-ku ⑦
+81 (0)3-3465-6855

Yoyogi Cycling Centre is located in Yoyogi Park. You can rent bicycles for adults and children as well as tandem bikes for two. There is an area where children can practise riding bikes with training wheels.

464 **TAMAGAWA
CYCLING ROAD**
BY THE TAMA RIVER
Ota-ku ⑭

A 60-kilometre scenic trail along the Tama River. If you want to enjoy great views while cycling, this is a good choice. The trail runs past residential areas and public transport stations, so you can easily find toilets, vending machines, and convenience stores.

465 **SHOWA
MEMORIAL PARK**
3173 Midoricho
Tachikawa-shi
showakinen-koen.jp

This park has a 14-kilometre cycling trail, and three 'cycling centres' where you can rent a bike. You can choose from 18 to 26-inches or rent a tandem bike. And naturally, you can also bring your own. This course is for cyclists only, no pedestrians allowed.



462 WAKASU SEASIDE PARK

5 things you should know before GETTING ON A TRAIN

491 DIFFERENT TICKETS FOR DIFFERENT TRAIN OPERATORS

There are several train operators on Tokyo's transport system: two subway operators, JR, and a few private railway companies. You must buy a ticket for each operator unless you have a special ticket for travelling on the trains of two connected operators. Consider buying a prepaid card, such as Suica or Pasma.

492 PAY AT YOUR DESTINATION

Unlike many other countries, Japan allows people to adjust their fare at their destination. This means that you have a chance to pay the correct price at the end of the journey, even if you mistakenly bought a cheaper ticket. There are no plain-clothes ticket inspectors on board.

493 NO TALKING ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE ON THE TRAIN

Tokyo's train operators do NOT allow passengers to talk on the phone while on the train even though they have excellent reception. People just keep quiet and text. Do not forget to turn off the sound of your device either.

494 ESCALATOR ETIQUETTE – STAND LEFT

Nobody knows who decided this, but people stand left on the escalator in Tokyo (they do the opposite in Osaka by the way.) But do not walk or run on the right even if your train has arrived at the platform. Tokyo operates a frequent train service.

495 LINE UP ACCORDING TO THE MARKS ON THE PLATFORM

When you look at a platform, there are marks that tell you where the doors are. In other words, they tell you where you can get on the train. Usually, these marks make passengers queue in two lines. Sometimes, they also indicate the area where you can wait for the next train.



495 LINE UP ACCORDING TO THE MARKS ON THE PLATFORM