



Shangri-La hotel

TOKYO

Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo Concierge Guide to Sightseeing in Tokyo

Welcome to Tokyo, one of the world's most exciting and dynamic cities! We have put together a brief guide to some of Tokyo's most famous sightseeing spots. Before you head out on your Tokyo adventure, please take a moment to talk with the knowledgeable and friendly Concierge members for more detailed information. Tokyo has so much to offer and we hope you enjoy exploring this incredible metropolis!

The Imperial Palace East Garden



The Imperial Palace was formally known as Edo Castle, residence of the Tokugawa Shogunate. The Castle was once the center of Japanese politics between 1603 and 1867. After the Meiji Restoration in 1868, Edo Castle became the Imperial Palace and Imperial Family residence. The Palace itself is only open to the public twice a year (December 23rd, the Emperor's birthday and January 2nd). However, the **Imperial Palace East Garden** is open to the public daily between 09:00 - 16:00 and closed on Mondays and Fridays. There are some 260 tree varieties planted in the Palace grounds. Within the gardens you can also see the Otemon Gate, which was formally the main entrance of Edo Castle; Fujimiyagura, an eight-sided tower and Tenshu-Dai, the remains of the inner citadel watch tower. There is also the small museum of Imperial Collections.

Another great photo opportunity is at the Imperial Palace Plaza, 5 minutes walk further along from the Imperial Palace East Garden. Here you can view the Palace moat, bridge with the Imperial Guard and is the perfect spot to take a photo



Access: Approximately 15 minutes walk, or 5 minutes by taxi from Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo

Tokyo Central Wholesale Market -Tsukiji

The Tsukiji Fish Market is the largest in the world, selling seafood at the rate of 2.2 million kgs per day. To visit the famous tuna auction, please wake up very early to enter the auction site at 04:30 am. Even if you are not an early bird please do not worry, as the market outside of the auction site is still open until around noon. Wander through the stalls that are selling raw fish, shellfish, processed seafood products, vegetables, fruit, meat and eggs, and enjoy the freshest sushi in the whole world at small sushi counters around the corner. Market is closed on Sundays and Public holidays as well as the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.



Access: Approximately 10 minutes by taxi from Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo. Or, approximately 20 minutes in total by

subway Ginza Line from Nihonbashi Station to Ginza Station, and then Hibiya Line from Ginza Station to Tsukiji Station.

Asakusa



Asakusa is one of Tokyo's oldest neighborhoods and is also home to Sensoji, Tokyo's oldest temple. Sensoji dates back to the Edo period (1600-1868), and enshrines the sacred statue of Kannon, the Goddess of Mercy and Infinite Compassion. It is believed that in AD628 two fishermen caught the statue in their fishing nets. Their master, recognizing its sacred qualities rebuilt his house – on the spot where the temple now stands – to enshrine the statue. At the entrance to the temple grounds you walk through the **Kaminarimon Gate** with the large red lantern hanging in the center. Also at the gate you will notice the statues of the two gods who protect Kannon; on the right is Fujin, God of Wind and to the left is Raijin, God of Thunder. Approach to the temple is through **Nakamise**, a narrow street with shops selling traditional Japanese crafts, toys and

foods. A great place to find inexpensive and interesting curios as gifts to take back home. You then pass through the two-storey Hozomon Gate into the temple grounds proper. To the left stands a five-storey pagoda, the second highest in Japan; ahead are the magnificent sweeping roofs of the Main Hall with the gold-plated Gokuden Shrine inside. Just in front of the temple, a huge bronze incense burner, or Okoro, where the smoke is said to have curative powers. You can make a wish, pick your fortune or buy good luck charms from the stalls.

While in Asakusa take a step back in time and take a tour on a rickshaw. There are a number of different tours available. You might even get the chance to see an Asakusa Geisha from one of the traditional tea houses in the early hours of the evening.

Access: Approximately 20 minutes by taxi from Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo. Or, approximately 20 minutes by subway Ginza line from Nihonbashi Station to Asakusa Station.

Ryogoku



In the early stages of the Edo period the town which developed around the Ryogoku Bridge flourished as a center of commercial activity. Nowadays the area is much better known as the Sumo neighborhood, centering around the **Ryogoku Kokugikan Stadium**, where a number of major Sumo tournaments are held annually.

Fans of Japan's national sport should not miss the **Sumo Museum** (admission free). The museum was opened at the same time as Ryogoku Kokugikan and holds a variety of exhibits and information about Sumo Wrestling. All records on active Rikishi (Sumo Wrestlers) are also held here.

Ryogoku is also home to the **Edo Tokyo Museum**. The unusual architecture makes the museum distinctively look like a giant space ship, inside are original exhibits, reproductions and replicated models representing the history and culture of Tokyo during the Edo Period. Admission is 600yen. The museum is closed on Mondays.

Access: Approximately 20 minutes by taxi from Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo. Or, approximately 20 minutes in total by JR Yamanote Line from Tokyo Station to Akihabara Station, and then by JR Sobu Local Line from Akihabara Station to Ryogoku Station.

Ueno

Ueno Park is the largest park in Tokyo and is also Japan's oldest public park. Ueno Park is also renowned the world over for its beautiful Cherry Blossoms and Hanami festive celebrations in Spring. In the middle of the park is a large pond called Shinobazu Pond which is covered in giant lotus plants. In the centre of the pond is a small island with a charming temple called Bentendo. From Bentendo, cross over Dobutsuen Dori (the main path that bisects the park) to reach the vermilion coloured Kiyomizu Kannon temple. It is dedicated to the Goddess Kannon and is modeled on Kyoto's famous Kiyomizu-dera temple. This temple was completed in 1631, and is one of the few buildings to have survived the destruction of the Battle of Ueno, The Great Tokyo Earthquake of 1923 and World War II. Along with another noteworthy shrine, Toshogu is considered as the finest of the park's historical monuments. Built in 1621 and dedicated to the first Tokugawa Shogun – Ieyasu. Toshogu is one of Tokyo's oldest buildings, and a designated National Treasure.



Besides the number of cultural and historical points of interest, Ueno Park also contains Tokyo's largest concentration of museums, and art museums, such as The Tokyo National Museum, The National Science Museum, The National Museum of Western Art – designed by Le Corbusier. At the far south corner of the park you will find the small Shitamachi Museum which recreates aspects of daily life in the city as it was in the 19th and early 20th century. Also worth visiting is the Ueno Zoological Gardens.

Access: Approximately 15 minutes by JR Yamanote Line from Tokyo Station to Ueno Station. Or, approximately 15 minutes by taxi from Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo.

Akihabara



Personal Computer and electronic product shops abound here in the extreme. Akihabara is considered the largest electronics area in Japan, if not the world. You can marvel at the unbelievable array of products and technology available. Many products are also only available for the Japanese market and are considered very advanced compared to the rest of the world. Even if you are not really interested in electronic goods, Akihabara is a fascinating and intriguing part of Tokyo that cannot be missed.

Access: Approximately 5 minutes, by JR Yamanote line from Tokyo Station to Akihabara Station. Or, 10 minutes by taxi from Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo.

Meiji Jingu Shrine



Meiji Jingu Shrine originally opened in 1920, and is one of the most beautiful and peaceful refuges in Tokyo. The temple is dedicated to the Emperor Meiji, who reigned from 1868 to 1912. The current building dates from 1958, having been reconstructed after World War II. The park surrounding the temple is filled with mature trees, creating a dense forest in the middle of the city. Entrance to the park and temple is free. There is also a Treasure House Museum within the park grounds in which you can view a variety of exhibits associated with the Emperor Meiji (Entrance Fee JPY200). Just off the main path to the shrine, through the wooded inner garden, are two entrances to another garden, called Meiji Jingu Gyoen. It is not very large but is quiet and has a beautiful pond with Japanese carp from where the Empress is reputed to enjoy the odd spot of fishing. If you are lucky enough to be here in June, you will also be able to see a beautiful iris field that blooms to life and attracts many visitors. Closing times of the temple grounds are 16:00 in winter and 18:00 in summer.

Access: Approximately 30 minutes by taxi from Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo. Or, approximately 30 minutes by JR Yamanote Line from Tokyo Station to Harajuku Station

Ginza



Ginza means “silver mint”, and its name derives from the silver coin mint established there in the 1600s. Nowadays Ginza is renowned as central of biggest and most luxurious shopping area.

Ginza compasses an area from 1-Chome (block) to 8-Chome, where well-established Japanese shops and famous brand name shops from around the world stand side by side on Chuo-Dori, Suzuran-Dori and other streets.

Access: Approximately 15 to 20 minutes walk or approximately 5 minutes from Shangri-La Hotel, Tokyo.