lonély plònet



**Rebecca Milner** 

# **In This Book**

# QuickStart Guide

Your keys to understanding the city – we help you decide what to do and how to do it

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Need to Know Tips for a smooth trip



Neighbourhoods What's where

# Explore Tokyo

The best things to see and do, neighbourhood by neighbourhood



Top Sights Make the most of your visit



Local Life The insider's city

# The Best of Tokyo

The city's highlights in handy lists to help you plan



Best Walks See the city on foot

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Tokyo's Best... The best experiences

# Survival Guide

Tips and tricks for a seamless, hassle-free city experience

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**Getting Around** Travel like a local

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**Essential Information** Including where to stay Our selection of the city's best places to eat, drink and experience:

Sights

🔇 Eating

- **Orinking**
- 🔂 Entertainment
- Shopping

# These symbols give you the vital information for each listing:

- Telephone Numbers
- Opening Hours
- P Parking
- left Nonsmoking
- Internet Access
- 😵 Wi-Fi Access
- Vegetarian Selection
- English-Language Menu

- Family-Friendly
- Pet-Friendly
- 📮 Bus
- 🕱 Ferry
- Metro
- S Subway
- 🛱 Tram
- Train

# Find each listing quickly on maps for each neighbourhood:



# Lonely Planet's Tokyo

Lonely Planet Pocket Guides are designed to get you straight to the heart of the city.

Inside you'll find all the must-see sights, plus tips to make your visit to each one really memorable. We've split the city into easy-to-navigate neighbourhoods and provided clear maps so you'll find your way around with ease. Our expert authors have searched out the best of the city: walks, food, nightlife and shopping, to name a few. Because you want to explore, our 'Local Life' pages will take you to some of the most exciting areas to experience the real Tokyo.

And of course you'll find all the practical tips you need for a smooth trip: itineraries for short visits, how to get around, and how much to tip the guy who serves you a drink at the end of a long day's exploration.

It's your guarantee of a really great experience.

## **Our Promise**

You can trust our travel information because Lonely Planet authors visit the places we write about, each and every edition. We never accept freebies for positive coverage, so you can rely on us to tell it like it is.

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# Welcome to Tokyo

Tokyo is a city forever reaching into the future, resulting in sci-fi streetscapes of crackling neon and soaring towers. Yet it is also a city steeped in history, where you can find traces of the shogun's capital on the kabuki stage or under the cherry blossoms. It's a tapestry of sensorial madness unlike anywhere else in the world.

> Shinjuku (p96) MARC FERNANDEZ DIAZ/GETTY IMAGES @



#### Tsukiji Market (p34)

The world's largest fish market is Tokyo's most unique sight, and a rare peek into the workings of the city. It's only around in its current form for a limited time too: the market moves in November 2016.



# Top Sights 9

#### Sumo in Ryōgoku (p44)

Salt-slinging, belly-slapping and solemn ritual are all part of the spectacle that is sumo, Japan's ancient, traditional sport. Catch a tournament at the national stadium in Ryōgoku, or a morning practice session.





#### Meiji-jingū (p84)

Tokyo's most famous Shintō shrine is shrouded in woods. It's a peaceful haven that feels worlds away from the city, even though it is right in the thick of it.

# 10 Top Sights

#### Sensō-ji (p134)

The spiritual home of Tokyoites' ancestors, Sensō-ji was founded more than 1000 years before Tokyo got its start. Today the temple retains an alluring, lively atmosphere redolent of Edo (old Tokyo under the shogun).







## Roppongi Hills (p48)

This is no ordinary mall: it's a utopian microcity with a world-class art museum. Love it or hate it, Roppongi Hills is integral to understanding the Tokyo of today, and possibly the Tokyo of tomorrow.

# **Kabuki** (p36)

Kabuki, a form of stylised, traditional Japanese theatre, features stories based on popular legend and an all-male cast in dramatic make-up and decadent costumes. Catch a performance at Kabuki-za, Tokyo's newly rebuilt kabuki theatre.





# Tokyo National Museum (p122)

Japan's premier museum houses the world's largest collection of Japanese art and antiquities, such as swords, gilded screens, kimonos and colourful *ukiyo-e* (woodblock prints).

#### Mt Fuji (p146)

Japan's national symbol is a perfect, snowcapped cone. On a clear day, you can catch a glimpse from atop a Tokyo skyscraper, but nothing compares to the thrill of seeing a sunrise from the summit.

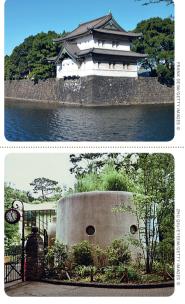
# **Imperial Palace & Garden** (p22)

Take a tour of the leafy grounds of the imperial family's residence, or content yourself to stroll along the ancient moat and climb an old castle keep in the garden.



#### **Ōedo Onsen Monogatari** (p144)

Bubbling hot springs piped in from below Tokyo Bay fill the baths at Ōedo Onsen Monogatari, a combination of public bathhouse and theme park that is Japanese to the core.



#### Ghibli Museum (p108)

Even those uninitiated in the magical world of master animator Miyazaki Hayao (*Princess Mono-noke, Spirited Away*) will find this museum dedicated to him and his works enchanting. Fans won't want to leave.