



# Tokyo

03 / POP 13.24 MILLION

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## Best Places to Eat

- Daiwa Sushi (p112)
- Nagi (p116)
- Hantei (p118)
- Tofuya-Ukai (p113)
- Tonki (p114)

## Best Places to Stay

- Sawanoya Ryokan (p110)
- Shibuya Granbell (p109)
- Nui (p111)
- Claska (p108)
- Park Hyatt (p109)

## Why Go?

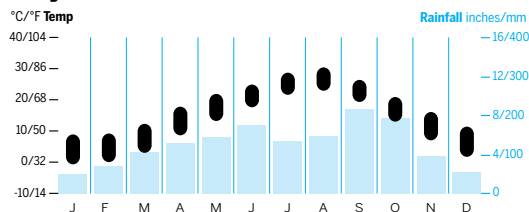
Tokyo (東京) offers a tapestry of sensory madness unlike anywhere else. It is a city forever reaching into the future, resulting in sci-fi streetscapes of crackling neon and soaring towers. Yet it is also a city steeped in history, and you can find traces of the shōgun's capital on the kabuki stage or under the cherry blossoms at Ueno Park.

There are excellent museums here, along with everything else you can ask of Japan – grand temples, atmospheric shrines, elegant gardens and, yes, even hot springs. However, Tokyo is also a place where sightseeing can take a back-seat. To get to know the city is to enjoy it as the locals do: by splurging on divine sushi, singing karaoke until dawn or shopping for the latest must-have.

Tokyo has a neighbourhood for everyone – be they suit-clad salarymen (white-collar workers), manga-thumbing *otaku* (geek) or *hime gyaru* (princess girl). No doubt it has one for you, too.

## When to Go

### Tokyo



### Mar & Apr

Cherry-blossom viewing is in full swing – spread the picnic blanket and bring a *bentō*.

### May–Sep

Hot and humid, but lively summer festivals more than make up for it.

### Oct–Dec

Crisp, cool days. Falling *gingko* leaves turn Tokyo's streets to gold.



## Tokyo Highlights

- 1 Tucking into some of the freshest sushi on the planet at **Tsukiji Fish Market** (p73)
- 2 Soaking up the atmosphere (and the incense) at Asakusa's centuries-old temple, **Sensō-ji** (p99)
- 3 Raising a glass in the nightlife neighbourhood of **Shinjuku** (p128)
- 4 Joining the eccentric fashion tribes as they shop their way through **Harajuku** (p135)
- 5 Losing yourself in the vestiges of Shitamachi (low city) culture in **Yanaka** (p98)
- 6 Catching the salt-slinging, belly-slapping ritual of sumō at **Ryōgoku Kokugikan** (p132)
- 7 Getting swept up in the crowds and neon lights of **Shibuya** (p82)
- 8 Gawking at the gilded screens and glistening swords of the **Tokyo National Museum** (p93)
- 9 Venturing into the belly of the pop culture beast that is **Akihabara** (p92)