

On the Road





Tokyo

03 / POP 13.39 MILLION

Includes →

History	74
Sights & Activities	74
Courses	111
Tours	116
Festival & Events	116
Sleeping	117
Eating	122
Drinking & Nightlife	131
Entertainment	137
Shopping	140

Best Places to Eat

- Kyūbey (p123)
- Shinsuke (p129)
- Nagi (p127)
- Tonki (p125)
- Yanmo (p127)

Best Places to Stay

- Sawanoya Ryokan (p121)
- Shibuya Granbell Hotel (p119)
- Nui (p121)
- Claska (p118)
- Hotel S (p117)

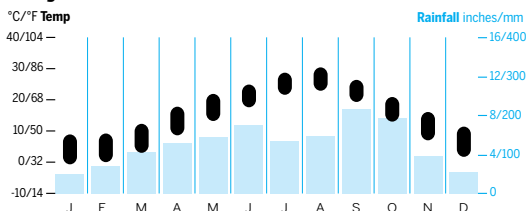
Why Go?

Tokyo (東京) is a city forever reaching into the future, resulting in sci-fi streetscapes of crackling neon and soaring towers. It is constantly reinventing itself – most recently as a culinary and pop-culture mecca (and a must-visit for anyone interested in either). Yet it is also a city steeped in history, and you can find traces of the shogun's capital on the kabuki stage or under the cherry blossoms in Ueno Park.

There are excellent museums here, along with everything else you could ask of Japan – grand temples, atmospheric shrines, fascinating contemporary architecture, elegant gardens and, yes, even hot springs. Tokyo, however, is also a place where sightseeing can take a backseat. To get to know the city is to enjoy it as the locals do: by splurging on sushi in Ginza, scouting new looks in Harajuku or just wandering the lanes of one of the city's more atmospheric quarters, such as Yanaka or Kagurazaka. And don't forget the varied and often outrageous nightlife – more proof of Tokyo's indefatigable spirit.

When to Go

Tokyo



Mar & Apr

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

May–Sep

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

Oct–Dec

Crisp, cool and sunny days. Falling ginkgo leaves turn Tokyo's streets to gold in December.