

On the Road





Tokyo

POP 13,415,350 / 203

Includes ➔

History	74
Sights	75
Activities	111
Tours & Courses	113
Festivals & Events	115
Sleeping	116
Eating	123
Drinking & Nightlife	135
Entertainment	142
Shopping	145
Information	151
Getting There & Away	153
Getting Around	153

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Kyūbey (p125)
- ➔ Shinsuke (p133)
- ➔ Tonki (p128)
- ➔ Tensuke (p135)
- ➔ Kagari (p124)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Sawanoya Ryokan (p121)
- ➔ Hoshinoya Tokyo (p116)
- ➔ Claska (p118)
- ➔ Nui (p121)
- ➔ Hanare (p120)

Why Go?

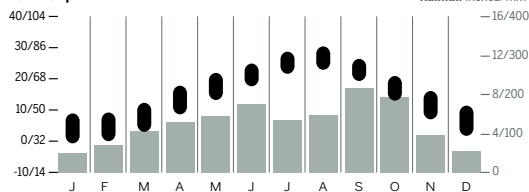
Tokyo (東京) is a city forever reaching into the future, resulting in sci-fi streetscapes of crackling neon and soaring towers. It is constantly reinventing itself – most recently as a culinary and pop-culture mecca (and a must-visit for anyone interested in either). Yet it is also a city steeped in history, 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 Yanese or Kagurazaka. And don't forget the varied and often outrageous nightlife – more proof of Tokyo's indefatigable spirit.

When to Go

Tokyo

°C/°F Temp



Mar & Apr

Cherry-blossom viewing is in full swing – bring a *bento* 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.