

# Ebisu, Meguro & Around

EBISU | MEGURO | SHIROKANE | TAKANAWA | DAIKANYAMA | NAKA-MEGURO | GOTANDA

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Exploring the shops and leafy lanes of fashionable neighbourhoods **Daikanyama** and **Naka-Meguro** (p98), a world away from frenetic central Tokyo.
- 2 Learning about the history of beer in Japan at the **Beer Museum Yebisu** (p92).
- 3 Discovering an urban oasis in the gardens and tea-houses of **Happō-en** (p93).
- 4 Catching an exhibition in the newly restored art-deco estate that houses the **Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum** (p92).
- 5 Squeezing into a space at one of Ebisu's popular standing bars, such as **Buri** (p97).



For more detail of this area, see Map p284 ➔

## Explore Ebisu, Meguro & Around

Named for the prominent beer manufacturer that once provided a lifeline for most of the neighbourhood's residents, Ebisu is now a hip area, with shops, bars and restaurants. It's not the hub that Shinjuku is; rather, Ebisu represents Tokyo on a more human scale. Anchoring the neighbourhood is the Yebisu Garden Place complex, which includes two good museums, Beer Museum Yebisu and Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography (closed until mid-2016 for renovations).

After a morning in Ebisu you could head to Daikanyama and Naka-Meguro – both are within walking distance. These adjacent neighbourhoods are the favourite haunts of fashion, art and media types, whose tastes are reflected in the shops and restaurants here. If you've been craving a slow day, punctuated by cafe stops and book stores, this will do the trick.

One stop south of Ebisu is Meguro, another mid-sized node on the JR Yamanote line. Nearby Shirokane and Takanawa are posh residential districts. This is an under-visited section of the city, though there are a number of sights. Here you can sip tea in a garden, light incense at a historic temple or examine the centuries-old pottery used in tea ceremonies – and see nary another traveller.

It's well worth sticking around this area for the evening. Foodies will find much to ooh and aah over here, as these neighbourhoods are chock-a-block with small, but highly rated restaurants. Ebisu has several bar strips that are popular with young professionals.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Eating** Locals pile into retro arcade Ebisu-yokochō (p96) for grilled fish, fried noodles and copious amounts of beer.
- ➔ **Events** Yebisu Garden Place (p92), with its wide open plaza, hosts weekend events year-round, including a twice-monthly farmers' market (first and third Sundays).
- ➔ **Hang-outs** Ebisu is known for its lively *tachinomi-ya* (standing bars); Naka-Meguro for its riverside cafes and hard-to-find lounges.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Train** The JR Yamanote line stops at Ebisu, Meguro, Gotanda and Shinagawa stations. The Tōkyū Tōyoko line runs from Shibuya to Daikanyama and Naka-Meguro.
- ➔ **Subway** The Hibiya line runs through Ebisu to Naka-Meguro. The Namboku and Mita lines stop at Meguro and Shirokanedai. The Asakusa line runs from Gotanda Station to Takanawadai and Sengaku-ji.
- ➔ **Bus** Buses No 1, 2, 6 and 7 run from the west exit of Meguro Station along Meguro-dōri, stopping at Ōtori-jinja-mae.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Daikanyama and Naka-Meguro get a late start; don't expect cafes or boutiques to open before 11am (and sometimes not until noon). The exception is Daikanyama T-Site, which opens from 7am.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tonki (p97)
- ➔ Afuri (p93)
- ➔ Higashi-Yama (p96)
- ➔ Beard (p97)
- ➔ Yakiniku Champion (p96)

For reviews, see p93 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Nakame Takkyū Lounge (p97)
- ➔ Buri (p97)
- ➔ Kinfolk (p99)
- ➔ Enjoy House (p97)

For reviews, see p97 ➔

## Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Okura (p98)
- ➔ Kapital (p100)
- ➔ Do (p100)
- ➔ Vase (p99)

For reviews, see p100 ➔