

# Ginza & Tsukiji

GINZA | SHIODOME | TSUKIJI

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Feasting your eyes and stomach on denizens of the deep at **Tsukiji Market** (p67).
- 2 Browsing some of Japan's poshest shops and top department stores in **Ginza** (p76).
- 3 Being entertained by the technicolor spectacle of kabuki drama at **Kabuki-za** (p70).
- 4 Sipping green tea in the beautiful bayside garden **Hama-rikyū Onshi-teien** (p69).
- 5 Snacking on *yakitori* (chicken skewers) with salarymen and women under the tracks at **Yūrakuchō** (p70).



For more detail of this area, see Map p278 ➔

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Join salarymen and women freshening up at **Komparu-yu** (金春湯; Map p278; www.002.upp.so-net.ne.jp/konparu; 8-7-5 Ginza, Chūō-ku; admission ¥460; ☎ 2-10pm Mon-Sat; 有 Ginza line to Shimbashi, exit 1 or 3), a simple bathhouse that's been located on a Ginza side street since 1863. Tile art includes old-school koi (carp) and the traditional Mt Fuji motifs.



### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Ore-no-dashi (p70)
- ➔ Kyūbey (p71)
- ➔ Trattoria Tsukiji Paradiso! (p71)

For reviews, see p70 ➔



### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Kagaya (p71)
- ➔ Cha Ginza (p75)
- ➔ Cafe de l'Ambre (p75)

For reviews, see p71 ➔



### Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Takumi (p76)
- ➔ Akomeya (p76)
- ➔ Dover Street Market Ginza (p76)

For reviews, see p76 ➔

## Explore Ginza & Tsukiji

Proudly ranking alongside Fifth Avenue and the Champs-Élysées, Ginza is one of the most famous shopping districts in the world. However, the growing popularity of other parts of Tokyo for high-end shopping have caused Ginza to relax its exclusivity in recent years. Now alongside Miki-moto pearls and Louis Vuitton you'll also find the likes of Uniqlo. Amid the expense-account establishments, there are also plenty of affordable dining and drinking options, including classy *rāmen* (noodle) bars and stand-up joints serving everything from fancy French dishes to sushi.

Speaking of sushi, next to Ginza is Tsukiji, currently home to the world's largest fish market. The wholesale market, where the famous bluefin tuna auctions are held, is set to move across Tokyo Bay to a new home in Toyosu in late 2016. Meanwhile, business is booming for the mouth-watering array of food-related businesses of the outer market which will remain here post 2016. The good news is that you don't need to be up before the crack of dawn to sample the best of Tsukiji or the surrounding area, which includes Hama-rikyū Onshi-teien, a gorgeous bayside garden that's home to a serene traditional teahouse.

Providing a 21st-century backdrop to the manicured greenery of Hama-rikyū are the skyscrapers of Shio-dome and the monorail running through it from Shimbashi (also spelled Shinbashi), the birthplace of Japan's railways. The vaulted spaces beneath the train lines here remain one of Tokyo's most atmospheric spots for a night of drinking and dining.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Eating** Browse Mitsukoshi and Matsuya's *depachika* – basement food floors with plenty of free samples on offer.
- ➔ **Promenading** Go for a stroll along Chūō-dōri each weekend, when a long section of the road is traffic free from noon to 5pm (until 6pm, April to September).
- ➔ **People-watching** Spot high-class hostesses, clad in kimonos, greeting salarymen at *ryōtei* (exclusive traditional restaurants); you may even see one of Tokyo's rare geisha in Shimbashi.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Train** The JR Yamanote line stops at Shimbashi Station and Yūrakuchō Station.
- ➔ **Subway** The Ginza, Hibiya and Marunouchi lines connect at Ginza Station, in the heart of Ginza. For the fish market, take either the Hibiya line to Tsukiji or the Ōedo line to Tsukijishijō.
- ➔ **Water bus** Ferries stop at Hama-rikyū Onshi-teien and go to Asakusa and Odaiba.