

Roppongi & Around

ROPPONGI | SHIBA-KŌEN | TORANOMON | AKASAKA | NISHI-AZABU | AZABU-JŪBAN

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Enjoying contemporary art and panoramic urban views from **Mori Art Museum** (p79) and **Tokyo City View** (p79).
- 2 Imbibing, karaoke-ing and living it up in the best **bars and clubs** (p86) of Roppongi and Nishi-Azabu.
- 3 Pondering cutting-edge art, architecture and design ideas at **21_21 Design Sight** (p79) in Tokyo Midtown.
- 4 Walking through the massive entrance gate to the venerable temple **Zōjō-ji** (p80) and seeing **Tokyo Tower** (p80) in the background.
- 5 Digging very curvy architecture and top-notch exhibitions at the **National Art Center, Tokyo** (p79).



For more detail of this area, see Map p280 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Keep your ticket stub for Mori Art Museum, Suntory Museum of Art or the National Art Center, Tokyo, and when you visit one of the other two galleries you'll be entitled to a discount on admission. At any of these venues, pick up the *Art Triangle Roppongi* walking map, which lists dozens of smaller galleries in the area.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tofuya-Ukai (p85)
- ➔ Kikunoi (p85)
- ➔ Warayakiya Akasaka (p85)

For reviews, see p84 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Pink Cow (p86)
- ➔ Janome (p87)
- ➔ These (p87)

For reviews, see p86 ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Japan Traditional Crafts Aoyama Square (p88)
- ➔ Tolman Collection (p88)
- ➔ Souvenir From Tokyo (p89)

For reviews, see p88 ➔

Explore Roppongi & Around

Long one of Tokyo's prime nightlife districts, Roppongi has diversified over the last decade, adding arts, culture and high-end shopping to its menu of attractions. The successful mixed-use real-estate developments Roppongi Hills and Tokyo Midtown have transformed the area. Similar projects in neighbouring Akasaka and Toranomon are now putting the spotlight on those districts, too.

You can easily spend a day exploring the Roppongi Art Triangle, its points anchored by the lofty Mori Art Museum in Roppongi Hills, Suntory Museum of Art in Tokyo Midtown and the National Art Center, Tokyo. As night falls, Roppongi Crossing becomes a magnet for an international crowd of hedonistic party-goers and club touts. Head downhill towards either Nishi-Azabu or Azabu-Jūban for more sophisticated dining and drinking options.

Akasaka's proximity to the National Diet, Japan's parliament, defines it as a high-end entertaining district for politicians and bureaucrats. In recent years it has become far less exclusive, particularly in the area around the Akasaka Sakas entertainment development. Nearby you'll find the illustrious Hie-jinja, an important Shintō shrine; a beautiful 400-year-old garden at the Hotel New Otani; and the National Theatre, which is the state-sponsored home of traditional performing arts.

Near Toranomon Station is the new Toranomon Hills development and the elegant Musee Tomo. Further south is the Shiba-kōen (Shiba Park) area. Here you can ascend or just admire the retro-glam Tokyo Tower and pace the grounds of the grand Buddhist temple of Zōjō-ji.

Local Life

➔ **Markets** There's an antiques flea market on the fourth Sunday of the month at Nogi-jinja (p80).

➔ **Networking** Attend PechaKucha (www.pechakucha.org/cities/tokyo) events at SuperDeluxe (p87) to discover what the local creatives are up to.

➔ **Events** The covered arena next to Roppongi Hills' Mohri Garden regularly hosts events and performances such as those for Roppongi Art Night (www.roppongi.artnight.com) in April.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Roppongi** The Hibiya and Ōedo subway lines run through Roppongi. The Ōedo line can also be used to access Azabu-Jūban and the Tokyo Tower and Shiba-kōen area. Nogizaka on the Chiyoda line is handy for the National Art Center, Tokyo.

➔ **Akasaka** The Yūrakuchō, Hanzōmon, Namboku, Chiyoda, Marunouchi and Ginza subway lines all converge in and around Akasaka.