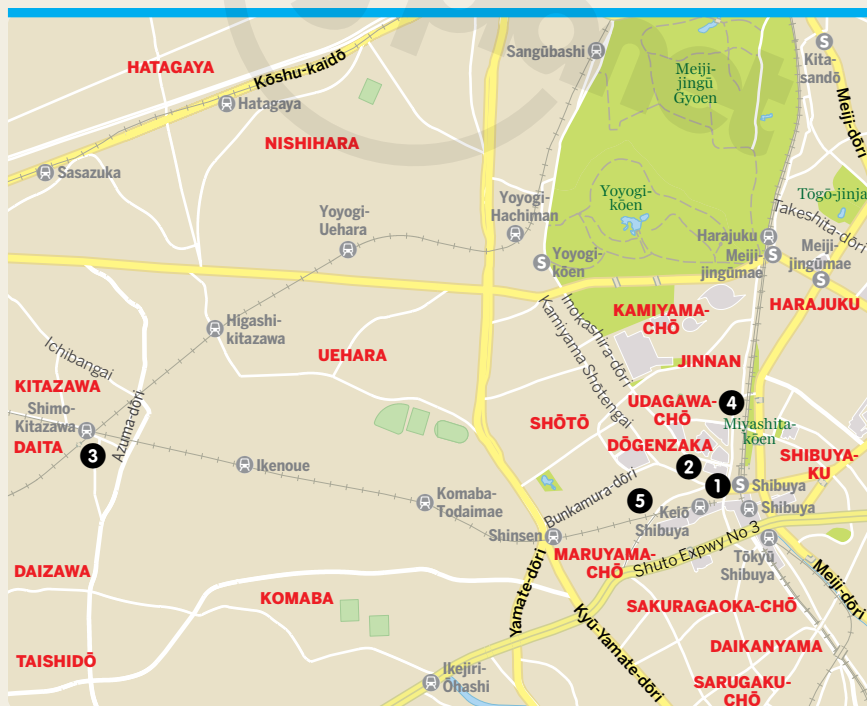


# Shibuya & Shimo-Kitazawa

SHIBUYA | SHINSEN

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Losing yourself in the crowds at **Shibuya Crossing** (p103), and getting swept along in the beating heart of desire, aspiration and materialism that is Shibuya.
- 2 Eating, drinking and shopping your way down the neighbourhood's buzzing main drag, **Shibuya Center-gai** (p104).
- 3 Wandering the tiny alleys of **Shimo-Kitazawa** (p108), a bohemian enclave.
- 4 Singing your heart out at all-night karaoke parlour **Shidax Village** (p110).
- 5 Scoping out the club scene on **Dōgenzaka** (p104), also known as Love Hotel Hill.



For more detail of this area, see Map p283 ➔

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Missed the last train? You're not alone – or stuck for options. Shibuya has plenty for night crawlers who were lured out late by the neighbourhood's charms but who'd rather not fork over the yen for a taxi ride home. In addition to love hotels and *manga kissa* (cafes where you pay by the hour to read manga, Japanese comic books), consider waiting for the first train at a karaoke parlour: most offer discounted all-night packages from midnight to 5am.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ d47 Shokudō (p105)
- ➔ Matsukiya (p108)
- ➔ Shirube (p109)
- ➔ Kaikaya (p108)

For reviews, see p105 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Good Beer Faucets (p108)
- ➔ Bear Pond Espresso (p108)
- ➔ Fuglen Tokyo (p111)
- ➔ Tight (p110)

For reviews, see p108 ➔

### Best Places for Entertainment

- ➔ WWW (p110)
- ➔ Setagaya Public Theatre (p110)
- ➔ Club Quattro (p111)

For reviews, see p110 ➔

## Explore Shibuya & Shimo-Kitazawa

Shibuya has few sights, but makes up for it with sheer presence. As you exit the station you'll first hit Japan's busiest intersection, Shibuya Crossing – a neon-lit scene that has become synonymous with Tokyo. From here, the pedestrian traffic carries onto Shibuya Center-gai, the neighbourhood's main artery, lined with shops, cheap eateries and bars.

The area around Center-gai is primarily a teen hang-out. On the east side of Shibuya Station, the new Shibuya Hikarie complex is part of an effort to redevelop the neighbourhood and bring in a more adult (and moneyed) vibe. Inside you'll find a handful of cultural attractions, several floors of restaurants and tonnes of shopping.

Further afield, 3km southwest of central Shibuya, is the cosy neighbourhood of Shimo-Kitazawa, with small, quirky shops, good restaurants and hole-in-the-wall bars around every corner. It's popular with students, but also with an artsy and intellectual grown-up crowd. There's an active underground music and theatre scene here, too.

Shibuya is, above all, an entertainment district and it really comes alive at night. There are dance clubs, live-music venues, theatres and cinemas galore. While weekends are the busiest, you'll find people from all over Tokyo here any night of the week. Bars and karaoke parlours stay open until dawn.

## Local Life

➔ **Teen culture** Local teens love fashion hive Shibuya 109 (p112) and the 'print club' photo booths at Purikura no Mecca (p112).

➔ **Record stores** Shimo-Kitazawa (p108) and the Udagawa-chō neighbourhood of Shibuya are studded with tiny specialist record shops popular with local DJs.

➔ **Dining** Nearer to Shinsen Station (one stop west of Shibuya) are some restaurants with a more grown-up vibe. Try Kaikaya (p108) or Matsukiya (p108).

➔ **Hang-outs** The neighbourhood Tomigaya (p111), along with the Kamiyama *shōtengai* (market street) that runs between Tomigaya and central Shibuya, is the centre of a hip cafe and bistro scene.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Train** The JR Yamanote line stops at Shibuya Station. The Keiō Inokashira line departs from Keiō Shibuya Station for Shinsen, Komaba-Todaimae and Shimo-Kitazawa.

➔ **Subway** The Ginza, Hanzōmon and Fukutoshin lines stop in Shibuya.

➔ **Bus** Bus No 1 departs for Roppongi from platform No 58 of the east exit bus terminal.