“All you’ve got to do is decide to go and the hardest part is over. So go!”

TONY WHEELER, COFOUNDER – LONELY PLANET
(left) Koishikawa Kōrakuen p138 Formal strolling garden.

(above) Akihabara p136 Electronics district.

(right) Yakitori p36 Chicken skewers.
Top Itineraries

Day One

Harajuku & Aoyama (p106)
Start with a visit to Meiji-jingū, Tokyo’s signature Shintō shrine. Then walk down Omote-sandō to check out the jaw-dropping contemporary architecture along this stylish boulevard. Work (and shop) your way back through the side streets of Ura-Hara, and then up Takeshita-dōri, the famous teen fashion bazaar.

Shibuya & Shimo-Kitazawa (p95)
Head down to Shibuya (you can walk) and continue your schooling in Tokyo pop culture by wandering the lanes of this youthful neighbourhood. Don’t miss Shibuya Center-gai, the main drag, and the mural, Myth of Tomorrow, in the train station. Stick around Shibuya until dusk to see Shibuya Crossing all lit up.

Shinjuku & Northwest Tokyo (p125)
Take the train to Shinjuku and immerse yourself in the swarming crowds and neon lights of this notorious nightlife district. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building observatories stay open until 11pm for free night views. Freshen up at urban onsen Thermae-yu. From around 9pm the shanty bars of Golden Gai come to life; take your pick from the quirky offerings and finish up with a time-honoured Tokyo tradition: a late-night bowl of noodles at Nagi.

Day Two

Ginza & Tsukiji (p65)
Skip breakfast and head to Tsukiji Outer Market, where you can cobble together a morning meal from the food vendors here. There are also stalls selling kitchen tools, tea and more. From Tsukiji it’s an easy walk to the landscape garden Hama-rikyū Onshi-teien, where you can stop for tea in the teahouse Nakajima no Ochaya. Then walk (or take a taxi) to Ginza, home to department stores, art galleries and luxury boutiques.

Ginza & Tsukiji (p65)
Continue exploring Ginza, walking as far as Hibiya, to see the edge of the Imperial Palace, with its moats and keeps. Then hop on the subway and ride back to Kabukiza (in Higashi-Ginza), to see a single act of kabuki (check the schedule online beforehand).

Marunouchi & Nihombashi (p54)
Walk up Namiki-dōri, home to high-end hostess bars, and pretty, tree-lined Naka-dōri to Marunouchi. In nearby Yūrakuchō, you can stop for sake, beer and small plates of food under the elevated train tracks at Manpuku Shokudō. Or go upscale with cocktails at Peter atop the Peninsula Hotel.
Day Three

Ueno & Yanesen (p147)

Spend the morning exploring the many attractions of Ueno-kōen, home to the Tokyo National Museum, centuries-old temples and shrines, and Tokyo’s biggest zoo. Then take a stroll through the old-fashioned, open-air market, Ameya-yokochō, and the historical neighbourhood of Yanaka; in the latter you’ll find art galleries and studios.

Asakusa & Sumida River (p159)

Catch the subway for Asakusa to visit the temple complex Sensō-ji, the shrine Asakusa-jinja and the maze of old-world alleys that surround these sights. There are lots of shops selling traditional crafts and foodstuffs around here, too.

Lunch Get a course of seasonal skewers at historic Hantei (p157).

Dinner Fill up on steaming oden at 100-year-old Otafuku (p167).

Don’t miss the temple complex all lit up from dusk.

Day Four

West Tokyo (p118)

Take the train west to the magical Ghibli Museum (reservations necessary; we recommend getting in early at 10am). Afterwards walk through woodsly Inokashira-kōen, stopping at Inokashira Benzaiten, to Kichijōji, home to the old market, Harmonica-yokochō.

Lunch Skewers at Tetchan (p122) or wagyu steak at Satou (p123).

Kōrakuen & Akihabara (p136)

After lunch, work your way east on the Sōbu line: your final goal is pop culture centre Akihabara. (But if you get distracted by the vintage clothing shops of Kōenji or the more underground otaku scene in Nakano, that’s OK too.) In Akiba you can play retro video games at Super Potato Retro-kan and ride go-karts – while dressed as video-game characters – through the streets with Akiba Kart (reserve ahead; international driving licence necessary).

Dinner Get the izakaya experience at Jōmon (p84) or Gonpachi (p81).

Asakusa & Sumida River (p159)

Asakusa has some fun, low-key nightlife, from the historic beer hall Kamiya Bar to the modern Asahi Sky Room (where the view of the illuminated Tokyo Sky Tree and the snaking Sumida-gawa is excellent); you can also catch folk-music shows at Oiwake. Or just take the subway to Ryōgoku for more beer: Popeye

Roppongi, Akasaka & Around (p76)

Hop on the Hibiya line for Roppongi to check out Roppongi Hills, the first of Tokyo’s new breed of live-work-and-play megamalls. On the top floor of a tower here is the excellent Mori Art
### Top Sights (p56)

1. Imperial Palace 
2. Amazake Yokochō 
3. Crafts Gallery 
4. Hirakawa-mon 
5. Imperial Palace East
6. Intermediatheque 
7. Iwaida-bashi 
8. Kikyō-mon 
9. Kitahanebashi-mon
10. Kite Museum 
11. Mitsui Memorial Museum 
13. Nihombashi (Nihonbashi) 
14. Pasona 
15. Science Museum, Tokyo

### Sights (p57)

2. Amazake Yokochō 
3. Crafts Gallery 
4. Hirakawa-mon 
5. Imperial Palace East
6. Intermediatheque 
7. Iwaida-bashi 
8. Kikyō-mon 
9. Kitahanebashi-mon 
10. Kite Museum 
11. Mitsui Memorial Museum 
13. Nihombashi (Nihonbashi) 
14. Pasona 
15. Science Museum, Tokyo

### Eating (p58)

22. Dhaba India 
23. Hōnen Manpuku 
24. Nihonbashi Dashi Bar
25. Tamahide 
26. Tokyo Rāmen Street

### Drinking & Nightlife (p63)

27. 100% Chocolate Cafe 
28. Art + Eat 
29. Craft Beer Market
30. Manpuku Shokudō

### Shopping (p64)

36. Ceredo Muromachi 
37. Futaba
38. Mitsukoshi 
39. Muji

### Sports & Activities (p64)

43. Imperial Palace Cycling 
44. Tokyo Bay Cruise

### Entertainment (p63)

33. Cotton Club 
34. Meiji-za 
35. Nippon Budōkan

### Sleeping (p194)

45. Aman Tokyo 
46. grids Akihabara 
47. Hoshinoya Tokyo 
48. Palace Hotel Tokyo 
49. Wise Owl Hostels Tokyo

### Information

51. JNTO Tourist Information Center 
52. JR East Travel Service Center 
53. Tokyo Tourist Information Center
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1 Kabukiza Theatre ........................................ D2
2 Tsukiji Outer Market ..................................... E3

Sights (p68)
3 Fruit & Vegetable Auctions ............................. D4
4 Gallery Koyanagi ......................................... D1
5 Ginza Graphic Gallery ..................................... C2
6 Ginza Sony Park ........................................... C1
7 Hama-ryû Onshi-teien .................................... C5
8 METToA Ginza ............................................ C2
9 Nakagin Capsule Tower .................................. C3
10 Namiyoke-jinja ........................................... E4
11 Seafood Wholesalers’ Area ............................. D4
12 Shiseido Gallery ........................................... C3
13 Sumiyoshi-jinja ........................................... C3
14 Tokyo Gallery + BTAP .................................... C3
15 Tsukiji Hongwan-ji ...................................... E3
16 Tsukiji Market ............................................. D4
17 Tsukuda Ohashi ........................................... G3
18 Tsukudakobashi ............................................ G3

Eating (p69)
19 Apollo ...................................................... C1
20 Kagari ...................................................... C2
21 Kimagure-ya .............................................. E4
22 Kyûbey ...................................................... B3
23 Maru ......................................................... C2
24 Monja Kondō ............................................. Q4
25 Sanokiyama ................................................ E3
26 Sushikuni ..................................................... E4
27 Trattoria Tsukiji Paradiso! .............................. E4
28 Tsukiji Uogashi ............................................ E4
29 Tsukugon ..................................................... E3
30 Uogashi-yokochô ......................................... D4
31 Yamachô ..................................................... D3
32 Yûrakuchô Sanchoku Inshokugai ...................... B1

Drinking & Nightlife (p71)
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34 Café de l’Ambre ........................................... C3
35 Cha Ginza .................................................. C2
36 Juguetsudo .................................................. (see 1)
37 Nakajima no Ochaya ..................................... C5
38 Sake Plaza ................................................... A2
39 Town House Tokyo ...................................... B3
40 Turret Coffee ............................................. E3
41 Tokyo Takarazuka Theatre .............................. B1
42 Akomeya ...................................................... D1
43 Antique Mall Ginza ...................................... D1
44 Dover Street Ginza ........................................ C2
45 Ginza Six ..................................................... C2
46 Itoya .......................................................... D1
47 Matsuya ..................................................... D1
48 Mitsukoshi ................................................... C2
49 Sanrioworld Ginza ....................................... C1

Sports & Activities (p75)
50 Takumi ....................................................... B2
51 Tenyasu Honten .......................................... G3
52 Tsukiji Hitachiya .......................................... E3

Shopping (p74)
53 Komparu-yu ................................................ C2
54 Tokyo Cooking Studio .................................... G2
55 Tsukiji Market Information Centre .................. D3

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56 Daiwa Roynet Hotel Ginza ......................... D1
57 Imperial Hotel ............................................. B1
58 Mitsui Garden Hotel Ginza Premier ................ C3
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60 Fish Information Center ......................... E4
ROPPONGI, AKASAKA & AROUND

Top Sights (p78)
1 Roppongi Hills ........................................... C6
2 21_21 Design Sight .................................... C4
3 Atago-jinja .............................................. G5
4 Canadian Embassy Stone Garden .................. C2
5 Complex 665 ............................................. D6
6 Fujifilm Square .......................................... C5
7 General Nogi’s Residence ............................ C4
8 Hie-jinja .................................................. E2
9 Honda Welcome Plaza Aoyama .................... B3
10 Hotel New Ōtani Gardens ........................... D1
11 Maman Spider Sculpture ............................ C6
12 Mohri Garden .......................................... C6
13 Mori Art Museum ...................................... C6
14 Musée Tomo ............................................ F4
15 National Art Center Tokyo ......................... C5
16 Nogi-jinja ............................................... C4
17 Sangedatsumon ....................................... H7
18 Sōgetsu Kaikan ........................................ C2
19 Suntory Museum of Art .............................. C4
20 Tokyo City View ...................................... (see 13)
21 Tokyo Garden Terrace ............................... E1
22 Tokyo Midtown ........................................ D4
23 Zōjō-ji .................................................... G7

Sights (p79)
24 Chinese Cafe 8 ........................................ C6
25 Gogyō  .................................................. B5
26 Gonpachi ................................................ B6
27 Honmura-An .......................................... D5
28 Jōmon ..................................................... D6
29 Kikuni ..................................................... D3
30 Lauderdale ............................................. C6
31 Mornington Cresent ................................. F7
32 Sougo ..................................................... D5
33 Tofuya-Ukai .......................................... G7
34 Uramakiya ............................................. F7

Drinking & Nightlife (p85)
35 Agave ..................................................... C5
36 Brewdog ................................................. D6
37 Mori-no Beer Garden ................................. A1
38 Royal Garden Café ................................ A3
39 Sekirei .................................................. A1
40 SuperDeluxe ........................................... C6
41 The Garden ............................................. D6
42 These ..................................................... B6
43 Toranomon Koffee ................................ G4

Entertainment (p86)
44 Suntory Hall ........................................... F4

Shopping (p86)
45 Axis Design ............................................ E6
46 Blue & White ......................................... D7
47 Japan Traditional Crafts Aoyama Square ...... C2
48 Tolman Collection ................................... H7

Sports & Activities (p86)

Eating (p81)
24 Chinese Cafe 8 ........................................ C6
25 Gogyō  .................................................. B5
26 Gonpachi ................................................ B6
27 Honmura-An .......................................... D5
28 Jōmon ..................................................... D6
29 Kikuni ..................................................... D3
30 Lauderdale ............................................. C6
31 Mornington Cresent ................................. F7
32 Sougo ..................................................... D5
33 Tofuya-Ukai .......................................... G7
34 Uramakiya ............................................. F7

Sleeping (p195)
49 APA Hotel Roppongi .................................. D5
50 First Cabin Akasaka ................................. E3
51 Hotel Mystays Premier Akasaka .................. E3
52 Hotel S .................................................. B6
53 Hotel the M Insomnia Akasaka ................... E3
54 Kaisu .................................................... D3
55 Zabutton Good Hostel .............................. F7

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57 Netherlands Embassy ............................... F6
58 Russian Embassy .................................... F6
59 Tokyo Medical & Surgical Clinic .................. G7
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1 Beer Museum Yebisu ........................................ D4
2 Container .................................................................. A3
3 Institute for Nature Study .................................. F6
4 Kyū Asakura House ........................................ A2
5 Meguro-gawa ........................................................ A3
6 Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum .... E5
7 TOP Museum ................................................... D4
8 Yamatane Museum of Art ................................ D1
9 Yebisu Garden Place ...................................... D4

Eating (p90)
10 Afuri ................................................................. D2
Bombay Bazar .................................................. (see 28)
11 Ebisu-yokochō ............................................. D2
12 Ippo ................................................................. D3
13 Megutama ........................................................ D1
14 Ōtaru ................................................................. A3
15 Oca ................................................................. D2
16 Ta-im ............................................................... E2
17 Tonki ................................................................. D7
18 Yakiniku Champion ...................................... C3

Drinking & Nightlife (p93)
19 Bar Martha ..................................................... D3
20 Bar Trench ....................................................... C2
21 Buri ................................................................. C2
22 Nakame Takkyū Lounge ........................ A3
23 Sarutahiko Coffee .......................................... D2

Entertainment (p94)
24 Liquid Room .................................................. C2
25 Unit ................................................................. B3

Shopping (p94)
26 Daikanyama T-Site ........................................ A2
27 Kapital .............................................................. C3
28 Okura .............................................................. A2
29 Vase ................................................................. A3
HARAJUKU & Aoyama

Top Sights (p108)
1 Meiji-jingu
2 Cat Street
3 Design Festa
4 Dior Omote-sando
5 Kawaii Monster Cafe
6 Louis Vuitton Omote-sando
7 Meiji-jingu Gyoen
8 Nezu Museum
9 Omotesando
10 Omotesando Hills
11 Prada Aoyama
12 Spiral Building
13 Takeshita-dori
14 Taro Okamoto Memorial Museum
15 Tod’s Omote-sando
16 Tokyo Plaza
17 Ukiyo-e Ota Memorial Museum of Art
18 Watari Museum of Contemporary Art
19 Yoyogi National Stadium
20 Yoyogi-koen
21 Commune 246
22 Farmer’s Market @UNU
23 Harajuku Gyōza-rö
24 Higashiya Man
25 Kyūshūyō Jangara
26 Maisen
27 Maru
28 Mominoki House

Eating (p11)
21 Commune 246
22 Farmer’s Market @UNU
23 Harajuku Gyōza-rö
24 Higashiya Man
25 Kyūshūyō Jangara
26 Maisen
27 Maru
28 Mominoki House
29 Yanmo
30 A to Z Cafe
31 Harajuku Taproom
32 Little Nap Coffee
33 Montoak
34 Two Rooms
35 Crocodile
36 Jingū Baseball
37 6% Doki Doki
38 Arts & Science

Drinking & Nightlife (p113)
30 A to Z Cafe
31 Harajuku Taproom
32 Little Nap Coffee
33 Montoak
34 Two Rooms

Entertainment (p113)
35 Crocodile
36 Jingū Baseball
37 6% Doki Doki
38 Arts & Science

Sports & Activities (p117)
46 Oha School of Ikebana
47 Shimizu-yu

Shopping (p116)
37 6% Doki Doki
38 Arts & Science

Sleeping (p197)
48 Dormy Inn Premium Shibuya

Bedrock
Chicago Thrift Store
Comme des Garçons
Dog
Gallery Kawano
KiddyLand
Laforet
Musubi
On Sundays
Raw Tokyo
Sou-Sou

See map p273
KORAKUEN & AROUND

Sights (p138)
1 Akagi-jinja .................................................... A1
2 Koishikawa Kōrakuen................................. C1
3 National Shōwa Memorial Museum.........D3
4 Yasukuni-jinja .............................................. B3
5 Yūshū-kan..................................................... B3

Eating (p139)
6 Canal Cafe.................................................... B2
7 Kado.............................................................. A1

Drinking & Nightlife (p143)
8 Craft Beer Server Land.............................. B2
9 Mugimaru 2 ................................................. B2

Entertainment (p144)
10 Tokyo Dome ................................................ D1

Shopping (p144)
11 Baikatei......................................................... A1
12 Kukuli ............................................................ B1
13 Sada .............................................................. A1

Sports & Activities (p146)
14 Buddha Bellies............................................ D3
15 Ichigaya Fish Centre .................................. A4
16 Spa LaQua.................................................... D1
17 Tokyo Dome City
  Attractions ................................................ D1

Sleeping (p198)
18 Tokyo Central Youth Hostel............... B2

Information
19 Tokyo Metro Lost & Found ....................... B2

See map p266
Top Sights (p149)
1. Tokyo National Museum
2. Asakura Museum of Sculpture, Taitō
3. Enju-ji
4. Gallery of Hōryū-ji Treasures
5. Heiseikan
6. Kiyōmizu Kannon-đō
7. Kuroda Memorial Hall
8. Kuro-mon
9. Kyō Iwasaki-teien
11. National Museum of Western Art
12. Nezu-ji
13. SCAI the Bathhouse
14. Shinobazu-ike
15. Shitamachi Museum
16. Shitamachi Museum Annex
17. Ueno Tōshō-gū
18. Ueno Zoo
19. Ueno-kōen
20. Yanaka Ginza
21. Yanaka-reien
22. Yushima Tenjin

Sights (p153)
26. Kamachiku
27. Nagomi
28. Nezu no Taiyaki
29. Sasa-no-Yuki
30. Shin Suicide

Drinking & Nightlife (p157)
31. Bousingot
32. Kayaba Coffee
33. Torindō
34. Yanaka Beer Hall

Entertainment (p157)
35. Tokyo Bunka Kaikan

Shopping (p158)
36. Ameya-yokochō
37. Edokoro Allan West
38. Isetatsu
39. Shokichi
40. Yanaka Matsunoya

Sports & Activities (p158)
41. Rokuryu Kōsen
42. Tokyo bike Rental Service
43. Ueno Free Walking Tour

Eating (p155)
44. Annex Katsutarō Ryokan
45. Hanare
46. Sawanoya Ryokan

Sleeping (p199)
47. Hanare
48. Sawanoya Ryokan
1 Edo-Tokyo Museum ...................................................... B1
2 Fukagawa Fudo-dō .......................................................... C5
3 Kiyosumi-teien .............................................................. C4
4 Sumida Hokusai Museum .................................................... C1
5 Tomioka Hachiman-gū ...................................................... C5

6 Kintame ................................................................. B5
7 Popeye ................................................................. B1
8 Ryogoku Kokugikan ...................................................... B1
Our Story
A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that’s all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, Across Asia on the Cheap. Within a week they’d sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony’s belief that ’a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse’.

Our Writers

Rebecca Milner

Ebisu, Meguro & Around, Harajuku & Aoyama, Shibuya & Shimo-Kitazawa, Shinjuku & Northwest Tokyo, West Tokyo, Odaiba & Tokyo Bay

California born, and longtime Tokyo resident (15 years and counting!), Rebecca has co-authored Lonely Planet guides to Tokyo, Japan, Korea and China. A freelance writer covering travel, food and culture, Rebecca has been published in the Guardian, the Independent, the Sunday Times Travel Magazine, the Japan Times and more. After spending the better part of her twenties working to travel – doing odd jobs in Tokyo to make money so she could spend months at a time backpacking around Asia – Rebecca joined the Lonely Planet team of freelance writers in 2010.

Rebecca also wrote the Welcome to Tokyo, Tokyo’s Top 16, What’s New, Need to Know, Top Itineraries, If You Like..., Month by Month, With Kids, Like a Local, Free, Eating, Shopping, Neighbourhoods at a Glance, Sleeping, Tokyo Today, History, Arts & Architecture, and Onsen chapters, and the Survival Guide.

Simon Richmond

Asakusa & Sumida River, Ginza & Tsukiji, Kōrakuen & Akihabara, Marunouchi & Nihombashi, Roppongi, Akasaka & Around, Ueno & Yanesen

Journalist and photographer Simon Richmond has specialised as a travel writer since the early 1990s and first worked for Lonely Planet in 1999 on their Central Asia guide. He’s long since stopped counting the number of guidebooks he’s researched and written for the company, but countries covered include Australia, China, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Russia, Singapore, South Africa and Turkey. For Lonely Planet’s website he’s penned features on topics from the world’s best swimming pools to the joys of Urban Sketching - follow him on Instagram to see some of his photos and sketches.

His travel features have been published in newspapers and magazines around the world, including in the UK’s Independent, Guardian, Times, Daily Telegraph and Royal Geographical Society Magazine; and Australia’s Sydney Morning Herald and Australian Financial Review Magazine. Simon also wrote the Drinking & Nightlife, Entertainment and Tokyo Pop Culture chapters.