

Ginza & Tsukiji

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Tsukiji Outer Market (p67) Rising early to catch the best of the city's seafood and other delicious eats at this bustling market area next to the old wholesale market.

2 Dover Street Market Ginza (p74) Browsing some of Japan's top designers at this boutique that's like a

contemporary art gallery, then continuing shopping at Ginza's poshest shops and department stores.

3 Kabukiza Theatre (p69) Lining up for a one-act ticket and being entertained by the Technicolor spectacle of kabuki drama.

4 Hama-rikyū Onshi-teien (p68) Strolling past

immaculately manicured trees, some hundreds of years old, and sipping green tea in this beautiful bayside garden.

5 Yūrakuchō Sanchoku Inshokugai (p70) Snacking on *yakitori* (chicken skewers) with salarymen and women under the railway tracks.



For more detail of this area see Map p268 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Besides visiting Hama-rikyū Onshi-teien (p68) as a side trip from Ginza or Tsukiji, consider travelling by boat (p236) to or from Asakusa via the Sumida-gawa (Sumida River).



Best Places to Eat

- Kyūbey (p70)
- Trattoria Tsukiji Paradiso! (p70)
- Apollo (p69)
- Kagari (p69)

For reviews, see p69. ➡



Best Places to Drink

- Cha Ginza (p71)
- Café de l'Ambre (p71)
- Turret Coffee (p71)
- Bistro Marx (p71)
- Kagaya (p71)

For reviews, see p71. ➡



Best Places to Shop

- Takumi (p74)
- Itōya (p74)
- Akomeya (p74)
- Dover Street Market Ginza (p74)

For reviews, see p74. ➡

Explore Ginza & Tsukiji

Proudly ranking alongside Fifth Avenue and the Champs-Élysées, Ginza is among the world's most famous shopping districts, though it's not as exclusive as it used to be: now alongside Mikimoto Pearls and Louis Vuitton you'll also find the likes of Uniqlo. Amid the expense-account establishments, there's also plenty of affordable dining and drinking options, including classy ramen bars and stand-up joints serving everything from fancy French dishes to sushi.

Speaking of sushi, next to Ginza is Tsukiji. The wholesale fish, fruit and vegetable market, where the famous bluefin tuna auctions are held, may still move across Tokyo Bay to a new home in Toyosu in 2017 (or possibly later). Meanwhile, business is booming for the mouth-watering array of food-related businesses of the outer market (p67), which are here to stay. 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 the bayside garden Hama-rikyū Onshi-teien (p68).

Providing a 21st-century backdrop to the manicured greenery of Hama-rikyū are the skyscrapers of Shiodome and the monorail running through it from Shinbashi (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** Explore Mitsukoshi's (p75) and other department stores' *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 Shinbashi.

Getting There & Away

- **Train** The JR Yamanote line stops at Shinbashi Station and Yūrakuchō Station.
- **Subway** The Ginza, Hibiya and Marunouchi lines connect at Ginza Station, in the heart of Ginza. For Tsukiji, take either the Hibiya line to Tsukiji or the Ōedo line to Tsukijishijō.
- **Water Bus** Ferries stop at Hama-rikyū Onshi-teien (p68) and go to Asakusa and Odaiba.