

Roppongi, Akasaka & Around

ROPPONGI | AKASAKA | SHIBA-KŌEN

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Mori Art Museum** (p78)
Enjoying contemporary art and Tokyo's urban panorama from this gallery that occupies the top of Mori Tower along with the observatory Tokyo City View.
- 2 21_21 Design Sight** (p79)
Pondering cutting-edge art, architecture and design ideas at the Andō

Tadao-designed building in the park behind Tokyo Midtown.

- 3 Zōjō-ji** (p81)
Walking through the massive entrance gate to this venerable temple and seeing Tokyo Tower in the background.
- 4 National Art Center Tokyo** (p79)
Digging the very curvy architecture and

top-notch exhibitions at this Kurokawa Kishō-designed building.

- 5 Hotel New Ōtani Gardens** (p80)
Strolling around this serene 400-year-old Japanese garden, which hides within the grounds of this 1960s hotel.



For more detail of this area see Map p270 ➔

Explore Roppongi, Akasaka & Around

Long one of Tokyo's prime nightlife districts, Roppongi has diversified over the last decade, with the successful mixed-use real-estate developments Roppongi Hills (p78) and Tokyo Midtown (p79) bringing arts, culture and high-end shopping to the neighbourhood.

You can easily spend a day exploring the Roppongi Art Triangle, its points anchored by the Mori Art Museum (p78), the Suntory Museum of Art (p79) and the National Art Center Tokyo (p79). As night falls, Roppongi Crossing becomes a magnet for an international crowd of hedonistic party-goers and club touts. Head downhill towards 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 establishment Tokyo. Attractions include Hie-jinja (p81), an important Shintō shrine; the Hotel New Ōtani's beautiful 400-year-old garden (p80); and the National Theatre (p86), the state-sponsored home of traditional performing arts. Further south, in and around Shiba-kōen (Shiba Park), you can ascend or just admire the retro-glam Tokyo Tower (p81) and pace the grounds of the grand Buddhist temple Zōjō-ji (p81).

Local Life

- **Markets** There's a small antiques flea market on the fourth Sunday of the month at Nogi-jinja (p79).
- **Networking** Attend PechaKucha (www.pechakucha.org/cities/tokyo) events at SuperDeluxe (p85) to discover what the local creatives are up to.
- **Events** The covered arena next to Roppongi Hills' Mohri Garden (p78) regularly hosts events and performances, such as those for Roppongi Art Night (www.roppongiartnight.com) and outdoor film screenings during the Tokyo International Film Festival (p27) in October.

Getting There & Away

- **Subway** The Hibiya and Ōedo subway lines run through Roppongi. The Ōedo line runs through Azabu-Jūban and near Shiba-kōen. The Yūrakuchō, Hanzōmon, Namboku, Chiyoda, Marunouchi and Ginza subway lines all converge in and around Akasaka.
- **Bus** The quickest way to get between Roppongi and Shibuya is on buses running along Roppongi-dōri.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Keep your ticket stub for Mori Art Museum (p78), Suntory Museum of Art (p79) or the National Art Center Tokyo (p79), 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)
- Honmura-An (p84)
- Sougo (p84)
- Kikunoi (p84)
- Gogyo (p81)

For reviews, see p81. ➡

Best Places to Drink

- Brewdog (p85)
- SuperDeluxe (p85)
- These (p85)
- The Garden (p85)

For reviews, see p85. ➡

Best Places to Shop

- Japan Traditional Crafts Aoyama Square (p86)
- Souvenir From Tokyo (p86)
- Axis Design (p86)
- Tolman Collection (p86)

For reviews, see p86. ➡