

Shibuya & Shimo-Kitazawa

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Shibuya Crossing (p97) Losing yourself in the crowds at Japan's busiest intersection – and getting swept along in the beating heart of desire, aspiration and materialism that is Shibuya.

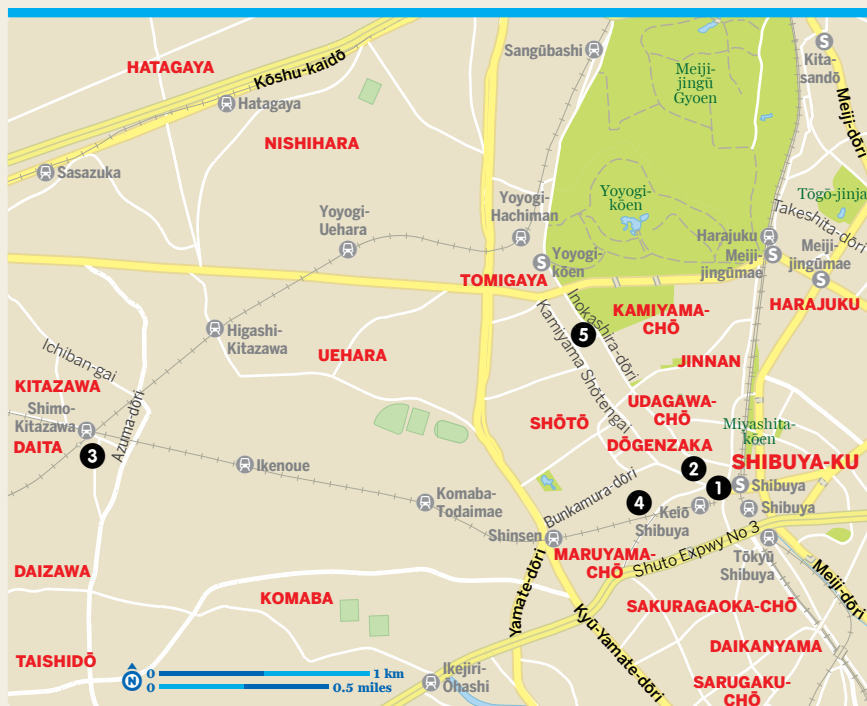
2 Shibuya Center-gai (p97) Eating, drinking and shopping your way down

the neighbourhood's always lively, neon-lit main drag.

3 Shimo-Kitazawa (p100) Getting lost in the tiny alleyways of this well-loved, bohemian neighbourhood, which offers a picture of how Tokyo might look if hippies – not bureaucrats – ran the city.

4 Dōgenzaka (p98) Scoping out the all-night club scene on the sloping stretch also known as Love Hotel Hill.

5 Tomigaya (p104) Checking out the hip hang-outs, such as Fuglen, in this 'un-Shibuya' neighbourhood, favoured by young creatives.



For more detail of this area see Map p273 ➔

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 (p98)
- ➔ Shirube (p100)
- ➔ Matsukiya (p99)

For reviews, see p98. ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Good Beer Faucets (p99)
- ➔ Ghetto (p99)
- ➔ Fuglen Tokyo (p104)
- ➔ Womb (p100)

For reviews, see p99. ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Tokyu Hands (p105)
- ➔ Fake Tokyo (p105)
- ➔ Shibuya 109 (p105)

For reviews, see p105. ➔

Explore Shibuya & Shimo-Kitazawa

Shibuya is a neighbourhood that gets a late start – after all it was partying until the first trains started running in the morning. Come for lunch. Ease your way in by starting with the Shibuya of the future: Shibuya Hikarie (p105), a light and airy complex connected to the train station with views over the neighbourhood.

Then head down into the fray: exit the train station for Shibuya Crossing (p97), the epic neon-lit intersection that has become synonymous with Tokyo. From here, the pedestrian traffic flows onto Shibuya Center-gai (p97), the neighbourhood's lively main artery, lined with shops, cheap eateries and bars.

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 (and you may find yourself drawn back night after night). Bars and karaoke parlours stay open until dawn.

It's also worth spending some time in down-to-earth Shimo-Kitazawa, home to cafes and vintage shops, dive bars and underground live-music venues.

Local Life

➔ **Teen Culture** Local teens love fashion hive Shibuya 109 (p105) and the 'print club' photo booths at Purikura no Mecca (p105).

➔ **Record Stores** Shimo-Kitazawa and the Udagawa-chō neighbourhood of Shibuya are studded with tiny specialist record shops that are popular with local DJs. Pick up event fliers here.

➔ **Hang-outs** The neighbourhood Tomigaya (p104) 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. The Chiyoda line stops at Yoyogi-kōen Station (for Tomigaya); some trains continue on the Odakyū line for Shimo-Kitazawa.

➔ **Bus** Bus No 1 departs for Roppongi from the east side of Shibuya Station, on the corner of Meiji-dōri and Miyamasu-zaka.