

Hotels & Hostels

Want more sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to lonelyplanet.com/hotels and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- Westin Hotel Tokyo (p222)
- Park Hyatt Tokyo (p223)
- Ryokan Shigetsu (p219)
- Sukeroku No Yado Sadachiyo (p219)
- Kimi Ryokan (p225)

SLEEPING

Tokyo has thousands of places to sleep, and not all of them will cost you an arm and a leg. But if you've come here on a budget, expect some noise, less space and a longer walk from the train station. If expense is not so much of an issue, you can choose from myriad decadent rooms – many boast incredible city views. Central neighbourhoods like Ginza, Shinjuku and Akasaka are ideal, with loads of high-end options.

Though most of the accommodation in Tokyo is Western style, there are a few traditional inns and hotels. For full definitions of each type of lodging, see below. Note that most Tokyo ryokan (traditional Japanese inns) don't exactly fit the mould found elsewhere in Japan.

Most hotels in Japan supply amenities such as disposable toothbrushes and toothpaste, razors, slippers and *yukata* (light cotton robes for sleeping or lounging). The symbol '☑' denotes wi-fi, LAN or computer terminals in lobbies or business centres.

Rack rates are quoted in this chapter, but prices can vary drastically. Most business and high-end hotels offer discounts, often significant ones, for reservations made in advance via phone or internet; check their websites for seasonal deals. Rates at budget places usually remain as quoted. Keep in mind that during Golden Week (29 April to 5 May) and other national holidays (p259), rooms may be booked out or, if available, very expensive.

ACCOMMODATION STYLES

Business Hotels

A common form of midrange accommodation is the so-called 'business hotel' – usually as functional and economical as the name would suggest. Geared to the lone traveller on business, the typical Tokyo business-hotel room will have pay TV (often used with pre-paid cards available from machines in the hotel) and a tiny bathroom, and cost between ¥7000 and ¥12,000. Most accept credit cards, but you should always ask when you check in. Some of the nicer business hotels have large shared baths and saunas.

Boutique Hotels

As accommodation in Tokyo becomes increasingly international, high-end chains are opening branches here, and boutique hotels are cropping up, too. These emphasise architecture and unique design, and usually have fewer than 100 rooms.

Capsule Hotels

Of course they're small, but they're roomy enough to recline in, and each capsule is fitted with a bed, reading light, TV and alarm clock. Most are men-only, while others are segregated. Despite the room's size, prices still range from ¥3500 to ¥5000; capsules are also cash only. Most of their business comes from drunken office workers who

have missed the last train home, but their novelty value attracts the odd foreigner. Many capsule hotels have a well-appointed bath area similar to a good local *sentō* (public bath).

Gaijin Houses

If you're a budget traveller planning on settling in Tokyo, you might consider landing first at a *gaijin* (foreigner) house while getting your bearings. These are private dwellings that have been partitioned into rooms or apartments and rented out to *gaijin*. See [opposite](#) for reputable agencies.

Luxury Hotels

In the top-end bracket, you can expect to find the amenities of deluxe hotels anywhere in the world: satellite TV beaming in CNN and the BBC, high-speed internet access and enough space to properly unwind. The staff speak English, the rooms are spotless and the service is impeccable. In addition, most of Tokyo's luxury hotels have several good restaurants and bars, many of which offer outstanding city views.

PRICE GUIDE

¥¥¥	over ¥16,000 a night
¥¥	¥6500 to ¥16,000 a night
¥	under ¥6500 a night