

Ebisu, Meguro & Around

EBISU | DAIKANYAMA | NAKA-MEGURO | MEGURO

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Strolling along the Meguro-gawa in **Naka-Meguro** (p94). It's not so much the river – it's a canal, really – but the unhurried village vibe and artsy shops on either side that make this one of Tokyo's most cherished spots.
- 2 Seeing Japan's contribution to the world of photography at the **Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography** (p94).
- 3 Squeezing into a space at one of Ebisu's popular standing bars, like **Buri** (p100).
- 4 Visiting **Meguro Fudōson** (p95), a spiritual centre since the days of Edo.
- 5 Browsing the design shops on Meguro-dōri, home of **MISC** (Meguro Interior Shops Community; p95).



For more detail of this area, see Map p291 ➔

Explore Ebisu, Meguro & Around

Ebisu and Meguro are Tokyo on a more human scale, with low-rise buildings, shopping arcades and a smattering of down-to-earth eateries and bars. This conspires to create a bit of a retro Showa period (1926–89) vibe, which makes the area popular with the 30- and 40-somethings who came of age in the last throes of the era.

The residential districts of Daikanyama and Naka-Meguro, to the southwest, pair this low-key vibe with some serious style, evident in the high concentration of trendsetting shops, restaurants and cafes. Here, it's the neighbourhoods themselves that are the attraction and an afternoon wandering these quiet alleys is the perfect antidote to bouncing from sight to sight in central Tokyo.

None of the sights in this chapter are major, but they are rewarding nonetheless: you'll find the museums and temples here less crowded and less commercial, frequented primarily by those who live nearby. If you feel like stretching your legs, it's a pleasant walk down Komazawa-dōri from Ebisu to Daikanyama and Naka-Meguro, or alternatively down Meguro-dōri to the MISC design district. Foodies too will find much to ooh and ah over here, as these neighbourhoods are chock-a-block with small, but highly rated restaurants.

Local Life

- ➔ **Eating** Foodies can't get enough of the pizzas at Da Isa (p99), and the Ebisu lunchtime crowd loves the *rāmen* (noodles in broth) at Afuri (p98).
- ➔ **Hangouts** Ebisu is known for its lively *tachinomi-ya* (standing bars), Naka-Meguro for its riverside cafes and hard-to-find lounges.
- ➔ **Shopping** Daikanyama style blends imported prêt-à-porter with local designs. Naka-Meguro style adds secondhand finds to the mix.
- ➔ **Galleries** Ebisu, Daikanyama and Naka-Meguro have a dispersed scene; get maps and flyers at NADiff (p95).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Train** The JR Yamanote Line stops at Ebisu and Meguro Stations. The Tōkyū Tōyoko Line runs from Shibuya to Daikanyama and Naka-Meguro.
- ➔ **Subway** The Hibiya Line runs through Ebisu to Naka-Meguro; from Naka-Meguro, check if your train is going to Shibuya on the Tōkyū Tōyoko Line or to Ebisu on the Hibiya Line. The Namboku and Mita Lines stop at Meguro and Shirokanedai.
- ➔ **Bus** Buses 2 and 7 run from Meguro Station along Meguro-dōri, stopping at Ōtori-jinja-mae.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

You don't have to spend much time walking around Daikanyama or Naka-Meguro to discover that bicycles are the preferred mode of transportation for many locals. It's the best way to explore the nooks and crannies of these residential enclaves, where many shops, cafes and parks are hidden away from the main train-station areas. Get wheels at Tokyo Rent a Bike (p102).

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Higashi-Yama (p99)
- ➔ Tonki (p99)
- ➔ Da Isa (p99)
- ➔ Ippo (p98)
- ➔ Afuri (p98)

For reviews, see p98 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Nakame Takkyū Lounge (p100)
- ➔ Buri (p100)
- ➔ Kinfolk Lounge (p100)
- ➔ What the Dickens! (p100)

For reviews, see p100 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ MISC (p95)
- ➔ Okura (p101)
- ➔ Kamawanu (p101)

For reviews, see p101 ➔