

Roppongi

ROPPONGI | NISHI-AZABU | SHIBA-KŌEN | AKASAKA | TORANOMON

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Soaking up the latest contemporary art at the sky-high **Mori Art Museum** (p80) in the ginormous Roppongi Hills.
- 2 Imbibing, karaoke-ing and living it up in the best **watering holes** (p85) of Roppongi and Nishi-Azabu.
- 3 Taking in the cutting-edge art and design ideas at 21_21 Design Sight in **Tokyo Midtown** (p80).
- 4 Kitsching it up at the retro **Tokyo Tower** (p82) and then meeting a contemplative Buddha at **Zōjō-ji** (Zōjō Temple; p82).
- 5 Digging some very curvy architecture and top-notch exhibitions at the **National Art Center, Tokyo** (p81).



For more detail of this area, see Map p288 ➔

Explore Roppongi

One of Tokyo's prime nightlife districts, Roppongi (and its surrounding neighbourhoods) has a wealth of day-time culture-vulture attractions that can take up a day or two of touring.

Start at Roppongi Station and head west along Roppongi-dōri (topped by an expressway) to Roppongi Hills, taking in the lofty Mori Art Museum and its views of the city. Head back east to explore the area around Roppongi Crossing, which becomes an international crossroads of drinkers and touts at night, and hit the sights of Tokyo Midtown including the Suntory Museum of Art. When it's time to relax, the area north and south of the crossing has excellent dining and drinking options, but there are also some unique spots back down Roppongi-dōri in Nishi-Azabu, a 10- to 15-minute walk away.

Start day two by eyeballing the rather Stalinist architecture and taking a tour of Japan's parliament – the National Diet. Nearby Hie-jinja (Hie Shrine), an important Shintō sanctuary, is part of the Akasaka business district, which has its own share of nightlife, though it's decidedly tamer than Roppongi's. From Akasaka, a short ride on the Ginza Line subway takes you to Toranomon Station for the nearby Musée Tomo and, a 20-minute walk south, the Shiba-kōen (Shiba Park) area. Here you can climb the 1950s-vintage Tokyo Tower and take in the grand Buddhist temple of Zōjō-ji. Nearby, excellent Tofuya-Ukai tofu restaurant is superb at sunset.

Local Life

- ➔ **Eating** Slurp some noodles after a long day off hitting the sights (p84).
- ➔ **Crooning** You'll sing in the shower. Why not in the bath at Lovenet (p89)?
- ➔ **Late nights** Miss the last train (p85) and party till the next morning.

Getting There & Away

Roppongi

- ➔ **Subway** The Hibiya and Ōedo Lines run through Roppongi, though the latter is significantly deeper underground. The Hibiya Line is thus closer to Roppongi Crossing, Roppongi's main intersection.

Akasaka

- ➔ **Subway** The Yūrakuchō, Hanzōmon, Namboku, Chiyoda, Marunouchi and Ginza Lines all converge in Akasaka. Akasaka-mitsuke is the most central station; nearby are Nagatachō, Akasaka and Tameike-sannō.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tofuya-Ukai (p85)
- ➔ Hayashi (p85)
- ➔ Inakaya (p84)
- ➔ Shabu-zen Roppongi (p84)

For reviews, see p83 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Agave (p85)
- ➔ These (p88)
- ➔ Mistral Bleu/Train Bar (p88)
- ➔ Heartland (p88)

For reviews, see p85 ➔

Best Nightlife

- ➔ Eleven (p88)
- ➔ Superdeluxe (p89)
- ➔ Muse (p88)
- ➔ Bul-Let's (p88)

For reviews, see p85 ➔