

# Shibuya & Around

SHIBUYA | SHIMO-KITAZAWA

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Surrendering to the crowd at **Shibuya Crossing** (p105). Let yourself be swept along into the beating heart of desire, aspiration and materialism that is Shibuya.
- 2 Wandering the tiny alleys of **Shimo-Kitazawa** (p106), the neighbourhood that time forgot.
- 3 Living the teenage girl experience at fashion hive **Shibuya 109** (p112).
- 4 Singing your heart out at karaoke parlour **Shidax Village** (p111).
- 5 Scoping out the all-night club scene on Dōgenzaka, also known as **Love Hotel Hill** (p106).



For more detail of this area, see Map p292 ➔

## 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 by heading to a karaoke parlour; most offer discounted all-night packages from midnight to 5am.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Nodaiwa (p107)
- ➔ Kaikaya (p106)
- ➔ Sushi-no-Midori (p107)
- ➔ Shirube (p107)

For reviews, see p106 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Pink Cow (p110)
- ➔ Ushitora (p110)
- ➔ Aldgate (p110)

For reviews, see p110 ➔

### Best Places for Entertainment

- ➔ Shidax Village (p111)
- ➔ Womb (p111)
- ➔ Club Quattro (p111)
- ➔ Setagaya Public Theatre (p111)
- ➔ Shelter (p111)

For reviews, see p111 ➔

## Explore Shibuya & Around

Shibuya has few sights, but makes up for it with sheer presence. As you exit the station you'll first hit Shibuya Crossing – a typical Tokyo scene of neon flashes and fashionable youth. From here, the pedestrian traffic carries onto Shibuya Sentā-gai (Shibuya Centre Street), the neighbourhood's main artery, lined with shops, cheap eateries and bars. Just shop and soak up the energy.

The area around Sentā-gai is primarily a teen hangout, but head out to the fringes and you'll find wealthy residential enclaves, shanty bars under the tracks and the headquarters of major IT industry companies (all the better to keep an eye on their future clientele). As a result, you'll find places to eat and drink for all budgets and tastes.

Further afield is the cosy neighbourhood of Shimo-Kitazawa, 3km southwest of central Shibuya, with small, quirky shops, good restaurants and hole-in-the-wall bars around every corner. It's popular with students, but also with an artsy and intellectual grown-up crowd; there's also an active underground music and theatre scene here.

Shibuya is, above all, an entertainment centre 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. Bars and karaoke parlours stay open until dawn.

## Local Life

➔ **Fashion** Shibuya 109 (p112) is ground zero for the 'real clothes' fashion movement, which favours affordable domestic brands over designer imports.

➔ **Record Stores** Shimo-Kitazawa (p106) and the Udagawa-chō neighbourhood of Shibuya are studded with tiny specialist record shops that are popular with local DJs.

➔ **Drinking** Ushitora (p110) and Aldgate (p110) are two key players in the growing local craft beer scene.

➔ **Theatre** Shimo-Kitazawa is known as the actors' neighbourhood, thanks to a number of theatres, such as Honda Theatre (p112).

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Train** The JR Yamanote Line stops at Shibuya Station. You can also connect here to the private Tōkyū Toyoko Line (for Naka-Meguro) and the Keiō Inokashira Line (for Shimo-Kitazawa and Kichijōji).

➔ **Subway** The Ginza, Hanzōmon and Fukutoshin Lines stop in Shibuya.