Walking Tour: Yanaka

Yanaka, long beloved by local artists, is a charming part of Tokyo. There are lots of temples and old wooden buildings, creating a sense that time stopped several decades ago.

Start Tokyo National Museum
Distance 3km
Duration Two hours

1 SCAI the Bathhouse is a classic old public bathhouse turned contemporary art gallery.

2 See the works of long-time Yanaka resident and painter Allan West at his studio, Art Sanctuary Allan West.

3 This ancient, thick-trunked Himalayan cedar tree is a local landmark.

4 At Enju-ji (1-7-36 Yanaka, Taitō-ku; http://nichika-do.jp; 10am-4pm; Chiyoda line to Nezu, exit 1) Nichikasama, the ‘god of strong legs’, is enshrined; the temple is popular with runners.

5 Yanaka-reien (www.yanakaginza.com; JR Yamanote line to Nippori, north exit) is one of Tokyo’s most atmospheric and prestigious cemeteries (also a favourite sunning spot of Yanaka’s many stray cats).

6 Once the home studio of a sculptor, the Asakura Museum of Sculpture, Taitō is now an attractive museum.

7 The classic mid-20th-century shopping street, Yanaka Ginza, has food vendors and craft stores.

Classic Photo Snap Yanaka Ginza from the Yoyake Dandan ‘Sunset Stairs’.

Take a Break There’s good coffee and a vintage vibe at Kayaba Coffee.