

Multimedia Explorations in Japan

TECH, TRAINS,
ROBOTS &
DESIGN



Before You Fly

WHAT TO DO TWO MONTHS BEFORE

 Start walking more. Try to get about 10,000 steps a day (about five miles) in the shoes you plan to wear to Japan. We will walk at least this much each day.



 Learn some simple words and phrases. Here are a few to start:
Sumimasen = Excuse me
Arigatou = Thanks
Hai = Yes
Konnichiwa = Hello
Onegaishimasu = Please

ありがとう

 Find out what options you have for international calls and data on your phone. You may want to stick with WiFi only while abroad.



 Find out if your credit card charges foreign transaction fees, and consider using one that doesn't.

 Make sure you have a passport, with at least 6 months left before expiration.

 Download the Google translate app to your phone.



PREPARING FOR THE FLIGHT

PACKING

- Enough clothing for 5 days
- Passport and identification (license)
- Bring cash to convert to yen
- Phone charger and extra battery
- Comfortable shoes, easy to slip on/off
- Nice socks, no holes
- Sunglasses/hat/small umbrella
- Small hand towel/ sanitizer
- A crossbody travel bag for daily use
- Pack light, leave extra room for souvenirs

FOR A MORE COMFORTABLE FLIGHT

- Small snacks, like trail mix or protein bars
- Headphones for in-flight movies
- Inflatable neck pillow
- Sleep mask
- Lip Balm
- Hand wipes
- Face mask





Meiji Shrine

Meiji Shrine (明治神宮, Meiji Jingū) is a Shinto shrine dedicated to the first emperor of modern Japan, Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken. It is the most popular and visited the shrine in Japan, with 3 million visitors attending for the traditional first prayers of the New Year (Hatsumode). You enter through a large Torii gate, and walk a 10-minute path to the main buildings, surrounded by a forest of trees and the sounds of nature. It's a popular place for weddings, events, and rituals. It's open every day and admission is free, but you should bring cash if you wish to visit the museum, the inner garden, the gift shops, restaurant, or café.



Go to Harajuku Station on the JR Yamanote Line. Exit the station to the right and walk for about one minute. The entrance will be on the right.



1-1 Yoyogikamizonocho, Shibuya City, Tokyo 151-8557



<https://www.meijijingu.or.jp/en/about/>



Shibuya Crossing

Shibuya Crossing (also known as the Scramble intersection) is one of the most iconic Tokyo spots. When traffic stops, thousands of people cross the intersection in all directions. On the ground, it's a lively and energetic rush while you cross the street, surrounded by the lights, sounds, and people of the city. Step into the Starbucks overlooking the street for a view from above while sipping a latte, or check it out from the 360° open-air observation deck located on the roof of the Shibuya Scramble Square skyscraper, called Shibuya Sky. You've probably seen this intersection before, in movies and music videos. It's surrounded by shops, cafes, restaurants, and constant energy. A must-see spot in Tokyo!



From Shibuya station, take the Hachiko exit. You can see it from the Hachiko statue!



2-chōme-1 Dōgenzaka, Shibuya City, Tokyo 150-0043, Japan



<https://www.japan.travel/en/spot/2177/>



<https://worldcams.tv/japan/tokyo/shibuya-crossing>



Hachikō Statue

Hachikō (ハチ公, 10 November 1923 – 8 March 1935) was a Japanese Akita dog known for his remarkable loyalty. He would leave home and meet his owner, Hidesaburō Ueno, at Shibuya Station each evening after his commute from work at Tokyo Imperial University. One day Ueno suffered a cerebral hemorrhage during a lecture, and never returned to the station where Hachikō waited. Hachikō continued to wait for over nine years following Ueno's death. Commuters and station staff began to bring him food and treats as word of his faithfulness spread.



Hachikō became a national sensation. His faithfulness to his master's memory impressed the people of Japan as a spirit of family loyalty to which all should strive to achieve. Teachers and parents used Hachikō's vigil as an example for children to follow. A bronze statue was erected in his honor at Shibuya Station in 1948, which serves as a popular meeting spot today.



 Shibuya Station. Take the Hachikō Exit (ハチ公口, Hachikō-guchi) on the west side.

 2 Chome-1 Dogenzaka, Shibuya City, Tokyo 150-0043, Japan

 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hachik%C5%8D>



Akihabara

Akihabara is a shopping district well known for electronics, manga, anime, video games, maid cafés, and arcades. The area grew rapidly after WWII when there was little government oversight. Its nickname became "Electric Town" because the shops there focused on 'futuristic' household electronics and appliances, and then computers, video games, and the gamers that love them. Now you might consider it the center of pop-culture in Japan. It's a clean and safe area to shop for otaku culture items and souvenirs.



Akihabara Station, on the west side of the station



Taito City, Tokyo 110-0006



<https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3003.html>
<http://e-akihabara.jp/e>



Starbucks Reserve™ Roastery Tokyo

Japan is filled with coffee shops and cafes, but you don't want to miss this coffee experience at the Starbucks Reserve Roastery in Tokyo. The building is beautifully and thoughtfully designed, inspired by Japan's love of craftsmanship, innovation, and excellence. Stepping inside is a wonderland for your senses, with four floors to explore. Exclusive and rare coffees, teas, pastries and merchandise are available.



Exit Naka-Meguro Station and head northeast on Yamate-Dori Avenue. About a 12 minute walk. The building will be on the right.



2-19-23 Aobadai, Meguro-ku, Tokyo, 153-0042



<https://stories.starbucks.com/stories/2019/top-10-things-to-know-about-the-starbucks-reserve-roastery-tokyo/>



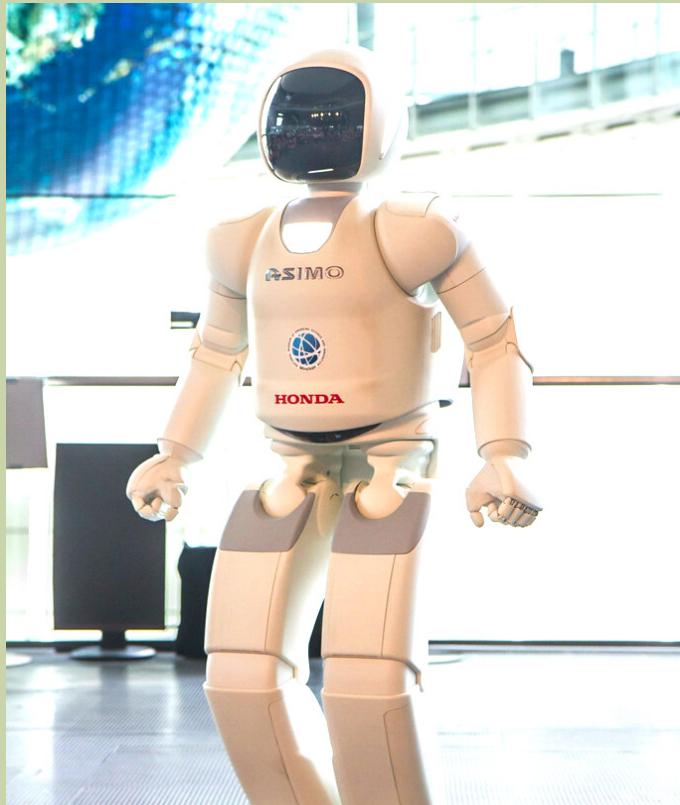
Miraikan

The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, known as the Miraikan 未来館, features many science and technological innovations. There are interactive displays within three permanent exhibits, focused on space, the earth, and sustainability. It includes a large, impressive, LED panel display of the earth (the Geo-Cosmos) with current weather patterns depicted. You'll see a demonstration of Honda's ASIMO robot, which has opposable thumbs and can walk, run, and kick a soccer ball. There are English audio guides for the permanent exhibits and a dome theater. There is a small admission fee. Inside is a cafe and museum shop.



Miraikan

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EMERGING
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION



5-minute walk from "Tokyo International Cruise Terminal Station"



2-3-6 Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo, Japan



<https://www.miraikan.jst.go.jp/en/>

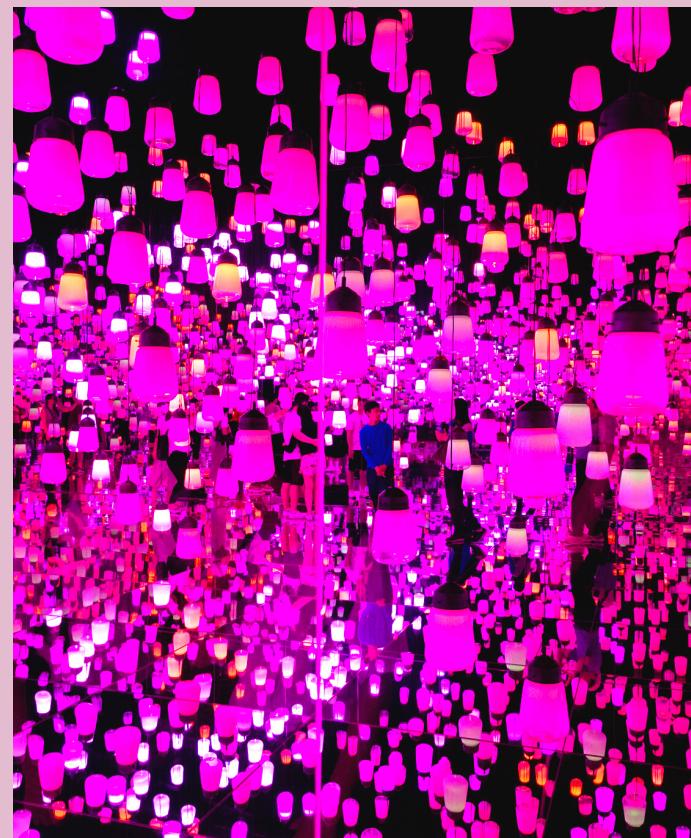


teamLab Borderless

TeamLab Borderless is a digital art museum and an unforgettable visual experience, where you can immerse yourself, interact with, and influence the art. It's an art collection without boundaries, in a museum without a map, created by the art collective teamLab. This is an interdisciplinary group of artists formed in 2001 in Tokyo, Japan. The group refers to themselves as "Ultra-technologists," and consists of artists, programmers, engineers, CG animators, mathematicians, and architects. Some of the art changes seasonally, and there are special temporary installations throughout Japan to enjoy. There is an admission fee (about \$30 for adults).



photos by dconvertini on Flickr



A 5-minute walk from Tokyo Teleport Station on the Rinkai Line or 3 minutes walk from Aomi Station on the Yurikamome Line.



Go to the second floor of Palette Town, and go through the MEGA WEB building towards the giant Ferris wheel.



Odaiba Palette Town 2F, 1-3-8 Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo, Japan



<https://borderless.teamlab.art/>



Sengakuji Temple

Sengakuji is a famous Buddhist temple located in Minato, Tokyo. This small temple is famous as the gravesite for the 47 Ronin, or leaderless Samurai, who died avenging their master's honor. The incident took place in 1701, when Asano Naganori, Feudal Lord of Ako, drew his sword against his rival, Kira Yoshinaka, within the Edo Castle. He was sentenced to die by Seppuku, while his rival, who had insulted and maligned him for years, had no punishment. Asano's samurai planned their revenge for almost two years, then attacked and killed Kira, presenting his head to Asano's grave at Sengakuji. They were sentenced to die by seppuku and buried alongside their master.

This true story has been portrayed in numerous plays, movies, television, and literature. The 47 Ronin are celebrated by the Japanese as cultural icons, for their actions of loyalty, justice, persistence, courage, and honor. Sengakuji hosts the Gishisai Festival on December 14 of each year to commemorate the 47 Ronin.



Go to Sengakuji Station, take exit A2, and go to the right. The temple is about a 4-minute walk.



〒108-0074 2-11-1 Takanawa, Minato-ku, Tokyo



http://www.sengakuji.or.jp/about_sengakuji_en/





Yokohama

Yokohama is a harbor city overlooking Tokyo Bay, where Japan first opened up to the world in 1859. It's the capital of Kanagawa Prefecture, with almost 4 million citizens, second in size to Tokyo. You'll find numerous attractions here, including Landmark Tower, Cosmo Clock 21 Ferris Wheel in Cosmo World, the Nippon Maru, Minato Mirai 21 area, China Town, Museums, Shops, Restaurants, Gardens, and beautiful views of the bay.



Yokohama Station leads to many areas of interest. Sakuragicho Station is closest to Landmark Tower, Cosmoworld, Cup Noodles Museum. Kannai Station is closer to Yokohama Stadium, the Gundam Factory, and Chinatown



Japan, 〒220-0011 Kanagawa, Yokohama, Nishi Ward, Takashima, 〒220-0005 2 丁目 1 6



<https://www.yokohamajapan.com/>



Great Buddha of Kamakura

The Great Buddha of Kamakura (鎌倉大仏, Kamakura Daibutsu) is a bronze statue standing almost 44 feet tall including its base, located on the grounds of Kotoku-in Temple. It was built in 1252, and is the second largest Buddha in Japan, second to the Nara Daibutsu. It has endured typhoons and earthquakes, and is unique in that it sits in the open air. Visitors can even go inside the body of the Buddha, and see the construction from the inside. It is one of the most iconic symbols of Kamakura, and a popular spot for photos. While most of the population of Japan do not adhere to any religious beliefs, Buddhism is second to Shinto beliefs in Japan.



Get off at JR Yokosuka Line Kamakura Station. Change to the Enoshima Electric Railway (bound for Fujisawa) and get off at Hase Station, the third stop (approx. seven minutes from Kamakura). Kotoku-in is a seven-minute walk North from the station.



4-2-28, Hase, Kamakura,
Kanagawa Prefecture 248-0016, Japan

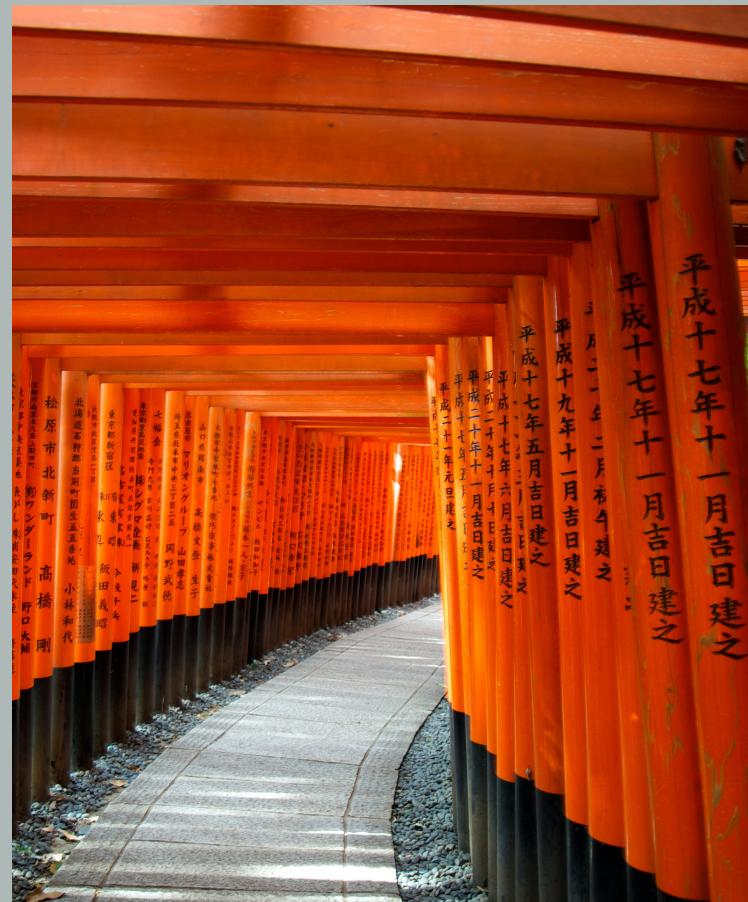


<https://www.kotoku-in.jp/en/>



Fushimi Inari Shrine and Torii Gates

The famed vermilion torii gates can be found at Fushimi Inari Shrine. This type of shrine is used to worship the deity Inari. There are thousands of shrines dedicated to Inari, which are typically associated with rice, prosperity, the color red, and symbols of foxes. Foxes act as Inari's messengers and are often depicted at the shrine entrance, holding a symbolic item in their mouth or under their paw. Offerings of rice, sake, and fried tofu are popular. Fushimi Inari-Taisha, the head shrine of Inari, is known for its path of a thousand vermilion torii gates, which were donated by Japanese merchants. It may take up to 2 hours to walk the entire path, but there are beautiful views, with an overlook of Kyoto about halfway up. The shrine is open 24 hours a day and there is no fee. There are many shops and food stalls leading to the shrine, and you can purchase a fox ema, which is a wooden plaque where you can write your wishes.



Right next to Inari Station, on the JR Nara Line
(5 minutes from Kyoto station)



68 Fukakusa Yabunouchi-cho, Fushimi-ku,
Kyoto City 612-0882



<http://inari.jp/en/>



Arashiyama Bamboo Grove

The Arashiyama Bamboo Grove on the west side of Kyoto is a beautiful forest of green. The path leads you through towering bamboo trees, which can be a breathtaking, and peaceful experience. The least crowded time to visit is early morning. There are shops and restaurants in the area around the grove, but in the summer, be prepared for the heat and humidity. This area of Kyoto is known for its natural beauty, as well as Togetsukyo Bridge and Tenryuji temple, a World Cultural Heritage site.



The grove is a 10-minute walk from Sagano-Arashiyama Station on the JR Sagano Line.



JUkyo Ward, Kyoto, 616-0000, Japan



<https://www.japan.travel/en/spot/1141/>



Nara

Japan was unified in Nara, where the first capital was established from 710 - 784. During this time Nara became the center for Buddhism, art, politics, and cultural exchange. As a result there are many ancient temples and world heritage sites. Nara is also known for hundreds of freely roaming deer. They are considered messengers to the Gods, and are protected as a national treasure. You can buy crackers to feed the deer for about 150 yen, and they are eager to interact with you, but remember they are wild animals. They will bow and expect a treat, and if you are too slow you may get a nudge or a nibble! You can see a little of everything by heading toward Nara Park. It is the location of many of Nara's main attractions including Todaiji, Kasuga Taisha, Kofukuji and the Nara National Museum.



From Kyoto, go to Nara Station, or even better, Kintetsu-Nara station, and walk East along Omiya-dori.



4-469 Zoshicho, Nara 630-8501 Nara Prefecture



<https://www.visitnara.jp/>



Zushi Beach

Zushi Beach is popular for all ages, with windsurfing, paddle boarding, swimming, hotels, and restaurants. It's facing Sagami Bay, and on a clear day, you can see Mount Fuji. It's also the site for Summer fireworks festivals, film festivals, and "Yabusame", where mounted archers shoot at targets while galloping on a horse. There are some restrictions, such as no tattoos, alcohol, barbecues, or loud music. You cannot wear your swimsuit walking to the beach, but you can change clothes there. It's a nice getaway from the city!



From Zushi station, take the East exit and it's about a 15-minute walk.



2-chōme-3 Shinjuku, Zushi, Kanagawa 249-0007, Japan



<https://zushi-beach.jp/>