

SELF
GUIDED
TOUR
**BLAALID &
ROWLESS
FAMILY**

MARCH
2026

Kickstart TOKYO DAY 1

From temple streets to neon beats—Asakusa, Skytree, Ueno, and Akihabara in one smooth flow. Tradition, views, calm, and color to kick things off. Welcome to Tokyo!

DAY 1 ESSENTIALS



Code: 8989

Weather:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Ginza to **Asakusa, Skytree, Ueno, and Akihabara**—this day blends old Tokyo, big views, calm park strolls, and neon energy. Use a Suica card, wear good shoes, and start early if you want quiet temple time. Don't rush—let each stop unfold. It's a smooth 7 to 8 hour loop. Snacks in Asakusa, lunch near Ueno, dinner vibes in Akihabara. No pass needed—just tap and go.

FRONT PAGE **01**

Introduction and Essentials, this is where you will find the google map link for the overview and Linktree links for food and shopping recommendation.

SENSO-JI **04**

Plan a morning at Senso-ji in Asakusa—Tokyo's oldest temple. Allow time to wander the colorful Nakamise shopping street and visit the main hall, all just steps from Asakusa Station.

SKY TREE **09**

Plan to visit to Tokyo Skytree—towering landmark with two observation decks. Take in panoramic city views and explore the Solamachi shopping and dining complex.

UENO **10**

Ueno—Tokyo's cultural hub of museums and green spaces. Allow time for Ueno Park's open lawns, the Tokyo National Museum, and browsing Ameyoko market, all steps from Ueno Station.

AKIHABARA **19**

Plan an afternoon in Akihabara—Tokyo's electronics and anime mecca. Explore multi-floor tech stores, themed cafés, and gaming arcades around Akihabara Station.



A timeless district where Tokyo's history still lingers.

ASAKUSA 浅草

Senso-ji Temple & Nakamise-dori

We'll start at Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest temple, founded in 645 AD. According to legend, two fishermen discovered a golden statue of **Kannon** (the goddess of mercy) in the Sumida River, and the village elder enshrined it here — giving birth to what became one of Japan's most important Buddhist temples.

As you walk through **Kaminarimon Gate**, take in the iconic red lantern overhead. The path ahead, **Nakamise-dori**, is lined with traditional snack stalls and shops selling everything from handmade folding fans to ningyo-yaki (sponge cake filled with red bean).

MORNING



KAMINARIMON GATE

Kaminarimon is the big red gate you'll see first—it's basically the face of Asakusa. The name means "**Thunder Gate**," and that huge lantern hanging in the middle? It weighs over 600 kilos and was actually donated by the founder of Panasonic. On either side, you'll spot two guardian statues: **Raijin**, the god of thunder, and **Fujin**, the god of wind—both there to watch over the temple grounds.

This gate's been through a lot—fires, rebuilds, shifting times—and walking through it feels like crossing into another version of Tokyo. One with incense in the air, old stories in the walls, and street snacks waiting just ahead.

MORNING



Things to experience:

- Draw an omikujī (paper fortune) — if you get a bad one, tie it to the racks and let the wind take it away!
- Purify yourself with the incense smoke in front of the main hall and pray.
- Optional: Take a quick rickshaw ride around the temple for a deeper glimpse into old Tokyo

Scenic Tip:

Before we head to Skytree, walk across **Azuma-bashi Bridge** for a great skyline view of the Sumida River with Tokyo Skytree rising behind the old streets.

MORNING



Right after Kaminarimon, you'll hit Nakamise-dori—a narrow shopping street that's been around for centuries. It's touristy, sure, but also full of charm if you know what to look for. This is where pilgrims used to grab snacks and souvenirs on the way to the temple, and not much has changed.

Grab a **ningyo-yaki** (little sponge cakes filled with red bean paste, shaped like lanterns or pagodas), and if you see age-manju (deep-fried manju buns), don't skip it—it's crispy outside, soft and sweet inside. Also keep an eye out for fresh **senbei** (rice crackers) and **kibi dango** (chewy mochi-style dumplings dusted with soybean powder).

WHERE TO EAT AT ASAKUSA



FUKUJUYA

A quiet gem known for its **salted inari sushi**—light, clean, and not too sweet. Great little bite if you're wandering through Asakusa and want something local without the usual tourist fuss. **(Gluten free)**

OTAFUKU

One of those old-school spots that feels like it hasn't changed in decades. Go for the **oden—soft daikon, tofu, and fish cakes** soaking in gentle dashi. Simple, comforting, and hits different on a cooler day **(Gluten free)**





TOKYO SKY TREE

Completed in 2012, Tokyo Skytree stands at 634 meters, making it the tallest structure in Japan. The height, 634, is actually a nod to “Musashi,” the historical name for the Tokyo area.

- Head up to the **Tembo Deck** (350m) for 360° views — on a clear day, you may even spot Mt. Fuji
- Explore **Solamachi Mall**, located right beneath the tower — over 300 shops, themed stores (like the **Pokémon Center**), and great local finds.



Skytree shows you the scale—Ueno shows you the soul.

UENO

Ueno's got layers. What looks like just a park (**Ueno Park**) was once a battlefield that helped shape modern Japan. You've got old temples tucked behind the zoo, shogun graves most people walk past, and museums that quietly tell the country's story. The vibe's slower here—people playing music, picnicking under the trees, just living. Then right next door, **Ameyoko** hits you with energy—born from a postwar black market, now packed with food, noise, and character. It's a good shift in pace.

AFTERNOON

UENO PARK



Ueno Park is where Tokyo takes a breath. It's easy to think of it as just a big green space, but this place holds a lot of history. It was once the site of a major battle during the **Meiji Restoration—when the old samurai order made their last stand**. Now, it's where locals picnic under cherry blossoms, musicians play by the pond, and kids chase pigeons without knowing they're running through old battlegrounds.

It's also home to some of Tokyo's best museums, all tucked around the edges of the park. Whether you're into ancient artifacts, modern art, or full-size dinosaur skeletons, it's easy to spend hours here without even trying.

AFTERNOON (OPTIONAL)



If you're into illustration, manga, or design, **Tools Ochanomizu** is a must-visit. It's a clean, well-organized art supply store just a few steps from Ochanomizu Station, with everything from Copic markers and Holbein paints to high-quality sketchbooks and calligraphy tools. I especially love how spacious and relaxed it feels—you can actually take your time without being shoulder-to-shoulder with other shoppers. They even offer Copic refills and nib replacements on-site, which is super convenient. It's one of the best art stores in Tokyo.

AFTERNOON (OPTIONAL)



If you're in Akihabara and need a soothing break, **Micro Tea Cup Cafe** is a delightful stop. This cozy, dog-cafe specializes in teacup poodles and mini Shiba—everyone gets a welcome “photo session” when you arrive . I love that you get a free drink and a cute Polaroid keepsake—it feels more like a tiny social hub than a tourist trap. The pups roam freely and even the venue lighting is soft and calming—perfect for a midday pause. And it's just a short 3-minute walk from Akihabara Station, up to the 4th floor—you won't even need to look hard to find it .

AFTERNOON (OPTIONAL)



A quiet, cozy spot near Akihabara Station where you can relax with friendly rabbits. The space is calm, clean, and not too crowded. You'll get a drink and some rabbit snacks, and after a short intro, you can hang out with the bunnies in small groups. Perfect if you're looking for something low-key and cute.

Details:

- Price: ¥1,300–¥1,800 (includes drink + rabbit snacks)
- Time: 30 or 60 min sessions
- Age: 10+



TOKYO NATIONAL MUSEUM

If you're going to pick just one museum in Ueno, the Tokyo National Museum is the heavyweight. It's Japan's oldest museum—**founded in 1872**—and holds one of the most important collections of Japanese art and historical artifacts in the country.

Think: **samurai armor, old scrolls, Buddhist statues, kimonos, ceramics, and swords that are hundreds of years old** (and still look deadly). It's not flashy, but it's deeply well-curated and respectful of the past.

WHERE TO EAT AT UENO



TOKYO YAKINIKU GO SANGO TEN

Laid-back yakiniku near Ueno with quality cuts like **thick-sliced Wagyu**, green onion skirt steak, and a fun mille-feuille yukke. Great value if you're craving grilled meat without the fancy price tag.

WA BISTRO TORINOS

is a cozy, creative izakaya just a 2-minute walk from Ameyoko. They serve inventive Japanese-Western fusion dishes like **thick-cut chashu, blue cheese skewers, and seasonal sashimi**. The vibe is warm and relaxed—great for small groups or a casual night out. Bonus: they offer a solid lineup of **Japanese sake** and wines at reasonable prices.





喜くばり SUSHI

喜くばり Sushi is a phenomenal local sushi spot known for its fresh cuts, **generous portions**, and friendly neighborhood vibe—loved by Akihabara regular

YOSHIZUSHI UENO-TEN

is a hidden gem in Ueno known for its fresh, seasonal seafood and expertly crafted Edo-style sushi in a calm, traditional setting.





GLUTEN FREE T'S KITCHEN UENO- HIROKOJI

is a fully gluten-free restaurant near Ueno, offering Japanese and Western dishes like ramen, gyoza, and pancakes. Vegan and vegetarian options available. Located in APA Hotel.

AVAN

is a cozy 100% gluten-free café inside JR Ueno Station, known for rice flour churros and a Ghibli-style vibe. Located near platforms 11-12, ticketed entry required.





Once Tokyo's postwar electronics hub, Akihabara has fully embraced its second life as the center of otaku culture. From vintage **arcades** and neon-lit game stores to rare collectibles and **capsule toy walls**, this is where anime, gaming, and nostalgia collide. It's loud, chaotic, and full of energy—but if you're into pop culture, it's one of the most entertaining stops in the city.

EVENING



YAMAMOTO TRAVEL

AKIHABARA

Best known for anime, games, and gadget chaos, Akihabara also has its quieter surprises—including one of Tokyo's most well-organized **Uniqlo** stores. It's a great stop if you want to grab quality basics or Japan-exclusive pieces in between arcades and figure hunting.

Must-Visits:

- **Gachapon Kaikan** – Walls of capsule toy machines, from cute to weird
- **Mandarake** – Massive store for rare manga, figures, and cosplay gear
- **Super Potato** – Retro game heaven with old-school consoles and pixel vibes

EVENING



If you love art supplies or just beautiful stationery, I highly recommend stopping by **Bumpodo** near Jimbocho. It's been around since **1887** and still feels like a hidden creative sanctuary in the city. You'll find everything from sketchbooks and calligraphy tools to manga pens and oil paints—perfect whether you're a working artist or just browsing. I personally enjoy the quiet vibe and could spend hours here. There's also a small café and gallery upstairs if you want to sit and sketch or just take a break. It's one of those places that really blends tradition with artistic energy.



SUSHI AND SHABU- SHABU YUZUAN AKIHABARA



is a local favorite for all-you-can-eat sushi, A5 Wagyu shabu-shabu, sukiyaki, and tempura—served with an easy English menu.

SYABU-YŌ ATRE AKIHABARA 2

is another local favorite for affordable all-you-can-eat shabu-shabu with beef, pork, veggies, and dessert.

Located inside Atre Akihabara 2, it offers touch-panel ordering and even robot servers.



EVENING



TOKYO DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTS

Traditional Tokyo Meets Pop Spark

- Started at Asakusa with Senso-ji, Kaminarimon, and street snacks on Nakamise-dori
- Crossed the river for skyline views and headed up Tokyo Skytree
- Explored shops and lunch spots at Solamachi
- Slowed down in Ueno with a stroll through the park and Ameyoko Market
- Visited a bunny café, local ramen spot, or just soaked in the atmosphere
- Ended in Akihabara with retro games, capsule toys, anime shops, and maybe a quick stop at Uniqlo or a themed café. Rest well!