

SELF
GUIDED
TOUR
**BLAALID &
ROWLESS
FAMILY**

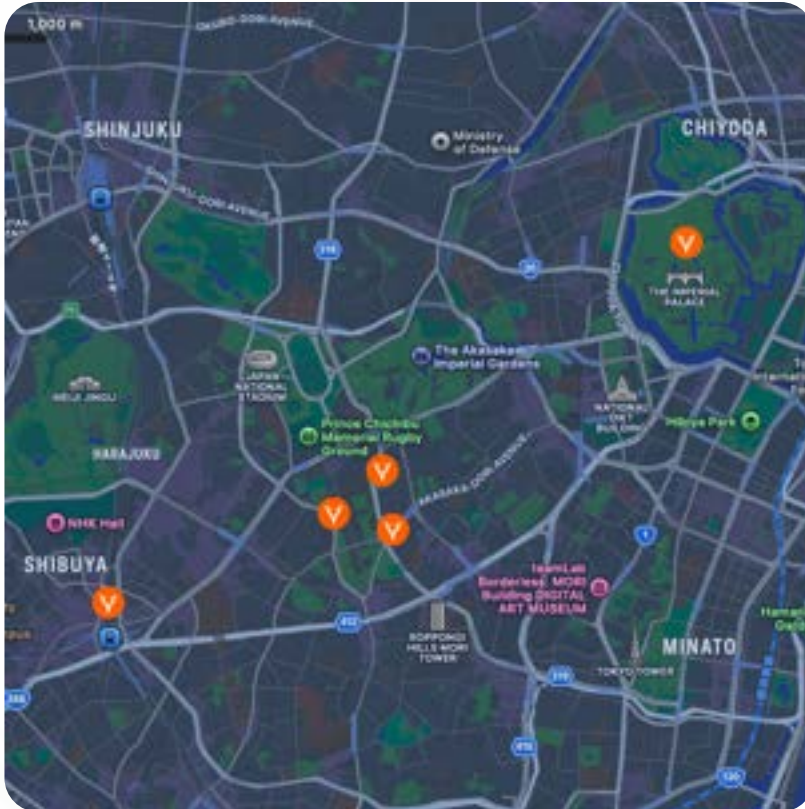
MARCH
2026

Local spots

TOKYO DAY 3

A relaxed route through Tokyo's mix of tradition and city life. Start with palace gardens, stop by local cafés, explore art at Yamatane, and finish with dinner and skyline views to close the trip

TOKYO DAY 3 ESSENTIALS



Code: 8989

Weather:

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Start the day at the **Imperial Palace** and walk around the outer gardens. Continue to **Yanaka Ginza** for a short stroll through local shops and food stalls. Stop at **Torino Iru Café or Yadorigi Café** for a simple break. Visit the **Yamatane Museum of Art** to see Japanese paintings. Head to Yebisu Garden Place Tower for a short city view. Then go to Tokyo SkyTree for the final night view before dinner. End the day at **Ebisu Yokochō** for a casual meal and local atmosphere.

IMPERIAL PALACE **05**

A historic site in central Tokyo, once Edo Castle, known for its wide moats, stone walls, and peaceful garden paths.

YANAKA GINZA **12**

A nostalgic shopping street in northern Tokyo, known for its old-town charm, local snacks, and relaxed neighborhood atmosphere.

PET CAFE **13**

Small local cafés in Yanaka where you can spend time with birds and rescue cats while enjoying simple drinks and desserts.

EBISU YOKOCHO **22**

A lively indoor alley in Ebisu filled with small izakayas, local food, and friendly nightlife energy.

LUNCH/DINNER **24**

Lunch and Dinner, a handpicked selection of my favorite places around Shibuya.

How to Get to the Imperial Palace & East Gardens. How to Get to the Imperial Palace & East Gardens Goal: **Ote-mon Gate**

From Hotel Villa Fontaine Grand Shiodome, walk about 11 minutes to **Shimbashi Station**.

Take the JR Tokaido Line (Local) toward **Tokyo Station**. The ride takes about 3 minutes.

From Tokyo Station, walk about 15 minutes to reach the Ote-mon Gate, the main entrance to the East Gardens.

The walk from Tokyo Station is straightforward and flat. Exit from the **Marunouchi North Exit** and head west toward the open plaza in front of the palace. You'll see the stone walls and moat as you approach the gate.

IMPERIAL PALACE



The Imperial Palace stands on the **former site of Edo Castle**, which was once the political and military center of the **Tokugawa shogunate**. After the feudal era ended, the Emperor moved here from Kyoto, making it the symbolic center of Japan. The inner palace is closed to the public, but the outer grounds are open year-round. You'll see wide moats, tall stone walls, and the **Nijubashi Bridge**, one of Tokyo's most photographed spots. It's a calm and open area right in the middle of the city.

Imperial Palace Walking Route

Start: Ote-mon Gate (Main Entrance)

End: Hirakawa-mon Gate (Exit)

Enter through the Ote-mon Gate and go through the short security check and visitor area. From there, follow the main path into the Imperial Palace East Gardens.

1. **Ote-mon Gate**: This was the main entrance to Edo Castle. It's about a 10-minute walk from Tokyo Station.





2. Sannomaru Shōzōkan (Museum of the Imperial Collections) Pass-by

After entering through Ote-mon Gate, the museum is on your left. It's small and easy to miss but worth a short visit. The Sannomaru Shōzōkan displays rotating exhibits of artworks and objects **donated by the Imperial family**, including calligraphy, paintings, lacquerware, and textiles that represent centuries of Japanese history. Currently used as a landmark - temporary closed.



3. Dōshin-bansho and Hyakunin-bansho Guardhouses

Continue along the main path and you'll see two Edo-period guardhouses, Dōshin-bansho and Hyakunin-bansho. These wooden buildings were part of the **security system of Edo Castle**, where samurai guards once monitored entry to restricted areas inside the compound.



4. Honmaru Area and Tenshudai (Main Keep Base)

This open area was once the Honmaru, the center of Edo Castle and its most secure section. The main keep, called the **Tenshu**, was a five-story tower that showed the power of the Tokugawa shogunate. It was destroyed by fire in 1657 and never rebuilt, but the original stone foundation, the Tenshudai, still remains.



5. Ninomaru Garden

Head downhill to the Ninomaru Garden, a restored Edo-period landscape designed by Kobori Enshū. It has a central pond, curved stone bridges, and a walking path surrounded by more than **200 kinds of trees** and plants that bloom throughout the year. It's one of the quietest and most relaxing spots in the palace grounds.



After visiting Ninomaru Garden, follow the signs to **Hirakawa-mon Gate**, the most direct and scenic exit on this side of the gardens. The path goes gently uphill past quiet lawns and shaded walkways before reaching the gate, which was once used as a rear entrance for castle retainers.

From Hirakawa-mon Gate, walk about 13 minutes to **Otemachi Station**. Take the Tokyo Metro **Chiyoda Line toward Abiko** and ride for 8 minutes to Sendagi Station. From there, it's a short 5-minute walk to Yanaka Ginza, a local shopping street known for its old Tokyo atmosphere and small neighborhood shops.



YANAKA GINZA

This is where the **anime vibe** kicks in. This area is a true hidden gem even among locals. Yanaka Ginza is one of the few places in Tokyo that still feels like old Japan, with narrow streets, small family-run shops, and relaxed neighborhood energy. You'll find **snack stalls, handmade goods, and local cats** wandering around. The same kind of scene that often inspires anime settings. It's a simple, warm place that shows everyday Tokyo life at an easy pace.

TORINO IRU CAFE



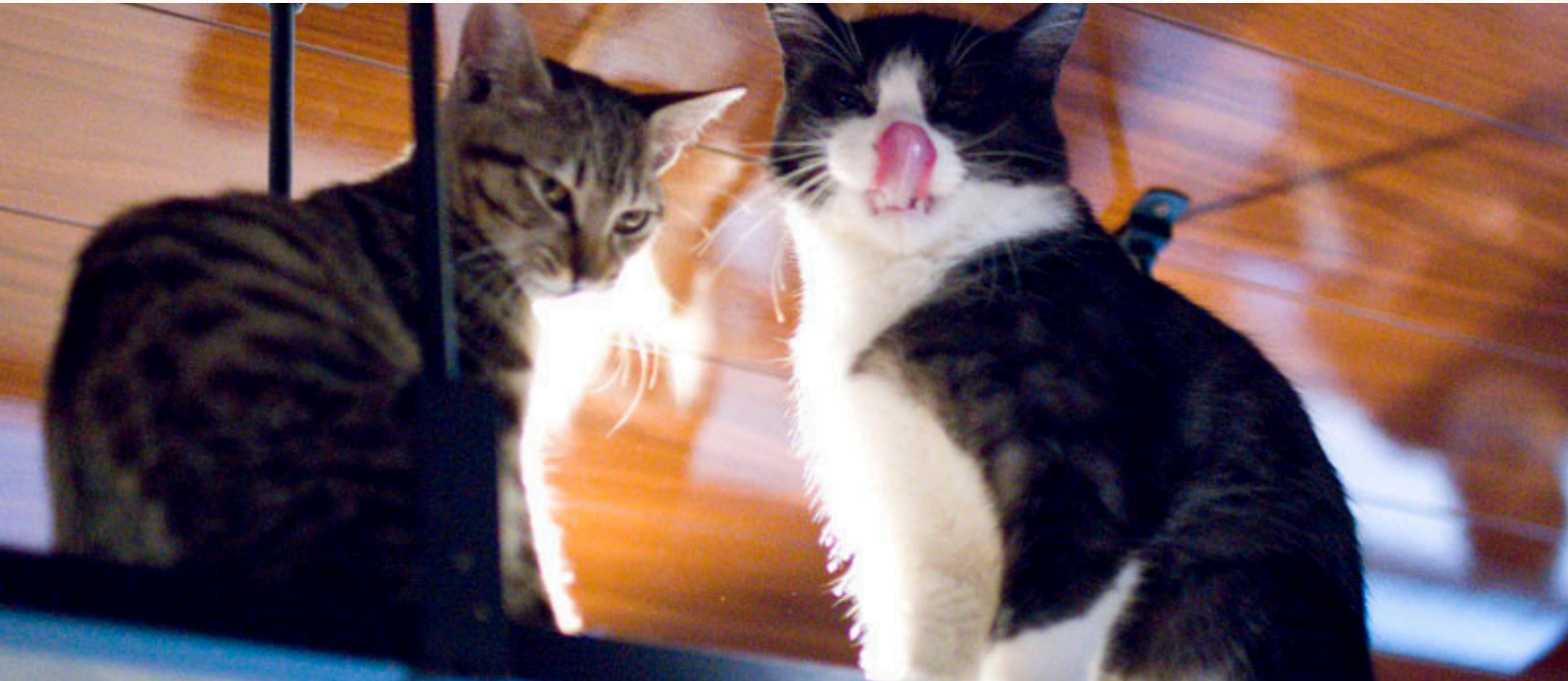
This is a bird café located in the area. Its main feature is interaction with birds — especially **owls, parrots**, and other small to medium birds.

- Entrance fee is about **¥1,850 for one hour**.
- Protective shoe covers cost an additional **¥300**.
- Open daily from **11:00 AM to 7:00 PM**.
- Visitors can feed parakeets and have birds perch on their arms.

Bird species you may see include owls (various sizes), parakeets, and lots parrots.



YADORIGI CAFE



A cat café located in the area. It focuses on interaction with rescue cats that live freely inside the café.

There is **no separate entrance fee**, but each guest **must order at least one drink** and one food item.

Drinks range from **¥380 to ¥750**, and meals such as pasta or panini start around ¥1,000.

Cat treats cost ¥500 and can be bought to feed the cats.

Open Wednesday to Friday from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and Saturday to Sunday from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Closed Monday and Tuesday.