HOME

Nihonbashi has been the heart of Tokyo, Japan for centuries. It is one of the major business districts in central Tokyo and the best place for anyone to visit. We have history, great communities, the best foods, quality goods, convenience, and safety all packed in such a small place, and there is so much to explore.

What makes Nihonbashi so unique and attractive is the fact that Nihonbashi is a place where classic and modern coexist. We have a community that values quality over quantity, which can be rare especially in the materialistic, disposable culture the world faces today. There are many businesses that are over a century old and still going strong, and they do their best to preserve the knowledge and traditions and pass on to the future generations.

GEOGRAPHY

Nihonbashi’s geography is often described as a *shitamachi*, meaning a business district that is flat and close to the sea level. Nihonbashi is the heart of central Tokyo and connects other major districts such as Ginza, Asakusa, Akihabara, and Ryogoku. There are many bridges over the canals and Sumida River, one of the largest waterways in Tokyo. The canals were created in Nihonbashi and its surrounding area in the 17th century so that goods and people could be transported straight from Tokyo Bay to Edo Castle, where the Imperial Palace is located today.

Nihonbashi is small enough for you to explore on foot. However, it consists of several subdivisions and looks and feels unique depending on where you are in the area. Southwest Nihonbashi is a business district a full of shopping malls, office buildings, and historical sites. The mixture of Art Deco and modern styles in the architecture gives a feel of a metropolis. The wide sidewalks on the main streets are decorated with flowers and offer bright streetlamps and the access to different types of public transit.

Northeast Nihonbashi is where the majority of population resides, and we have apartments, schools, parks, arcades, and places of worship. Compared to southwest Nihonbashi, the buildings are a lot shorter in general, and streets are filled with restaurants and other small businesses.

PEOPLE

Many families have resided in Nihonbashi for generations. A new addition to the area is the Coredo shopping district. The combination of 3 mall districts was made in a location where many family-owned and operated businesses used to be. Instead of forcing the small businesses out all together, they all moved into the mall, even retaining the old Shinto shrines in the design. Even with the modern architectural development, the families and business they have run, in some cases for hundreds of years, are still in this downtown core of Tokyo.

The residents of Nihonbashi are proud of their community and do their best to preserve its history and culture. The merchants and craftsmen in the area have strong relationships established over decades and are always willing to work with and support each other. They value discipline and hospitality, and their knowledge and experience in their work never fail to entertain and amaze their guests.

People’s desire to live in the area is always high. The safety, robust infrastructure, quality city maintenance and community services make Nihonbashi one of the best places both to visit and live.

ECONOMY

There are reasons both the Bank of Japan Main Office and the Tokyo Stock Exchange are in such a small area. Nihonbashi has served as the core of Japan’s economy for centuries, and the history, culture, and aesthetic of Nihonbashi attract all kinds of businesses today. Foods, crafts, hospitality, IT, finance, you name it. Local businesses that are over a century old and the offices of Japan’s most successful companies in the same block. Sometimes in the same building. The variety and the quality of goods and services have brought Nihonbashi a massive success in tourism for many years as well. The shopping district and all the department stores on the main street are busy with both tourists and locals every day.

Another reason that Nihonbashi is successful in tourism is the public transportation. Nihonbashi is only a 5-minute walk away from Tokyo Station, has 6 separate subway routes within, and offers several exits/entrances to the main toll roads, Metropolitan Expressways. Take a boat from Asakusa or Tsukiji to get to Nihonbashi while enjoying the scenery of Sumida River on your way. You can even take an express bus and head straight to Nihonbashi from either of the international airports near Tokyo. There are also 2 free bus lines sponsored by some of the largest companies in Nihonbashi. You have so many ways to get to and around Nihonbashi.

ATTRACTIONS

We have special seasonal events all year. In spring, we have *Sanja Matsuri* festival, one of the largest Shinto festivals in the country, and thousands of locals and tourists are involved every year. *Mikoshi’s,* the sacred palanquins that transport spirits of Shinto shrines, are carried by the locals through streets and cities, and the major streets are filled with food stalls. We also have fireworks at Sumida River in summer, and a mochi (rice cake)-pounding event in winter. These are just a few examples.

*Amazake Yokochô*, an arcade in the Ningyocho subdivision, is packed with family-owned businesses. Amazake (a non/low-alcohol drink made from fermented rice) isn’t the only thing we have. We have green tea, rice crackers, Japanese sweets, and many more. You can even watch them being made right in front of your eyes! If that makes you hungry, you can have some snacks on the go. Check out all the restaurants and cozy cafés as well. Amazake Yokochô arcade is a great place to spend your time and relax on your slow days.

Nihonbashi is also a full of historic sites. It is hard to miss the Nihonbashi Bridge if you are in the area. It is a stone bridge that was originally made with wood in the 17th century, and it is located in the middle of the Nihonbashi district. Mitsukoshi department store was constructed over a hundred years ago. The Bank of Japan Main Office is also a place to check out.

Experience Nihonbashi with all your senses.

REFERENCES

Here’s the website that I look at. It is neatly organized and offers a lot of information about the place.

[NIHOMBASHI TOKYO | where you can experience both contemporary and ancient Japanese culture (nihombashi-tokyo.com)](https://nihombashi-tokyo.com/)

[Visit Tokyo | The Official Tokyo Travel Guide, GO TOKYO](https://www.gotokyo.org/en/index.html)

[Nihonbashi Information Center｜Nihonbashi (nihonbashi-tokyo.jp)](https://www.nihonbashi-tokyo.jp/en/information_center/)

Images

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