

Travel Guide

～ Tokyo ～

Tokyo, the capital of Japan, is the seat of Japan's judicial, legislative and executive branches of government, and the center of the country's economy. It has a population of close to 13 million, the largest of all prefectures, and stands at the forefront of cultural trends, fashion and information.

Tokyo's history as the capital of Japan began in the 17th century when Tokugawa Ieyasu established the Edo Shogunate. You can gain a feel for the capital of Tokyo by visiting such places as the Imperial Palace (formerly Edo Castle), Diet Building, Supreme Court, Kensei Kinenkan (memorial hall of constitutional politics), National Diet Library, newspaper companies, television stations, and the Tokyo Stock Exchange. They may be crowded with visitors on weekdays, and may also require an advance reservation in some cases, so be sure to check before you make a visit.

There are many museums, theaters, and parks throughout Tokyo, but Ueno is home to all three, plus a zoo. In the nearby areas of Yanaka and Hongo, you can experience the nostalgic townscape of old Tokyo and visit the University of Tokyo, which used to be the residence of a feudal lord in ancient times, as well as various places that were frequented by Natsume Soseki and other people of culture. Downtown Asakusa and Kanda are worth a visit especially during the season of the Sanja Festival (Asakusa) and the Kanda Myojin Festival (Kanda) in May.

In Tokyo, many towns are known for their own distinct characteristics. For example, Akihabara is known for its electronic stores, Tsukiji for its fish market, Kanda for its used book stores and sporting goods stores, Kappabashi for its cooking utensil stores, and Ochanomizu for its musical instrument stores, that satisfy even the most discerning fans and specialists. Shibuya, Harajuku, Shinjuku and Daiba are popular gathering places for young people, while Sugamo is widely referred to as "grandma's Harajuku." Ginza①, Omotesando and Aoyama are refined towns that offer the pleasure of window-shopping.

To enjoy a sweeping view of Tokyo, either go up to the observatory of Tokyo Tower② or Tokyo Skytree, or enjoy a ride on the Hato Bus sightseeing bus, the waterbus that operates on Sumida River (from Asakusa to Hinode Pier), or the Yurikamome monorail (from Shimbashi to Odaiba).

The Tama region in western Tokyo spreads from the Musashino plateau in the Kanto Plains to the Okutama region in the Kanto Mountains. In addition to Tama River, a Class 1 river that flows through the region, Mt. Mitakesan in Okutama and Nippara Stalactite Cave are representative of the region's rich natural environment. Other famous spots include Mt. Takao, a popular destination for many tourists, the historic Jindaiji Temple, and Ghibli Museum, Mitaka, which is a mecca for animation fans.

The ocean in the southern area of Tokyo is home to numerous small islands, including the Izu Islands and the Ogasawara Islands. Requiring repeated transfers by airplane and boat, the islands are not easily accessible, but the Izu-Oshima Island, famous for its production of camellia oil: Miyake Island, which has recovered from a volcanic eruption; and Chichijima Island, called the Galapagos Islands of the Orient, offer a treasure trove of rich, marine environments.

たび 旅のしおり

— 東京都 —

日本の首都、東京都は、日本の司法・立法・行政そして経済の中心地です。約1,300万人と日本の都道府県の中で最も多い人口を有し、文化や様々な流行・情報の発信地となっています。

東京都は、徳川家康が江戸幕府を開いた17世紀から、首都としての歴史が始まりました。皇居(旧江戸城)、国会議事堂、最高裁判所、憲政記念館、国会図書館、新聞社、テレビ局、東京証券取引所等は、首都東京を体験できます。平日の見学が多く、予約が必要な場合もあるので、行く前に確認してください。

美術館、博物館、劇場、公園が多数点在していますが、一堂に会し、動物園もあるのが上野です。近くの谷中や本郷では、古い町並みや昔の大名屋敷だった東京大学、夏目漱石など多くの文化人ゆかりの場所も訪ねることができます。下町の浅草、神田を訪ねるなら、5月の三社祭(浅草)、神田明神(神田)の祭りのシーズンも一興です。

特徴のある町が多く、秋葉原の電気街、築地市場(魚)、神田(古本、スポーツ用品)、合羽橋(調理道具)、御茶ノ水(楽器店)など通が集まる町や、渋谷、原宿、新宿、台場など若者に人気の町、「おばあちゃんの原宿」と呼ばれる巣鴨も有名です。洗練された町の銀座、表参道、青山ではウィンドウショッピングが楽しめます。

東京を一望するなら、東京タワーやスカイツリーに登るか、はとバスや隅田川を走る水上バス(浅草〜日の出桟橋)、ゆりかもめ(新橋〜お台場)に乗るのがお勧めです。



①銀座



②東京タワー

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東京の西部、多摩地区は、関東平野の武蔵野台地から関東山地の奥多摩までの地域で、一級河川が多摩川が流れています。奥多摩の御嶽山や日原鍾乳洞の山の自然、観光客に人気の高尾山、歴史ある深大寺のほか、アニメーションファンには三鷹の森ジブリ美術館も魅力的なスポットです。

東京の南、海に向かうと島嶼部と呼ばれる伊豆諸島、小笠原諸島があります。飛行機や高速船でさらに乗り継ぐのが大変ですが、樺油で有名な伊豆大島、火山噴火から復興した三宅島、東洋のガラパゴスと言われる父島など、海の自然が満喫できます。

〈日本語できるかなの答え〉 ①B②E③C④A⑤D