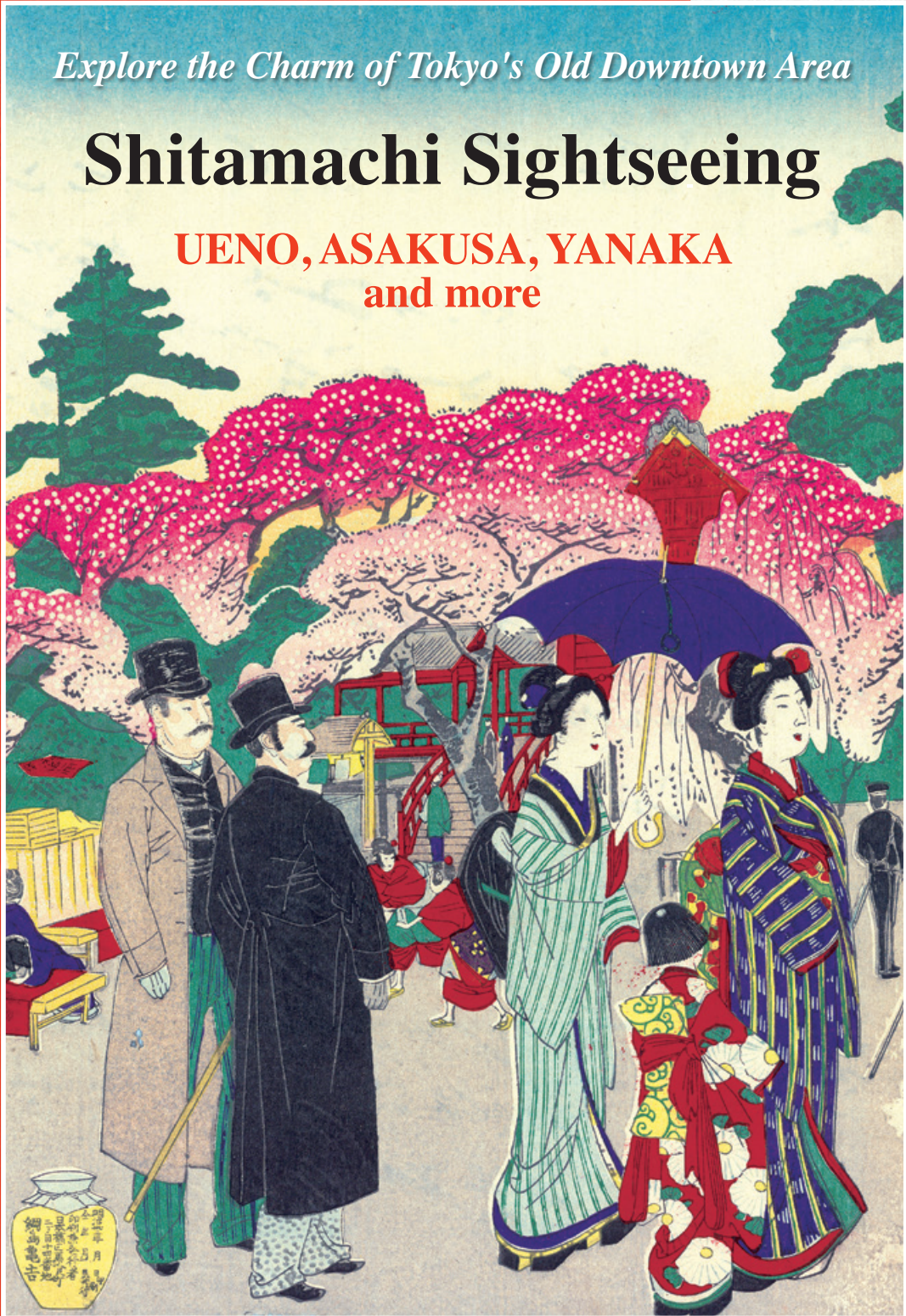


# TAITO, TOKYO Travel Guide

*Explore the Charm of Tokyo's Old Downtown Area*

## Shitamachi Sightseeing

**UENO, ASAKUSA, YANAKA  
and more**





# Tokyo's Old Downtown, Taito City

## Explore the Past in the Present



A trip to Tokyo would not be complete without visiting Taito, an area where the old and the new exist in grand harmony. Come and discover the amazing nature of Ueno, the nostalgic shopping street leading to Asakusa's Sensoji Temple and Yanaka cat town, a paradise for feline lovers.



### Ancient Glamour

Located northeast of the heart of Tokyo, Taito City – comprising Ueno, Asakusa and Yanaka – is a bustling mix of both modern features and historic beauty. Best known for lush parks, ancient temples, classic restaurants and year-round cultural festivals, the neighborhood lures millions of tourists each year. Being Tokyo's shitamachi, or old downtown, Taito is one of the few places that still preserve the old world charm of Edo (Tokyo's former name).

Taito's glamour dates back to the Edo period (1603-1867). As the area around the Sumida River, old Tokyo's main artery of trade, the area quickly grew into a hub of commercial activity and entertainment, and the network of merchants, artisans and peasants here flourished.



To this day, these commercial establishments continue to serve as a sentimental reminder of the dazzling past. Along almost every street you will find century-old restaurants and shops, offering authentic traditional delicacies, adorable handicraft and unique souvenirs for family and friends back home.



### Shitamachi Sightseeing

Walking is perhaps the best way to explore Taito, the smallest of the 23 wards of Tokyo with an area of only 10 sq km. Most of the attractions are close to one another and the locals are always eager to help a lost traveler. Public transportation is also a convenient and efficient way to get around, as trains and bus services run frequently. The Taito area can be roughly divided into four parts: Ueno, Asakusa, Yanaka and Asakusabashi.



Ueno is the perfect place for cultural exploration and artistic enjoyment. Here you'll find authentic shrines and temples, national museums, numerous galleries, a world-class zoo and cherry blossoms during spring. Japanese performing arts such as rakugo, or comical story-telling, are on show almost every day.

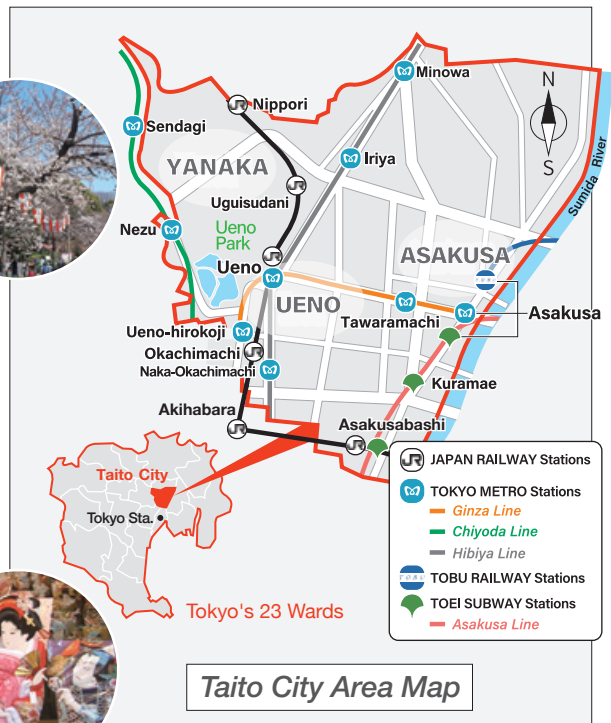
The huge red lantern at Kaminarimon Gate in Asakusa is a favorite photo spot for tourists. After taking a photo, try out the traditional snacks sold along Nakamise, a pedestrian walk leading to the Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest temple founded in the 7th century. Asakusa was the epicenter of Edo culture and the rich heritage continues today via seasonal events.

Yanaka is off the mainstream tourist route, but offers a peek into a tranquil little neighborhood steeped in history, Buddhist temples, old Japanese houses, cozy mom-and-pop shops and cute kittens seemingly posing for a snapshot. With many pre-war buildings still standing, Yanaka Ginza, a shopping street lined with traditional shops, has a timeless atmosphere loved by literary figures and artists alike.

Taito's attractions have a timeless charm and can be visited easily on foot. Find out the best way to enjoy the area in this guide packed with tips and useful information!

## Event Calendar

When	What	Where
January 1	Hatsumode	Sensoji Temple
Hatsumode: the first shrine visit of a year to pray for good fortune		
End of March to early April	Sakura Matsuri	Ueno Park, Sumida Park
Sakura matsuri: a festival to celebrate the blooming of cherry blossoms		
Early April	Asakusa Kannon-ura Ichiyo-Sakura Matsuri	Ichiyozakura Komatsubashi-dori St.
Asakusa Kannon-ura Ichiyo-Sakura Matsuri: a festival where people dressed in Edo attire parade a street lined with Ichiyo-Sakura blossoms		
Mid May	Sanja Matsuri	Asakusa Shrine
Sanja Matsuri: a festival that dates back to the Edo period and is one of the most famous festivals in Tokyo		
Early July	Shitamachi Tanabata Matsuri	Kappabashi-hondori St.
Shitamachi Tanabata Matsuri: Kappabashi-hondori St. is decorated with tanabata displays		
December 17-19	Hagoita Market	Sensoji Temple
Hagoita Market: about 50 stalls sell hagoita, a traditional decorative wooden paddle, at the market		





# UENO

## The Cultural Hub of Tokyo

Eight minutes by train from Tokyo Station, the area is famous for scenic spots, state-of-the-art museums and Japan's oldest zoo. On weekends and holidays in spring, families and couples flock here to have an outdoor picnic under cherry trees.



### 1 Ueno Park

Ueno Park is a spacious public park next to Ueno Station. The area was once the grounds of Kaneiji Temple, which used to be the city's largest and wealthiest temple during the Edo period until it became a park in 1876. It is one of Tokyo's most beloved locations for hanami, or cherry blossom viewing in spring. An impressive number of 1,200 sakura trees can be found along the park's main street as well as Shinobazu Pond. Many excellent museums, including the Tokyo National Museum, The National Museum of Western Art and National Museum of Nature and Science are located here as well.



### 3 Ueno Hanazono Inari Shrine

The vermilion torii gates that frame the scenic hill to this shrine gives one the illusion of being at Kyoto's Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine. This is no coincidence as both worship Inari, the Shinto god of harvest. There are about 3,000 such shrines across Japan. Since foxes are said to be the deity's messengers, the entrance of an Inari shrine is usually marked with a pair of fox statues, representing a male and female.

Address: 4-17, Ueno-koen, Taito  
Hours: 9am-5pm



### 2 Ueno Toshogu Shrine

Ueno Toshogu Shrine was founded in 1627 and dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1867). The main hall, skillfully built and intricately designed, has survived every single earthquake and war since the last renovation in 1651. The shrine is not only of great artistic value but of great historical importance, as it is one of the oldest architectures in present day Tokyo. Located within Ueno Park, the shrine is enclosed by greens, woods and nature, with cherry blossoms blooming in spring and glittering golden foliage in autumn.



Address: 9-88, Ueno-koen, Taito  
Hours: 9am-4:30pm (Closes at 17:30 during summer)  
URL: <https://www.uenotoshogu.com/en/>

### 4 Shinobazu Pond

Lotus plants, carps, turtles and cormorants. Were it not for the high rise buildings in the backdrop, the cornucopia of flora and fauna that this pond is blessed with would make its urban location hard to believe. Situated in the south of Ueno Park, Shinobazu Pond is divided into three parts: the lotus pond, the boat pond where you can rent a row boat or pedal-powered swan boat, and the cormorant pond, a great place for birdwatching.





## 5 Tokyo National Museum

As Japan's first museum, this establishment itself is a precious piece of history. Here, you can get to know Japan through an extensive collection of over 110,000 exhibits, which include 89 National Treasures and 644 Important Cultural Properties. Learn about Japanese heritage and culture through artworks such as ukiyo-e and various antiques including samurai swords and kimonos. Floor guides and some exhibition panels are available in English, Chinese and Korean.

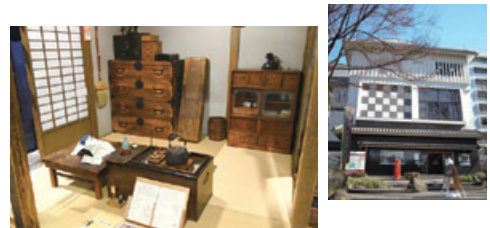
Address: 13-9, Ueno Park, Taito  
Hours: 9:30am-5pm (closed on Mondays)  
URL: <https://www.tnm.jp/?lang=en>



## 6 Shitamachi Museum

To experience the Japanese way of living before the emergence of convenience stores, head to the Shitamachi Museum which takes you back in time about 100 years. Take off your shoes, enter the life-size replica of a merchant's shop and coppersmith's workshop, and be wowed by the nostalgic time-slip. The second floor features an interactive space where visitors can play with all sort of toys from the past. Parts of a real *sen*to, or a public bathhouse, are also displayed to show how life was in the shitamachi area a century ago.

Address: 2-1, Ueno-koen, Taito  
Hours: 9:30am-4:30pm (closed on Mondays)  
URL: <https://www.taitogeibun.net/shitamachi>



## 7 Ameyoko Shopping Street

Ameyoko started out as a black market after World War II, when food was scarce. Ame is thought to stand for either candy or American goods, which were sold here from the beginning years. Today's Ameyoko has more than 400 shops offering classic street food and imported goods. It is a mecca for cheap buys, so expect to see locals and tourists alike hunting for clothes, watches, jewelry and pretty much everything you can imagine.

URL: <https://www.ameyoko.net/>  
(Japanese)



## SPECIALTY

### TONKATSU

Tonkatsu is a dish of Japanese-style deep fried pork cutlet served with a heap of julienned cabbage. This is Japanese comfort food at its heartiest. Japanese students often have it before exams or sport competitions because katsu is a homonym for victory. For a really authentic tonkatsu experience, head over to Ponta Honke.



### Ponta Honke

Address: 3-23-3, Ueno, Taito

## Savvy Sightseeing Tips from the Editor

## 8 Kyu Iwasaki-tei Gardens

Former Iwasaki House is extraordinary, even without any specific knowledge about architecture. The Iwasaki family-founders of Mitsubishi, a global conglomerate-used to live on the luxurious estate from 1896 till the end of World War II. The estate includes a Jacobean-style residence, a Swiss-style billiards house and, of course, a traditional Japanese house. The 17,000 sq m garden is excellent for anyone who wants to get a glimpse of high life in the Meiji period (1868-1912).

Address: 1, Ikenohata, Taito  
Hours: 9am-5pm  
URL: <https://www.tokyo-park.or.jp/park/kyu-iwasaki-tei/index.html>





# ASAKUSA

## The Heart of Shitamachi

Asakusa was already one of Tokyo's most bustling and lively districts in the early years of the Edo period. Today, the area is known for its historic atmosphere, ancient architecture and warm hospitality.

### 1 Sensoji Temple

Sensoji Temple dates back to the 7th century, making it the oldest temple in Tokyo. Dedicated to bodhisattva Kannon, this temple consists of a main hall and a five-story pagoda. Since both were destroyed during World War II, the current buildings are post-war reconstructions. Many events and festivals are held here throughout the year. The most famous of all would be Sanja Matsuri, a parade celebration involving musical floats and portable shrines.

Address: 2-3-1, Asakusa, Taito  
Hours: 6am-5pm  
URL: <https://www.senso-ji.jp/english/>



### 2 Nakamise Shopping Street

Nakamise is a pedestrian shopping street of approximately 250m leading directly to Sensoji Temple that can be traced back to the Edo period. It starts right after passing the vermilion-lacquered Kaminarion Gate. Along the street you will find shops that sell traditional souvenirs ranging from decorated folding fans to chopsticks, paper lanterns, kimonos and Japanese clogs.

URL: <http://asakusa-nakamise.jp/e-index.html>



### 3 Kaminari-mon Gate

The Kaminarimon Gate is iconic to Asakusa and marks the entrance to Sensoji Temple. The paper lantern at the center of the gate stands 3.9m tall and weighs about 700 kg. Kaminarimon can be translated as thunder gate and the two huge statues displayed on the front are Fujin (god of wind) and Raijin (god of thunder). The statues on the backside are Tenryu (dragon of heaven) and Kinryu (golden dragon).





#### 4 Sumida Park

Located along the Sumida River, this beautiful park stretches for several hundred meters. It boasts 640 cherry trees that attract flocks of visitors every spring for hanami, or flower viewing. Aside from cherry blossoms, the firework festival in the summer is also not to be missed.



#### 5 Tokyo Cruise

River cruises are available at the west bank of Sumida River. Visitors can choose from two lines: the Sumida River Line, which stops at Hinode Pier via Hamarikyu, and the Asakusa Odaiba Direct Line, which goes all the way to Odaiba Seaside Park. Get a full view of Tokyo's urban landscape and historical bridges as you cruise away in style.

Address: 1-1-1, Hanakawado, Taito  
URL: <https://www.suijobus.co.jp/en/>



### SPECIALTY

#### SUKIYAKI

Sukiyaki is one of the first dishes the Japanese invented after the nation started to consume beef and other meats. Thinly-sliced beef, vegetables and other ingredients are simmered in a mixture of soy sauce, mirin and sugar. Dipping the ingredients in a raw egg before eating is what makes this hot pot unique. Asakusa has been famous for sukiyaki – or gyunabe (beef hot pot) as it was originally known – since the late 19th century. You can still savor the shitamachi style at long-established restaurants as Asakusa Imahan and China.



#### Asakusa Imahan

Address: 3-1-12, Nishi-Asakusa, Taito  
URL: <https://www.asakusaimahan.co.jp/english>

#### 6 Asakusa Kannon Ura Area

At first glance, the streets behind Sensoji Temple appear to be no more than a typical residential neighborhood. Take a closer look and you will find a significant number of classic Japanese restaurants called ryotei. Dinner here is often accompanied by geisha, women highly trained in the traditions of music, dancing and entertaining. The Asakusa Kenban, an agency that sends geisha to these ryotei, can be found here as well.

Asakusa Kenban  
Address: 3-33-5, Asakusa, Taito



### Savvy Sightseeing Tips from the Editor

#### 7 Edo Taito Traditional Crafts Center

Ever wanted to add an elegant, stylish Japanese touch to your interior? Exhibiting around 350 Japanese handicrafts, this two-story center is the place to look for inspiration and ideas. Every weekend, experienced craftsmen show visitors how to turn silver, wood and other raw materials into art. Do-it-yourself classrooms are also held periodically. The center is open free-of-charge daily.

Address: 2-22-13, Asakusa, Taito  
Hours: 10am-6pm (closed on Second and Fourth Tuesdays)  
URL: <https://craft.city.taito.lg.jp/en/kogeikan/>



# YANAKA

## Nostalgic Neighborhood

At Yanaka, Tokyo's cat town, humans and cats alike enjoy the laid-back atmosphere. It is one of the few areas in Tokyo where you can enjoy retro cityscapes of old. If you are looking for a less touristy, more authentic travel experience, Yanaka is your pick.



### 1 Yanaka Cemetery

With leafy trees, shrubs and flowers along the stone paths, this spacious cemetery feels more like a scenic park. More often than not, you'll spot cats relaxing under the sun or taking an afternoon nap in the shades. Amongst the more than 7,000 souls that rest here are a significant number of famous historical figures, such as Japan's last shogun Tokugawa Yoshinobu (1837-1913) and other shogun. The place is even more picturesque in April, when myriads of cherry trees along the central avenue are in full blossom.

Address: 7 Yanaka, Taito  
Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm  
URL: <https://www.tokyo-park.or.jp/reien/yanaka/index.html>



### Temple Town Yanaka

In the old days, Yanaka was known as a *teramachi*, or temple town. Numerous temples as well as other interesting finds remain scattered throughout the area to this day. If you head deep into the back alleys of the area's residential neighborhoods or shopping streets, you will be rewarded for every extra step you make. Centuries-old temples as Jomyoin and Daienji, as well as other remains of Tokyo's past are located here. Take for example the Tsuiji-Bei, a wall that remains from the Edo period that



looks like it was taken straight from a samurai movie setting.



### 2 Yanaka Ginza

Yanaka Ginza is a nice little shopping street with shops selling traditional handicrafts, Japanese-style sweets, bento lunchboxes, personalized name stamps and much more. While the 170m main street might be a bit short, more greatness awaits in the side-alleys. Shops tucked away in unusual spots are waiting for you to be discovered. While



wandering through this shopping street full of cute items, why not pick up some cat-themed souvenirs?

Address: 3-13-1, Yanaka, Taito  
URL: <https://www.yanakaginza.com> (Japanese)





### 3 Shitamachi Museum Annex Old Yoshidaya Liquor Store

This museum housed in an old liquor store is an annex of the Shitamachi Museum in Ueno Park. Built in the early 1910s, the building was later transformed into a big display room showcasing nostalgic posters and all sorts of tools used by sake merchants in the Meiji and early Showa period (1926-1989).

Address: 2-10-6, Ueno Sakuragi, Taito

Hours: 9:30am-4:30pm (closed on Monday)

URL: [https://www.taitogeibun.net/shitamachi/shitamachi\\_annex/](https://www.taitogeibun.net/shitamachi/shitamachi_annex/)

## SPECIALTY

### Cat Town

Cats are an icon of Yanaka, so expect to be greeted by friendly cats while strolling the streets. There are many cat-themed shops in the area. For feline lovers, Kaiun Yanakado is the place to visit. This nostalgic mom-and-pop store sells manekineko, or fortune cat figures, in all sizes, shapes and colors. For something more original, make your own manekineko at Café Nekoemon next to Kaiun Yanakado while enjoying a cup of coffee.



Kaiun Yanakado

Address: 5-4-3, Yanaka, Taito

URL: <https://www.yanakado.com>

Café Nekoemon

Address: 5-4-2, Yanaka, Taito

URL: [https://www.yanakado.com/c\\_nekoemon.html](https://www.yanakado.com/c_nekoemon.html)

## Savvy Sightseeing Tips from the Editor

### Experience traditional and beautiful Edo era designs

Kikujyudou Isetatsu was established in 1864, in the late Edo era of Japan, as a publisher of chiyogami (Japanese paper with colored designs) and omocha-e (toy woodblock prints). Edo chiyogami, which has been produced with preserved traditions, is characterized not only by its patterns, but also by its refined designs that let you feel close to the customs of the Edo era, including scenes from kabuki plays and Bijinga (ukiyo-e portraying beautiful women) and poems about a particular scenery or season.

Chiyogami is highly durable, and its use is suitable for modern items such as notebooks, envelopes, and book covers, and can be arranged in various ways. You can also enjoy it by putting it into a frame as a decoration.

Kikujyudou Isetatsu

Address: 2-18-9 Yanaka Taito-ku Tokyo

URL: <http://www.isetatsu.com/>





# Other Recommended Areas

## Taito's charm goes on

The amicable, easy-going atmosphere at these areas give visitors a rare opportunity to mingle with locals. Compared to Asakusa or Ueno, these areas are more quiet and people are generally more relaxed. Go off the beaten track and be rewarded with not just hidden gem spots, but also make friends with the welcoming locals.

### Iriya Kishimojin (Shingenji Temple)

Iriya Kishimojin is a temple dedicated to the goddess of childbirth and child-rearing. It is famous for the Asagao (Morning Glory) Festival, which is held from July 6 to 8. Every year, producers of morning glory and other fair stalls flock in to take part in this large celebration. The history of the event goes back to the Edo period.

Address: 1-12-16, Shitaya, Taito



### Torikoe Shrine

Torikoe Shrine has a history of about 1,370 years and is known for holding a huge festival every summer. The highlight of this magnificent festival is the parade of a nearly four-ton mikoshi, or portable shrine, down the neighborhood. Locals dressed in festive costumes lead the procession with colorful flags in hand.

Address: 2-4-1, Torigoe, Taito



## Tokyo's Best Hostels

Nui. and toco. are two ideal hostels to feel and experience Japanese everyday life. Both have a café/bar at the first floor, where locals come to mingle with international guests. Located nearby are cozy little restaurants you won't find in most guidebooks and public baths frequented by people from the neighborhood. toco. is housed in a 90-year-old traditional Japanese house that remains as one of the few truly authentic spots left in Tokyo.



Nui.  
Address: 2-14-13, Kuramae, Taito  
URL: <https://backpackersjapan.co.jp/nuihostel/topen>



toco.  
Address: 2-13-21, Shitaya, Taito  
URL: <https://backpackersjapan.co.jp/toco/english.html>



## Funayado Ship Inn (Yakatabune Boat)

Funayado are services that provide cruising trips on Yakatabune, traditional Japanese-style wooden boats on which you can have dinner while appreciating river sceneries. Most of the Funayado are located in the Asakusabashi area. Yakatabune became a popular form of entertainment for upper class merchants and samurai during the Edo period. Today, passengers are served traditional Japanese cuisine on low tables while seated on tatami mats.

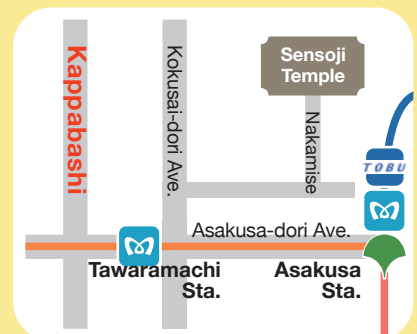
Tokyo Yakatabune Association

URL: <https://www.yakatabune-kumiai.jp/en/>



## Kappabashi Kitchen ware Town

A short walk from Asakusa takes you to Kappabashi, a shopping street that has a century-long history. The place boasts the world's largest cookware market, attracting chefs from afar. Since Kappabashi was not meant to be a tourist destination in the first place, you will encounter more people in chef whites than those carrying backpacks. From noren shop curtains to sushi knives, everything necessary to open a restaurant – except fresh produce – can be purchased along this 800m long street. With about 170 shops, you are sure to find something within your budget. There are also a couple of shops that sell plastic food samples: sushi, tempura, ramen, dumplings, hamburger, beer, parfait – you name it!





# TAITO Pick-Ups



## Shitamachi Bus Touring: Sightseeing on the Taito City Loop Bus “Megurin”



One way to see the shitamachi sights is via the Taito City Loop Bus, or Megurin, that plies five different routes to major tourist destinations within the area every 15-20 minutes.



Touring around the sprawling Ueno Park, Sensoji Temple and the cozy Yanaka Ginza shopping street, Megurin's five different routes take you to all there is to see and do in Taito for a cheap price. With local sceneries on the way, the journey itself is half the fun! Of course, getting off at a random stop and finding yet to be discovered hidden gems is also an option.

The Megurin is not only convenient, but most lines also have an adorable retro look that takes you back in time. The buses come in four different colors to help users distinguish the routes. For a touch of fun, the buses even have their own original mascots!

### Information

#### The Route

The bus runs on five interconnecting routes at an interval of 15-20 minutes.

#### How to Ride

Pay when you get on from the front. Press the "get off" button on the bus before your stop and leave from the back.

#### The Fare

Each ride is 100 yen and an All-Day Pass costs 300 yen. A repeater pass that can be used 11 times and a monthly pass are available at 1,000 yen and 3,000 yen respectively. IC cards as PASMO and Suica can also be used to pay.



URL: <https://www.city.taito.lg.jp/kenchiku/kotsu/megurin/rosenzu.html>



# Experience Japanese Culture



As Tokyo's shitamachi, craftsmen, artists and performers have been active in Taito for centuries. Over the years, the area has developed as a cultural hub that is home to many Japanese arts and crafts. From witnessing a Japanese tea ceremony to learning how to make wax food samples, Taito boasts a great number of facilities that allow tourists to directly experience such cultural assets.

Asakusa Jidaiya is a comprehensive facility for Japanese cultures and arts where you can hop on a rickshaw, take a Japanese calligraphy lesson and even wear a kimono.

If you have ever wondered how the wax food samples you see in front of Japanese restaurants are made, Ganso Shokuhin Sample-ya Kappabashi Showroom has the answer. It is hard to believe that the lettuces and tempura you learn to make here, are not the real thing!

Kintsugi is a centuries-old Japanese restoration technique used to repair damaged pieces of ceramic.

Tsugu Tsugu is a place where offers you the opportunity to experience the most impressive step of kintsugi: the dusting of gold powder!



—Savvy Sightseeing Tips from the Editor—

## Experiencing a Japanese tea ceremony

*I still remember my first tea ceremony lesson. Strongly influenced by Zen Buddhism, each movement in the tea ceremony – from preparing the tea to serving it – carries a meaning deeper than appearance. For example, as a thoughtful gesture, the host always skillfully serves the cup with the painted side facing the guest. In return, as a considerate guest, one should turn the cup outward so that the mouth does not touch the design when taking a sip. All of this is done without speaking a single word. The only sounds that reached my ears were the wind blowing and water flowing. This lesson changed my perspective on Japan in many ways and is worth every single yen.*



## Shop Information

### Asakusa Jidaiya

Various Japanese cultural experience courses, including Japanese calligraphy, tea ceremony, kimono wearing, drumming and more.

Address: 2-3-5, Kaminarimon, Taito

URL: <https://www.jidaiya.biz/index-e.html>

### Ganso Shokuhin Sample-ya Kappabashi Showroom

Sample food making

Address: 3-7-6, Nishi-Asakusa, Taito

URL: <https://www.ganso-sample.com/en/>

### Tsugu Tsugu Inc.

One-Hour Kintsugi Workshop

Address: 1-1-2 Kaminarimon, Taito

URL: <https://kintsugi-kit.com>





# Take Trips from TAITO

Easy, fast connection to tourist spots throughout Japan



Aomori



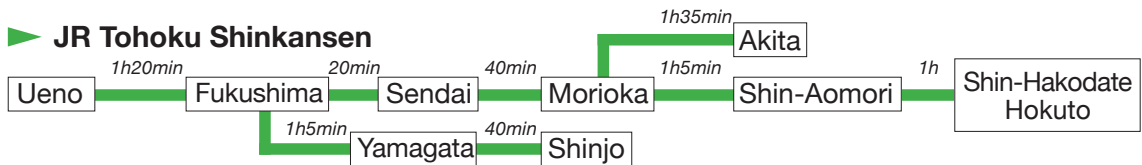
Sendai



Morioka

Taito is the ideal point of departure to explore Japan in all its fascinating aspects. Thanks to bullet trains, traveling to historic, scenic attractions in the north is made possible in half a day. If you've never been on a bullet train, now is the time to book the ultimate experience in speed, service and comfort.

## ▶ JR Tohoku Shinkansen



The Tohoku Shinkansen is a bullet train line in Japan that opened in 1982. It connects Tokyo with various locations in Tohoku region, the northeastern part of Honshu (mainland). With the opening of the Hokkaido Shinkansen in March 2016, travelers are able to extend their route further to Hakodate. Tohoku is known for excellent cuisine, unrivaled natural beauty, vibrant festivals and warm hospitality.



Aomori



Hakodate

## ▶ JR Hokuriku Shinkansen



Kanazawa from Ueno can be reached as fast as 2 hours and 25 minutes by Hokuriku Shinkansen. Toyama, a city known for its fresh seafood caught at the Toyama Bay, is a major stop on the way. The Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route and the UNESCO World Heritage Site Gokayama, a mountain village known for its iconic houses of thatched roofs are in Toyama as well. The train also stops at Karuizawa (a resort town Beatles' band member John Lennon frequented) and Nagano.



Nagano



Toyama

## ▶ JR Joetsu Shinkansen



With the Joetsu Shinkansen, you can have breakfast in Tokyo, ski all day at one of the many ski resorts in Niigata Prefecture and still manage to be back in Tokyo for dinner. Skiers can get off at Echigo Yuzawa Station and either take a bus or rental car to their chosen hills. After a good ski, don't forget to dip into an outdoor *onsen* to relax the body and soul, and enjoy sake tasting at Ponshukan, a sake museum located within the station building.



Echigo Yuzawa



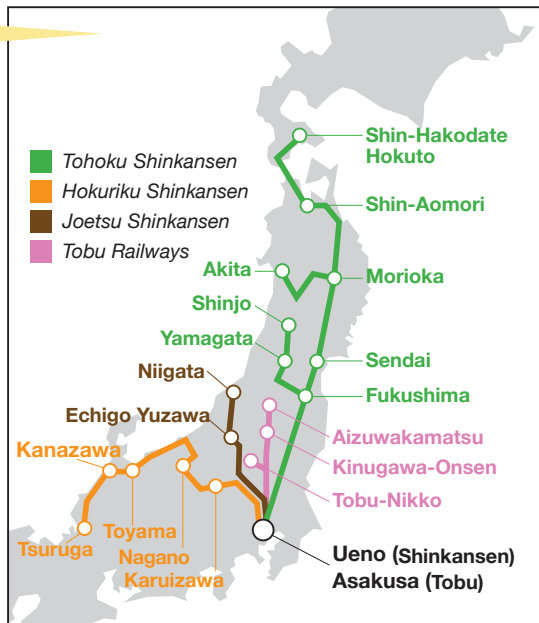
Niigata



Kinugawa-Onsen

Aizuwakamatsu

The Tobu Line is the fastest and most comfortable way to get to Nikko and Aizu from Tokyo. The area features the perfect blend of history and natural splendor.



### Tobu Railways



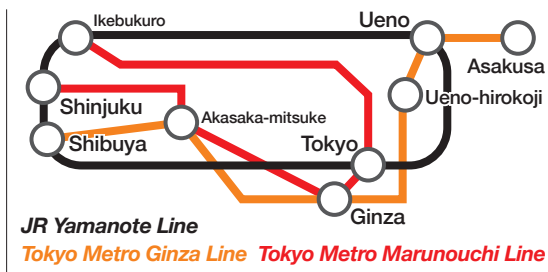
The first major stop on the Tobu private railway from Asakusa is Nikko. Most visitors spend half a day here touring around the UNESCO World Heritage Sites-Toshogu, Rinnoji Temple and Futarasan Shrine-before setting foot at Kinugawa-Onsen, a hot spring resort embedded in spectacular landscape. Continue for a couple of stops on the railway and you will reach Aizu region, where you can still see the old streetscapes of Japan.



Nikko

## Taito's Neighbors

All of the following major destinations in Tokyo are easy to access from Taito!



### Ginza

Ginza is one of the most luxurious shopping streets in the world. Experience the ultimate glamor and elegance of Tokyo nowhere else than in this modern, chic area.



### Tokyo Marunouchi

The Imperial Palace is just a short walking distance from Tokyo Station. The wide moats and massive stone walls alone make it an impressive sight.



### Shinjuku

Shinjuku is a kaleidoscope of treasures, offering everything from huge department stores, movie theaters, observation decks to authentic Japanese pub *izakaya*.



### Shibuya

This bustling fashion district is a must-see for any traveler. Be amazed by the Shibuya Crossing and see how thousands of pedestrians all cross at the same time without running into each other.





## Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center

The avant-garde building in front of Sensoji Temple's Kaminarimon Gate is Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center. The staff here can help you search, show you and support you with anything you need in Taito City in English, Japanese, Chinese or Korean. Free Wi-Fi and currency exchange services are available during the business hours for your convenience. The center comes equipped with a café, a nursing room and an observation terrace at the 8th floor that provides a view of Sensoji Temple and Nakamise Shopping Street with Tokyo Skytree in the background.

Hours: 9am-8pm (the Observation terrace is open until 10pm)  
Address: 2-18-9, Kaminarimon, Taito



## Tokyo Systemized Goodwill Guide Club

TOKYO SGG CLUB provides free sightseeing information and a choice of a free guided walking tour of Asakusa, the Ueno Park area and the Imperial Palace East Gardens area.

URL: <https://tokyosgg.jp> 03-6280-6710  
(Open Every Day 9:30a.m.-5:00p.m.)

Publisher: Taito City Office Tourism Section  
4-5-6, Higashi-Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-8615

\* Please note that content, names, etc. may have changed from when this guide was issued.  
Please behave in a respectful manner on shrine grounds and private property.

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