

# SIGHTSEEING SPOTS

## TOKYO TOWER



claims the title of the world's highest self supporting structure at 333m high, edging out the Eiffel Tower by 13m. Completed in 1958 as a broadcast tower, and with an observation deck offering views of Ginza, Tokyo Bay, Yokohama and even Mt. Fuji in clear weather.

## TEA CEREMONY



at Happoen is a chance to take part in the ritual way of preparing and drinking green tea, a custom strongly influenced by Zen Buddhism. Nowadays, tea ceremony remains a popular hobby among people of all ages, and ceremonies are held anywhere from traditional Japanese rooms at cultural community centers to private homes...

## IMPERIAL PALACE PLAZA



denotes the spacious area between the east side of the Imperial Palace and Marunouchi Office district and a vast lawn with pine groves on the other. You will find a fountain commemorating the marriage of the current Emperor and Empress at the north while on the south a bronze statue of the famous 14th century feudal lord Kusunoki Masashige can be found.

## MEIJI JINGU SHRINE



is a Shinto Shrine dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Dowager Shoken, who passed away in 1912 and 1914 respectively. The Shrine was completed in 1920, covers 700m<sup>2</sup> and has three separate areas: the Naien (Inner Precinct) with a focus on the shrine buildings, the Gaien (Outer Precinct) that includes sports facilities and a Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery, and the Meiji Memorial Hall. The forest covering the Shrine's grounds boasts 120,000 trees of 365 different species.

## SUMIDA RIVER CRUISE



provide a fascinating glimpse of the Tokyo lost history as well as showcasing the modern skyline of the city. A variety of cruises are available, the most popular being a shuttle boat between Asakusa and Hinode Pier terminal of Tokyo Port, which takes about 40 min one way.

## THE NATIONAL DIET BUILDING



can be seen on Kasumigaseki Hill and serves as Japan's central government building. Taking 18 years to build and finally completed in 1936, the building stand at 65.5m high with a tall, central tower and is a well-known Tokyo landmark. The right hall is used by the House of Councilors while the left hall is used by the House of Representatives.

## ASAKUSA



is famous for its Sensoji Temple (Asakusa Kannon Temple) & Nakamise shopping street. Nakamise comprise the 300m approach to the temple, and are one of the oldest shopping districts in Japan, dating back to the late 17th century. Their wares included toys, sweets, snacks and souvenirs. Also some shops sell traditional knick-knacks, festival foods and rice crackers known as senbei.

## GINZA



literally means "Silver Place" and its name derives from the mint for silver that was located in this area during the Edo Period. Extending from Kyobashi to Shimbashi, it is a leading shopping district of Tokyo. Many of the finest stores, from designer to department to specialty, can be found here. Ginza is also known for its tea houses, restaurants, bars and cabarets. While many new shopping and business centers crop up in Tokyo, Ginza has kept its reputation for a reason.

## AKIHABARA

is named for the area around Akihabara Station in downtown Tokyo, and is famous for its electrical devices. Recently having become known world-wide as "Akiba," it is a center of anime, cosplay, and other Japanese subculture. Maid cafes, where costumed women serve customers, have also become well known.

## FUJI VISITOR CENTER

will give you comprehensive information on Mt. Fuji using 12-faced multiprojected images featuring the ecology of Mt. Fuji, its geographic features, its distribution of plants and animals, its history and lakes, as well as a variety of art works inspired by the mountain.

## MT. FUJI



the highest and most popular mountain in Japan, rises 3,776m above the sea. Considered as one of the most beautiful conical volcanoes in the world, the base of Mt. Fuji forms almost a perfect circle, stretching 35 to 40 km from east to west and north to south. The volcano has been inactive for over 250 years, and you can go up to the 5th station of Mt. Fuji by bus.

## LAKE ASHI



is a typical caldera lake formed between the outer and inner crater ridge of volcanoes, and a cruise on this beautiful lake is quite ideal. The lake abounds in fish such as black bass and rainbow trout. Due to its fish, this is great place for angling and boating. The inverted reflection of Mt. Fuji is also stunning.

## MT. KOMAGATAKE ROPEWAY



takes you to the top of Mt. Komagatake, commanding a view of Mt. Fuji, Lake Ashi, Mt. Futago and mountains of the distant Izu Peninsula. Cable cars travel the 720m long ropeway in 5 minutes. The summit is 1327m-high. At the western base of the mountain lies the Hakone Picnic Garden. The grassy hills offer ideal picnicking with gardens of alpine plants, wild azalea & rhododendrons at many places.

## NIKKO TOSHOGU



is a monument dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa shogunate, created by his grandson, Tokugawa Iemitsu. Built in 1636, this is one of the most popular sites in Japan, so much so that there is a saying that derives from the town's name: "Don't say kekkō (wonderful) without having seen Nikko." The monument itself is famous for the carvings of three monkeys referred to "See no Evil, Hear no Evil, Speak no Evil."

## IROHAZAKA



winds up the mountain and ends on the eastern shores of Lake Chuzenji. Including both uphill and downhill sides, the road has a total of 48 hairpin curves, which is the same number as the amount of symbols in the Japanese hiragana syllabary, so the road was named for the first 3 syllables: I, ro, ha.

## LAKE CHUZENJI



is a site formed by a dam of lava from the nearby Mt. Nantai. Surrounded by thickly wooded hills, this oval lake is known for its extraordinary depth of 161.5m. This is also a popular summer destination, as the temperature lake-side seldom exceeds 25°C in the summer, and the lake makes for great fishing, yachting and boating. Foreign diplomats are known to love Lake Chuzenji for its peaceful surroundings and charm.

## KEGONNOTAKI WATERFALL



at 96.3m in height, measures as one of Japan's tallest waterfalls. Tumbling down a precipice of quartz rock and lava created by an eruption of Mount Nantai, (the same one that created Lake Chuzenji) the waterfall usually runs full from June to September and freezes from December to April. Since the frozen waterfall is also a spectacular view, this site is a great destination summer or winter.