

ROADTRIPS

The Ultimate in Sports Travel

PRESENTS

A GUIDE TO
TOKYO





INTRODUCING TOKYO

We were thrilled to hear that Tokyo would be the host of the 2020 Summer Games. This ultra-modern city is the perfect blend of the exotic and the familiar and has a wealth of attractions for visitors to explore. It's highly organized and super clean and will make the perfect backdrop for one of the world's biggest events.

At Roadtrips, we specialize in luxury experiences. We also love luxuriant hotels; sublime restaurants; and quick, convenient access to fascinating attractions. Tokyo passes each category with flying colors and gets bonus marks in the food department. The city's incredible culinary scene is one of the best in the world and we know our guests are going to love it.

This guide is filled with our best tips and recommendations from our visits to Tokyo so far. With each trip we learn more and more and we'll continue to update the guide with each new discovery so you can make the most of your stay in Tokyo.

Tokyo is such an exciting city and we can't wait to show our guests all of our favorite things about this wonderful destination. Guests at the 2020 Summer Games will experience Tokyo at its absolute best as it plays host to one of the world's biggest and most highly anticipated sporting events.



MEET OUR TOKYO EXPERT



Dave Guenther

Way back in 1992, Dave Guenther took his deep-seeded passion for sports and travel and created Roadtrips. Throughout the last 27 years, Dave's remained completely hands on when it comes to creating amazing travel experiences for his clients. As a lifelong traveller, he still enjoys spending time travelling the world (often scouting destinations for Roadtrips events) with his wife and three boys. He's a lover of great food and top end hotels, something that will come as no surprise to anyone who's travelled with Roadtrips to a major sporting event.

You'll find Dave hosting clients at all of our major events and if you have questions about any aspect of a destination or event, he's a great one to talk to. Like many of us at Roadtrips, Dave is excited about everything Tokyo has to offer during the 2020 Summer Games. In particular, he admits to being "wowed by the food" in Tokyo. And in true Dave fashion, he's already scouted out some great restaurants for our guests which you can check out on page 20 of this guide.



TRAVEL TIPS

Tokyo is sure to be in its prime during the Summer Games and our knowledgeable onsite host team will be available to help our guests see the best of the area.

As is usually the case when traveling outside of our familiar surroundings, there are always challenges present. One of the great things about travelling with Roadtrips is our team of professional hosts comprised of international sporting event experts and local hosts. We at Roadtrips want to help set your expectations and do whatever we can to ensure that you are prepared for everything you may encounter in Tokyo and to create the best possible experience for our Summer Games guests.



GETTING AROUND TOKYO & TRAVEL TIMES

As is the case in most great cities of the world, traffic and congestion can be an issue in Tokyo. Add to that the confusing address system and getting around can be a challenge. The good news is that our Summer Games guests will have access to our extensive onsite host team as well as the knowledgeable hotel concierge staff. You'll reap the benefits of our host team's first hand knowledge of Tokyo and our experience of working at multiple Summer and Winter Games.

In addition, traffic during the Games often isn't as bad as expected. Some schools and businesses will shut down for the competition period and a portion of local commuter traffic is reduced from the equation. In order to provide the most up-to-date details about traffic and estimated travel times, Roadtrips accesses official information from local authorities, the Summer Games' organizing committee, and our destination partners.

Another upside is that Tokyo has a notoriously punctual train system, which will make getting to the Summer Games venues quick and comfortable. The Roadtrips host team will be available to assist guests with their transportation to and from their events each day. One of the great things about Tokyo's Summer Games venues is that many of them are centrally located within 15-30 minutes of our hotels (and each other).

In addition to the efficient train system, taxis and ride sharing services like Uber are also plentiful in Tokyo. It's worthwhile to note that most taxi drivers will not speak English so having your destination written in Japanese is helpful when possible (our local hosts and hotel concierge can assist with this). On Japanese taxis, a red light illuminated in the front window indicates that the vehicle is available for hire.

The bottom line: this is still one of the biggest events in the world and our best advice is to plan for extra time, be flexible, and bring along a good pair of walking shoes as many games venues have wide security parameters. But don't think you're in this alone; it's the goal of our host team to make your experience as seamless as possible.



OUR TOP 5 THINGS TO DO IN TOKYO

One of the many great things about Tokyo is its endless list of things to see and do. A few of our favorites are detailed on the following pages.





1. ASAKUSA

For many visitors to Tokyo, Asakusa is the first stop. The area has plenty to see within a relatively short distance and will give you a good feel of traditional Japanese culture. Check out Sensoji Temple, Asakusa Shrine, and lots more. We recommend touring the area with a private guide to get the most out of your visit.

2. SHIBUYA CROSSING

Possibly one of the most unusual attractions we've recommended as it is, after all, just an intersection. However, it is known as the busiest one in the world. Every few minutes, the lights

turn red in all directions and a sea of thousands of pedestrians parade across to the other side. The sight is quite incredible. It's also become a popular spot to snap a selfie. Once you've checked crossing the famous intersection off your list, you can explore the fashion in the area.

3. GINZA

Speaking of fashion, if you have any interest in the subject, a visit to Ginza is a must. It's a fashion mecca, home to high-end boutiques, upmarket department stores, art galleries, trendy restaurants, and night clubs. Each Sunday, the main street closes to traffic and becomes a pedestrian corridor.

4. SUMO WRESTLING

Sumo is more than just a sport, it's a Japanese tradition, rich in ritual. It's Japan's national sport and it's beautiful to watch. Our team would be happy to arrange an excursion for you and your party to experience sumo in its homeland.

5. SAMPLE THE LOCAL SPECIALTIES

Tokyo is well known for its gastronomy and it would we highly recommend taking full advantage while you're there. Some of our favorite restaurants are listed on page 20 and we

look forward to adding more in future updates of this guide. Also highly recommended: a sake tasting and a traditional sushi dinner. Our pre-travel concierge team or onsite host team would be happy to make arrangements for your party.



BEST PLACES TO SLEEP

We love amazing hotels and we especially love sharing our favorites with our guests. If you've travelled with us before, you know that our goal is to provide a true luxury experience, where our guests are completely taken care of. Fortunately, Tokyo has some wonderful options.

We understand how important it is to find the perfect accommodation fit while abroad. Our hotels are carefully chosen not only for their quality, but also for their prime location and impressive amenities. We're thrilled that we're able to offer some of Tokyo's finest.



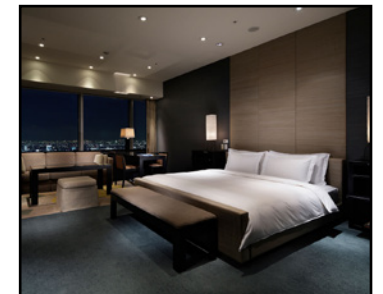
We are thrilled to offer some of the city's best hotels for the 2020 Summer Games. The Four Seasons Tokyo is a boutique luxury hotel, well deserving of its awards and accolades. We're excited for our clients who will have the pleasure of staying here; it will provide an extraordinary Summer Games experience. Located in the heart of the Ginza shopping district, close to many of the 2020 Summer Games venues, the luxe Four Seasons offers an intimate hotel experience without sacrificing amenities.

We are big Four Seasons fans and the brand new Four Seasons Otemachi is another incredible option. It boasts an ideal location overlooking the Imperial Palace and convenient to Summer Games venues. As the newest and most anticipated luxury property in the city, it's going to be one of Tokyo's most popular properties in 2020.

The Park Hyatt Tokyo is another iconic property. The hotel became famous after starring in the Academy Award winning movie *Lost in Translation* and will be one of the most coveted properties for the Games. Guests will have the pleasure of discovering just how wonderful this property really is. Luxurious guest rooms designed in the style of a private residence; its perfect location in

Shinjuku, one of Tokyo's best known entertainment districts; a 47th floor health club and pool with sweeping views of Tokyo; and the famous New York Grill & Bar on the 52nd floor with its authentic Japanese cuisine and incredible city views are just a few of the highlights.

Another of our favorites is the Hilton Tokyo. Also boasting a great location in Shinjuku, the Hilton places guests near enviable shopping, wonderful restaurants, intriguing attractions, and Summer Games venues. In addition to the modern, spacious guest rooms, the Hilton offers a long list of amenities including an indoor pool, 24-fitness center, rooftop tennis courts, plus a sauna and hot tub to allow for total relaxation. There's also a wide variety of dining options to please everyone. Our Sports Travel Specialists will ensure you find the perfect accommodations for your visit to Tokyo.





BEST EATS IN TOKYO

A lot of people say that Tokyo is definitively the number one food city in the world and we're on board with that. The city had an amazing 234 Michelin Star restaurants in 2018, more than double that of its closest competitor. In fact, traditional Japanese cuisine is recognized by UNESCO for its cultural significance.

One of the reasons the food scene is so impressive is the Japanese obsession with perfect ingredients. And when we say obsession that can't be overstated. In North America we have four to five qualities of beef. In Japan it's something like 200! Needless to say, you shouldn't have trouble finding amazing food in Tokyo but if you need some help, our recommendations are on the following pages.



MORIMOTO BY XEX

*I.K.N. Roppongi Bld., 7-21-19 Roppongi Minato-ku
Phone 03.3479.0065
www.xexgroup.jp/en/morimoto*

This is an ultra-vibey teppanyaki restaurant in Roppongi. You are seated and cooked for around a teppanyaki cooking table. Meals are multi-course set menus that include vegetables, appetizers, Japanese salad, meats and dessert for an inclusive price. The steak is incredible and will melt in your mouth. Succulent! Among the best and most memorable meat we've had anywhere.

MISONO

*8F New Ginza Bldg, 5-4-9 Ginza, Chuo-ku
Phone 03.3573.3341
misono.org/en*

It would be a shame to go to Tokyo and not have teppanyaki. The steak is just so good. Misono in Ginza is an exceptional choice. Misono bills itself as the original teppanyaki restaurant and has been perfecting its craft since 1945. They also have a location in Shinjuku that we love.

SHIMA STEAK

*3 Chome 5-12 Nihonbashi, Chuo-ku
Phone 03.5638.4129
www.steak-shima.jp*

This is a more casual place that also features great steak (not teppanyaki). Shima also has a unique proposition for patrons: they use the

leftovers of the meat to make really cute steak sandwiches for you to take with you as you leave. A worthwhile experience for sure.

DIN TAI FUNG

www.dintaifung.tw/store/en-japan.html

Though it originated in Taiwan, Din Tai Fung is one of our favorite restaurants in Tokyo (and in every other city it's located). The highlight here is the xiao long bao, highly addictive pork soup dumplings. These delicate little dumplings contain mince pork, seasonings and a dry soup mixture that reconstitutes when steamed. They are delicious beyond delicious. Din Tai Fung has a number of locations in the city including Tokyo Station in the Tekko Avenue shopping mall and Shinjuku.

MON CHER TON TON

*Shinjuku Sumitomo Bldg, 52nd Floor,
2-6 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ko
Phone 03.3344.6761
www.seryna.co.jp/en/monchertonton/*

Dishes are flawlessly prepared with innovative sauces; think flavorful anchovy butter and homemade ponzu sauce over abalone. Their Kobe beef is expertly served, staff are attentive and friendly and the atmosphere is cozy. Excellent presentation too.

TEPPAN 200°C

*Kotakibashi Pacifica Building 3F,
7-10-18 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku
Phone 03.5337.1305
restaurants-guide.tokyo/restaurants/detail/rs0081*

Teppan 200°C uses exact heat of a vast iron plate



to bring each dish to the ideal temperature. This solid Teppanyaki restaurant serves up tasty meals including Okonomi-yaki (Japanese pizza). Meats and shellfish are carefully selected for their ability to grill perfectly. Menu selections are savory and elaborate.

ROBATAYA GINMASA

Shinjuku Nomura Bldg B2F, 1-26-2, Nishishinjuku, Shinjuku-ku
Phone 03.5381.4095
robotaya-ginmasa.jp/shop.html

Entertaining and traditional, Robata chefs deliver a memorable approach to skewered meats, fresh sushi and grilled fish. It offers a great cultural experience as guests are in the heart of the food preparations. Each dish that is served is complemented by the next.

IPPUDO

3-38-1 Shinjuku Ward, Shinjuku
Phone 03.6380.4473
www.multilingual.ippudo.com

Ippudo was first established in 1985 and has grown steadily since with restaurants in London, Paris, Singapore and Sydney. The founder, Shigemi Kawahara, entered the Hall of Fame for winning the ramen competition of the show “TV Champion” three consecutive times and has since been dubbed “The Noodle King”. Casual, bustling

and a haven for both locals and visitors, Ippudo is widely known as the force driving the global ramen fever and is considered the innovator. The perfect place to get your ramen fix.

NEW YORK BAR & GRILL

New York Bar & Grill, Park Hyatt Tokyo, 52nd Floor
Phone 03.5323.3458

The setting for the Academy Award winning movie *Lost in Translation*, the New York Bar & Grill is one of Tokyo's most iconic spots. Perched 52 stories above the city, it's worth a visit for the views alone. Fortunately this hotspot has plenty more on offer. Succulent beef and seafood dishes, perfectly mixed drinks, an impressive wine list, and live jazz are just a few of its many highlights. Go for dinner or go for drinks, just go.

GINZA KAPPOU UKAI

8-9-15 Ginza, Chuo-ku
Phone 03.5568.1515
www.ukai.co.jp/english/ginzakappou/

This restaurant in the heart of Ginza is beautiful, classy and quiet, with ample space between tables of elegantly dressed Japanese couples and small groups. Marvel as your chef expertly and artistically creates your dishes right in front of you. The multi-course dinners are exquisitely prepared and wonderfully delicious.

ROBOT RESTAURANT

1-7-7 Kabukicho, Shinjuku-ku
Phone 03.3200.5500
www.shinjuku-robot.com/pc/

For a memorable and unique evening, Tokyo's Robot Restaurant is truly an “out there” experience. Laser lights, robots, cabaret, blaring J-pop electronic music: it's sensory overload in

a great way. It also seems to be popular with celebrities; we spotted some of the cast of *Vanderpump Rules* during our last visit. It's a bit funny that they include restaurant in the name. Though they do have a few Bento box lunches to choose from, it is the show that carries the day.

A FEW NOTES ABOUT DINING OUT IN TOKYO

In Japan, there are a few cultural differences to be aware of, particularly for our North American guests. The Japanese typically eat their evening meal between 6 and 8 pm with many restaurants closing by 10-11 pm. Reservations are strongly recommended (and in some cases required) at the city's top eateries. The Japanese value punctuality so if you can't make your reservation time, it's appreciated if you call to let the restaurant know. Tipping isn't customary in Japan, though some restaurants may add a service charge to your bill. Also worth noting: payments are often taken at the counter, not at the table as is typical in North America.





SHOPPING IN TOKYO

Tokyo's shopping scene is quite incredible. You'll find pretty much everything you could possibly need (and plenty you don't) in dozens of different shopping areas. From independent local shops selling made-in-Japan souvenirs to the high fashion boutiques of Ginza to the electronics mecca of Akihabara, you're sure to find your shopping niche. The Shinjuku area of Tokyo is one of the most vibrant and exciting shopping areas of the city and also one of our favorites. It's also perfect for window shopping; the sheer variety is a true feast for the eyes.

If it all seems a bit intimidating, we'd be happy to arrange for a private guide to escort you on a personalized shopping tour.



ISETAN DEPARTMENT STORE

Considered one of the trendiest shops in Tokyo, offering everything from fashion to food, they are said to be the “edgy” department store. With a history of over 100 years, Isetan is a veteran among Shinjuku’s department stores and is renowned across the country. Shinjuku is home to its flagship store which was reopened after extensive remodeling in 2013. Their collection of in-season brands and fashionable spaces is complete with limited release items. Isetan Shinjuku’s goal is to provide something new every day. It’s earned the attention of fashionistas around the world, so much so that it is now a

must-see attraction for visitors to Tokyo.

isetan.mistore.jp/store/shinjuku/foreign_customer/index.html

ODAKYU DEPARTMENT STORE

Odakyu consists of 16 floors, including an excellent food department in the basement, with an abundant selection of bento boxes and gourmet treats. Its cosmetics department is the largest in Japan and not to be missed, and Halc Sports stocks a wide range of travel goods. Dedicated English-speaking staff are available for customer assistance.

www.odakyu-dept.co.jp/foreign/en/shinjuku/

TAKASHIMAYA SHINJUKU STORE

Opened in 1996, the Shinjuku branch of Takashimaya consists of 15 floors with an extensive array of products from speciality wedding dresses and custom apparel to electronics and home decor. It is the main store of the “Takashimaya Times Square” complex that also houses a Tokyo Hands branch and Kinokuniya bookstore with a large foreign language section. Sample fresh “Patisserie” in the confectionery and browse for exclusive designer fashion throughout multi-levels.

www.takashimaya.co.jp/shinjuku/store_information/index.html

LUMINE

Lumine is divided into “Lumine 1” and “Lumine 2”. Lumine 1 targets the fashion conscious and high-end shopper. Both department stores are a mecca for fashion lovers with over 200 shops. Some stores open their inaugural Japanese branches here, attracting media attention, and shoppers will find items not found in any other stores. Explore the vast array of fashions, lifestyle goods, cosmetics, and specialized restaurants until your heart’s content.

www.lumine.ne.jp/english/?shop=shinjuku



GETTING TO TOKYO

If you're heading to Tokyo from abroad, chances are you'll be flying into Narita International Airport (NRT), though Haneda Airport (HND) also receives some international traffic.

Being a major airline hub, there are plenty of flight possibilities into Narita. That said, flights do tend to book up quickly for major international events like the Summer Games so it would be wise to book early to secure your preferred routing or schedule. Our Summer Games guests will be welcomed by our friendly onsite host team, who will be available 24/7 to provide assistance and answer any questions.

Most of our Summer Games travellers will not require a travel visa to enter Japan, though a valid passport is a requirement. Our pre-travel concierges are available to you for any questions you have regarding entry requirements for your vacation.

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