

## Travel Tips for Japan and Tokyo

Japan in general and Tokyo in particular have become top travel destinations in the world. If you can extend your stay, we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity and explore Japan. There is something for everyone, and, especially if you are coming with family, you will have specific interests. You can consult any decent travel guide to find what you want, but we offer some suggestions below.

Coming to Tokyo via [Haneda Airport](#) is somewhat more convenient than [Narita Airport](#), if you have a choice, but both work well. We will provide more information later about transit from the airports into the city, and on using the subway system.

### Near Tokyo

For families with children, [Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo Disney Sea](#) are a relatively short train ride (about 15 minutes) from Tokyo station. Each takes a full day to enjoy. Please look into tickets and reservations in advance. Not too far from Tokyo we can recommend [Yokohama Bay](#) with its adjoining [Chinatown](#), as well as [Kamakura](#) with its famous temples, and (further, and in another direction) [Nikko Toshogu Shrine](#).

### In Tokyo

There are more places to see in Tokyo than can be summarized, but here are highlights:

- As noted in our other information, near our conference venue is [Koshikawa Korakuen Garden](#), a famous and famously beautiful Japanese landscape garden.
- Not far from our conference venue are [Akihabara](#), famous for street culture and geek culture, as well as [Kanda Myojin Shrine](#), with a view of Tokyo Skytree in the background, presenting a contrast of the modern and the traditional. Just next door to Kanda Shrine are [Yushima Shrine](#) and [Yushima Seido Confucian Temple](#), famous sacred sites devoted to scholars and learning. Also in the general neighborhood are the boisterous [Ameyoko shopping street](#), Ueno Station, and [Ueno Park](#), which includes temples, shrines, Ueno Zoo, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, the National Museum of Western Art, and the National Museum of Nature and Science.
- A few stations after Ueno Station is [Nippori](#), which has a traditional but also funky shopping street. A moderately long walk from there will take you to the historic [Nezu Shrine](#). Depending on how much you want to take in, these spots can easily be combined with the previous recommendation for a full day's activities.
- In one day, you can take in these spots together: [Asakusa](#) and its famous Sensoji temple, a [Sumida River cruise](#), and [Tokyo Skytree](#) (a longish walk or a short subway ride from Asakusa) with its astonishing and dizzying view, as well as the Solamachi area in the vicinity of Tokyo Skytree.
- [Tokyo station](#) is a beautiful restored Edwardian era building, nice to see from the outside, and adjoining it is the pleasant and elegant [Marunouchi district](#). Japan's [Imperial Palace](#) is just a few blocks away. Other famous spots nearby are [Nihonbashi](#), and in another direction is the famous [Ginza district](#), a the tony shopping area and home to the [National Kabuki Theater](#).

- Great spots for people watching are [Harajuku](#) and [Omotesando](#) (with [Meiji Shrine](#) nearby), [Shibuya](#), and [Roppongi](#), all accessible and relatively close to one another.
- [Zojoji Temple](#), with its view of [Tokyo Tower](#) in the background, another contrast of traditional and modern, is another worthy stop.
- Ghibli fans can visit the [Ghibli Museum](#), a half hour train ride from our conference venue (take the train from Suidobashi to Mitaka). The adjoining [Inokashira Park](#) is also a fascinating and trendy place, as is the Kichijoji area.

There are many other museums, amusement parks, temples, shrines, historic churches, zoos and aquariums in or near Tokyo. Follow your interests and consult travel guides.

### **Beyond Tokyo**

Beyond Tokyo we highly recommend the ancient capital of [Kyoto](#), about 2½ hours from Tokyo by bullet train, and nearby [Nara](#), with the grandest temples in Japan. A proper visit to Kyoto and Nara requires at least a few days to truly take it in. A bit farther than Kyoto is the vibrant city of [Osaka](#). Its theme park, [Universal Studios Japan](#), is recommended for families with children or teenagers. Inquire in advance about tickets. Further on, the city of [Hiroshima](#) is a worthy visit for anyone, and near Hiroshima there is the dazzling and picturesque [Itsukushima Shrine](#).

For those with more time and a desire to do a grand tour of the whole of Japan, we highly recommend that you look into the [Japan Rail Pass](#).