

Practical Travel Guide - 813

JAPAN FOR FREE



日本政府観光局 (JNTO)
Japan National Tourism Organization

JNTO Website : <http://www.jnto.go.jp>



Japan offers visitors from abroad a lot of worthwhile places to see and things to do for free. The following is only a small number of examples of places and events that you can enjoy for free in Japan.

TOKYO

Imperial Palace East Garden (皇居東御苑), 3-min. walk from Takebashi Sta. on Tozai Line, or 7-min. walk from Otemachi Sta. on Chiyoda, Mita, Hanzomon and Marunouchi Line, is a garden adjoining the Imperial Palace and a museum. The garden of 210,000 m² first opened to the public in 1968. Here you can enjoy cherry blossoms and azaleas in spring, various roses in early summer, and camellias in winter. Open: 9:00–17:00 (Apr. 15–Aug.) 9:00–16:30 (Mar.–Apr.14, Sep.–Oct.), 9:00–16:00 (Nov.–Feb.): enter 30 min. before closing time. Closed: Mon. & Fri. (the following day when the day falls on a national holiday except the Emperor's Birthday, 23rd Dec.), New Year's holiday. Tel: 03-3213-1111. The museum, **Sannomaru Shozokan** (三の丸尚蔵館), is located in the Imperial Palace East Garden. Open: 9:00–16:45 (Apr.15–Aug.), 9:00–16:15 (Mar.–Apr.14, Sep.–Oct.), 9:00–15:45 (Nov.–Feb.): enter 15 min. before closing time. URL: www.kunaicho.go.jp/eindex.html

Tokyo Metropolitan Government Buildings (東京都庁), directly above Tocho-mae Sta. on Oedo Line, or 10-min. walk from Shinjuku Sta., built in 1991, has an observatory on the 45th floor (202-m high) which commands a panoramic view of metropolitan Tokyo. A number of sculptures are exhibited outside around the buildings. [North observatory] Open: 9:30–23:00 (enter by 22:30), Closed: 2nd and 4th Mondays (open when Monday falls on a national holiday and closed the following day.), Dec. 29–31 & Jan. 2–3. [South observatory] Open: 9:30–17:30 (enter by 17:00), –23:00 (when North observatory closed). Closed: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (open when Tuesday falls on a national holiday and closed the following day.), Dec. 29–31 & Jan. 2–3. Tel: 03-5320-7890.

Ryogoku Fireworks Museum (両国花火資料館), 5-min. walk from JR Ryogoku Sta., provides you with the history, many documents, paintings (Japanese woodblock prints (Ukiyoe)), photos and videos of fireworks. Open: Thr.–Sat. (Nov.–Apr.), Thr.–Sun. (May, Jun., Sep. & Oct.), Everyday (Jul. & Aug.). 12:00–16:00. Tel: 03-5608-6951.

Sumo Museum (相撲博物館), 1-min. walk from JR Ryogoku Sta., or 5-min. walk from Ryogoku Sta. on Oedo Line, is the official museum of the Sumo Association. It houses more than 20,000 historical and memorial items of Sumo wrestling, such as paintings, books, photos and the

like. Open: 10:00–16:30 (enter by 16:00). Closed: Sat., Sun., national holidays & New Year's holiday. URL: http://www.sumo.or.jp/en/sumo_museum/

Currency Museum (貨幣博物館), 2-min. walk from Mitsukoshi-mae Sta. on Ginza Line & Hanzomon Line or 10-min. walk from Tokyo Sta., was opened in 1985 by Bank of Japan. It contains about 3,000 representative currency items and exhibits a history of currency. Open: 9:30–16:30 (enter by 16:00) Closed: Mon., national holidays (open when the day falls on a national holiday.) and New Year's holiday. Tel: 03-3277-3037. URL: <http://www.imes.boj.or.jp/cm/english/>

Meguro Parasitological Museum (目黒寄生虫館), 15-min. walk from Meguro Sta. on JR, Mita and Nanboku Line, or 3-min. walk from Otori-jinja Bus Stop by Tokyu Bus from Meguro, is the only museum in the world on parasites. It exhibits various specimens, studies and photos of parasites. Open: 10:00–17:00. Closed: Mon. (the following day when Mon. falls on a national holiday) and New Year's holiday. Tel: 03-3716-1264. URL: <http://kiseichu.org/Pages/english.aspx>

Beer Museum Ebisu (エビスビール記念館), 5-min. walk from Ebisu Sta. on JR and Hibiya Line by 'Sky Walk' (moving walk), located in Ebisu Garden Place. Once only the brand name of a beer, "Ebisu" is now used as the town name because there was a beer factory here in the Meiji Period, the predecessor of Sapporo Beer Company, currently one of the most popular beer brands in Japan. Here you can learn about the history and technology of making beer. It also features a tasting lounge (beverages are charged). Open: 11:00–19:00 (enter by 18:30). Closed: Mon. (the following day when Mon. falls on a national holiday) & New Year's holiday. Tel: 03-5423-7255.

Meiji University Museum (明治大学博物館), 5-min. walk from JR Ochanomizu Sta., or 8-min. walk from (Shin-)Ochanomizu Sta. on Marunouchi and Chiyoda Line or 10-min. walk from Jimbocho Sta. on Hanzomon and Shinjuku Line, consists of three departments affiliated with Meiji University. It exhibits various historical collections and studies by laboratories. **Archaeology Dept.** (考古部門); **Criminal Materials Dept.** (刑事部門); **Commodity Dept.** (商品部門), Open: 10:00–17:00, Tel: 03-3296-4448.

All museums are closed on summer holiday, New Year's holiday and Meiji University holidays.

URL: www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/english/institute/museum.html

Sony Showroom in Ginza is also interesting to visit. Open: 11:00–19:00 Tel: 03-3573-2563
URL: <http://www.sonybuilding.jp/e/sr/index.html>

Panasonic Center Tokyo (パナソニックセンター東京), 2-min. walk from Kokusai-Tenjijo Sta. on Rinkai Line, or 3-min. walk from Ariake Sta. on Yurikamome Line, consists of Ubiquitous Digital Network Showcase and Environment Showcase. Open: 10:00–18:00. Closed: Mon. & New Year's holiday. Tel: 03-3599-2600. URL: <http://www.panasonic.com/global/corporate/center/tokyo.html>

Honda Welcome Plaza (ホンダウェルカムプラザ青山), right above Aoyama-Ichome Sta. on Ginza, Hanzomon and Oedo Lines, is the showroom of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. ASIMO, the world's first humanoid robot, developed by Honda, will welcome you as a guide. You can enjoy exhibitions of new car models, a mini-theater and a products shop. Open: 10:00–18:00. Closed: Golden week holiday period, Mid. Aug., National holidays & New Year's holiday. Tel: 03-3423-4118.

NHK Museum of Broadcasting (NHK放送博物館), 5-min. walk from Kamiyacho Sta. on Hibiya Line or 8-min. walk from Onarimon Sta. on Mita Line, is operated by Japan Broadcast Corporation. It houses exhibits on broadcasting history. Featured are high-definition broadcast sys-

tems, earlier broadcast equipment, an experience studio, video showing room for older TV programs and a library. Open: 9:30–16:30. Closed: Mon. (the following day when Mon. falls on a national holiday) & New Year's holiday. Tel: 03-5400-6900.

URL: <http://www.nhk.or.jp/museum/english/index.html>

Suginami Animation Museum (杉並アニメミュージアム), 3-min walk from Ogikubo-keisatsushomae on Kanto bus (5 min. from Ogikubo Sta. North gate.) is the place to enjoy the world of Japanese Anime. It offers a comprehensive view of Japanese Anime, from its origin and history to the glimpse of its future. The museum has informative displays as well as interesting experience to get the feel of Japanese Anime. Open: 10:00–18:00 (enter by 17:30). Closed: Mon., and Year-end, New Year holidays. Tel: 03-3396-1510.

URL: http://www.sam.or.jp/english_home

TEPIA association for Technological Excellence Promoting Innovative Advances. (テピア先端技術館), 4-min walk from Gaienmae Sta. on Tokyo Metro Ginza Line, is the first exhibition hall to introduce high technology and innovation of human. It has the latest machine, service, technology and system of Japan, especially about energy, environment, high medical technique and robot. Open: 10:00–18:00 (–17:00 Sat., Sun. and National holidays.) Closed: Mon. (the following day if Mon. falls on National holiday.)

URL: <http://www.tepia.jp/english>

VICINITY OF TOKYO

Saitama (埼玉)

Omiya Bonsai Village (大宮盆栽村), 5-min. walk from Omiya-Koen Sta. on Tobu Urban Park (Noda) Line, is a small area consisting of a dozen of Bonsai gardens with hundreds of thousands of pots including more than 500-year-old trees. Most of them are closed on Thursdays. The annual 'Bonsai Festival' is held from May 3–5. URL: <http://omiyabonsai.jp>

Saitama Municipal Cartoon Art Museum (漫画会館), 5-min. walk from Omiya-Koen Sta. on Tobu Urban Park (Noda) Line, commemorates the feats of **Rakuten Kitazawa** (北澤楽天, 1876–1955), the pioneer of modern Japanese caricatures flourishing throughout the Meiji, Taisho and Showa Periods. Many of Kitazawa's mementos and works are exhibited. Open: 9:00–16:30. Closed: Mon. (the following day when Mon. falls on a national holiday) & New Year's holiday. Tel: 048-663-1541.

ATAMI

Atami, about 45 minutes from Tokyo by Shinkansen, is well known as a hot-spring resort.

Himenosawa Park (姫の沢公園), 30 min. by bus from JR Atami Sta. to Himenosawa Park Bus Stop, is a 1,080,000 m² natural park filled with 3,000 cherry blossom trees, 60,000 azaleas, 500 rhododendrons, hydrangeas, water lilies and cosmoses and many other flowers. Open daily.

Atami Plum Garden (熱海梅園), 7-min. walk from JR Kinomiyama Sta. or 15 min. by bus from JR Atami Sta. to Baien-mae Bus Stop, is a Japanese garden built in 1886. It has almost 500 large plum trees. Plum flower festival is held from Jan. to early Mar. (charge required during the peak). In Jun., you can appreciate fireflies at night, and in autumn you can enjoy autumnal foliage. Open daily.

HAKONE

You can get to Hakone-Yumoto Sta., the gateway to this famous volcanic hot spring area, easily by several transportations from Tokyo. 1) 30 min. by Shinkansen or 80 min. by JR Tokaido Line from Tokyo Sta. to Odawara Sta., 13 min. from Odawara Sta. to Hakone-Yumoto Sta. by Hakone-Tozan Line. 2) 90 min. by Odakyu Line (Ltd. Exp. service "Romance car") from Shinjuku Sta. through to Hakone-Yumoto Sta.

Hourai-en (蓬萊園), 20-min. walk from Kowakidani Sta. (30-min. ride from Hakone-Yumoto Sta.) on Hakone-Tozan Railway, or 40 min. by bus from Odawara Sta., is the garden of Mikawayama Ryokan. It is well known for its annual Azalea Festival held on the 2nd Sunday of May featuring some 30,000 azaleas (more than 40 species). Throughout the year, you can enjoy cherry blossoms, lilies, maple trees and many other trees and plants. Open daily. Tel: 0460-82-2231 (Mikawayama Ryokan).

Hatajuku Yosegi Kaikan (烟宿寄木会館), 25 min. by bus from Hakone Yumoto Sta. to Hatajuku Bus Stop, is the **Yosegi-zaiku** (寄木細工) marquetry museum.

Yosegi-zaiku is a traditional handicraft in Hakone. You can see the demonstration. Open: 9:00–16:30. Closed: Thu. & New Year's holiday. Tel: 0460-85-8170.

Suzuhiro Kamaboko Museum (鈴廣かまぼこ博物館), 2-min. walk from Kazamatsuri Sta. on Hakone Tozan Railway (9 min. from Hakone Yumoto Sta.), is a museum of **Kamaboko** (Japanese traditional steamed fish paste). Here you can learn not only about the history of Kamaboko but also you can experience making them. Kamaboko & Chikuwa (roast Kamaboko bar) making experience: ¥1,620, Chikuwa making: ¥540. Reservation is required. Open: 10:00–17:00 except New Year's holiday. Tel: 0465-24-6262.

KYOTO

Nishi Honganji (西本願寺), 5 min. by bus from Kyoto Sta. to Nishi Honganji-mae Bus Stop, is the main temple of the Jodo-Shinshu Honganji Sect of Buddhism enshrining Shinran, the founder of Jodo-Shinshu (Shin Buddhism), one of the Buddhist denominations. It was designated as a world heritage in 1994. Open: 5:30–17:00 (Nov.–Feb.), 5:30–17:30 (Mar.–Apr., Sep.–Oct.), 5:30–18:00 (May.–Aug.). Tel: 075-371-5181.

URL: <http://www.hongwanji.or.jp/english/>

Higashi Honganji (東本願寺), 5-min. walk from JR Kyoto Sta., is the main temple of the Jodo-Shinshu Otani Sect of Buddhism. It features the world's largest wooden structure. Open: 5:50–17:30 (Mar.–Oct.), 6:20–16:30 (Nov.–Feb.). Tel: 075-371-9181.

URL: <http://www.higashihonganji.or.jp/english/>

Kitano Temmangu (北野天満宮), 5-min. walk from Kitano Hakubaicho Sta. on Keifuku Kitano Line, enshrines Michizane Sugawara, a brilliant scholar of the 9th century now considered to be the "god of learning". The main shrine is designated as a National Treasure and its two gates are designated as Important Cultural Properties. Open: 5:00–18:00 (summer), 5:30–17:30 (winter). Its plum garden opens from early Feb. to mid-Mar. (10:00–16:00, admission for adults ¥700, children ¥350). The 25th of every month is the festival day for Temman Shrine. Its treasure house is open to the public on the festival days, Jan. 1, Dec. 1 & from Apr. 10 to May 30 (9:00–16:00, admission for adults ¥300, for senior and junior high school students ¥250, for children ¥150). Tel: 075-461-0005. URL: http://www.kitanotenmangu.or.jp/top_en.php

Kamigamo Jinja (上賀茂神社, 賀茂別雷神社), 30 min. by bus from JR Kyoto Sta. to Kamigamo Misono-bashi Bus Stop, was built in 678 enshrining the god of thunder. It

was designated a world heritage in 1994. On May 15, **Aoi Matsuri** (葵祭) one of the three major annual festivals in Kyoto, is held jointly with **Shimogamo Jinja**. Open: 5:00–17:00. Tel: 075-781-0011.

URL: <http://www.kamigamojinja.jp/english/index.html>

Shimogamo Jinja (下鴨神社, 賀茂御祖神社), 10-min. walk from Demachi Yanagi Sta. on Keihan Line, is one of the oldest shrines in Kyoto. It has been known as a tutelary shrine from the 8th century and is designated as a world heritage in 1994. On May 15, **Aoi Matsuri** (葵祭) one of the three major annual festivals in Kyoto, is held jointly with **Kamigamo Jinja**. It is also famous as a birthplace of **Mitarashi-dango** (みたらし団子), a Japanese dumpling rice cake with sweet-salty sauce. Open: 6:30–17:00. Tel: 075-781-0010.

URL: <http://www.shimogamo-jinja.or.jp/index.html>

Kyoto City Archaeology Museum (京都市考古資料館), 15-min. walk from Imadegawa Sta. on subway Karasuma Line, or 5 min. by bus from Imadegawa Sta. to Imadegawa Omiya Bus Stop, exhibits many archaeological specimens from Paleolithic Period excavated within the Kyoto city limits. Open: 9:00–17:00 (enter by 16:30). Closed: Mon. (open when Mon. falls on a national holiday and closed the following day) and Dec. 28–Jan. 3. Tel: 075-432-3245.

Kyoto Museum of Traditional Crafts (京都伝統産業ふれあい館), 7-min. walk from Higashiyama Sta. on subway Tozai Line, exhibits 74 kinds 500 articles of traditional crafts of Kyoto; textiles, dolls, potteries, papers and the like. Open: 9:00–17:00 (enter by 16:30). Closed: 17, 18. Aug. & Dec. 29–Jan. 3. Tel: 075-762-2670.

URL: http://www.miyakomesse.jp/fureaika/index_eng.php

Kyoto Handicraft Center (京都ハンディクラフトセンター), 10-min. walk from Jingu-Marutamachi Sta. on Keihan Line, or 15-min. walk from Subway Higashiyama Sta., near Heian Shrine is a gallery which exhibits many kinds of traditional crafts of Kyoto; kimono, doll, pottery, glass, sword, wood craft and the like. You can also buy those items. Open: 10:00–19:00. Tel: 075-761-8001. URL: <http://www.kyotohandicraftcenter.com/index.html>

Tanzan Shuzo (丹山酒造), 10-min. walk from JR Kameoka Sta. (30 min. by train from Kyoto Sta.), has been making sake for over a century. It is famous for the first woman becoming a sake master brewer in Japan. You can visit sake cellar and enjoy tasting. Advanced reservation is recommended. Open (Sake cellar): 8:30–17:00. Tel: 0771-22-0066. URL: <http://www.tanzan.co.jp/english/>

OSAKA

Mint Museum (造幣博物館), 15-min. walk from Osaka-Temmangu Sta. on JR Tozai Line, has 4,000 historical exhibits; valuable documents, domestic and foreign coins and so on. Open: Mon.–Fri. 9:30–16:45 (enter by 16:00). Closed: Sat., Sun., national holidays & New Year's holiday. Tel: 06-6351-8509.

Sumiyoshi Taisha (住吉大社), 1-min. walk from Sumiyoshi-Torii-mae Sta. on Hankai Line or 3-min. walk from Sumiyoshi Taisha Sta. on Nankai Line, is one of the oldest shrines in Japan. Most of its buildings are designated as National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties. This shrine is worshipped as god of marine voyage business prosperity and lustration. Open: 6:00–17:00 (Apr.–Sep.), 6:30–17:00 (Oct.–Mar.). Tel: 06-6672-0753.

Osaka-jo Koen (大阪城公園), 1-min. from Morinomiya Sta. on JR Osaka Loop Line or subway Chuo Line, is a large park of 105.6 hectares surrounding Osaka Castle. You can walk through the forest, plum garden, a line of pine trees & willows. In spring, 3,000 cherry blossom trees are in full bloom.

Ikeda Castle Park (池田城跡公園), 15-min. walk from Ikeda Sta. on Hankyu Line (20 min. from Osaka), is a park built right where Ikeda Castle was in medieval times. Various traditional Japanese-style architectural structures and stone, iris and wet gardens are restored. The observatory commands a fine view of a whole park. Open: 9:00–19:00 (Apr.–Oct.), (–17:00 Nov.–Mar.); Closed: Tue. (the following day when Tue. falls on a national holiday) & New Year's holiday.

Satsukiyama Park (五月山公園) & **Satsukiyama Zoo** (五月山動物園), 15-min. walk from Ikeda Sta. on Hankyu Line (20-min. ride from Osaka), commands a panoramic view of Ikeda City from its 315-m-high observatory. The park is well known as cherry blossoms & azaleas viewing spot in Spring. 9 hiking courses are available. It is famous for Australian wombats, wallabies and emues. You can touch rabbits, marmots and other small animals at a **petting zoo** (ふれあい広場) corner. Open: 9:15–16:45, Closed: Tue. (the following day when Tue. falls on a national holiday) & New Year's holiday.

Satsukiyama Botanical Garden (五月山都市緑化植物園), 15-min. walk from Ikeda Sta. on Hankyu Line (20-min. ride from Osaka), located at the foot of Mt. Satsukiyama. You can appreciate about 350 species of subtropical plants throughout year. This is the starting point for Mt. Satsukiyama hiking courses. Open: 9:00–17:00. Closed: Tue. (the following day when Tue. falls on a national holiday) & New Year's holiday.

OSTEC Exhibition Hall (大阪科学技術館), 3-min. walk from Hommachi Sta. at the junction of subway Midosuji and Yotsubashi Lines, exhibits the latest science & industrial technologies introduced by various companies, institutions and public offices. You can learn about energy, space technology, information technology, electricity and new materials throughout games, videos, interactive exhibitions and experiments. Open: 10:00–17:00 (–16:30 Sun. & national holidays). Closed: irregularly, mid Aug. and Dec. 28–Jan. 3. Tel: 06-6441-0915. URL: http://www.ostec.or.jp/pop/index_e.html



TOURIST INFORMATION

JNTO Tourist Information Center:

1st Fl, Shin-Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005
Tel. (03)3201-3331

9:00 – 17:00 (Closed on Jan. 1.)

Odakyu Sightseeing Service Center:

1-1-3, Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku. Tel. (03)5321-7887
8:00 – 18:00

Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center:

2-18-9, Kaminarimon, Taito-ku, Tokyo. Tel. (03)3842-5566
9:00 – 20:00

Hakone Tourist Information Center:

706-35, Yumoto, Hakone-machi, Ashigara-shimo-gun, Kanagawa Pref.
9:00 – 17:45 Tel. (0460)85-8911

Odawara Station Tourist Information Center:

Odawara Station, 1-1-9, Sakae-cho, Odawara City, Kanagawa Pref.
9:00 – 17:00; Closed on Dec. 31 – Jan. 1 Tel. (0465)22-2339

Moto-Hakone Guest House:

103, Moto Hakone, Hakone-machi, Ashigara-shimo-gun, Kanagawa Pref.
Tel. (0460)83-7880

10:00 – 17:00; Closed irregularly

Atami City Tourism Association:

Shinsui Park, 2018-8 Nagisa-cho, Atami City, Shizuoka Pref.
9:00 – 17:00 Tel. (0557)85-2222

Kyoto Tourist Information Center <Kyo Navi>:

2nd fl., Kyoto Station Bldg., Shiokoji-sagaru, Karasuma-dori, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto City, Kyoto Pref.
Tel. (075)343-0548

8:30 – 19:00

Kyoto Handicraft Center:

21, Shogoin Entomi-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto City, Kyoto Pref.
10:00 – 18:00 Tel. (075)761-8001

aksh Inc.:

Kansai Tourist Information Center Kansai International Airport:

Arrival fl., 1st fl., Kansai International Airport Passenger Terminal Bldg., Osaka Pref.
Tel. (072)456-6160

7:00 – 22:00

Osaka Visitors' Information Center, Umeda:

JR Osaka Station 1F North Central Gate, 3-1-1 Umeda, Kita-ku, Osaka City, Osaka pref.
Tel. (06)6345-2189

8:00 – 20:00; Closed on Dec. 31 – Jan.3

Osaka Visitors' Information Center, Namba Nankai Information Center:

1st fl., Nankai Terminal Bldg., 5-1-60, Namba, Chuo-ku, Osaka City, Osaka Pref.

9:00 – 20:00, 10:00 – 18:00 on Dec. 31, Jan. 2 and 3; Closed on Jan. 1

JNTO Website

JNTO Website can be a great help for getting detailed information for your travel to Japan. It provides a wide range of travel information in English and other 12 languages via the internet on transportation, accommodations, shopping and events. Information is updated frequently to enable you to access the latest information anytime.

URL: <http://www.jnto.go.jp>

Note: Transportation expenses, admission fees and other charges may change due to the increase in the consumption tax rate to 8% from April 2014.

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges, which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of December 2015, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.

© 2015 Japan National Tourism Organization. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.