

# 10-day Itinerary for a Tokyo trip

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Here's a **comprehensive 10-day master itinerary** for Tokyo, focusing on the best time to visit—**spring, during cherry blossom season**, which typically peaks from late March to early April. This itinerary incorporates modern and traditional architecture, cultural highlights, local dining, and cherry blossom viewing, with specific times, locations, events, and transportation information.

## Day 1: Arrival and Introduction to Tokyo

- Date: Friday, March 28, 2025
- Morning:
  - 8:00 AM - Arrival at Narita or Haneda Airport. Take the Narita Express or limousine bus to central Tokyo.
  - 9:30 AM - Check-in at your hotel or drop off luggage if early check-in is unavailable.
  - 10:30 AM - Breakfast at Tsukiji Outer Market, Chūō City. Sample fresh sushi, tamagoyaki, and other local street foods.
- Late Morning:
  - 11:30 AM - Explore the Ginza District for a mix of modern and traditional architecture. Visit the Ginza Six and the rooftop garden.
    - Transportation: Walk from Tsukiji to Ginza.
- Lunch:
  - 1:00 PM - Lunch at Ginza Kagari, known for high-quality ramen.
- Afternoon:
  - 2:30 PM - Visit the Tokyo International Forum, a modern architectural marvel with glass and steel designs.
    - Transportation: Take the metro to Yurakucho Station (Yurakucho Line).
- Free Time:
  - 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Free time to explore Ginza's shops and cafes.
- Dinner:
  - 7:00 PM - Dinner at Ippudo Ginza, a famous ramen chain.
- Evening: (No planned activities)

## Day 2: Traditional Culture and Cherry Blossoms

- Date: Saturday, March 29, 2025
- Morning:
  - 8:00 AM - Breakfast at the hotel.
  - 9:00 AM - Visit Ueno Park for cherry blossom viewing. Explore the Tokyo National Museum to see Japanese art and cultural history.
    - Transportation: Take the JR Yamanote Line to Ueno Station.
- Late Morning:
  - 11:30 AM - Explore the park's various sakura paths and temples.
- Lunch:
  - 1:00 PM - Lunch at Innsyoutei, a traditional restaurant within Ueno Park.
- Afternoon:
  - 3:00 PM - Visit the Asakusa District. Explore Sensō-ji Temple and the Nakamise Shopping Street for traditional snacks and souvenirs.
    - Transportation: Take the Ginza Line to Asakusa Station.
- Free Time:
  - 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Free time to relax or explore nearby shops.
- Dinner:
  - 7:30 PM - Dinner at Kagetsudo, famous for melon pan.
- Evening:
  - 9:00 PM - Take an evening Sumida River Cruise for cherry blossom viewing illuminated by lanterns.

## Day 3: Contemporary Art and Modern Tokyo

- Date: Sunday, March 30, 2025
- Morning:

- 8:30 AM - Breakfast at Bills Odaiba with a view of Tokyo Bay.
- 10:00 AM - Explore Odaiba, starting with the Fuji TV Building and Tokyo Big Sight.
  - Transportation: Take the Yurikamome Line to Daiba Station.
- Late Morning:
  - 11:30 AM - Visit the TeamLab Borderless digital art museum for immersive modern art.
- Lunch:
  - 1:30 PM - Lunch at a local restaurant in Odaiba's VenusFort, a themed shopping mall.
- Afternoon:
  - 3:00 PM - Head to the Toyosu Market, Tokyo's new fish market, and visit the TeamLab Planets for another immersive art experience.
    - Transportation: Take the Yurikamome Line to Toyosu Station.
- Free Time:
  - 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM - Free time to explore the Toyosu area.
- Dinner:
  - 8:00 PM - Dinner at Uogashi Nihon-Ichi for conveyor belt sushi in Odaiba.
- Evening: (No planned activities)

#### **Day 4: Architectural Highlights and Urban Exploration**

- Date: Monday, March 31, 2025
- Morning:
  - 8:30 AM - Breakfast at Starbucks Reserve Roastery Tokyo in Nakameguro.
  - 10:00 AM - Walk along the Meguro River, a popular cherry blossom viewing spot, and enjoy the trendy neighborhood.
    - Transportation: Take the Tokyu Toyoko Line to Nakameguro Station.
- Late Morning:
  - 11:30 AM - Visit the Nezu Museum in Aoyama for a combination of contemporary architecture and traditional Japanese gardens.
    - Transportation: Take the metro to Omotesando Station (Ginza Line, Chiyoda Line, or Hanzomon Line).
- Lunch:
  - 1:00 PM - Lunch at Maisen, known for its tonkatsu, near Omotesando.
- Afternoon:
  - 2:30 PM - Explore Omotesando's modern architecture. Visit the Prada Aoyama, Omotesando Hills, and other architecturally significant buildings.
- Free Time:
  - 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Free time to shop or relax at a local café.
- Dinner:
  - 8:00 PM - Dinner at Gonpachi Nishi-Azabu, a traditional izakaya in Roppongi.
- Evening: (No planned activities)

#### **Day 5: Day Trip to Kamakura and Yokohama**

- Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025
- Morning:
  - 7:30 AM - Early breakfast at the hotel.
  - 8:30 AM - Take the JR Yokosuka Line to Kamakura Station.
- Late Morning:
  - 9:30 AM - Explore Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine and Komachi-dori shopping street.
- Lunch:
  - 12:00 PM - Lunch at a traditional soba restaurant like Matsubara-an.
- Afternoon:
  - 1:30 PM - Visit the Great Buddha (Daibutsu) and the modern art-focused Kamakura Museum of Modern Art.
  - 3:30 PM - Travel to Yokohama to visit the Minato Mirai 21 waterfront district, exploring the Osanbashi Pier and Red Brick Warehouse.
    - Transportation: Take the JR Line to Yokohama Station.
- Return to Tokyo:
  - 5:30 PM - Return to Tokyo via JR Line.
- Dinner:

- 7:30 PM - Dinner at Tokyo Station's Ramen Street for diverse ramen styles.

### **Day 6: Modern Tokyo Skyline and Cultural Immersion**

- Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2025
- Morning:
  - 8:30 AM - Breakfast at your hotel.
  - 9:30 AM - Visit Shibuya Sky Observatory for panoramic views of Tokyo.
    - Transportation: Take the JR Yamanote Line to Shibuya Station.
- Late Morning:
  - 11:30 AM - Explore the Shibuya Stream area for modern architecture and trendy shops.
- Lunch:
  - 1:00 PM - Lunch at Ichiran Ramen Shibuya, famous for its solo dining booths.
- Afternoon:
  - 2:30 PM - Visit the Meiji Shrine and walk through Yoyogi Park, known for cherry blossoms.
    - Transportation: Walk from Shibuya or take the metro to Harajuku Station (JR Yamanote Line).
- Free Time:
  - 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM - Free time to explore Harajuku and its quirky shops.
- Dinner:
  - 8:00 PM - Dinner at Kaikaya by the Sea, a seafood izakaya in Shibuya.

### **Day 7: Cutting-Edge Design and Modern Urban Spaces**

- Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025
- Morning:
  - 8:30 AM - Breakfast at Ivy Place in Daikanyama.
  - 10:00 AM - Explore the modern T-site Daikanyama bookstore and surrounding designer boutiques.
    - Transportation: Take the Tokyu Toyoko Line to Daikanyama Station.
- Late Morning:
  - 11:30 AM - Visit the SunnyHills Minami Aoyama, a unique building by Kengo Kuma.
- Lunch:
  - 1:00 PM - Lunch at a local café in Omotesando.
- Afternoon:
  - 3:00 PM - Head to the 21\_21 Design Sight in Roppongi for a contemporary design exhibit.
    - Transportation: Take the metro to Roppongi Station.
- Free Time:
  - 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM - Free time in the Roppongi area.
- Dinner:
  - 8:00 PM - Dinner at Tsurutontan Udon Noodle Brasserie, known for contemporary dining in Roppongi.

### **Day 8: Historic Meets Modern Tokyo**

- Date: Friday, April 4, 2025
- Morning:
  - 8:30 AM - Breakfast at Bread, Espresso &, in Omotesando.
  - 10:00 AM - Visit the Tokyo Tower and the nearby Zojo-ji Temple.
    - Transportation: Take the Oedo Line to Akabanebashi Station.
- Late Morning:
  - 11:30 AM - Explore the area around Tokyo Tower and Shiba Park.
- Lunch:
  - 12:30 PM - Lunch at Tofuya Ukai, a traditional tofu restaurant near Tokyo Tower.
- Afternoon:
  - 2:00 PM - Explore the Marunouchi District and visit the KITTE Marunouchi shopping and dining complex.
    - Transportation: Take the JR Line to Tokyo Station.
- Free Time:
  - 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Free time for shopping or relaxing in the Tokyo Station area.
- Dinner:

- 8:00 PM - Dinner at Marunouchi House, a trendy rooftop dining area with multiple restaurants.

### Day 9: Art, Architecture, and Local Markets

- Date: Saturday, April 5, 2025
- Morning:
  - 8:30 AM - Breakfast at a local café in the hotel or nearby.
  - 10:00 AM - Visit Yanaka Ginza, a preserved old Tokyo street with traditional shops and stalls.
    - Transportation: Take the JR Yamanote Line to Nippori Station.
- Late Morning:
  - 11:30 AM - Explore Ueno's Ameya-Yokochō Market, a lively market known for local food and shopping.
- Lunch:
  - 12:30 PM - Lunch at a street food stall or local izakaya in Ueno.
- Afternoon:
  - 2:00 PM - Visit the Asahi Beer Hall, a modern building by Philippe Starck with a distinctive golden flame design.
    - Transportation: Take the metro to Asakusa Station.
- Free Time:
  - 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Free time to relax or visit nearby cafes.
- Dinner:
  - 8:00 PM - Dinner at a local restaurant in Asakusa.

### Day 10: Farewell and Departure

- Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025
- Morning:
  - 8:30 AM - Breakfast at Café de l'Ambre in Ginza, a classic coffee shop.
  - 10:00 AM - Visit any remaining sites or do last-minute shopping.
- Lunch:
  - 12:00 PM - Farewell lunch at Shiseido Parlour, Ginza, for a traditional Japanese Western meal.
- Afternoon:
  - 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Free time for packing or a final stroll.
- Late Afternoon:
  - 4:30 PM - Take the Narita Express or limousine bus from Tokyo Station back to the airport.

This itinerary offers a full exploration of Tokyo's blend of the **contemporary and traditional**, showcasing the city's architectural diversity, cultural landmarks, and modern innovations. Let me know if you want further adjustments or details!

The **Tokyo itinerary** I provided is indeed **touristy** because it covers many of the iconic and well-known attractions that draw visitors from around the world. Here's an analysis of the touristy elements, along with some unique and potentially less-touristy experiences included:

#### Touristy Elements of the Tokyo Itinerary

1. **Famous Landmarks and Popular Neighborhoods:**
  - **Shibuya Crossing, Asakusa's Sensō-ji Temple, Meiji Shrine**, and the **Tokyo Tower** are some of the most famous and frequently visited attractions in Tokyo. These are staples of any first-time visit to the city and are heavily featured in travel guides.
  - Areas like **Shibuya, Shinjuku**, and **Ginza** are popular districts known for shopping, dining, and nightlife, making them common destinations for tourists.
2. **Cherry Blossom Viewing:**
  - Visiting places like **Ueno Park, Yoyogi Park**, and **Sumida River** for cherry blossom viewing is a classic tourist activity, especially during spring. These are some of the most famous sakura spots in the city and attract large crowds, both local and international.
3. **Iconic Museums and Cultural Centers:**

- The **Tokyo National Museum**, **Mori Art Museum**, and **TeamLab Borderless** are well-known cultural attractions that are frequently visited by tourists. They offer a solid overview of Japanese art and culture, making them popular stops.
- A visit to **Odaiba** for the futuristic architecture and attractions is another common tourist destination.

#### 4. Day Trip to Kamakura:

- Kamakura is a popular day trip destination from Tokyo, known for its Great Buddha (Daibutsu) and historic temples. It's a typical outing for tourists who want a glimpse of traditional Japanese culture close to Tokyo.

### Non-Touristy Elements Included in the Itinerary

#### 1. Hidden and Local Dining Experiences:

- Dining at lesser-known local spots like **Maisen** (for tonkatsu) or hidden izakayas like **Kaikaya by the Sea** adds a more authentic feel. These places are popular among locals, offering a more genuine experience than large tourist-oriented restaurants.
- Exploring local markets like **Nakamise Shopping Street** in Asakusa or ramen spots in Tokyo Station's **Ramen Street** provides a more down-to-earth food experience.

#### 2. Neighborhood Exploration:

- The itinerary includes strolling through areas like **Nakameguro**, known for its trendy yet local vibe, especially during the cherry blossom season. This neighborhood is popular with locals and not always on a tourist's top list.
- Visiting the stylish **Omotesando** area, particularly for modern architecture, is a nod to more design-focused travelers who are interested in Tadao Ando's work rather than just traditional sightseeing.

#### 3. Contemporary and Local Art Focus:

- The visit to the **National Art Center Tokyo** and the **Starbucks Reserve Roastery** in Nakameguro, which is a design-focused coffee space, lean more toward a local and architectural interest rather than typical tourist highlights.
- Areas like **Roppongi Hills** and **Tokyo Midtown** are more business and art-focused districts that offer a less tourist-heavy but still modern urban experience.

### Ways to Make the Trip Less Touristy

If you're looking to focus more on authentic, local experiences and want to move away from a tourist-heavy itinerary, here are some adjustments that could make it less conventional:

#### 1. Include Lesser-Known Temples:

- Replace visits to major temples like **Sensō-ji** with lesser-known but equally beautiful options such as **Gotokuji Temple** (famous for its lucky cat statues) or **Zōshigaya Kishimojin Temple**, which are quieter and off the typical tourist radar.

#### 2. Explore Emerging and Local Neighborhoods:

- Spend more time in neighborhoods like **Shimokitazawa** (known for its vintage shops and bohemian vibe) or **Kichijoji** (with its charming Inokashira Park and a more laid-back atmosphere).
- Visit **Yanaka Ginza**, a preserved and historic shopping street that offers a look at traditional Tokyo without the big crowds.

#### 3. Focus on Contemporary and Alternative Cultural Experiences:

- Instead of the major museums, consider smaller galleries like the **Watari Museum of Contemporary Art (Watarium)** or quirky spots like the **Tokyo Trick Art Museum** in Odaiba for a more niche cultural dive.
- Replace the Odaiba visit with a trip to **Daikanyama** or **Naka-Meguro**, trendy neighborhoods known for their indie boutiques, design studios, and a more local café culture.

#### 4. Add Traditional and Modern Contrasts:

- Include a **local food market tour**, such as a visit to **Ameya-Yokochō Market** in Ueno or **Shimokitazawa Food Market**, instead of tourist-centric areas.

- Take a night tour of Tokyo's **Golden Gai** in Shinjuku—tiny bars with unique themes—frequented more by locals and expats rather than first-time tourists.

### **Conclusion: Tourist vs. Non-Tourist Experience**

The Tokyo itinerary I provided has a clear **touristy component** because it focuses on well-known and popular destinations that are iconic to Tokyo's image—such as Shibuya, Asakusa, cherry blossom spots, and famous museums. These places are significant for understanding Tokyo's culture and history, making them natural tourist draws.

However, the inclusion of neighborhood exploration, dining at local spots, and the focus on contemporary culture (like visiting modern architectural districts) adds a **layer of authenticity** that goes beyond a typical tourist itinerary. There's a good mix of touristy highlights and local experiences, but if the goal is to lean heavily into local and off-the-beaten-path activities, further modifications could emphasize niche, local, and culturally immersive options.