

# 30 THINGS TO DO AROUND THE IMPERIAL PALACE

## 01 Accommodation Bathe in an urban hot spring

Just when it was starting to feel that Tokyo's ryokan (traditional inns) were on the verge of extinction, along came a major new player. Opened in 2016, Hoshinoya Tokyo is one of the capital's very few luxury ryokan, complete with tatami-floored suites, a rooftop onsen spa and a main dining room.

Hoshinoya Tokyo



## 02 Restaurants & Cafés Brave a bowl of Italo-ramen

Italian flavours meet Japan's favourite soul food at Due Italian, a supremely individualist ramen shop run by fusion experimenter extraordinaire Kazuo Ishizuka. Due is best known for its white ramen, a mind-boggling but rather tasty creation that combines prosciutto ham, cream cheese, green onion and a whole bunch of thin noodles.

Due Italian

## 04 Leisure Partake in a Japanese bathhouse ritual

Sweat it out in this public bathhouse after your run around the Imperial Palace. There's luggage storage onsite, plus juice is usually provided as well. Don't forget to write your name and locker number on the whiteboard before heading out for your run.

Bain Douche

## 06 Bar Appreciate fine malts

Don't tell your friends, but this Jimbocho whisky bar deserves the vastly overused moniker of 'hidden gem'. Doing quiet business on a back street close to the station, it stocks one of the best selections in the entire city, including Japanese varieties dating back to long before the current boom.

Bar Plat



## 08 Sightseeing Breathe in the Hibiya air

A municipal park in the heart of Tokyo, Hibiya Park is home to facilities such as Hibiya Public Hall, the Hibiya Library and both small and large open-air concert halls. The Imperial Palace Gardens, the Imperial Hotel and various ministry and government offices are just a stone's throw away.

Hibiya Park

## 10 Sightseeing Snap the perfect pic

Known for the yearly Sanno Festival that takes place in June and sees a parade of spectacular floats travel through central Tokyo, this solemn shrine attracts plenty of pious politicians from nearby Nagatacho – and Instagrammers who come for its tunnel of red torii gates inside.

Hei-Jinja Shrine



## 11 Restaurants & Cafés Book the hottest table in Hanzomon

Special occasion? Book a seat with one of the most beautiful night-time views in Tokyo at Argo. In an ambience surrounded by shelves stacked high with art books, head chef Tasaka and pâtissier Kondo delight you with stunningly beautiful masterpieces fabulous in taste.

Argo

## 12 Shopping Slip into a modern kimono

The Edo look is coming back in vogue, so there's no better time than now to check out this men's kimono shop. Styles range from smart casual to 'fine classic', and you can also have one made to order. Note you'll need to wait two weeks for the finished product.

Y. & Sons



## 13 Restaurants & Cafés Eat like an Edoite

Although Chiyoda has plenty of venerable restaurants and shops that date back to prewar times, Sushimasa stands out even here. Established in 1861, it was once loved by local literati and still offers a competent take on Edomae (Tokyo-style) sushi. Don't leave without trying the signature 'bara chirashi' (assorted fish on rice).

Sushimasa

## 14 Restaurants & Cafés Spice up your taste buds

The curry served at this long-established restaurant, which was founded in 1924, has its roots in Sumatran curry. Its clever use of spices creates a depth of well-balanced flavours, with a slight coffee-like bitterness. Options include pork, chicken, beef, prawn and beef tongue, and they are each cooked separately with its own distinctive taste.

Kyoei Doo

## 15 Sightseeing Float under the blossoms

Chidori-ga-fuchi is famous for its spectacular cherry blossoms, and renting a boat at this boathouse in the centre of Chidori-ga-fuchi green way and paddling under the flowering branches as they reach out over the moat is one of Tokyo's sakura season must-dos. It stays open until 8.30pm during sakura festival season.

Chidori-ga-fuchi Boat Area

## 16 Restaurants & Cafés Try one of China's most popular styles of ramen

Mazlu, a famous restaurant that serves Lanzhou lamian, has opened its first international outpost in Jimbocho. This renowned style of lamian is known for its soup, made by simmering beef and bones with more than ten spices. Though the menu consists of only one dish (Lanzhou beef noodles), the noodles are handmade to order and you can even change the toppings to your liking.

Mazlu Beef Noodles

## 18 Shopping Peek into the past

Stocking only books published during the Edo period, Ohya Shobo also sells valuable art prints, occasionally by celebrated artists like Katsushika Hokusai or Utagawa Hiroshige, and old photographs taken in the second half of the 19th century. It's a veritable treasure chest for collectors.

Ohya Shobo



## 20 Restaurants & Cafés Get a cup of matcha to go

Founded in Kyoto in 1717, Ippodo Tea is a 300-year-old purveyor of Japanese tea for all occasions, ranging from ceremonial matchas to every-day tea bags. Stop at the Ippodo Marunouchi outpost for an array of Japanese teas, a tea room for serious sipping, and instructions on how to best brew the tea yourself.

Ippodo Marunouchi

## 22 Sightseeing Take a selfie at a Japanese garden

If you would like to take a souvenir photo with a beautiful Japanese garden in the background, visit this garden managed by Hotel New Otani. The historic garden is open to public, and has been well-preserved since the Edo period. There are lots of highlights here, including fossils, lanterns, waterfalls and a pond with colourful carp.

Hotel New Otani Tokyo Japanese Garden



## 24 Restaurants & Cafés Sample top quality udon

With roots in the Kagawa institution Yamagoe Udon, this udon restaurant's noodles have a firm yet springy texture, while the soup stock is pleasantly mild – even those who have sampled udon in Kagawa are surprised to find Sanuki udon of this quality in Tokyo. Expect a queue at lunchtime, but it moves quite quickly.

Udon Maruka

## 25 Sightseeing Inspect some castle ruins

Covering around a third of the total area of the Imperial Palace, the free-to-enter East Gardens include most of the land where Edo Castle stood back when the shoguns ruled Japan. The Bairinzaka ('plum forest hill') between the outer and inner keep is lined with over 50 plum trees.

The East Gardens of the Imperial Palace

## 27 Bar Down an imperial cocktail

The legendary Imperial Hotel's top-floor lounge is the work of British designer Julian Reed and gives off an air of understated luxury. Head up at night, take a seat by the counter at the very back of the room, and enjoy the majestic views.

Imperial Lounge Aqua



## 30 Nightlife Jazz up the night

This club on the second floor of the Tokia Tokyo building is based on the original Cotton Club, which flourished during the 1920s prohibition era in New York. The Tokyo version has played host to musical icons such as Duke Ellington and Lena Horne, and regularly hosts world-class stars.

Cotton Club



## SEEK HELP at the Tourist Information



**Chiyoda City Tourism Association**  
1-6-17 Kudanminami, Chiyoda

**JR EAST Travel Service Center Tokyo Station**  
Tokyo Station Marunouchi North gate, 1-9-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda

**Tourist Information Center, JNTO (TIC)**  
Shin Tokyo Building 1F, 3-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda

**Kanda Institute of Foreign Languages**  
2-13-13 Uchikanda, Chiyoda

**Hotel New Otani Tokyo / Concierge**  
4-1 Kioicho, Chiyoda

**AKIBA INFO.**  
Akihabara UDX 2F, 4-14-1, Sotokanda, Chiyoda

**TIC TOKYO**  
Marunouchi Trust Tower North 1F, 1-8-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda

**Shin-Marunouchi Building Information Counter**  
1-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda

**Marunouchi Building Information Counter**  
2-4-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda

**Tokyo City i Tokyo Tourist Information Center**  
JP Tower Kitte B1, 2-7-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda

**Tokyo International Forum**  
3-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda

**Hotel Niwa Tokyo Information Desk**  
1-1-16 Kandamisakicho, Chiyoda

**SAKURA HOTEL & CAFÉ JIMBOCHO**  
2-21-4 Kandajimbocho, Chiyoda

**Hibiya Park Service Center**  
1-6 Hibiya-koen, Chiyoda

Baggage storage Wi-fi spot  
Bank, money exchange

TimeOut  
TOKYO

Chiyoda City Tourism Association Official Map

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THINGS TO DO AROUND THE IMPERIAL PALACE

MAP INCLUDED

## WELCOME to Chiyoda City

An area where past and the present blend seamlessly

The Imperial Palace consists of the Emperor's palace and residence, and is part of Chiyoda City, smack in the middle of Tokyo. The paths which surround the Imperial Palace are favoured as tracks for jogging or taking a walk, and the grounds take up just over a tenth of the ward's surface area. In spring, the cherry blossoms bloom beautifully, and, in fall, the autumn foliage colours the passages.

Chiyoda City is also the center of Japan's modern power and authority. The visual contrast between the Imperial Palace's green space and the statuesque government buildings is one of the most stunning sights in Tokyo.

This map presents 30 venues in which you can enjoy Chiyoda City's charm - at every corner, you'll find something that blends old Edo vibes with modern Tokyo.





この地図は国土地理院 地図・空中写真閲覧サービス (<http://maps.gsi.go.jp/maplibSearch.do#1>) をもとにタイムアウト東京が作成しました。

## EXPLORE architecture in Chiyoda City

Walking through Tokyo's Chiyoda City, you'll find buildings which are symbolic of Tokyo's architecture around every corner, including in the government district. There are many beautiful and famous structures in the area, but these three are our faves.



**Tokyo Station**  
 1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda  
 Kingo Tatsuno, 1914 (renewed in 2012)



**Tokyo International Forum**  
 3-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda  
 Rafael Viñoly, 1996



**National Theatre of Japan**  
 4-1 Hayabusacho, Chiyoda  
 Hiroyuki Iwamoto, 1966

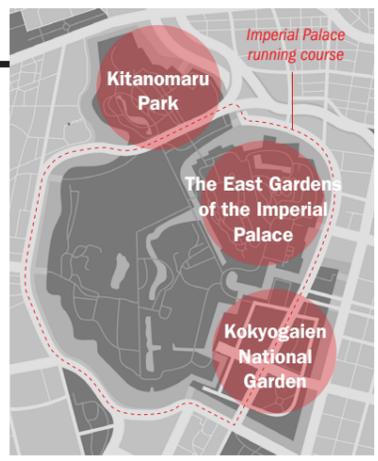
## LEARN about the history of Imperial Palace

### History of the Imperial Palace

During the Edo era (1603-1868), the Imperial Palace was actually a castle, and the residence of the Tokugawa shogunate (the feudal samurai government). From the Meiji period (1868-1912) onwards, Edo Castle became a palace and the everyday residence of the Emperor.

### Three Areas of the Imperial Palace

The Imperial Palace is divided up into three areas. Kitanomaru Park features cultural and artistic facilities, including the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, the Science Museum, and the Nippon Budokan. The East Gardens are where you'll find the base of the Edo Castle keep, the Oku ruins, and beautiful scenery during every season, while the Kokyogaien National Garden, which has a vast square and Niju-bashi Bridge, is the symbol of the Imperial Palace, and is always bustling with tourists. Each area has a distinct feeling, which changes throughout the year.



## BE CONSIDERATE of runners etiquette

A running course that runs around the Imperial Palace. One lap is about 5 km, and there are no traffic lights along the route: perfect for both beginners and those looking to push themselves. Sightseeing spots dot the course too. Many people use the paths on weekdays – make sure to be courteous so everyone can keep using them together.

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Priority is given to pedestrians                           | <b>2</b> Cyclists must slow down         | <b>3</b> Do not run too fast                        |
| <b>4</b> Do not listen to music, or talk on the phone while walking | <b>5</b> Be considerate of other runners | <b>6</b> Walk or run counter-clockwise              |
| <b>7</b> Large groups should not spread out or block the path       | <b>8</b> Take your trash home            | <b>9</b> Please walk in single file on narrow roads |

