

Area Guidemap

Ginza

銀座



Ginza, an area that was home to money exchangers during the Edo Period, flourished as a center for the proliferation of Western culture, and contains upscale foreign brand shops as well as old-established stores

In 1612, the 17th year of Keicho, the Edo Shogunate built its silver coin mint here, and rows of money exchange businesses were established along what is now Ginza-dori Ave. "Ginza" was the name of the governmental department in charge of silver coins, while the department that handled gold coins (called koban) was referred to as "Kinza." The name "Ginza" was adopted as the official name of the area in 1869, the 2nd year of Meiji, and Shinryogaecho 1-chome became Ginza 1-chome. With this long history, Ginza contains historical ruins from the Edo period and numerous other monuments that propelled the modernization of Japan. Explanatory signs are attached to them, providing passersby with information about their history. In addition, the shopping district, which has flourished as one of the first centers for the proliferation of Western culture in Japan, is the most stylish and fashionable area in the country. Famous stores, which include upscale foreign brand shops and old-established shops that have been there for generations, are centered along Chuo-dori Ave. The vehicle-free promenade is crowded with people on weekends and has served as a spot for rest and relaxation since it was first carried out in 1970, the 45th year of Showa, between the Ginza-dori Ave. Entrance Intersection and the Ginza 8-chome Intersection.



Google My Maps

Stories of "Firsts"

📍 : Current store/situation 📍 : Address 📅 : Year of origin

B-2 Birthplace of Anpan Jam Bread

📍 Ginza Kimuraya
📍 4-5-7 Ginza 📅 1874/1899

Kimura Eihiro, son of founder Kimura Yasubei, created sakadane anpan bread, a type of Japanese sweet bread made with a rice leavening agent. Eihiro's son Gijiro observed the process of jam baked into biscuit dough, coming up with the idea of replacing red bean paste with jam in this special bread. This marked the beginning of the company's jam-pan bread.



B-2 Birthplace of Tonkatsu (Fried Pork Cutlet)

📍 Ginza Rengatei
📍 3-5-16 Ginza 📅 1899

Motojiro Kida, the founding owner of Rengatei, came up with a recipe for deep-frying pork with vegetable oil to meet the tastes of Japanese customers. Rengatei was the first restaurant to serve fried pork cutlet over shredded cabbage with rice on a plate. The restaurant also invented ebifurai (deep-fried shrimp) and omuraisu (rice omelet).



B-2 First subway Line in Japan

📍 Currently in operation
📍 Ginza Line 📅 1927

The subway line opened on December 30, 1927, operating services between Asakusa and Ueno (2.2 km). The line was extended to Shinbashi in 1933.

A-2 Oldest Existing Beer Hall in Japan

📍 Ginza Lion
📍 7-9-20 Ginza 📅 1899

In 1899, the Yebisu Beer Hall was opened near Shinbashi Bridge in Ginza to promote Yebisu Beer. It was Japan's first beer hall. In 1934, the hall was relocated to the current place and rebuilt employing a battery of the latest architectural technologies in those days.

A-3 Birthplace of Sea Urchin Sushi

📍 Ginza Kyubey
📍 8-7-6 Ginza 📅 1942

This shop was patronized by artist Rosanjin Kitaogi. It is also the birthplace of the "gunkan-maki" (battleship-shaped sushi) featuring sea urchin and other ingredients.



C-1 Kanji Character for "Bag" Coined

📍 Ginza Tanizawa
📍 1-7-6 Ginza 📅 1874

Yazawa Teizo created the Japanese character for "kaban" (bag), placing it on a sign in 1877. This sign was seen in 1889 by the Emperor Meiji when he passed by the shop, leading to the addition of the character to the Genkai dictionary and its subsequent popularity.



B-2 The original "Pedestrian Paradise"

📍 Held on Saturday, Sunday, and public holidays
📍 Chuo-dori Ave. (Ginza 1-chome through 8-chome)
📅 1970

The weekend car-free street movement originated in Ginza, aiming to raise public awareness of the issue of traffic congestion and air pollution. It was expanded to Shinjuku, Ikebukuro and Asakusa.



A-3 Japan's first soda fountain opens

📍 Shiseido Parlor
📍 8-8-3 Ginza 📅 1902

The nation's first soda fountain was located inside the Shiseido Pharmacy, which offered soda water and an ice cream-making area—which was still unusual at the time. Later, this establishment developed into a restaurant offering authentic European/American-style cooking, and later into the Shiseido Parlor.



See Google My Maps for other "first story" in the area, in addition to those noted here.

- First Toothpaste Sold in Japan
- Site of Japan's First Product Testing Center
- Large Cafeteria-style Restaurant
- Birthplace of Western Pharmacy
- McDonald's First Restaurant in Japan
- First Public Phone Booth
- Birthplace of Ginza
- Birthplace of Katsu Kare (Fried Pork Cutlet with Curry Sauce)
- First "Fruit Parlor" in Japan
- First Restaurant to Serve Karaage
- Japan's First Electric Street Lamp
- Site of Konparu Yashiki: Birthplace of Konparu Geisha
- Original Site of Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Senshu University First Site
- Jikei University School of Medicine first site
- Site of the Original Institute for Business Training (Hitotsubashi University)
- Birth of a Brighter Community

....and more

GINZA Event Guide

Mid - late May

Azuma Dance

Late May

Noh Play Konparu Festival



From early - mid June

Sannou Festival

(the Grand Festival is held in even-numbered years)



First Sunday in August
(sometimes held on the previous or following Sunday)

Holiday Promenade
"the Yukata de Gin-bra"



From early October (approx. one month)

Chuo City Tourism and Market Fair

Late October - early November

AUTUMN GINZA



The dates and details of the events described in this Event Guide may change, so please check the websites of the various event organizers to get the most up-to-date information.



Buddhist Altar/Article History Museum

Administrator: Yasuda Shokeido Co., Ltd.

Be captivated by graceful and sublime Buddhist altars of Tokyo.

Address : 7-14-3 Ginza, Chuo-ku



Watanabe Woodblock Print Exhibition Hall

Administrator: S. Watanabe Woodcut Prints Co., Ltd.

Presenting Japanese woodblock prints ranging from traditional to modern.

Address : 8-6-19, Ginza Chuo-ku



Gekkoso Art Supply Exhibition Hall

Administrator: GEKKOSO CO., Ltd.

Relax as you slowly get to know a hundred years of history.

Address : 8-7-2 Ginza Chuo-ku, Tokyo Eijyu Bldg. 1F,B1F



Ginza Kanameya / Japanese hairpin, Japanese clothing, and small item exhibition hall

Administrator: Kanameya Shibata Co., Ltd.

Rare and small Japanese clothing items proudly presented by a stylish and well-established Ginza shop.

Address : 8-7-18 Ginza Chuo-ku(Kenban-dori St. Kanameya Bldg. 1F)



Shochiku Otani Library

Administrator: Public Utility Foundation Shouchiku Otani Library

Allows you to handle valuable documents such as scripts for plays and films

Address : 3F Ginza Shochiku Square, 1-13-1 Tsukiji, Chuo-ku

[Inquiries]

Machikado Museum Project Organizing Committee
(inside the Cultural Affairs and Lifelong Learning Section; Chuo City Office)

TEL:03-3546-5346



Highlights of GINZA

●Kabukiza Theatre

mapB-2,C-2

As its name suggests, this is the main theater for Kabuki plays, which are performed here all year round. The theater was first opened in 1889, the 22nd year of Meiji. The building back then was a Western-style wooden structure that was very advanced for its time. Since then, it underwent reconstruction several times until it was rebuilt and inaugurated for the fourth time in 1951, the 26th year of Showa. The fifth-generation Kabuki-za, which opened in April 2013, the 25th year of Heisei, retained the famous facade and interior of the fourth-generation theater, but was equipped with the latest facilities and is now the face of the Ginza Kabuki-za complex, comprising the theater and an office tower. On the 5th floor of the tower is the Kabuki-za Gallery, a Kabuki-themed cultural facility, while a rooftop garden has been built above the theater.



●Shinbashi Enbujo Theatre

mapB-3

This theater opened in 1925, the 14th year of Taisho, to serve to train Shinbashi geisha and provide a stage for their performances. It was modeled after the singing/dancing schools and theaters in Kyoto and Osaka. Each year at the beginning of summer a show by Shinbashi geisha called the "To Odori" is performed for the general public. A wide range of other arts performing arts, including kabuki and modern drama, can also be seen at the theater.



●Newel post of Kyobashi Bridge

mapC-1

(Chuo City Citizens' Tangible Cultural Property)

The original Kyobashi Bridge is said to have been built in the same year as Nihonbashi, i.e. 1603, the 8th year of Keicho. During the Edo Period, it was a wooden bridge, but in 1875, the 8th year of Meiji, it was rebuilt as an arched stone bridge, while in 1901, the 34th year of Meiji, it became a steel bridge. Over two years from 1963, the 38th year of Showa, the Kyobashi River was filled in, and as a result, the bridge was removed. However, the bases of three of its main stone pillars can still be seen on the sidewalk of what is now Chuo-dori Ave. Of these, the two with ornamental knobs date back to the 8th year of Meiji.

Saiwai Inari-jinja Shrine **mapB-1**

Blesses visitors with success in business, the safety of one's family, and marriage.

[Ginza 1-chome (Namiki-dori Ave.)]



Ginza Inari-jinja Shrine **mapB-1**

A shrine that protects visitors from fire and blesses them with success in business. Its name derives from the fact that Ginza 2-chome, where it is located, was where the Ginza area spread out from.

[Normally closed to the public.]



Ryuko Fudosen-jinja Shrine **mapB-2**

Turns visitors' suffering into happiness, grants their wishes, and blesses them with familial harmony and success in business. Also responds to the prayers of people in the fashion industry because the name "Ryuko" also means fashion in Japanese.



Asahi Inari-jinja Shrine **mapB-2**

Famous for a god that blesses visitors with success in business and the safety of one's family. This guardian deity has resided in Ginza since ancient times.



Hodo Inari-jinja Shrine **mapB-2**

Houses a child-rearing harvest god that is said to ensure that visitors raise healthy children. Also said to help visitors find their ideal marriage partner.

[Through an alley behind Tenshodo]



Kabuki Inari Daimyoujin Shrine **mapB-2**

Attracts worshippers from the kabuki world, who pray for packed houses and safety as well as peace and tranquility for the audiences and actors.

[Right side of the entrance to the Kabukiza Theatre]



Ginza Shusse Jizoson (Auxiliary Ginza Shrine) **mapB-2**

(cultural asset of the City)

Home to a jizo, a bodhisattva who looks over children, travelers and the underworld, which is said to "answer every prayer."

[Ginza Terrace, Mitsukoshi Ginza 9F]



Walking course

①

Ginza Haccho shrine tour



Kumagai Inari-jinja Shrine **mapB-3**

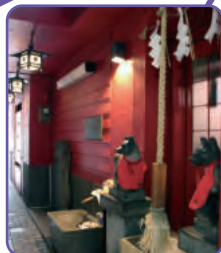
Named after Naozane Kumagai, who fought in the Genpei War, it has been sitting here for hundreds of years. An Inari shrine for prayers for fire protection, good fortune, and business prosperity.

[Ginza 7-chome (Hanatsubaki-dori St.)]



Toyoaiwa Inari-jinja Shrine **mapA-3**

Attracts worshippers from the entertainment industry. It is also known as the home to a god of marriage, so it attracts a lot of female worshippers.



Seiko Inari-jinja Shrine **mapA-2**

Deifies Mitsukane, a dragon god, and a fox god of success. Blesses visitors with prosperity and success in business.

[Normally closed to the public.]



Kakugo Inari-jinja Shrine **mapB-2**

The deity here was ceremonially transferred here from Kyoto's Fushimi-Inari-taisha. It is famous for protecting the town from the inferno that swept in from the Nippori side following the Great Kanto Earthquake.

[The building is currently undergoing reconstruction]



Azuma Inari-jinja Shrine **mapB-2**

Deifies the god of Kyoto's Fushimi-Inari-taisha. The fox god protects visitors from theft as well as fire - a fire has never occurred since the god was deified here soon after World War II.

[Ginza Terrace, Mitsukoshi Ginza 9F]



Site of Konparu residence

mapA-3

During the Edo Period, the four families of Konparu, Kanze, Hoshō, and Kōgō were bestowed homes in what is modern-day Chuo City because they were noh actors under the direct supervision of the shōgunate. Among them, the Konparu family were one with a long history, having first prospered during the Muromachi Period, and their home covered a large area which is now 6 to 8 Ginza 8-chome. After the relocation of their home, geisha gathered on its former site, which developed as the Hanamachi geisha quarter. The Konparu Festival, held in May, features roadside Noh performances.

Monument to the willows of Ginza

mapA-3

When the brick district of Ginza was completed, pine trees, maple trees, cherry trees, and so on were planted by the roadside, but they quickly wilted and died. Only the willow trees were hardy enough to survive. Later, willow trees disappeared from Ginza on several occasions due to road widening, fires, and other reasons. But the persistence of local residents always saw new ones replanted, and now the area is filled with the green leaves of the willow trees.



Monument to brick Ginza

mapC-1

In 1872, the 5th year of Meiji, a fire that started at Wadakuramon Gate engulfed Ginza, and developed into an inferno that reached as far as the Tsukiji Hotel. In response, Yūri Kimimasa, Tokyo's governor at the time, declared that he would build an incombustible city, which resulted in the Ginza brick district. This monument was set up to commemorate the brick buildings, which had served as a symbol of the opening up of Japan. A gaslight has also been restored behind the monument.



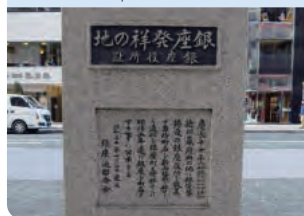
Newel post of Kyobashi Bridge

mapC-1

The birthplace of Ginza

mapB-2

The 'Ginza' was a shōgunate institution responsible for minting and managing silver coinage during the Edo Period. It was in contrast with the 'Kinza,' which handled gold coins called koban. In 1612, the 17th year of Keicho, the silver-coin mint was moved to district of money exchangers (now Ginza 2-chome) from Suruga. As a result, 'Ginza' came to be the name of the district. Later the Ginza government offices were relocated to what was then Kakigawacho (now Nihonbashi Ningyocho 1-chome), where they remained until the Mint Bureau (now Japan Mint) was established.



National railway level crossing signal

mapB-4

This signal operated for 56 years between 1931, the 6th year of Showa, and 1987, the 62nd year of Showa on the freight line running from Shiodome Station to Former Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market. At its peak, 150 freight trains passed through it every day, but the line was closed following the closure of Shiodome Station. However, at the request of local residents, it has been preserved to this day because a railway level crossing signal is a rare sight in Ginza.

Shinbashi Enbujo Theatre

mapB-3

Site of Japan's first Chamber of Commerce and Industry

mapB-3



Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, the nation's first chamber of commerce, was established on March 12, 1878.

Walking course

②

Recommended sightseeing spots in Ginza



Site of Sakuma Shouzan School

mapB-3

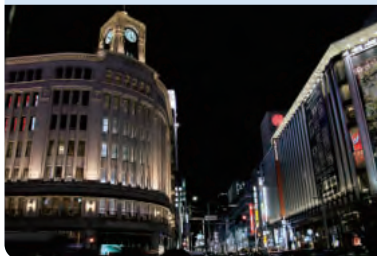
Kabukiza Theatre

mapB-2,C-2

Ginza Yonchome Intersection

mapB-2

The Ginza 4-chome intersection is the face of Ginza. The Seiko House Ginza Clock Tower is a famous landmark of Ginza.



Gas Lamps of Ginza

mapB-2



The Ginza gaslight street in Ginza 3-chome features four restored gaslights. 85 gaslights were installed during the Meiji Period, and the street serves to remind us of how they illuminated Ginza at the time. Ginza was a pioneering district during the opening up of Japan, but the lights must have been a big surprise for the people of the time.



Take walking course with
you on Google Maps.

+ Follow

Tap follow to save.

Walking course 1



Walking course 2



Tokyo Chuo City Tourist Information Center

中央区観光情報センター



An information center that tells
tourists from Japan and
overseas about the attractions
of Chuo City, Tokyo. Please feel
free to drop in.

- Address: 2-2-1 Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo
(Located on 1BF and part of 1F in KYOBASHI EDOGRAND)
- TEL: 03-6262-6481
- Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Open: 365 days a year
- HP <https://centraltokyo-tourism.com>



Chuo City Tourism Association

3F Kyobashi Plaza, 1-25-3 Ginza, Chuo-ku, 104-0061
TEL 03-6228-7907

Chuo City Tourism Association website

<https://en.chuo-kanko.or.jp>

Click here for our
recommended tours
featuring our welcoming
sightseeing staff.



Japan.
Endless
Discovery.



TOKYO

[illegible]