

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 Tokugawa Shogunate built its silver-coin mint here, and rows of money exchangers were established along what is now Ginza-dori Street. "Ginza" was the name of the government department in charge of silver coinage, 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 Shinryogae 1-chome became Ginza 2-chome. With this long history, Ginza contains historical ruins from the Edo Period and numerous other monuments to 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.

GINZA Event Guide

May 5

Ginza Willow Festival/
Golden Parade

This festival is held to commemorate the planting of willow trees along Nishi-Ginza-dori Street, which has been designated as one of Tokyo's symbolic roads. Once a year, the street is shut off to vehicles and turned into a "pedestrian paradise," and a parade and various events are held.



August 2-7

Noh Play Konparu Festival

On Konparu-dori Street in Ginza 8-chome, noh-related courses and hands-on lessons for parents and their children are offered. On August 7, the final day, a noh play is performed on Konparu-dori Street.



Mid -late May

Azuma Dance

A special event in the Shinbashi world of geisha. During the event, you can enjoy the refined and gorgeous dances of Shinbashi geisha at the Shinbashi Enbujo Theatre. Normally you can only see these dances at upscale restaurants in Shinbashi.



From early October (approx. one month)

Chuo City Tourism and Market Fair

An event at which you can enjoy the delights of Chuo City in the autumn. During the period of the festival, various events are held at department stores, shopping districts, and "antenna shops" (shops selling goods from provincial regions of Japan).



Early to mid-June (the Grand Festival is held in even-numbered years)

Sannou Festival

This became a magnificent festival known as the "Tenka Matsuri" when a portable shrine that had been returned to Edo Castle was officially worshipped by successive shoguns from the third shogun, Iemitsu, onwards. You won't want to miss the 300-meter-long "Shinkosai" procession.



Late October - early November

AUTUMN GINZA

A variety of events can be enjoyed in Ginza, including "Ginchakai," a tea ceremony event that is the area's signature autumn event. Other events include the Ginza-haccho shrine tour, the Ginza Restaurant Walk, and the Shinomiza Children's Kabuki.



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

Holiday Promenade
"the Yukata de Gin-bra"

An event that commemorates Ginza-dori Street's status as Japan's first ever "pedestrian paradise" Mid-summer visitors to Ginza wearing yukata or other traditional Japanese clothing an enjoy sights such as water being sprinkled on the pavement as Ginza filled with the colors of Japan.



Early November (late October)

Chuo City "Marugoto" Museum

The whole of Chuo City is turned into a museum, and you can travel around the city by bus or boat for free, enjoying the city's rich cultural attractions, which include famous sites, historical ruins, art galleries, and the waterfront scenery.



Highlights of GINZA

●Monument of Sukiya-bashi Bridge

mapA-2

Sukiya-bashi Bridge, which spanned the outer moat of Edo Castle, was built in the early years of the Edo Period. On the Yurakucho side, there was the famous Minamimachi magistrate's office. Since the Meiji Period, it has long been known as the entrance to Ginza, and is also famous as the setting for Kazuo Kikuta's film *Kimi no Na wa*. When the outer moat was filled in in 1958, the 33rd year of Showa, the bridge was removed, but this monument to it can be found in Sukiabashi Park.



●Monument of Takuboku Ishikawa's Poetry

mapA-2

Takuboku Ishikawa (1885-1912) was a poet from Iwate Prefecture. After returning to Tokyo in 1908, the 41st year of Meiji, he began writing poetry while receiving assistance from Kyosuke Kintaichi, who had been his senior at Morioka Junior High School. The following year he joined the *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper in Takiyama-machi in Kyobashi-ku (now Ginza 6-chome). For the next three years until his death at the age of 26 he continued to write poetry while working as a proofreader. In 1912, the 45th year of Meiji, he died, and this monument, which is inscribed with his poetry, can be found at the former site of the *Asahi Shimbun*.



●Former site of Konparu residence

mapA-3

During the Edo Period, the four families of Konparu, Kanze, Hoshō, and Kongo were bestowed homes in what is modern-day Chuo City because they were noh actors under the direct supervision of the shogunate. 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 is held each year in August, and on the final day a noh play is performed in the street.

●Site of the Shibaguchi castle gate

mapA-3

In 1710, the 7th year of Hōei, on the occasion of a visit to the government by an ambassador from Korea, a castle gate was built for the purpose of emphasizing Japan's power. However, in 1724, the 9th year of Kyōhō, it was burned to the ground, and a sheet of copper with a gate design was buried at the site.

●Kabukiza Theatre

mapC-2

As its name suggests, this is a kabuki theater, and kabuki plays are performed here all year round. The first theater was opened in 1889, the 22nd year of Meiji. The building back then was a colorful Western-style wooden structure that was very advanced for its time. Destroyed by fire during World War II, it was rebuilt in 1951, the 26th year of Meiji. The fifth-generation Kabuki-za that 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 Ginzakabukiza complex, which comprises the theater and an office tower. On the fifth floor of the tower is the Kabukiza Gallery, a kabuki-themed cultural facility, while a rooftop garden has been installed above the theater.



●Shinbashi Enbujo Theatre

mapB-3

This theater opened in 1925, the 14th year of Taishō, 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.



●Todai (Lighthouse)

mapB-2

(Chuo City Citizens' Tangible Cultural Property)

This work was produced in 1931, the 6th year of Showa, by sculptor Seibo Kitamura (1884-1987), who is also famous for producing the Peace Statue in Nagasaki. The lamp features a statue of a powerful young man who is carrying a torch and accompanied by a guardian dog. On September 1, 1933, the 8th year of Showa, the lamp was set atop a stone pedestal made to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake.



●Newel post of Kyobashi Bridge

mapC-1

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.



●Site of Sakuma Shozan School

mapB-3

Shozan Sakuma (1811-1864) was a samurai of the Matsuhira clan from Shinanikuni (in present-day Nagano Prefecture) who was a well-known thinker of the late Edo Period. After studying Confucianism, he opened a school near Kanda-otamagaike, and also served as the principal of the Matsuhira clan's Edo academy. Later, he dedicated himself to the field of coastal defense, studying artillery and Dutch books. He opened a military academy in Kobikicho 5-chome (near present-day Ginza 6-chome) in order to lecture on methods of coastal defense. He attracted numerous well-known teachers, including Kaishu Katsu, Shoin Yoshida, Sanai Hashimoto, and Tsuginosuke Kawai, as students, and even the name of Ryoma Sakamoto can be found in the academy's student record book.

●Japan's first "pedestrian paradise" (Chuo-dori Ave.)

The "pedestrian paradise" stretching from the Ginza-dori Street intersection to the Ginza 8-chome intersection began in 1970, the 45th year of Showa.
(Begins at noon on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays and runs till 6 p.m. in April-September and 5 p.m. in October-March)

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.

[On the roof of Matsuya Ginza]

**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.

[Ginza 3-chome (Daiko Asahi Bldg.)]

**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.]

**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]



Walking course

①

Ginza Hachcho shrine tour

**ToyoIwo 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.

[Enter an alley from Ginza Suzuran-dori Ave.]

**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.

[Azuma-dori Ave. / Miharakoji]

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

(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]

Site of Konparu residence mapA-3

Former level crossing signal on the national railway 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 the Tsukiji 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

The Meiji Government saw the expansion of trade with foreign countries as its top priority, but because there was no organization to represent the views of domestic merchants and industrialists, it was proving difficult to revise the unequal treaties with other countries. As a result, Eiichi Shibusawa lobbied for the establishment of an organization to represent the merchants and industrialists, and in 1878, the 11th year of Meiji, Japan's first Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the "Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry," was founded.



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, Yuri 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 put 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 shogunate 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.



Walking course

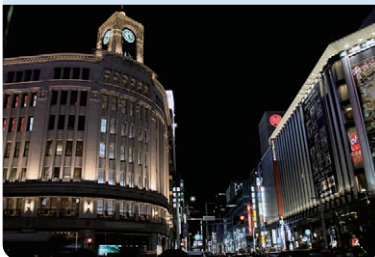
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Recommended sightseeing spots in Ginza



Ginza Yonchome Intersection mapB-2

The Ginza 4-chome intersection is the face of Ginza, and the clock tower on the Wako Building is known as a Ginza landmark.

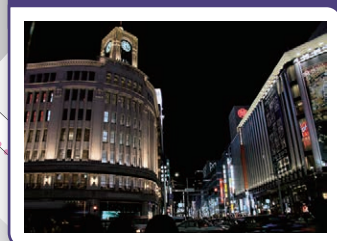
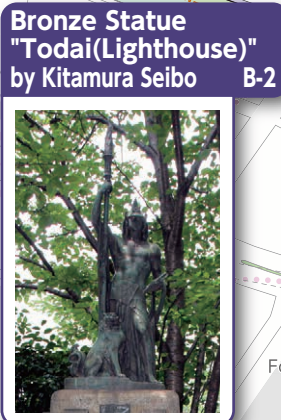
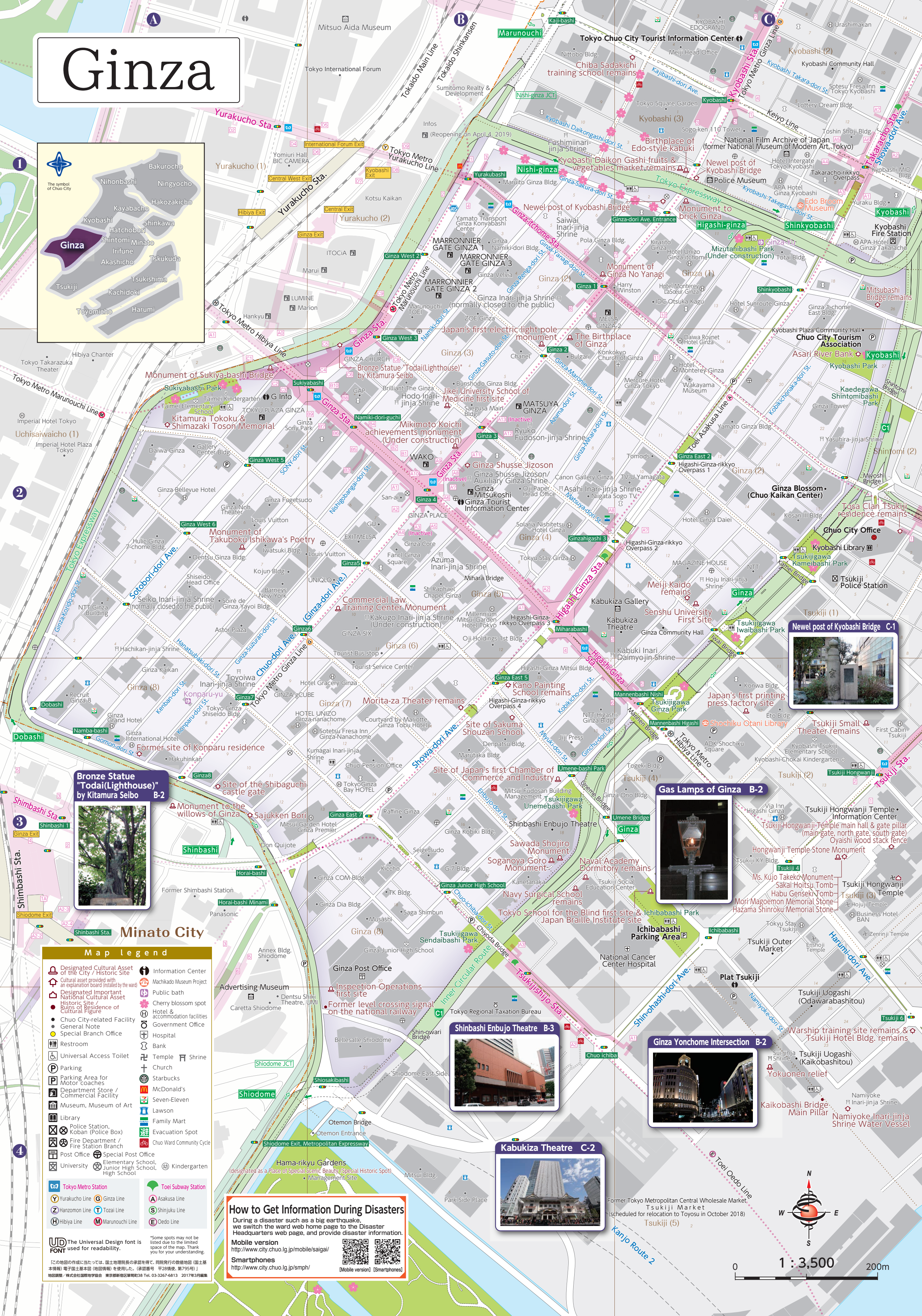
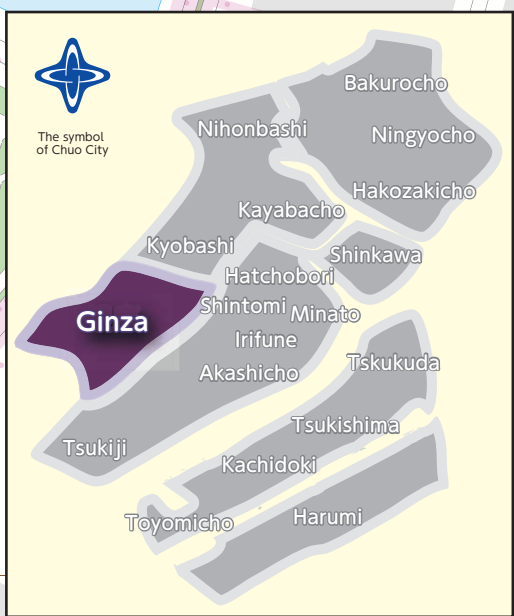


Gas Lamps of Ginza mapB-2



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.

Ginza



Map legend

UD The Universal Design font is used for readability.

*Some spots may not be listed due to the limited space of the map. Thank you for your understanding.

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地図製図: 株式会社国土地理院 東京都市圏部 38 Tel. 03-3267-6813 2017年3月編纂

How to Get Information During Disasters

During a disaster such as a big earthquake, we switch the ward web home page to the Disaster Headquarters web page, and provide disaster information.

Mobile version
<http://www.city.chuo.lg.jp/mobile/saigai/>

Smartphones
<http://www.city.chuo.lg.jp/smph/>

[Mobile version] [Smartphones]

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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 <http://centraltokyo-tourism.com>



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