30 THINGS TO DO AROUND THE IMPERIAL PALACE

01 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 Toky



Chow down on chicken

This chic hideaway bar is located right in between

stations. The drink selection is respectable, but the

food menu is the real attraction. Try their famously

05 Put your papers in order

The showroom of Takeo, Japan's foremost expert

printing, artworks, envelopes and much more - a

whopping 2,700 different kinds. The second floor

is dedicated to exhibits highlighting paper samples

Ogle at art in historic halls

Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo

Maenam no Hotori

When it was originally completed in 1894, the Josiah Conder-designed Mitsubishi Ichigokan

was the first Western-style office building in the

Marunouchi area. Rebuilt in 2010 according to

estaurants & Cafés

Step out of Jimbocho Station's exit A6 and you'll

stumble right upon this spritzy Thai joint, where the

somewhat less fiery than you'd find in Bangkok - to

accommodate local palates, of course. Stays open

food is full of stimulating spices and aromas but

9 Spice up your stroll

site as a major art museum.

until 2am on weekdavs.

Conder's original plans, it was reborn on the same

in paper trading, carries all kinds of paper for

from both Japan and elsewhere.

J. Tipple Ba

Takeo Mihoncho Honte

flavourful chicken curry to help keep the drinks

the Suidobashi, Jimbocho and Ochanomizu

curry

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



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 Douch



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





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 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. Hie-Jinja Shrine



Sightseeing 15 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

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

Mazilu, 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. Mazilu Beef Noodles



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 Shob



lestaurants & Cafés 20 Get a cup of matcha to go

Founded in Kyoto in 1717, Ippodo Tea is a 300-yearold 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 Marunouch



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 Garde



nts & Café 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



is lined with over 50 plum trees.



The legendary Imperial Hotel's top-floor lounge is Imperial Lounge Aqua



Restaurants & Cafés 17 Supersize your appetite with gourmet burgers

It's been some time since the gourmet hamburger boom started in Tokyo. While some fancy burgers look better than they taste, this restaurant's offerings are different. The firm ground beef patty, the sprinkling of coarsely ground pepper and the thick fluffly bun all form a perfectly balanced, satisfying burger. The hand-cut potato chips are good, too





Back in the days of Japan's late-1800s and early-1900s modernising drive, folks enamoured with Western fashion used to gather at this restaurant to show off their garb. Slip back into a bygone age by having some omelette over rice on the terrace, or head up to the third floor for French cuisine. Hibiya Matsumotor



Situated on the first floor of the WATERRAS mall complex, this café-bar boasts a wide selection of domestic and foreign craft beers - 30 of which are available on the daily changing tap. You will definitely not run out of things to try. Can't decide? The staff will be able to help you with recommendations. Wiz Craft Beer and Food





Finally completed in December 2017, this vast square in front of Tokyo Station functions as the starting point for the carriage processions that see newly appointed foreign ambassadors ceremonially travel to the Imperial Palace to greet and present their credentials to the emperor. It also offers some pretty spectacular photo ops.

Marunouchi Station Square





Join the employees of Chiyoda City for lunch at this convenient tenth-floor cafeteria, where a set meal can be had for ¥500 and bowls of noodles for less than that. The spacious hall is hardly ever full and offers nice views over the Imperial Palace grounds. Chiyoda City Office Cafeteria



Established in Nara back in 1716, Nakagawa Masashichi Shoten is one of those venerable crafts purveyors that have survived through the centuries by relying on quality, tradition and gradual adaptation to changing times. Their Tokyo flagship stocks an extensive range of easy-touse lifestyle goods, including the Hasami line of asaki porcelain.

Pamper your loved ones

with sweet souvenirs

souvenirs? Head to this shop located in Hanzomon.

The shop's kintsuba confection, widely regarded as

one of the best in Tokvo, has the slightly sweet and

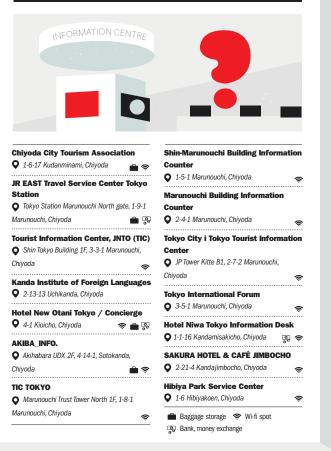
salty flavours of azuki beans. It will even appeal to

Ichigenya

Looking to buy some Japanese sweets as

those who don't have a sweet tooth.

SEEK HELP at the Tourist Information





Chiyoda City Tourism Association Official Map

THINGS TO DO AROUND THE MPERIAL PALACE



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.

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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

The East Gardens of the Imperial Palace



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.

Restaurants & Cafés 11 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 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 Y. & Son





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 (Tokvo-stvle) sushi. Don't leave without trying the signature 'bara chirashi' (assorted fish on rice). Sushimasa

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 wellbalanced flavours, with a slight coffee-like bitterness. Options include pork, chicken, beef, prawn and beef tongue, and they are each cooked seperately with its own distinctive taste. Kyouei Doo





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

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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.





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.



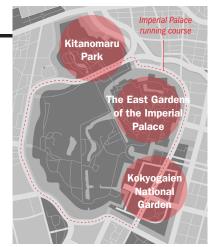
LEARN about the history of Imperial Palace

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.



Tokyo Station

• 1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda Kingo Tatsuno, 1914 (renewed in 2012)



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



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National Theatre of Japan

Q 4-1 Hayabusacho, Chiyoda Liroyuki Iwamoto, 1966

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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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9

8

clockwise

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Walk or run counter-

Please walk in single

file on narrow roads

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