

## SHOPPING

### top picks

- **Yodobashi Camera** (p146) – Insanely busy, noisy electronics retailer. Go for the energy.
- **Don Quixote** (p140) – Hack your way through a jungle of novelty goods.
- **Muji** (p137) – Gorgeous designs, no labels. All cool.
- **Mandarake** (p143) – Get your manga comic fix at this respected chain.
- **RanKing RanQueen** (p142) – The best new products, ranked weekly.
- **Oriental Bazaar** (p144) – Big selection of souvenirs and quality antiques.
- **Kaiyōdō Hobby Lobby** (p140) – All the plastic figurines you could ever want, and more.
- **Uniqlo** (p143) – Popular clothier with stylish, cheap duds.
- **Japan Sword** (p139) – The real stuff: samurai swords in all their beauty and deadliness.
- **Akihabara Radio Center** (p140) – A billion tiny electronics parts in tiny stalls, this is old-school Akihabara.

What's your recommendation? [www.lonelyplanet.com/tokyo](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/tokyo)

# SHOPPING

You can shop 'til you drop in Tokyo – just watch the Japanese. People here shop as they work – long and hard – and while much of the booty is taken home and eventually worn or indulged in by the buyer, an equal amount is used as gifts to grease the wheels of complex social and business relationships. Above all, the craving for new products – *shinhatsubai* – is insatiable. Enough to fuel a chain specialising in the most popular new goods (see p142).

The central dispensers of most goods are *depāto* (department stores), many of which are owned by the companies that also operate the train lines (p25) – hence the sprawling retail clusters around the busiest train stations. Of course, Tokyo has an abundance of smaller, more eccentric shops. Many are found on the backstreets of Harajuku, Shibuya and Ebisu and display items that are lovingly designed and crafted. Trendy Shibuya, a haven for teenagers always surfing the latest trends, has innumerable original storefronts tucked between chain stores.

If you are in Tokyo for only a few days, head for Omote-sandō or Harajuku, which has some of the city's most interesting high- and low-fashion boutiques. For status shopping, go straight to Ginza glam or the southern reaches of Omote-sandō and Minami-Aoyama. If you've got more time, roam through Ebisu, Shibuya and the odd little old-timey craft shops on the side streets and in the alleys of Asakusa. Foreign *otaku* (geeks) should definitely hit Akihabara (also see p67 and Shinjuku for manga and electronics. And a stroll down one of Tokyo's shopping streets can reveal unexpected finds (opposite).

Lastly, though bargaining is the norm in most of Asia, in Japan it's simply not done – except at flea markets and the occasional electronics store. Just politely ask *chotto, motto yasuku dekimasuka?* (Can you make it a bit cheaper?)

## IMPERIAL PALACE & MARUNOUCHI

**MITSUKOSHI** Map pp52–3 Department Store

三越  
☎ 3241-3311; 1-4-1 Nihombashi-Muromachi, Chūō-ku; ☎ 10am-8pm ☉ Ginza or Hanzōmon Line to Mitsukoshimae (exits A2, A3, A5, A7 & A8) Though there are branches of this department store in Ikebukuro (Map p122), Ginza (Map p62) and Ebisu (Map p102), the flagship store in Nihombashi is still the most elegant. Check out the floor dedicated to the art of the kimono or peruse the morsels in the *depachika* (department store food floor;

p171). For the full effect, arrive at 10am for the bells and bows that accompany each day's opening.

## GINZA

Ginza is the poshest shopping district in Tokyo – one look around Mitsukoshi will testify to this. But tucked in between some of the more imposing façades are simpler pleasures like fine papers and shelves full of ingenious toys. Shopping options here truly reflect the breadth and depth of the city's consumer culture, which is equal parts high fashion glitz and down-to-earth dedication to craft.

**ITŌYA** Map p62 Art Supplies

伊東屋  
☎ 3561-8311; www.ito-ya.co.jp, in Japanese; 2-7-15 Ginza, Chūō-ku; ☎ 10.30am-8pm Wed-Sat, 10.30am-7pm Sun-Tue; ☉ Ginza or Hibiya Line to Ginza (exits A12 & A13) Nine floors of stationery-shop love await visual-art professionals, as well as paper and paperclip fanatics, at Itōya. There is *washi* (fine Japanese handmade paper), Italian leather agendas, and even *tenugui* – beautifully hand-dyed handkerchiefs.

# top picks

## SHOPPING STREETS

**Ameyoko Arcade** (Map p72; アメヤ横丁) One of Tokyo's only old-fashioned, open-air pedestrian markets, and a good place for bargains – from spices to shoes. See p70.

**Hachiman-dōri** (Map p102; 八幡通り) Lined with shops purveying high and low fashion trends, this street is a delightful treasure hunt for local designs.

**Kappabashi-dōri** (p138; 合羽橋通り) Food, food everywhere, and nary a rice grain to eat – because it's plastic.

**Nakamise-dōri** (p138; 仲見世通り) Leading up to the grand gate that opens onto Sensō-ji, this is home to countless trinket, snack and knick-knack shops.

**Omote-sandō** (p142 表参道) Known as the centre of Tokyo's *haute couture* culture, Omote-sandō is the place to take in Tokyo fashion on parade.

**Takeshita-dōri** (p144; 竹下通り) Takeshita-dōri is to teenagers what Omote-sandō is to dilettantes.

**HAYASHI KIMONO** Map p62 Clothes

林きもの  
☎ 3501-4012; 2-1-5 Yūrakuchō, Chiyoda-ku; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun; ☉ Hibiya Line to Hibiya (exit A5)

This very friendly shop in the dowdy International Arcade under the railway has been selling quality kimono and *yukata* (light cotton summer kimono) for over forty years. The former may run about ¥10,000 in silk, and the latter (lightweight cotton) half that or even ¥2800 – many are very colourful and make excellent gifts. Foreigner-friendly sizes are also available.

**MUJI** Map p62 Clothes & Homewares

無印良品  
☎ 5208-8241; www.mujiyurakucho.com, in Japanese; 3-8-3 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku; ☎ 10am-9pm; ☉ JR Yamanote to Yurakuchō (Kyōbashi exit) or Yurakuchō Line to Yurakuchō (exit D9)

Tokyo's famously understated no-name brand is one of the hippest names in Paris. But Muji still sells simple, unadorned clothing and accessories for men and women. It also carries hard-to-find M and L sizes (though these, too, are small). This large outlet in Yurakuchō also has a great cafeteria.

**TAKUMI** Map p62 Craft

たくみ  
☎ 3571-2017; www.ginza-takumi.co.jp, in Japanese; 8-2-4 Ginza, Chūō-ku; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat; ☉ JR Yamanote Line to Shimbashi (Ginza exit) or Toei Asakusa Line to Shimbashi (exits 1 & 3)

Takumi has been around for more than 60 years, and has acquired an elegant selection of toys, textiles, ceramics and other traditional folk crafts from around Japan. Ever thoughtful, the shop also encloses information detailing the origin and background of its pieces if you make a purchase.

**MATSUYA** Map p62 Department Store

松屋  
☎ 3567-1211; www.matsuya.com, in Japanese; 3-6-1 Ginza, Chūō-ku; ☎ 10am-8pm; ☉ Ginza, Hibiya or Marunouchi Line to Ginza (exits A12 & A13) Matsuya offers fine men's and women's clothing on the 1st floor and a good breadth of traditional Japanese crafts, pottery and knick-knacks on the 7th. Boons for foreign visitors are the international shipping service, tax-exemption assistance and useful, in-store English-speaking guides. There's another branch in Asakusa (Map p86).

**MATSUZAKAYA** Map p62 Department Store

松坂屋  
☎ 3572-1111; www.matsuzakaya.co.jp/ginza/index.html, in Japanese; 6-10-1 Ginza, Chūō-ku; ☎ 10am-8pm Thu-Sat, 10am-7.30pm; ☉ Ginza, Hibiya or Marunouchi Line to Ginza (exit A3) For 300 years Matsuzakaya has been selling traditional garments and crafts. Today the range is broader, though the store still has a first-rate kimono shop. Matsuzakaya is one of those grand department stores with a fabulous *depachika* in the basement. Also located at Ueno (Map p72) and Ebisu (Map p102).

**HAKUHINKAN TOY PARK**

Map p62 Toy Shop

博品館  
☎ 3571-8008; www.hakuhinkan.co.jp; 8-8-11 Ginza, Chūō-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm; ☉ JR Yamanote Line to Shimbashi (Ginza exit) or Toei Asakusa Line to Shimbashi (exits 1 & 3)

This layer cake of a 'toy park' is crammed to every corner with this year's models of character toys, the hottest squawking video games, seas of colourful plastic and the softest plush toys ever invented. Hakuhinkan also harbours child-friendly restaurants and even a theatre.

## DUTY-FREE TOKYO

Most major department stores and many of the well-known tourist shops offer tax-exempt shopping for foreign tourists making purchases of more than ¥10,000. You must present your passport and a customs document will then be attached to it (this will be checked and removed as you exit the country). Most of the big stores have special tax-exemption counters where staff will be able to speak some English or at the very least have information that you can read.

## ASAKUSA

Now decidedly relaxed, Asakusa was once the heart of Edo's low city, home to artisans, merchants and prostitutes. Its small lanes and winding alleyways are still full of surprises, from venerable doll shops to virtuosic drum makers such as Taiko-kan (p89). For straight gift shopping, Nakamise-dōri is not bad for souvenir trinkets – try the back streets for better-quality stuff. The long stretch of Kappabashi-dōri also yields uniquely Japanese curiosities in its little culinary-supply shops.

### KAPPABASHI-DŌRI Map p86 Market

合羽橋通り  
 ④ Ginza Line to Tawaramachi (exit 3)  
 It's most famous for its shops selling plastic food models, but Kappabashi-dōri supplies many a Tokyo restaurant in bulk, selling matching sets of chopsticks, uniforms, woven bamboo tempura trays and tiny ceramic *shōyu* (soy sauce) dishes. This makes it the perfect street for stocking up if you're setting up an apartment or seeking small, useful souvenirs.

### NAKAMISE-DŌRI Map p86 Market

仲見世通り  
 ④ Asakusa Station  
 Nakamise-dōri, the long, crowded pedestrian lane running from Kaminarimon gate to Hōzōmon gate, has more than 80 stalls that for centuries have been helping the Japanese people fulfil their gift-giving obligations. The wide alley is chock-a-block

## ASAKUSA TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS

The following shops specialise in Asakusa traditional products. If there are other crafts you're interested in, and there are dozens more, visit the Edo Shitamachi Dentō Kōgeikan (Shitamachi Traditional Crafts Museum, p89) or visit [www.asakusa-e.com/dentokoge/dentokoge2.htm](http://www.asakusa-e.com/dentokoge/dentokoge2.htm), in Japanese.

**Bengara** (Map p86; べんがら ☎ 3841-6613; [www.bengara.com](http://www.bengara.com), in Japanese; 1-35-6 Asakusa, Taitō-ku; ☎ 10am-6pm closed 3rd Thu monthly; ④ Ginza Line to Asakusa (exit 1) or Toei Asakusa Line to Asakusa (exit A5)) Sells *noren*, the curtains that hang in front of shop doors. Some *noren* are very artful, with the spirit of the *mingei* movement (p35). It's one block east of Nakamise-dōri.

**Kanesō** (Map p86; かね惣 ☎ 3844-1379; [www.kanesoh.com](http://www.kanesoh.com), in Japanese; 1-18-12 Asakusa, Taitō-ku; ☎ 11am-7pm; ④ Ginza Line to Asakusa (exit 1) or Toei Asakusa Line to Asakusa (exit A5)) This place has been selling knives since the early Meiji period. In a country where knives are a serious business, this shop is known as a favourite of the pros.

**Miyamoto Unosuke Shoten** (Map p86; 宮本卯之助商店 ☎ 3844-2141; [www.miyamoto-unosuke.co.jp](http://www.miyamoto-unosuke.co.jp); 2-1-1 Nishi Asakusa, Taitō-ku; ☎ 9am-6pm Thu-Tue; ④ Ginza Line to Tawaramachi, exit 3) If it's festival products you're after, Miyamoto is one-stop shopping, from *mikoshi* (portable shrines) to drums, clappers and festival masks. It's on the ground floor of the building and downstairs from the drum museum (p89).

with small shops selling temple paraphernalia as well as traditional items of varying beauty and quality. The little arcade of Nakamise-dōri is also the place to pick up locally made, salty *sembei* (crispy rice crackers) and *age-manju* (deep-fried bean buns).

### YOSHITOKU Map p126 Traditional Dolls

吉徳  
 ☎ 3863-4419; [www.yoshitoku.co.jp](http://www.yoshitoku.co.jp), in Japanese; 1-9-14 Asakusabashi, Taitō-ku; ☎ 9.30am-6pm; ④ JR Sōbu or Toei Asakusa Line to Asakusabashi (exit A2 or main exit)

Once known as doll-maker to the emperor, Yoshitoku has been crafting and distributing dolls since 1711. The 1st floor is filled with miniatures that depict kabuki actors, geisha and sumō wrestlers in minute detail and exquisite dress. Figures are designed with the serious collector in mind.

## CENTRAL TOKYO

A few stops east of Shinjuku, the height of buildings descend to a more human scale. A stroll up the Kagurazaka slope from Iidabashi Station will turn up several shops selling *geta* (traditional wooden sandals) and drawstring purses made from lavish kimono fabric. Elsewhere in the area, wedged in unexpected places between pharmacies, groceries and *pachinko* (vertical pinball-game) parlours, are shops carrying goods like Czech puppets and hand-painted kites. Jimbōchō is the place to go for rare books, both Japanese and English.

## GIFT BOX

Gift-giving in Japan is a complex art form, fraught with symbolism and design. While most Japanese will graciously forgive the faux pas of a foreigner, some basic etiquette is important.

If invited to someone's home, bring a small gift as a gesture of appreciation. Flowers are a good choice, as is a pretty package of sweets from a *depachika*. Bringing along some trinkets and speciality items from your home country will delight Japanese, but err on the side of modesty. Avoid anything in sets of unlucky four or nine, and don't wrap gifts in funeral white.

When offered a gift, the polite response is to initially refuse so as not to appear greedy. Conversely, when you offer a gift, expect to do a bit of gentle urging before it's accepted. In group situations, give something to everyone (a shared box of biscuits, for example) but give individual gifts in private. It's good form to give and receive with both hands. And unless the giver insists, politely resist the temptation to tear into it – until later.

### BINGOYA Map pp48-9 Craft

備後屋  
 ☎ 3202-8778; [www.quasar.nu/bingoya](http://www.quasar.nu/bingoya); 10-6 Wakamatsuchō, Shinjuku-ku; ☎ 10am-7pm Tue-Sun; ④ Toei Ōedo Line to Wakamatsu-kawada (kawada exit)

Richly dyed *washi* (handmade paper), batik textiles, ceramics and an assortment of folk crafts fill out the five floors of this wonderful shop. Find handmade glassware, cushions and Japanese tea cups for feathering your nest, or painted fans, *happi* (half-length coats) and *washi*-covered tea canisters.

### PUPPET HOUSE Map p56 Speciality Store

パペットハウス  
 ☎ 5229-6477; [www.puppet-house.co.jp](http://www.puppet-house.co.jp), in Japanese; 1-8 Shimomiyabi-chō, Shinjuku-ku; ☎ 11am-7pm Tue-Sat; ④ JR Chūō or JR Sōbu Line to Iidabashi (east exit)

This is a wondrous workshop of functional international marionettes, run by a super-friendly couple who are happy to talk shop. Look for the sign of Punch in an alley near Mizuho Bank.

## ROPPONGI

Though Roppongi is best known for wild bars and pick-up joints, it's also home to a few of the city's most interesting and idiosyncratic shops and showrooms and its new shopping megamalls, Roppongi Hills and Tokyo Midtown. Of special interest in Roppongi are the Axis showroom, showcasing contemporary design, and Japan Sword, which displays and sells the exquisite weaponry of the samurai.

### JAPAN SWORD Map pp96-7 Antiques

日本刀劍  
 ☎ 3434-4321; [www.japansword.co.jp](http://www.japansword.co.jp); 3-8-1 Toranomon, Minato-ku; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm Sat; ④ Ginza Line to Toranomon (exit 2)

One of Tokyo's most famous sellers of samurai swords and weaponry, it sells the genuine article – such as antique sword guards and samurai helmets dating from the Edo period – as well as convincing replicas crafted by hand. Be sure to inquire about export and transport restrictions.

### AXIS Map pp96-7 Craft

アクシス  
 ☎ 3587-2781; [www.axisinc.co.jp](http://www.axisinc.co.jp), in Japanese; 5-17-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat; ④ Hibiya or Toei Ōedo Line to Roppongi (exit 3) Salivate over some of Japan's most innovative interior design at this Roppongi design complex. Of the 20-odd galleries and retail shops selling art books, cutting-edge furniture and other objets d'intérieur design, a highlight is *Yoshikin* (☎ 3568-2356; 2nd fl) for beautifully crafted, inexpensive kitchenware.

### BLUE & WHITE Map pp96-7 Craft

ブルーアンドホワイト  
 ☎ 3451-0537; 2-9-2 Azabu-jūban; ☎ 11am-6pm Mon-Sat; ④ Namboku or Toei Ōedo Line to Azabu-jūban (exit 4)

Amy Katoh, the expat American behind this small crafts store, sells traditional and contemporary items like indigo-dyed

## top picks

### TRADITIONAL CRAFTS SHOPS

- Bingoya (left)
- Japan Traditional Craft Center (p146)
- Yoshitoku (opposite)
- Takumi (p137)
- Oriental Bazaar (p144)

*yukata* (light cotton kimono or robe) and painted chopsticks, all in blue and white. Pick through tiny dishes of ceramic beads or collect bundled-up swatches of fabric for your own crafty creations.

**DON QUIXOTE** Map pp96–7 Department Store  
ドン・キホーテ

☎ 5786-0811; www.donki.com/index.php; 3-14-10 Roppongi, Minato-ku; ☎ 24 hrs; ㊟ Hibiya or Toei Ōedo Line to Roppongi (exit 3)

The Roppongi branch of this jam-packed, bargain castle is where Japanese kids of all ages come to stock up for fun. Don Quixote sells everything from household goods to French maid costumes, usually at cut-rate prices. You'll need to hack your way through cluttered aisles, but it's possible to find funky gifts here.

**ROPPONGI HILLS** Map pp96–7 Shopping Mall  
六本木ヒルズ

☎ 6406-6000; www.roppongihills.com/en; 6-10-1 Roppongi; ㊟ Hibiya or Toei Ōedo Line to Roppongi (exits 1c & 3)

In the first three months after its opening in April 2003, Roppongi Hills (p94) saw a staggering 26 million visitors pass through its doors. After a year, the count was up to a cool 46 million. The 200 retail stores, Mori Art Museum (p95) and nine-screen cinema (p188) still continue to draw the crowds.

## ELECTRIC TOWN

Akihabara, or 'Akiba' if you're an *otaku* (geek), is Tokyo's electronics mecca, but it's both hardware and software. It was born out of a postwar black market for radio parts, matured into household appliances and computers and now sells fantasy – manga (Japanese comic book), anime (Japanese animation) and associated merchandise like plastic figurines and costumes. There is now a plethora of 'maid cafés' (p161) where anime-esque girls will cater to male fantasies of being served by uniformed female servants. Akiba is ever protean and always a step ahead into the next consumer phase. Here are a few of its most distinctive shops.

**Akihabara Radio Center** (Map p68; 秋葉原ラジオセンター ☎ 3253-1030; www.radiocenter.jp, in Japanese; 1-14-2 Sotokanda, Chiyoda-ku; ☎ varies; ㊟ JR Sōbu Line to Akihabara) A two-storey warren of fifty electronics stalls under the elevated railway that is the original, still-beating heart of Akihabara. Strictly for old-school electronics *otaku*.

**Kaiyōdō Hobby Lobby** (Map p68; 海洋堂ホビーロビー ☎ 3253-1951; www.kaiyodo.co.jp, in Japanese; 4fl Radio Kaikan, 1-15-16 Sotokanda, Chiyoda-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm Thu-Tue; ㊟ JR Sōbu Line to Akihabara) This is a collector's plastic dream – heroic, sexy figurines from all walks of Japanese science fiction. Look for the *Neon Genesis Evangelion* statues outside.

**Tsukumo Robotto Ōkoku** (Map p68; ツクモロボット王国 ☎ 3251-0987; www.rakuten.co.jp/tsukumo, in Japanese; 1-9-7 Sotokanda, Chiyoda-ku; ☎ 10.30am-8pm Mon-Sat, 10.30am-7.30pm Sun; ㊟ JR Sōbu Line to Akihabara) Fancy a bipedal humanoid robot? Or would a talking Hello Kitty do the trick? This shop is at the forefront of the home robot revolution; also sells DIY robot kits.

**TOKYO MIDTOWN** Map pp96–7 Shopping Mall  
東京ミッドタウン

☎ 3475-3100; www.tokyo-midtown.com/en; 9-7-1 Akasaka; ㊟ Hibiya or Toei Ōedo Line to Roppongi (exit 8)

Home to a bevy of museums, design centres and accommodation, recently opened Tokyo Midtown may not be as architecturally grandiose as rival Roppongi Hills, but it has a number of interesting shops like **Idea Digital Code** (☎ 5413-3668; Galleria, 3rd floor), which sells very funky appliances, and designer goods retailer **Style Meets People** (☎ 5413-3705; Galleria, 3rd floor).

## EBISU & DAIKANYAMA

Ebisu is often overlooked, though its shops, like its restaurants, are some of the most forward-thinking and interesting in the city. Yebisu Garden Place, an open-air mall connected to the Ebisu JR Station by moving walkways, is a good place to start. If you're more interested in one-of-a-kind wares hot-foot it up the hill toward Daikanyama and Hachiman-dōri.

**HACKNET** Map p102 Bookshop  
ハックネット

☎ 5728-6611; www.hacknet.tv, in Japanese; 1-30-10 Ebisu-Nishi, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm; ㊟ Hibiya or JR Yamanote Line to Ebisu (exit 4 & west exit)

This is a bookshop for serious designers, or those who can get high on the fumes of elegant design. Hacknet specialises in cutting-edge design books from across disciplines and around the world. The small, well-lit space is excellent for browsing and the staff is incredibly studiously unobtrusive.

**GDC** Map p102 Clothes  
☎ 5728-2947; www.gdcweb.jp, in Japanese;

12-7 Uguisudani-chō, Shibuya-ku; ☎ noon-10pm; ㊟ Tōyoko Line to Daikanyama (north exit) Tucked away on a Daikanyama backstreet, GDC is a popular casual wear label under director Kumagai Takashi that focuses on cool T-shirts with provocative designs like its 'Black America' series. Lines include the hip-hop-oriented Raw Fudge and Ventura, as well as outdoorsy Ugly for women.

**Q FLAGSHIP EBISU-NISHI** Map p102 Clothes

☎ 5456-9117; www.qshop.jp, in Japanese; B1 fl, 1-30-10 Ebisu-Nishi, Shibuya-ku; ☎ noon-8pm; ㊟ Hibiya or JR Yamanote Line to Ebisu (exit 4 & west exit)

Sharing a building with Hacknet, Q Flagship Ebisu-Nishi presents its clothing and accessories like candy, or jewellery. Many pieces are originals by local and international designers, but the shop also designs a house collection. Sizes are limited generally to those fitting svelte Daikanyama figures.

**KAMAWANU** Map p102 Craft

かまわぬ  
☎ 3780-0182; www.kamawanu.co.jp, in Japanese; 23-1 Sarugaku-chō, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 11am-7pm; ㊟ Tōyoko Line to Daikanyama (north exit) Looking for a unique, compact present from Japan? Kamawanu specialises in *tenugui*, dyed cotton cloths that are surprisingly versatile. These beautifully patterned kerchiefs – motifs take in everything from Mt Fuji to musical notes and skeletons – can be used as decorative art, bath towels, scarves or gift wrap.

**DAIKANYAMA ADDRESS** Map p102 Shopping Mall

代官山アドレス・ディセ  
☎ 3461-5586; www.17dixsept.jp; 17-6 Daikanyamachō, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm; ㊟ Tōkyū Tōyoko Line to Daikanyama (north exit) Just northwest of Daikanyama Station, this small retail complex is notable for its

clever suspension bridges and four dozen or so designer boutiques selling clothing, eyewear and other sartorially stylish accessories. The open-air plaza is a treat on quiet afternoons, and weekends tend to be relatively free of mad throngs of shoppers.

**YEBISU GARDEN PLACE** Map p102 Shopping Mall

恵比寿ガーデンプレイス  
☎ 5423-7111; www.gardenplace.co.jp; 4-20-3 Ebisu, Shibuya-ku; ㊟ JR Yamanote Line to Ebisu (east exit to Skywalk)

This large mall has loads of upper-end shops and a basement full of good restaurants. Most of the wares here are the usual department store fare – high-quality, glitzy and somewhat characterless. But the lovely alfresco courtyard and the openness of the space are a welcome departure from crowded shopping districts.

## SHIBUYA

Shibuya is the fount of teen trendiness in Japan. If you're over 30 you might feel way too old, but just cruise and amuse yourself in the madness. Music shops and cheap, outrageous apparel are everywhere, as are the hip kids who come to primp and pose. At weekends, the street in front of the 109 Building closes to all but foot traffic.

**SHIBUYA 109** Map p106 Clothes  
渋谷109

Ichimarkyū; ☎ 3477-5111; www.shibuya109.jp, in Japanese; 2-29-1 Dōgenzaka, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 10am-9pm; ㊟ Shibuya (Hachikō exit) Tokyo's fad-obsessed fashionistas come to 109's circular tower for the season's freshest looks. Most of the clientele is girls under 20; the punk fabrics and wild designs reflect this – it's what kids are wearing on the street.

**TSUTSUMU FACTORY** Map p106 Craft  
包むファクトリー

☎ 5478-1330; www.tsutsumu.co.jp, in Japanese; 37-15 Udagawachō, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat; ㊟ JR Yamanote Line to Shibuya (Hachikō exit) It's the wrapping-paper centre of the packaging-excess capital: Tsutsumu, which translates into 'wrapping', carries hundreds of sorts of gorgeous *washi* as well as other kinds of paper, numerous greeting cards, and boxes.

## CLOTHING SIZES

### Women's clothing

Aus/UK	8	10	12	14	16	18
Europe	36	38	40	42	44	46
Japan	5	7	9	11	13	15
USA	6	8	10	12	14	16

### Women's shoes

Aus/USA	5	6	7	8	9	10
Europe	35	36	37	38	39	40
France only	35	36	38	39	40	42
Japan	22	23	24	25	26	27
UK	3½	4½	5½	6½	7½	8½

### Men's clothing

Aus	92	96	100	104	108	112
Europe	46	48	50	52	54	56
Japan	S	M	M	L		
UK/USA	35	36	37	38	39	40

### Men's shirts (collar sizes)

Aus/Japan	38	39	40	41	42	43
Europe	38	39	40	41	42	43
UK/USA	15	15½	16	16½	17	17½

### Men's shoes

Aus/UK	7	8	9	10	11	12
Europe	41	42	43	44½	46	47
Japan	26	27	27½	28	29	30
USA	7½	8½	9½	10½	11½	12½

Measurements approximate only; try before you buy

hand-blown glass pens and vibrating reflexology slippers. This is eight floors of oddball, functional stuff you never realised you needed. If you hit one store during your stay, let this be it. There's another huge store in Shinjuku's Takashimaya Times Square (Map p116).

### LOFT Map p106 Department Store & Homewares

ロフト

☎ 3462-3807; www.loft.co.jp, in Japanese; 21-1 Udagawachō, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 10am-9pm; ② Shibuya (Hachikō exit)

Loft's multiple levels of housewares, accessories, travel supplies and stationery are more compact than at Tōkyū Hands and, aimed towards younger shoppers, the bias leans towards fun and oddities. Stylish bedding and blob-shaped vases distract the shopper from titanium jewellery and trendy makeup before the *kawaii* (cute) plastic toys and mobile-phone charms do 'em in. Another branch is in Ikebukuro (Map p122).

### RANKING RANQUEEN

Map p106

Specialty Store

ランキンランキン

☎ 3770-5480; www.ranking-ranqueen.net, in Japanese; 2nd fl, Shibuya Station, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 10am-11.30pm; ② Shibuya

Come here to find what young Japanese are nuts about – the hottest, quirkiest consumer products, ranked every month according to sales. The No 1 selling teeth whitener? They've got it. The best-selling bath salts, bottled tea, cellulite killers and tools to make your face look smaller are all here too. Enjoy the madness.

## HARAJUKU & AOYAMA

Home to the famed Harajuku girls, Takeshita-dōri and the alleys packed with small, independent designers' shops and second-hand stores, Omote-sandō is the most eclectic, experimental neighbourhood in Tokyo. High fashion rules the Aoyama end of Omote-sandō, where 'fashionable' has an entirely different meaning than it has for the hipsters of Harajuku layering *haute couture* with second-hand finds. Creatively active but solidly established, Aoyama is grown-up, refined yet innovative. It's no wonder artistic designers and high fashion flagship stores have made this section of Tokyo their creative home.

## CLOTHING SIZES

### Women's clothing

Aus/UK	8	10	12	14	16	18
Europe	36	38	40	42	44	46
Japan	5	7	9	11	13	15
USA	6	8	10	12	14	16

### Women's shoes

Aus/USA	5	6	7	8	9	10
Europe	35	36	37	38	39	40
France only	35	36	38	39	40	42
Japan	22	23	24	25	26	27
UK	3½	4½	5½	6½	7½	8½

### Men's clothing

Aus	92	96	100	104	108	112
Europe	46	48	50	52	54	56
Japan	S	M	M	L		
UK/USA	35	36	37	38	39	40

### Men's shirts (collar sizes)

Aus/Japan	38	39	40	41	42	43
Europe	38	39	40	41	42	43
UK/USA	15	15½	16	16½	17	17½

### Men's shoes

Aus/UK	7	8	9	10	11	12
Europe	41	42	43	44½	46	47
Japan	26	27	27½	28	29	30
USA	7½	8½	9½	10½	11½	12½

Measurements approximate only; try before you buy

### PARCO Map p106

Department Store

パルコ

☎ 3464-5111; www.parco-shibuya.com; 15-1 Udagawachō, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 10am-9pm; ② Shibuya (Hachikō exit)

Parco, divided into several stores located smack in the middle of Shibuya, carries contemporary designs for a very young crowd. In Parco I, you'll find a good magazine and bookstore on the 7th floor and edgy shops on floors three through six. There's another Parco in Ikebukuro (Map p122).

### TŌKYŪ HANDS Map p106

Department Store

東急ハンズ

☎ 5489-5111; www.tokyu-hands.co.jp/shibuya.htm, in Japanese; 12-18 Udagawachō, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 10am-8.30pm; ② Shibuya (Hachikō exit)

This is Tokyo's favourite DIY store, with hardware and materials for home projects. What defines it is the sheer diversity of eccentric goodies: clocks that tick backwards,

### FUJI-TORII Map p110

Antiques

富士鳥居

☎ 3400-2777; www.fuji-torii.com; 6-1-10 Jingūmae, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 11am-6pm Wed-Mon, closed 3rd Mon of the month; ② JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku (Omote-sandō exit) or Chiyoda Line to Meiji-jingūmae (exit 4)

For more than half a century, this discriminating antique dealer has specialised in providing authentic lacquerware, ceramics, scrolls and *ukiyo-e* (wood-block prints) to interested buyers. Authenticity is guaranteed and there is also a helpful English-speaking staff.

### CHICAGO THRIFT STORE

Map p110

Clothes

シカゴ

☎ 3409-5017; www.chicago.co.jp, in Japanese; ☎ 11am-8pm; 6-31-21 Jingūmae, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm; ② JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku (Omote-sandō exit) or Chiyoda Line to Meiji-jingūmae (exit 4)

Stuffed to the rafters with funky hats, ties and coats, Chicago is a treasure trove of vintage clothing and used duds stacked

high and priced low. Of special note is the extensive collection of used kimono and *yukata* in the basement.

### HYSTERIC GLAMOUR Map p110

Clothes

ヒステリックグラマー

☎ 3409-7227; www.hystericglamour.jp, in Japanese; 6-23-2 Jingūmae, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm; ② JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku (Omote-sandō exit) or Chiyoda Line to Meiji-jingūmae (exits 1 & 4)

It's actually tongue-in-cheek rather than hysteric glamour, but whatever you want to call it, it's sexy and fun. These designer confections are a good place to start for hip fashion with a Tokyo twist. There's even a toddler line, the ultimate in designer punk for your little rocker.

### UNIQLO Map p110

Clothes

ユニクロ

☎ 5468-7313; www.uniqlo.com; 6-10-8 Jingūmae, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 11am-9pm; ② Chiyoda Line to Meiji-jingūmae (exits 1 & 4)

Like *Muji* (p137), Uniqlo has made a name for itself by sticking to the basics. Offering inexpensive, quality clothing with clean,

## BOOKSHOPS

From manga to ancient manuscripts, Tokyo is a book lover's paradise. Japanese are voracious readers and are spoilt for choice when it comes to literature shops. Here are some notable retailers dealing in English and Japanese books.

**Blue Parrot** (Map p122; ☎ 3202-3671; www.blueparrottokyo.com; 3rd fl, 2-14-10 Takadanobaba, Shinjuku-ku; ☎ 11am-9.30pm; ② JR Yamanote Line to Takadanobaba, Waseda exit) A fabulous resource of English books, magazines, DVDs, children's books and internet access.

**Good Day Books** (Map p102; ☎ 5421-0957; www.gooddaybooks.com; 3rd fl, 1-11-2 Ebisu, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm Sun; ② JR Yamanote Line to Ebisu, east exit) The best selection of used English-language books in Tokyo, with a wide range of paperbacks, hardcovers and magazines.

**Issei-do** (Map p68; 一誠堂書店 ☎ 3292-0071; www.isseido-books.co.jp; 1-7 Kanda-Jimbōchō, Chiyoda-ku; ☎ 10am-6.30pm Mon-Sat; ② Toei Mita or Toei Shinjuku Line to Jimbōchō, exits A6 & A7) An antiquarian bookseller, this one with a wonderful selection of old texts. The 2nd floor has many well-weathered volumes in English.

**Kinokuniya** (Map p116; 紀伊國屋書店 ☎ 5361-3301; www.kinokuniya.co.jp; Takashimaya Times Square, 5-24-2 Sendagaya, Shinjuku-ku; ☎ 10am-8pm; ② Shinjuku, south exit) One of the best selections of English-language titles on the 6th floor, with another nearby branch east of Shinjuku Station.

**Mandarake** (off Map pp48-9; まんだらけ ☎ 3228-0007; www.mandarake.co.jp; 5-52-15 Nakano, Nakano-ku; ☎ noon-8pm; ② JR Chūō Line to Nakano, west exit) A must-stop for manga maniacs, Mandarake has more than a dozen shops spread throughout the Nakano Broadway mall. There are also branches in **Shibuya** (Map p106; ☎ 3477-0777; B2 fl, Shibuya Beam Bldg, 31-2 Udagawachō, Shibuya-ku; ☎ noon-8pm; ② Shibuya, Hachikō exit) and **Ikebukuro** (Map p122; ☎ 5928-0771; B1 fl, Lions Mansion Ikebukuro, 3-15-2 Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm; ② Ikebukuro, east exit).

**Maruzen** (Map pp52-3; 丸善 ☎ 6214-2001; 2-3-10 Nihombashi, Chūō-ku; ☎ 9.30am-8.30pm; ② Ginza Line to Nihombashi (B3 exit)) Established in 1869, this is Japan's oldest Western bookshop (recently rebuilt) and has one of the best selections of English-language books in Tokyo. Its founder is said to have invented Japanese curried rice – there's a restaurant serving the dish here.

simple style, this chain has taken Tokyo by typhoon. You'll find the original outpost in Omote-sandō, and you'll stumble over dozens more all over town. Sizes run small.

### ORIENTAL BAZAAR Map p110 Craft

オリエンタルバザー

☎ 3400-3933; 5-9-13 Jingūmae, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 10am-7pm Fri-Wed; ㊤ Chiyoda Line to Meiji-jingūmae (exit 4)

Carrying a wide selection of antiques and tourist items at very reasonable prices, Oriental Bazaar is an excellent spot for easy one-stop souvenir shopping. Good gifts to be found here include fans, folding screens, pottery, porcelain and kimono. The branch at Narita Airport opens at 7.30am for last-chance purchases.

### A BATHING APE Map p110 Designer Wear

ア・ベイシング・エイプ

☎ 3407-2145; www.bape.com; 5-5-8 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku; ☎ 11am-7pm; ㊤ Chiyoda, Ginza or Hanzōmon Line to Omote-sandō (exit A4)

This A Bathing Ape Exclusive outlet of the uber-hip urban and hip-hop outfitter line is more like a museum than a shop, with fab sneakers on a rotating steel conveyor belt, mirrored surfaces and lots of sparkle. You can pick up Bape plastic models and some of the coolest bags in town.

### COMME DES GARÇONS Map p110 Designer Wear

コム・デ・ギャルソン

☎ 3406-3951; 5-2-1 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm; ㊤ Chiyoda, Ginza or Hanzōmon Line to Omote-sandō (exit A5)

The architectural eccentricity of Kawakubo Rei's flagship store (see also p113) should come as no surprise – her radical designs have been refiguring the fashion landscape for more than 20 years. Both men's and women's fashions are on display. Most available sizes are quite small, but a quick circuit of the shop is interesting in itself.

### ISSEY MIYAKE Map p110 Designer Wear

三宅一生

☎ 3423-1407; www.isseymiyake.com; 3-18-11 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm; ㊤ Chiyoda, Ginza or Hanzōmon Line to Omote-sandō (exit A4)

Before Issey Miyake put Tokyo on the fashion map, Japanese designers were known

to copy Western trends after they'd already hit the runway. Miyake's work has changed such conceptions. Check out the A-POC garments – each made from a single piece of fabric.

### YOHJI YAMAMOTO Map p110 Designer Wear

山本耀司

☎ 3409-6006; www.yohjiyamamoto.co.jp; 5-3-6 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm; ㊤ Chiyoda, Ginza or Hanzōmon Line to Omote-sandō (exit A5)

Wander down Omote-sandō to check out Yohji Yamamoto's bold, timeless designs. Though there's no sign on it, his flagship store is recognisable by its distinctive bronze façade, which you'll want to get past for a look at the experimental interior.

### TAKESHITA-DŌRI Map p110 Market

竹下通り

㊤ JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku (Takeshita-dōri exit)

If you're struck with a sudden urge to fit into one of Tokyo's youth subcultures, passing through the flowered arches of Takeshita-dōri will reveal all you need. You'll find salons to pouf your hair into a gigantic fro, white platform Mary Janes to go with your bloody nurse's outfit and creative inspiration from the teen tribes.

### SPIRAL RECORDS Map p110 Music

スパイラルレコード

☎ 3498-1224; www.spiral.co.jp, in Japanese; ☎ 11am-8pm; 5-6-23 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku; ㊤ Chiyoda, Ginza or Hanzōmon Line to Omote-sandō (exit B1)

Located just inside the entrance of the Spiral building, Spiral Records is both a vendor and an experimental label. The listening stations feature avant-garde tunes both new and old. The staff spins records while you browse.

### LAFORET BUILDING Map p110 Shopping Mall

ラフォーレビル

☎ 3475-0411; 1-11-6 Jingūmae, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm; ㊤ JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku (Omote-sandō exit) or Chiyoda Line to Meiji-jingūmae (exit 5)

This rounded '70s edifice must be the teen shopping capital of the world. The mall's hundreds of shops sell the trendiest garb,

meant to be worn for a fleeting season and then tossed into the trash. Sizes here fit tiny Tokyo teens, so unless you're very petite, this will be a window-shopping, people-watching venture.

### CONDOMANIA Map p110 Speciality Store

コンドマニア

☎ 3797-6131; condomania.jp; 6-30-1 Jingūmae, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 10.30am-10.30pm Mon-Thu, 10am-11pm Fri-Sun; ㊤ Chiyoda, Ginza or Hanzōmon Line to Omote-sandō (exit A5)

Occupying a prime corner of the Omote-sandō and Meiji-dōri intersection, the Condomania storefront may be Tokyo's cheekiest rendezvous point. Inside are condoms of all colours, sizes and flavours.

### UNDERCOVER Map p110 Streetwear

アンダーカパー

☎ 3407-1232; 5-3-18 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku; ☎ 11am-8pm; ㊤ Chiyoda, Ginza or Hanzōmon Line to Omote-sandō (exit A5)

Former punk band frontman Jun Takahashi's take on youth-minded streetwear is still crazy after all this time. His Undercover Lab, designed by architect Astrid Klein, is just up from Yohji Yamamoto (opposite).

### KIDDYLAND Map p110 Toy Shop

キディランド

☎ 3409-3431; 6-1-9 Jingūmae, Shibuya-ku; ☎ 10am-9pm; ㊤ Chiyoda Line to Meiji-jingūmae (exit 4)

Six floors of appealing products for your children to fall in lust with and which you

may still be paying for next year. In fact, you yourself may be seduced by plastic-bobbled barrettes, Pokémon paraphernalia or nostalgia-inducers like Hello Kitty or Ultraman. Claustrophobes should avoid the store at weekends when it teems with teens.

## SHINJUKU

Shopping in Shinjuku can be a little overwhelming. From the moment you step out of the train station (ringed by malls and department stores), the lights and noise make the whole place seem like the interior of a bustling casino. But there are some great shops amid all the chaos, and you can find just about anything your heart desires here. Two branches of the Kinokuniya bookstore (see p143 & p119) are here, as is stately Isetan, one of Tokyo's most revered department stores, which caters to the young set. It is also a great place to come to shop for electronics if you're not motivated to trek all the way to Akihabara.

### SEKAIDŌ Map p116 Art Supplies

世界堂

☎ 5379-1111; www.sekaido.co.jp, in Japanese; 3-1-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku; ☎ 9.30am-9pm; ㊤ Marunouchi or Toei Shinjuku Line to Shinjuku-sanchōme (exit C1)

To the east of Shinjuku Station, Sekaidō, whose entrance is marked by a banner depicting the *Mona Lisa*, sells a broad array of art supplies such as pens, brushes and easels, as well as fine paper and a vast selection of manga.

## EVERYWHERE VENDORS

Japan has the largest number of vending machines in the world – 5.5 million and counting – and they suck in nearly \$60 billion yearly. They are remarkable for both their ubiquity – they can be found everywhere from bullet trains to desolate rural villages to the slopes of Mt Fuji – and their variety. They dispense almost every consumer product conceivable: from cigarettes to sake, rice, popcorn, hamburgers, hot noodles, pornography, sex toys, bouquets, kerosene, toilet paper, fishing tackle, horseracing bets, travel insurance and underwear. Even, legends say, used underwear (for fetishists). Where do they all come from? Probably the best answer was from a newspaper cartoonist who drew a giant Japanese vending machine dispensing – you guessed it – vending machines.

Tsutomu Washizu, author of *Jidōhanbaiki no Bunkashi* (The Cultural History of Vending Machines) has suggested that the Japanese love of convenience and automation has fuelled their popularity – that's also why industrial robots are big in Japan. While the spread of online shopping, courier services and convenience stores has taken some wind out of their sails, vending machines in Japan are set to go high-tech: they will require special IDs from tobacco and alcohol purchasers to prevent underage sales, and onboard cameras will alert police to vandalism or theft. But do these quiet, fluorescent providers also address a deeper social need among a population that is constrained by rigid social hierarchies and protocols every day? Says Takashi Kurosaki, director-general of the Japan Vending Machine Manufacturers Association: 'People clearly want to purchase things without having to talk to others.'

## ISETAN

Map p116

Department Store

伊勢丹

☎ 3352-1111; [www.isetan.co.jp](http://www.isetan.co.jp); 3-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku; ☎ 10am-8pm; ㊟ Marunouchi or Toei Shinjuku Line to Shinjuku-sanchōme (exits B3, B4 & B5)

In addition to its stunning food hall in the basement, Isetan boasts an excellent *yukata* department as well as several floors of designer goods. Check out the store's I-club, a free service that provides English-speaking staff for visiting shoppers. The membership desk for this service is located on the 7th floor of the Isetan annex building.

## DISK UNION

Map p116

Music

ディスクユニオン

☎ 3352-2691; [www.diskunion.co.jp](http://www.diskunion.co.jp), in Japanese; 3-31-4 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku; ☎ 11am-9pm; ㊟ Shinjuku (central east exit)

The stairwell at Disk Union is papered with posters of old glam and punk bands. The place is known by local audiophiles as Tokyo's best used CD and vinyl store. Six storeys carry a variety of musical styles. There's a shop in the Jimbōchō area (Map p68) as well.

## SAKURAYA

Map p116

Photography/Electronics

さくらや

☎ 3352-4711; [www.sakuraya.co.jp](http://www.sakuraya.co.jp), in Japanese; 3-26-10 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku; ☎ 10am-10pm; ㊟ Shinjuku (central east exit)

With a few branches around Shinjuku, this is main rival to [Yodobashi Camera](#) (see below). Like Yodobashi, it offers an incredible selection of lenses and digital cameras, and prices are similar at both shops.

## YODOBASHI CAMERA

Map p116

Photography/Electronics

ヨドバシカメラ

☎ 3346-1010; [www.yodobashi.com](http://www.yodobashi.com), in Japanese; 1-11-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku; ☎ 9.30am-10pm; ㊟ Shinjuku (west exit)

Yodobashi is Tokyo's largest and most highly regarded camera emporium, but in addition it also carries loads of computers and other electronics. Its prices are very competitive and tourists are waived Japanese consumption tax if a valid passport is shown.

## IKEBUKURO

Prices on everyday commodities like eyeglasses may be slightly cheaper in Ikebukuro – come here to buy no-frills stuff, not Prada. Ikebukuro has big department stores, but it's never quite taken off as a shopping destination. What it is good for is bargains on wares you'll find in other parts of the city. If you're an anime or manga fan, check out the shops along Otome Rd by the Sunshine City complex (see [Mandarake](#), p143).

## JAPAN TRADITIONAL CRAFT CENTER

Map p122

Craft

伝統的工芸品館

☎ 5954-6066; [www.kougei.or.jp/english/center.html](http://www.kougei.or.jp/english/center.html); 1st & 2nd fl, Metropolitan Plaza Bldg, 1-11-1 Nishi-Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku; ☎ 11am-7pm; ㊟ Ikebukuro (Metropolitan exit)

Though this spot bills itself as a museum (p123) it's primarily a shop that carries traditional crafts in a variety of media. Lacquerwork, ceramics, natural-bristle paintbrushes and knives are on display and for sale.

## SEIBU

Map p122

Department Store

西武百貨店

☎ 3981-0111; [www2.seibu.co.jp](http://www2.seibu.co.jp) in Japanese; 1-28-1 Minami-Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku; ☎ 10am-9pm Mon-Sat, 10am-8pm Sun; ㊟ Ikebukuro station (east exit)

One of the original big two of Ikebukuro's department stores, Seibu occupies a huge block on the east side of Ikebukuro station and purveys all the usuals, with an impressive *depachika* for the foodies.

## TÔBU

Map p122

Department Store

東武百貨店

☎ 3981-2211; [www.tobu-dept.jp](http://www.tobu-dept.jp); 1-1-25 Nishi-Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku; ☎ 10am-8pm; ㊟ Ikebukuro (west exit)

This is one of Ikebukuro's two big department stores, and has a whopping 15 floors. Of particular note are the larger-than-average-sized togs (by Tokyo standards) to be found in the central building. This doesn't mean an availability of plus sizes, but that some items will be larger than a typical small.

## HMV

Map p122

Music

☎ 5953-6711; [www.hmv.co.jp](http://www.hmv.co.jp); 3rd fl, 1-22-10 Higashi-Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku; ☎ 10.30am-10.30pm; ㊟ Ikebukuro (east exit)

HMV has branches all over Tokyo, but this one in the Humax Pavilion Ikebukuro

## ANTIQUA FAIRS & FLEA MARKETS

After days of white-gloved attendants in Tokyo's perfectly ordered department stores, one longs for the colourful anarchy and dust of a good flea market. Tokyo has loads of flea markets and antique fairs, many held on temple or shrine grounds, where you can spend hours among the bric-a-brac. Don't get your hopes up about finding treasures, however, for gone are the days when astute buyers could cart off antique *tansu* (wooden chests) or virtuoso lacquerware worth thousands of dollars. Things to look for include old kimono, *obi* (belts used to fasten kimono), scrolls, pottery, old Japanese postcards, Chinese snuff bottles, antique toys and costume jewellery. Though bargaining is permitted, remember that it's considered bad form to drive too hard a bargain. If your Japanese is lacking, bring a pencil and paper.

The following are some of Tokyo's better flea markets and antique fairs. Check with the Asakusa Tourist Information Center (TIC, p255) before going, as shrine and temple events sometimes interfere with the scheduling of markets. There are also comprehensive listings in Japanese at [www.kottouichi.jp](http://www.kottouichi.jp).

**Azabu-jūban Antique Market** (Map pp96-7; ☎ from 8am 1st Sat of the month; ㊟ Namboku or Toei Ōedo Line to Azabu-jūban) This flea market is held in the public square a block west of Azabu-jūban Station.

**Hanazono-jinja Flea Market** (Map p116; 花園神社青空骨董市 ☎ dawn-dusk Sun; ㊟ Marunouchi or Shinjuku Line to Shinjuku-sanchōme, exit B3 or B5) A good mix of old and new feature at this market, ranging from antique ceramics to new junk jewellery and used *yukata* (light cotton summer kimono).

**Nogi-jinja Flea Market** (Map p92; 乃木神社古民具骨董市 ☎ dawn-dusk 2nd Sun of the month; ㊟ Chiyoda Line to Nogizaka, main exit) The place to go for *ukiyo-e* (wood-block prints) and antiques from Asia and Europe.

**Roppongi Antique Fair** (Map pp96-7; ☎ 8am-7pm 4th Thu & Fri of the month; ㊟ Hibiya or Toei Ōedo Line to Roppongi, exit 3) Another antique market that happens rain or shine; find good ceramics and quality dealers here.

**Tōgō-jinja Fine Arts Market** (Map p110; 東郷の杜能美の市 ☎ 4am-3pm 1st, 4th & 5th Sun of the month; ㊟ JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku, Takeshita exit) Rummage through this trove of authentic antique wares and kimono, and odds and ends of various vintages.

building is probably the best for its focus on J-pop and other contemporary Japanese music. Try the branch in the Ikebukuro Metropolitan Plaza for classical.

## BIC CAMERA

Map p122

Photography/Electronics

ビックカメラ

☎ 3988-0002; [www.biccamera.com](http://www.biccamera.com), in Japanese; 1-1-3 Higashi-Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku; ☎ 10am-9pm; ㊟ Ikebukuro (east exit)

Bic Camera carries lots of delicious food for shutterbugs. Bins of bargain film can be found in front and a variety of Japanese cameras are on display. The top floors stock a fairly extensive array of audio and video equipment, most of it at prices comparable to those in Akihabara (see p67). There are four other Bic stores in the neighbourhood.

## ODAIBA

Odaiba was designed as an entertainment and shopping mecca, so it should come as no surprise that two of its main attractions are malls with views over the water. You'll find both big-name designers and small shops here. Venus Fort is worth a peek to take in its timed sunrise and sunset (artificial, of course).

## DECKS TOKYO BEACH

Map p131

Shopping Mall

デッキス東京ビーチお台場

☎ 3599-6500; [www.odaiba-decks.com](http://www.odaiba-decks.com); 1-6-1 Daiba, Minato-ku; ☎ 11am-9pm; ㊟ Yurikamome Line to Odaiba Kaihin-kōen (main exit)

Decks is divided into two malls, Island and Seaside. Both house a rainy day's worth of browsing, and if you're hungering for Chinese food, the Island Mall boasts Daiba Little Hong Kong. There's also Tokyo Joyopolis, a high-tech amusement park run by Sega, with virtual reality games and indoor roller-coasters.

## VENUS FORT

Map p131

Shopping Mall

お台場ヴィーナスフォート

☎ 3599-1735; [www.venusfort.co.jp/multi/index\\_e.html](http://www.venusfort.co.jp/multi/index_e.html); 1 Aomi, Minato-ku; ☎ 11am-9pm Sun-Fri, 11am-10pm Sat; ㊟ Yurikamome to Aomi (main exit) or Rinkai Line to Tokyo Teleport (main exit)

Shopping officially became recreation when Venus Fort declared itself a retail theme park just for women. The faux Italian Villa and the staged sunrise and sunset every few hours add to the idea. Among the hundreds of shops, Gaultier has opened an outlet here, as has Donna Karan.

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