

Exploring Tokyo

The Economic and Cultural Center of Japan

英語で読む東京



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Special Edition

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読み始める前に

東京は言わずと知れた日本の首都で、日本経済の中心、そして文化の発信地でもあります。歴史や交通、見どころ満載の本書を読んで、英語でその魅力を感じてみましょう。



東京都の都章

東京都基本情報

都庁所在地：新宿区

面積：2,194.07km² (47都道府県中45番目・2020年)

人口：約1,400万人 (47都道府県中1番目・2020年)

東京都の花：ソメイヨシノ *Somei-Yoshino*

東京都の木：イチョウ *Ginkgo*

東京都の鳥：ユリカモメ *Black-headed Gull*

気候と地形：東京都は、関東平野の南西に位置する内陸部と、東京湾から南方洋上に分布する島嶼部から成り立っています。内陸部は東西約85km、南北約25kmと細長く、東京23区(区部)と多摩地域に大別されます。区部の東は、隅田川、荒川、江戸川などの河口部に沖積平野が広がり、南の多摩川沿いは低地です。多摩川の北側は武蔵野台地、南側は多摩丘陵で、都の西部は関東山地の一部にあたります。島嶼部は火山活動によって形成された伊豆諸島と小笠原諸島があり、南北約1,200kmにわたります。

気候は四季の変化が明瞭で、夏季は高温多湿に、冬季は晴れて空気が乾燥します。

冬場の多摩地域は区部より気温が下がり、大雪になることもあります。伊豆諸島は一年を通して寒暖の差が小さく、小笠原諸島には梅雨がありません。

姉妹友好都市：アメリカ・ニューヨーク市、中国・北京、フランス・パリ、オーストラリア・ニューサウスウェールズ州、韓国・ソウル特別市、インドネシア・ジャカルタ特別市、ブラジル・サンパウロ州、エジプト・カイロ県、ロシア・モスクワ、ドイツ・ベルリン、イタリア・ローマ、イギリス・ロンドンの12都市と、都市行政・芸術・スポーツ・科学技術などの幅広い交流を行っています。



Chapter 1

Tokyo, an Overview



Skyscrapers and Mt. Fuji (top),
Sumida-gawa River (bottom)

【東京都の概要】

東京都は日本全国で3番目に小さい都道府県ですが、日本の人口の10%以上が暮らしており、周辺地域を含めて世界最大の都市圏を形成しています。その経済規模はニューヨーク都市圏よりも大きく、日本、そして世界経済の中心都市です。東京から首都圏へ複雑に広がる鉄道網は、日々通勤・通学する無数の人々を運び、主要駅の1日の乗降客数は世界に類を見ない多さとなっています。

●わからない語は巻末のワードリストで確認しましょう。

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> adjacent | <input type="checkbox"/> suburb | <input type="checkbox"/> humidity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> leisure | <input type="checkbox"/> complicated | <input type="checkbox"/> hub |
| <input type="checkbox"/> metropolis | <input type="checkbox"/> skyscraper | |

●主な地名および名称、固有名詞

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Tokyo Area | 大東京圏, 首都圏 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kanto Plain | 関東平野 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tokyo Bay | 東京湾 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tama Region | 多摩地域 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chiba Prefecture | 千葉県 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saitama Prefecture | 埼玉県 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yamanashi Prefecture | 山梨県 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kanagawa Prefecture | 神奈川県 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Izu Islands | 伊豆諸島 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonin Islands | ボニン諸島 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ogasawara Islands | 小笠原諸島 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sumida-gawa River | 隅田川 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tama-gawa River | 多摩川 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edo-gawa River | 江戸川 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ara-kawa River | 荒川 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kanda-gawa River | 神田川 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imperial Palace | 皇居 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edo Castle | 江戸城 |

Population and economy

What comes to mind when you think of Tokyo?

A global economic and cultural center, the world's largest city, or a high-tech wonderland? It's all of these, and more. Let's take a closer look. There are over nine million people in the city's twenty-three wards (each of which is governed as a separate city within Tokyo), and if we count the adjacent cities as well, the Greater Tokyo Area has a combined population of over thirty-five million.

Without question, Tokyo is the economic and cultural center of Japan. As you may know, Japan is the world's third-largest economy. And the Greater Tokyo Area's GDP is the sixteenth largest in the world, right behind the nation of Russia. No other city has an economy as big as Tokyo's. It produced \$US 1.6 trillion worth of goods and services in 2016, ahead of the number

two city, New York, which generated \$US 1.7 trillion.

Now you see why Tokyo is sometimes called a “monster city.”

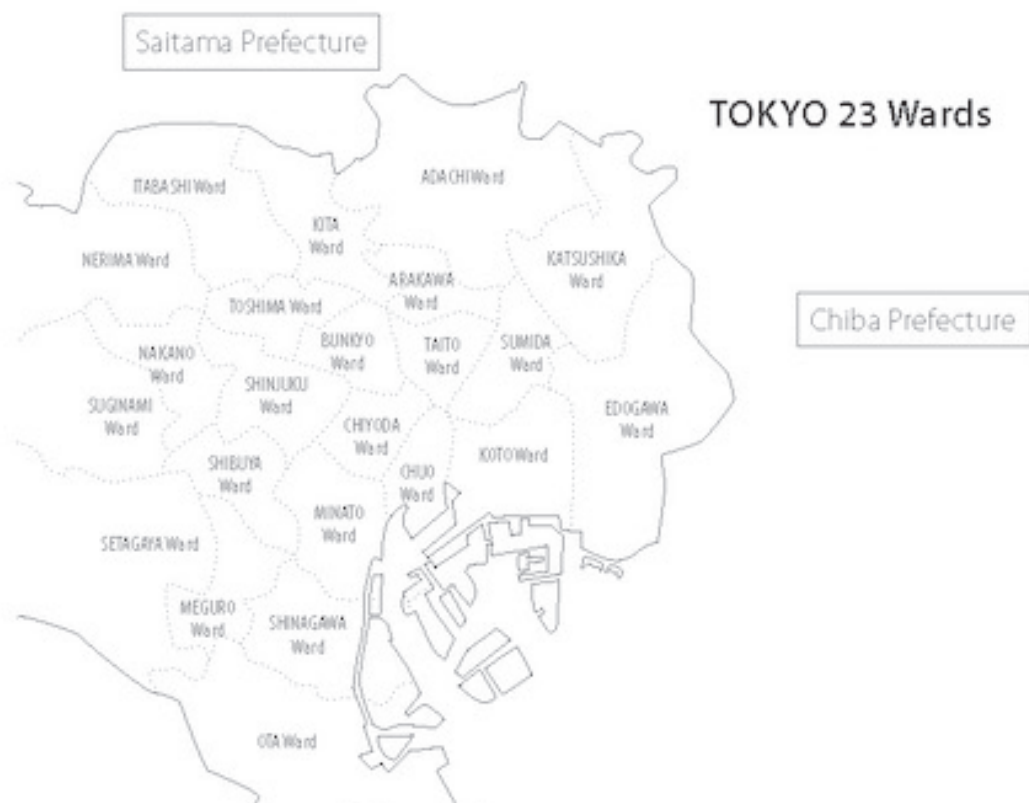
Geography

Tokyo is much more than just tall buildings and crowded streets. There are also mountains,



forests, and even tropical islands. It is located in a large, flat area known as the Kanto Plain on the south coast of Honshu, Japan's main island.

The heart of the city are the twenty-three wards, which look a little like a fan spreading out from the east side of Tokyo Bay. These are home to the city's most famous areas, including Ginza, Akihabara, and Shinjuku. However, if

TOKYO


you continue heading west, there are twenty-six cities, five towns, and eight villages on the east side that are known as the Tama Region. These suburbs are where many of the city's workers live, enjoying larger homes and fresh air along the rail lines that lead into Tokyo.

The city is bordered by Chiba Prefecture to the east, Saitama Prefecture to the north, Yamanashi Prefecture to the west, and Kanagawa Prefecture to the south.

In addition to the twenty-three wards and the Tama Region, there are two island chains that are also officially part of Tokyo. The Izu Islands are often known as the “Seven Islands of Izu,” although there are actually more than a dozen of them. Farther south are the Bonin Islands, which are more commonly known as the Ogasawara Islands. Both groups of islands are a popular vacation spot for Tokyo residents who want to enjoy sunshine, beaches, and

swimming, surfing, or scuba-diving.

Tokyo's two largest rivers are the Sumida-gawa River, which flows from north to south into Tokyo Bay, and the Tama-gawa River, which flows from west to east. Other important waterways are the Edo-gawa, Ara-kawa, and Kanda-gawa Rivers.

Climate

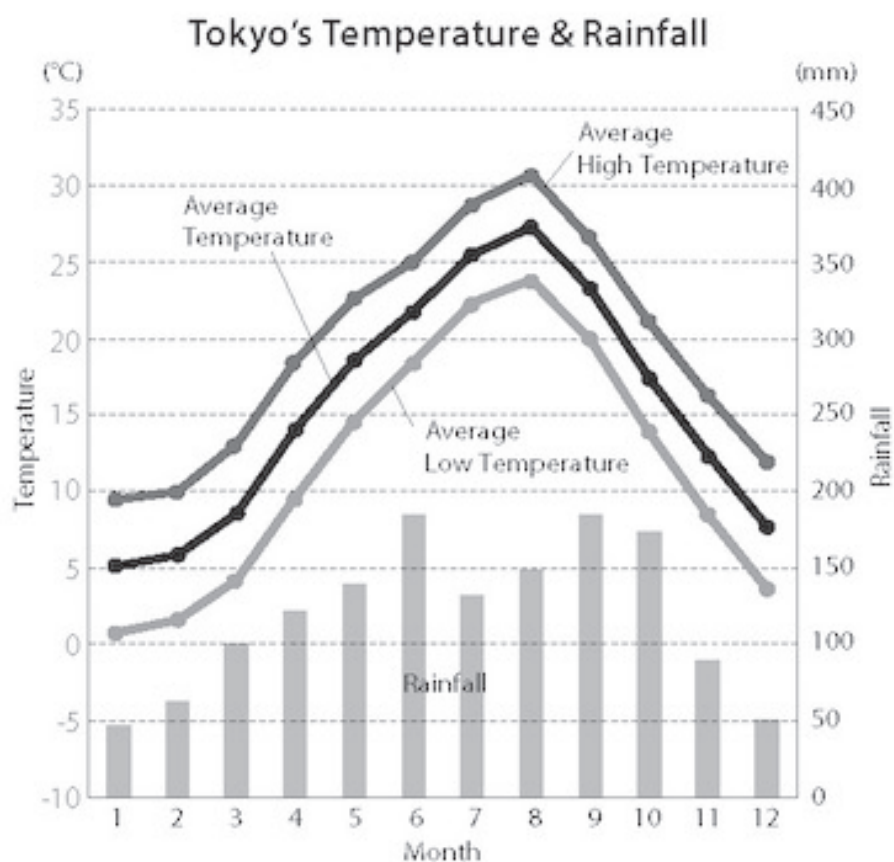
Most people say the best time to visit Tokyo is in the late spring or early summer from April to early June, or in the autumn between September and late November, but there is really no season that is not a good time to visit.

Tokyo's winters are mild, and snow is rare, especially in the twenty-three wards. The cold season lasts from late November until early March, but the weather is generally sunny.

As temperatures begin to rise in March, Tokyo's cherry blossoms begin to bloom, usually

around the end of the month. After that, the people of Tokyo enjoy some of the city's best weather in April, May, and early June, with sunny skies and warm temperatures.

The city's rainy season usually lasts from mid-June to late July, and although there can be many rainy days, sightseeing can still be enjoyable if



you plan your visits to indoor attractions for the wet-weather days.

Summer follows from late July to early September. While the temperatures and humidity levels do get high, nearly all businesses and residences are air-conditioned.

Fall is the time to see Tokyo's incredible autumn colors, and the leaves are usually most beautiful in mid-November. If you arrive earlier, though, it is possible to see them in the mountains on the west side of the city.

Transportation

Tokyo's incredible public transportation system is essential to its economic, social, and leisure activities.

There are 84 train lines and more than 1,500 stations in the Greater Tokyo Area. During the morning and evening rush hours, the huge population moves back and forth

between the city's business centers and people's homes using the complicated network of commuter trains that links almost every area of the city like a giant spiderweb.



Oshiya

Once there were station employees called *oshiya*, or passenger pushers, at the major stations, and it was their job to push people into the crowded train cars. Although we barely see such chaos these days, countless passengers arrive at the major transportation hubs each day on their way to and from work.

The center of Tokyo?

If you ask where the center of Tokyo is, you may be told that it's the Imperial Palace, which is built on the site of Edo Castle. It is located literally in the center of Tokyo, very near Tokyo Station. However, there are more than ten

business centers in this metropolis. And each business center is a hub for commuter trains and subways.

At night such business centers change their look. They shine brightly with the illumination and neon signs of the restaurants and *izakaya*, or traditional Japanese pubs, located in the valleys created by the city's skyscrapers.

Even though Tokyo is a relatively young city with a short history compared with Kyoto and Osaka, it has already become Japan's cultural hub.

Now let's start exploring the rich history of this metropolis.