



Japan Journal

One day sample of the Japan Journal.

Day	Dates	City
Day 1		
Day 2	Sample day	Tokyo
Day 3		
Day 4		
Day 5		
Day 6		
Day 7		
Day 8		
Day 9		
Day 10		
Day 11		

Day 2 - Tokyo

date

Please always have your JR Passes and Tokyo 72h tickets with you.

When to use which pass? When traveling on subways and trains in Tokyo, you will need to use the passes depending on the line. If you see the **JR sign** at the automated gates, please show your JR Pass to the staff, they will let you through. Otherwise, use your **Tokyo 72h tickets**.

Breakfast

Make your way to **Harajuku Station** to have breakfast there.

Recommended breakfast places around Harajuku Station:

- [danish Bar](#) from 10:30am (coffee, pastries on the go)
- [Sarutahiko Coffee The Bridge](#) from 8am (coffee, hot cake, bread)
- [CAFÉ Mori no Terrace](#) from 9am (coffee, sandwiches)

1) Meiji Jingu

How to get there - [directions from your accommodation]

From **Harajuku Station**, make your way towards **Meiji Jingu** (follow signs for **West Exit, Meiji Jingu**). You will see the [Ichino Torii](#) which marks the entrance towards Meiji Jingu.

About

Meiji Shrine is located in an evergreen forest that covers an area of 70 hectares (170 acres) and consists of 120,000 trees of 365 different species, which were donated by people from all parts of Japan when the shrine was established.

Meiji Shrine is a Shinto shrine dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shōken.

- **Main Shrine Buildings:** The main shrine complex consists of several structures made primarily of cypress wood, reflecting traditional Japanese architecture. The buildings are grand and impressive, and you can admire their intricate designs and peaceful atmosphere.
- **Prayers and Offerings:** Meiji Jingu is a popular place for worship and prayer. Purchase a wooden plaques called "ema" and write their wishes or prayers on them, then hang them at designated spots within the shrine grounds. There are also opportunities to make offerings and pay respects at the main hall.
- **Cultural Events:** It's usual to see Japanese weddings taking place at Meiji. If you do, follow the instructions by the staff, keep a respectful distance and of course take pictures from afara, without flash.

2) Takeshita Street

How to get there - [Google Maps](#)

From **Meiji Jingu** make your way back to the **West Exit** and enter the subway station. Exit on the opposite side, via the **East Exit**. Follow your map directions towards **Takeshita Street**.

About

Takeshita Street is known as a center of youth culture and fashion trends in Tokyo. It's lined with numerous shops, boutiques, cafes, and fast food restaurants. It is particularly popular among teenagers and young adults who are interested in alternative fashion, cosplay, and unique merchandise.

Shops on Takeshita Street offer a wide range of fashion products, such as trendy clothing, accessories, cosmetics, and street wear. You can find various styles, from lolita fashion to punk and gothic, as well as pop culture-themed merchandise. Additionally, there are shops selling crepes, sweets, and snacks, making it a popular spot for indulging in delicious treats.

Lunch

At a restaurant: Unless its street food, a cafe or food on the go, the usual process is to wait to be seated, place your order, eat your food, and then pay at the counter near the exit. **There is no need to tip, as it's considered rude.** Prices on the menus might exclude tax, which can add a few hundred yen to the final bill.

Recommended lunch places around Takeshita Street:

- (Recommended) [Maisen Aoyama](#) - This is my top recommendation for lunch in Harajuku as it's one of the best **Tonkatsu** (pork cutlet) restaurants in Tokyo. It's just 10 minutes walk from Takeshita street. The restaurant has several, high-quality pork options on the menu. There's almost always a queue, but it usually goes fast and well worth the wait.
- [Ramen](#) - Known for their yuzu-infused **ramen**, Afuri Ramen is a popular ramen chain with a location in Harajuku. It's light, citrusy and so delicious. A fantastic experience for ramen enthusiasts.
- [Gyoza](#) - If you're after delicious, affordable **gyoza** (Japanese dumplings), Harajuku Gyoza Lou is a must-visit. Enjoy pan-fried and steamed gyoza. Yum!
- **Desserts** - Harajuku crepes are very popular as they are full of colours and fun. Try them from [Marion Crepes](#) or [Santa Monica Crepes](#). For something even more colourful head to [Totti Candy Factory](#) (2nd floor) to get a large rainbow candy floss.

3) Omotesando

How to get there - [Google Maps](#)

10 minute walk from **Takeshita street** to **Omotesando**.

About

Omotesando is known for its upscale shopping streets, trendy boutiques, stylish architecture, and vibrant atmosphere.

The main feature of Omotesando is its broad, tree-lined avenue, also called Omotesando Avenue. The avenue stretches about a mile and is lined with zelkova trees that provide shade.

Recommended shops around Omotesando:

- [Tokyu Plaza Omotesando Harajuku](#) - Go to floor 6, for Omohara Forest. There is a Starbucks there (great for strawberry cake). The main feature is the outdoor roof garden with seating areas and lovely views of the Harajuku district from above. On clear days, you can spot Mount Fuji in the distance, above the city skyline.
- [Gyre](#) - Shopping mall that houses some very interesting shops and art galleries. Head to Tamitu (basement level) for a coffee made with with unique floral honey. The 4th floor has a very unusual concept with steps and earthy walls. For great souvenirs (such as the Yayoi Kusama pumpkin) head to the 3rd floor for the MoMA Design Store.
- [imperfect](#) - A chocolate and cafe store that sells incredible chocolate bars and ice creams.

4) Shibuya Crossing

How to get there - [Google Maps](#)

From **Omotesando**, walk to the **Omotesando Station** ([Google Maps](#)).

Pick up the remaining Tokyo 72h Tickets

Please pick up the remaining **8 x Tokyo 72h tickets**, 2 for each of you. See instructions on how to pick up the tickets at the machine.

Once you have the tickets, take the subway for 3 minutes (**Omote-Sando Station** to **Shibuya Station**, use the Hanzomon Line or Ginza Line).

To exit the station, follow signs for EXIT A8.

4.1) Hachiko Statue

How to get there - [Google Maps](#)

Hachiko was an Akita dog known for his unwavering loyalty. He waited at Shibuya Station every day for nearly 10 years after his owner's passing. Hachiko's story touched hearts worldwide, and a bronze statue was erected in his honor near the station. The statue serves

as a symbol of loyalty and is a popular meeting spot in Shibuya.

4.2) The Shibuya Pedestrian Scramble

How to get there - [Google Maps](#)

Shibuya Crossing is the busiest pedestrian intersection in the world, with an estimated 2,500 people crossing during each green light.

Best places to see the scramble from above:

- [Starbucks](#) located in the Tsutaya building (buy a coffee or tea and sit at the window)
- [Shibuya Sky observation deck](#) (**tickets must be purchased in advance**)
- [Shibuya Hikarie](#) building on the 11th floor (viewing point, free entry)

4.3) Souvenirs and Shopping

Shibuya is one of the best places for getting souvenirs. Head to **Centre Gai** (shopping street, [Google Maps](#)) to explore.

Recommended shops around Centre Gai:

- [Shibuya Loft](#) - multi story complex with great Japanese items, including unique cosmetics, household items and stationary.
- [Shibuya Don Quijote](#) - multi story discount store with many, many unusual items.
- [Shibuya Parco](#) - shopping centre, the top floor is a roof garden that has incredible views over Tokyo.

Dinner

Recommended dinner places around Shibuya:

- **Sushi** - [Katsumidori Seibu Shibuya](#) is a conveyor belt sushi restaurant. It has English menus and some of the sushi gets delivered via a mini Shinkansen. Great, affordable and delicious sushi options. It's located in the Seibu Shibuya building. (There are many other restaurants in this building.)
- **Izakaya** - [Shibuya Nonbei Yokocho](#), Japanese pub, where you can simply order a variety of Japanese dishes. It's great and atmospheric.
- **Ramen (cash only)** - [Ichiran](#) is a very popular ramen place in Japan. It's known for its unusual seating arrangement, which is called "flavour concentration booth". You will be dining solo, even if you are with others in your party. The whole premise is to focus on the flavour rather than be distracted. Ichiran serves one of the most delicious ramen in Tokyo, so expect long queues.

How to order: Pre-order your ramen and pay for it at the vending machine located at the entrance. If in doubt, the staff can help you. **Cash only.**

Back to the accommodation

When you are ready, make your way back to the closest station to your accommodation.

[directions to the accommodation]

This is a one day sample of the Japan Journal.

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