

# Downtown Tokyo

(ie:Inside the Yamanote Line)

## Shinjuku

Shinjuku is one of the busiest train stations in Japan, on the western edge of the JR Yamanote train loop served by many JR and private lines. Nearly a million people commute to work or school through Shinjuku every day. The surrounding area is populated with high-rises, department stores, and entertainment districts, in addition to the headquarters of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. And there is plenty to do! Above the station itself are stores and mini-malls including My City, Lumine, and Mylord (pronounced 'Miroudo').

Outside the East Exit, there are blocks of department stores to the right. Some of the more famous are Isetan, down on the left side of the street, covering nearly one full city block above Shinjuku Sanjome subway stop (Tel. 03-33521111; 10:30am-7:30pm), plus Mitsukoshi and Marui (symbolized by 0101) across the street from Isetan.

Past the department stores, the movie theater buildings start. Most show newly released films, both foreign and domestic. Although the box offices are outside, on the ground floor, the theaters tend to be on the 5th or 6th floors. (By the way, a ticket does not mean you have a seat. Unless you arrive early, it could be standing room only. Tickets run about ¥1800 for an adult; the screens are wide, and the seats usually reclining.) On the large street just behind the Isetan complex, there is a small theater that features second-run and older films. Opposite it, on the other side of the street, is a large Chinese restaurant, Tokyo Dai Hanten, known for its dim sum. On the other side of this large street (Yasukuni Dori), in back of Isetan, is the Kabukicho district. Kabukicho also houses movie theaters in addition to live performance theaters, numerous small restaurants, and bars. As you get deeper into Kabukicho, try to become more diplomatic and look less like a tourist. You may enter the red light district and find unsavory characters accosting customers. However, back in this area, the sushi is said to be excellent and there is even a block of fish restaurants which allow you to pick out your own meals from its aquariums.

The West Exit of Shinjuku Station starts with the Keio and Odakyu private line terminals and department stores, then various bus terminals and insurance company buildings opposite the station. Toward the left are the discount camera store outlets of Yodobashi and Sakuraya where many Tokyo residents purchase camera and stereo accessories cheaply. Towering behind are the Shinjuku Washington Hotel and "Star Wars" type buildings of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Directly away from the station and slightly to the right are corporate high-rises and hotels, such as the triangular Sumitomo Building, which contain restaurants with skyline views.

Outside the South Exit is Takashimaya Times Square, composed of a Takashimaya Department Store (10am-7:30pm, 035361-1111), a restaurants' park on the 12th, 13th and 14th floors (11am-11pm), Tokyu Hands Creative Life Store for art and craft supplies (10am-8pm, 03-5361-3111), and Books Kinokuniya (10am-8pm, 03-5361-3301) with its large selection of foreign language books and magazines on the sixth floor. These stores interconnect from the 2nd and 5th floors of Takashimaya and Tokyu Hands to the 3rd and 7th floors of Books Kinokuniya.

To walk in Shinjuku's main shopping districts, a person has two choices: above ground or underground. If the weather is nice, above ground is more pleasant. If it's inclement weather, you can get most everywhere through the underground accesses running alongside the subway terminals.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** From Fussa Station, take a train heading toward Tachikawa or Tokyo. If you don't need to transfer to the Chuo Line at Tachikawa, you should be in Shinjuku within an hour. It's the stop after Nakano, and before Yotsuya. Shinjuku Station is very large and has many exits. If you meet friends there, be sure and stipulate the exit and exact location. Popular rendezvous areas include: outside the east exit opposite the wall-sized Studio Alta TV screen, in front of the underground police station at the west exit, outside the ticket gates at the south exit, and in various coffee shops. Your meeting place will probably depend on what you plan to do.

Note: Driving is definitely not recommended, although it can be done. One should leave very early in the morning and drive on either Ome Kaido (which sort of runs into the west exit) or Koshu Kaido (which passes by the south exit of the station) toward the high-rise buildings clustered in Shinjuku. Parking is expensive.

Teresa K. Negley 12/96

## Exploring Harajuku

Harajuku isn't just a place where the streets are closed on weekends and people dress as though they just stepped out of the 50's, it's also an interesting area filled with lots of shops and stylish people. You can even see 'punk' styles being modeled on people walking by, including women with orange and purple hair and men with hair slicked back in a variety of styles. It's a good place to take visitors from the States.

Turn right out of Harajuku Station, then left at the first intersection to travel down the main street (Omotesando-dori). The wide, tree-lined street has a European flavor. Boutiques are all along Omotesando-dori. You can find everything from Gap to J. Crew to the pricier Chanel and Christian Dior.



Of course, your trip to Harajuku wouldn't be complete without a stop in the Oriental Bazaar! Crossing the street you will come to the Oriental Bazaar, a store loaded with antiques, porcelain, and hundreds of other items. It's a great place to buy gift items and take visitors from the States. The Oriental Bazaar is open 9:30am-6:30pm every day except Thursday.

Just before the Oriental Bazaar is Kiddyland, a four story building packed with American toys, Japanese toys, games, trinkets and decorations. This toy store is more like a toy adventure. You can find everything you ever imagined there. There are toys, dolls, puzzles and games in Japanese and English. You can find children's books and learning toys as well. They have large selections of Disney merchandise and Sesame Street items. You will find notebooks, calendars and stationery supplies. There are rubber stamps, wrapping paper and decorations of all types.

If you are hungry for American food, you have your choice of McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Shakey's, and Wendy's. There are also a few good Chinese restaurants, an Italian restaurant, and a French restaurant. A good place for people-watching is the Harvester, a sandwich and coffee shop with tables lining the street. It will remind you of a European café. Harvester is at the beginning of Omotesando-dori on the left side as you walk away from Harajuku Station.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get to Harajuku, take the Ome Line for Tachikawa, then the Chuo Line for Shinjuku Station. At Shinjuku, change to the green Yamanote Line towards Shibuya, and go two stops to Harajuku Station.

Lydia Garcia, Sharon Shunk, Viki Paulson-Cody

## Shibuya

Shibuya Station can be a little disorienting. I found it difficult to determine where I was coming out of the exits. I came up with the following to try to help. When you come out of the station, look around.

- If you see Tokyu Plaza straight across the street, you came out the west half of the South Entrance. Turn right (north) and follow the street under the Subway tracks to get to Hachiko Plaza. Hachiko Plaza honors the dog Hachiko who used to wait there every evening for his master, even after the master's death. The area around the statue is a popular rendezvous spot for dates.

- If, as you face the street, the elevated subway is to your left, and the elevated highway to your right, and you see the Kenwood sign across the street, and the dome of the planetarium to its left, you are on the east side of the station. Turn left (north), go under the subway, and you will be at the corner of Meiji Dori (Ave.) and Miyamasuzaka Street.

- If, as you look out with the station behind you, there is a Triangular ASAHI sign on the building in front of you, and you can see up the street in front of you and see a sign to Nomura and Pola, you are on the North East side of the station, at the corner of Meiji Dori Ave and Miyamasuzaka Street. If you went under the JR tracks to your right, you would be at Hachiko Plaza.

- If, as you look out you see three televisions, and an elevated JR track to the right, you are in Hachiko Plaza. If you went under the JR track to your right, you would be heading East up Miyamasuzaka Street towards its intersection Meiji Dori Ave.

Brian Marriott 11/01

### The Disney Store

On a brick-lined street in Shibuya is a shop where Mickey, Minnie, Jasmine, Simba, Dopey, Winnie-the-Pooh and all of our other favorite Disney characters await our arrival to take them home! The Disney Store carries the same products as it does in the United States: clothes, jewelry, figurines, stationery, stickers, books, videos, placemats, dishes, magnets, and toys for all ages. There is no shortage of paraphernalia from movies such as "The Lion King," "Beauty and the Beast," and "Aladdin." One interesting item that is found overseas is a small series of bilingual books. There are four such books entitled, "ABC," "Hurry Up," "Good Morning," and "Let's Go." Each book costs ¥700, and it is a novel gift idea for your children or for children you know in the States. Prices are similar for most products, except for books and videos, which are more expensive in Japan than in the U.S.

The three-story store in Shibuya is open 10am-9pm every day. Tel. 03-3461-3932.

**DIRECTIONS:** Ride the train to Shibuya Station. From Hachiko Plaza, walk up the street you see the Seibu and OIONE signs on. (between the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> TV counting from the right.) At the second light the road will "Y" with an OIOI store in the middle of the branch. Bear to the left, here. Cross to the left hand side of the road. The Disney Store and the Loft will be next door to each other on the left hand side of the road across from the McDonald's and the KFC (they are separated by a brick pedestrian only road.)

Karen Ozment 10/94. Directions updated 11/02.

### The Loft

Are you looking for an awesome Halloween costume? Party favors? Postcards? Furniture? Kitchen items? Whatever it is you need, The Loft most likely has it! Located across the street from The Disney Store in Shibuya, The Loft is a six-story department store that has a lot of everything.

The basement has shoes, athletic equipment, swimming devices, and water toys. The first floor consists of Japanese fans, wind chimes, rubber stamps, wrapping paper, stuffed animals, candles in every color, hundreds of postcards and greeting cards, party goods, and Halloween party costumes. These are not your run-of-the-mill costumes though; they're excellent and some are expensive. They have a sumo wrestler, ski bunny, witch, Robin Hood, nun, maid, etc. They also have a great selection of wigs, noses, glasses and bow ties (for clown costumes). Moving up to the second floor, you will find many kitchen items including dishes, furniture, and pillows. The third floor houses bathroom items, hangers, home supply items, wood and planters. On the fourth floor there are art, office and school supplies. The fifth floor has picture frames, puzzles, pictures, and books. Finally, on the top floor, there are clocks, watches, art deco items, umbrellas and a small restaurant.



If you need it, it can be found here! The Loft is open 10:30am to 6pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** Ride the train to Shibuya Station. From Hachiko Plaza, walk up the street you see the Seibu and OIONE signs on. (between the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> TV counting from the right.) At the second light the road will “Y” with an OIOI store in the middle of the branch. Bear to the left, here. Cross to the left hand side of the road. The Disney Store and the Loft will be next door to each other on the left hand side of the road across from the McDonalds and the KFC (they are separated by a brick pedestrian only road.)

Karen Ozment

## Salvation Army Store

This is a great place for secondhand bargains. It doesn't look like much, but it is a godsend for bargain hunters. The store has dishes and crystal, appliances of all sizes, and furniture, including tansus and vanities. You can find a nice selection of Japanese dolls in cases. There is a book section with some English publications and the clothing section with yukatas, kimonos, obis, and fabric pieces for craft projects. Prices range from ¥10 to ¥4,000 for most things. You won't find prices on everything, especially in the gift area, so you will have to ask a sales person. Try not to be over-anxious when you ask or the price goes up. Larger furniture and appliances are higher, as are more elaborate gifts,

The Salvation Army Store is only open on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome line from Fussa and get off at Shinjuku Station. Transfer to the Marunouchi Subway and take it to Nakano-Sakaue, then change to the train for Honancho. Get off at Nakano-Fujimicho. Go left out of the station about one block to the police box on the corner. Turn right and walk to the T intersection. Turn left. The store is on the right. It is a five minute walk. It takes about 1.5 hours from Fussa station.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody / Delores Street 97



## Kappabashi - The Kitchen District

If you enjoy dirty dish shops, you'll love Tokyo's kitchen district! Here are 15 blocks of stores, each specializing in just one aspect of restaurant management: china, cooking pots and utensils, furniture, noren doorway hangings, uniforms, baskets, paper lanterns, containers for rice and sushi, signs, and the ever-popular plastic food. Each specialized store has its own competition, so if you don't like one store's prices, move on down the road.

In the china shops, you'll notice some dishes carry three prices: the top is for retail; the second, whole-sale and the bottom, employee. Some merchants also give further discounts for quantity purchases. A note of caution: most of the china shops have narrow aisles and it is easy to knock over precariously balanced dishes with purses, fanny packs or backpacks!

While all the stores are crammed top to bottom with merchandise, the plastic food vendors are the only ones to artistically display their wares. The 'fake food' is arranged in bright, well-lit display cases. The food is so realistic that like Pavlov's dogs, appetites are suddenly stimulated. Ironically, with all the stores specializing in kitchen goods, there is not a restaurant to be found in the immediate area. So plan to visit the Kitchen District in the morning and head for the nearby Asakusa Kannon Temple area for lunch.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome/ Chuo Line to Kanda (one stop before Tokyo Station) and change to the Ginza subway line. Take the Ginza line 4-5 stations to Tawaramachi. Exit to the right and up the stairs to the street. Around the corner to the right is a large post office (marked by an orange T with double bars). Go past the post office about two blocks to the second traffic light. The kitchen district extends to the right from the intersection.

1992 Diane C. Lyell

## Akihabara Electronics

To gain a true appreciation of the state of technology in Japan, one only needs to visit Akihabara. The electrical wholesale and retail center of Tokyo, the area contains over 400 stores which house the largest concentration of electrical products you'll see anywhere in the world. Appliances, electrical hardware, computers and equipment, entertainment and communication equipment all wait for potential purchasers. Store-front demonstrations catch the eye of those "just looking." The largest department stores in the area, Yamagiwa Denki and Rajio Sentaa, should not be missed.

For detailed maps of this neighborhood, check with the Yujo Community Center or New Sanno Hotel.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get to Akihabara, take the Ome Line to Tachikawa then the Chuo Line to Ochanomizu. Transfer to the Sobu Line and take it one stop to Akihabara. Leave the station by the West Exit. If you exit on the wrong side, you will have to walk several blocks to the electronics district.

Norine Carter

## Asakusabashi Wholesale Area

The Asakusabashi area is a wholesale area for many things: toys, party favors, balloons, wash paper, kits for Japanese doll making, artificial flowers, and more. You may even see some sumo wrestlers on the streets, since several of their stables are nearby.

I warn you many of the treasures you may find may be hazardous to your pocketbook! To Western eyes, shrine sales and shop displays are a source of curiosity and wonder. The Japanese seemingly have something for every purpose. They would never use anything other than for its intended purpose, but we foreigners don't know this dish traditionally serves pickles, so we might use it for mustard or jelly or put soup in the Chawan mushi cup meant for custard. Your Japanese friends will be delighted, but astonished at how you use these items. Your creativity is fueled by ignorance, but the result is charming. The Japanese will be amazed to see the Sake cup being used for individual servings of butter and syrup for your pancake brunch...and they will admit they would never have thought of it.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa. At Tachikawa, get on a Tokyo-bound train on the Chuo Line. Ride to Ochanomizu and change to the Sobu Line. This train starts in Mitaka and takes you to Asakusabashi. There is only one way out when you get off the train, so just follow the crowd. If you turn to the left when you exit the station you will find the shopping area. This is about four blocks or so, and it is wise to just walk down one side of the street and back up the other, to return to the station. There's no chance of getting lost. To return to Yokota, reverse your directions. The yellow train stops at Mitaka and you can transfer there to the Chuo Line for Tachikawa.

Pat Fritze, Sharon Shunk, Carol Davis

## Tsukiji Fish Market

At 4:30am, most of Tokyo is still sound asleep, but at the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market (aka: the Tsukiji Fish Market), the day is already well underway. Fish have been shipped by truck, and a skilled army of licensed middlemen is almost finished sifting through the day's catch to decide what prices to bid when the auction floors open at 5am. Most of these men have been working since before midnight, depending upon the type of fish they want to buy; and the fishermen were at the market even earlier than that. The market is a fascinating place to visit. You will not find it jammed with tourists. It costs nothing to get in. Feel free to buy from the numerous vendors. The official name reflects the fact that more than just fish is offered for sale. All types of seafood are available.

On the day a Tokyo businessman in Shibuya sits down for lunch at his favorite sushi shop at 12:30, the succulent tuna he enjoys may have changed hands five or six times - with corresponding increases in price. Chances are he is scarcely aware of how his lunch got to his plate from the market in less than eight hours.



The best time to arrive is around 5am, when middlemen sell to the retailers of Tokyo - the "little guys" who actually own the local fish shops you see all over Japan. The middlemen also sell to commercial processors, as well as to representatives of large institutions such as schools, hospitals and companies. It's a fascinating sight to hear and see. Don't forget your camera. Since the earliest train doesn't leave Fussa until 4:47am, driving into the market or staying downtown at the New Sanno the previous night is recommended.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** Leave Yokota from the Terminal Gate or the East Gate no later than 4:15am. Drive to the Chuo Expressway via your favorite route. On entering the expressway, go towards Shinjuku on Rt. 4. You will pay two separate tolls. Continue on Rt. 4, which changes to the Shuto Expressway. Follow signs to Expressway 1. Once on, be alert for #1 dividing soon, and take the fork to the left towards Ginza/Ueno (NOT Haneda). Then take Exit 16. After you exit, stop, then turn right. You are close to the fish market (three or four minutes). It will be on your right just before a large bridge. Drive across the bridge, make a U turn, and come back to the market (which will now be on your left). Parking in the market is for vendors or buyers only, so cautiously park on the street, and walk to the market.

**TRAIN DIRECTIONS:** Go from Fussa to Tachikawa, then switch to the Chuo Line. Ride this train to Yotsuya Station, one stop past Shinjuku Station. At Yotsuya, surrender your train ticket and buy a subway ticket on the Marunouchi Line. Ride this about four stops to the Ginza Station. Change to the Hibiya Line and go two stops to Tsukiji. Get off the train and come out of the subway entrance and go straight ahead. You should see a temple on your left, across the street. You should cross the street to the left side and proceed straight ahead in the same direction that you were going. After walking through several intersections, you will see a sign, "Fish Market." Turn left here. The fish market is straight ahead...just follow your nose!

Sondra Halweg

## Ginza

To set the record straight, many people going to the Ginza don't go there to buy, they sightsee and see the world transported to a six-block area. Art galleries/exhibits, photo galleries/photo exhibits line nearly every corner. Exhibits change weekly. Each department store on the Ginza has what seems like a million different things to see and do. Exhibits from throughout the world can be seen, from Danish furniture to an antique collection from England. English-language Japanese newspapers provide schedules of various activities. You're guaranteed to find something interesting no matter when you go. Compare Japan's finest department stores with Neiman Marcus and marvel at the variety (and price!) of the merchandise. When the kids get tired or your stomach starts growling, the Ginza comes into its own. There are many reasonably priced restaurants as well as food outlets familiar to every American. Bookstores have the latest in foreign magazines and newspapers. In addition, there are countless small shops that carry pearls, diamonds, lamps, and other items. Sunday is a special day because the Ginza really comes alive. Streets

are filled with thousands of people. Chuo Dori is a closed street on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

**DIRECTIONS:** It takes about 1-1.5 hours to get to the Ginza. Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa or Tokyo. Switch, if necessary, at Tachikawa for the Chuo (orange line) for Tokyo. Get off at Yotsuya, one stop after Shinjuku. Change to the Marunouchi Line and get off at Ginza. There are many exits from the station, and every exit brings you to an interesting street to explore. Just stroll around!

## Roppongi

This district is a "must" place to see. It's a night clubber's dream, and a favorite among the younger foreign crowd. Here you will find coffee shops, bars, discos, and restaurants for people with different cultural backgrounds and tastes. Trendy people come out to liven up the area on the weekends.

Roppongi is not only for the party goer. It also provides an atmosphere for the culturally artistic, and intellectual person with an interest in theater and museums. Shopping is expensive, but there are some shops that are reasonable in Roppongi. Many of the clothing store prices are based on the latest fashion trends. Most people go to Roppongi for the countless bars and restaurants that line its streets. Here you can find American favorites like Hard Rock Café, Tony Roma's Ribs, and Johnny Rockets.

**DIRECTIONS:** It takes about 1-1.5 hours to get to Roppongi. Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa or Tokyo. Switch, if necessary, at Tachikawa for the Chuo (orange line) for Tokyo. Get off at Yotsuya, one stop after Shinjuku. Change to the Marunouchi Line and get off at Roppongi. It's just a 30 minute walk from the New Sanno (less if you use the subway) and 10 minutes from Hardy Barracks.

P. W. Edwards

The dining section tells you how to find El Torito, Hard Rock Cafe, Johnny Rockets, Tony Roma's and Spagos.



## Uchida

For a unique shop/gallery with a wide array of art and artifacts from all over the world, visit Uchida, located in Azabu. Indonesian baskets, Japanese lacquerware, clay figures, textiles from all over, and more. Uchida provides a showcase for a collection of art and gallery space for artists to show their work. Uchida is open weekends and holidays, closed Tuesday and the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Open until 7pm.

**DIRECTIONS:** Exit the Roppongi Subway Station using the Roppongi Crossing exit, turn down the side street to your right. Follow this past the Swedish Center and Homeworks. Turn right at the gas station and at the second corner turn right again. It's only about a block from the Blue and White Store.

Melody Hostetler

## Blue & White in Azabu Juban

Blue and White is a small boutique in the Azabu Juban area of Tokyo. Open since 1975, Blue and White is very popular with the many foreigners living in this area. There are other shops in the area such as antique shops and right next door to Blue and White is the Daiei Peacock Supermarket.

All the merchandise in this shop is Japanese blue and white. There is a very good selection of textiles, some made into clothing, cushions, napkins, place mats, etc. Other items include a small selection of pottery, paper and baskets. Because this is a small boutique, the stock changes frequently and they do not have large inventories. However, there is a charming catalog available and orders can be placed from some items. The shop even handles some mail orders. They speak English!

Inspired by centuries old traditional Japanese designs, everything in Blue and White is functional and useful. The clothing is cute, modern and stylish. The shop sells blue and white yukata fabric by the roll or by the meter. Some of the patterns are lighter, brighter and more modern in feeling than those you see in other stores. Covered tea boxes, picture frames, photo albums, wallets and purses are all bright and fresh-looking with a wonderful mix of patterns and nice workmanship.

The hours are 10am to 6pm daily, except Sunday, when they are open 1pm to 5pm. They are closed holidays. Driving is not recommended because there are no places to park.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Fussa Station, take the Ome/Chuo Line to Shinjuku Station. Change to the Yamanote Line, track 10 and ride to Ebisu. At Ebisu, transfer to the Hibiya Subway Line. You have to leave the train station to get on the subway, so follow the signs carefully. Take the subway two stops to Roppongi and take the Roppongi Crossing exit. As you exit the station, turn right and continue around the corner. Stay on the right side of the street and walk past the Azabu Castle apartments and the Sweden Center. If you reach Victoria's shop, you have gone too far! After the Sweden Center the road will fork. Stay to the right and take the small road that goes off to the right and downhill. Look for the Windsor Coffee Shop on the left side of the street and continue until you reach a supermarket on the corner. Turn right, go two blocks the turn left. About two blocks down on the right is the Blue and White store

on a corner next to the Peacock Supermarket. (You can also walk from the New Sanno Hotel; ask for directions.)

Marja Weaver

## Chitose Karasuyama

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting this area of Tokyo. It is easy to get to and surprisingly enough there were no other non-Japanese people to be seen. Everyone was wonderfully friendly and we enjoyed our visit there.

**DIRECTIONS:** To reach Chitose Karasuyama take the JR line to Tachikawa. At Tachikawa take the Nambu line to Bubaigarawa. At Bubaigarawa, exit and go to the Keio line ticket station (just go straight, out the exit and look immediately to your left). There, purchase a 190 yen ticket and go through the turnstile to track 2. There you will hopefully catch an Express train which, in a mere three stops, will take you to Chitose Karasuyama. If you catch a local it is 13 stops to the town, and don't get on a special express or you'll pass it right by. Once at Chitose Karasuyama, go out the North exit. Down the street immediately in front of you, you will find several restaurants. They are mainly Japanese but there was a Mosburger. If you take a right out of the North exit and go down to the next main street and turn left you will encounter a number of small shops, and a 5-story shopping plaza. In this 5 story building is a nice 100 Yen shop. I got several traditional garden statues. My children got plastic garden tools and watering cans that looked like elephants. Since we had been given packs of flower seeds along with the free tissues when we got off the train, we're all set to do some gardening! Between the two streets I've mentioned is another street that has a Seiyu, several small shops, a KFC, and a Sanrio Hello, Kitty shop. The South exit looked interesting (the other side of the tracks) but time and little ones did not allow for exploring it. It was a lot of fun to get out of the local area and the people were great. We felt like movie stars!!!

Reprinted from the Yokosan - May 2001/Cathy Ross



# Shopping at Area Antique Markets

If you are a “bargain hunter,” or an avid antique shopper, you should visit one of the many “nomi no ichi” (flea market) in the Tokyo area. Dealers set up shop at different locales at various times of the month. One should not expect to necessarily pay the sticker price. Generally, flea markets operate on a “sunrise to sunset” schedule. Though the best pieces may go early, prices tend to be reduced in the afternoon. If you are looking for a particular piece of pottery or an old obi for a wall hanging, you will have a treat in store at any of the following flea markets.

## Fussa Shrine Sale

One of the most interesting and inexpensive shrine fairs in our area is the Fussa Shrine Sale at Kumagawa Shrine, a seven minute drive from Yokota. Mr. Akira Sunagawa is the coordinator of this shrine sale. Sunagawa-san owns Marii antique shop outside the Supply Gate on Route 16. He speaks fluent English and will be happy to help you with any questions. Usually, there are ten to fifteen local vendors at the Fussa Shrine Fair but I have talked with vendors from as far away as Nagoya. Vendors are usually open to bargaining and may reduce prices 20% or so.

Wooden tubs, baskets, hibachis, small chests, toys, dolls, blue and white china, obis, teapots, swords, ceramic pots, are all available at the Fussa Shrine Fair.

**DIRECTIONS:** To get there, go out the Fussa gate and drive straight. Cross over two sets of railroad tracks and go through 4 signal lights. The fourth signal light will be at Shin Okutama Kaido. (The Fussa Post Office is on your right across the street.) Turn left at this signal light. Drive straight on Shin Okutama Kaido and you will eventually cross a set of train tracks. Continue straight until you see a Denny’s restaurant on your right. Turn right as soon as you pass Denny’s and head down the narrow road. The road will then ‘Y’. Take the right fork and continue straight in with the back of the Denny’s parking lot on your right. You will soon see the shrine’s torii gate. There is limited parking on the left in a gravel parking lot in front of the torii gate. If this parking lot is full, continue along the road to the back of the shrine, turn left and there is another parking lot behind the shrine.

Mavis Hara

## Kawagoe Antiques

Like many other flea markets, Kawagoe is filled with treasures. It is one of several on a circuit and it is held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of every month from dawn to dusk, rain or shine. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month, “Little Kawagoe” is held at the same location, about 1 to 1.5 hours drive from Yokota.

**DIRECTIONS:** Set the odometer at “0” as you turn right out the Terminal Gate, turning north via the underpass onto Route 16 where you will stay most of your trip. At 8.7km, you’ll see Hoya Crystal on your right. At 10.9km, the road splits with Rt. 16 to the left. The road also narrows to two

lanes temporarily. Follow the blue signs for Kawagoe and stay on Rt. 16 as it bears left again. You will pass the SATY store on your right at 15.2km. Route 16 turns right around a bend at 23.4km with more blue signs to direct you (just past the Old Spaghetti Factory). At 26.6km (round Hotel 10 ahead), bear left onto Rt. 254 toward Higashi Matsuyama. Stay in the left lane, go under the arched pedestrian bridge at 27km, then make a left turn immediately afterward (not before the bridge). At the second light, 27.6km, make a left then park in the lot on your right (¥500/three hours) before the Kitain Temple complex. The monthly sale is held at Narita-san Shrine, a couple blocks to the right down the street on the other side of the parking lot.

About a kilometer away from the shrine sale is “Old Kawagoe,” also known as “Little Edo.” Refer to the Sightseeing section for more detail.

**DIRECTIONS HOME:** Backtrack to Rts. 254 and 16, turning into the first right two lanes, and head towards Hachioji (not up the ramp). Then, move over to the far left lane before Rt. 16 curves left.

Barbara Kirkwood 9/01

## Akasaka

Akasaka is the oldest flea market in the Tokyo area, and is located at the Nogi Shrine. Over 30 dealers display their wares from prints to painted screens, pottery and anything else one would look for at a flea market. The market is held on the second Sunday of each month. To get there take the Ome Line from Fussa to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo (orange) train bound for Shinjuku. Transfer to the Yamanote Line for Shibuya, then take the Hanzomon Line (purple) or the Ginza Line to Omotesando. Transfer to the Chiyoda Line (green) and go one stop to Nogizaka station. Go out of the station and turn right. Cross over the Gaien-Higashidori. The shrine is located about a two minute walk from the Chiyoda Line’s Nogizaka subway station near Hardy Barracks.

## Arai Yakushi

One of the very best flea markets is held on the first Sunday of every month, at Arai Yakushi Temple in Nakano. Over 80 vendors offer items ranging from grandfather clocks, musical instruments, porcelain dishes, old kimonos, etc. Whatever you are looking for, you will probably find it at Arai Yakushi. To get there you have two choices. One way is to take the Ome Line from Ushihama or Fussa Station to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo Line (orange). Get off at Nakano Station and take the north exit next to a large indoor shopping mall. In front of the mall runs the Nakano Dori street. Follow the street for about a 15 minute walk to a five-way intersection. Take the first right after the intersection. The temple will be a short distance to your left.

The second way, is to take the Seibu Line from Seibu Tachikawa Station toward Taka-danobaba- but you will get off



at Arai Yakushi Station. Leave the station, turn left and walk three blocks. The shrine will be on your right.

## Roppongi

The Roppongi Roi Building (near the Hard Rock Cafe and Spago's) houses a flea market on the fourth Thursday and Friday of each month. There are over 30 dealers, and the prices are said to be good. To get there from Fussa Station, take the Ome Line to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo (orange) train to Shinjuku. Transfer to the Yamanote Line to Ebisu. There, change to the Hibiya Line and go two stops to Roppongi. Exit the ticket wicket and turn right. Go upstairs and turn left. On the corner across the street, you will see the Almond Cafe (large pink sign). Cross the street to the cafe, turn right at the corner and go one and one-half blocks. On the next big corner will be the Roi Building.

For more information call the Kottoichi Co. at 03-3980-8228.

## Togo Shrine Sale

Held on the first and fourth Sundays of each month, Togo has 70 to 90 vendors and good prices. Togo Shrine Sale is one of the larger flea markets held each month in the Tokyo area. Togo Shrine is located in Harajuku near Omotesando, the Japanese equivalent of Beverly Hills and Rodeo Drive. We suggest you leave before 8AM for a better selection and easier parking. The drive is about an hour.

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive out the East Gate to the Chuo Expressway via "chicken tunnel" or any other route. Pay 600 yen at the Hachioji entrance and head for Tokyo, then pay 700 yen on the Shuto Expressway, Route 4. Eventually change to the left lane. Go up the ramp at Exit 402 for Gaien. Bear left (but don't turn left). Near the third light, move to the left center lane and turn right at the fourth light. Turn right at Aoyama 1-Chome intersection. AT the third light, you'll see a BMW Square on the right. Get in the right lane. Brooks Bros. and Wendy's will be on the right. Turn right at the next light toward Harajuku. There are stone lanterns on either side of the road (Omotesando intersection). Turn right at the second light onto Meiji Dori (more stone lanterns, Condomania on the left) at Jingu intersection. AT the second light, you'll see the entrance to jTogo Shrine on the left. Park on the street. More street parking is available ahead near the pedestrian overpass at the next intersection. The parking meters do not accept coins on Sundays so parking is free.

Teresa Negley & Van Orsdols

## Heiwajima

One of the most popular and well-known antique fairs is the Tokyo Antique Fair held in the Tokyo Ryutau Center in Heiwajima. It is also one of the largest fairs boasting over 250 dealers. It is a three-day event held four times each year. Dealers bring everything imaginable including furniture, lacquer ware, ceramics, and baskets. There are dolls of all kinds including kokeshi, hakata and cloth. There are kimonos, obis and fabric for tablecloths and other sewing projects. You will

find jewelry, tea ceremony sets, teapots, and spinning wheels. There are old postcards and pictures, coins, stamps, and collectibles. It is an indoor market, therefore the dealers charge more to recoup their cost of rental space. Bargaining with the dealers is expected and encouraged. One advantage of this large market is that the dealers will deliver large purchases or make arrangements to have them delivered for you, for a fee of course.

The fair is located in the exhibition hall of the Ryutsu Center on the second floor. You will find clean rest rooms and restaurants on the second floor as well. The restaurants are reasonably priced but remain crowded. The fair is open 10am-6pm Friday and Saturday and 10am-5pm on Sunday. Admission to the fair is free, but parking is costly. The fair is held in March, June, September and December, usually the second weekend. Of course it is best to check on the dates before venturing out. Information can be obtained by calling the English information line in Tokyo, 03-3980-8228. The Yujo Community Center usually has access to this information as well.

**DIRECTIONS BY CAR:** To get to the Tokyo Ryutsu Center by car, you will need to use the Chuo Expressway (see directions in the article on Tokyo Expressways). Take the Chuo towards Tokyo (Shinjuku), toll is ¥500. You will stay on the Chuo and it will join the Shuto Expressway. As you pass through the second toll gate you will pay ¥600. From here follow the through traffic signs and the signs to Route 1. You will go through three tunnels. As you go through the third tunnel, the Chiyoda Tunnel, take the right branch at the first split. From there keep to the left until you exit the tunnel. After you pass the Kasu-migaseki exit (Exit 24), the road will split. Follow the signs to Haneda Airport, or Routes 1 and 2. You will be able to see Tokyo Tower ahead on the left.

When the road splits again, follow the signs to Haneda, Routes 1, 6 and 7. When the road splits next, follow the signs to Haneda, Route 1, to the right. You will now be heading towards Yokohama. Tokyo Bay and the Monorail will be on the left.

Continue to follow the through traffic signs on Route 1. After you pass the horse racing track on your left, at about 9 kilometers, you will exit to Heiwajima (Exit 105). You will be on the frontage road; go straight and keep to the left lane. You will need to take the first left after the traffic light.

Take the first left, which will bring you past a guard booth and you will be on a wide street. There will be a six-story, open-sided building on both sides of the street. You will need to keep to the left lane. Just ahead of you will be the Ryutsu Exhibition Hall (two-story, white building). When the street ends you must turn left. You will see the entrance to the parking garage on the right. Take a ticket from the machine as you enter and be sure to remember where you parked. From the parking garage you can enter the hall from the ground level and go up to the second floor or you can use the walkway from the garage on floor M34.

**CAR DIRECTIONS HOME:** As you exit the parking garage you will turn left and follow the road past the exhibition hall. When the road dead ends turn left. Take the next left and follow this road onto the expressway overpass and take the second exit. After going through the cloverleaf, you will be



back on the Shuto Expressway (Route 1) heading north towards Tokyo. The first toll will be ¥600 and you will follow the signs to Shinjuku (Rt. 4). You will follow the signs back through Tokyo to Hachioji. You will pay the ¥500 Chuo toll when you exit the Chuo in Hachioji. From Hachioji, retrace your steps back to Yokota.

**DIRECTIONS BY TRAIN:** To get to Ryutsu by train you will need to take the Ome Line to Tachikawa. At Tachikawa you will change to the Chuo Line to Shinjuku Station. At Shinjuku change to the Yamanote Line and get off at Hamamatsucho Station. Here you will need to switch to the Tokyo Monorail Line heading to Haneda Airport. You will get off the Monorail at Ryuta-senta Station, the second stop from Hamamatsucho. The exhibition hall will be ahead of you to the left when you exit the station. Train fare is ¥740 one way and the monorail fare is ¥240 one way. An alternate route is to take the Seibu Haijima line from Haijima or Seibu Tachikawa Station. Get off the train at Takadanobaba Station and change to the Yamanote Line to Hama-matsucho Station.

For detailed information, try calling the Tokyo Old Folkcraft and Antique Information Committee at 03-3950-0871.

Cheryl Raggio, Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

## Boro Ichi

As the new year comes, the Japanese undertake an early “Spring Cleaning” to end the old year and begin anew. What does this mean to you? It is one of the best times for hitting the markets and junk shops.

One well-known open air market is Boro Ichi in Setagaya during December and January. It is named Boro Ichi or rag market, because over a hundred years ago some stalls carried rags and straw used to make sandals (waraji). You can pick up a pair of waraji to keep as a souvenir. This market, originally called Raku-ichi, began over four hundred years ago.

The selection is large, and includes not only antiques but also new year’s decorations, hagoita (colorful battledores), daruma dolls, and potted plants. Unfortunately, the crowds become overwhelming later in the day. If you go, leave early! Arriving while the vendors are still setting up between 8—8:30am is best. By noon, there are people from all over and it may be impossible to move around. There is a range of prices, with obis for ¥500-¥3,000 and very good ones for ¥5,000. The selection of ceramics and pottery is outstanding. Even though these pieces are new, the prices are right! There are also children’s toys, green tea, fruits and vegetables as well as yakisoba and yakitori. The dates are always the same, December 15 and 16 and January 15 and 16. If you really like antiques, go both months, the selection won’t be the same. Boro Ichi stalls will be set up on Daikan Yashikimae-dori, Kamimachi, Setagaya-ku.

**DIRECTIONS:** To go by train, take the Ome Line toward Tokyo. At Tachikawa, change to the Nambu Line on track eight for Bubaigawara. At Bubaigawara, change to the Keio Line for Fuchu/Shinjuku. You can take an express or regular train, but if you take an express, get off at Chofu and transfer to the local (across the platform when the express pulls

in) and get off at ShimoTakaido. Transfer to the Setagaya Line (a very small line, only two cars) and take it to Kamimachi Station. At the station, ask for directions to Daikan Yashikimae-dori (the street where Boro Ichi is located) or try walking to the end of the platform, turning right, crossing the tracks and going two blocks.

Another way is to take bus number 21, 24 or 34 from Shibuya Station for Kamimachi or Seijo Gakuen, getting off at Daikan Yashikimae-dori.

Vici Lyn Paulson-Cody, Meg Gilster, Sue Neuhaus 2/97

## Honryuji Temple

A market similar but smaller is the Boro Ichi at Honryuji Temple in Sekimachi, Nerima-ku, Tokyo. This market is held December 9th and 10th from morning until 10pm. Honryuji Temple is near Musashi-Seki Station on the Seibu Shinjuku Line. Take the Seibu Haijima Line from either Haijima or Seibu Tachikawa Stations heading towards Seibu Shinjuku Station. You will stay on this train for quite some time passing Hagi-yama, Kodaira and Tanashi. Get off at Musashi-Seki Station and ask for directions to Honryuji.

Vicki Lyn Paulson-Cody, Meg Gilster, Sue Neuhaus 2/97

## Tokyo Antique Halls

The Tokyo Ochanomizu Antique Hall and the Tokyo Folkcraft and Antique Hall in Ikebukuro have a lot of vendors selling various Japanese Antiques.

I think the Ochanomizu Hall is closed on the second and third Sunday of every month. The Ikebukuro Hall is closed every Thursday, open 11-6:30 other days, and is a five minute walk to the right on Meiji Dori from Ikebukuro station’s East exit (Tel. 03-39500871).

Although credit cards can be used, you can often work out a better deal if you pay in cash. If you buy something too large to haul home on the train, you can have it shipped. Although not all merchants speak English, there always seems to be someone to help out if a problem arises.

Don’t expect to go back later and buy that great item you saw. If you’re serious about a piece, put some money down on it. If you find a piece you like, ask if they have another. If you have something specific in mind and don’t see it, ask if they have one elsewhere.

Do a little research on whatever you’re interested in so you can ask questions. The more you can talk to the merchants, the more they will talk to you. Go back often so they recognize you. Do all of these things and you may get a better discount in the future. Isn’t that what it’s all about?

Jill Jones, Teresa Negley 6/97



# Various Antique Markets throughout the Tokyo area

## Tokyo Antiques

### Antique Market

30 dealers

Hanae Mori Bldg., 3-6, Kita Aoyama  
Minato-ku Tokyo

3 minute walk from Omotesando (Ginza Line)

### Arai Yakushi Antique Fair

80 dealers, Arai Yakushi Temple

First Sunday of each month

10 minute walk from Arai Yakushi Station (Seibu Line)

### Boro-ichi Antique Market

50 dealers

Dec. 15-16 and Jan. 15-16

5 min walk from Setagaya Station (Tokyu Setagaya Station)

### Edo Shitamachi Tenein Market

Yushima Tenjin Shrine

Fourth Saturday of each month

5 min walk from Yushima Station (Chiyoda Line)

### Hanazono Shrine Market

50 dealers, Hanazono Shrine

Second and Third Sundays

5 min walk from Shinjuku San-chome Station (Marunouchi Line)

### Heiwajima Antique Market

200 dealers

Heiwajima-Tokyo Ryutsu Center Bldg. at Ryutsu Center Station on Tokyo Monorail Line via JR-Hamamatsucho Station.

Three consecutive days, four times a year in a modern exhibition hall (w/restaurant facilities).

For exact dates, call 03-3950-0871.

### Ikebukuro Antique Market

30 dealers

Ikebukuro Sunshine Bldg.

3rd Saturdays and Sundays.

10 min walk from JR Ikebukuro Station

### Kokubunji Antique Market

10 dealers, Kokubunji Temple

Second Saturdays and Sundays

5 min walk from JR Kokubunji Station (Chuo Line)

### Nogizaka Antique Market

50 dealers, Nosi Shrine

Second Sunday of each month

Nogizaka Station (Chiyoda Line)

### Roppongi Antique Fair

30 dealers, Roppongi Roi Bldg.

Fourth Thursdays and Fridays

3 min walk from Roppongi Sta. (Hibiya Line)

### Shinjuku Antique Market

40 dealers, Dai-ichi Seimei Bldg.

Third Fridays and Saturdays

10 min walk from JR Shinjuku Station

### Shofuda-kai Antique Market

Tokyo Bijutsu Club

early July and early December

(Call 03-3950-0871 for exact dates)

15 min walk from Onarimon Sta. (Mita Line)

### Togo No Mori Antique Market

70-90 dealers, Togo Shrine

First and Fourth Sunday of each month

10 min walk from JR Harajuku Station

### Tokyo Antique Hall

2-9, Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku

5 min walk from JR Ochanomizu Station

Tokyo Suburbs

### Fussa Antique Market

30-35 dealers

Kumagawa Shrine, 2nd Sunday of each month

10 min drive from the Fussa Gate

### Kawasoe Antique Market

50 dealers, Narita-Iudo Temple

The 28th of each month

15 min walk from the Hon-kawagoe Station

### Saiunol Temple

The 14th of each month

10 min walk from Kawagoe Sta. (Seibu Line)

### Kawasaki Antique Market

30 dealers

Fujimi Baseball Ground, about November 23rd

10 min walk from JR Kawasaki Station

### Sasami Antique Market

10 dealers, Atsugi Shrine

First Sunday of each month

5 min walk from Hon-Atsugi Sta. (Odakyu Line)

### Shonan Antique Market

20 dealers, Yogyoji Temple

First Sunday of each month

20 min walk from JR Fujisawa Station

### Urawa Antique Market

30 dealers, SakuradSO Street

The last Saturday of each month

3 min walk from JR Urawa Station

## Antiques Further Afield

### Antique Auction

Second and fourth Saturdays

Silk Center, Yokohama

### Sendai Antiques Market

Fourth Sunday of every month

Toshogu Keidai Sengakuin Monzen

### Kyoto Antique Market

200 dealers, Toji Temple

First Sundays, the 21st of each month

5 min walk from Toji Station (Kintetsu Line)

### Tenjin Antique Market

100 dealers, Kitano Tenmangu Shrine,  
the 25th of each month

30 min by bus from JR Kyoto Station

## Antiques - Osaka area

### Daishi Antique Market

200 dealers, Osaka Skitennoji Temple

The 21st of each month

5 min walk from Shitennoji Station (Subway Tanimachi Line)



**Hatsu Tatsu Mairi Amigue Market**

25 dealers, Sumiyoshi Taisha Shrine

Every Dragon Day

(approximately every two weeks)

5 min walk from Torii Station (Nankai Hankai Line)

**Koshindo Antique Market**

30 dealers, Koshindo Temple

Every Sunday

5 min walk from Shitennoji Sta. (Subway Tanimachi Line)

**Ohatsu Tenjin Antique Market**

12 dealers, Ohatsu Tenjin Shrine

First Friday of each month

5 min walk from Umeda Station (Hanshin Line)

**Sankaku Koen Antique Market**

Sankaku Park, Every Sunday

5 min walk from Dobutsuen Station (Subway Midosuji Line)

**Antiques - Hiroshima Area****Cancan Bazaar (Kurashiki City)**

30 dealers, Ivy Square

Consecutive national holidays in May and October

15 min walk from JR Kurashiki Station

**Koyasan Betsuin Antique Market**

Fukuyama Koyasan Betsuin Temple

First Sundays

3 min walk from JR Fukuyama Station

**Sumiyoshi Antique Market**

10 dealers, Sumiyoshi Square

Fourth Sunday of each month

15 min walk from JR Fukuyama Station



Photo Courtesy of Marvin Arostegui at Takahata Fuda Shrine Sale in November 2001



