



TimeOut
TOKYO

EN
ENGLISH



THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO TOKYO



Rediscover the city with Toei buses, the tram and the subway



TOEI TRANSPORTATION



How to ride the Toei Bus and the Tokyo Sakura Tram (Toden Arakawa line)



Toei Transportation operates subways, buses, the Toden Arakawa tram line and the Nippori-Toneri Liner. Most of you probably know how to use the subway already, so this section mainly focuses on how to ride buses and the tram.

1 You get on and pay at the front. Touch your IC card on the panel near the driver, or insert cash into the slot next to it (insert smaller coins before larger ones). The machine gives change, but only takes coins and ¥1,000 notes. You can also charge your IC card here; ask the driver if you want to do so. If you're travelling on a Toei One-day Pass, flash your ticket with the date clearly displayed.

2 When on the bus or tram, the next stop will be announced over the intercom and displayed on screen. Press the buzzer closest to you to signify you'd like to get off. The buzzers are located on window sills and rails.

3 Get off through the back door when you arrive at your stop.

*Note that some of these rules are different in the Tama area.

	Toei bus		Toden Arakawa line			
	Cash	IC	Cash	IC		
Regular fare	Adult	¥210	¥206	Adult	¥170	¥165
	Child	¥110	¥103	Child	¥90	¥82
One-day pass	Adult	¥500		Adult	¥400	
	Child	¥250		Child	¥200	

*Fares may vary on some Toei bus routes

TIPS

Before you get on

Check the bus/route number and destination before you get on – these are displayed on the front and side of the bus. The route number is a combination of a character and number, such as 海01. Most bus stops will have buses going in several directions and possibly with similar route names. If you're unsure, check with the driver.

When riding

When you've boarded, make sure to move down the aisle to free up space at the front. Standing near either set of doors may lead to congestion and thus – the horror – delays.

Wi-Fi information

Free wi-fi is available inside some Toei subway trains, at major Toei stations as well as on buses.

On the subway : connect to the internet with the Toei_Subway_Free_Wi-Fi SSID, then register your email address or social media account.

On the bus : connect to Toei_Bus_Free_Wi-Fi, open your browser and enter your user information to freely use the wi-fi service on board.



About the Toden Arakawa line

The Toden Arakawa line is a tram line which runs between Minowabashi and Waseda. Note that not all trams go all the way to the last stop, so check the final destination of the tram before boarding – otherwise you risk having to pay again to get where you're going.

Priority Seat

Seats marked with a 'priority' sign are reserved for the elderly, the infirm, the pregnant and those with small children. Please leave them empty or give them up if any passengers in need of priority seating board.



RECOMMENDED

TOEI ONE-DAY PASS (TOEI MARUGOTO KIPPU) – see Tokyo in one day with a single ticket

It's all-you-can-ride with this ticket, which lets you use all Toei subways and buses, the Toden Arakawa line and the Nippori-Toneri Liner for one day. At ¥700 for adults and ¥350 for children, it's a steal. The pass is sold at all Toei subway and Nippori-Toneri Liner stations, as well as on board Toei buses and the Toden Arakawa line.



Various discounts and gifts are offered at around 400 venues close to the stations on the day your ticket is valid.

For details, check the following website: chikatoku.enjoytokyo.jp/en



MAJOR SITES AND ATTRACTIONS SERVICED BY TOEI TRANSPORTATION

Shinjuku area (Shinjuku, Tocho-mae stations), Shibuya & Harajuku area (都01, 池86 buses etc), Ginza area (Higashi-Ginza Sta., 都05 bus etc), Roppongi area (Roppongi Sta., 都01 bus etc), Asakusa area (Asakusa Sta., S-1, 草63 bus etc), Ueno area (Ueno-Okachimachi Sta., 都02 bus etc), Akihabara area (Iwamotocho Sta.), Ikebukuro area (草63 bus etc), Odaiba area (海01 bus etc), Tokyo Tower area (Akabanebashi, Onarimon stations), Tokyo Skytree area (Oshiage Sta., S-1, 都08 buses etc).

Other useful information

- To check the bus timetable and routes, go to tobus.jp/blsys/navi?LCD=e
- To make the most of your sightseeing journey by bus, check www.kotsu.metro.tokyo.jp/bus/routes/eng

Turn the page for Tokyo trip itineraries tailored for users of the Toei One-Day Pass.





TRADITIONAL TOKYO



START Ueno



9 mins

Take the 上58 bus from **Ueno-Kōen** (上野公園) bound for Waseda (早稲田). Alight at **Dangozaka-Shita** (団子坂下).

09:00 Risaku

Whimsical onigiri dealers Risaku take their rice balls seriously: they have 30-odd filling options to choose from. Have one of the morning sets, which come with an onigiri or two, plus miso soup and/or side dishes - all for ¥500. →2-31-6 Sendagi, Bunkyo / Closed Wed. tinyurl.com/totrisaku



3 mins

Take the 上58 bus bound for Ueno-Matsuzakaya (上野松坂屋前) from **Dangozaka-Shita** (団子坂下). Alight at **Nezu-Jinja-Iriguchi** (根津神社入口).



10:30 Nezu Shrine

Dating from 1706, Nezu Shrine is an excellent example of Edo-era shrine architecture. Its vermilion and gold-lacquered buildings have somehow managed to survive the earthquakes, wars and fires that ravaged Tokyo in the 20th century - a blessed place indeed. →1-28-9 Nezu, Bunkyo. tinyurl.com/totnezujinja



24 mins

Take the 上58 bus bound for Ueno-Matsuzakaya (上野松坂屋前) from **Nezu-Jinja-Iriguchi** (根津神社入口). Alight at **Ueno-Matsuzakaya** (上野松坂屋前) and transfer to the 上46 bus bound for Minami-Senju Sta. Higashiguchi (南千住駅東口). Note that you'll need to walk to platform 9 at this stop before getting on the next bus. Alight at **Kikuyabashi** (菊屋橋).

12:00 Kappabashi Maeda

If you're looking for stylish, Japanese-inspired tableware, head straight to Kappabashi Maeda, where you'll find everything from sake cups with Mt Fuji imagery to traditional kiriko glasses and chopstick rests shaped like vegetables. Prices are easy on the wallet. →1-10-10 Matsugaya, Taito / Closed Sun. tinyurl.com/totkappamaeda



10 mins

13:00 Tokyo Hotarudo

Asakusa's premier antiques purveyor may not be the easiest place to find, but is definitely worth the search. It houses a jumble of seemingly random merchandise, including clothing, lamps, kitchenware and even electronics. →1-41-8 Asakusa, Taito / Closed Mon, Tue (open if hols). tinyurl.com/tothotarudo



6 mins



3 mins

Take the 都08 bus bound for Kinshichō Sta. (錦糸町駅前) from **Tōbu-Asakusa Sta.** (東武浅草駅前). Alight at **TOKYO SKYTREE Sta. Iriguchi** (とうきょうスカイツリー駅入口). Alternatively, use the Asakusa line from **Asakusa Sta.** (浅草駅) to **Oshiage Sta.** (押上駅).



14:00 Koume Jidoyuen

Near Tokyo Skytree Station you'll encounter a few works of art, part of an outdoor installation series created by students. Don't miss the 'Oboroke', a work composed of 161 rods jutting into the air. →1-33-3 Mukojima, Sumida. tinyurl.com/totjidoyuen



10 mins

Take the 業10 bus bound for Shimbashi (新橋) from **TOKYO SKYTREE Sta.** (とうきょうスカイツリー駅前). Alight at **Kamezawa-Yonchōme** (亀沢四丁目).

15:00 Hokusai Sabo

With its minimal, Japanese-style decor, this café offers a stylish setting for enjoying exquisitely executed traditional sweets. The kinako crepes, green tea warabimochi, and the summer-only kakigori creations are all sublime. →4-8-5 Kamezawa, Sumida / Closed Tue. tinyurl.com/tothokusaisabo



5 mins

17:00 Izakaya Matchan

Finish your day at this very local izakaya, which is crowded with regulars even on weekdays. With five skewers of yakitori for ¥500 and fried gyoza for ¥300, Matchan is one of those gems that doesn't skimp on portion sizes yet won't break the bank either. →2-38-2 Kameido, Koto / Closed Thu. tinyurl.com/totmatchan



Take the 錦25 bus bound for Kasai Sta. (葛西駅前) from **Kinshichō Sta.** (錦糸町駅前). Alight at **Kameido Sta. Dōri** (亀戸駅通り).



THE ISLAND SWING



START Odaiba

09:00 Hilton Tokyo Odaiba

Enjoy an elaborate buffet breakfast – complete with traditional Japanese options – with a side of sweeping views of Tokyo Bay at the Hilton Tokyo Odaiba's Seascape Terrace Dining restaurant. You can't start your day better than this. →1-9-1 Daiba, Minato. tinyurl.com/tothiltonodaiba



2 mins

Take the 海01 bus bound for Tokyo Teleport Sta. (東京テレポート駅前) from **Daiba Sta. (台場駅前)**. Alight at **Nippon-Kagaku-Miraikan (日本科学未来館前)**.

10:30 Miraikan – The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

Interactive displays on robots, cells, space exploration and much more await at this fascinating science museum, where you can also watch 3D films in the Dome Theatre and hang out with a bona fide android. →2-3-6 Aomi, Koto / Closed Tue (open if hols). tinyurl.com/totmiraikan



26 mins

14:00 R.O.Star

R.O. Star offer fresh coffee for ¥100 during the day, while their sandwiches and desserts are also both tasty and wallet-friendly. Order a coffee soft serve and find a sunny bench in the nearby park. →3-2-20 Toyosu, Koto. tinyurl.com/totrostar



Take the 海01 bus bound for Monzen-Nakachō (門前仲) from **Nippon-Kagaku-Miraikan (日本科学未来館前)**. Alight at **Toyosu Sta. (豊洲駅前)**.

18:00 Phonosheet

This bar hides out in an alley behind an old townhouse and looks far older than its years. It's the kind of place you'll want to hide at for an entire night, sipping whisky and taking in classic vinyl tunes. →3-13-7 Tsukishima, Chuo. tinyurl.com/totphonosheet



1 min

16:00 Mukai

Tucked away in a Tsukishima alley, this cosy monjayaki joint looks (and tastes) like it's been in business for years, yet only opened in March 2017. Have their kaisen (seafood) monja for the essential Tokyo soul food experience. →3-16-4 Tsukishima, Chuo / Closed Wed. tinyurl.com/totmukai



11 mins



To get back to the centre of town, we recommend taking the Oedo line from **Tsukishima Sta.**



AN ARTSY JOURNEY



START Ginza

10:30 Ginza Six

Mega-complex Ginza Six may be a veritable shrine to luxury commerce, but they haven't skimped on the cultural side either. Check out the large art book selection at Tsutaya Books or catch a Noh performance in the basement theatre. →6-10-1 Ginza, Chuo. tinyurl.com/totginzasix



Take the Asakusa line from **Takaracho Sta. (宝町駅)**. Alight at **Higashi-nihombashi Sta. (東日本橋駅)**.

16:00 Starnet Tokyo

Seeing that they're based in Mashiko, Tochigi, the amount of Mashiko-made goodies at this organic-focused gallery and shop isn't surprising. Shop for foodstuffs, glassware and clothing on the ground floor, and head upstairs to the gallery space for exhibitions. →1-3-9 Higashi-Kanda, Chiyoda / Closed Mon. tinyurl.com/totstarnet



3 mins

Take the Asakusa line from **Higashi-nihombashi Sta. (東日本橋駅)**. Alight at **Kuramae Sta. (蔵前駅)**.

17:00 Kakimori

The pens, inks and lettersets at this stationery store are chosen on the basis of how comfortable they are to use, while their made-to-order notebooks (bound in 20-30 minutes) have an infinite variety of customisation options. →4-20-12 Kuramae, Taito / Closed Mon (open if hols). tinyurl.com/totkakimori1



Take the Oedo line from **Kuramae Sta. (蔵前駅)** Alight at **Ryogoku Sta. (両国駅)**.

5 mins



13:00 Dominique Ansel Bakery Japan at Ginza

Cronut creator Dominique Ansel conjures up unique and innovative pastries that have legions of fans in Japan. Some of the highlights here include the Pull-a-Part Flower Cookie, made from individual petal-shaped cookies, and the Square Watermelon Mousse Cakes. →Ginza Mitsukoshi B2F, 4-6-16 Ginza, Chuo. tinyurl.com/totanselginza



5 mins

14:00 Okuno Building

One of the oldest apartment buildings in Japan, Okuno was constructed in 1932 to house luxury apartments but its worn interior is now home to art galleries and studios. Be sure to take a ride in the manually operated elevator. →1-9-8 Ginza, Chuo. tinyurl.com/okunobldg



5 mins

18:30 Kappo Yoshiba

Sumo meets food at this Ryogoku restaurant, which specialises in chanko nabe, the ingredient-rich stew sumo wrestlers eat to bulk up. Everything inside is in sumo style, with a wrestling dohyo (ring) as the centrepiece and live shows every night. →2-14-5 Yokoami, Sumida / Closed Sun & hols. tinyurl.com/totkappoyoshiba



2 mins





A HIPSTER'S TOUR OF TOKYO



STREETCAR NOSTALGIA



START Harajuku

11:00 Kamakura Matsubara-an Keyaki

Indulge in luxurious soba at this restaurant where everything is as fresh as it gets. Slurp seasonal favourites and classic dishes like sudachi soba topped with grated radish.

→ Harajuku Quest 4F, 1-13-14 Jingumae, Shibuya. tinyurl.com/totkamurakeyaki



4 mins

Take the 池86 bus bound for Shibuya Sta. Higashiguchi (渋谷駅東口) from Omotesandō (表参道). Alight at Jin-Nan-Itchōme (神南一丁目).

12:30 T4 Tokyo

Ping-pong fans will be very happy at this table tennis-centric complex complete with a restaurant, bar and shops. There's also a table tennis school and, of course, enough tables to play to your batting heart's delight.

→ 1-12-16 Jinnan, Shibuya / Closed Tue. tinyurl.com/tott4



8 mins

Walk to Shibuya Station. Take the 渋谷88 bus bound for Shimbashi Sta. (新橋駅前) from Shibuya Sta. (渋谷駅前). Alight at Minami-Aoyama-Rokuchōme (南青山六丁目).

Take the 都01 bus bound for Shimbashi Sta. (新橋駅前) from Minami-Aoyama-Nanachōme (南青山七丁目). Alight at Roppongi Sta. (六本木駅前). Transfer to the Oedo subway line at Roppongi Sta. (六本木駅), and alight at Azabu-juban Sta. (麻布十番).

17:00 Kaiju Sakaba Shinbashi

Kaiju beasts populate many Japanese movies, and this Shinbashi haunt is dedicated to these famed and not-so-famed monsters. Grab a drink among familiar favourites from the 'Ultraman' series.

→ Wing Shinbashi B1F, 2 Shinbashi, Minato. tinyurl.com/totkaiju



20 mins

Take the 都06 bus bound for Shimbashi Sta. (新橋駅前) from Azabujuban Sta. (麻布十番駅前). Alight at Shimbashi Sta. (新橋駅前).

15:00 Sou-Sou Kyoto Aoyama

Putting a fresh spin on the traditional Japanese aesthetic, this Kyoto-based brand aims high with its textiles, shoes and kimono and yukata robes. Browse the pretty wares and sit down for matcha at the in-store tea room.

→ 5-4-24 Minami-Aoyama, Minato. tinyurl.com/totsousou



7 mins



2 mins

16:00 Dumbo Doughnuts and Coffee

Treat your sweet tooth to a colourful doughnut at this cool café filled with flavours that will leave your mouth watering. Try their raspberry, coconut or matcha cream cheese doughnuts with coffee for a satisfying snack.

→ 2-17-6 Azabu-Juban, Minato. tinyurl.com/totdumbo



START Ikebukuro

13 mins



10:30 Kiazuma Coffee

Named after a jazz song, this laidback coffeeshop on a semi-pedestrianised street does great blended coffee made from Brazilian beans. Order a cup with the hotdog or sandwich set and settle in with a blanket.

→ 3-19-5 Zoshigaya, Toshima / Closed Wed. tinyurl.com/totkiazuma

Take the Toden Arakawa line from Toden zoshigaya Sta. (都電雑司ヶ谷) to Otsuka-ekimae Sta. (大塚駅前).



6 mins

13:00 Asukayama Park

This park is great if you're visiting with kids. Have them run around or climb the hills and stairs, or take the mini-monorail (10am-4pm) if you're pushing a pram. There are also three museums and old train carriages to see.

→ 1-1-3 Oji, Kita. tinyurl.com/totasukayama



20 mins

Take the Toden Arakawa line from Otsuka-ekimae Sta. (大塚駅前) to Oji-ekimae Sta. (王子駅前).

Take the Toden Arakawa line from Oji-ekimae Sta. (王子駅前) to Machiya-ekimae Sta. (町屋駅前).

15:00 Parisian Cafe

A hit with locals, who keep coming back for the abundant selection of toasted sandwiches, this café serves sarnies at ¥750 including a drink.

Say hi to Kewpie, the resident cat, who wears a thick jacket in winter.

→ 1-4-5 Machiya, Arakawa. tinyurl.com/totparisiancafe



8 mins

Take the Toden Arakawa line from Machiya-ekimae Sta. (町屋駅前) to Minowabashi Sta. (三ノ輪橋).

12:00 Penguin-do Zakkaten

Penguin-lovers, rejoice: this store is dedicated to all things themed on your favourite flightless bird. Stowed away for years to make sure they're retro enough, the black-and-white knickknacks on sale include true rarities. → 2-28-2 Kita-Otsuka, Toshima / Closed Wed, Sun & hols. tinyurl.com/totpenguinzakka

*Note that this store is a temporary one.



16:30 Joyful Minowa Shopping Street

Being able to fill up on the cheap is one of the joys of a shotengai (traditional shopping street): you won't go hungry with ¥500 here. Afterwards, head to the Suzuki liquor store to taste sake (up to four cups).

→ 1-18-5 Minami-Senju, Arakawa / Opening times vary by shop. tinyurl.com/totjoyfulminowa



Five things you didn't know about Toei Transport

Q1.

How do Toei Subway trains always stay on time?

To put it simply, Toei's trains run on schedule thanks to the daily efforts of the conductors, station staff and other employees in charge of everything from timetable planning to track maintenance. Ultimately, scheduling is the purview of Toei's Integrated Control Centre, where employees adjust timetables on the fly whenever a delay occurs, making sure that there's minimal impact on passengers. Finally, staff in charge of safety at stations – those finger-pointing folks you might notice when trains arrive and depart – play a crucial role as the ground-level eyes and ears of the operation.



Q2.

Where do Toei's buses go at night?

The Toei fleet consists of around 1,500 city buses – all of which return to their respective bus centres at the end of the day. These 18 centres, found all around town, are equipped with garages and petrol stations. Toei also operates an auto plant out by the bay in Shinonome, where all buses undergo engine maintenance, repairs and tune-ups.

Q3.

How are Toei timetables put together?

Train timetable planning starts from estimating passenger amounts. These numbers dictate things like how long trains need to be, how fast and how often they need to run, and traffic light settings. As some Toei trains cross over to tracks operated by other transport companies such as Keikyu and Keisei, timetable planning also involves negotiating with partner operators.

In the case of buses, timetable planning begins with a yearly analysis of congestion and delays across the Toei network. This analysis is kicked off six months before the timetables need to be updated. Once completed, it results in the highlighting of routes that require adjustments in areas like how often buses run and how many carriages are used on the route daily. Around 40 percent of all 129 routes are adjusted every year – 2017 saw updates to approximately 55 bus routes.



Q4.

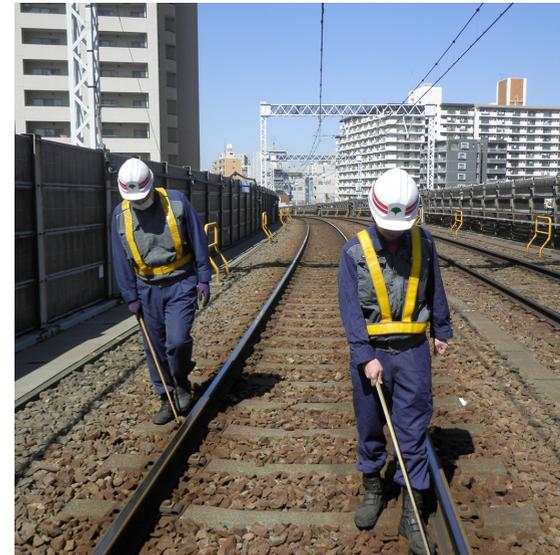
How long do buses and trains stay in service, and what happens to old carriages once they're retired?

Train carriages stay operational for around 25-30 years, while the lifespan of your average bus is around 15 years. Old carriages that aren't scrapped are passed on to other local governments or transport companies. Some are even sold overseas: ex-Toei trains are used in Indonesia, while old Tokyo buses can be seen on the streets of Sri Lanka.

Q5.

What do track maintenance workers look out for on their daily rounds?

They check the condition of the rails and railroad ties, confirm that no bolts are coming loose, look out for leaks in tunnels and so on. Maintenance is usually done in groups of two workers, who spend a total of around ten days surveying a single line's tracks.



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