

Tokyo Summer-Combo Platter Tour A Foodie & Omiyage experience!

June 1st – 8TH, 2019



6nt/8days fr: \$2795 dbl/tpl & \$3150 single

What could possibly be better than our popular omiyage tour? How about a 6-night Tokyo Foodie & Omiyage tour where every day you get to experience a unique lunch and dinner mixed in with the very best shopping and sightseeing spots that you know and love.

The Greater Tokyo Area is home to over 38 million people. With millions of people, that also means thousands (if not millions?) of restaurants and izakayas lining almost every street in Tokyo. Trying new foods or finding the best spots to eat is one of the favorite parts of city travel.

Smell, eat and drink your way through our weeklong tour, guaranteed to be unique, flavorful and a whole lot of fun. Its begins and ends with Hawaiian Airlines, followed by accommodations, all six nights in one hotel, the recently renovated Sunshine City Prince Hotel located in Ikebukuro. Talk about location, it doesn't get much better.

On tap for touring, many of our omiyage weekender favorites, Tsukiji, Ameyoko, Asakusa, the antenna shops in Yurakucho, Sugamo Jizo Shopping Street on festival day and a complete free last day for serious shopping.

On the cultural side, we have included visits to Edo Tokyo Museum, iconic Tokyo Tower, day trip to Kamakura and Yokohama, followed by another to Kawagoe.

On the "lets have fun side" there is matcha tasting at Jomyoji Temple in Kamakura which has an amazing teahouse, Glicopia East Factory visit, aka the Pocky Factory, Ishikawa Brewery to enjoy historical sake and beer, Suntory Beer Brewery for a "tour and pour" visit and a Tokyo motorcoach night tour on the way to dinner!

Come along, lets sample Tokyo's food, discover hidden gems and have a whole lot of fun!

Itinerary/Details

Day 1 – June 1st, 2019 Saturday – Depart from Honolulu

Hawaiian Airlines #821 Departs Honolulu 3:20 pm – Arrive Narita 7:00 pm + 1

Please meet your Panda Travel representative at the Hawaiian Airlines check in counter, located in Terminal 1, formally known as the Hawaiian Terminal, Lobby 3, Makai at least 3 hours prior to the departure time.

Day 2 – June 2nd, 2019 Sunday – Narita-Tokyo

After clearing customs, we will be met by our local guide and board the charter bus to our host hotel, The Sunshine City Prince Hotel, ideally situated in the Ikebukuro section of Tokyo. The hotel is less than a 10-minute walk from the Ikebukuro JR Station. Our drive time is approximately 45 minutes.

The lobby of the hotel connects to a huge shopping and entertainment mecca with four towers, including a 240-meter-high skyscraper with an observation deck on the top. Sunshine City is typically open from 10 am to 8 pm seven days a week. We are also less than a 10-minute walk from the Ikebukuro JR Station. The third floor of the mall is practically all restaurants and stays open until 9:30pm.

There is 24-hour Family Mart convenience store right off the lobby in case you would like to pick up food, snacks, or beverages. Within a 5-minute walk is a 24-hour super market, Seiyu, in case all you want is a light dinner bento to bring back to the room.

After checking in, the remainder of the evening is free. Your Panda Travel guide will arrange a meeting time for those who would like to take a short walking tour of the immediate area.



Newly remodeled Sunshine City Prince Hotel & lobby



Family Mart in hotel lobby



Accommodations: Sunshine City Prince Hotel  free

Day 3 – June 3rd, 2019 Monday – Tokyo (B/L/D)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 8:30am as we are off on a fun fill day of touring Tokyo.

The morning begins with a visit to Tsukiji Market.

If you've ever dreamed about melt-in-your-mouth, out-of-this-world sushi, then you might have heard of Tsukiji, the largest fish market in the world. Most of Tokyo, and even high-end sushi restaurants in Hong Kong and San Francisco, gets their fish from this cultural landmark near the center of Japan's capital city.

Tsukiji sits on some of the most valuable real estate in Tokyo. While the inner auction market has moved to a new location, this outer market thrives and has kept its charm.

Opened in 1935, Tsukiji sprang to life after the Great Kanto Earthquake destroyed most of Tokyo in 1923. It has since become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the city. Every morning sightseers start lining up at 3 a.m. to watch the frozen tuna auction. The more expensive fresh tuna auctions – where a single Bluefin once sold for nearly \$1.8 million- are privately conducted.

If you're a foodie, love markets, enjoy photography – or simply like visiting unique places – then you'll probably love Tsukiji.

After a good stroll around the market, there's nothing like a sushi breakfast to complete the experience. There are plenty of sushi shops – make sure to choose one where you see locals dining. If you don't feel like sushi, there are other options including ramen, *donburi* and more.



Tsukiji Market

If you finish early we encourage you to visit Tsukiji Hongan-ji Temple, less than one block away. With an Indian-style exterior, was built in 1617 near Asakusa, but was burnt down in a huge fire that swept through Edo (Tokyo) in 1657. The Temple was then rebuilt on the present site but destroyed again by the Great Tokyo Earthquake of 1923. The current main building was built in 1934. The main building possesses a distinctive ambience not found in other Japanese temples, due to its variety of architectural styles.



Tsukiji Hongan-ji Temple

From here, off to Ameyoko Shopping Street, famous throughout Japan for its wide variety of products.

The name "Ameyoko" is a short form for "Ameya Yokocho" (candy store alley), as candies were traditionally sold there. Alternatively, "Ame" also stands for "America", because a lot of American products used to be available there when the street was the site of a black market in the years following WWII.

You can get just about EVERYTHING here, clothes, bags, cosmetics, fresh fish, dried squid and spices are sold along Ameyoko. It is quite the scene to just walk around through the very crowded and narrow streets. An awesome place to sightsee, shop and eat! Enjoy some free time here to explore on your own.



Ameyoko is a great spot to stock up on all your omiyage favorites

It's lunch time and we off to a local restaurant so that you can enjoy a buffet lunch.

Next, we are off to Asakusa, the traditional, low-rise, down, and dirty Tokyo of yesteryear. Although on the surface it's ye olde Japan, this was the first part of the capital to have significant western influence. It was even the site of Japan's first cinema.

Attractions in the area include one of Tokyo's most historic temples – Sensoji, and the impressive Kaminarimon Gate that marks the entranceway to the temple. Also, you can't miss Phillip Stark's 'Golden Poo' on the roof of the nearby Asahi Breweries headquarters.

Sensoji Temple dates to 645, but with the original destroyed in the air raids of 1945, today's building is a 1958 reconstruction. At the top of the steps, as a mark of respect, clap twice and bow your head. It's also customary to make a small offering by tossing coins into the wooden rack.

The Five Storied Pagoda was built in 1973 and amongst others; it stands in honor of comedians! Standing 54 meters high, reinforced with concrete and steel, and like all pagodas, running down the center is a giant pillar of Japanese Cypress tree wood.

Once through the gate you'll be in **Nakamise Shopping Arcade**. The street is lined with colorful, lively stalls selling traditional knick- knacks, festival foods, and rice crackers. There are over 50 shops along this shopping street. We will remain here for 1.5 hrs. to allow you time to enjoy the area as well as shop.



Asakusa and Nakamise Shopping Arcade

From here we make our way back to our hotel, arrival by 4:00pm. Enjoy some free time to relax and freshen up as we have truly fun evening in store.

Please meet your guide in the lobby by 5:30pm as we are off on a night tour of Tokyo as we make our way to dinner. Dinner is at the Zauo Fishing Restaurant where you can experience fishing for your dinner and then have it prepared for you.

We will return to our hotel by 8:30pm. Once back the remainder of the evening is free.

Accommodations: Sunshine City Prince Hotel  **free**

Day 4 – June 4th, 2019 Tuesday – Tokyo (B/L)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 9:30am as we are off on another fun filled day of touring.

The morning begins with a visit to one of Tokyo's most unique shopping streets, Sugamo Jizo Dori Shopping Street. Weekends here are always busy with local folks shopping, but a day with the number "4" in it is especially festive with many more street vendors in attendance. We are in luck as today is June 4th!

Most Tokyo residents know of Sugamo as a ne'er-visited stop on the Yamanote line—if they know of it at all. Yet here lies one of the city's most interesting shopping streets. Think Center Gai or Takeshita Dori—for your grandma. The average visitor to Sugamo's Jizo Dori is silver-haired but with a sparkle in the eye. Hordes of Japan's Greatest Generation flock to the district that postwar modernization forgot.

Almost 1km in length, the Jizo Dori arcade has over 200 shops specializing in all manner of goods for the silver generation. You'll find comfy shoes and clothes in droves, many at Takeshita-like bargain prices. Some stalls sell the latest and greatest hearing aids, while others hawk designer walking canes. Japan's love of brand-name fashion evidently knows no age.

As one might suspect, health-related products feature high on the shopping lists of the elderly; on Jizo Dori, you'll find at least eight drugstores, two pharmacies and three kampo apothecaries. Don't let the bizarre potions displayed in the windows put you off. These traditional Chinese recipes have undergone a few thousand more years of R&D than those painkillers in your purse. Those with a sweet tooth might try the herbal ice cream.

Sugamo is a clearinghouse of all things traditional—primarily, food. One shop after other offers Japanese confectionaries, rice crackers, green tea, and cooking ingredients. Samples of traditional sweets and savories abound, try shio-daifuku—rice balls with sweet red bean paste and a sprinkle of salt. These are Sugamo's answer to the crepes of Harajuku.

But even more than the foodstuffs, Sugamo is best-known for its red-hot granny panties. Aka-pantsu are said not only to improve the wearer's health and vigor, but also ward off evil spirits and bring happiness.

So, what's the reasoning? Well, for starters red is considered auspicious. The Japanese also believe that the center of a person's well-being is in the lower back/belly region. So, keep your midsection warm and protected, and be rewarded with strength and happiness—or so they say. To pick up a pair of aka-pantsu, swing by any of the area's several outlets of Maruji. Also, on offer are red boxer shorts, long johns, body warmers and socks. Some items even sport a Sugamo logo or zodiac sign.

Two stores that we will be pointing out are Sugi Yohoen which stocks dozens of honeys, jams and juices, plus nihonshu (sake) infused with ginger. You can sample almost everything at the tasting counter.

The other is Chirimen for cute, modern takes on furoshiki cloths and yukata, plus wallets, coffee mugs and other everyday items.

Stroll around this unique area, experience the city of old in Sugamo and enjoy the "Japaneseness" of this street.



Sugamo Jizo Dori Shopping Street

Now, off to enjoy a chanko nabe lunch, originally the one-pot dish/hotpot commonly eaten by sumo wrestlers as part of their weight-gain diet. Today, it is commonly served in restaurants operated by retired sumo wrestlers. The very first was by Kawasaki Chanko, opened in 1937 in the Ryogoku district in Tokyo, home to many prominent sumo.

Chanko nabe has become a part of Japanese cuisine especially must-eat food around Tokyo. Enjoy lunch!

This afternoon begins with a visit to the Edo Tokyo Museum, a museum of the history of Tokyo during the Edo period. This impressive museum highlights the city's history with large- and small-scale models chronicling Tokyo's architectural transformation as well as recreating Japanese life through the centuries.

Here, you can walk through Tokyo's humble origins (via the life-sized Nihonbashi Bridge) in the early Edo Period to the Meiji Restoration (the period where Japan transitioned from traditional to a more modern society, influenced by western principles) from traditional to a more modern society, influenced by western principles), through the subsequent industrial revolution, past the devastation of the World Wars and into today's modern metropolis. In addition to models of all shapes and sizes, the museum also features historical and cultural relics that you can observe up close, including traditional kimono gowns and woodblock prints.

Next, we are off to visit iconic Tokyo Tower. While it is no longer the tallest structure in Japan, nor a full-fledged broadcasting tower, it is still one of the most popular places for tourists to visit and an icon of the capital, attracting about 2 million visitors annually.

Opened in 1958, Tokyo Tower will be standing for a second Olympics when Tokyo hosts the games in 2020. Perhaps most known for its distinctive steel framework, this self-supported steel structure, modeled after the Eiffel Tower in France is lighter and taller. At night, the tower is lit up by 176 floodlights, orange in winter and white in summer.



Tokyo Tower

Our last touring spot for today is the antenna shops in Yurakucho, to find local specialties from around Japan. Enjoy free time here to browse and shop on your own.

Japan has a seemingly endless supply of regional specialties, a great many of them edible and delicious, but most of us don't have enough time or money to zip around the country to sample all these goodies at the source. That's where 'antenna shops' come in handy: practically all the 46 prefectures, plus quite a few cities and smaller municipalities, have their own dedicated retail outlets in Tokyo. While not all 46 are represented here, you will still enjoy some of the more popular one, Hokkaido down to Okinawa – without ever leaving the city center.

At the Hokkaido shop you will find many of the regions products as well trying their popular ice cream. The ice cream is made from fresh milk supplied from the contracted farmers in Hokkaido.

The Osaka shop on the same floor has small space in the shop where people can buy and eat their local food such as takoyaki and dotayaki.

You will find shops from Ibaraki, Kochi, Hiroshima and more. The Okinawa shop has a wide selection of local liquor awamori, and Kochi shop has a small restaurant upstairs where they serve traditional regional menu using the local ingredients.

Also, in this area are two very popular stores, Muji and Loft. Both shops are quite large and offer a wide variety of items to shop for.

Now off to another truly unique dining experience, a visit to Shimbashi Underpass, an area filled with inexpensive and delicious restaurants. We are here to enjoy izakaya dining.

The “izakaya” culture or an outdoor yakiniku (bbq) restaurants, mixed with the shakes and sounds of the passing Yamanote or Keihin-Tohoku Line train overhead is what defines this neighborhood.

Izakaya is a Japanese style bars which serves food and drinks, popular for “nomi-hōdai” (all you can drink) and “tabe-hōdai” (all you can eat) option. Though some establishments differ by price or menu, the rules are always the same- sit, order and share with your dining partners. Tonight’s dinner is on your own.

After dinner, back to the hotel and the remainder of the evening is free.



Accommodations: Sunshine City Prince Hotel  **free**

Day 4 – June 5th, 2019 Wednesday – Tokyo-Kamakura-Yokohama-Tokyo (B/L)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 9:00am as we are off on a full day of touring to Kamakura and Yokohama. The drive time is approximately 1 hour.

Kamakura became the political center of Japan, when Minamoto Yoritomo chose the city as the seat for his new military government in 1192. The Kamakura government continued to rule Japan for over a century. It remained the center of Eastern Japan for some time before losing its position to other cities.

Today, Kamakura is a very popular tourist destination. Sometimes called the Kyoto of Eastern Japan, Kamakura offers numerous temples, shrines, and other historical monuments.

Once here we will be visiting Jomyoji Temple, a Zen temple in the hills of eastern Kamakura. Ranked fifth among the five great Zen temples of Kamakura, Jomyoji was founded by the influential Ashikaga Family and at its peak was made up of seven buildings and several pagodas. Over the centuries, however, many of the structures were destroyed by fire, and only its historic main hall, reception hall, main gate and warehouse remain today. The main hall sits at the end of a garden and houses a statue of Shaka Nyorai, the historical Buddha.

The highlight of this temple is the stunning tea house overlooking a perfectly manicured rock garden, where we will enjoy a traditional bowl of green tea accompanied by a Japanese sweet. The surroundings are so peaceful and relaxing.

From here, off to lunch and on tap is Japanese hamburger.

This afternoon's touring begins with a visit to the Great Buddha of Kamakura, a bronze statue of Amida Buddha, which stands on the grounds of Kotokuin Temple. With a height of 13.35 meters, it is the second tallest bronze Buddha statue in Japan.

The statue was cast in 1252 and originally located inside a large temple hall. However, the temple buildings were destroyed multiple times by typhoons and a tidal wave in the 14th and 15th centuries. So, since 1495, the Buddha has been standing in the open air.

The Great Buddha rises serenely from its base, with gorgeously draped garments that you can hardly believe are forged from bronze. The serene expression is so evident; you feel the peace the artists intended to convey. The Great Buddha of Kotoku-in is an iconic image that represents Japanese culture. It is not just big, but beautiful.

This Great Buddha or Daibutsu as is commonly called is a National Treasure and one of the centerpieces of the city's cultural heritages.

For a small donation, you are permitted enter the Buddha and see from the inside how it was cast. Take a few moments to enjoy this unique experience.

Just steps away is Komachi dori shopping street where you will have free time to walk around, shop for souvenirs and enjoy some delicious snacks and foods.

One must stop here is at Kamakura's famous cookie store for a sample. These dove-shaped butter cookies make for a great Kamakura souvenir and omiyage gift.

The dove motif was inspired by the plaque above the main prayer hall at Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine, where the character for "Hachi" is shaped to look like a dove.



Kotokuin Temple Great Buddha of Kamakura Komachi dori shopping street and Dove cookies

We now bid Kamakura good-bye and make our way to Yokohama for a stop at Yokohama World Porters, a mall that is located just across the street from CUP NOODLE Museum.

Why here at this mall you ask? World Porters has a unique area on the ground level, Hawaiian Town where you can find not only souvenirs and clothes from Hawaii, but a whole bunch of our favorite place to eat and without the long lines. For a change of pace, enjoy dinner on your own, local food and free time to explore or even walk over the CUP NOODLE Museum. We will remain here 2 hours.

Among the local names are Teddy's Burgers, Leonards' malasadas, Honolulu Coffee, Blue Water Shrimp and the dining centerpiece is Halenohea Hawaiian Cafe and Diner. This sit-down restaurant's menu is all Hawaiian, served in wooden bowls with wooden utensils.



Hawaiian Town- Yokoyama World Porters

From here, back to the hotel, arrival by 8:30pm and the remainder of the evening is free. Not tired, go out and explore Ikebukuro behind the hotel. The area is always busy until late in the evening.



Accommodations: Sunshine City Prince Hotel  **free**

Day 5 – June 6th, 2019 Thursday – Tokyo-Kawagoe-Tokyo (B/L/D)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 9:00am. This morning we are off to Kawagoe, the "most Japanese" destination of all and yet, only an hour from Tokyo. Tight streets lined with gabled buildings and tiled roofs -- it's an image many visitors, particularly those of an older, pre-Pokémon vintage, hope to find when they come to Japan for the first time.

Our first stop along the way will be at the Glicopia East Factory. Behold, the Japanese equivalent of Charlie's chocolate works: the Pocky factory. You might be familiar with Pocky and Pretz, the ever-popular Japanese stick-shaped snacks. Glico Pia East is dedicated to these two delicious treats.

At the entrance of this magical factory you will be greeted by lots of beautiful ladies wearing Pocky-colored clothes. They will be your charismatic tour guides!

On this factory tour, learn the history of the founder and get to see the production line in operation. There're also an exhibition of 1500 small toys that at one time were included in Glico's products. These little toys are very nostalgic for the Japanese.

At the end of the tour you get a Pocky-shaped balloon and a limited edition Pretz box.

From here, a visit to Kawagoe Hikawa Shrine, said to be approximately 1500 years old. It is known as the "love shrine" and attract many singles looking for help in finding the partner of their dreams.

With two sets of deities that are regarded as married couples, the shrine has been historically worshiped for "matrimonial happiness", "happiness in the family" and the "deity of matchmaking".

If you are looking to improve your luck in love, here are 8 important things to do during your visit.

1. **Let's Greet the Deities Enshrined at Hikawa Jinja**
2. **Send off the Dolls** - trying the 'hitogata nagashi' ritual at the small river that runs through the shrine grounds. The steps are as follows:

Blow three times on the washi paper called the 'hitogata' (human-shaped paper).

Rub the hitogata paper on yourself.

Release the hitogata paper into the river while chanting "harai tamae, kiyome tamae" (atone and purify). The purpose of this ritual is to cleanse one's sins.

3. **Walk around for blessings.** Aside from the main shrine and the hall of worship, there are many smaller shrines and holy trees throughout the shrine grounds. These are all known as spots where you can be blessed.
4. **Circle the Holy Tree-** In the back of the main temple, there are two massive zelkova trees that are said to be over 600 years old. Around these two holy trees, a stone path is built and when you walk around the tree in the shape of the number 8, it is said that you will gain a spiritual power of some sort.
5. **Go under the tunnel of Ema** - the ema (wooden prayer plates) are dedicated to the shrine in a tunnel shape. The way the light shines through the ema creates a beautiful sight. How about going through this tunnel of plates filled with people's wishes?
6. **Catch a Red Snapper Omikuji-** For your luck to improve, try reading an omikuji (luck diving paper). There are the standard omikuji, but the ones that are the most popular are the 'ichinen antai mikuji' (one year of safety lottery) and the "ai tai mikuji" (encounter lottery) for 300 yen each. The 'tai' in the lottery names and the 'tai' for red snapper are a Japanese pun on the word for good luck. After you take the omikuji paper out of the red snapper, you can keep it as a charm!
7. **Purchase a matching charm-** There is a "red pencil" charm that can only be found here. It is designed after the "red string of fate" that is said to connect you to the one you are fated to. The more you use the pencil, the closer the fated person gets.
8. **The Matchmaking Stone-** the first 20 people that arrive at the shrine are eligible to receive the blessed white gravel from the shrine that has been wrapped in a linen net by a Miko priestess. It is said to have great strength and many people come to see the stones from early in the morning. Unfortunately, we will not be here at the shrine's opening.

From here, lunch time. Our Japanese style lunch will be at Koedo Kurari Hasshutei, a renovated building of the former Kagamiyama Sake Brewery's storehouse constructed in 1875. One must try is Kawagoe's high-quality sweet potatoes, Kawagoe-imo.

After lunch, time for a stroll through Kawagoe. This old town has a rich history as a key supplier of commodities to the capital during the Edo Period. Many of its merchants accumulating vast fortunes that allowed them to build opulent warehouses that both protected their wares from fire and theft and served as status symbol.

Enjoy free time to walk through the town's warehouse district where many of these old storehouse merchant houses are lined up. Many have been converted to shops, restaurants and museums. Rent a kimono for the stroll and you'll feel as if you've travelled back in time to ancient Edo. The afternoon offers you the opportunity to experience the traditional and pure Japan which you can't see in Tokyo.



Kawagoe

We now return to Tokyo and our hotel, arrival by 5:00pm. Enjoy some free time to relax and freshen up before we meet again at 6:30pm for a night tour of Tokyo on our way to dinner. Tonight's dinner is at a local Japanese restaurant that specializes in okonomiyaki and monjayaki, two distinctive types of savory Japanese style pancake.

They are made with seasoned flour and a variety of other ingredients, such as cabbage and sprouts mixed into a batter, then cooked on a hot iron plate. Both types of pancake are popular and deliciously filling. The main distinction between the two is the amount of seasoning used, and the way they are made.

Okonomiyaki batter has all the ingredients mixed together and molded into a firm, round, pancake-like shape when cooked, then topped with sauce, mayonnaise, dry seaweed, and other condiments like bonito flakes for flavor. Monjayaki batter is softer and is spread evenly throughout the iron plate.

After dinner, back to our hotel and the remainder of the evening is free.



Accommodations: Sunshine City Prince Hotel  **free**

Day 6 – June 7th, 2019 Friday – Tokyo (B/L/D)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 9:00am as we are off on a sit back and relax kind of touring day.

The morning begins with a visit to the Ishikawa Brewery, located on the outskirts of Tokyo. The brewery dates to 1863, and you can even see the giant beer cauldron which was used during the Meiji period, when beer was first being produced in Japan. As well as this, Ishikawa has been making their own 'Tamajiman' sake for over 120 years.

Ishikawa is still a working brewery, so on our visit, it is still possible to see the brewing progress. Many of the buildings here are registered as tangible cultural property. Amongst them is the Mukougura beer factory, still producing Ishikawa's 'Tama no Megumi' beer - Hongura, the main storehouse that is currently where the brewing takes place - and Shingura, a storehouse now used for aging the sake.

Other points of interest include an original well that was the primary source of water used in the sake brewing process up until 1960, and which is set under a 700-year-old sacred tree; and the 400-year-old zelkova trees representing the god of rice, the goddess of water, and their marriage, to signify the importance of the sake brewing process. These revered trees are still prayed to each day.

From here, lunch time and today we are off to a yakiniku (Japanese BBQ) restaurant.

After lunch, off to visit the Suntory Musashino Beer Brewery, one of the premier beer brands in Japan. Get to know one of the oldest beer breweries in Japan and learn how they make their well-loved products. At the end of the tour, you will also get to taste freshly produced beer. Do not forget to check out the gift shop for limited products and offers.

Now, back to our hotel, arrival by 4:00pm. Enjoy free time to relax and freshen up before we meet up once again as we are off to enjoy a samurai evening cruise, a live kabuki-style show and buffet dinner. Along the cruise route experience Tokyo Bay, see the iconic landmarks of Tokyo Tower, Sky Tree, Rainbow Bridge and more.

Rainbow Bridge when illuminated, the arches seem to be floating and the rainbow bridge name comes actually comes from the multi-colored lights that are featured at night.

Tokyo Tower is illuminated with two patterns known as “Landmark Light” and “Diamond Veil”, which make Tokyo’s nightscape special. The tower is synonymous with Tokyo and can be seen in countless movies, TV shows and animated features.

After dinner and show, back to our hotel and the remainder of the evening is free.



Accommodations: Sunshine City Prince Hotel  **free**

Day 7 – June 8th, 2019 Saturday – Tokyo (B)

After breakfast, enjoy a complete free day to shop, sightsee or just sit back and relax. We have arranged for a late check-out from the room, so enjoy all you want, come back when you want, the room is yours until we depart for the airport.

As you have come to know, Ikebukuro offers plenty of entertainment, shopping, and dining opportunities. It is the battle ground between the Tobu and Seibu conglomerates which operate large department stores on each side of the station. Recently it has also seen fierce competition from two of Japan's largest electronic retailers, Bic Camera, and Yamada Denki.

Enjoy time at Sunshine City, a huge shopping mall connected to our hotel. It has four towers including a 240-meter-high skyscraper with an observation deck on the top. The main tower is the second highest building in Tokyo. The Sunshine City Prince Hotel is housed in one of the smaller towers at the complex. The lower levels of Sunshine City are a monstrous maze of shops and tourist attractions, as well as a theatre.

The tower’s elevator is an attraction in its self, being the fastest in the world it takes only thirty-five seconds to reach the top. The highlight of the ride would have to be the illuminated dolphins and unicorns, ambient music and beautifully dressed lift operators making the trip to the top an interesting journey.

The center opened in 1978 and is Tokyo’s oldest “City within a City”. It sits on land that was once occupied by Sugamo Prison.

The Sunshine International Aquarium is a popular attraction where there are plenty of great underwater exhibits to entertain the whole family. There are the usual sharks, stingrays, tropical fish, and sea life, but the most popular exhibits are the penguins, seals and sea otters which are well worth the entry fee. The aquarium sits on the 10th Floor, which gives it the title of the world’s highest aquarium.

There are feedings at the aquarium every hour and one of the largest tanks holds over 120 tons of water. The seals do performances during the day.

Another great family attraction is the planetarium, where you can learn about the solar system and the universe. The Cosmic Safari takes visitors on a journey to see the wonders in outer-space.

The Bunka Kaikan building is home to the Ancient Orient Museum which has an amazing collection of artifacts and is well worth a look.

The Sunshine City complex is also home to the Namco Namja Town. Namja Town is a collection of food theme parks and other interesting dining establishments. The center has a series of kittens as mascots and there are plenty of them to choose from in the gift shop. Some of the food parks include Ice Cream City and the Tokyo Dessert Republic. Then for the Gyoza lover, there is Ikebukuro Gyoza stadium, the list goes on with dozens of tasty attractions. There is a small fee to enter the complex and then the fun begins. There are various carnival amusements at Namja town too, like a haunted house, merry-go-round, and video shooting games. Make sure you go hungry as there is so much to try across the two jammed packed floors of food and adventure.

One store no visitor to Japan should miss is Tokyu Hands, a shop that can only be described as a cross between a hardware store and a hobby shop. It is a great place for gift shopping, as many of the items for sale can't be found outside Japan. This store is one of their largest and has a rather odd attraction.

Do you just love finding the latest Kit Kat flavors? Take time to visit the recently opened Kit-Kat Chocolatey, at the Seibu Department Store, Ikebukuro train station and shop at the world's first Kit-Kat boutique.



Ikebukuro Area around the Sunshine City Mall and our hotel

Please meet your guide in the lobby by 8:00pm as we bid Tokyo good-bye and make our way to the Haneda Airport for the flight home.

Hawaiian Airlines #856 Departs Haneda 11:55 pm – Arrive Honolulu 12:35 pm

