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Time Out Tokyo (Time Out Guides)



Synopsis

Time Out Tokyo is the definitive guide to this fast-moving metropolis. With cultural briefings and comprehensive practical tips, this guide leads visitors through the marvels and mysteries of the world's most undiscovered capital. From futuristic skyscrapers to ancient temples, sex clubs to sushi bars, it's all here – how to navigate the city with no street names and make the most of the numerous shopping options, from must-have souvenirs to electronics bargains. The guide also explores sights beyond Tokyo, including Yokohama, the hot springs of Hakone, and the slopes of Mount Fuji. Also included are over 150 personally vetted restaurant reviews (plus a guide to reading the menu), and etiquette tips: do's and don'ts, using a bath house, sleeping in a ryokan, and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Don't leave home without Time Out Tokyo." Company Magazine "Well written by people who know what they're talking about." Daily Yomiuri, Tokyo

Founded in 1968, Time Out has grown from humble beginnings into the leading resource for anyone wanting to know what's happening in the world's greatest cities. Alongside our influential weeklies in London, New York, Chicago and Dubai, we publish more than 20 magazines in cities as varied as Beijing and Beirut; a range of travel books, with City Guides now joined by pocket-sized Shortlist series; and an information-packed website. The company remains proudly independent, still owned by Tony Elliott four decades after he launched Time Out London. Written by local experts, and

illustrated with original photography, our books also retain their independence. No business has been featured because it has advertised, and all restaurants and bars are visited and reviewed anonymously.

I started randomly paging through this about a month before my first visit to Tokyo. It helped give me a sense for what I wanted to see while there and I did use some of the recommendations. Once I got on the ground however I found the maps fairly useless. I ended up leaving this book in the room and used other maps while traveling around that were less bulky than the book and more detailed. The street names in Tokyo are not always posted in English so having a guidebook in English only isn't much use if you're on the street looking at a map. Nevertheless Timeout guides are good for whetting the appetite before traveling and giving a sense of a place and this guide to Tokyo was no exception there.

Handy subway guide and the restaurant choices were spot on!

I live in nyc and time out always finds great, less known places. It did the same in Tokyo. Coffeeshops to bars, it only lists a few of each, for each town (so it's not terribly thick) but each place we visited was great. We used several different books on the trip, but by the second day, this was the only one we were carrying.

I am a Time Out London subscriber since a few years ago. I do enjoy their fresh and up-to-date view on the events and attractions of the city, as well as their thoughtful comments on many articles. That is the reason why I feel that I have been cheated.Using the TimeOut brand for such a poor quality guide just gets on my nerves. I have other guides from TimeOut, and they are ok, even good. But this one should have never made its way to the shelves. Not only has it a very short and poor list of attractions for every area of Tokyo, but it also lacks the most basic information. It should suffice to say that:1) It does not even have the Japanese name next to the listing. How are you supposed to ask anyone in Tokyo about that place??. Ridiculous2) The maps do NOT have the places they mention in the chapter. Yes you read well. They mention a place but you cannot see where it is. I hope you take into account that many of the streets there don't have names, and that the few that do won't have a sign in English that you can read. The maps are incomplete, poor and do not even show where those places are.3) The information on every area is poor, incomplete and inaccurate compared to any other guide, and the translation probably was not reviewed, because it is awful

too. We wasted long hours of our trip thanks to this awful guide. Avoid at all costs. I never thought that I would recommend a Lonely Planet guide, but trust me, you will be much better off with it. It is far from perfect, but at least it will result 1000 times more useful to anyone. It is fairly good and reliable for a foreigner who does not speak Japanese. This guide is just a waste of money and paper. Shame on you, TimeOut. I will review your guides 3 times before buying any in the future.

This book has some interesting reviews and content. Unfortunately, I found it virtually useless on my trip to Japan. The biggest problem is that, EVERYTHING is written in English, so you can't show an entry to a cabdriver or a bystander and expect to get any help. The maps are the second worst part. They are exceedingly sparse and not helpful for navigating around. Only major streets are named and only in English, so most of the time, it's impossible to tell where you are on (since most of the streets are only marked in Japanese). The lack of a good Tokyo Overview Map coupled with the book's haphazard organization makes this book frustratingly useless for planning your sightseeing itinerary. There is a small section with Japanese phrases, but again, it's all written in English, so you're left to fend for yourself with your poor Japanese pronunciation. Again, if the editors had bothered to include some Japanese in the book, then you could simply point to the phrase that you want. I bought this book because it looked slicker and more fun than a typical Lonely Planet guide, but unfortunately, this book was really useless for a traveler unfamiliar to Tokyo. This book is most useful for somebody who already has an experienced Tokyo guide. Then, he could use the book simply to pick out interesting places and let the guide actually plan the sightseeing.

I decided to acquire the 2010 edition of the Time Out guide to Tokyo after being deeply disappointed by the sloppily written and edited Lonely Planet guide. I haven't tested the Time Out guide "in the field" yet, but my first impression is that it is a significant improvement on LP - it includes lesser-known sights that might otherwise be missed and warnings about likely future closures/restrictions, and the food/hotel reviews generally match up with my own experiences. That said, there are mistakes - i.e., it doesn't mention that the Sunshine City Aquarium is closed for renovations through 2011; the editors seem to have missed the well-publicized fact that some flights from North America now arrive at Haneda; and the book oddly describes Suica as a "magnetised" travel card (it's a smart card, not magnetic). As always, a travel guide should be a starting point but anything important should be verified online...

Good product.

This guide is not only useful, but really readable. I have lived in Japan for a number of years, but I learned a lot from the introductory articles. I also really liked the boxes giving background on interesting aspects of Japanese culture throughout the text. They changed the pace of the book, offered some fascinating information, and made the book a pleasure to refer to.

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