

THE PLACES

60 → TRULY INDIA 64 → DESTINATION

*The teamLab
Borderless
museum in
Tokyo is a
unique sensory
experience*

TOKYO DRIFT

Got just 24 hours in the
Japanese capital? Make the
most of your time





the places on the clock

TOKYO TIMES

From wrestlers to robots, spend an action-packed day in this vibrant city

words by **Kunal Bhatia** and **Shuvajit Payne**

🕒 09:30AM
Setting sights

📍 Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building Observatories

Zip up 202m to the twin observation decks atop these mighty buildings for stunning 360-degree views over and across the megalopolis. Spot historic shrines, iconic towers, and even the majestic Mt. Fuji on clear days.

🕒 11:00AM
Slurping goodness

📍 Ramen Jazzy Beats

With the head chef doubling up as a DJ, reserve brunch at this top-rated restaurant's latest outlet to savour hearty bowls of steaming *shoyu* ramen accompanied with foot-thumping music. Opt for *tokujo* to get all the toppings, including bamboo shoots and fried enoki mushrooms.

🕒 12:30PM
Fantasy world

📍 teamLAB Borderless

Here, expect a free-flowing spectacle of digital art installations—colourful, immersive, and even interactive. Relocated in the Azabudai Hills, there are no boxed galleries. So, explore as you like and go where your imagination takes you.

🕒 02:00PM
Battle of the giants

📍 Ryogoku Kokugikan

You might be forgiven for thinking that the Earth shakes and mountains move when witnessing bouts of legendary Sumo wrestling, Japan's most iconic sport. Three times a year, the Kokugikan stadium plays host to national sumo tournaments. It can accommodate over 10,000 visitors.

Getty Images

Clockwise from top right: Unsplash; dawn2021.orylab.com; Shutterstock; Instagram/ramen_jazzybeats

FACING PAGE
The futuristic teamLab Borderless digital art museum

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT
Itoya store is filled to the brim with stationery; Get served by robots at DAWN café; Explore touristy sights on a street kart tour; Enjoy music and food at Ramen Jazzy Beats.



GETTING THERE
Air India flies non-stop to Tokyo from Delhi.

STYLISH STAYS

- 1 Aman Tokyo** offers meditative calm and a cocooned getaway with impeccable city views from its lofty heights in the Otemachi Tower.
- 2 Muji Hotel Ginza** is a delightfully minimalist, no-frills boutique hotel that's an extension of the brand's flagship store.
- 3 Hoshinoya Tokyo** is designed as a traditional *ryokan* in a high-rise format complete with tatami mats, tea lounges, and a rooftop *onsen*.

🕒 03:30PM
Futuristic socio-tech
📍 Avatar Robot Cafe DAWN

Combining technology with a humane element, the ushers, waiters, and baristas at DAWN are robots operated remotely by home-bound people unable to move physically due to age or health issues. Not only do they get your coffee but also happily engage in conversation.

🕒 04:30PM
The drama unfolds
📍 Kabuki-za

Inscribed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO, Kabuki is Japan's traditional dance-drama theatre form complete with extravagant costumes, elaborate make-up, and highly stylised movements by the actors. While headsets provide English audio guides, never take your eyes off the stage—performers disappear before you know it, sets change, and enthralling live music keeps up the suspense.

🕒 07:00PM
Retail therapy
📍 Itoya

With twelve floors of pens and pencils, stamps and postcards, journals and notebooks, along with hundreds of colourful *washi* tapes, textured papers and desk accessories, this is a stationery store par excellence. Shop for your home or office, and even pick up some unique gifts.

🕒 08:00PM
Time for fun
📍 Shibuya neighbourhood

It's time to unleash your inner child. Dress up as your favourite childhood character in a colourful onesie and whizz down the streets in open karts. It's a great way to wind down the day, while enjoying getting papped by curious onlookers, and passing by such famous locations as the Tokyo Tower and the Shibuya Scramble Crossing, as you cruise along. Remember, that the fun calls for an International Driving Permit.