

Tokyo 2020 Candidate City

Tokyo is one of three final candidate cities bidding for the 2020 Summer Olympics and Paralympics. Tokyo played host to the Games in 1964 and would love to have the opportunity to do so again.

In 1964, Tokyo hosted the 18th Olympiad, the first ever Games to be held in Asia. It was a significant event for the city and for Japan. It can be said to mark the end of the post-war reconstruction period and the advent of high-tech Japan. On 1 October 1964, Japan's *shinkansen* (bullet train) went into service, connecting Tokyo with Osaka. The opening ceremony on 10 October had an 87.4% television viewer rating. Japan subsequently hosted the Sapporo Winter Olympics in 1972, and the Nagano Winter Olympics and Paralympics in 1998.

Tokyo 2020's theme is *Discover Tomorrow*. In brief, the bid committee envisages a Games which capitalises on Tokyo's creativity. It explains on its website: "Tokyo will use all the creativity of the world's most forward-thinking city to benefit sport and the Games. We will take the Games to the capital of the future - the city that continually sets global trends in everything from fashion to technology. Our Games will renew and reinforce the Olympic Values for a new generation, and so help maintain and grow their impact in a rapidly-changing world."

You can find details of Tokyo 2020 at www.tokyo2020.jp/en.

Travelling in Tokyo – If you haven't been to Tokyo before, don't be put off by its size. It is really easy to get around, thanks to its extensive and efficient transportation system which allows visitors to access all places of interest without too much of a walk. In fact, probably the best way to get a feel for the different areas of Tokyo is to walk. So much seems to happen on Tokyo streets, but take a side street off a busy road and you will often find yourself in a quiet corner. Oases of green calm such as Shinjuku Gyoen are also a train ride away.

The Official Tokyo Travel Guide website GO TOKYO has a list of 53 differently themed half-day and full-day walking tours just to get you started:

www.gotokyo.org/en/tourists/guideservice/routelist.htm



The Imperial Palace and neon-lit Akihabara
One of the great attractions of Tokyo is the co-existence of old and new.



The imposing office building of Tokyo Metropolitan Government proudly displays the Tokyo 2020 Candidate City Emblem.



Should you be lucky enough to visit Japan during cherry blossom time, you'll find there is no shortage of places to enjoy them even in busy Tokyo. This photo shows people relaxing in Shinjuku Gyoen Park.



Tokyo Station after renovations—in October 2012 an extensive five-and-a-half year renewal of the historic 1914 Marunouchi Tokyo Station was completed, reinstating original features.

Tokyo Skytree [left], completed in 2012, is the latest landmark to dominate the city's ever changing skyline. Such is its scale that it will be a defining feature for years to come, just as Tokyo Tower has been since its completion in 1958. Tokyo Skytree is a broadcast tower. With higher skyscrapers being built, a new tower was needed to broadcast digital signal.

The tower is 634 metres tall—634 can be said MU-SA-SHI in Japanese. This means the height of the tower will be easy for Japanese people to remember because it refers to the Musashi Province which was once the name of the region that incorporates Tokyo, Saitama and part of Kanagawa.

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