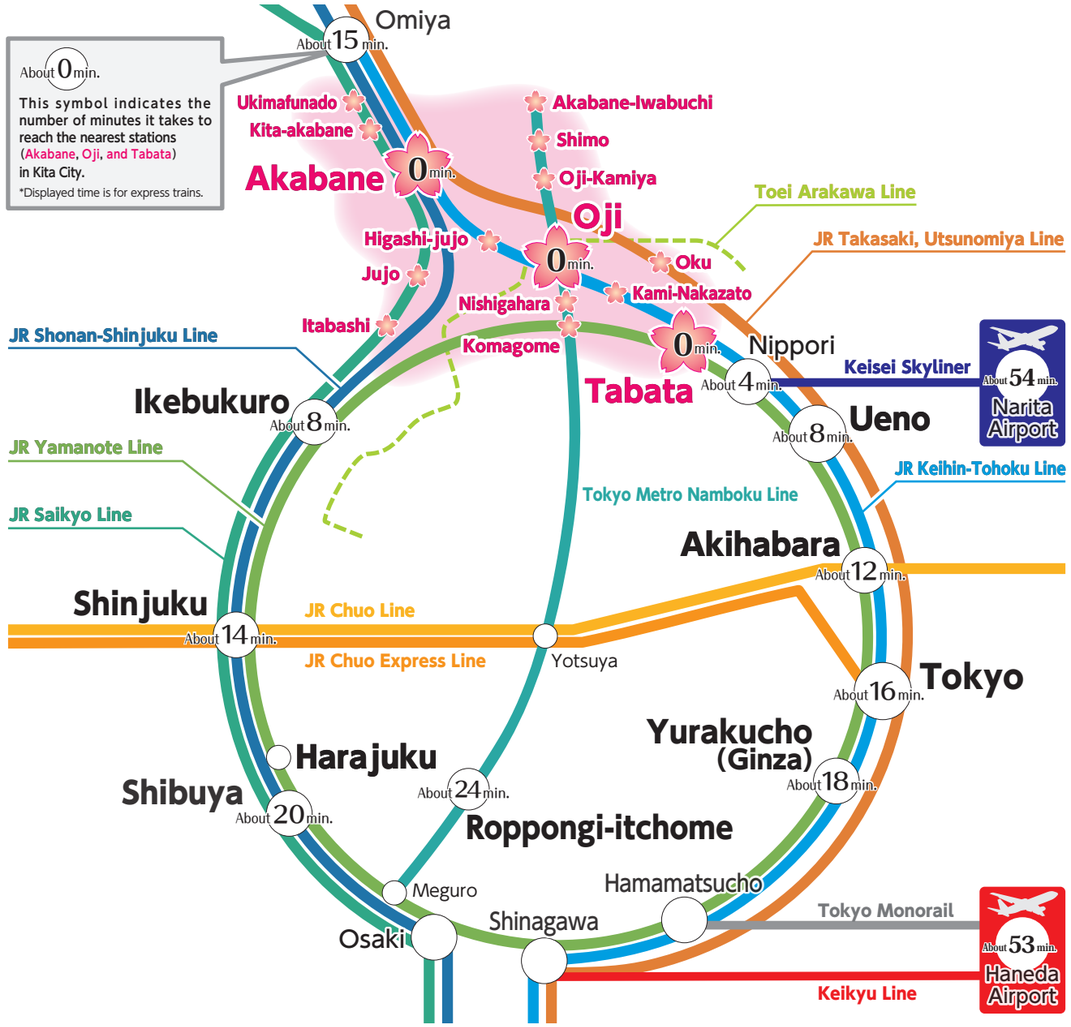
Kita City Access Map

Kita City is located within 30 minutes of major areas in Tokyo.



Access from Airport

Narita	Keisei Skyliner About 43 min.	Nippori	JR Yamanote Line About 4 min.	Tabata	JR Keihin-Tohoku Line About 5 min.	Oji	JR Keihin-Tohoku Line About 5 min.	Akabane
Haneda	Keikyu Main Line Limited Express About 18 min.	Shinagawa	JR Keihin-Tohoku Line About 25 min.	Tabata	JR Keihin-Tohoku Line About 5 min.	Oji	JR Keihin-Tohoku Line About 5 min.	Akabane
Haneda Airport Limousine Bus	About 55 min.	Oji	About 15 min.	Akabane				

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This guide has been created with the cooperation of the Lycée Français International de Tokyo and the JET

Enchanting

TOKYO

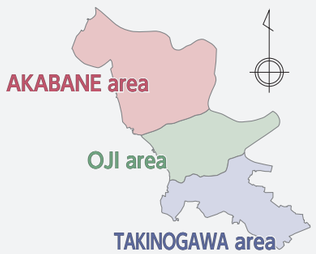
Kita City

No way!
Is this really Tokyo?
looks interesting!

City of Kita

City of Kita

Kita City is a place where residents live peacefully, surrounded by the beautiful nature of its four distinct seasons. Although it is located in the giant metropolis of Tokyo, it soothes the soul with a relaxing flow of time and lets you feel the warmth of the local people.
Be enchanted by some of the most beautiful cherry blossoms and autumnal leaves in Tokyo, amazed by traditional skills and customs, and experience daily Japanese life at shopping areas and other locations. Come and see another side of Tokyo, which becomes more profound as you get to know it better and makes you want to come back again and again.



Index

Feature Activities

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Kita City, the town of cherry blossoms, proudly presented by Tokyo; find a spot for viewing cherry blossoms that is right for you.

03 **SHOTENGAI –Shopping Streets–**
Plenty of shopping areas filled with a kind human atmosphere! Welcome to the living space of Tokyo.

Areas

05 **Akabane Area**

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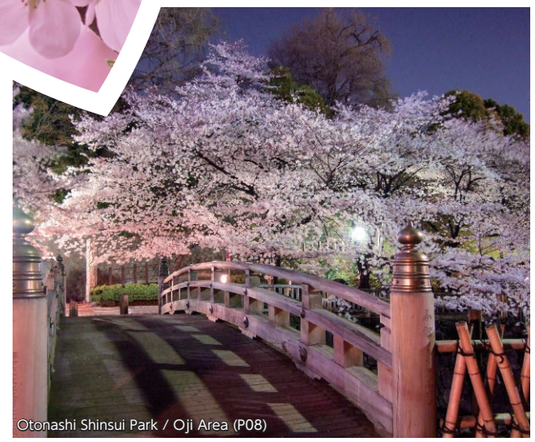
Back cover／**Access Information**

Enchanting
SAKURA
–Cherry Blossoms–

Kita City, the town of cherry blossoms, proudly presented by Tokyo; find a spot for viewing cherr y blossoms that is right for you.

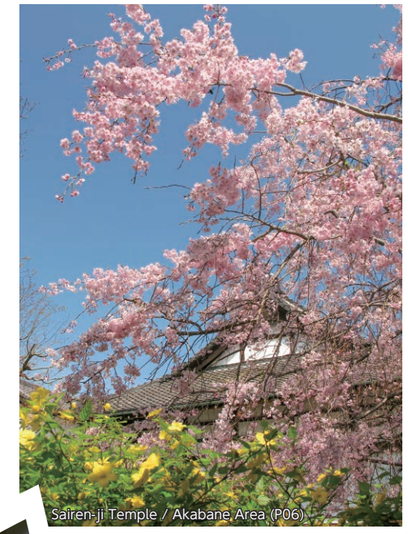
The season of cherry blossoms in Tokyo lasts from March to April. Kita City particularly has many popular spots for viewing cherry blossoms. There are many spots that have over a hundred cherry trees such as Asukayama Park, which has been very popular since the Edo period, Shakujii-gawa River, which is lined with cherry blossoms on both banks, and Metropolitan Ukima Park, which is known for its Japanese primroses. You can enjoy the overwhelmingly beautiful scenery during the season when they are in full bloom. What separates those spots from other famous ones at the heart of the city is that they are relatively relaxing places where you can enjoy the scenery while being surrounded by nature. You may be able to find the perfect spot for you while taking a stroll as they can be found blooming at various parks and roads throughout the ward.
Viewing cherry blossoms after the sun goes down is also a recommended activity. Their exotic beauty when lit up with devices such as paper lanterns is a sight that you will never forget.


Arakawa Riverside / Akabane Area (P06)


Otonashi Shinsui Park / Oji Area (P08)


Asukayama Park / Oji Area (P08)


Nanushi-no-Taki Park / Oji Area (P08)


Sairen-ji Temple / Akabane Area (P06)


Shimizuzaka Park / Akabane Area (P06)


Shakujii-gawa Riverside / Takinogawa Area (P10)



Autumn is the best time of the year to view "October cherry blossoms"!

There are rare cherry blossoms that bloom from October to December. They bloom on the three "October cherry blossom" trees that are planted at Asukayama Park. They are different from the colorific cherry blossoms of spring in that they are small rose-pink flowers that can be enjoyed together with autumnal leaves nearby.

Jugatsu Zakura (Asukayama Park) / Oji Area (P08)


Viewing Cherry Blossoms at Mount Asuka on a grand three-fold screen (Shuncho Katsukawa/1781-1788), stored at the Kita City Asukayama Museum

It was roughly 300 years ago when the eighth shogun of the Edo Shogunate planted 1,270 cherry trees at Mount Asuka in an effort to encourage the common people into viewing cherry blossoms. The beautiful cherry blossoms that bloom at the spacious foothills and the people who come to enjoy viewing them create a spring scene that has not changed since then.

Enchanting
SHOTENGAI
–Shopping Streets–

Plenty of shopping areas filled with a kind human atmosphere! Welcome to the living space of Tokyo.

To the people of Tokyo, Kita City is “the town to live in”. That is why so many shopping areas, which sustain daily life, can be found here. Along the streets are shops that sell delicious prepared foods at low prices as well as sundries shops that sell convenient items, and all kinds of other establishments such as banks, book stores, produce markets, and coffee shops. Here, you can enjoy eating and shopping at various shops while taking in a nostalgic atmosphere.
You can also feel a very human downtown atmosphere when interacting with the shop clerks as there are many privately-owned shops. There are also shopping areas that are representative bar districts of Tokyo, such as Akabane Ichibangai Shopping Street. Here, you can experience daily Japanese life by eating dinner and drinking together with people who are unwinding after a hard day’s work.



Akabane Area / Maruken Suisan (P06)

Try the famous Kita City Oden!

Oden is a potted dish where various ingredients are stewed in a soy-flavored broth. There are many famous shops that serve this local favorite in Kita City. You can warm both your body and soul by selecting your favorite ingredients from among Edo vegetables (daikon radishes, burdock roots, and carrots), chikuwabu gluten tubes, deep-fried tofu pouches filled with rice cake, ground fish, and more.



Akabane Area / OK Yokocho Street (P06)



Oji Area / Jujo Ginza Shopping Street (P08)





Oji Area / Jujo Ginza Shopping Street (P08)



Also plenty of restaurants that Japanese people go to regularly!

Japanese cuisine has been added to UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage list and is gaining popularity all around the world. Famous Japanese foods include sushi, tempura, and tea ceremony dishes. However they are not normally consumed by Japanese people on a daily basis. Some Japanese meals for the common people are yakitori, stewed dishes, sashimi, broiled fish, hot pots, and set meals that include rice, miso soup, and side ingredients. And of course there is also fast food such as beef bowls as well as casual Italian, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean cuisine. The shopping areas of Kita City have many restaurants where you can enjoy these common meals. Please be sure to enjoy them with drinks such as sake and shochu, as there are also many establishments that serve alcohol.

Enchanting Akabane Area –Kita City–

Akabane

赤羽

The Akabane area can be reached from locations such as Ikebukuro, Shinjuku, Shibuya, Akihabara, and Tokyo in just one train ride and can also be included as part of your sightseeing tour of other areas. In front of JR Akabane Station are some of the best bar districts in Tokyo, where you can enjoy typical Japanese meals such as oden and yakitori for dinner. Another recommended activity is taking strolls at places such as the riverbed of Arakawa River and parks filled with nature. Here, you can be sure to experience a tranquil scenery of Tokyo that you cannot find at the heart of the city.

Kawaguchi Ferry and Zenkoji Temple - one of the Hundred Famous Views of Edo (Hiroshige Utagawa / 1857)

Ferries that travelled during the Edo period along Arakawa River, which flows between Iwabuchi in Kita City and Kawaguchi in Saitama Prefecture. It was an important route that frequently transported people and cargo. If you stand on the riverbank, you can imagine the rows of boats that used to float here.

Stored by the National Diet Library.





❶Akabane Ichibangai Shopping District

A shopping district that runs about four hundred meters long north of the East Exit of JR Akabane Station. This is a recommended spot for you if you want to enjoy yourself at a bar district in Tokyo at night. There are over forty izakayas crowded with local residents, which serve dishes such as oden, yakitori, seafood, and giblets cooked in a hot pot.





❷Akabane Baka Festival

A big event celebrated by all of Akabane every year in April or May. It has been held for over half a century since 1956 in commemoration of an event that took place about five hundred years ago. It features marching bands, dances, masquerades, and parades of portable shrines.

❸Akabane Hachiman-jinja Shrine

Many railroad fans come to worship here in order to see bullet trains and local trains running back and forth from up close. It also attracts idol fans because of its popular lucky charms, which have the "infinity" sign on them.





❹Tokyo Kita City Fireworks Festival

Some of the best fireworks in Tokyo. Held in October every year near the riverbed of Arakawa River in the background of the Former Iwabuchi Water Gate (Red Water Gate). Thousands of artistic fireworks are set off with music that is played synchronously for a spectacular presentation.



❺Former Kyu-Iwabuchi Water Gate

A water gate that protected people from the flooding of Arakawa River for ages. Although it is not used anymore, it is still affectionately referred to as "Red Water Gate".



❻Tokyo Metropolitan Ukima Park

A park of water and vegetation that spreads out in front of JR Ukima Funado Station. Visitors can enjoy fishing, playing in the water or relax as they view seasonable flowers and aquatic plants.



❼Akabane Nature Observatory Park

A park where you can come in contact with natural life such as plants of the four distinctive seasons, insects, and wild birds. There are also ponds and rice fields that use spring water.

❽Arakawa Akabane Sakura-zutsumi Field

The quiet levee of Arakawa River, which is a nice place to take a stroll. About sixty-four thousand moss pink blossoms bloom in spring on the roughly hundred cherry trees that grow on the riverbed to create a huge work of flower art.



❾Maruken Suisan

A popular shop where you can enjoy oden as you drink while standing at a table placed out at the front. Their specialty is fluffy hanpen fish cake.



❿KOYAMA Brewery

The only saké brewery in all of Tokyo's twenty-three wards that has a history of over a hundred years. They brew high-quality saké with traditional brewing methods.



⓫Kogata Imado Ningyō (Clay Dolls)

Here, Yoshikazu Yoshida recreates clay dolls that have been endeared for over a hundred years such as the "Marushime Cat", which is the first "beckoning cat", with techniques that have been employed since the early days.



⓬Edomoji & Takoe

Kites were enjoyed by local residents of the Edo period. This is the workshop of the world-famous Yasuo Shimura, who has succeeded the kite art skills of the old times.

Enchanting Oji Area –Kita City–

Oji

王子

Plenty of nature-abundant places for strolls such as Asukayama Park, which has been a favorite spot for viewing cherry blossoms since ancient times, as well as parks with waterfalls.
You can also discover the wide appeal of Japan by experiencing technology that can only be found here in the birthplace of Western-style paper in Japan and seeing culture such as traditional craft arts and performances for the masses. Streetcars, which are rare in Tokyo, are also a pleasant sight to see as they run along the tracks in rustic townscapes.







❶Asukayama Park

Asukayama Park was recognized in 1873 as the first public park in Japan. It presents beautiful flowers and scenery of the four distinctive seasons, and is crowded in spring with visitors who come to view the cherry blossoms that bloom on the roughly six hundred cherry trees. The kids' area, with attractions such as the Toden streetcar and locomotive on display, is also popular with children.

❷Oji Fox Pageant

People wearing makeup and masks while costumed as foxes appear in Oji on the night of New Year' s Eve each year. It is a New Year's event based on a legend of foxes drawn on a woodblock print. The parade marches from Shozoku Inari-jinja Shrine down to the streets of Oji, and finally to Oji Inari-jinja Shrine. It is a mystical event that can only be seen once a year.



❸Paper Museum

Oji is the birthplace of Western-style paper in Japan. Asukayama Park has one of the world's finest comprehensive paper museums in the world and introduces the history and production processes of paper. Visitors can make postcards at the Japanese paper-making class (reception from 12:50p.m. to 2:15p.m.) on Saturdays and Sundays every week.

❹Kyu-Shibusawa Garden

The remains of the residence of Eiichi Shibusawa, who is known as the "god of banking". The grass lawn that spreads across Asukayama Park is beautiful, and the Bankoro cottage and the Seien Bunko library, which are designated Nationally Important Cultural Assets, are must-see sights.


Seien Bunko (Shibusawa Memorial Museum)



Oji Inari Shrine - The Thirty-six Views of the Eastern Capital
(Hiroshige Utagawa II / 1862)
Oji Inari Shrine has been visited by many worshippers since the Edo period. The canal that runs along the long walls and waterfall next to the stone steps can no longer be seen, but the red walls, steep stone stairs, elevated shrine pavilions, and stone walls in the background still remain unchanged.
Stored by the National Diet Library.



❺Toei Arakawa Line

The sounds of streetcars in Tokyo that go "cling cling" create a nostalgic and old downtown atmosphere despite being in Tokyo. There are six stops in Kita City and along the railroad are many famous tourist spots such as Oji Station and Mount Asuka.



❻Jujo Ginza Shopping Area

The largest shopping area in Kita City, which starts from JR Jujo Station. It is well-reputed for its large selection of items and low prices, and is crowded with local residents. There are also many simple prepared foods on sale such as croquettes, so shoppers can enjoy trying out various foods while taking a glimpse of actual Japanese life from up close.





❼Hokutopia (17F Observatory Lobby)

The observation lobby on the top floor (17th floor) offers a beautiful view that includes sights such as Asukayama Park and the Tokyo Skytree.



❽Otonashi Shinsui Park

A waterfront park with a beautiful line of cherry trees. It also includes features such as a picturesque bridge and lighting that give off a very Japanese atmosphere.



❾Nanushi-no-Taki Park

A Japanese garden with four waterfalls including the "male waterfall", which is one of the tallest waterfalls in Tokyo, as well as a nature-abundant environment with zelkovas, Japanese maple trees, and more.



❿Oji Ogiya

An old established Japanese omelet shop that has continued making them by hand ever since their opening in 1648. Their specialty is their thick-layered Japanese omelet.



⓫Banknote & Postage Stamp Museum

A museum that is located adjacently to the National Printing Bureau's Oji Factory. The area where you can see for yourself anti-counterfeit technology at work with your own bills is popular.



⓬Ukiyoe & Mokuhanga

The workshop of Shinkichi Numabe, a nationally-certified craftsman of traditional arts. Famous woodblock prints are depicted with colors and expressions that can only be presented with woodblocks.



⓭Tokyo Tegaki Yuzen

Fabrics such as those for long-sleeved kimonos are dyed with natural themes and traditional aesthetics of Japan, which are drawn by hand. This is the workshop of expert craftsman Nobuo Sato.



⓮Shinohara Engeijo Theater

The oldest theater in Tokyo specializing in performances for the masses. It is extremely popular among local residents who come to enjoy mini shows, theater, and dance performances.

Enchanting Takinogawa Area –Kita City–

Takinogawa

滝野川

The Takinogawa area lets you see the daily lives of Japanese people up close in quiet residential districts that are distanced from the hustle and bustle of the big city. You may want to visit spots such as shopping areas, parks, temples and shrines that have been endeared by local residents for ages while feeling the warmth of the people as time slowly passes by. There are plenty of sights to see here including Kyu-Furukawa Teien, which is a garden famous for its roses. You can also enjoy a slightly different sightseeing experience by seeing what it is like to be a ninja or watching banknotes being made.





❶Kyu-Furukawa Teien (Garden)

Come see a Western-style building on a small hill that was constructed about a hundred years ago, as well as beautiful Western and Japanese-style gardens that are popular for their roses and autumnal leaves. Here, you can enjoy some tea while taking in the four distinctive seasons of the garden in a graceful atmosphere. It was nationally designated Place of Scenic Beauty in 2006.



❷Takinogawa Park

There is a five meter-tall waterfall that flows out of a white granite wall and many children come to the nearby lake and river to play in the water. This is a spot where the local residents come to rest and relax while being surrounded by a rich natural environment and the sound of the water.

Oji Takinogawa - a famous place in the eastern capital.
(Hiroshige Utagawa /1840 - 1842)
Shakujii River flows through the Takinogawa area. Both banks are deep gorges and it has been a famous retreat in the summer as well as a popular spot for viewing autumnal leaves in the fall for ages. It has been a serene place since the time people started to enjoy playing freely in the river here.
Stored by the National Diet Library.





❸Kita City Disaster Control Center

Visitors at the Kita City Disaster Control Center can experience earthquakes, smoke, and early fire extinguishing. Feel realistic recreations of the shakes of major earthquakes that have hit Japan in the past such as the Great Kanto Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake. Now, you can truly deepen your knowledge of the earthquake-ridden country of Japan.



❹National Printing Bureau Tokyo Factory

Come and see the making of Japanese banknotes, which have very few counterfeits. In addition to being able to see how these bills are printed, the facilities are complete with images, panels, and hands-on experience devices so you can have fun learning about the production processes of banknotes, anti-counterfeit technology, and more.





Let's try

Recommended by foreign teachers and students who know about Kita City!

Multinational students and students from abroad who study at Lycée français international de Tokyo and JET Academy, which are located in Takinogawa, have placed the yellow "Let's try" arrow on recommended tourist spots. Please be sure to visit and experience the sights, get to know the area, try out various foods, and feel the atmosphere.



Lycée français international de Tokyo
Philippe EXELMANS, principal





❺Tabata Memorial Museum of Writers and Artists

Come to Tabata, where Ryunosuke Akutagawa and other representative writers and artists of Japan used to gather, and see what they have left behind through materials such as their works and documents.



❻Tokaku-ji Temple

There are Nio statues, which are famously used to pray for recovery from sickness. Worshippers place red pieces of paper on the parts of the statues that correspond to their affected areas as they pray.



❼Shimofuri Ginza Shopping District

A shopping district that is a close part of daily life in the area. It is a lively place with a nostalgic atmosphere where even strangers find themselves spontaneously talking with each other.



❽Shojuin Temple

A temple said to have been built here in the sixteenth century by the Buddhist monk Gakusenbo because of a revelation that he had. It is also famously known as the "baby temple".



❾Kondo Isami and The Shinsengumi's Grave

A memorial site for the commander of the Shinsengumi, Isami Kondo, and its members, who still continue to appear in historical teachings as well as in comics. A memorial service is held every April.



❿Silver Atelier Kojima

Silverwork by second-generation Nobushige Kojima, Tokyo Meister. The beautiful accessories and decorations that gleam like mirrors are made by hand.

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Password : kita0000
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Kita City Free Wi-Fi

Access point map

To use this service,
you need to enter the password
"kita0000".

