

GINZA

銀座

The world-famous Ginza is mostly shopping, with branches of all major Japanese department stores, three of which - Mitsukoshi, Matsuya, Matsuzakaya - operate in one 4-block stretch of Chuo Dori. The sheer multiplicity of goods on display is dazzling: Godiva chocolate, Jantzen swimsuits, Moschino leather, Durban suits, Calvin Klein sportswear, Tiffany jewelry, Dior cosmetics - plus, of course, all the local producers and designers brands. The department stores also have fully-stocked gourmet supermarkets in their basements, often with free samples of, say, Swiss cheese or prosciutto.

All the department stores are open on Sunday, when Chuo Dori is closed to traffic and a festive air reign. Tables and chairs are placed in the middle of the street, interesting sidewalk bazaars are set up and fathers relax with families they rarely see on weekdays. It's the best time of the week to people-watch, and for a different kind of watching the colorful Kabuki Theater (Japan's most popular form of traditional drama) is a few minutes' walk from the main Ginza 4-chome crossing. If you would like to view a Kabuki performance, you can call the theater (03-5565-6000) for reservations in English.

For the visitor interested in "high-tech", the Sony Showroom displays Sony's latest home appliances and electronics, including a 120" High Definition TV (HDTV) demonstration screen. The showroom is open 1100 - 2000 daily (closed 1 Jan). Also in the area is the Nissan Gallery, where the latest models of Nissan cars are displayed. The library on the 2nd floor contains videos of cars. Nissan Gallery is open 1000 - 2000 daily (closed 1 & 2 Jan).

HOW TO GET THERE:

From YOKOSUKA

1. Go to YOKOSUKA CHUO 横須賀中央 station and buy a ¥900 transfer ticket for HIGASHI GINZA 東銀座, which is on the TOEI ASAKUSA 都営浅草線 Subway Line in Tokyo.
2. Go to track #2 and take a GREEN or RED KANJI train bound for SHINAGAWA 品川.
3. Get off at SHINAGAWA Station.

Note: If you take a GREEN KANJI TRAIN (Exit at SHINAGAWA Station but stay on that same platform. Take any of the next train to HIGASHI GINZA 東銀座 Station. If you take a RED KANJI TRAIN (Keep riding on RED TRAIN until you reach HIGASHI GINZA 東銀座 Station.

* Keikyu Line joins a part of SUBWAY TOEI ASAKUSA 都営浅草線 Line after SHINAGAWA 品川.

4. After passing through the wicket at HIGASHI GINZA (give up your ticket here), take the exit immediately to your right. Follow the signs exit for KABUKIZA 歌舞伎座 to get to exit #3. At the top of the stairs, at street level, you will be directly in front of the Kabukiza Theater 歌舞伎座.

If Kabuki is not your cup of Green Tea, face the theater, then walk to the left, crossing the street toward "MONTANA" Pachinko Parlor. Continue straight down the street, called Harumi Dori, and check out the many interesting shops on the way to the main Ginza intersection.

Near the "4-corners" of the main Ginza intersection you will find the Mitsukoshi Department store, the round San-Ai Building and Nissan Gallery. While you're in the area also try to find the Pink Tea Club and the Toto Pavilion. Yamaha has a major music store here, as well.

From IKEGO

1. Go to JIMMUJI 神武寺 Station and buy a ¥830 transfer ticket for HIGASHI-GINZA 東銀座, which is on TOEI ASAKUSA 都営浅草線 Subway Line in Tokyo.
2. Take a train from track #2 to KANAZAWA BUNKO 金沢文庫 Station and change to a GREEN or RED KANJI train bound for SHINAGAWA 品川.

Note: During certain time of the day it may be necessary to switch trains at KANAZAWA HAKKEI 金沢八景.

3. **Continue as above #3.**

RETURN:

To YOKOSUKA

1. Buy a ¥900 transfer ticket for YOKOSUKA CHUO Station, which is on the KEIKYU (KHK) Line. Follow the sign for TOEI ASAKUSA/KEIKYU Line when you get the station.
2. Go to the platform for the train bound for SHINAGAWA. **Wait for a RED KANJI Keikyu Line train.** The final destination for this train will be MISAKIGUCHI 三崎口.

To IKEGO

1. Buy a ¥830 transfer ticket for JIMMUJI Station, which is on KEIKYU (KHK) Line.
2. **Continue as above #1~2.**
3. Get off at KANAZAWA BUNKO 金沢文庫 (or Kanazawa Hakkei) Station and change train bound for SHIN-ZUSHI 新逗子.