

Visit the Area around the TOKYO SKYTREE, a Tokyo landmark, to experience Japan's National Sport, Arts and Culture

Tobu Railway Co., Ltd.

TOKYO SKYTREE is the world's tallest tower. This month, we introduce various destinations for experiencing Japanese culture in the area around the foot of the tower. Options include tours, popular with foreign visitors, for learning about Japan's national sport of sumo, a museum full of Japanese swords, and an art gallery showcasing the works of world-famous ukiyo-e (Japanese woodblock print) artist Katsushika Hokusai. In 2020, a new pedestrian bridge linking Asakusa and TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN, where TOKYO SKYTREE is located, will be completed, making visits to the area even more enjoyable and convenient. Why not take this opportunity to immerse yourself in Japanese culture?

Enjoy chankonabe stew with the sumo wrestlers of the Naruto Beya Sumo Stable

The Naruto Beya sumo stable is just close to TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN. A tour, priced at ¥11,000 per person, gives visitors a chance to eat chankonabe stew together with wrestlers who have finished their daily practice. The tour includes explanations from currently-active wrestlers of the history and rules of Japan's national sport, which dates back more than 1500 years. Since different sumo stables and wrestlers produce stew according to different recipes, the precise flavor of the stew changes day by day. Why not sample this delicious stew which cannot be enjoyed anywhere else?

(varieties: salt/soy sauce/miso/consomme/Japanese-style etc.)

Website: <https://beauty-of-japan.com/tour/sumo-narutobeya/>



Encounter the beauty of Japanese swords at The Japanese Sword Museum alongside the Sumida River

A walk from Asakusa along the Sumida River brings you to the "Former Yasuda Garden", a Japanese-style garden perfect for enjoying the four seasons. The Japanese Sword Museum in one corner of the garden stores and displays Japanese swords. The museum highlights the precision craftsmanship and high levels of skill that go into creating not only precious swords with historical value, but also related armor and accessories. Visitors can also relax and have a drink while looking out over the garden which has existed since Japan's samurai days. We highly recommend stopping by the museum on any walk around Asakusa or along the Sumida River.

Official website: www.touken.or.jp/english/



Visit the Sumida Hokusai Museum to take in the works of Katsushika Hokusai, a hugely influential artist

Ukiyo-e artist Katsushika Hokusai is a hugely influential figure in the art world. He introduced many Western painters to "Japonism", making a striking impression upon masters such as Monet, Van Gogh and Cezanne. This museum in Sumida Ward features a considerable number of his works. Hokusai spent the majority of his life of nearly 90 years around Sumida Ward. He also featured many local scenes in his art. The deep connection with Hokusai makes Sumida the perfect place to gain an appreciation of the worlds of Japanese Ukiyo-e.

Official website: <https://hokusai-museum.jp/english/>



Photos Owashi Yosuke

Pedestrian Walkway alongside the Sumida River Railway Bridge to link Asakusa and the TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN from 2020 Spring



In spring 2020, a new pedestrian bridge is scheduled to open alongside the existing railway bridge over the Sumida River. The opening is timed to coincide with the unveiling of a new multi-purpose commercial facility underneath the railway bridge. The new walkway will improve access from Senso-ji Temple to TOKYO SKYTREE TOWN, making travel and tourism around Asakusa and Oshiage all the more convenient.

Information: http://www.tobu.co.jp/foreign/en/pdf/20191115_2.pdf

<Information about recommended sightseeing areas along the Tobu Railways>

The Tobu Railway Group is a major Japanese corporate group consisting of approximately 80 companies. The Tobu Railways cover the longest operating distance in the Greater Tokyo area, and lead to many tourist attractions including Asakusa and TOKYO SKYTREE in Tokyo, Nikko and Kinugawa Onsen, famous as a world heritage and hot spring location, the Tatebayashi and Ashikaga area known for its beautiful blooming flower fields, and Kawagoe, where the atmosphere of the Edo era still live on.

Explore destinations around Tobu Railway Group at TOBU JAPAN TRIP: <http://www.tobujapantrip.com/en/>