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Fast facts

Nagoya

Nagoya was completely rebuilt after WWII, on a grid with wide avenues. On the western edge of the city centre, Nagoya station, known locally as Meieki, is a city in itself with shops, restaurants, hotels and observation decks in two gleaming 50-plus-storey towers, and is the city's most useful landmark. Several train lines converge here: shinkansen platforms are on the west side of the station, while on the east side you'll find the private Meitetsu and Kintetsu lines as well as the subway and bus stations. From the east exit, the Sakura-dori line runs towards the TV tower, in the centre of the park-like Hisaya-Odori. South of the TV tower is the Sakae entertainment district. The castle, Nagoya-jo, is just north of the city centre. Nagoya's major sights can be knocked off in a day or two.

SIGHTS

International Design Centre Nagoya

A short walk from Sakae, the futuristic, swooping skyscraper Nadya Park houses this museum. It's a secular shrine to the deities of conceptualisation, form and function, from Art Deco to the present, from the Electrolux to Isamu Noguchi, from Arne Jacobsen to the Mini Cooper. Signage is in English.

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Sakae
Nadya Park
tel: 265 2106
underground rail: Yaba-chō, Meijō line

Tokugawa Art Museum

A must for anyone with even a passing interest in Japanese culture and history, this museum has a 10,000-plus piece collection that includes national treasures and important cultural properties that once belonged to the *shōgun* family: furnishings, arms and armour, tea-ceremony implements, calligraphy, painted

scrolls, masks and costumes from the Nō theatre, and lacquerware. A priceless 12th-century scroll depicting *The Tale of Genji* is locked away except for a short stint in late November; the rest of the year, visitors must remain content with a video.

3min walk from the Shindeki bus stop, E of Nagoya-jō.
1017 Tokugawa-cho
Higashi-ku
tel: 935 6262

Nagoya castle

Tokugawa Ieyasu ordered Nagoya castle to be built for his ninth son on the site of an older castle, from 1610 to 1614. Although it was destroyed in WWII and replaced in 1959 with a ferroconcrete replica, it's worth a visit for the fine museum inside featuring armour, treasures and histories of the Oda, Toyotomi and Tokugawa families. A lift will save you climbing stairs. Note the 3m-long replicas of the famous *shachi-hoko*, gilded dolphin-like sea creatures, at either end of the roof (and in every souvenir shop).

1-1 Honmaru
Shiyakusho Station Area
tel: 231 1700

Atsuta-jingū

Built in the third century, this beautiful temple is one of Japan's most sacred Shinto shrines. Inside are more than 4000 objects, including *koshinpo* (sacred garments), swords, *Bugaku* (ancient court dance) masks, documents, furniture and household articles. Even if you've been before, it's worth going again: new objects are put on display every month.

5min walk from Jingū-nishi station on the Meijō subway line.
S of City Centre
111 Jingu
Atsuta-ku
tel: 671 4151
underground rail: Jingū-nishi, Meijō line
underground rail: Jingū-mae, Meitetsu Nagoya Honsen line

Ran no Yakata Orchid Gardens

These gardens contain over 250 species of orchid, presented inside a greenhouse and a walled garden, with a path leading through the flowering plants. There are indoor and outdoor cafés.

4-4-1 Ōsu
2 blocks S of Yaba-chō Station
Ōsu District
tel: 243 0511

Nagoya/Boston Museum of Fine Arts

This excellent museum is a collaborative effort between Japanese backers and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Rotating exhibits showcase both Japanese and non-Japanese masterpieces, with good English signage.

1-1-1 Kanayama-chō
To the right of the S exit of Kanayama Station
tel: 684 0101

Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology

Japan may be synonymous with cars these days, but Toyota, now the world's largest auto maker, started in another very Japanese industry: weaving. A short walk northwest of Noritake Garden, this museum is on the site of the company's original Nagoya weaving plant (1911). It's filled with displays and demonstrations of metal processing and textile machinery, and hands-on experiences on principles of force, electronics and such, but the rubber meets the road in the 7900-sq-metre automotive pavilion.

31Km E of City Centre
tel: 551 6115



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Nagoya

DINING

Torigin Honten

For top *kōchin*, Torigin has been going strong for 30 years. Chicken is served in many forms, including *kushiyaki* (meat, fish and vegetables on skewers), *kara-age* (deep-fried chicken pieces), *zōsui* (mild rice hot-pot) and sashimi. Some may find the individual dishes a little dainty for the price, but set menus are available at fair prices.

3-14-22 Nishiki
Nishiki District
tel: 973 3000



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Tarafuku

Ambitious, young gourmets have turned the *izakaya* (Japanese pub) concept on its head, installing a stainless-steel kitchen in a falling-down house. Fusion dishes include airy potato croquettes in a fried tofu crust; tomato and eggplant au gratin; house-cured ham, or beef in wine sauce. There are 150-plus varieties of wine, plus *shochu*, sake and 50-plus cocktails. It's diagonally across from both Toyoko Inns.

Kokusai Centre
3-17-26 Meieki
tel: 566 5600

Nanaya Colonial

This fashionable restaurant overlooking the Hori-kawa serves beautifully presented Pan-Asian dishes to match its Asian-modern style. Among the eclectic

choices: Chinese yam with scallops, rare tuna steak and grilled eel with rice. Open 'til midnight for stylish drinks too.

Sakae 5-25-1
Kokusai Centre
tel: 587 5778

Atsuta Horaiken

Near Atsuta Shrine, this revered *hitsumabushi* shop has been in business since 1873. Expect a long queue during the summer peak season for Horaiken's charcoal-grilled eel, basted in a secret *tare* (sauce) and served atop rice in a lacquered box. Set menus include sides like green onion and wasabi for making *ochazuke* (tea-based broth).

2-10-26 Jingu
City Center
tel: 682 5598

Tiger Café

Fashionistas grace the windows of this admirable recreation of a Parisian bistro, with tiled floors, sidewalk seating and Deco details. Smoked salmon sandwich and the *croque-monsieur* (toasted ham and cheese sandwich) are favourites, as are the good-value lunch specials.

1-8-26 Nishiki
Nishiki District
tel: 220 0031

ENTERTAINMENT

Heaven's Door

Probably Nagoya's best bar, Heaven's Door follows a simple recipe: cosy ambience, friendly staff and fantastic music (all vinyl, no less). Rolling Stones fans should visit just to see the loo. From Sakae Station, walk one block west down Nishiki-dōri and take a left. It's on the right, down the stairs next to CoCo Curry House.

3-23-10 Nishiki
Sakae
tel: 971 7080



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Elephant's Nest

Near the Hilton, Elephant's Nest is another favourite expat haunt, with a welcoming vibe, darts and traditional English fare. If you're after a pint of Guinness you'll find it here too. The Nest is up on the 2nd floor.

1-4-3 Sakae
2nd floor
Sakae
tel: 232 4360

Red Rock Bar & Grill

In Sakae, the Aussie-owned Red Rock has a warm ambience and plenty of tasty pub food.

City Centre
4-14-6 Sakae
tel: 262 7893

HOTELS

Roynet Hotel Nagoya

This brand-new business hotel offers relatively large, spic-n-span rooms in a handsome shell, with clean lines, dark wood furniture, high-tech desk lamps and English-language news on flat-panel TVs.

Sakae

from Fushimi station (Higashiyama or Tsurumai line), exit 7, it's 4mins' walk, past the Hilton along Hirokōji-dōri
1-2-7 Sakae
tel: 212 1055
underground rail:

Hilton Nagoya

The Hilton is one of Nagoya's top lodgings. Its soaring lobby with piano player and manicured shrubbery makes a suitably grand entry, and rooms mix contemporary Western-style decor with Japanese touches such as sliding *shoji* screens and blackout panels on the windows.

Sakae

it's a quick walk from exit 7 of Fushimi Station (Higashiyama or Tsurumai line)
1-3-3 Sakae
tel: 212 1111
tel: 0120 489 852
underground rail:

Westin Nagoya Castle

You can't get any closer to Nagoya-jō (Nagoya Castle) than this, just across the moat with full-on views. The Westin has long been popular with executives for its spacious rooms and bathrooms, fitness facilities and restaurants, including a gleaming white sushi bar and a Chinese restaurant with a waterfall.

Nagoya Castle area

nearest subway station (Sengenchō on Tsurumai Line) is a little far-flung; walk towards Nagoya Castle & turn left at moat, or there's a shuttle bus to/from Nagoya Station
3-19 Hinokuchi-chō
tel: 521 2121
underground rail:

Sofitel The Cypress Nagoya

It's just steps from Meieki, but a quiet aesthetic of clean lines and a European contemporary style prevails in this 115-room hotel. Calming beige fabrics pair nicely with cherrywood furniture, brass accents and glossy black bathroom tiles.



Nagoya

Meieki

exit E (Sakura-dōri) side of Nagoya Station and head left along main st; cross st at traffic light in front of central post office; hotel is 2 blocks ahead on left
2-43-6 Meieki
tel: 571 0111
underground rail:

Nagoya Marriott Associa Hotel

The most luxurious hotel near the station and a consistent contender for top in town, the Marriott literally begins where other hotels leave off. Start with the voluminous, palmy lobby, on the 15th floor above Nagoya Station; its 774 rooms and suites start on the 20th, for unparalleled views.

1-1-2 Meieki

Meieki

look for signs throughout Nagoya Station

tel: 584 1111

underground rail:

FAST FACTS

Population

2184000

Language

Japanese

Currency

Yen

JPY

Money and costs

If you want to show your gratitude to someone, give a gift rather than a tip.

When to go

The best time to visit Nagoya is probably autumn, from late September to November - the weather is usually sunny and warm. Spring is another beautiful season, with blooming cherry blossoms.

Electricity

100V

Phone

country dialling code: 81

mobile network: PDC

Local Cathay Pacific contact information

Reservation numbers: 81 (03) 5159-1700

Check-in counters: Chubu Centair International Airport, Island D, International Terminal Building

