

SLOW SANDAL RUN in Akihabara

We are going to explore the streets around Akihabara together. On this small journey, you will discover the unique history and cultural character of this neighborhood in Tokyo.

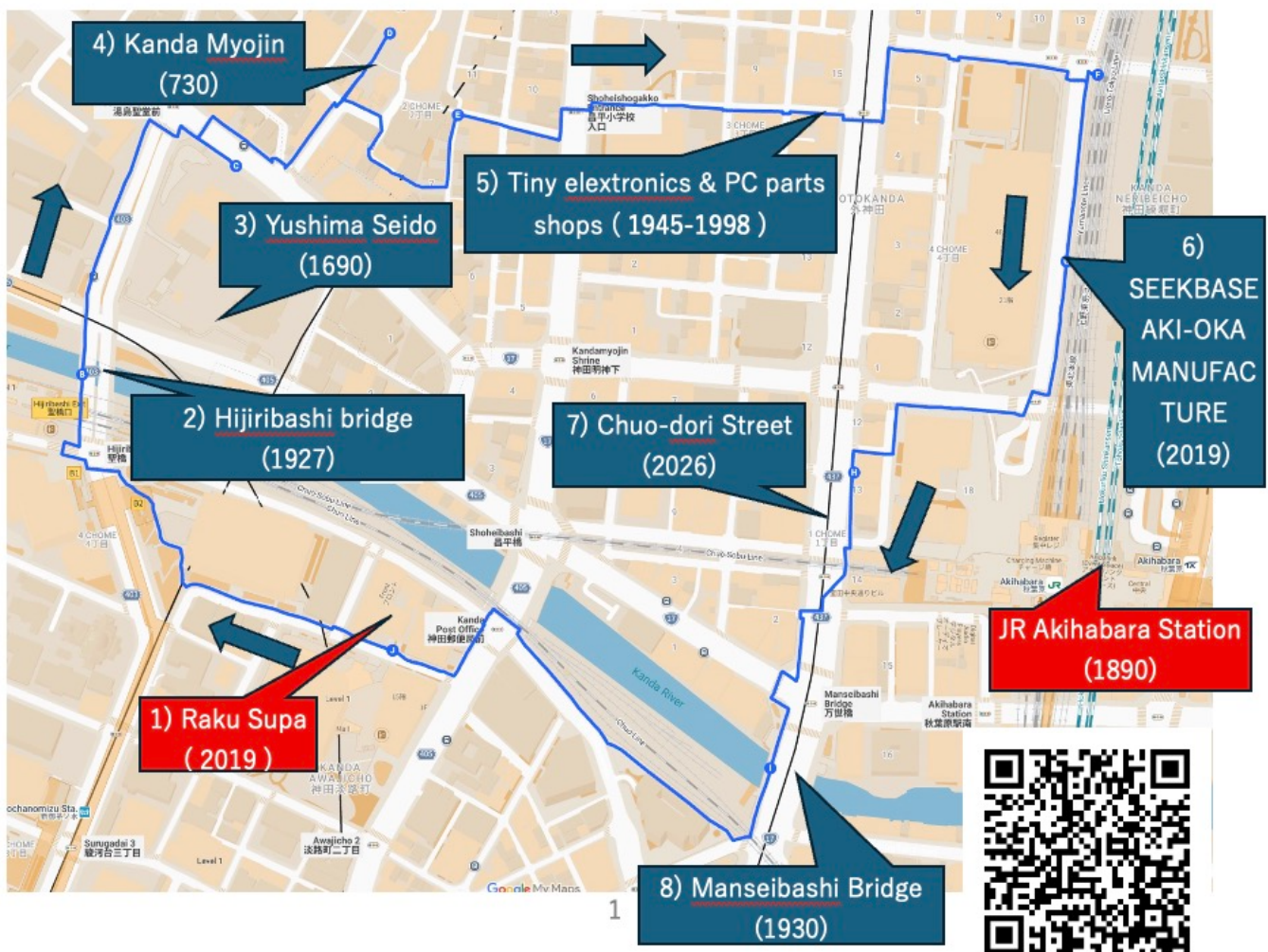
According to Professor Masaru Umemoto of Digital Hollywood University, the cultural character of Akihabara can be described in three ideas: "1) Create something, 2) Connect with others through it, 3) Give it meaning." "Giving meaning" is the ability to see an object not just as a thing, but to project value and feeling onto it — to care about it deeply (Koenuma, 2026).

In Japanese history, the period from 1603 to 1868 is called the Edo period. During this time, Japan was divided into about 250 territories (*Han*), each ruled by a lord (*Daimyo*) under the supreme authority of the *Shogun*. These lords were required to travel between their home territory and Tokyo (then called Edo) every other year. As a result, diverse cultures from across Japan — from north to south, spanning 3,000 km — flowed into Tokyo every year. People of different social classes and skills came to Tokyo annually. They created things, connected with each other, and built new meanings and trends, living together.

Today, as you walk through this neighborhood in barefoot sandals, how does the energy of this city feel to you?

Koenuma, Kazuyuki. "Maid Cafés Disappear as 'Kabukicho-ification' Spreads: Why Akihabara, Once a Mecca for Otaku Culture, Is Now Overrun with Tout Maids" [メイド喫茶が壊滅→「歌舞伎町化」が進行中…オタクの聖地・秋葉原で"客引きメイド"が大量発生している理由]. *PRESIDENT Online*, 16 July 2026, <https://president.jp/articles/-/115881>.

Map and Highlights (Subject to change)



1) Raku Supa 1010 Kanda (Modern era — opened 2019)

This is the start and end point of the tour. It is an urban spa where you can enjoy baths, saunas, meals, and manga (Japanese comics).

2) Hijiri-bashi Bridge (Modern era — built 1927)

"Hijiri-bashi" means "Holy Bridge." It was named for connecting two sacred sites: Yushima Seido (Confucian) to the north and Nikolai-do Cathedral (Christian Orthodox) to the south.

3) Yushima Seido Confucian Temple (Early modern era — built 1690)

This Edo-period school was dedicated to Confucius, a famous Chinese philosopher, and is considered the birthplace of modern education in Japan. If you like, take off your sandals here and walk barefoot on the stone pavement. Feel 300 years of human footsteps through the soles of your feet.

4) Kanda Myojin Shrine (Medieval era — founded 730)

This shrine is dedicated to the gods of love and business fortune. Take a look at the shops inside the building as well. Japanese people generally do not feel they must belong to just one religion. Do you know how many gods are said to exist in Japan?

5) A street of tiny electronics and PC parts shops (Modern era — approx. 1945–1998)

What do you think of when you hear the name "Akihabara"? From around 1950 until around 2000, Akihabara was famous for its many electronics shops. Today, the number of those shops has decreased.

6) SEEKBASE AKI-OKA MANUFACTURE (Modern era — opened 2019)

This place gathers unique, specialty shops — one of the characteristics of Akihabara. Some people say it reminds them of Akihabara as it was around the year 2000.

7) Chuo-dori Street (Main Street) (Present day — 2026)

This is Akihabara's main street. Here you will see the most popular business and service in Akihabara today. Do you notice young women in colorful costumes standing along the street?

They are promoting a service called "con-cafe" (concept café). A con-cafe is a themed café where the staff wear costumes and interact with customers in a specific world — such as anime, games, idols, magic, or ninja.

8) Mansei-bashi Bridge (Modern era — built 1930)

This bridge was designed by the same architect who designed Tokyo Station. The red-brick ruins of Manseibashi Station, which existed until 1943, have been transformed into a café and exhibition space.

9) Raku Supa 1010 (Modern era — opened 2019)

This is the end point of the tour.

What was the most interesting thing you found on this tour?

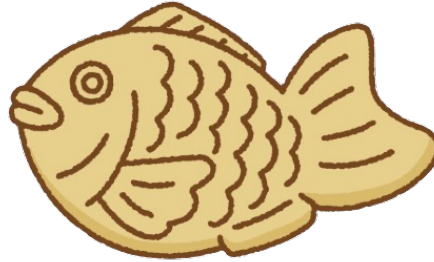
Among the cities or towns you have visited in other countries, is there any place similar to Akihabara? In what way is it similar?

Aid station food/drinks

* Availability may be limited due to retailer circumstances or other factors.

Taiyaki (たいやき)

Taiyaki is a traditional Japanese sweet (wagashi). It is made by pouring wheat-flour batter into a fish-shaped mold, filling it with anko (a sweet paste made from azuki red beans), and baking it. It was created in the early 1900s and spread throughout Japan.



Amazake (あまざけ)

Amazake is a sweet, thick traditional Japanese drink made from rice and koji (a type of mold used in fermentation) or sake lees (a byproduct of sake brewing). Although the name includes the word "sake" (meaning alcohol), the type made with koji contains almost no alcohol and is safe for children and pregnant women. Its history is very old — it already existed in the Nara period (710–794) and was enjoyed by the nobility.

