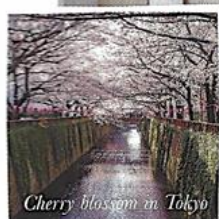


# MEET ME IN...

High-tech meets nature at the  
Palace Hotel Tokyo – this sleek urban retreat  
excels at bringing the outside in



## OLD MEETS NEW THE VIBE

A short walk from Tokyo's central business district (all skyscrapers, cobbled streets, fashionable restaurants and high-end retail), but another world away, is the 19th-century Imperial Palace, its forest, moat and gardens all overlooked by the Palace Hotel Tokyo. Originally built in 1961, the Palace was reborn as a contemporary luxury hotel in 2012, with its past now referenced with the clever upcycling of its original materials and artworks.

## EAT EAST THE FOOD

With ten bars and restaurants inside the hotel, be prepared for a lot of belt-loosening. We swerved the two European menus in favour of the tempura, sushi, teppanyaki and kaiseki restaurants. Our favourite was the teppanyaki, where our dinner was cooked on the hot plate in front of us: fig and aubergine with melted cheese, fresh scallop and prawn salad, and the most tender Wagyu beef with garlic rice and mushrooms. Exquisite.

## THE OUTSIDE, INSIDE THE LOOK

Despite its urban setting, floor-to-ceiling windows frame the manicured parkland outside, soft green carpets are like moss underfoot, indoor bonsai trees change colour with the seasons, and the air is perfumed with oils of lavender, eucalyptus, lemon and cypress. Decorated in warm forest colours, the 290 rooms are big in size (rare in Tokyo) and on comfort, with fine bedlinen and marble bathrooms. In the futuristic Evian Spa, the revitalising massages are a great jet-lag booster.

## BRANDS & BEYOND SHOPPING

Head to Ginza (1.5km southeast of the hotel) for upmarket shopping and supersized Japanese department stores. Dover Street Market Ginza stocks the world's most progressive fashion brands, but at prices that will make you weep. For smarter shopping, designer resale store Ragtag has three outposts, the largest and best in Harajuku and Shibuya. Look out for great deals on home-grown brands Kolor, A Bathing Ape and Hysteric Glamour, plus Comme and Yohji.

## THE DETAILS

[en.palacehoteltokyo.com](http://en.palacehoteltokyo.com); doubles from £395 B&B.  
Fly London to Tokyo return from £885 at ba.com

