

Grand Prix Chiba 2015 Travel Guide.



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Index.

Introduction.....	2
What to prepare for your trip.....	2
Getting around Tokyo/Chiba.....	4
The Venue.....	5
How to get to the Venue.....	6
How to get to the Staff Hotel.....	6
Speaking Japanese.....	6
Places to visit.....	11
Things to Eat (Japanese Cuisine).....	16
Local Gaming Stores.....	19

Introduction

Welcome to Tokyo, Japan's capital and the most populous metropolis in the world. The Greater Tokyo Area, consisting of the city itself and surrounding areas such as the Chiba prefecture, serves as a gateway to the land of the Rising Sun. The area offers an unparalleled variety of choices of shopping, entertainment, food, culture, and history to its visitors.

What to prepare for your trip

June marks the start of Tokyo's "rainy season" where there are increased amounts of rain and humidity. The temperature around this period varies, but it is expected to be about 18-25°C, so pack appropriate clothing.

The official currency in Japan is the Yen (¥). The exchange rate at the time of writing is roughly \$1 USD = 119 YEN. Despite the technological advances, Japan is still very much a cash society; most stores will not accept electronic payment, so make sure you have enough cash for your trip. It is recommended that you exchange cash at banks in your country before you leave, as that will save you the hassle of doing it in Japan. Alternately, if you find yourself wanting extra cash, there are ATMs available for withdrawals from foreign banks available at most convenience stores (particularly 7-11). Your local bank may charge you fees for this service, though, so make sure to check those fees before you go.

Japan uses 100V power, with pins that look like the image below. This means that most American and Asian electronics will work in Japan without a adapter, although the output may be a bit less than at home. In particular, if you bring an alarm clock with you, you may find that it runs slightly slower. For visitors from other countries that do not use the same type of plugs, it is recommended you buy an adapter before you travel.



Although internet access is abundant and fast, there are less free Wi-Fi spots than in other Asian countries. Therefore it is recommended that you purchase/rent a data SIM or mobile Wi-Fi to use while in Japan. <https://www.econnectjapan.com/> is a good option as they offer full english customer support. Prepaid phones are also available at most SoftBank (Telco company) stores. They tend to require a passport, a guarantor and ~¥ 10,000.

Japan is a very safe country. It is also one of the only countries where you will often see people chasing after other people who have dropped items such as phones and wallets. You can expect to be quite safe travelling alone or in groups, however do note that foreign travellers are expected to have official documents (such as passports or residency cards) on them at all times when outside. Police have the legal authority to detain you if you do not present your identification upon request.

Although most (younger) people in Japan would have received some sort of English education, most Japanese people will not be able to have a conversation in English. Most restaurants do not offer English menus, although some do. However, many restaurants will have pictures in their menus to aid foreign visitors. Therefore it will be useful to know a few simple phrases of Japanese as well as being able to recognize certain Japanese characters to make it a little easier (see the “Speaking Japanese” section later in this guide). Of course, the easiest way to travel is with someone who speaks Japanese!

Getting around Tokyo/Chiba

One of the best things about Japan is its extensive and accurate public transportation system, especially rail. In fact, it's so convenient to travel by rail in the Tokyo area that it's hard to recommend other transportation methods. All stations in the Tokyo area have English signposts, and the core transit lines have English stop announcements making it easier to travel around. Furthermore, the frequency of trains at most times of the day means that you never have to wait long, although they can get very crowded during peak hours.

To fully utilise the transit system, it is highly recommended that one of your first purchases after you land be an **IC card** for public transport. There are many different versions of these cards, the most common and useful in East Japan (including Tokyo) being SUICA and PASMO, but they are all integrated and usable on most systems in Japan. You can purchase these IC cards at most automatic ticket vending machines - it is 500 yen for a card and you can store up to a maximum of 20,000 yen in the card at once. The IC card can be returned upon the completion of your trip for a partial refund, although if you plan on making more than one trip to Japan it might be more economical to keep it.

Japanese train fares are distance-based, and the balance will automatically be deducted from your IC Card upon exiting the station barrier. This also means you can get off a train and wait for friends to join you inside the station without having to tag out and pay. As long as you have enough balance to take the shortest journey on the line you can enter the barriers. If you find that you do not have enough balance to complete a journey, there are top-up machines near the exits. The trains around Tokyo/Chiba are also run by several different companies, primarily Japan Rail (JR) East, Tokyo Metro, and Keio. Costs may vary depending on whether you use trains that are operated by different companies; it is suggested you use a travel app or site when planning your journey.

There are many, many stations and train lines in the Tokyo/Chiba area. Luckily, there are several sources to help you navigate the route maps. Hyperdia (<http://www.hyperdia.com/>) is one such website. You can search your originating station, destination station, and time and it'll tell you many ways to get where you're going and how much it costs. Note that Hyperdia gives you the price it has stored in its database, which may not be accurate; there may be slight discrepancies in the price. The prices Hyperdia lists will generally give you an idea within an order of magnitude on prices, but if the prices are slightly off it's normal. Navitime (<http://www.navitime.co.jp/>) is another website that can be used to search routes. Although the website is in Japanese, it offers an English smartphone app (NAVITIME for Japan travel on both Google Play and Apple App stores) for easy route searching. The English app also allows you to access free Wi-Fi at major stations around Tokyo, but you must install and activate the offer before you leave your home country.

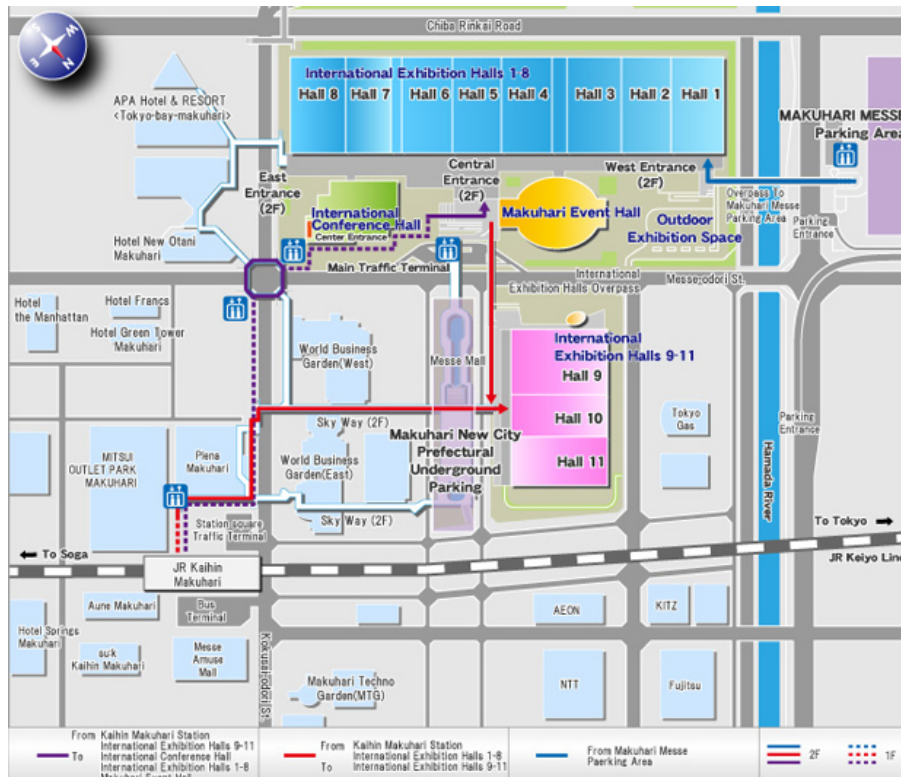


The Venue



The Makuhari Messe is a convention centre located in Northwest Chiba. It is a large exhibition hall that has hosted and continues to host a variety of events, including the 2010 Magic World Championships. The hall is located a short walk from the JR Kaihin Makuhari station. Full access info can be found on their english website:

<http://www.m-messe.co.jp/en/access/index.html>. The event will be held in International Halls 9-11, which can be seen on the map below.



The judge hotel is APA Hotel & Resort Tokyo Bay-Makuhari, which is located at the top left corner of the map. The Hotel is Japan's tallest hotel, at 180m tall (50 floors) and contains just over 1,500 rooms. More information can be found at

<http://www.apahotel.com.e.ju.hp.transer.com/language/shutoken/tokyobay-makuhari/>

The hotel address is:

APA Hotel & Resort 〈 Tokyo Bay Makuhari 〉

〒261-0021

2-3, Hibino, Mihama-ku, Chiba-shi, Chiba

How to get to the Venue

The nearest station to Makuhari Messe is the JR Kaihin-Makuhari Station.

- From Haneda Airport. Approximately 80mins ¥ 1050.



- From Narita Airport. Approximately 80mins ¥ 970.



Speaking Japanese

As mentioned previously, most Japanese people will not have a firm grasp on the English language, and will most likely know a few simple phrases at the most. Fear not, as Magic™ is an international language and it is highly likely that you can get a grasp on what a judge call is about based on body language and the board state.

It is still highly recommended that you learn some basic Japanese pronunciations and phrases to make understanding questions a little bit easier. There are many resources to help you achieve this goal. One recommendation is Anki (<http://ankisrs.net/>) where you can generate flashcards with accompanying pronunciations to aid learning.

When pronouncing Japanese, be careful of the vowel sounds. Vowels in Japanese have codified pronunciations (unlike English):

“a” = “ah”, like “Zebra”

“i” = “ee”, like “Keen”

“u” = “ooh”, like “Dude”

“e” = “eh”, like “Entrance”

“o” = “oh”, like “Open”

One of the most important things to learn regardless is how numbers work in Japan.

English	Kana	Kanji	Romaji
one	いち	一	ichi
two	に	二	ni
three	さん	三	san
four	よん (し)	四	yon (shi)
five	ご	五	go
six	ろく	六	roku
seven	なな (しち)	七	nana (shichi)
eight	はち	八	hachi
nine	きゅう	九	kyuu
ten	じゅう	十	juu
hundred	ひゃく	百	hyaku
thousand	せん	千	sen
ten thousand	まん	万	man

For 11-19, add the number after 10 (juu). For example 15 is じゅうご/十五 (juu go).

For 20+, add the numeric multiple (e.g. the “4” in “40”) before the magnitude multiple (e.g. the “10” in “40”). For example, 42 is よんじゅうに/四十二 (yon juu ni), and 230 is にひゃくさんじゅう/二百三十 (ni hyaku san juu).

For 4 and 7, in general you will use Yon or Nana (respectively). There are exceptions. If they come up, you may or may not be corrected. Remember that the goal of language is to communicate ideas, not to be grammatically correct, so don't worry too much.

Below is a table of common MTG terms you may come across when at a tournament.

English Term	Japanese Kana	Romaji	Notes
Library	ライブラリ	raiburari	デッキ (dekki/deck) can also be used
Card	カード	kaado	
Hand	てふだ	tefuda	

Turn	ターン	taan	
Game	ゲーム	geimu	
Token	トークン	tookun	
Counter	カウンター	kauntaa	
Creature	クリーチャー	kuriichaa	
Sorcery	ソーサリー	soosarii	
Instant	インスタント	insutanto	
Land	とち(土地)	Tochi	
Plains	へいち(平地)	heichi	
Island	しま(島)	shima	
Swamp	ぬま(沼)	numa	
Mountain	やま(山)	yama	
Forest	もり(森)	mori	
Graveyard	ぼち (墓地)	bochi	
Destroy	はかい (破壊)	hakai	
Exile	ついほう (追放)	tsuihou	
Lifelink	はんこん (絆魂)	hankon	
Flying	ひこう (飛行)	hikou	
Regenerate	さいせい (再生)	saisei	
Defender	ぼうえい (防衛)	bouei	
Haste	そっこう (速攻)	sokkou	
Deathtouch	せっし (接死)	sesshi	
First Strike	せんせいこうげき (先制攻撃)	sensei-kougeki	
Double strike	にだんこうげき (二 段攻撃)	nidan-kougeki	

Vigilance	けいかい（警戒）	keikai	
Hexproof	じゅごん（呪禁）	jugon	
Indestructible	はかいされない（破壊されない）	hakai sarenai	
Flash	しゅんそく（瞬速）	shunsoku	
Discard	すてる（捨てる）	suteru	
Equipment	そうび（装備）	soubi	
Warning	けいこく（警告）	keikoku	
Game Loss	げーむのはいぼく（ゲームの敗北）	geimu no hai boku	ゲームロス (geimu rosu / game loss) can also be used
Match Loss	まっちのはいぼく（マッチの敗北）	macchi no hai boku	マッチロス (macchi rosu / match loss) can also be used

Useful Phrases

English Term	Japanese Kana	Romaji	Notes
What happened?	どうしましたか	dou shimashita ka	
Whose turn is this?	いまだちらのターンですか	ima dochira no taan desu ka	
Please wait a moment	ちょっとまってください	chotto matte kudasai	
I understand	わかりました	wakarimashita	
Thank you	ありがとうございます	arigatou gozaimasu	
Did you have any other Warnings today?	きょうほかにけいこくをうけましたか	kyou hoka ni keikoku o ukemashita ka	
How many cards do you have in hand/graveyard?	てふだ／ぼちはなんまいですか	tefuda / bochi wa nan mai desu ka	
Please explain to me	ゆっくりせつめい	yukkuri setsumei	

slowly what happened	してください	shite kudasai	
Try to say it in English please	すみません、えいごでおねがいします	sumimasen, eigo de onegaishimasu	
You can continue playing	プレイをさいかいしてください	purei wo saikai shite kudasai	
I am giving you extra time	えんちょうじかんをだします	enchou jikan wo dashimasu	
End of Round	じかんしゅうりょうです	jikan shuuryou desu	
# minutes	#ふん (ふん)です	# fun(pun) desu	As a response to the question “How much time is left in the round?” etc. The pronunciation changes depending on what the number is; if the number ends in 5, use “fun”, if the number is a multiple of 10, use “pun”.

Useful phrases when touring Japan

How much is this?	これはいくらですか？	Kore wa ikura desu ka?	(While pointing at or touching the thing)
Where is the toilet?	トイレはどこですか？	Toire wa doko desu ka?	Can also use お手洗い (otearai) instead of トイレ (toire) if you want (more formal).
Where is (place)?	(place)はどこですか？	(Place) wa doko desu ka?	
Right / Left / Straight ahead	みぎ・ひだり・まっすぐ	Migi / Hidari / Massugu	
# Yen	#円	#En	
Towards (for trains)	行き	Yuki	e.g. A train bound for Tokyo

			Station would be “Tokyo Yuki”.
Tax Included (Not Included)	税込 (税別)	Zeikomi (Zeibetsu)	Sales tax in Japan is 8% and often applied upon paying
# Floor (of a building)	#階	#-kai	
(Train) Line	X-線	X-Sen	e.g. The Yamanote Line is called the “Yamanote Sen”
Address	住所	Juusho	

Places to visit

There are many interesting places to visit in and around Tokyo. Here are some of our favourites. All of these places will easily be accessible by train, and the nearest stations will be noted for reference. For further information, consult travel guides and websites; one useful one is the Japan Travel Guide website <http://www.japan-guide.com/>.

Also note that many places in Tokyo will be busy, especially on weekends. That means you may have to stand in line for a long time in order to do something. Plan ahead!

In Tokyo:

Tsukiji Fish Market

This market is the largest and busiest market in all of Japan, featuring daily tuna auctions where top restaurants competitively bid for the finest cuts of tuna. Lining the auction areas are stalls upon stalls of fine seafood and fresh produce, as well as rows of eateries that offer the freshest seafood. Be warned that some places are insanely popular, so be prepared to arrive VERY early and queue for sushi.

Reasons to visit: Food, especially seafood, eggs and sushi. Shopping for local delicacies

Closest train stations: Tsukiji station, Tsukiji-Shijo station

Akihabara/Kanda

The Akihabara district is most well-known for its electronic stores, and more recently, for its popular culture and nerdy stuff. It is also a major home for several MTG card stores (have you seen the test print Survival of the Fittest at Big Magic's Akihabara store?). Beyond that, there are many electronics/general good stores such as Softmap and Yodobashi camera, as well as

stores and cafes specializing in anime and manga goods. Located right next to Akihabara is the Kanda district where the magnificent Kanda Shrine is located.

Reasons to visit: Card stores, electronics, anime goods

Closest train stations: Akihabara station

Tokyo Imperial Palace and Gardens

Located on the former site of Edo castle and the residence of the current Japanese royal family, the Palace and its surrounding parks carve out an interesting oasis of greenery and spaciousness amid the towering concrete skyscrapers seen in central Tokyo. Although the palace is not open to the public (except for special occasions), it nevertheless remains an interesting juxtaposition between traditional and modern Japan.

Reasons to visit: Interest in Japanese culture, change of pace/mood

Closest train stations: Tokyo station, Otemachi station

Asakusa

Once the leading entertainment district of Tokyo, the district captures an atmosphere and setting of Japan from a different period in time. The Sensouji Temple, which houses the famous Kaminarimon (雷門) Gate, is one of Tokyo's most famous temples, and the grounds are littered with many stands that sell local delicacies and souvenirs. Around the temple you can wander the Edo-style streets and the Hollywood-like avenues littered with faces of famous actors. If you happen to have an interest in Rakugo (traditional Japanese comedy), the Asakusa Engei Hall can offer you a variety of performances.

Reasons to visit: Food, culture, entertainment

Closest train stations: Asakusa station (Ginza line), Asakusa station (Asakusa line)

Tokyo Skytree

At 634 meters tall, it is the tallest building in Japan and was the second tallest building in the world when it was constructed. It is the centerpiece of the Tokyo Skytree Town, a vibrant shopping district with shops and restaurants, as well as an aquarium and a planetarium. Tickets for observation deck access are sold at the base of the tower, but there is usually a 40 minute wait during weekdays which can stretch to 2-3 hours during weekends to queue for tickets.

Reasons to visit: Sights, shopping, aquariums

Closest station: Oshiage station, Tokyo Skytree Station

Ueno

Ueno Park, located in the Ueno district, is one of the city's most popular cherry blossom spots (not during GP Chiba unfortunately). Ueno Park also hosts the Ueno Zoo, Japan's oldest zoo featuring the rare Giant Panda. Many museums such as the Tokyo National Museum, Metropolitan art museum, Western art museum and the National Science Museum also reside on the perimeters of the park. Across the park, the Ameyoko shopping street offers an interesting choice of local and exotic goods for sale.

Reasons to visit: Zoo, parks, museums, shopping

Closest station: Ueno station, Uguisudani station, Keisei Ueno station

Harajuku/Meiji Shrine

Harajuku is also known as the fashion centre of Tokyo. Takeshita Doori (Takeshita Street) and the surrounding side-streets are lined with trendy shops, boutiques, clothing stores, crepe stands, and other fast food outlets to cater to teenage fashion. Many people gather in Harajuku on Sundays dressed in elaborate and exotic costumes. Just beyond Takeshita is the Omotesandou, another street lined with shops more suited to an adult audience. On the other side lies the Meiji Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji, who began the modernization of Japan in the 19th century. The shrine along the neighbouring Yoyogi park contains a large forested area which makes a good location for a stroll.

Reasons to visit: Fashion, Food, Shrines, Culture

Closest Station: Shinjuku Station, Meiji-jingumae station

Shinjuku

Shinjuku is one of the busiest districts in Tokyo. Shinjuku station is the world's busiest station where over 2 million passengers pass through every day. Surrounding the station is the shopping district which houses several high-end department stores such as Takashiyama and Odakyu. To the west of the station is the Tokyo Government building, a pair of twin towers with free observation decks that are often used by tourists; if you don't want to pay the fees to go up Tokyo Tower or Skytree (~¥4000 per visit), you can get mostly the same experience here. If you prefer the night life, Kabukicho is Japan's largest red light district featuring countless restaurants, bars, parlours and hotels.

Reasons to visit: Shopping, sights, entertainment

Closest station: Shinjuku

Odaiba

Odaiba is an entertainment and shopping district located in Southern Tokyo, built almost entirely on reclaimed land from massive landfills and dredging. It houses a wide range of shopping malls, museums, and is home to the Tokyo International Exhibition Centre a.k.a. Tokyo Big Sight (yes, it's "Sight", not "Site"). The area also hosts the Oedo Onsen Monogatari hot spring theme park if you fancy a dip. The Yurikamome line is the recommended access route to Odaiba for a good view of the waterfront and the Rainbow Bridge which links Odaiba to the rest of Tokyo.

Reasons to visit: Shopping, entertainment, hot springs

Access: Either through the Rinkai line (Osaki - Shin-Kiba) or the Yurikamome line (Shimbashi - Toyosu)

Day/overnight trips

There are also many places of interest in the surrounding areas just outside metropolis Tokyo that are easily accessible and make great spots for day or overnight trips.

Yokohama

Located only about 30 minutes south of Tokyo by train, Yokohama is the second largest city in Japan with a population of over 3 million. It houses one of the world's largest Chinatowns, as well as museums dedicated to one of the most popular dishes in Japan, Ramen.

Yokohama is also one of the earliest ports to open up to foreign trade, and it is reflected in the Western-style storehouses by the port and other merchant houses. Also not to be missed if you like drinking is the Kirin Beer Village tours just north of Yokohama.

Reasons to visit: History, shopping, food, drinking



Hakone

Located roughly 90 minutes from Tokyo, Hakone is a place for relaxation in natural scenery and hot springs with a view of Mt. Fuji. It is also part of the Fuji-Hakone-Izu national park as well as one of the most popular tourist destinations for both local and foreign visitors. It is

recommended that you extend your stay and book a place at one of the many hot spring resorts in the area, and explore the area at your own pace.

Reasons to visit: Nature, hot springs, relaxation



Kamakura

About 70 minutes south of Tokyo, Kamakura is a small coastal town filled with temples, shrines and beautiful beaches. From the giant buddha to over a dozen important temple and shrines, Kamakura is a place rich in history and culture. Alternatively, there are some great hiking trails and beaches for those who want to enjoy some outdoor activities. A short train ride away is Enoshima, a small island with an interesting aquarium and some of the most popular Japanese beaches.

Reasons to visit: Beaches, Trails, Culture, History



Kawagoe

Located in the Saitama district, roughly 40 minutes north of Tokyo by train, Kawagoe is known as “Little Edo” due to the styled buildings that line the main streets which are reminiscent of the Edo period (1603-1868). You can also find the “candy alley” here, a street of small stores that sell a variety of traditional sweets and snacks. The town also hosts sites and objects of historical importance, such as the remains of Kawagoe castle and the “bell of time” (時の鐘), artifacts from the days when Kawagoe was a major trade hub.

Reasons to visit: Food, culture, history



Things to Eat (Japanese Cuisine)

A lot of restaurants in Tokyo will have machines that sell food tickets in order to optimise time, space and staff such as the one pictured below. Look out for them upon entering - you will be required to insert payment into the machine, select your order then hand the printed tickets to the staff at the counter so they can prepare your food.



Many people think Japanese cuisine is mainly composed of varying forms of raw fish (Sushi, Sashimi, etc). However, the Japanese palate is quite varied. Here are a few of the dishes you can experience in Japan:

Ramen

Ramen (ラーメン) is a Japanified Chinese dish composed primarily of noodle soup. The dish Ramen was brought to Japan from China centuries ago, and since then Japan has made the dish its own. There are 4 main types of Ramen: Shio (Salt) Ramen, Shoyu (Soy Sauce) Ramen, Miso Ramen, and Tonkotsu (Pork Bone) Ramen. All 4 types feature the same thin noodles in a hearty flavourful soup (the flavour of the soup, of course, depends on what type of Ramen you order), as well as pork meat strips. Ramen restaurants are plentiful in Japan, and they're all of reasonably high quality. An average bowl of Ramen in Tokyo will cost Y700-1000.

Sushi

Sushi (or O-sushi, お寿司) is a dish composed of raw fish or other seafood on top of a small bed of rice. Sushi pieces are generally eaten in one bite, with the fish and rice eaten together. Sushi can be made with almost any fish imaginable, although the main types of fish used are Salmon (Sake), Tuna (Maguro), Bonito (Katsuo), Squid (Ika), and Octopus (Tako). Sushi is not to be confused with Sashimi, which is a similar dish composed of only the fish with no rice and is much rarer to find in Japan, or Maki-zushi, which is a roll composed of rice and fish

with a seaweed wrap. Sushi in Japan is generally sold in plates or a la carte, and conveyor belt sushi restaurants (Kaiten-zushi) are popular. An average meal at a Kaiten-zushi restaurant will cost roughly ¥1500-2000 depending on your appetite.

Okonomiyaki

Okonomiyaki (お好み焼き, literally “Cooked as you like it”) is similar to a cabbage pancake. The base is cabbage with flour, cooked with some form of meat (usually pork, squid, or beef) on a hot plate (Teppan). The true joy of Okonomiyaki, however, is the sauce, known as Okonomi Sauce due to being a specialty of Okonomiyaki. Okonomiyaki is usually eaten with this sauce as well as mayonnaise on top. When going to eat Okonomiyaki, it’s best to bring a friend, as Okonomiyaki tends to be served in double-servings. A meal at an Okonomiyaki restaurant will cost around ¥500-700 (per person), although these restaurants tend to double as bars, so bring money for drinks as well!

Yakisoba

Yakisoba (焼きそば, literally “Cooked Soba”) is a fried noodle dish. Generally served in restaurants that also serve Okonomiyaki, Yakisoba is a dish composed of noodles, usually some vegetables, meat, and sauce, cooked on a Teppan. The flavour tends to be on the salty, savoury side. As Yakisoba and Okonomiyaki tend to be coupled, their prices are also similar.

Gyuudon

Gyuudon (牛丼, literally “Beef Bowl”) is a staple of Japanese cuisine, commonly known as Japanese fast food. The dish is incredibly simple: rice, in a bowl, with grilled beef slices on top. Pork (豚丼, “Buta-don”, literally “Pig Bowl”) is often available as well, and a chicken + egg mixture (親子丼, “Oya-ko Don”, literally “Parent and Child Bowl”) is occasionally available. Gyuudon is incredibly cheap, incredibly fast, and quite delicious. Gyuudon comes in 4 main sizes, which differ only in the amount of rice they give you: Mini, Namimori (regular), Omori (large), and Tokumori (extra large). There are 3 main chain restaurants for Gyuudon: Yoshinoya, Sukiya, and Matsuya, with an additional 4th, Nakau, located more sporadically. Wherever you are in Tokyo, you can probably find one of these 3 restaurants within a short walking distance. A large Gyuudon tends to cost around ¥500-600.

Curry

Japanese curry, not to be confused with the many other ethnic curries, is the second most plentiful type of Japanese food, after Gyuudon. Commonly served with rice and some kind of meat (pork, chicken, or beef most commonly, although seafood is occasionally an option), Japanese curry has its own unique flavour. It tends not to be as spicy as other forms of curry,

and tends to be more flavourful as a result. Common curry chain restaurants include Coco Ichiban-ya (commonly Coco-Ichi) and Go!! Go!! Curry. An attraction to Coco-Ichi in particular is that they allow you to modify the spice level of your curry on a scale of 1-10, so if you like burning your tastebuds off, that is certainly an option available to you. Curry tends to cost around ¥700-1000.

Comбини

When you think of food in Japan, who can forget the omnipresent convenience store? Combinis have a wide variety of food, ranging from pick-up-and-go snacks such as Onigiri (rice balls) and sandwiches to full meals, both Japanese and Western-style. In a pinch, if you need a meal in a hurry, you can always grab a bite at the local Combi. Combi prices vary wildly depending on exactly what it is you're buying. If you're lucky you may also be able to snag some discount meals as they come close to their sellable time limits.

Local Gaming Stores

There are many, many stores that sell MTG and offer play spaces throughout Tokyo, from small back-alley stores in Akihabara to large stores that seat hundreds of players.

Located near Takadanobaba station near the famous Waseda University, Hareruya is the store run by Pro Player Tomoharu Saito, and is also the tournament organizer for GP Chiba. With a seating capacity of up to 300 players and several English speaking staff, it is a store that you should visit at least once during your trip. They have English instructions to get to the store at http://www.happymtg.com/tournamentcenter/access_english/. Typical store hours are 9am to 11pm.

There are many other stores around Tokyo - the easiest way will be to either use the Wizards Store Locator, or even better, ask locals. Do note that most game stores in Japan will not open until later in the day (after 11am or even 12pm) so plan ahead if you want to visit some stores. Most of the stores will be located in Akihabara, but there are also pockets of stores around Shinjuku and Ikebukuro.