

WALKING AROUND TOKYO WITH HARUKI MURAKAMI



ABOUT HARUKI MURAKAMI

Murakami was born in Kyoto, Japan in 1949 during the Japanese post-World War baby boom. Both parents were teaching Japanese literature. He grew up influenced by Western culture and never was a big fan of Japanese literature. In 1968 Haruki attended Waseda University as a Theater Arts major student. That is where Murakami also met his wife, Yoko, whom he married in 1971. His first job was at a record store, much like Toru Watanabe, the narrator of *Norwegian Wood*. Shortly before finishing his studies, Murakami opened a coffee house and jazz bar "Peter Cat", which he ran with his wife from 1974 to 1981.

WHY TOKYO AND MURAKAMI?

As Murakami spent his youth and lives in Tokyo, a lot of places he frequented are mentioned in his books. With that, many characters do or like the same things as Murakami. He worked in a record store when he was a student, exactly like Toru Watanabe (the narrator of *Norwegian Wood*).

Murakami loves Jazz and being in bars; so a lot of his characters spend time in jazz bars as well.



Fuente: Google free images



Fuente: Google free images

BEFORE LEAVING



HELPFUL TIPS

Paying by card is not that common in Tokyo, think about carrying enough cash with you

There is no tipping culture here. This includes restaurants, cabs, and haircuts. Prices are set accordingly, and **tipping could come across as an insult.**



Bare feet are considered unsanitary and could come off as rude. Especially when visiting a teahouse or a palace. Carry an extra pair of socks in your bag to be safe



Obey traffic signals when crossing the street. This, and other public customs, will show respect and allow you to blend in with the locals.

Walk on the left hand side, and don't drink or eat while doing so. The lack of on-the-go consumption also means there aren't many trash bins around either.



On **the subway, it is considered rude to speak loudly on the phone.** Silence is appreciated on these jam-packed trams, but feel free to use or mobile for browsing or playing games.

WHERE SHOULD I SLEEP?



APA HOTEL<HIGASHI-SHINJUKU-

KABUKICHO>Affordable and centrally located, this modern and welcoming hotel will host a couple for 72euros a night, and includes wifi, LCD tv, and many other amenities. The perfect spot to unwind after a long day of exploring. Walking distance from Friday's last location, DUG bar. You can easily find the hotel on the internet.



Fuente: Google free images

FRIDAY

WHAT WILL I DO TODAY?



Murakami first moved to Tokyo during his youth to study drama at Waseda University. This city is a source of inspiration for him; And many real Tokyo spots appear on his books. Cafes where characters eat his favorite foods, music stores, jazz clubs, parks and metro stations are part of the scenery where events usually take place. These spots are also related to Murakami's current lifestyle and writing style. Did you know, for example, that he ran a jazz club in Tokyo? Today we'll get lost on the places where the author spent his youth to discover the young Murakami. The one who was yet to be an author. .

1 WASEDA STATION

Our itinerary starts in Waseda Station, near to Waseda University, where Murakami studied drama during the late sixties. His book *Norwegian Wood*, that was first published in 1987, is inspired in his student life at Waseda University, and takes place on the same scenario where he spent part of his youth. As Murakami would have frequented this station, so would have Toru, the main character of *Norwegian Wood*.



Fuente: Google free images



Fuente: Google free images

2 WAKEJUKU DORMITORIES

- When he arrived in Tokyo, Murakami stayed in the male dormitories of Wakejuku, which may have inspired those where the character Toru stayed in *Norwegian Wood*. The dormitories are not open to the public, however browsing around the grounds can give you a feel for what it was like to be the young drama student living there in the late sixties. "The paved path leading from the gate circumvented the tree and continued on long and straight across a broad quadrangle, two three-story concrete dorm buildings facing each other on either side of the path. They were large with lots of windows and gave the impression of being either flats that had been converted into jails or jails that had been

converted into flats. However there was nothing dirty about them, nor did they feel dark. You could hear radios playing through open windows, all of which had the same cream-coloured curtains that the sun could not fade. There was just one problem with the place: its political smell. It was run by some kind of fishy foundation that centered on this extreme right-wing guy, and there was something strangely twisted – as far as I was concerned – about the way they ran the place." *Norwegian Wood*.

Popularly known as "Enpaku", this Fortune Theater looking building contains the only museum in Asia exclusively dedicated to theatre. Since its founding in 1928, it has been collecting works related to theatre and motion pictures in Japan and other countries. The collection contains roughly one million works related to literature, costume making and set construction. You can admire some of them in its permanent exhibitions, which are categorized into different areas such as Western Drama, Ancient and Middle Ages, Early Modern Age, Modern and Contemporary, Motion Pictures/ Television, Folk Performing Arts and Oriental Drama. As Murakami studied drama at Waseda University, he would have spent a lot of time in this building, reading over scripts and studying his roles.

3

TSUBOUCHI MEMORIAL THEATRE MUSEUM



Fuente: Google free images

4

TOYAMA CAMPUS LIBRARY

A beautiful campus library where you can see students at work, and perhaps sit down and read a book of your own; but be sure not to disturb others! Enjoy the rest of the campus as well. Personal exploration is encouraged; after all, it is college.



Fuente: Google free images



Fuente: Good coffee me web

WHERE CAN I EAT? IN UNI SHOP CAFE 125



Fuente: Good coffee me web

"I went to the cafeteria afterwards and ate a cold, tasteless lunch alone. Then I sat in the sun and observed the campus scene. I sat there for a long time, watching the campus and the people passing through it, and hoping, too, that I might see Midori. But she never appeared, and when the noon break ended, I went to the library to prepare for my German class" Norwegian Wood Uni Shop & cafe is located near to Okuma garden, in the center of Waseda campus. It is a tiny place, where to enjoy a typical students lunch as Murakami did during his stay in Waseda, while you see students pass by, doing some work, or simply enjoying their free time. Drinks cost from 240 to 400 yen, and you can enjoy a salmon or a chicken bagel sandwich for 400 extra yens.

5

JINGU STADIUM



Fuente: Google free images

"I remember that Yasuda was pitching for the Swallows. He was a short, stocky sort of pitcher with a wicked curve. He easily retired the side in the top of the first inning, and in the bottom of the inning the leadoff batter for the Swallows was Dave Hilton, a young American player new to the team. Hilton got a hit down the left field line. The crack of bat meeting ball right on the sweet spot echoed through the stadium. Hilton easily rounded first and pulled up to second. And it was at that exact moment that a thought struck me: 'You know what? I could try writing a novel'" -What I Talk About When I Talk About Running 2007. This fragment comes from the memories that Murakami wrote when he was training for the New York City Marathon, where he talked about his two passions: running and writing, and how they intersect. It was in this stadium, the home of the baseball team that Murakami supports, where he decides that he would become a writer.

"After German we caught a bus to Shinjuku and went to an underground bar called DUG behind the Kinokuniya bookshop. We each started with two vodka and tonics. 'I come here once in awhile', she said. 'They don't make you feel embarrassed to be drinking in the afternoon.'"

Norwegian wood Not only was this club featured in Norwegian Wood, it was also a place Murakami would frequent as a student to enjoy music and alcohol; a habit he continued into his adult life. Before Murakami was a writer he owned his own Jazz Club, the Peter Cat, which he ran with his wife from 1974 to 1981.

6

DUG JAZZ CAFE AND BAR



Fuente: Good coffee me web



Fuente: Good coffee me web



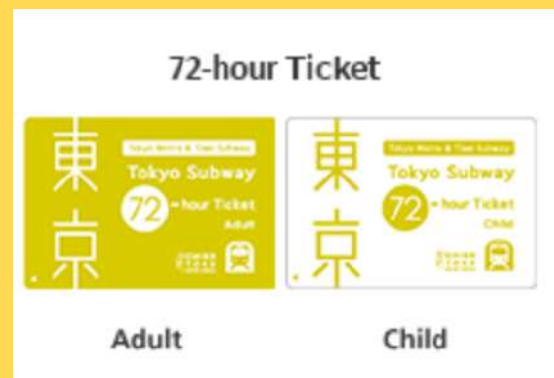
METRO ADVICES

Moving around Tokyo can seem complicated: there is train (Japan Rail), metro, monorail and even buses, and some of them are operated by private companies. However, if you follow our advice, it will get easier to understand.

Yamanote line is the basic one: it is a circular line that links the touristic hotspots of the city. As it is a property of Japan Rail, it enters in the Japan Rail Pass.

Hyperdia may be you best friend: if the Yamanote line doesn't get you where you want, this app can look for the best way to get to the place you want to go with public transportation.

The price of the tickets depend on how far you get: when you get the ticket, you have to mark the station where you want to get, and the machine calculates the price you have to pay, going from 170 to 310 yens per trip. However, you can also buy some subway 24, 48 or 72 hour ticket that can be more economic depending on how much you are going to move around the city. As you are staying in Tokyo for three days, we recommend you the 72 hours ticket.



Fuente: Tokyo metro web

Tokyo Subway 72-hour Ticket – Adult: 1,500¥ Valid for 72 hours after first use within the expiration date stated on the back of the ticket.

ABOUT THE FOOD

RICE BALLS: HONNORIYA

Japanese food on a budget. This typical dish goes over well with students and locals alike. With many flavorful options to choose from, it is sure to satisfy a quick lunch craving.

You have to look for it in the menú the characters:

ほんのり屋

RAMEN

Cozy up with a hearty bowl of warming ramen. A traditional dish that cannot be overlooked.

You can help with the web:

"Ichiran Shinjuku Kabuki-cho"

http://en.ichiran.com/index_en.html



Fuente: Google free images



Fuente: Google free images



SATURDAY

WHAT WILL I DO TODAY?

Today we journey through ancient and modern Japan. The Kofu mountains are beautiful and picturesque, allowing one to imagine that they are stepping back in time and into the mountains' endless natural beauty. After, we return back to Tokyo to have a taste of the fast paced cosmopolitan city. Such contrast will be important for understanding the complexities of Murakami's stories. .



1 KOFU

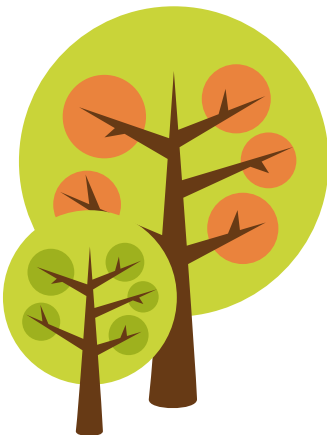
This is the Inspiration for Rice Bowl Hill, where the incident occurred in Kafka On The Shore. This is where Nakata and his classmates mysteriously fell unconscious, changing Nakata's life and path forever. In addition to being related to the book, it is also a nice place to step out of the sprawling city and enjoy some fresh air. As Kofu mountains are outside Tokyo, the best thing to do is rent a car to get there. We recommend you to visit **Mount Daibosatsurei**, as it is one of the closests to the city.



Fuente: Google free images

“But that one boy, Nakata, didn't regain consciousness, so the following day he was taken to the university hospital in Kofu. After that he was transferred to a military hospital, and never came back to our town again. I never heard what became of him.”

-Kafka on the Shore



**ADVICE:
HAVE A
PICNIC!**



You can buy bento boxes almost in every grocery store.



2 SHINJUKU

- **Sits on a bench watching people's faces every day in Shinjuku;** 'Good. I want you to go to the Nakamura Café in Shinjuku at six o'clock. I'll reserve a table for you in the back where it's quiet. It'll be in my name and on the company's tab, so eat and drink as much as you like. The two of you can have a nice, long talk.'" IQ84 Shinjuku is one of the busiest wards in Tokyo. It holds a lot of extravagant and over-the-top themed bars, restaurants, and shows. In the afternoon, lots of young Tokyo citizens come there to have fun, so it's a nice place to walk around before going to your last stop. You're never too cool to indulge.



Fuente: Google free images

3 HOTEL OKURA



Fuente: Google free images

- It would be worth it to dine at one of their nine restaurants, or take time to browse around their



Fuente: Google free images

“With its high ceiling and muted lighting, the capacious lobby of the Hotel Okura’s main building seemed like a huge, stylish cave. Against the cave walls, like the sighing of a disemboweled animal, bounced the muted conversations of people seated on the lobby’s sofas. The floor’s thick, soft carpeting could have been primeval moss on a far northern island. It absorbed the sound of footsteps into its endless span of accumulated time.”

-Kafka on the Shore



Fuente: Google free images

SUNDAY

WHAT WILL I DO TODAY?

Today is a day to relax, walk and reflect after a long weekend of running around. The final day will take place in a relaxing park, and will perhaps include following some cats around during the final hours of your stay..



1

INOKASHIRA PARK

“We were sitting as usual side by side at Inogashira Park, on her favorite bench. The pond was spread out before us. A windless day. Leaves lay where they had fallen, pasted on the surface of the water. I could smell bonfire somewhere far away. The air was filled with the scent of the end of autumn, and far-off sounds were painfully clear.”

– Sputnik



Fuente: Google free images

- Sweetheart. Sputnik Sweetheart tells the story of a young woman aspiring to be a writer, called Sumire, and K, the narrator of the novel, who is in love with her. In the beginning of the story, Sumire lives close to Inokashira Park, on the popular neighborhood of Kichijoji. Sometimes, she meets K on the park, like in this fragment. It is a nice place to submerge in the reading of one of Murakami's books..



Fuente: Google free images

2

NOGATA STATION

On your way to the restaurant, you can stop at Nogata station. This major metro station is featured in various works of Murakami, and is the scene where a lot of characters would be described leaving Tokyo. It's big, so spend time taking it all in.

WHERE CAN I EAT?

3 L'AMITIE

In "Norwegian Wood" Toru, Hatsumi and Nagasawa, go out for a fancy French dinner and put it on Nagagawa's dad's card. Though you might not have a rich dad to pay for it you can still enjoy a nice dinner.



Fuente: Google free images



Fuente: Google free images

4 GINZA



'Nah,' he said. 'I'll buy the guy dinner, then take him to a club in Ginza, pay his carfare home. That's not a lot, so forget about it. I can write it off as expenses anyway. Every-thing's deductible. Hell, my accountant tells me all the time to spend more. So don't worry about it. If you ever feel like going to a Ginza club, let me know. It'll be on me. Seeing as you've never been to any of those places.' - Dance dance dance

This text comes from the novel that Murakami wrote after getting famous with Norwegian Wood. Ginza has been the most fashionista district of Tokyo on the XXth century. You can walk on its streets, and visit the Sony Building and the Ginza Wako, or just get surrounded by its modernity.

¡FINALLY, WE CHALLENGE YOU!
TRY TO FIND A STREY CAT IN THE LAST HOURS OF THE TRIP



Because stray cats are really hard to find in Tokyo, it is said magic will happen to you if you follow one...