

10:30 Meet at the Hotel

11:00 Meiji Jingu Shrine

<http://www.meijijingu.or.jp/english/>

Meiji Jingu is a Shinto shrine. Shinto is called Japan's ancient original religion, and it is deeply rooted in the way of Japanese life. Shinto has no founder, no holy book, and not even the concept of religious conversion, but Shinto values for example harmony with nature and virtues such as "*Magokoro* (sincere heart)". In Shinto, some divinity is found as *Kami* (divine spirit), or it may be said that there is an unlimited number of *Kami*. You can see *Kami* in mythology, in nature, and in human beings. From ancient times, Japanese people have felt awe and gratitude towards such *Kami* and dedicated shrines to many of them. This shrine is dedicated to the divine souls of Emperor Meiji and his consort Empress Shoken (their tombs are in Kyoto). Emperor Meiji passed away in 1912 and Empress Shoken in 1914. After their demise, people wished to commemorate their virtues and to venerate them forever. So they donated 100,000 trees from all over Japan and from overseas, and they worked voluntarily to create this forest. Thus, thanks to the sincere heart of the people, this shrine was established on November 1, 1920.



12:00 Shibuya/Harjyuku/Daikanyama – Lunch

<http://www.japan-talk.com/jt/new/shibuya>

Shibuya (渋谷) is one of the twenty-three city wards of Tokyo, but often refers to just the popular shopping and entertainment area found around Shibuya Station. In this regard, Shibuya is one of Tokyo's most colorful and busy districts, packed with shopping, dining and nightclubs serving swarms of visitors that come to the district everyday.

Shibuya is a center for **fashion and culture**, and its streets are the birthplace to many of Japan's fashion and entertainment trends. Over a dozen major department store branches can be found around the area catering to all types of shoppers. Most of the area's large department and fashion stores belong to either Tokyu or Seibu, two competing corporations.

