



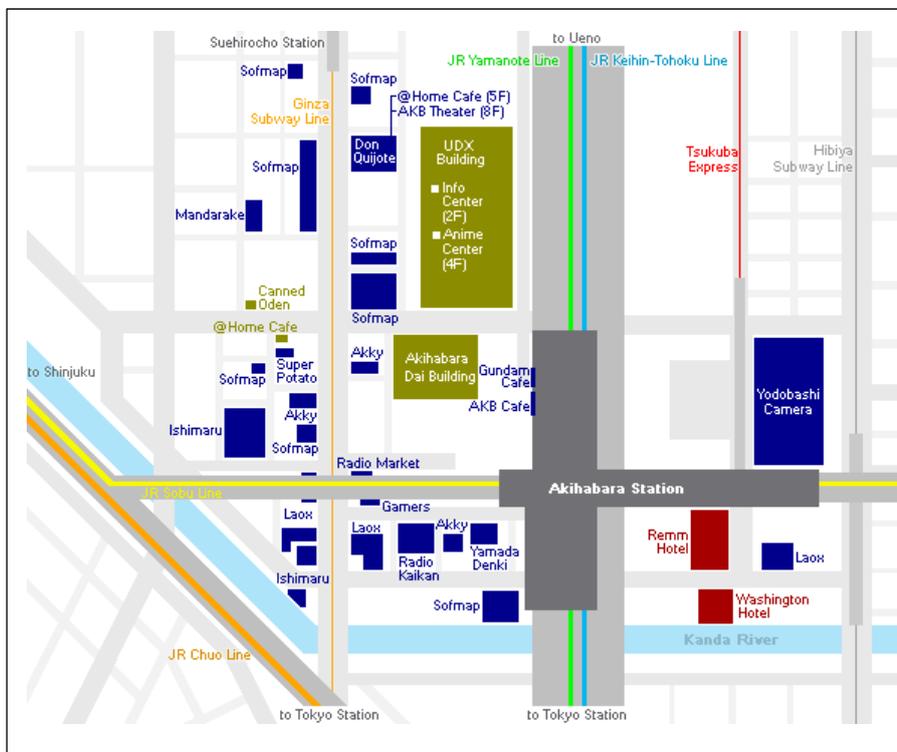
Akihabara (秋葉原), also called Akiba after a former local shrine, is a district in central Tokyo, that is famous for its many electronics shops. In more recent years, Akihabara has gained recognition as the center of Japan's otaku (diehard fan) culture, and many shops and establishments devoted to anime and manga are now dispersed among the electronic stores in the district.

Electronics

Hundreds of electronics shops, ranging from tiny one man stalls specializing in a particular electronic component to large electronics retailers, line the main Chuo Dori street and the crowded side streets around Akihabara. They offer everything from the newest computers, cameras, televisions, mobile phones, electronics parts and home appliances to second-hand goods and electronic junk.

A few chain stores, such as [Ishimaru](#), [Sofmap](#), and [Laox](#), each operate multiple specialized branches along the main roads, while small independent shops can be found in the side streets. The only mega sized store is the Yodobashi Camera complex on the east side of the station.

Note that some of the electronics on sale are only intended for use in Japan due to voltage and other technical differences, Japanese language documentation and limited warranties. However, several stores also feature a selection of international models intended for overseas use, and most also offer duty free shopping to foreign tourists on purchases of over 10,000 yen (passport required).



■ Laox 10:00-20:00

Operating four stores in Akihabara, including the Main Store and Pocket Plus One mobile products store that both sell duty free items, as well as the Musicvox branch specializing in musical instruments and Asobitcity branch that carries hobby and game related products.

■ Ishimaru Denki 10:00-20:00

Ishimaru Denki operates three stores near Akihabara Station, which include the Main Store, the Akiba branch specializing in computers and cell phones, and the Soft branch selling CDs, DVDs, games and anime related goods.

■ Sofmap 11:00-21:00

Sofmap operates 12 shops around Akihabara. In addition to their main store, they have many specialty branches that feature a type of item such as Apple products, CDs or games, as well as a number of outlets for used products such as used computers, cameras, CDs and software.



■ Yodobashi Camera 9:30-22:00

Yodobashi Camera opened its huge Akihabara branch in September 2005. Unlike most other electronic shops, it is located on the east side of Akihabara Station. This branch offers one stop shopping for computers, games, watches and cameras, and sells duty free and international models.

■ Tokyo Anime Center 11:00-19:00,

Closed Monday or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday.

The Tokyo Anime Center is found on the fourth floor of the UDX Building of Akihabara Crossfield. It stages anime related exhibitions, hosts anime related events and contains a shop selling toys, stationary and other souvenirs.

■ Don Quijote 10:00-17:00

Don Quijote is a discount store chain that carries everything from groceries and toys to electronics and high end fashion goods. The Akihabara branch is home to the girl pop group AKB48, who perform daily shows at their theater on the 8th floor of the store (3000 yen).

■ Super Potato 11:00-20:00

Super Potato sells all types of video games and video game consoles, and specializes in retro systems and games. Here you can find practically every game system ever produced along with a huge selection of used game cartridges, discs and game accessories.

■ Mandarake 12:00-20:00

Mandarake, the self described largest "manga and anime shop in the world", operates a large branch in Akihabara. Specializing in pre-owned goods, it is a good place to find rare and collectible manga, figurines, dolls, posters, CDs, toys and other types of manga and anime related goods.



■ Gundam Café 10:00-23:00,

8:30-23:00 (Sta.), 8:30-21:30(Sun. and National Holiday)

The Gundam Cafe is themed after the extremely popular Mobile Suit Gundam anime series. The cafe serves gundam themed dishes and is decorated with art and themes from the series. A gift shop is attached and sells character goods and souvenirs.



■ AKKY(Duty Free Shop) 9:30-20:00, Languages spoken : English, Chinese, Korean.

A minute walk from JR Akihabara Station. They have the best selection of electronic products for overseas use as English OS PC, English OS PDA, Digital Video Camera, Digital Still Camera, Plasma TV,LCD TV,GSM Phone, Travel goods and Souvenirs. URL:<http://www.akky-jp.com/>

Access ; Take a Tsukuba Express , TX Tsukuba Station ⇔ TX Akihabara Station. 1,150 yen.