



Life in Tokyo

Website for Foreign Residents in Tokyo



Selected Area

Joto

Joto

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## Topics

### Ride to Happiness on the Arakawa Cycling Road!

Date: 01.27.2020



Looking for a great place to relax away from traffic lights and congested streets? The Arakawa Cycling Road, which runs along the bank of the Arakawa River for more than 80 kilometers, is the perfect getaway. Stretching from [Kasai Seaside Park](#) near Tokyo Bay to the Musashi-Kyuryo National Government Park in Saitama Prefecture, the route passes through spectacular scenery and appealing attractions. It is ideal for families with kids looking to enjoy a day out,



couples or friends who want to explore a different side of Tokyo, and avid cycling enthusiasts training for their next race.



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If you do not own a bicycle, you can rent one from the various facilities nearby the route. On the Tokyo Bay side, you can also find the distinctive red-and-black rental e-bikes offered as part of the [Tokyo Bicycle Sharing program](#) at many ports near the Arakawa River.



*Renting an e-bike from a port near the start of the Arakawa Cycling Road in Tokyo Bay.*

The Arakawa Cycling Road is relatively flat, making it suitable for everyone, including beginners and casual cyclists. It is easily accessible from central Tokyo, and popular with many cyclists throughout the year.





The riverside route is filled with fields, grassy areas, and parks offering various places to stop, rest, and catch your breath while enjoying beautiful scenery. Impressive bridges and other architectural landmarks can also be appreciated along the way!

## Kiyosuna Bridge

Opened to the public in 2004, this bridge that crosses the Arakawa River a few kilometers north from the river mouth is a beautiful cable-stayed bridge with two towers—the west being slightly taller than the east. The fan-like arrangement of cables creates a dramatic silhouette against the river landscape.





*Riding along the Arakawa Cycling Road with the Kiyosuna Bridge in the background.*



The 173-kilometer-long Arakawa River runs from the Chichibu Mountains, in Saitama Prefecture, to Tokyo Bay. The part of the Arakawa River that passes through the Tokyo area,



however, is actually a 22-kilometer-long manmade river called the Arakawa Hosuiro (Arakawa Floodway), completed in 1930 after 17 years of construction.



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Along the cycling route, you can often find people fishing in the river.

## Arakawa Sunamachi Riverside Park

If you get tired while cycling, take the opportunity to rest at one of the many parks along the riverbank, such as the Arakawa Sunamachi Riverside Park!





*Sitting on a bench at the Arakawa Sunamachi Riverside Park.*





The parks along the Arakawa riverbank provide a great place to unwind and relax, far from the hustle and bustle of the metropolis. There is no doubt that lying on the green grass and staring up at the blue sky—lazing an afternoon away—will help wash away your stress!



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## Kasaibashi Bridge

Another major landmark, the Kasaibashi Bridge, can be found between Koto and Edogawa Wards and was completed in 1963. It was used as the main exit from the Kasai area to Koto Ward before other bridges were built.



## Arakawa River Lock Gate

The Old Nakagawa River connects to the Arakawa River at the Arakawa River Lock Gate. Since the water level of the Old Nakagawa River is three meters lower than that of the Arakawa, the lock gate was built to control the river pool depth and allow boats to travel from one river to the other. In the event of a natural disaster the route can also be used to allow disaster relief vessels in and evacuees out. This kind of device is also used in the Panama Canal.





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*On a clear day, you may be able to see Mount Fuji!*





Whether you are a casual cyclist or a serious racer, the Arakawa Cycling Road provides the perfect route with both easy, flat paths and some challenging uphill climbs. The time you need a pick-me-up, head over and get active for some fun in the fresh air. Happy cycling!

## Arakawa Cycling Route

Follow my route on Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/qSqEs>

This article was written by Rachel Leng.

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Even in Tokyo, M...



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