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Unique Venues  
**TOKYO**

# TOKYO UNIQUE VENUES FOR UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS

BY MARIA LENHART

**T**okyo is a city that embraces cutting-edge technology and modernity while still honoring its timeless cultural heritage of aesthetic beauty, art, nature and serenity. This combination of “old meets new” is reflected in many of its unique venues, and makes for picture-perfect experiences at meetings and events.

Ranked second by Conde Naste Traveler in the category “[The World’s Most Attractive Cities](#)” (with a population of over 500,000) in 2023, Tokyo is attracting visitor attention from around the world. It’s also among the most accessible international cities by air.

Not only excelling as a tourist destination, Tokyo is an outstanding choice for a wide range of corporate meetings and events. What really makes the city stand out is its array of unique venues, many reflecting the exquisite charm of Japanese architecture and landscape. Here are a few examples of the city’s many stellar unique venues, along with their possibilities for

creating moments attendees will long remember.

## **Tokyo Sea Life Park**

Facing Tokyo Bay, this outstanding aquarium exhibits about 500 species, highlighted by a spectacular display of bluefin tuna swimming in a huge tank. The versatile venue creates a variety of memorable experiences, whether it’s enjoying a welcome drink while viewing fascinating sea creatures or gathering for a party on the bayside tent deck.

Seated dinners, stand-up buffets and cocktail parties can be held in a variety of distinctive spaces, including the spacious restaurant Sea Wind and Sky Plaza next to the Glass Dome. Cocktail parties can take place right among the aquarium exhibits. In all cases, the ecology of the park and well-being of the sea life is taken into consideration at events.

Meeting planners from Europe and North America attending a [familiarization program](#) got the chance to see just how well Sea Life Park works as a venue.

### **Eko-in Temple**

This historic temple dating back to 1657 holds a special place in the sport of sumo wrestling, serving as Japan's major venue for sumo events from 1768 to 1909. The legacy of sumo lives on with the Chikarazuka (Mound of Strength), a stone donated by the Sumo Association in 1936 in recognition of the temple's historic importance to the sport.

If you're looking for a venue with atmosphere for corporate events, Eko-in is a great option. Venues at the temple include the Nenbutsudo Devotional Hall, an innovative building constructed in 2013 in both contemporary and traditional styles, making it a conducive setting for exhibitions and seated events for up to 50 guests. Another choice is the Japanese-style Kyakuden Room, where attendees can enjoy a dinner following a talk given by the temple priest.



Eko-in Temple

### **Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum**

Comprised of two architecturally significant buildings from different eras, the museum is a versatile backdrop for a wide range of events including tastings, promotions and receptions, all taking advantage of beautiful garden views. The historic main building, once the private residence of an imperial family, is designated as an important Japanese cultural property. The modern annex was built to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the museum under the supervision of famous modern artist Hiroshi Sugimoto.

Among the many successful events at the annex was an appointment-only world-famous apparel brand press conference in 2022. A giant screen in the lobby showed a video weaving a story through music and voices, while the lobby's large windows allowed participants to simultaneously enjoy views of the greenery outside.

According to the organizer, the event was enhanced by the unique and otherworldly atmosphere of the museum.



Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum

### **Re;PLACE KOISHIKAWA**

A stunning former private residence, Re;PLACE KOISHIKAWA, built in 1920, is a rare example of early 20th century Japanese architecture in the heart of Tokyo. Its high-ceiling Japanese-style rooms, tea room and well-tended Japanese garden are excellent places for groups to experience a wide range of Japanese culture, including flower arranging, calligraphy and kimono wearing. Tatami-floored living rooms of the mansion can be used for formal dinners, while the garden is an exquisite setting for buffet-style receptions and cocktail parties.

Tea ceremonies are an especially magical option for groups. At a recent event with 30 delegates from the U.S., U.K., Australia and Singapore, participants were charmed as the instructor explained the history of the tea ceremony and its preparation. Afterward, they enjoyed freshly made matcha green tea and traditional sweets as they relaxed in the gracious atmosphere of the mansion and garden.



Re;PLACE KOISHIKAWA