

Ginza, long home to Tokyo's glitziest shops and malls, has also developed a reputation as the city's art district, with 250 -300 art galleries covering everything from antiques to contemporary art located in the area. The majority of these galleries are easily missed, however, as they are tucked away in side streets or in the basements or upper floors of nondescript buildings that offer little clue from the outside as to the treasures within.

Thirty-five of these galleries are part of an organization called Ginza Galleries, which can be explored independently by following the map available on the Ginza Galleries website.

Created in 2006, the voluntary organization aims to promote the arts and culture of Ginza particularly by supporting smaller, independent galleries that believe they are stronger together. Ginza Galleries hosts several events, including gallery tours and annual Christmas and spring exhibitions. They also collaborate with local commercial and governmental organizations on blockbuster events such as Ginza Art Night, Afternoon Galleries, and Xmas Art Festa that demonstrate the very best that Ginza has to offer. The galleries also provided a place where young artists could interact with fellow artists and visitors. The gallery tours are highly recommended and allow art enthusiasts to go gallery hopping with expert guides who introduce an expansive world of art.