

# Ueno Police Target Unlicensed Street Dining Around Popular Shopping District

観光地を歩いていると、にぎやかな通りで食事を楽しむ人たちの姿を見かけることがあります。日本を訪れる外国人観光客も増える中、食べ歩きや屋外での飲食は旅の楽しみのひとつになっているようです。一方で、ごみや混雑、マナーの問題が話題になることもあります。最近では、こうした「路上飲食」への対応を見直す動きも注目されています。観光地の魅力を守りながら、みんなが気持ちよく過ごすためには、どのような工夫が必要だと思いますか。



## 1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

Ueno Police Station launched a cleanup operation on May 5 in the restaurant district around Ameyoko shopping street in Taito Ward, aiming to remove unlicensed street dining and make the area safer and cleaner.

Police also searched restaurants they identified as repeat offenders for illegally placing tables and chairs on the road in violation of the Road Traffic Act, issuing warnings to others in the area.

Outdoor dining became established around Ameyoko during the COVID-19 pandemic, when businesses sought to avoid crowded indoor spaces. But after the pandemic eased, some restaurants continued setting up tables on the street without permission, raising concerns that they were blocking pedestrians and emergency vehicles.

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Source: Ueno Police Target Unlicensed Street Dining Around Popular Shopping District

# 1. Article

That day, officers warned restaurant operators and shoppers about the hazards of setting up seating and equipment on the street. They also searched restaurants that had failed to comply despite previous warnings, seizing signs, tables, chairs, and other items placed along the sidewalk.

Hirohisa Mizutani, chairman of the local Nakakachi San-Yon neighborhood association, said residents had long been troubled by the increasingly conspicuous street operations.

"We have been struggling with street businesses that have become impossible to ignore," Mizutani said. "Police guidance has improved the situation considerably, but as time passes, some stores gradually start putting things back out again."

According to Ueno Police Station, complaints about street operations in its jurisdiction included reports such as people "bumping into signs and getting into trouble with stores." Police received 43 emergency calls in 2025 and 21 more from January to April this year.

Daizo Ishikawa, head of the station's traffic section, urged cooperation, saying, "We ask for help in creating a road environment where pedestrians and vehicles can pass safely."

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## 2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. **illegally** 違法に

The company **illegally** copied software from another business and sold it.

2. **pedestrian** 歩行者

The **pedestrians** waited quietly at the corner for the traffic light to turn green.

3. **vehicle** 車両

A large **vehicle** blocked the narrow road.

4. **seize** 押収する

Customs officers **seized** fake designer bags at the airport.

5. **ignore** 無視する

Ron **ignored** his phone during the movie.

## 3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What operation did Ueno Police Station start on May 5?
2. Why did outdoor dining become common around Ameyoko during the pandemic?
3. What problems did police say were caused by street dining?
4. How should cities balance business activities and public safety?
5. Have you ever eaten outdoors at a restaurant? What was your experience like?

## 4. アメ横周辺の無許可「路上営業」を一掃へ 常習的な飲食店に家宅捜索も、上野署

無許可の「路上営業」を一掃し、安全できれいな街を目指そうと、警視庁上野署は5月5日、「アメ横商店街」（台東区）周辺の飲食店街で、「アメ横クリーンアップ作戦」を実施した。道交法に従わず、常習的に路上に席を設置する悪質な飲食店には家宅捜索に入り、警鐘を鳴らした。

新型コロナ禍で「密」を避けるため、アメ横周辺でも屋外で飲食するスタイルが根付いた。ただ収束後も路上にテーブル席を設け、不法な営業を続ける飲食店があり、歩行者や、緊急車両の通行の妨げになると懸念されてきた。

署員らはこの日、飲食店や買い物客らに、路上営業の危険性を呼びかけた。また警告しても改善しない飲食店には捜索に入り、歩道に並べられた看板やテーブル、椅子などを押収した。

地元、仲徒三四（なかかちさんよん）町会の水谷浩久会長は「目に余る路上営業に頭を悩ましてきた。警察の指導で、だいぶ改善されたが、時間がたつと少しずつ出し始める現状がある」と、店舗の自主的な改善を期待するという。

路上営業をめぐり、上野署管内では「看板にぶつかり、店とトラブルになった」などの苦情の110番通報が令和7年で43件、今年1～4月で21件寄せられた。石川大造交通課長は「歩行者や車両が安全に通行できる道路環境づくりに協力してほしい」と呼びかけた。