

Practical Travel Guide - 811

ANIMATION IN JAPAN



For “anime” fans the world over

Japan is a great animation world, a paradise for “anime” enthusiasts. Today, more and more world anime fans are flocking to Japan for an animation pilgrimage. Don't miss the must-see points and events.

POINTS OF INTEREST

<Tokyo>

Ghibli Museum (ジブリ美術館), 15-min. walk or 5-min. by bus from Mitaka Sta. on JR Chuo Line (20 min. from Shinjuku Sta.), is the museum designed by Japan's top animator, Hayao Miyazaki who is known for “Princess Mononoke”, “My Neighbor Totoro”, the Academy Award winning “Spirited Away” (Best Animated Feature Film) and many other works. Open: 10:00–18:00 Closed on Tue., New Year's holiday & for periodic maintenance. Admission: ¥1,000. You must book a reserved ticket which specifies the appointed date of the reservation in advance. Tel: 0570-055-777 (Japanese only)
URL: <http://www.ghibli-museum.jp/en/>

***JTB** (travel agency) hosts Ghibli Museum Afternoon Tour with an English-speaking guide to the museum and its vicinity every Mon., Wed. & Fri. Fee: Adults ¥6,000, Child ¥4,700 Minimum number of participants: 1
URL: <http://www.jtb-sunrisetours.jp/>

J-World Tokyo (ジェイワールドトーキョー), 15-min. walk from Ikebukuro Sta. or Higashi-Ikebukuro Sta. on Tokyo Metro Yurakucho Line, is an indoor theme park featuring the world of Weekly Shonen Jump. There are attractions through which you can enjoy the world of the three most popular series in the history of Weekly Shonen Jump: “Dragon Ball”, “One Piece”, and “Naruto”. Open: 10:00–22:00 (enter by 21:00) Admission: Adults (over 16years) ¥1,300, Children (4–15years) ¥1,000 As of July 2013 tickets may not be available at the door due to high popularity. URL: http://www.namco.co.jp/tp/j-world/pdf/jw_guide.pdf

Akihabara (秋葉原) is famous for its enormous number of electric and electronics stores which deal in all kinds of appliances, computers, games, CDs, DVDs, cameras and the like at discount prices. There are a dozen of animation shops.

Otome Road (乙女ロード), located to the west of the Sunshine 60 building near Ikebukuro Station, is packed with shops that sell female-oriented anime goods. This is the female otaku's equivalent to Akihabara, the area for male otaku.

Sanrio Puroland (サンリオピューロランド), 5-min. walk from Tama Center Sta. on Keio, Odakyu and Tama-monorail

Lines, is an indoor theme park where Sanrio characters welcome you. A parade and musical reviews are enjoyable. Don't miss visiting Kitty's house. Passport: Adult (over 18 years) ¥4,400, Youth (12–17 years) ¥4,000, Junior (4–11 years) ¥3,300 Open: 10:00–17:00 (weekdays), 10:00–18:00 (Sat., Sun & holidays) Please inquire opening dates and times before your visit. Tel: 042-339-1111
URL: <http://www.puroland.co.jp/english/welcome.html>

<Kanagawa>

Kawasaki City Fujiko • F • Fujio Museum (川崎市 藤子・F・不二雄ミュージアム), 9-min. by the Kawasaki City shuttle bus from Noborito Sta. on Odakyu and JR Lines, is a museum that introduces the works of Fujiko • F • Fujio, the author of “Doraemon”, “Perman” and other manga. Open: 10:00–18:00 Closed on Tue., Dec. 30–Jan. 3 & other scheduled dates. Each day, the entrance time is divided into a quarterly time-schedule, and visitors must enter the museum no later than one half-hour after the reservation time. Admission: Adults ¥1,000, High School and Junior High School Students ¥700, Children (4 years or older) ¥400 You must purchase a reserved ticket which specifies the appointed date of the reservation in advance at Lawson in Japan. Tel: 0570-055245
URL: <http://fujiko-museum.com/english/>

<Yamanashi>

Fuji-Q Highland (富士急ハイランド), located to the north of Mt. Fuji and operated by Fujikyuko Co. Ltd., is an amusement park with attractions including Evangelion, GeGeGe-no-Kitaro, and Gundam. Entrance: ¥1,300 Open: 9:00–17:00 (weekdays), 9:00–18:00 (Sat., Sun. & holidays) Tel: 0555-23-2111
URL: <http://www.fujiq.jp/eng/>

<Hyogo>

The Osamu Tezuka Manga Museum (手塚治虫記念館), 8-min. walk from JR Takarazuka Sta. or 5-min. walk from Takarazuka-Minamiguchi Sta. on Hankyu Line, is another mecca for “Japanimation” enthusiasts, and is dedicated to Osamu Tezuka, the great master of modern animation. “Astro Boy” also known as “Tetsuwan Atom” and other characters. The museum features a high-definition TV theater showing his animation works, galleries in which his works are exhibited, as well as a library of his comics. Open: 9:30–17:00 (enter by 16:30) Closed on Wed. (open

in Aug. & when Wed. falls on a national holiday), Dec. 29–31 & Feb. 21–28 (29) Admission: ¥700 Tel: 0797-81-2970

URL: <http://tezukaosamu.net/en/museum/index.html>

“ANIME” SHOPPING

Animate (アニメイト) deals with Japanese animations and cartoons goods; videos, games, comics, CDs and more. Many stores in all parts of Japan. Tel: 03-3972-0022 (Information desk), 03-3988-1351 (Ikebukuro), 03-5458-2454 (Shibuya), 03-5209-3330 (Akihabara)

Nakano Broadway (中野ブロードウェイ), just a 5-min. walk from Nakano Sta. on the JR and subway Tozai Lines, is a shopping center with many stores specializing in animations, comics, figures, costumes for anime characters, and so forth. Tel: 03-3388-7004

URL: <http://www.nbw.jp/index.html>

Aso Bit City (アソビットシティ), 5-min. walk from Akihabara Sta., is a large department store of games, books, DVDs, CDs and toys. You can experience some of the latest models of game machines, software and CDs. Open: 10:00–21:00 Tel: 03-5298-3581

Donguri Kyowakoku (どんぐり共和国) (it means “Republic of acorns” in English) sells a wide range of original character goods modeled on Hayao Miyazaki’s works. Head Office Tel: 03-5469-5700, Shops Tel: 03-5222-7871 (Tokyo Yaesu), 03-3988-8188 (Ikebukuro), 03-3570-5091 (Odaiba), 045-222-5490 (Yokohama)

Mandarake (まんだらけ) is a store of Japanese animations and cartoons, and has several shops throughout Japan. Toys, comics, zines and original drawings of televised celluloids are available. Tel: 03-3477-0777 (Shibuya), 03-3252-7007 (Akihabara), 03-3228-0007 (Nakano)
URL: <http://mandarake.co.jp/>

Pokemon Center (ポケモンセンター) exclusively handles various Pokemon-related products (Pocketmonster & Pocketmonster Advanced Generation). Games, books, videos, snacks, clothes and many other products are sold. Tel: 03-6430-7733 (Hamamatsucho, Tokyo), 045-222-5533 (Yokohama), 052-264-2727 (Nagoya), 06-6346-6002 (Osaka), 092-413-5185 (Fukuoka)

URL: <http://www.pokemon.co.jp/gp/pokecen/english/>

Ultraman World M78 (ウルトラマンワールドM78), in the underground shopping complex at Tokyo Sta., offers every original product of Ultraman, the alien buster, one of the most popular characters in Japan. Tel: 03-3215-0707 Open: 10:00–20:30

Sanrio Shop (サンリオショップ) sells Sanrio character goods. Tel: 03-3354-3640 (Shinjuku), 03-3566-4040 (Nishi-Ginza), 06-6258-9804 (Shinsaibashi, Osaka)
URL: <http://www.sanrio.co.jp/english/index.html>

ANIMATION EVENTS IN JAPAN

Tokyo International Anime Fair (東京国際アニメフェア) is an annual event highlighting animation in which many products designed by both professionals and amateurs are exhibited.

URL: <http://www.tokyoanime.jp/en/>

Comiket (Comic Market, コミケ), is held twice a year in Tokyo, boast 35,000 Dojinshi (coterie comics) publishing circles and many attendees.

URL: http://www.comiket.co.jp/index_e.html

Tokyo Game Show (東京ゲームショウ) is one of the biggest computer entertainment shows in the world, held at Makuhari Messe in Sep..

URL: <http://tgs.cesa.or.jp/english/>

World Cosplay Summit (世界コスプレサミット) began in Osu, Nagoya and has grown to include 20 countries from around the world. The annual parade of people wearing

cosplay outfits attracts many spectators.

URL: <http://www.tv-aichi.co.jp/wcs/what/>

Animelo Summer Live (アニメロサマーライブ) is a concert of anime songs which has been held every summer since 2005. Animelo performers are singers and *seiyu* (voice artists) who specialize in singing anime or game theme songs.

URL: <http://anisama.tv/>

Tourist Information Center (TIC)

TIC of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its main services are providing travel information and free literature on Japan such as tourist spots, transportation, and suggesting tour itineraries, etc.

1st Fl., Shin Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005 Tel. 03-3201-3331

Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed: Jan. 1st)

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/travel/guide/tic.html>

“New Year’s holiday” in this leaflet means from the end of Dec. to the beginning of Jan. (Dates vary depending on facilities.)

Note: Transportation expenses, admission fees and other charges may change due to the increase in the consumption tax rate to 8% from April 2014.

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges, which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of August 2013, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.

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