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With a Whole Lot of Fun and Learning Too ...

Tokyo is an Awesome Place for a Family Vacation

New York, NY ... November 16, 2006 ... Frenzied, fast-paced, fun Tokyo offers family travelers from around the world engaging **entertainment** and **learning** opportunities. Notes, Hisataka Hiragochi, Executive Director of the *Japan National Tourist Organization*, the America's "Tokyo presents a perfectly balanced, awesome vacation for all ages." On a trip to Tokyo, you and your kids will have a chance to meet a robot, ride the latest model cars, dub an anime movie into English, try the most cutting-edge electronic and digital technology, and more! Plus, after all that you can still thrill your senses and imagination on helicopter rides, boat cruises, and at one of Tokyo's many theme parks and resorts, such as *Tokyo Disney Resort*, and *Sanrio Puroland* (Hello Kitty Land).

Here's a selection of attractions and activities, conveniently organized by neighborhood, for your Tokyo "all-you-can-get" family vacation!

Experience science and the world's most advanced technology at venues in Tokyo's Odaiba waterfront:

- **Miraikan**: This museum has wonderful exhibits focusing on four major areas of science: "The Earth Environment and Frontiers", "Innovation and the Future", "Information Science and Technology for Society", and "Life Science". Each section includes hands-on interactive exhibits. As a part of the "Innovation and the Future" exhibit, you can meet the famous humanoid robot ASIMO. http://www.miraikan.jst.go.jp/index_e.html
Access: 4-minute walk from Yurikamome line's Telecom Center Station
Cost: Adult: 500 yen, Child (18 and under): 200 yen
- **MEGA WEB**: Created by Toyota, this theme park targets adults and children, each in their own way. While you peruse Toyota's classic and futurist cars and operate their trendiest electric vehicles, your kids can test drive hybrid autos and learn how they work.
<http://www.megaweb.gr.jp/English/>
Access: 3 minutes walk from Yurikamome line's Tokyo Teleport station
Cost: Admission Free

- Panasonic Center Tokyo**: This interactive environment and technology museum consists of 5 sections: *Ubiquitous Digital Networking Street* is a “town” where you can see and try various ways of connecting on different information network platforms. *Environmental Showcase* is an area showcasing what Panasonic has been doing to protect the environment. *Eco & Ud House* introduces elderly and disabled friendly products. *Nintendo Game Front* is a place where your children can play the hottest, new Nintendo games on big screens. *Risupia*, which just opened on August 5, 2007, is a new type of science and math museum with instructors and a laboratory.

<http://panasonic.co.jp/center/tokyo/en/index.html>

Access: 3 minutes walk from Yurikamome line’s Ariake Station

Admission Free is free except to the 3rd floor of Risupia, which is 500 yen.
- Sony Explora Science**: Designed by Sony, this science & technology museum has two sections. In *Digital Dream*, all visitors are issued an ID card with their nickname and photo. This allows you to try-out Sony’s digital technology. In *Science Wonder*, you’ll learn important scientific principles in the Sony way!

<http://www.sonyexplorascience.jp/english/index.html>

Access: 2 minutes walk from Yurikamome line’s Daiba station

Cost: Adult 500 yen, Child (age 3-16) 300 yen

Transportation to and around the Odaiba Area:

- New Transit Yurikamome** offers a useful one-day discount pass called *Odaiba-Ariake Excursion Pass* to visitors to the Odaiba/Ariake area. It permits unlimited rides on the Yurikamome and Rinkai train lines and on the Water Bus*. Tickets are sold at the Yurikamome and Rinkai line train station offices.

<http://www.yurikamome.co.jp/english/index.php>

*Visitors are only allowed to take the routes indicated on the pass

Cost: Adult 900 yen, Child 450 yen
- Tokyo Cruise Ship** operates waterbuses between Odaiba Seaside Park and Hinode Pier.

http://www.suijobus.co.jp/english/cruise_e/index_su_line.html

The fare is 460 yen for an adult, and half price for a child in elementary school.

Experience fun and thrills in the Maihama area by Tokyo Bay:

- **[Tokyo Disney Resort](http://www.tokyodisneyresort.co.jp/index_e.html)**: Here you will find the magic of Disney in two themed parks. Tokyo Disneyland Park offers all the familiar fun and fantasy of Disney. Unique to Japan is Tokyo DisneySea Park, the only Disney Park themed to the myths and legends of the sea. You and your children will enjoy exploring seven themed ports of call there. Also located within the Resort is Ikspiari, a themed complex that offers a wide variety shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities. http://www.tokyodisneyresort.co.jp/index_e.html
- **[Excel Air Service Inc](http://www.excel-air.com/english/cruising/index.html)**: After a day or two exploring land and sea at Tokyo Disney Resort, it's time to check out Tokyo from the Sky. Departing from *Urayasu Heliport*, just a 5-taxi ride from Tokyo Disney Resort, Excel Air Service Inc. offers helicopter cruises of Tokyo and Yokohama starting at 3,900 yen per adult, 1,900 yen per a child. <http://www.excel-air.com/english/cruising/index.html>

Go west young families: West of Central Tokyo ... to Mitaka (10 minute Express Chuo Line Express train from Shinjuku) and Tama (1 hour from Shinjuku by Keio Line):

- **[Ghibli Museum](#)**: If you are a big fan of movies such as "Spirited Away" and "Princess Mononoke," this museum, inspired by the movies of Academy Award winning filmmaker, Hayao Miyazaki, is for you! Colorfully decorated and artistically designed, the museum presents short animation films and its exhibits explain the process of animation creation. Advance reservations are required for the admission. In the United States (except Hawaii), contact [JTB USA](#).
- **[Sanrio Puroland](http://www.puroland.co.jp/spl/english/)**: This wonderland for the Hello Kitty lover in everyone is not duplicated anywhere else in the world. While the whimsical, fairy-tale-like rides featuring the famous Sanrio characters are geared to younger children, all visitors are mesmerized by the fantasy parades and acrobatic performances. Don't miss the dancers and gymnasts that fall from above and emerge from back doors, their marvelous Kitty-inspired costumes shimmering beneath brilliant lighting and special affects. <http://www.puroland.co.jp/spl/english/>
Cost: A same-day purchase, All-Day *Passport*, which includes Entrance fee and all attractions (except games) is available for 4,400 yen (adult), 4,000 yen (youth, 12-17 years), and 3,300 yen (junior, 4-11 years)
- **[Japan Airlines/Jalpak International](http://www.japanair.com/e/travelplan/vacation_animef.php/)** offers a special package tour, *Hello Kiddies Package*, featuring visits to *Tokyo Disney Resort*, the *Ghibli Museum*, and *Sanrio Puroland*. http://www.japanair.com/e/travelplan/vacation_animef.php/

Back in the Center of Tokyo ... in the Akihabara district, known as “Electronics Town”:

Tokyo Anime Center Located amongst countless electronics shops and multi-story electronics department stores, this place is like the center of the world for anime freaks and cartoon enthusiasts. You are welcomed into the Recording Studio, where you take part in the voice-over recording of either *Pokemon* (1,800 yen/person) or *Evangelion* (1,000 yen/person). You'll leave with a DVD (one per group) of your own personal recording. Also enjoy the event gallery (20 characters featured along the walls), and 3-D movie screenings. <http://www.animecenter.jp/eng/index.html>
Cost: Free except as noted above.

Family Shopping all over Tokyo:

Shopping Mall:

Roppongi Hills: One of Tokyo's largest multi-use complexes, *Roppongi Hills* (<http://www.roppongihills.com/en/>) is like a mini city with a shopping mall on steroids. Inside, you'll find more than 200 shops – including original Japanese designers, cafés and restaurants, as well as the Grand Hyatt hotel and the state-of-the-art 9-screen *Virgin Toho Cinemas*, hosting premieres of major Hollywood films. The *Mori Art Center* (<http://www.moriartcenter.org/en/>), located on the upper floors (49-54) of *Roppongi Hills Mori Tower* is the highest structure in the complex. A massive cultural center, it houses among other facilities, the glass-walled *Tokyo City View* (<http://www.tokyocityview.com/en/index.html>) panoramic observation rotunda, offering stunning views of Tokyo by day and night, and the *Mori Art Museum* – Japan's platform for new, emerging, and established contemporary artists (<http://www.mori.art.museum/html/eng/index.html>).

Toy stores:

- **Hakuhinkan Toy Park**: In Tokyo's posh Ginza district you'll encounter one of the largest toy stores in Japan. The four-story (plus basement) *Hakuhinkan Toy Park* carries everything from stuffed animals to video games. The basement floor is devoted entirely to Licca-chan, Jenny dolls, Japanese Barbies, and their accessories. <http://www.hakuhinkan.co.jp/eng/info.htm>.
- **Kiddyland**: Located in Tokyo's hip Harajuku neighborhood, will take you beyond the ordinary. Rummage through *kawaii* (cute) stationary and character items, related clothing, and even kitchenware! The merchandise is global, making it a great place to buy not only Doraemon (the robot cat) and Sanrio products, but also anything from Scandinavia's Moomins characters to Spiderman. Check out some great photos at:
<http://www.rmlicensing.com/ENG/Sanx/kiddyland.htm>

More Information:

TravelWithYourKids.com is a family travel website recommending Tokyo sites and activities for kids: <http://www.travelwithyourkids.com/destinations/?c=Tokyo> A link to JNTO's recommended sample family tour itinerary covering all of Japan can be found at:

http://www.japantravelinfo.com/traveltrade/itinerary_pdf/kids.pdf. For additional general information on Tokyo and travel destinations in Japan, take an in-depth browse through the *Japan National Tourist Organization's* North American website: www.japantravelinfo.com.

The *Japan National Tourist Organization (JNTO)*, a key member of the **Visit Japan Campaign**, is a public-private partnership under the auspices of Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, with the mission to encourage international travel to Japan and support Japanese travel suppliers.