

Odaiba - Globally Exotic, and a Hot Date Spot

by Kat Avila

Forget about Tokyo Disneyland, Roppongi, Kamakura, and Nikko. If you come to Tokyo, go to Tokyo's largest playground -- Odaiba! There's lots of shopping and a little something for everyone.

Getting There

To get there, take the JR Yamanote Line to Shimbashi. When you arrive, use the Karasumori Exit because you want to take the Yurikamome monorail to Daiba Station (it's spelled without the "o"). **Outside** the ticket gates, you will see an overhead sign with the words "For Karasumori" and "For Shiodome." Go left toward Shiodome and go left of the kiosk and you will immediately see the Yurikamome Shimbashi Station.

At the Yurikamome information booth, ask for the English-language route map. (Korean is on the reverse side). The Yurikamome monorail accepts the Passnet card (a fare card for non-JR lines). Otherwise, you can buy a one-day open ticket for ¥800 at the booth to hop off and on the monorail all day, or go upstairs past Starbucks Coffee and buy a ticket at the ticket vending machine for ¥310 to Daiba Station.

Outside the Daiba Station ticket gates, look for the "Daiba Station Area Information" map. The north exit (going left) will take you to the replica of the Statue of Liberty, Aqua City Odaiba, DECKS Tokyo Beach, and Odaiba Marine Park. The south exit (going right) will take you to Fuji TV and its 100-meter Super Stairway and its facilities tour, and the yellow needlepoint sculpture Flame of Freedom.

Details, Details, Details

FUJI TV

When a friend and I had previously visited Fuji TV, we filled an activity sheet with rubber stamp impressions of their Rafu-kun mascot from each floor of the self-guided tour and received a complimentary hand-drying cloth with the mascot on it. The view from the 24th-floor sphere observation deck is not bad either.

AQUA CITY ODAIBA

Walking toward Aqua City Odaiba you will see the Statue of Liberty. Behind her in the distance is Rainbow Bridge and Tokyo Tower. Pick up the brochure "Cruising Through Tokyo" at Odaiba Seaside Park, in front of Aqua City Odaiba and DECKS Tokyo Beach, and watch Tokyo Water Cruise ships depart for Hinode Pier (¥400) and Harumi (¥300).



On the 4th floor of Aqua City Odaiba is Tezuka Osamu World Art Square (Astro Boy and related goods). On the Mediage side of Aqua City Odaiba is the 13-screen Cinema Mediage, World of Coca-Cola Tokyo, and Sony ExploraScience where the AIBO entertainment robot "dogs" are. On the 3rd floor of Mediage, against the cinema wall, is *Between the Lines*, a Sony ExploraScience sparkling lights exhibit. The directions say, "To see the images they make, move your eyes just ahead of the motion of the lights."

DECKS TOKYO BEACH

At DECKS Tokyo Beach, there is Tokyo Joypolis (a SEGA



[Back to Home Page](#)

[View TOC](#)

[E-mail this page to a friend!](#)

Save on
delta.com

Delta
good goes around

Check Out These Pages!

[The Mommy Track by Stacey H. Lee](#)
[Stark Raving Mommy](#)

[Hepatitis B: Get protected. Get vaccinated.](#)

[Accessories 411 by Tina Tang](#)
[Your fashion questions answered.](#)

[Between the Covers with Irene Kim](#)
[Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling by Jane Hyun](#)

[He Said, She Said, but Mama Said](#)

[Rina Shah: Global Style](#)

[Open Mike!](#)

[Newsworthy](#)

amusement theme park). It's ¥500 for admission only. (If it's your birthday, they'll let you in for free. But you must have i.d. to prove it.) If you buy the ¥2,200 card, you'll get admission plus ¥2,000 credit towards rides and other attractions. I did the Horror Ride (¥500) and The Crypt (¥600). For the Horror Ride, the staff puts you in a cab with a safety bar. A 2-D video is played, and there are a few drops from heights. Scary maybe for the 10-years-and-under set. The creepy castle dungeon of The Crypt was a little more entertaining, though I waited a half hour (with only four couples in front of me) for a five-minute 3-D 360-degree experience.

J-Pop Cafe Odaiba, next to The Crypt, is a good opportunity to catch up on the latest J-Pop videos. There are 10 personal viewing stations in the snack area. For ¥680 I got a small-size chili-dog set (chili dog, fries, coke). Then I sat down at one of the stations and put on the headphones. The J-Pop video menu shows TV, Drama, New Single, New Album. When you hit the "Talk" button, it mutes the video you're watching so you can hear what your partner is saying.



Throughout Tokyo Joypolis, there are celebrity photos and signatures on the walls. Leonardo DiCaprio has visited three times in 1997, 2000, 2002. Michael Jackson has visited twice in 1996 and 1998. Ayumi Hamasaki was there in 2000, as was Go Hiromi and Freddie Prinze, Jr.

After Tokyo Joypolis, DECKS Tokyo Beach divides into Sea Side Mall and Island Mall. On the 4th floor of Sea Side Mall is Daiba 1-chome Shoten-gai, a nostalgic post-WWII to 1960s downtown Tokyo theme floor. On the 6th and 7th floors of Island Mall is Daiba Little Hong Kong, a Chinese theme area.



Namco Entertainment World Tokyo Pitan City is located in Daiba Little Hong Kong. Take the stairs up to the 7th floor where sweethearts have locked small brass padlocks, bearing photo stickers and messages, into the metal fence on either side of an altar with a gong. There is also a Chinese dress photo studio in the arcade.

Also sharing the 7th floor is Tententunetunekaitenbo, a popular Chinese restaurant that serves dim sum on a looping conveyor belt. The dishes are color-coded so you can easily see how much each will cost. Be careful. It adds up fast! Price range is ¥150-480 per dish. If you don't see anything you like on the belt, there is a menu you can order from.

Page 1 | [2](#)

shop healthy
start now

[click here](#)

[drugstore.com](#)

A very healthy way to shop.

LIP SERVICE
at sephora



FREE SHIPPING
OVER \$75

FREE GIFT
PACKAGING

3 FREE SAMPLES

SEPHORA

We would like to hear from you! If you have any comments or questions, please send an e-mail to: writeus@jademagazine.com or [click here Write Us!](#)

Reproduction of material from any jademagazine.com pages without written permission from the author is strictly prohibited. © Kat Avila. All rights reserved. [DISCLAIMER](#)