

# Odaiba & Tokyo Bay

## Neighbourhood Top Five

**1** Seeing the city's night lights twinkling in Tokyo Bay from the promenades of **Odaiba Kaihin-kōen** (p178) or the terrace of a water-front restaurant.

**2** Soaking in the hot-spring baths at **Ōedo Onsen Monogatari** (p180)

and enjoying the old-Edo theme-park atmosphere.

**3** Being amazed by life-like robots and other cutting-edge technology at the **National Museum of Emerging Science & Innovation** (p178).

**4** Cruising across Tokyo Bay on a pleasure boat (p178) while you enjoy a meal or drinks.

**5** Enjoying family days out at **Tokyo Disney Resort** (p180) and **Tokyo Sea Life Park** (p178).



For more detail of this area, see Map p293 ➔

## Explore Odaiba & Tokyo Bay

In central Tokyo, it's easy to forget that the city started as a seaside town. Not so on Odaiba, a human-made island tethered to the mainland by the 798m Rainbow Bridge.

Although gun emplacements were set up on islets here back in the mid-19th century to protect Tokyo against foreign attack, Odaiba was developed mostly in the 1990s and offers buildings on a grand scale, with broad streets, spacious parks and waterfront views. There's even an artificial beach overlooked by a kitschy replica of the *Statue of Liberty*; you'll definitely feel as though you're in an alternative Tokyo. Should you visit in the evening there's the bonus of romantic twinkling views of bay and city skyline.

Oedo Onsen Monogatari and the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation are Odaiba's prime attractions; both can easily take up a half-day or more. There's also striking contemporary architecture, notably the Fuji Television Japan Broadcast Centre and the convention centre Tokyo Big Sight.

Tokyo's youngsters and families can't get enough of Odaiba's private malls, with masses of chain stores, restaurants and amusements under one roof. They're less interesting for foreign tourists; however, if you're travelling with kids, these all-in-one complexes can be excellent on rainy days.

Tokyo Bay can also be appreciated from the water on pleasure cruises, several of which stop off in Odaiba or across on the eastern edge of the city.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Boat cruises** Groups of friends and colleagues organise private parties on the bay, particularly during the summer and winter holidays.
- ➔ **Photo spot** Waterfront-park Odaiba Kaihin-kōen is popular with amateur photographers working to perfect their city-by-night shot.
- ➔ **Conventions** Crowds descend on Tokyo Big Site for major conventions such as the comic market Comiket ([www.comiket.co.jp](http://www.comiket.co.jp)) and Tokyo Game Show.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Monorail** The Yurikamome line runs from Shimbashi through Odaiba to Toyos; stops include Shijo-mae, the location for the new central Tokyo fish and fresh-produce market.
- ➔ **Train** The Rinkai line runs from Osaki through Odaiba to Shin-Kiba, stopping at Tennōzu Isle, Tokyo Teleport and Kokusai Tenjijō Stations.
- ➔ **Boat** Tokyo Cruise boats stop at Odaiba Kaihin-kōen (Odaiba Seaside Park), Palette Town and Tokyo Big Sight.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

It's a long walk from one end of Odaiba to the other. If you intend to spend the day here, invest in a day pass (adult/child ¥820/410) for the Yurikamome line. The monorail is an attraction itself, with the best seats right up front. From Shimbashi Station, the monorail snakes through the Shiodome skyscrapers before arching up to cross the Rainbow Bridge to Odaiba where it connects all the main attractions.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bills (p179)
- ➔ Hibiki (p179)
- ➔ TY Harbor Brewery (p179)

For reviews, see p179 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ The Bar (p180)
- ➔ Jicoo the Floating Bar (p180)
- ➔ Waterline (p179)

For reviews, see p180 ➔

## Best Places to Play

- ➔ National Museum of Emerging Science & Innovation (p178)
- ➔ Tokyo Joypolis (p180)
- ➔ RiSuPia (p178)

For reviews, see p178 ➔