

Local Nature Areas



Sayama Dam

Bike to the Sayama Natural Park, which lies around Sayama Lake, northeast of Yokota. A little initial road/side-walk riding gets you to a new and well cared for bike path all the way to Sayama Dam. The nice thing is, it's uphill on the way there and downhill home. Out the East Gate, turn left. When the street comes to a dead end, go right, then left quickly at the light. At the next light, as the street crosses a canal (blue sign to "Central Musashimurayama") turn right and follow this road all the way to Ome Kaido (past Shin Ome Kaido) about 1km. When approaching Ome Kaido, there is a sign just before the road turns 45 degrees left. Follow the sign straight to Lake Tama. The road is narrow at first, but it gets wider. After the bike path starts, your first left ("Y" intersection with a wooden sign on a knoll in the middle) takes you up to the Dam. (Note: if you start a long downhill stretch, you've gone to far) As the road turns sharp right and starts downhill, angle up and left for the gravel bike path to the dam. If you are driving at this point, you can park your car and walk to the dam. For a strenuous trip back home, continue over the dam, staying along the lake on the dirt until the park quits. Get on the road, which starts uphill, and around corners, past 2 love hotels and the road turns to gravel. Throughout the trip stay to the left on all choices. At one point, a gravel footpath goes left and downhill – stay on the gravel road. It's a fairly serious hilly ride (about 6km). Be prepared. The gravel road ends up near the observation tower at Noyama-Kita.

Melody Hostetler

Noyama Kita

A small but very pleasant (and close!) park with hiking paths that can be found less than 5km north of base. It has playground equipment built on a hillside, a fair amount of hiking, and a small pond. There is a ball park where you can

frequently watch students practicing baseball and occasionally watch a game.

Just before you turn off the main road to go to the parking lot (about 300 meters from the lot), is a small, free, city history museum with many historical artifacts that is fun to look around in. It is a tan single story building with a brown roof. Everything is in Japanese.

DIRECTIONS: Turn left out the East Gate. At the "T" go right (no light) and immediately take a left at the first light. Follow this road until it "T"s at Ome Kaido road, where you turn left. Go 0.9 km to Musashimurayama City Intersection (4th light) and turn left. (There is a sign pointing towards the lake prior to the intersection.) Go 0.7 km (through two lights) and turn left on a small road immediately before the road makes a sharp turn to right. (After the red warning stripes on the road begin, and just before the guard rail with arrows on it.) About 300 meters down on the right is a large paved parking lot.

Brian Marriott 12/01

Takiyama Park

The Takiyama Metropolitan Park, about 30 min. from Yokota, is an inexpensive getaway. The park has picnic tables and an area large enough for softball. The size of the park is fantastic. It has monuments, a shrine, bridges and a pavilion. There is a soda machine if you get thirsty while trekking through the woods. It is a perfect place to reflect on nature. The park used to be the grounds of a castle.

DIRECTIONS: Go straight out the Supply Gate. Cross two sets of tracks. At the third light after the second set of tracks turn left. (Ushihama Post Office Intersection, Steak House on right.) Continue straight on this road for about 1.5km, through 4 lights. You will pass a Saizeriya and Bamiyan on the left, and a Family Mart and Denny's on the right. At the 5th light turn right (onto Mutsumi-bashi Dori at the Uchide Koban Intersection.) Cross the Tama River on the 4-lane bridge. Continue to the 4th light (counting the light at the end of the bridge) and turn left on a 2-lane road with a bicycle shop on the corner. (Ogawa Intersection.) Stay on this road for 3 km as it crosses a small river and travels along the base of the hills for a while. Follow the road over a hill and through the woods into the next valley. At the first signal after going over the hill turn left (Tangimachi 3 Intersection. – This road is 411, although it is not marked as such at this intersection.) Take the very first left off of this road onto a VERY small road that looks like a driveway less than 100 meters (0.1 km) after you get onto it. It is just past the gas station that sits on the far right corner of the intersection. It will wind up a steep and narrow road into the park. If you come to another signal you have gone too far.

Melody Hostetler, Brian Marriott 12/01



Koganei Park

Koganei Park is easy to find (it's on Itsukaichi Kaido) and close to Yokota (15.5km). This park features large grassy fields, deep woods, and cherry trees. There is a lot of room to roam and explore.

The Edo-Tokyo Tatemono-En (open air architectural museum) is a town of relocated buildings. Themes include Downtown, Musashino Road, and Tama Road. You can walk inside former homes with tatami mats and a bathhouse. Admission Y300/adult and Y150/child. Hours are 9:30am to 4:30pm; closed Mondays (Tuesdays if Monday is a holiday and Dec. 28 to Jan. 4) Tel. 042-388-3311. A 2km cycling course, with free bikes available for children under 16, is open daily (same hours). Some bikes have training wheels and children are welcome to bring their own.

There is also a children's playscape built like a huge pyramid with many ways to go up and down. It is so large, 100 children would easily have room to play.

DIRECTIONS: To go by car: turn right out of the South gate. Turn left at the first light. You are on Itsukaichi Kaido. After about 12.5km you will be traveling along a "greenbelt" on your left that appears to have a stream in it. Itsukaichi Kaido takes a jog to the other side of this "greenbelt" in a left then right turn (marked in English). In a while, you will cross Koganei Kaido and at about 15.5km, you will be able to tell that there is a large park with trees about ½ block to your left. The entrance is a well-marked and there is a landscaped street on your left. There is ample parking.

By Train: go to Musashi Konagei station on the Chuo Line toward Tokyo. Take bus #3 and get off at Koganei Koen-Mae (10 minutes by bus, five minutes by taxi).

By bike: a path leads from the Sayama Lake area directly past the north boundary of the park.

Sharon Chang

Inokashira Park

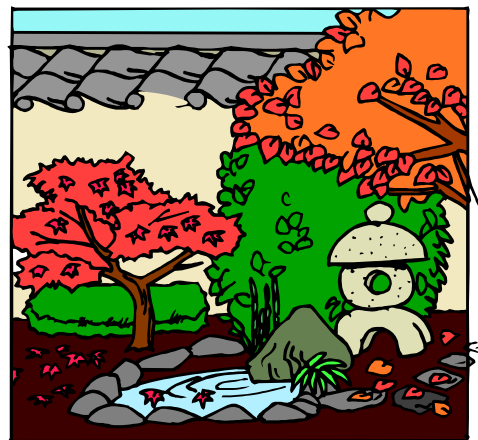
Inokashira Park at Kichijoji is great for cherry blossom viewing and strolling. (It is especially popular for young folks who walk hand in hand along the lake.) There is also a small zoo, an aviary, and aquarium. There is no charge to enter the park and the scenery is great. Ample picnic tables and benches are located near the zoo if you bring lunch. It costs Y400/adults and Y150/children (under 12) to enter the zoo or aviary and aquarium areas. This fee includes all areas except for the kiddie rides. Directions by train: Take the Ome line to Tachikawa. Transfer to a Tokyo bound train (track 4 or 5) and get off at Kichijoji. Exit through the Park Exit and walk past the Pachinko Shops. In less than a minute, you will come upon Inokashira-Dori, dominated by the department store Marui (OIOI). Take the road to the right of the store into the park. Picnic areas are located near the zoo and around the lake.

DIRECTIONS BY CAR: Exit the South Gate and turn right. At the light turn left. You will be on Itsukaichi Kaido. You will follow this road for a long time until it be-

comes a one-way street and you cannot proceed. At this point, turn left; cross the canal and make an immediate right. You will still be on Itsukaichi Kaido. After six lights, you will pass the entrance to Koganei Park on the left. As you continue, you will pass a CASA restaurant, a McDonalds and a Royal Host. At the large intersection the road splits, keep to the left as you go through. Get into the right lane immediately after the intersection. Go to the second light and turn right. After you pass a golf driving range on the left (it has a big green net around it) go to the 14th light and turn right. Go through 2 lights and under a train bridge. At the next light, turn left. At the very next light you will come to a "T." The parking lot for the park is located here – to enter turn left and then right into the lot. The fee for parking is Y400 an hour. The zoo, rides, and picnic area are located down this same street to the left. The lake, shrine, aviary and aquarium are to the right. The park is always open to the public, but the zoo and aquarium are closed Mondays. They are open Tuesday through Sunday from 9:30am to 4pm.

To shop, walk to the area near the East Exit of the Kichijoji train station (refer to Kichijoji shopping).

Donna Anson, Cheryl McNabb 97



Jindai Botanical Garden

The Jindai Botanical Garden is worth a visit year round because it offers viewing of flowers in all seasons. The best time to plan a visit is between spring and summer. You can enjoy colorful plum blossoms in late February and early March. In late March and early April, the cherry trees along the parks path make a sakura tunnel of pink blossoms with millions of tiny leaves. Usually in the beginning of April there will be a cherry blossom festival.

Pink, red, and white roses dominate the garden from late April to May. You can find azaleas and forsythia along the paths as well as a host of other flowers. In addition to these outdoor beauties there is a large greenhouse in which many tropical flowers, including orchids and begonias, are grown. Jindai has 100,000 plants with 3500 species.

There are many places within the garden area where you could have a picnic lunch, but there are no food shops. You can find snack concession stands offering things such as ice cream and cold drinks.



The Jindai Botanical Garden was established in 1961 and encompasses an area of 356,683 square meters. It is open from 9:30am to 4:30pm, closed Mondays and for the New Year's Holiday (Dec. 28 to Jan. 4). The telephone number is 042-483-2300. Entrance fees are Y500/adult, Y200 junior high age, and children 12 and under are free.

Directions by train: Leave from Fussa for Tachikawa. At Tachikawa, change to the Nambu line (track 8) for Bubaigawara (this train only goes in 1 direction from Tachikawa). At Bubaigawara, change to the Keio line for Fuchu/Shinjuku (the signs are in English). You can take an express or regular train and get off in Chofu. At Chofu, exit to the North side. You will see the Parco store and bus stops. To exit north, go up the stairs and through the ticket booths – the ticket booths at the bottom of the stairs lead to the South exit. The train fare to Chofu was about Y420 from Fussa.

You will need to take a bus, which will be located in front of the Baskin Robbins on the 1st floor of the Parco building. The bus stop number is 14, the bus number is 34. This bus will be to Jindai-ji, ask before getting on. The bus runs every 20 minutes during the week and more frequently on the weekends. Bus fare is about Y200. The train takes about 1 hour and the bus ride about 20 minutes.

DIRECTIONS BY CAR: Take Rt. 16 south to the Chuo expressway. The toll on the Chuo is Y600. When you get to the Chuo, take the entrance to Shinjuku. Exit at Chofu — exit Number 3 (roughly 17km. you will see it just after passing the Fuchu racetrack on the left.) When you come off exit 3, you will see tollbooths on the right and the road will split. You will need to get into the left lane as you pass the tollbooths. Watch for traffic on the left. You will be taking the split to the left, Chofu/Shinjuku. You will take this ramp and merge with traffic, but stay in the left lane. At the second light, turn left at “Shinoishihara Koban” Intersections (towards Musahisaki) You will now be on a smaller street, which will go back under the expressway and over a canal. The park will be at the 3rd light (about 0.9 km) after the canal at Jindai Shokubutsukoen Intersection, however that intersection is exit only, so go to the next light and turn right. The parking lot will be on you left. Take a ticket and pay as you exit. (500 Yen for 2 hrs, then 100 Yen for every 30 minutes afterwards.) Driving time takes at least 1 hour, except on the weekends. If you want to go on the weekend, you should leave home before 10:30am. The trip should never take more than 2 hours (unless it is a holiday).

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody. Updated by the Marriots 8/02.

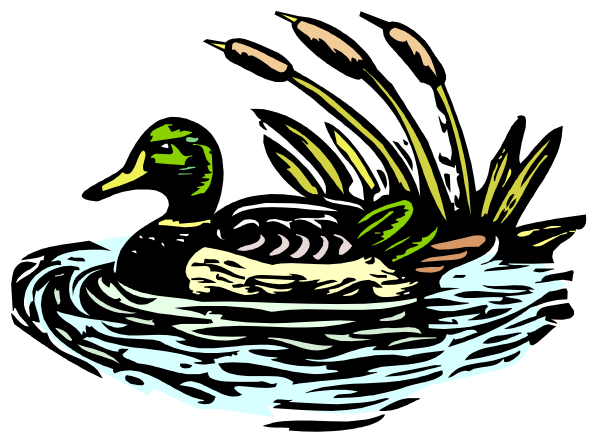
Akigawa - Akigawa River

If you like to paddle in a rocky stream, float along in a rented boat or on an inner tube, or just people watch, consider the Akigawa River. It is about 25 minutes from Yokota. The most famous spot in Akigawa is Summerland, but upstream from there you will find access to the river and even some fishing spots.

DIRECTIONS: Turn left out the Fussa gate onto Rt. 16. Set odometer to zero. Go to the first signal light and turn right. This road is marked “Tamabashi Dori.” Go through Fussa, across 2 sets of tracks. The road will go downhill and cross the Tama River. Keep to the main road as it bends going up a hill. You will come out on level ground on the other side of the river and then the road will be “Itsukaichi Kaido.” Fresh farm produce is sold along this road in the summer. At 5.1km you will come to a light with the sign, “Akigawa Shiyakusho.” Keep going straight. The light at 5.5km is the turn for Summerland (the cross street is rt. 141, so you would take a left if going to Summerland). Keep straight for Akigawa. You are getting into the country now and can see the mountains. The road will widen at 7.8km and there will be a map of the district on the roadside at 8km. From now on, you can turn left down almost any side road and reach the river. The light at 8.8km marks the left turn that will take you to a “private” beach. On a near right corner, up high, there is a large pink, red and white sign with a flower on it and an arrow pointing to Ozawa, a nearby store. The name under the light there is Yamamda. Turn left here and follow the road downhill and across the Akigawa River. Just across the bridge on the left is a little shop/restaurant through which you have to pass to get to the “private” beach. You can park up the hill to the right for a fee. (Y500). The little shop “Sansuiso” sells drinks and snacks but no western food. The shop is open year round, except rainy days 8am to 5pm.

There is a small entrance fee. You can also rent a “teppan” (large griddle for outdoor cooking) and buy charcoal. There are old toilets and running water. You can also rent small rowboats. Mosquitoes are bad in this area in the summer season so be sure to bring insect repellent.

Claire Scriba



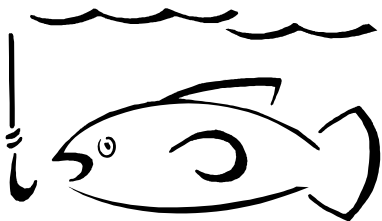
Fishing in Akigawa

Even trout fisherman can find a way to ply their sport while they are in Japan. The nearest fishing hole is the Akigawa river; it is full of rainbow trout. The Japanese government owns all the streams and landowners along the way can open their portion up to fisherman. They raise trout and release them into the stream, usually between 9am and 1pm. Fish of different sizes can be caught and some are pretty big. You can fish all day for about Y3000 and there is a 10 fish limit. The fee does not include equipment but you can rent a bamboo pole for about Y300. You can buy bait for about Y400. MWR offers fishing equipment rental and they can provide you with the current laws regarding fishing and other useful information. Sunday is the busiest day because the Japanese are off work – a day during the week would be best. With the exception of the fly fishing area, the trout camps are open year round.

DIRECTIONS: To get to Akigawa Trout Fishing Camp, go out the supply gate and go straight. You will cross over 2 sets of railroad tracks. At 1.4km, turn right onto Denen-Dori. There will be a large, 4 corner pedestrian overpass at this intersection. Go 1.3km to the “T” intersection and turn left. Go 2.6km and at the top of the hill, turn right. When you come to a fork in the road, bear right. Go about half km to the light. There is a gas station on your left. Go straight through the intersection. Follow the road about 5km and you will come to another “T” intersection; turn left. After about 2km you will cross railroad tracks. Shortly after that, you will see a big sign, in English, for the “Akigawa Trout Fishing Camp.” Keep to the right. About 2km after the sign, you will come to a light; turn right. You will soon see the big Welcome sign to Akigawa.

Sondra Halweg and Rosandra Corea

Please see “Fishing” in the outdoors section for more information.



Shiofune

Shiofune is off the beaten track, about a 30-minute drive from Yokota on a hill in a residential area. Blooming season begins in mid April with azaleas. Paths wind through the park and the views are breathtaking. Pass under the rope between two cedar trees hung with “lightning symbols.” Ring the bell to let Buddha know you have come to visit. Children can run off energy as they check out the caged peacocks. Follow the trail down to the pond to spot a duck or two, or even tadpoles or frogs. Hydrangeas and irises during May and June continue the color of flowers here. Not even the bleakest February day could detract from the beauty of this area.

The grounds are open every day from 8am to 5pm. They never close for holidays and are the scene of several celebrations. On May 3, there is fire walking, food vendors, and LOTS of people. The small temple is open for inside viewing of Buddha on this day, also the 2nd Sunday in August, as well as during the New Year’s festivities. Y100 is charged for a close up view of the Buddha.

Admission to the grounds is charged only during the blooming season. Adults pay Y200 and children Y70. Parking costs Y600. You can bring a lunch and have a picnic (bring a blanket to sit on). There is a small snack restaurant with a small gift shop inside. Restrooms are also located in this building. There is another shop located across from the temple. For a visual image of the complex with its different temples and shrines, check the map on the billboard off the road to the right of the thatched roof gate. Shiofune is about 10km from Yokota.

DIRECTIONS: Head north on Rt. 16, toward Kawagoe and Iruma (under the underpass). Go through Ome Kaido (4th light from underpass) and turn left onto Iwakura Kaido (3.2km, 6th light; big Honen building on far right). Continue on this smaller two-way road through stoplights, past a Mobil station and a large white industrial complex (Hitachi Engineering). Stay on Iwakura Kaido as it makes a sharp left at the entrance to the Ken-O toll road (5.9km/Ome IC). Make an immediate right at the next light. Go through Imaibabasaki intersection after which the road narrows and through Nanokaichiba intersection after which the road widens again. Yamane-Dori will merge into Iwakura Kaido; turn left onto Yamane-Dori (8km) after a block or two when the merge separates. Pass a Yamazaki Honda on the left (8.7km) before you see a grove of trees ahead. Turn right at the first light (9.5km). Follow this neighborhood road up a gentle hill past a parking lot on the left. At the “T” (9.9km; small playground ahead), there will be a parking area for the temple on the right.

Shiofune Kannon is up the hill to the right, diagonally left of the pedestrian exit on the other side of the parking lot. What looks like another parking lot just beyond the “T” and playground, is a private use lot for a trucking company. If the temple lot is full, return to the parking lot a block back (the one you passed on the way up) or you can carefully proceed up toward the right of the thatched roof gate to the temple complex. There is a white shrine, with a tile roof, toward the back of a further lot on the right hand side. You can park here. This newer shrine is dedicated to traffic safety.

To return via Ome City, make a right onto Yamane-Dori. The road will curve slightly; there will be a hospital on the right, a Daily Store on the left, then a fire station on the right. You’ll go through several lights including Daimon#1 and #2 (Shell stations). After the Nissan dealer on the right, make a left onto Ome Kaido (Mazda building on far right corner). Take this back to Rt. 16.

Barbara Smith, Barbara Kirkwood, Mavis Hara, Teresa K. Negley 8/97



Shinjuku Gyoen

In the fall, this Japanese garden is filled with beautiful chrysanthemums of many different colors, shapes and sizes. In the spring, you can see different varieties of cherry trees that come into bloom, and in the winter, there are orchid displays in the greenhouse. The garden was built on the site of a private mansion belonging to Lord Naito, a feudal lord of the Edo era. It began as an imperial garden but was opened to the public after World War II. The park is open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, but is closed on Mondays (or the following day if a national holiday falls on a Monday). The garden is open 7 days a week during the following special periods: March 25 through April 24 and November 1 through November 15. Entrance fees are 200 Yen for adults, 50 Yen for junior high school and elementary school students, and there are discounts available if you are bringing a group of 30 or more students.

DIRECTIONS: To get there by train, take the Ome Line to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo Line toward Tokyo, getting off at Shinjuku. Transfer to the Sobu Line heading toward Funabashi, then get off at Sendagaya. As you leave Sendagaya Station, turn right. Go just past the end of the station. There is a small street on the right that crosses under the tracks. Follow this street to the entrance of the gardens. At Shinjuku Station, you may also change to the Marunouchi subway line, heading toward Ikebukuro. Go two stops to Shinjuku Gyoenmae. As you exit the subway, look for the exit to Shinjuku Gyoen. Go out the exit, and the park is just across the street. If you are driving, the parking lot entrance is located a short distance from the Okido Gate, just off Shinjuku Dori Avenue.

Michelle Arostegui/Feb '02



Mary Kay Haughian, Lori Vandenburg, Cherie Murphy and Michelle Arostegui, and a group of Japanese students pose during the chrysanthemum festival.



Local Amusement Parks

Seibuen

Amusement parks attract the fancy of children of any age, but too often they are so far away that they must be saved for vacations or special days. Not so for Yokotans! Located about 30 minutes from Yokota is an amusement park to delight any fancy. Seibuen is a spacious, beautifully landscaped park, filled with over 20 attractions. A giant ferris wheel dominates the skyline, while rocket rides, a carousel, pirate ship, teacups and much more are tucked into the hillsides of the park. They even have a heart stopping roller coaster that loops and twists over water. There are several water attractions, including a "wave" pool. These are open only in the summer months.

The park is open every day; 10am to 9pm and parking is readily available. For Y3800/adult and Y3000/child you can buy a one-day pass with full access to the park – no additional charge for rides. General admission is Y1500/adult and Y800/child 4-12 and Y400/child 1-3. This allows admission to the park, but you will have to purchase tickets for the attractions. The ticket machines are located near the entrance of each ride. Depending on the ride, tickets range from Y200 and up. If you arrive at 5pm on any day, there is no admission charge; you can just buy ride tickets as you go. Food stalls and drinks are readily available, but kind of pricey. You can bring your own lunch. Check with the Yujo center for directions.

Donna Alexander

Toshimaen

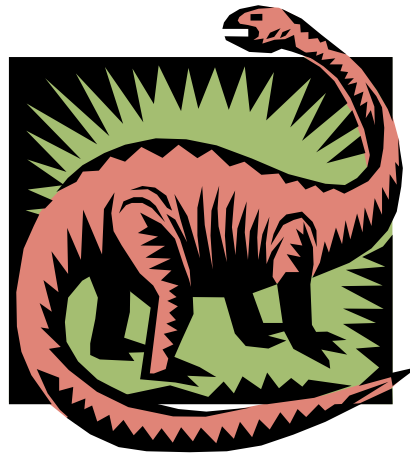
Toshimaen Amusement Park is a wonder for all ages. The oldest amusement park in Tokyo, it's 50 attractions are so varied there is truly something for everyone. Near the entrance to the park is a gilded, antique carousel, the Eldorado. Upon entering, the tranquil beauty of the Japanese gardens soon gives way to the many rides traditionally expected in an amusement park. There are many of the usual children's rides, as well as roller coasters with names like "The Corkscrew" and "The Cyclone," to satisfy serious thrill seekers. Safaris and several haunted houses invite adventurers. A ride, rightly called "The Flying Pirates" will swing some 15 stories into the air while you are seated in a replica of an old pirate ship. Seven swimming pools, an ice-skating rink, and a fishing pond are available for the sports minded.

The entrance fees are Y1500/adult and Y700/child. You can buy a ticket for Y3300/adult and Y2500/child, which combines admission and 7 ride tickets. An all day pass, covering admission and all rides, is the best buy at Y3800/adult and Y3300/child. The park is open daily, 9am to 5pm. From mid-November to mid-March, the park is closed on Wednesdays. In the summer months of July and August, the park stays open until 9pm.

TRAIN DIRECTIONS: Take the Ome line to Tachikawa. At Tachikawa, switch to the Chuo Line to Shinjuku. Catch the Yamanote line (green train) going towards Shin-Okubo and Ikebukuro. Get off at Ikebukuro and proceed to the Seibu

Ikebukuro Line. You will need to exit and then buy a new ticket. Board the train bound for Toshimaen, it will be the 5th stop on this train. The park entrance is 100 feet from the station. The train cost is about Y770 one-way, per person. The Yujo should have driving maps available.

Maria Witte, Diane Cressman



Unesco Village/Dinosaur Adventure Park

Take your family for an outing at the Dinosaur Adventure Park at Unesco Village. This indoor park has an educational boat ride through the history of dinosaurs. You start by sailing into the age of primitive creatures and fish that existed 270 million years ago. Then you meet Apatosaurus (150 million years ago), Scelidosaurus (200 million years ago), and many more creatures. The full-scale dinosaurs look very real, at one point; Tyrannosaurus (70 million years ago) comes very close to your boat while opening his mouth widely.

After your visit through time, visit the fossil museum with its collection of specimens. Two models depict dinosaur restoration work, one in the old days by hand work and one with modern automated techniques. The souvenir shop next to the museum carries everything in dinosaur: from mugs and placemats to stationary. Unesco also has other rides, such as, a merry go round, UFO and a simulation theater showing in 3D effects.

The Dinosaur Adventure Park is open year-round 10am to 4pm weekdays and 10am to 5pm weekends. The entrance fee is Y1200/adults (6th grade and up) and Y600/child. The simulation theater costs Y1000 per person for 2 shows. All-you-can-ride tickets for the dinosaur park, the simulation theater, UFO, merry-go-round and Seibuen Amusement Park (near Unesco Village) are available at the entrance for the price of Y4500/adult, Y4000/junior high and Y3500/child.

Special tickets are also available: "Enjoy Ticket A" is Y2500/adult and Y1800/child; this covers the dinosaur park,



simulation theater, UFO ride and merry-go-round. "Enjoy Ticket B" is Y1800/adult and Y1200/child. This is the same as ticket "A" minus the simulation theater. "Enjoy Ticket C" is Y2200/adult and Y1500/child. This is the same as ticket "A" but with the simulation theater and minus the merry-go-round. The "weekday ticket" is Y2500/adult and Y1800/child; this covers all rides in Unesco Village. Parking is about Y1000 for cars and vans.

The surrounding area is beautiful located by Lake Sayama and Lake Tama. The Seibu Lions Baseball Stadium, Sayama Skiing Ground (opens from the end of October through April), Lions Tennis Court, Seibuen Swimming pool (summertime), and the Seibuen Golf Course are all located near Unesco Village.

DIRECTIONS: To get to Unesco Village, refer to a map of the Seibu Lions Stadium (you can get one at the Yujo Center). Unesco Village is across the street from the Seibu Lions Stadium. Have a great time!

Karen Ozment, Chieko Brumley 1/97

Korakuen Amusement Park

This area in Tokyo's Bunkyo Ward is famous as a sports and amusement center with a baseball stadium, the Tokyo Dome (or Big Egg), and Korakuen Amusement Park. Popular attractions are the variety of imported rides and live stage shows. Hours are 10-9 and admission is ¥1,400 for adults, ¥700 for kids. Admission, plus 10 attractions: adults, ¥3,200; kids, ¥2,500. The Tokyo Dome's Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is open 10-5 (adults ¥350, kids ¥150).

To the west of the stadium and park, in stark contrast to the busy entertainment area, is the original Korakuen now called Koishikawa Korakuen, a landscaped garden built in the 17th century. Construction of the garden was begun in 1629 by Tokugawa Yorifusa, and continued by his son, Mitsukuni, until it was completed 30 years later. The Chinese scholar, Chu Shun-shui, helped design the garden and introduced a strong Chinese influence. Among the many scenic spots are the miniature copy of the dyke of Saiko in China; the Shiraito no Taki, a waterfall which resembles a screen of white threads; a small hill modeled after Loshan in China; the Kuhachiya sake house, and the Tokujido Shrine, built in 1630.

There are a number of bridges in the park, from replicas of the Togetsu-kyo and Tsukenkyo bridges in Kyoto to the very simple Yatsuhashi zigzag plank bridge and Sawatari stepping-stone bridge. A very special bridge is the Engetsukyo, so called because a full moon is formed by the arch of the bridge and its reflection in the water.

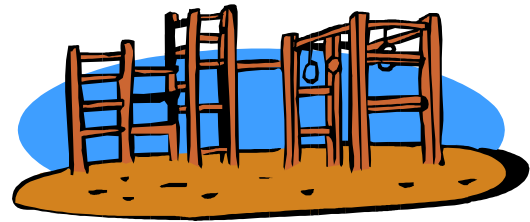
The garden is open 9am-5pm and has a ¥200 entrance fee. Maps show two walking routes. For detailed explanations, a bilingual booklet can be purchased for ¥300.

DIRECTIONS: Ride the Ome Line to Tachikawa, and change to the Chuo Line. Get off at Yotsuya and change to the Sobu Line toward Ichigaya. Get off at Idabashi Station, the second stop. Head left out the East Exit, then right over the multi-branching pedestrian bridge, following the signs in English. Once across the intersection and facing the station, walk

left about 2 blocks, make a left and walk down past the JapanChina Friendship Institute and a hotel. The entrance to Koishikawa Korakuen is within the near corner of cement walls on the right.

To stroll around the Tokyo Dome and Egg City Plaza afterward, exit right out of the park, then turn right at the big street and Marunouchi subway Korakuen station. The amusement park will be on the left and the stadium on the right.

Barbara Kirkwood, Teresa Negley



Sesame Place

Your adventure begins with a trip up Asia's longest outdoor escalator, from the parking lot to the park. Sesame Place is best described as an outdoor jungle gym – best suited for 4 to 8 year olds. Children can "swim" in a room of plastic balls, jump on a room size trampoline, climb a latticework of ropes, practice hitting a row of punching bags or slide down a plastic coated mountain. There is also a maze of tunnels to which you should orient you child before he goes – or he could come out on a different level from where you are. You may bring food into the park and covered picnic areas and a restaurant are available.

DIRECTIONS: Turn left out the Fussa Gate, then turn right at the 1st light. Continue straight on this road across the Tama River. It will turn into Itsukaichi Kaido. Turn left on Rt. 411, near Akigawa station. After you cross another river, you will see the entrance to Summerland, which is just next-door to Sesame Place. The hours are 10am to 5pm weekdays, 9am to 5pm on Sundays and holidays. Admission is about Y3000/child and Y2500/adult. Maps are available at the Yujo Center.

Gayle Richards

Summerland

Just a short ride away is the land of perpetual summer – Summerland. It is a mix of a theme park, swimming pool, game room and restaurants. You can spend a gloomy, gray day inside and enjoy the wave pool, waterslide and numerous rides underneath the heated dome. In the summer months, the outdoor pool, waterslide and amusement rides are available. From November to March, the outdoor pool is converted into an ice skating rink. There are various price ranges: to enjoy all rides indoors and out the fee is Y4200/adults and Y3700/kids; outdoor rides only the fee is Y3400/adult and Y2900/kids;



the indoor rides only the fee is Y2200/adult and Y1700/kids, for park admission and pool use only the fee is Y1800/adult and Y900/kids – children under 3 are free – they consider those past 6th grade as adult fares. These fees are subject to change and often times there are special prices depending on the time of year. Parking is about Y700 a day for cars.

There are a variety of restaurants on the premises, but you can bring your own lunch. There are many umbrella tables available. You can also rent a locker for Y100 or Y200.

There is a nearby nature park, Akigawa Nature Park. The cost there is Y300/adult and Y200/kids.

There are also camping facilities available at Summerland for RVs – they do have a lodging facility for those without RVs if you wish to spend the night. You will have to check for pricing, it varies from the weekdays to the weekends. Rooms are available with a private bath.

DIRECTIONS: Follow the directions above to Sesame Place. Pass the bowling alley to your left and you will see Summerland ahead on the left.

Dee Wichman

Tokyo Disneyland

On 111 acres, Tokyo Disneyland is larger than the state-side parks. Its parking lot, however, is the smallest, since the Japanese use public transportation more. Can anyone who doesn't speak Japanese enjoy Tokyo Disneyland? No problem. Naturally, most employees in the theme park will be Japanese, but most can speak some English. Foreign visitors receive a free map in English when they get their tickets, and all the signs in the park are in English.

What you will find is a Magic Kingdom that's pure Disney. Like its predecessors, Tokyo Disneyland is laid out in different entertainment zones, or "lands." Hours of operation vary, depending on the season and day of the week. Usual hours are 8am to 9 or 10 pm. The Information Center at Tokyo Disneyland can be helpful in scheduling your trip. Tel: (0473)54-0001 or (03)3366-5600. Please note credit cards may not be accepted, and the only cash machine around is just outside the gate. Discount membership cards may be obtained at the Yujo Community Center. Approximate prices, including admission and free shows, are as follows: ¥3,500 for adults, ¥2,800 for ages 12-17, and ¥2,200 for children 4-11.

The General Admission Passport is an all-inclusive ticket, good for all attractions for one day (regular days only). The cost is about ¥4,400/adult, ¥4,000/age 12-17, and ¥3,100/age 4-11. The Starlight Passport is good on Starlight evenings only, for arrival after 4pm. Its cost is about ¥3,300/adult, ¥3,000/age 12-17, and ¥2,200/age 4-11.

TRAIN DIRECTIONS: Take the Ome/Chuo Line to its end at Tokyo Station. Then go to the Keiyo Line (downstairs) and take any train from Tracks 1 to 4 to Maihama. To make your return a little less anxious, buy your return ticket at Maihama as soon as you arrive because when Disneyland closes, a huge mass of humanity will buy tickets.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Driving takes about two hours and tolls each way are over Y1,100. Take Rt. 16 to the

Chuo Expressway and follow the expressway into Tokyo. At the long tunnel, Chiyoda, keep left following the sign, Ginza #4. After you exit the tunnel, keep basically right. Follow the signs for 7 and 9, then take 9, which connects to the Higashi Kanto Expressway. Follow the expressway until you reach a fork, at which point you should go left and continue straight to Exit #008, Kasai Ramp. Follow Route 357 straight through the signal light and across the bridge. You'll make a left after the bridge, but before the signal light. Go to the next light and turn left again. Follow the road around to the parking entrance. There are blue and white direction signs in Japanese. Parking is about ¥900.

To go home, you retrace your steps back over the bridge, left at the light, then right at the next light. Kasai Entrance is about 200 meters on the right. When entering traffic you must cross three lanes as you will want the right fork. At the Tatsumi interchange, stay to the left and follow #9 and #7 to #4 and exit at Hachioji (#2 exit).

Gail Lindsey, Corie Huggins, Karen Becker

Tokyo Disneyland also has an english website at:
http://www.tokyodisneyresort.co.jp/tdl/index_e.html

Disney Sea

A new Disney theme park recently opened near the Tokyo Disneyland. It is typical of Disney parks in that it has fun for all ages ranging from excellently performed musical shows, to roller coasters, to rides for small children. Especially for children is a very large indoor play area based on the Little Mermaid that is good for all weather.

See the Yujo Community Center for directions on how to get there by train or car, or better yet, take one of their tours and get free transportation and a group discount for entry.

Brian Marriott 5/02



Local Museums

— Tokyo has literally hundreds of museums. These are just a few of the ones people have enjoyed. For more museums, look on the internet, especially under the [Townpage Online Japan Telephone Directory](http://english.itp.ne.jp) at <http://english.itp.ne.jp>



Tokyo Gas Museum

This museum is about 30 minutes from Yokota and is perfect for an outing on a cold or rainy day. The museum traces the use of gas as a source of power, heat and light from the 1870's to present day. The information is shown through videos, interactive displays and exhibits of actual items. Although nearly all in Japanese, there are enough English subtitles to describe what you are seeing. Plan for one hour to tour the museum, as it is two separate buildings. The second floor of one of the museums has a collection of wood block prints. You'll see such things as gas street lamps, early consumer uses of toasters, irons, rice cookers, water heaters, the gas range used at the Imperial Palace during the Meiji period and a gas driven church organ. There is a small outdoor area to enjoy a picnic.

It is open daily from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Closed Wednesdays. Admission is free.

DIRECTIONS: Turn left out the East Gate. At the first light, go right. Turn left when the road dead ends (second traffic signal.) Stay on this road until it dead ends into Shin Ome Kaido at Honmachi 1 Intersection. (You will go through two traffic lights and pass the big Daikuma discount store on the left). At Shin Ome Kaido there will be a Mos Burger on the left and a used car dealer. Turn right onto Shin Ome Kaido. About 6.5 km down Shin Ome Kaido you will go over an overpass, keep going. Cross Fuchu Kaido Road. About 8 km down Shin Ome Kaido Road, you will go over a second overpass. Start watching closely. At about 11 km you will come to the museum. The sign is fairly easy to read and in English. It is a group of red brick buildings surrounded by a red brick and cast-iron fence. Park in the gravel lot surrounded by the brick and cast iron wall.

(Note: You will cross Yanagi Kubo Intersection 0.9 km before the Museum. Onumacho 2 Intersection is 0.4 Km from the Museum. The TakiyamaMinumi Intersection is the first light PAST the museum - turn around & go back.)

Delores Street, Directions updated Brian Marriott 11/01

Nihon Minka-En

If you ever have the urge to get out and walk in a beautiful natural setting, take advantage of the Nihon Minka-en, an open-air museum of traditional houses. In fact, if you've ever wondered whether the Japanese have always lived in such small houses so close together, this trip will be a real eye opener. Picture large rooms with high ceilings. Part of the floor is earth and part is wood or bamboo, about two feet higher than the earthen section. You can easily imagine an extended family sharing such quarters. See pitched roofs so steep that you don't even want to visualize people on such a roof sweeping off the snow to keep it from collapsing. Marvel at the stones placed on thatched roofs to weigh them down. Smell the smoke from fires long gone that once, perhaps, warmed a family during a cold winter or heated water for rice or soup. The cooking arrangements were often ingenious, but seeing them makes me stop and give thanks for today's modern conveniences. Some of the houses were built with twisted beams woven together to make not only an unusual house but also an extraordinarily beautiful one. These homes are not weakened by the use of crooked beams, but made even stronger by the interweaving.

Among the 21 structures are a kabuki stage, a warehouse on stilts, and a water mill. All the buildings are set in natural surroundings with tools and furnishings of the period. You can't step on the thresholds or wooden floors, but you can wander inside. If you close your eyes and use your imagination, you can almost become part of the past.

There is a small museum in the middle of the park, along with the bathrooms and vending machines. Add a pond, a botanical garden, a lovely fountain plaza, a small museum of Natural Science along with a Planetarium and you have the ingredients for a wonderful outing.

Minka-en is open from 9:30 am to 4 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. It is closed Mondays and Japanese holidays. When the Japanese holiday falls on a Monday, it is closed on Tuesday of that week as well. It is about a 15-minute walk from the southern exit of the Mukogaoka-yen train station on the Odakyu Line.

The entrance fee is Y300 for adults over 20 and Y100 for children from 6 - 19. An English language brochure is available. For those who like to stamp booklets, Minka-en has stamps that are distinctly beautiful, so you may want to take a plain notebook to stamp in.



TRAIN DIRECTIONS: Take the Ome Line to Tachikawa, then transfer to the Nambu line (Track 8). Take it to Noborito, exit and turn right Odakyu Line. Ride one stop Mukogaoka-yuen and go out the South exit. Leaving the station, follow the main street to Kawasaki Kaido. Daiei Department Store is on your left. Cross Kawasaki Kaido and continue on this street 900 meters. To return, use Track 3 or 4 at Mukogaoka-yuen to Noborito where you will go to Track 1 to return to Tachikawa.

CAR DIRECTIONS: Follow directions to Tama Lodge. Proceed to the first major intersection that is just past Jolly Pasta Restaurant and Sundays Sun Restaurant. From Tama Lodge, it will be about 9 – 10 km. You will see a sign above the street that says Nihon Minka-en and it will point towards the right. There is also a Daiei Department Store on the left. Turn right as the sign says. Go straight, which will lead you directly into the parking lot. Parking fees are Y300 for two hours, Y400 for three hours, and Y500 yen for over three hours.

Dee Wichman, Margaret Summers

Yuushuukan at the Yasukuni Shrine

Japan opened a museum in 1985, and recently renovated it in 2002, at the Yasukuni Shrine to commemorate the wars that Japan has fought and to honor the soldiers who died for Imperial Japan. Many countries, especially Asian neighbors, strongly disagree with Japan's interpretation of history and, unfortunately, the museum does nothing to change the situation. However, for those interested in the history of Imperial Japan, a visit to the Yuushuukan is interesting; it is an opportunity to see the uniforms, hardware and artifacts left by a Japanese military power that influenced, and for a while, dominated most of Asia.

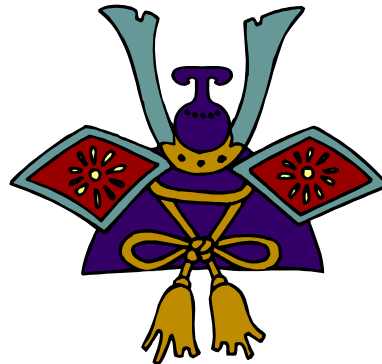
Each room of the museum is dedicated to a different campaign or war in Japanese military history. Did you know Japanese Civil War soldiers wore hats and uniforms similar to U.S. Civil War soldiers? There are displays on Japan's Civil War, the Seinan War in 1877, the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895, the Hokusin "incident" in 1900, the Russo-Japanese War from 1904-1905, and Japan's role in World War I. However, the largest exhibit is on the "Great Asian/Pacific War" (better known to Americans as World War II) and Japan's war with China from 1937 to 1945.

There is a "Judy" bomber aircraft on display and the kaiten one-man torpedo/submarine captured in the mouth of Pearl Harbor and permanently on loan to the museum by the U.S. Army. A visit to the Yuushuukan will be a visit long remembered.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Toei Shinjuku Subway Line from Shinjuku Station and get off at Kudanshita Station. Exit the station at the west end and walk up the hill towards the largest torii in Japan. This torii is very old and made of bronze. Walk through the second (smaller) bronze torii and go right through a grove of cherry trees, just before the main shrine. Beyond the trees, you'll see a Japanese naval gun, an air defense gun, and an old steam locomotive. The building behind

the outdoor exhibit is the museum. The building behind the outdoor exhibit is the museum. The admission is Y300 for elementary & jr high students, Y500 for high school & college students and Y800 for adults. It is open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. See www.yasukuni.or.jp/english

Roger Eggert. Updated Sept 2002.



The Japanese Sword Museum

The Japanese Sword Museum offers a unique opportunity to see some of Japan's ancient samurai swords and national treasures. The museum has over 120 swords and sword fittings on display, some dating back to the 10th century. There are many examples of exquisitely created sword fittings that have been inlaid with precious metals and semiprecious stones. The fittings are intricate works of art that rival the blades themselves. There are also periodic displays of samurai armor and ancient weapons.

Opened in 1968, the Japanese Sword Museum is part of the Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (The Society for the Preservation of Japanese Art Swords). The society has an international membership of over 9000 members and they publish a quarterly journal in English entitled Token Bijutsu. For those not familiar with Japanese swords, a visit to the museum provides a basic background of the different types of swords and how they relate to Japan's history. You will come away with a deep appreciation of the cultural significance of the Japanese sword.

Following WWII, Japan's post-war military laws prohibited ownership of weapons and many Japanese swords were confiscated and destroyed. It was during this period that the Japanese sword faced its greatest crisis – the art of sword-making was forbidden – and many priceless ancient swords were in danger of being destroyed. Some of Japan's most important swords were hidden or taken out of the country so they could be preserved. When Japan's post-war laws were changed, many swords were removed from hiding and returned to Japan. American families donated some of the swords on display. All of the swords on display in the Japanese Sword Museum fall into one of three categories: important art objects, valuable cultural properties, or National Treasures.

The museum is open 9AM–4PM, closed Mondays and December 28-January 4. Admission is Y500 for Adults, Y300 for Members & Students, and children are free.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Odakyu Line from Shinjuku Station to the second stop, Sangubashi Station. From there, the



museum is a short 10-minute walk. Go left out of the station, up the hill and follow the sidewalk along the east side of the Shuto Expressway toward Shinjuku. After about 200 meters, you will see a street leading through a parking lot under the expressway. Turn left on this street under the underpass. Turn right just past the parking lot and follow the street as it winds left. The museum building is a short distance ahead on the left side of the street. The admission fee is Y200 for students and children and Y500 for adults.

Roger Eggert

Transportation Museum

Originally a train museum, the Transportation Museum will delight train buffs! Visitors can see and feel everything from an early Emperor's train to the modern "bullet" train, the Shinkansen. Climb in the engineer's seat of an old steam locomotive. Sit in the wooden passenger cars the engines used to pull.

Other original vehicles and modes of transport are also collected and exhibited at the museum. By viewing the collection of important documents and seeing original models from the history of railroads, automobiles, ships and airplanes, one can observe the development of each vehicle and its importance to man. There are also special events commemorating the sea, the Day of Aviation, New Year's Day, Children's Day and summer holidays.

The museum is open daily except Mondays, from 9:30 am to 5 pm. Admission is until 4:30 pm. It is closed from December 29 to January 3. If a legal holiday that falls on a Sunday gets celebrated the following Monday, the museum is also open on those days.

DIRECTIONS: The museum is very close to Ochanomizu station. The station is the second stop after Shinjuku on the Chuo Line. Go out the right side and walk along the right side of the tracks in the direction the train is heading. After three blocks, you will see old trains on your left which make up the outdoor part of the museum. Admission fees are Y250 for adults and Y150 for children 4 - 12 years. Groups of more than 25 receive a 20% discount.

Carol Ingmanson, Luann Myers



Bicycle Museum

If you're a serious cyclist, check out the Bicycle Culture Center in Toranomon near the American Embassy. The tall narrow building contains an information room on the 3rd floor, a museum in the 2nd floor Display Gallery and an event hall on the 1st floor. A local route map with towns in "English" can be bought in the Display Gallery in addition to books in Japanese about cycling in Japan.

Admission is free; the hours are 10 - 4 weekdays, closed weekends and holidays. Tel. 03-3584-4530.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Ome/Chuo Line to Yotsuya, transfer to the Marunouchi subway and take it to one stop to Akasaka-Mitsuke. At Akasaka-Mitsuke, walk across the platform to the Ginza Line and go one stop to Toranomom. Try to get in the last car so that when you reach Toranomom, you can exit through the ticket booth and go up the stairs opposite to the street. Once above ground, walk (right) toward the NCR building past the Alitalia and other Airline offices. Cross the street. Just past the NCR building, turn left on the narrow street with the gas station. Turn right on the second street. The building with the Bicycle Culture Center will be on your left. It's known as Jitensha Kaikan No. 3.

Teresa Negley

Edo-Tokyo Metropolitan Museum

The Edo-Tokyo Metropolitan Museum is located behind the Kokugikan Sumo Stadium. Walk up the steps to a huge concrete plaza with a few ticket booths and then ride up the enclosed escalator.

The museum is different from most in Tokyo because it also includes the eras during and after World War II. The theme is the transition from feudal Edo to modern Tokyo, starting with a stroll across the old Nihombashi Bridge at one end of the Ginza. After viewing scrolls and castletown exhibits, you can peek into the lives of average Edo residents, recreated in life-size models. You can also see a Kabuki stage up close before moving into the Meiji period. Remember to look under your feet at a glassed-over exhibit.

For a ¥3,000 deposit, radio headsets can be rented which narrate more or less the same descriptions provided in English near each exhibit (be sure to get a brochure of the museum in English). Spacious, dark, and air conditioned, the museum is a good place to go on a hot or rainy day.

It's open from 10am-6pm, closed Mondays. Admission is ¥500 for adults and ¥250 for students. If you're hungry, there is a coffee shop with a skyline view of Tokyo on the top floor in the museum in addition to a Japanese style restaurant. Then on the ground floor where you exit the museum, there is another restaurant just next to the gift shop.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Ome Line to Ochanomizu, cross the platform and take the yellow Sobu Line 3 stops to Ryogoku. Depart the station via the central exit and turn right. The large rounded concrete building in front of you is Kokugikan, the sumo stadium, and to the right is the museum.

Teresa K Negley. Directions Confirmed 5/02



Fukagawa Edo Museum

If you're looking for something interesting to do on a rainy day weekend or American holiday, try the Fukagawa Edo Museum in a Tokyo. The museum is a reproduction of a part of Tokyo in the mid 1800's. As you walk in, it's like entering a time warp. The lighting and the sounds are constantly changing to represent the different times of the day. You'll see the vegetable and rice stores, boat house tavern, canal boat, fire tower and tenement homes. The buildings are life sized and open, so you can go in, see and touch the things that made up the Japanese peasant's life.

Try working the rice pounder and imagine bouncing up and down on it for eight or ten hours a day. Don't let the chicken over your head peck you! Sit at the hibachi in the boat house and pour tea from the iron kettle. Examine the blue and white pottery. Don't miss the back alleys, tiny gardens and even the village commode. Be sure to wear shoes you can easily slip on and off because you should not wear your shoes in the houses.

When you've finished prowling through the buildings, spend a few minutes viewing the movies about old time crafts and occupations in the adjoining room. They're in Japanese but interesting to watch.

An English language guide book can be purchased for ¥500 that tells about each room and the people who might have lived there. For example: "I was less than ten years old when I left my province to come to Edo. I was introduced by a distant relative to my master and apprenticed myself at his main shop in Kuramae. I worked there diligently for more than twenty years, and then my master entrusted me with the management of this rice store because he liked my personality and hard work. I was a little over thirty years then.... Yes, I'm quite happy living here. I have a good, hard working wife and two reliable workers who come to help pound the rice. My only worry is that Sadakichi is still young. I'm old now. Our life expectancy is about fifty, you know. (Ten more years, 'I tell myself everyday,' until Sada becomes old enough to run this store. Then, I can relax.) I must brace myself if I am to survive ten more years."

The museum is open 10am to 5pm daily except for the New Year's holiday, and a few days a year designated from time to time for administrative purposes. Admission is ¥300 for adults and high school students, and ¥50 for elementary and junior high students. Tel. 03-3630-8625.

The Kiyosumi Garden is also worth a stop. Originally constructed in 1891, it is a typical landscaped garden of the Meiji period. There are bridges, ducks, a lake and places to picnic. Admission ¥100, I think. From the mural, walk away from Monzen Nakacho subway station. At the corner turn left. Walk about a block and the entrance will be on your left. And do you still have energy and time? Back in the vicinity of the subway station is the Fukagawa Fudo temple and a block away a large shrine. A local fair the 1st, 5th and 28th of every month features street vendors selling almost everything.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Ome line to Tachikawa. Change to the Chuo Line toward Tokyo. At either Mitaka or Nakano stations change to the Tozai Subway. Get off at Monzen

Nakacho, 11 stops after Nakano. Take Exit 3. At the top of the stairs turn left. At the corner turn left again. At the corner (Eidai Dori and Kiyosumi Dori), turn left again. Ahead you'll see KFC and McDonald's signs. Walk down Kiyosumi Dori for five blocks under concrete expressways and past street corner playgrounds on the left. You'll cross a bridge with triangular shaped paintings and pass a sitting statue of the poet, Basho (both on the left). After you pass a groundskeeper's entrance to Kiyosumi Park and a police box (on the left again), there will be a series of stores. Keep walking. Just before another playground on the left, you will see a small mural of Kiyosumi Park next to public restrooms. Cross Kiyosumi-Dori (to the right) and walk down the street with 2 stone lanterns at the entrance. You'll see the modern four story museum (with its sign in vertical kanji) on the left past a temple about a block down. If you don't want to walk 15 minutes, you can catch any bus that stops in front of the Pachinko Parlor next to McDonald's. It costs ¥160. Get off in three stops at the Kiyosumi Koen stop. Listen carefully to the announcements because the bus won't stop if no one wants to get off or on. At the stop you'll see the mural mentioned above.

To return, you can either walk back to Monzen-Nakacho station on the Tozai Line, or continue down Kiyosumi Dori to Morishita Station on the Toei Shinjuku Line. The distance is about the same as to Monzen-Nakacho but on the right hand side of the street. (About a block after another bridge and the Nissan dealer on the left, there is a series of small Japanese stores selling pastries, Japanese sweets, etc.) Morishita Station is on the far left corner of the large intersection at Mayosumi-Dori and Shin-Ohashi Dori.

Barbara Kirkwood, Teresa K. Negley



NHK Broadcast Museum

If you've ever wondered about the history of broadcasting in Japan, the NHK Broadcast Museum is the place to go. It has three floors of exhibits ranging from the first public radio transmitter used by NHK to the first TV camera they used, as well as old radios and many other historical items. One interesting display is the recording of Emperor Showa's address to the nation announcing the end of World War II. Another fun room has a number of interactive components where you can pretend to use a teleprompter with a blue screen in the background to put yourself in another scene, and an area to practice sound effects for radio broadcasts.



DIRECTIONS: From Shinjuku take the Yamanote line south to Ebisu. Transfer to the Hibiya subway and go towards Hiroo (New Sanno). Two stops past Hiroo get off at Kamiyacho Station. Go out Exit 3 and turn right. Do not cross the intersection. Take a right at the first light. Immediately before the tunnel take the stairs on the left hand side of the road up to the museum entrance.

Brian Marriott 11/01

NHK Studio Park

This museum is a fun way to spend an hour or so during a day of shopping and dining in busy Shibuya. And it gives the men a break from department-store overload! The tour gives visitors a look at the latest developments in the media, including various program production technologies. The interactive displays are fun for both children and adults. Displays include a 3D Hi-Vision theater, a dubbing studio where you can read the voices for animations and dramas, and a try-it-yourself studio where you can give the weather forecast or be a program presenter.

Open 10:00am to 6:00pm (enter before 5:30pm). Closed third Monday of each month (Tuesday, if Monday is a national holiday). Also closed December 25-31. Open every day in August. Admission is Y250 for adults and Y150 for junior/senior high school students. Elementary school and younger are free.

DIRECTIONS: Take the JR train to Shibuya Station and go out the Hachiko Plaza exit. From Hachiko Plaza, walk up the street and you see the Seibu and OIONE signs on. (between the 1st & 2nd TV counting from the right.) At the second light the road will "Y" with an OIOI store in the middle of the branch. Bear to the left here. Follow this road straight to the end. The NHK Broadcasting Center is a complex of three buildings across the street straight ahead and to the left.

Kristen Marriott 12/01



Takagi Bonsai Museum

The Bonsai Museum is part of the Meiko Shokai Corporation, and was founded by company President Reiji Takagi to share his great love for bonsai with the world. Opened in 1994, this museum is the first of its kind in the world dedicated to bonsai. Exhibits change about every 10 days to reflect the best seasonal variations. The museum maintains a collection of

over 300 bonsai; their signature piece is a 500-year old pine bonsai. The museum also houses a large collection of rare ukiyo-e (woodblock) prints, displays of antique pots from Japan and China, and a lovely open-air rooftop garden.

The Bonsai Museum is on 3 floors, and afterwards you can enjoy a complementary beverage in an in-house coffee shop. There you'll find bonsai books, videos, and a display showing products made by the Meiko Shokai Corporation.

The museum is open 10:00AM – 5:00PM, closed Mondays (Tuesday, if Monday is a national holiday). Admission is Y800 for adults and Y500 for students. Tel. 03-3262-1640.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Ome/Chuo Line from Fussa Station to Shinjuku. You may have to transfer at Tachikawa to catch a Tokyo-bound train. At Shinjuku, change to the JR Soubu Line and go towards Tokyo. Exit at the Ichigaya Station (between Yotsuya and Idabashi). Go out Exit A2 and turn right on Nihon TV Street (walking uphill, away from the moat). Take the first left (a narrow road with no stoplight), and the museum will be on your right. You'll see lion statues guarding the entrance. The museum is just a 1-minute walk from Ichigaya Station.

Kristen Marriott 11/01

See Bonsai Town under Arts & Crafts for more bonsai information.

Ome Railroad Museum

A tour of Ome Railroad Museum (Nagayama), nestled in the hills above Ome, is a treat for the young at heart. Numerous old engines and passenger cars invite fans to climb on board. A 1969 Shinkansen (bullet train) begs a would-be engineer to take the throttle. The highlight is to see the indoor model trains. They run at 10 and 11am and 1, 2 and 3pm. The museum houses many exhibits. Outdoor toy train and car rides cost Y100 each. The museum is open 9am to 5pm, closed Mondays and Dec. 29th to Jan. 3rd.

The beautiful park near the museum welcomes anyone ready for a leisurely stroll. Several playgrounds where children can romp are an added attraction. With only a small snack bar available, I would recommend bringing a picnic lunch. There are several places to sit and take in the scenery of Ome.

DIRECTIONS BY TRAIN: Catch the Ome line from Fussa bound for Ome or Okutama, and get off in Ome. From the station, turn left up the first street. Follow that street until you come to the first street that crosses the tracks on the left. Turn left and go across the railroad tracks. Follow the winding street up the hill. It is kind of steep and the walk up takes about 15 minutes. The railroad museum is at the top of the hill. There are several signs along the way. They are in Japanese but they do have pictures of trains on them. The railroad museum is on the right; the park is on the left at the top of the hill. Make sure you wear comfortable shoes. It is a bit hard for smaller children, so you may want a stroller. The walkways in the park near the museum are fairly smooth and some are paved. You can get back to Ome through the park. Walk along a path that parallels the tracks, back to the road that crosses the tracks.

DIRECTIONS BY CAR: Set your odometer to 0 as you exit the Terminal Gate, turn right onto Rt. 16. Stay in the right lane and go under the overpass. At 2.7km turn left onto



trian crosswalk. You will go under the crosswalk, then make a 45-degree right turn (not the hard right) to continue on Ome Kaido. Follow the blue signs to central Ome. As you turn, a tire store will be on your left. The road becomes Kyu Ome Kaido. Just before you get to central Ome turn right on Nariki Kaido. This turn has a store called Yaoki Gift Fruits on the diagonal left. Go on Nariki Kaido to the first light (by the school) and turn left onto a very small street. Follow that street and bear left at one fork going up the hill. The Railroad Museum (Nagayama) will be on your left at the top of the hill and the parking lot is on the right. You will be coming up the hill the opposite way of the walking directions.

Nagayama is close to Yokota and is a pleasant drive on almost any afternoon that you are free. It only takes about 35 minutes from the Terminal Gate and is easy. The area has a lot of pretty plum trees and is quite beautiful in March. And in the fall, the leaves of the trees change color to make a beautiful sight!

Sondra Halweg, Christine Thomas

Ome Art Museum

青梅市立美術館

Ome Municipal Museum

青梅市郷土博物館

A pleasant afternoon can be spent in Ome visiting the Ome Art Museum and the Ome Municipal Museum. When we visited, the Ome Art Museum had a small display of pieces in a variety of style from ink to watercolor, mostly from the 1930's through the present. On the first floor was a room with artwork done by school children in a near by park. It costs 200 Yen, and is closed Mondays. After going to the art museum, we walked across the Tama River, through a wooded park beside the river, and visited the Ome Municipal Museum. Everything is in Japanese, but you can look at a variety of artifacts from arrowheads to farming equipment. They have a 250 year old farm house that you can go inside and look at the way people lived. This museum is free.

Train Directions: Take the Ome line from the Fussa Station away from Tokyo and get off at Ome (14 minutes, 160 Yen/person) Walk straight out of the station to the first light ("Ome Sta" intersection) an turn right. Go to the second light (411, Ome Shinimkaika Int) and turn left. At the next light (Ome Civic Hall S. intersection), cross the street and turn left onto Ome Kaido Road. The art museum is a two story white brick building a short way down on the right. The name is in kanji (above) on the wall. After going to the art museum, go back to Ome Civic Hall S. intersection and turn left (away from the station.) The first small street past the next light takes a very sharp turn down a hill. Go down the hill to a parking lot. Cross the pedestrian river. Wander downstream and you will see the Ome Municipal museum short way past the next pedestrian bridge.

Driving Directions: At the Terminal Gate, set your odometer to zero and turn right and go under the overpass. Turn left onto Ome Kaido Ave, (Hakonegasakinishi Intersection, the 4th light after the underpass, appx 2.8 km from terminal gate. McDonalds is on far left corner.) You will wind along Ome Kaido all the way to the lake. At 8.3km, take the left fork at the Y. Follow the signs for Okutama. Just before 10.6 km you will pass the Ome Art Museum on the left. At 10.6km, the road ends (Ome Civic Hall S. intersection). Turn left. At the first tiny street past the next light take a very sharp (almost u-turn) left, down a hill, there is a free parking lot at the bottom of the hill along the river. From here you can walk to both museums.



Iruma City Museum ALIT

About fifteen minutes away, there is a wonderfully modern museum in a landscaped setting. The museum is divided into several parts: in one gallery, art by local artists is displayed ranging from fifty-foot long water paint murals to oil paintings. Upstairs, a smaller Children's Science Room is arranged with hands-on models including the effects of visual illusion through mirrors and a gyroscopic experience using bicycle wheels. Next door, a life-size exhibit of local plant and animal life reflects the natural setting of Iruma as it evolves from dawn through twilight and night. The history of the area is shown through displays of local archaeological finds, feudal periods, the clothes of local, townsmen, silk production models, etc. A ramp leads to exhibits on tea, a most important product of Iruma. Life-size models of family rooms in China and Tibet show the differences in lifestyles and how tea is preserved and drunk in different cultures. Glass display cases enclose teapots and English teacups ranging from those with large saucers to smaller porcelain items. A full-size replica demonstrates the simple designs of a traditional teahouse with thatched roof (the low doorways and narrow rooms inhibited the drawing of swords in a feudal society of five hundred years of war). Films on tea and other subjects can be viewed in a museum theater. Teacups and local merchandise can be pur-



chased in the museum gift shop and a restaurant is also on the grounds.

Although English-language explanations are not present on all displays, an English brochure includes introductions on the permanent exhibits, building layout, and museum grounds.

Hours: 9-5 Closed Monday (Tuesday if Monday was a holiday. Closed 4th Tuesday of month and 12/27-1/5 for New Years.

Cost: 200 Yen/Adult. 100 Yen/high school/university student. 50 Yen/Jr high/elementary student.

DIRECTIONS: Turn right out the Terminal Gate and head north on Rt. 16 via the underpass. Turn left (west) at the first light past route 219. (7.3 kilometers from the terminal gate and just prior to a large sign reading "AUTOBACS" on the left. If you get to Crystal Park (on right) you have gone too far.) Take a LEFT (south) at the first light (There is a 7-eleven on the corner.) The museum is about 0.4 kilometers on the left. It has a large parking lot just past an entry gate.

The address for Iruma City Museum Alit is 100 Nihongi, Iruma. Tel. No. 0429-34-7711.

Teresa Negley, Sumiko Evans 9/97
Directions updated by Brian Marriott 2002

Mount Mitake

Secluded in this small rural village is the small Gyokudo Kawai, a Japanese artist whose displayed work captures the essence of Japanese painting. Admission to this museum and garden is Y300. A few prints and sets of post cards are for sale. Serious artistes might find the books illustrating Gyokudo's technique appealing.

DIRECTIONS BY TRAIN: From Fussa station, catch the train bound for Okutama and exit at Mitake station. When exiting the station go to the left. After about a block you will come to a bridge crossing the Tama River. In the distance you will see a suspension bridge. Two paths lead to the museum. Facing the suspension bridge, the path to the right, across the main bridge, leads directly to the art museum. The path from the left approach begins a short way down the road.

In addition to the art museum, you can find a boulder to perch upon and watch the kayakers and fishermen. Cross the suspension bridge and you will see restrooms. A short ways ahead is a small trout fishing pond.

DIRECTIONS BY CAR: Follow Okutama Kaido (Rt. 411) out of Fussa, toward Mitake. Just before the bridge crossing into Mitake is a winding road that ends in a small parking area near the art museum. Parking is also available near the trout pond for Y500. The museum is open year round 10am to 4:30pm. It is closed for the Holidays from Dec. 25th to Jan. 4th.

The mountaintop shrine, Mitakedaira, is also a delightful getaway to fresh air and exercise. If you go by train you will need to take a local bus or taxi to the cable car (otherwise it is a 50 min. walk). You can get bus information and a map of the area outside the train station to the left.

DIRECTIONS BY CAR (for Mitakedaira): Continue up Okutama Kaido, until you see the huge red Torii Gate on the left. Turn under the Torii and continue up the road. Parking is available in several places. The cost is around Y900

per day. The uppermost lot is where you can board the cable car to ascend up the mountain. The cost is Y560 one-way or Y1070 round trip, but is well worth it. A small chair lift for an additional Y50, will take you up to another level, but the walk is pleasant and winds through the mountaintop village.

We took the main trail to the mountaintop shrine area. The shrine itself is not as spectacular as some, but the view is fantastic and the clean air is a joy. There are several restaurants and souvenir shops along the way, or you can bring a sack lunch.

Kathleen French, Ann Bowers 10/96



Ozawa Brewery

Ozawa Brewery makes Sawanoi Sake. Sawanoi Sake is one of the best selling sakes made in the Kanto Plain. Family owned and operated for over 300 years, the Ozawa Brewery is located at the base of Mount Mitake on Ome Kaido in Ome. The brewery is just steps away from Sawai Station on the Ome line. Tours are provided (only in Japanese) from 11am to 4pm, Tuesday through Saturday. There is some literature available in English.

Three restaurants are within walking distance and have gardens with outstanding views. Two of them serve meals and popular snacks at moderate prices. The third restaurant, Mamagoto-Ya serves an elegant Kyoto style dinner.

DIRECTIONS BY TRAIN: Take the Ome line to Okutama. Ome station is 5 stops from Fussa and Sawai station is 6 stops beyond Ome. Train takes about 45 minutes.

DIRECTIONS BY CAR: Turn right out of the Terminal Gate, heading north on Rt. 16. Go under the underpass, travel a few blocks and turn left onto Ome Kaido (McDonald's and Bikkuri Donkey restaurant on the left) and follow it all the way. Near Higashi-Ome station the road jogs - if you find that you end up on Okutama Kaido, continue in the same general direction (WNW) and the road will intersect with Kyu Ome Kaido. Turn left and continue, you are now back on Ome Kaido. The train station will be on your right, Tama River on the left and mountains straight ahead. The trip takes about 45 minutes one way.

Phillury Platte, 10/96

