JAPAN ANIME MAP

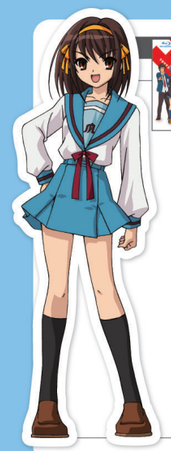
Sacred places pilgrimage

The settings for many anime are often modeled after real locations. These "sacred sites" have become incredibly popular among fans and the object of "pilgrimages" by many eager to visit them. There are number of locations across Japan where fans can enjoy anime character attractions in theme parks or visit museums with exhibits related to anime and otaku culture.

:Address :Tel :URL :Hours :Closed :Admission

Things to observe when visiting sacred sites

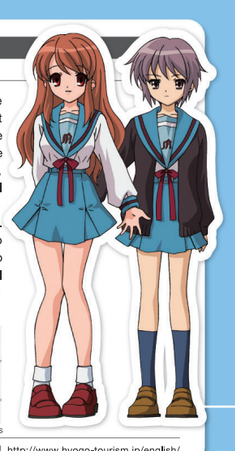
- Do not disturb the environment and landscape by leaving garbage, drawing graffiti, or performing other acts of vandalism.
- Do not enter off-limit areas and take things from the places you are visiting.
- Do not violate the privacy of local citizens and other individuals by taking pictures of their homes and neighborhood.
- Avoid excessively extreme cosplay that might be distracting or offensive to those around you. Avoid changing in shops or public bathrooms when getting ready to cosplay.
- Always remember to carefully confirm your route to ensure you safely reach your destination.



The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya
Nishinomiya City, Hyogo Prefecture

涼宮ハルヒの憂鬱

Haruhi Suzumiya is a beautiful young girl but definitely the oddball of her class. Together with Kyon, she founds a secret circle at school called the SOS Brigade. Unknown to Haruhi, the members she attracts to the SOS Brigade represent a wide range of unique characters in their own right, such as aliens, time-travelers from the future, and people with supernatural powers. The story centers on the brigade's efforts to solve the paranormal phenomena Haruhi unconsciously causes to occur. The series is said to take place in Nishinomiya City in Hyogo Prefecture. There are many spots throughout the city identical to places seen in the anime and manga, such as the high school that Haruhi's is modeled after, the prominently featured Shukugawa Park, and the path along the river bank.



© 2006 Nagaru Tanigawa · Noizi Ito/a member of SOS

Sightseeing in Hyogo ▶ [Hyogo Tourism Association] http://www.hyogo-tourism.jp/english/

Spirited Away — EDO-TOKYO OPEN AIR ARCHITECTURAL MUSEUM
(Koganei City, Tokyo)

千と千尋の神隠し

©2001 Nibariki · GNDDTM

In the middle of her family's move, Chihiro gets lost in a mysterious town where 8 million gods come to bath at a magical "bathhouse". Given the name "Sen", she is put to work in the bathhouse. Here she experiences a number of encounters that help her realize the strength to live that lies within herself. The Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum, which features a collection of restored historical buildings open to the public, serves as one of the model locations for the story. It is said director Hayao Miyazaki referred to the museum's bathhouse and merchant houses when creating the magical town that appears in the movie.

http://www.tatemonoen.jp/english/index.html

©EDO-TOKYO OPEN AIR ARCHITECTUAL MUSEUM

true tears — Nanto City, Toyama Prefecture

true tears

The main character in *true tears* is Shinichiro Nakagami, a boy who longs to become a picture book illustrator. The story follows the changes in the relationships between Shinichiro and three other characters: Noe Isurugi, Hiromi Yuasa, and Aiko Ando. Noe is a girl who is troubled by the past and has lost the ability to cry. Hiromi is a girl that has been taken in by the Nakagami family, and has known Shinichiro since they were little. Like Hiromi, Aiko has also been close to Shinichiro from the time they were kids. The story unfolds in Mugiha town, which is modeled after Johana, Nanto City, the town where the anime's production studio is located. Many of the scenes in the anime feature beautiful shots of the scenery in Toyama.

©2008 tt Project

Sightseeing in Toyama ▶ [Toyama Prefectural Tourism Association] http://www.info-toyama.com/english/index.html

SUMMER WARS — Ueda City, Nagano Prefecture

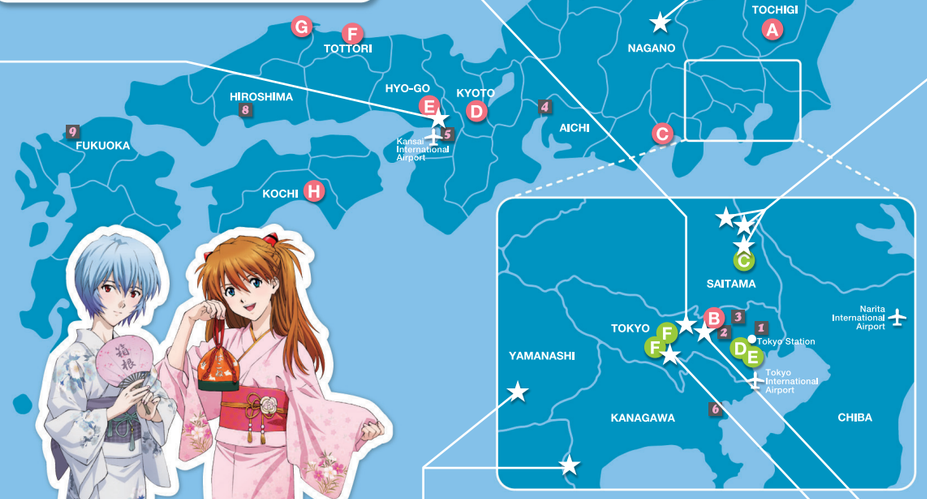
サマーウォーズ
SUMMER WARS

Kenji Koiso is an introverted math genius that heads to the countryside to visit Natsuki, an older girl he really looks up to who has asked for his help with a little project. However, a global crisis suddenly breaks out in the virtual space of the Internet. Needing all the help he can get to save the world, Kenji teams up with Natsuki's big country family. This is the first original animated movie directed by Mamoru Hosoda, who won acclaim for his work on "*The Girl Who Leapt Through Time*". The Jinnouchi family in the story is modeled after the Sanada family, the clan that originally ruled the area around Ueda City in Nagano Prefecture. The entrance to the Jinnouchi family's residence is actually the Higashi-Koguchi Yagura gate of Ueda Castle.

©2009 SUMMERWARS FILM PARTNERS

Sightseeing in Nagano ▶ [Nagano Prefecture Tourism Association] http://www.go-nagano.net/

Numbers 1 to 9 match up with "Area" on the back of this page.



Lucky Star — Kasukabe City, Satte City, Washimiya Town – Saitama Prefecture

らき☆すた

The story is about the laid-back everyday lives of 4 young girls with incredibly different personalities. Konata Izumi is an easy going otaku who loves anime and games. Tsukasa Hiiragi is a good-natured girl that has an older fraternal twin named Kagami, who is a firm character. Miyuki Takara rounds out the troupe, a beautiful girl that gets good grades in school. This series features many spots in Washimiya Town (now part of Kuki City) and other places in Saitama Prefecture: The school Konata and the others go to is modeled after Kasukabe Kyoei High School; Takanomiya Shrine where the Hiiragi sisters' father works as a Shinto priest is based on Washinomiya Shrine, and the station nearest to the Izumi Family is made to look like the real Satte Station.

© Kagami YOSHIMIZU / Lucky Paradise

Sightseeing in Saitama ▼ [Saitama prefecture] http://www.sainokuni-kanko.jp/eng/

OTHER PLACES

A Saikano
[Otaru City, Hokkaido]

Saikano is an innocent love story about Chise, a normal high school student whose body is transformed into a weapon of war, and her boyfriend Shuji who tries to save her.

©Shin Takahashi / SHO・TOY・TFC・CBC

B Kannagi: Crazy Shrine Maidens
[Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture]

This playful school comedy depicts the humorous encounters between human beings and gods. The story begins when Jin Mikuriya, a boy in the school art club who can talk to spirits, builds a wooden statue that is possessed by the goddess "Nagi".

©Eri Takenashi/ Ichijinsha/Aniplex

C Crayon Shinchan
[Kasukabe City, Saitama Prefecture]

Shinnosuke Nohara (Shinchan) is an incredibly outrageous kindergartener that's always getting in trouble. This hilarious series depicts all the crazy antics of little Shinchan and his daily encounters with family, friends, and teachers at school.

©YOSHITO USUI / FUTABASHA・SHIN-EI・TV ASAHI・ADK

D Sailor Moon
[Azabujuban, Minato-ku, Tokyo]

Usagi Tsukino is a normal girl who's a bit of clutz and wimp that transforms into a warrior in sailor outfit that vanquishes ghosts terrorizing the city. Her famous words before pulverizing her enemies are "In the name of the moon, I shall punish you!"

©Naoko Takeuchi, PNP, Toei Animation

E Digimon Adventure
[Daiba, Minato-ku, Tokyo]

Digimon is an adventure story about seven children who one summer are transported by a mysterious power to an imaginary digital world inhabited by creatures called Digimon.

©Akiyoshi Hongo, Toei Animation

F Toaru Kagaku no Railgun
[Area around Tachikawa Station / Tama Center Station, Tokyo]

Set in a university town of Tokyo where supernatural powers are at work, this story focuses on Mikoto Misaka, a girl with incredible special powers that can wield bolts of electricity, as she solves cases throughout the city.

©KAZUMA KAMACHI/MOTOI FUYUKAWA/ASCII MEDIA WORKS/PROJECT-RAILGUN

MUSEUM & THEME PARK

A Bandai Museum

Bandai Collection Center 3-6-20 Omocha no machi, Mibumachi, Shimotsuga-gun, Tochigi Prefecture
0282-86-2310 http://www.bandai-museum.jp/
http://www.facebook.com/bandaimuseum
10:00 am to 4:30 pm (Doors close at 4:00 pm)
Scheduled days
1,000 yen (adult) and 600 yen (child)

B Toei Animation Gallery

©Toei Animation

2-10-5 Higashi-Oizumi, Nerima-ku, Tokyo
03-3978-3111
http://www.toei-anim.co.jp/tag/
9:30 am to 5:00 pm (Doors close at 4:30 pm)
Monday (also closed during the New Year's holiday and on days for changing exhibitions)
Free

C Chibi Maruko-chan Land

S-Pulse Dream Plaza 3F, 13-15 Irifune-cho, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka City, Shizuoka Prefecture
054-354-3360
http://www.dream-plaza.co.jp/chibimaruko/
10:00 am to 8:00 pm (Doors close at 7:30 pm)
Open year round except for scheduled days
500 yen (adult) and 300 yen (child)

D Kyoto International Manga Museum

*Information as of February 2011

Karasuma-Oike, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto (former Tatsuike Elementary School)
075-254-7414 http://www.kyotomm.jp/
10:00 am to 6:00 pm (Doors close at 5:30 pm)
Wednesday (or Thursday if Wednesday falls on a national holiday), New Year's holiday, and maintenance periods
500 yen (adult), 300 yen (junior-high and high school), 100 yen (elementary)

E The Osamu Tezuka Manga Museum

7-65 Mukogawa-cho, Takarazuka City, Hyogo Prefecture
0797-81-2970
http://tezukaosamu.net/en/museum/index.html
9:30 am to 5:00 pm (Doors close at 4:30 pm)
Wednesday (also closed on holidays, spring and summer vacation) and other unscheduled days
700 yen (adult), 300 yen (junior-high and high school), 100 yen (elementary)

F Detective Conan no Sato – Gosho Aoyama Manga Factory

© Gosho Aoyama / Shogakukan Published serially in Weekly Shonen Sunday

1414 Yurashuku, Hokuei-cho, Tohaku-gun, Tottori Prefecture
0858-37-5389 http://www.gamt.jp/
9:30 am to 5:30 pm (April to October) and 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (November to March)
Open year round
700 yen (adult), 500 yen (junior-high and high school), 300 yen (elementary)

G Mizuki Shigeru Museum

© Mizuki Productions

5 Honmachi, Sakaiminato City, Tottori Prefecture (Honmachi arcade street)
0859-42-2171
http://www.sakaiminato.net/mizuki/
9:30 am to 5:00 pm (Doors close at 4:30 pm)
Open year round
700 yen (adult), 500 yen (junior-high and high school), 300 yen (elementary)

H Yanase Takashi Memorial Museum (Anpanman Museum)

©Yanase/F-T-N

1224-2 Birafu, Kahoku-cho, Kami City, Kochi Prefecture
0887-59-2300
http://www.anpanman-museum.net/index.html
9:30 am to 5:00 pm (Doors close at 4:30 pm) Tuesday
700 yen (adults), 500 yen (junior-high and high school) and 300 yen (children 3 years and up, elementary)

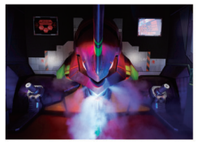
Evangelion — Hakone, Kanagawa Prefecture

ヱヴァンゲリヲン新劇場版

New Evangelion movie: EVANGELION: 2.22 YOU CAN (NOT) ADVANCE.

14-year-old Shinji learns that it is his fate to pilot the humanoid mecha Evangelion and confront a series of mysterious enemies called "Angels". Shinji is joined by fellow 14-year-old pilots Rei and Asuka and a group of adults from the special service agency NERV. Together they work to defeat the "Angels" in a battle that will decide the fate of the Earth. This series depicts the spiritual bonds and discord among the main characters as the struggle to defeat a common foe. Tokyo-3 is set near Hakone, a place in Kanagawa Prefecture known for its hot springs and majestic mountain surroundings. There are scenes in the anime that provide impressive shots of locations such as Owakudani, Kintokiyama, and Ashinoko.

Fujikyu Highland
[Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture]
http://www.fujiq.jp/en/



This amusement park is guaranteed to leave you breathless. There are a number of attractions related to the Evangelion series, such as a recreation of Cage 7, where Shinji first encounters his Eva unit. Here you can see a full scale model of Evangelion Unit 01 and its entry plug. You can also take pictures in front of large panels depicting scenes from the series and seemingly put yourself right into the story. There are also many other exhibits that help to bring the Evangelion world to life!

©Khara

Sightseeing in Kanagawa ▶ [Kanagawa Prefectural Tourist Association] http://www.kanagawa-kankou.or.jp/index-e.html

Sanrio Puroland — Tama City, Tokyo

Sanrio Puroland

Famous Sanrio characters Hello Kitty, Kiki Lala, and My Melody all together in one theme park!

©2011 SANRIO CO., LTD.

1-31 Ochiai, Tama-shi, Tokyo
042-339-1111
http://www.puroland.jp/
Remember to check the website to confirm the business hours and days closed
3,000 yen (18 and up), 2,700 yen (12 to 17), 2,000 yen (4 to 11)
*There is a separate charge for rides and attractions.

RIO KEI's kittyler

One of the "super kittylers", or girls that love Hello Kitty characters, from the series "*with Hello Kitty*". Drawn by the illustrator KEI, who also designed Hatsune Miku.

HELLO KITTY・著作 株式会社サンリオ
©1976, 2011 SANRIO CO., LTD. TOKYO JAPAN
イラスト・KEI
©'09, '11 SANRIOWAVE

Ghibli Museum — Mitaka City, Tokyo

三鷹の森ジブリ美術館
GHIBLI MUSEUM, MITAKA

This museum is dedicated to Hayao Miyazaki and the works produced by Studio Ghibli, such as *My Neighbor Totoro* and *Princess Mononoke*. The museum leads you through mazelike exhibits that show how an animated movie is made. In addition to the exhibits, there is also the famous "Cat Bus" that children can play in and a "Robot Soldier" from *Castle in the Sky*. This place is a definite must for any Ghibli fan!

1-1-83 Shimorenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo
0570-055-777
http://www.ghibli-museum.jp/en/
10:00-18:00
Weekly: The Museum is closed every Tuesday.
Admission:
1,000 yen (adult),
700 yen (junior-high and high school),
400 yen (elementary) and
100 yen (children 4 and up)

*You must make a reservation for the day and time you plan to visit. Check the official homepage for details.

©Museo d' Arte Ghibli