

Tokyo Family Adventure: 9-Day Revised Itinerary

June 11-19, 2025

Minimum Objectives Assessment

1. **Animal Encounters** - Visit Ueno Zoo and unique animal experiences including animal cafés
2. **Natural Beauty** - Experience Japanese gardens, parks, and a day trip to Hakone/Mt. Fuji area
3. **Culinary Exploration** - Try diverse Japanese foods including themed restaurants and interactive dining
4. **Interactive Technology** - Experience teamLab digital art and technology-focused attractions
5. **Transportation Experiences** - Ride various forms of Japanese transit including bullet train, monorail, and boat

Long-Range Strategic Overview

Week Structure

- **Arrival Day (June 11)** - Settling in, neighborhood exploration
- **Tokyo Core (June 12-15)** - Focus on central Tokyo attractions
- **Day Trip (June 16)** - Hakone & Mt. Fuji area
- **Themed Experiences (June 17-18)** - Focus on specific family interests
- **Departure (June 19)** - Final shopping and departure

Strategic Considerations

- Front-loaded outdoor activities earlier in the trip when energy is highest
- Balanced indoor and outdoor activities throughout
- Incorporated adequate rest periods for children
- Positioned the physically demanding Hakone day trip mid-trip after acclimation
- Scheduled buffer time for unexpected discoveries or weather issues

Detailed Daily Plans

Day 1 (Wednesday, June 11): Arrival & Settling In

Focus: Gentle Introduction to Tokyo

Time	Activity	Notes
Morning	Arrival at airport	
12:00-13:30	Transfer to accommodation	Take Tokyo Monorail if arriving at Haneda for first transportation experience
13:30-15:00	Check-in and rest	Recharge after flight
15:00-17:00	Neighborhood walk	Get oriented to your local area
17:00-18:30	Early dinner at local family restaurant	Try familiar Japanese foods
19:00	Early night	Combat jet lag

Estimated Costs:

- Airport transfer: ¥4,000 for family (¥500/person for monorail from Haneda)
- Dinner: ¥5,000-7,000

Transportation: Tokyo Monorail (from Haneda) or Narita Express (from Narita)

Day 2 (Thursday, June 12): Ueno Park & Zoo

Focus: Animals & Nature

Time	Activity	Notes
08:00-09:00	Breakfast at hotel/accommodation	
09:30-10:00	Travel to Ueno	
10:00-14:00	Ueno Zoo	Home to over 3,000 animals from 300 species
14:00-15:00	Lunch at zoo or nearby	
15:00-16:30	Explore Ueno Park	Visit five-storied pagoda, temples
16:30-18:00	Ameya-Yokocho Market	Snack exploration
18:00-19:30	Dinner in Ueno area	
20:00	Return to accommodation	

Estimated Costs:

- Ueno Zoo admission: ¥600/adult, free for children under 12
- Lunch: ¥4,000-6,000
- Dinner: ¥5,000-8,000

Transportation: Tokyo Metro to Ueno Station

Notes: Ueno Zoo is closed on Mondays. Check feeding times upon arrival for special animal interactions.

Day 3 (Friday, June 13): Tokyo's Tech & Fun

Focus: Technology & Interactive Experiences

Time	Activity	Notes
08:00-09:00	Breakfast	
09:30-10:30	Travel to teamLab Planets	Tickets must be purchased 2-4 weeks in advance
10:30-12:30	teamLab Planets	Digital art experience - wear shorts, may get wet
12:30-13:30	Lunch near teamLab	
14:00-16:00	Odaiba via Yurikamome Line	Sit in front car for best views of the bay area
16:00-18:00	DiverCity Tokyo Plaza & National Museum of Emerging Science (Miraikan)	Gundam statue, interactive science exhibits
18:00-19:30	Dinner at Aqua City Odaiba	Enjoy views of Rainbow Bridge lighting up
20:00	Return to accommodation	

Estimated Costs:

- teamLab Planets tickets: ¥3,800/adult, ¥1,800/child (must be purchased online)
- Miraikan: ¥630/adult, free for children under 18
- Yurikamome Line: ¥320/person one way
- Lunch: ¥4,000-6,000
- Dinner: ¥6,000-8,000

Transportation: Tokyo Metro + Yurikamome Line (sit in the front car for driver's view)

Notes: Book teamLab tickets well in advance as they sell out quickly. No tickets are sold on-site.

Day 4 (Saturday, June 14): Imperial & Traditional

Focus: Japanese Culture & History

Time	Activity	Notes
08:00-09:00	Breakfast	
09:30-10:00	Travel to Imperial Palace	
10:00-11:30	Imperial Palace East Gardens	Beautiful gardens, historic site
11:30-13:00	Lunch in Marunouchi area	
13:30-15:00	Hamarikyu Gardens	Tidal gardens with teahouse
15:30-17:00	Tokyo Tower	Great views of the city
17:30-19:00	Dinner near Tokyo Tower	Try Ninja Akasaka themed restaurant
19:30	Return to accommodation	

Estimated Costs:

- Imperial Gardens: Free
- Hamarikyu Gardens: ¥300/adult, ¥150/child
- Tokyo Tower: ¥1,200/adult, ¥700/child (Main Deck)
- Ninja Akasaka Restaurant: ¥12,000-15,000 for family
- Lunch: ¥4,000-6,000

Transportation: Tokyo Metro

Notes: Imperial Palace East Gardens are closed on Mondays and Fridays, but open on Saturdays. Check the official website before visit for any special closures.

Day 5 (Sunday, June 15): Playful Tokyo

Focus: Fun Activities & Shopping

Time	Activity	Notes
08:00-09:00	Breakfast	
09:30-10:30	Travel to Harajuku	
10:30-12:00	Meiji Shrine & Yoyogi Park	Serene forest walk
12:00-13:30	Lunch at Takeshita Street	Try crepes or other fun foods
13:30-15:00	Explore Takeshita Street	Youth fashion & quirky shops
15:00-16:00	MOSHI MOSHI ROOMS Harajuku	Visit animal café (cat, hedgehog or owl)
16:30-18:00	Shibuya Crossing & Surroundings	Famous scramble crossing
18:00-19:30	Dinner at Genki Sushi in Shibuya	Interactive conveyor belt sushi with tablet ordering
19:30	Return to accommodation	

Transportation: JR Yamanote Line to Harajuku Station, then walk to Shibuya

Notes: Weekends in Harajuku are crowded but lively with street performers.

Day 6 (Monday, June 16): Hakone & Mt. Fuji Area Day Trip

Focus: Scenic Nature & Iconic Views

Time	Activity	Notes
06:30-07:00	Early breakfast	
07:30	Depart from Shinjuku	Book guided tour in advance
10:00-11:00	Mt. Fuji 5th Station	Weather permitting (20% visibility chance in June)
12:00-13:00	Lunch	Usually included with tour
14:00-15:00	Lake Ashi Cruise	Scenic lake with possible Mt. Fuji views
15:30-16:30	Hakone Ropeway	Cable car with volcanic valley views
17:00-19:30	Return to Tokyo	Possibly by bullet train
20:00-21:00	Light dinner near accommodation	Relaxing evening after a long day

Estimated Costs:

- Guided tour: ¥12,000-15,000/adult, reduced for children (includes transportation, lunch, activities)
- Dinner: ¥4,000-6,000

Transportation: Tour bus from Tokyo, possibly bullet train return

Notes: Weather will likely affect Mt. Fuji visibility in June (rainy season), but the Hakone area offers beautiful landscapes, lake views, and volcanic scenery worth experiencing regardless. The day will be long (10-12 hours total), so prepare accordingly with snacks and entertainment for children.

Day 7 (Tuesday, June 17): Tokyo Disneyland

Focus: Family Fun

Time	Activity	Notes
07:00-08:00	Breakfast	
08:00-09:00	Travel to Tokyo Disneyland	
09:00-19:00	Tokyo Disneyland	Full day at the park
19:00-20:00	Dinner at Disneyland	
20:00-21:00	Return to accommodation	

Estimated Costs:

- Disneyland tickets: ¥7,900-9,400/adult, ¥4,700-5,600/child (varies by specific date)
- Food at park: ¥8,000-12,000 for family
- Transportation: ¥800/person round trip

Transportation: JR to Maihama Station, then Disney Resort Line

Notes: Purchase tickets in advance. Weekdays are less crowded than weekends. Check the Tokyo Disney Resort website for specific June 2025 calendar pricing.

Day 8 (Wednesday, June 18): Tokyo Skytree & Sumida

Focus: More Animals, Technology & City Views

Time	Activity	Notes
08:00-09:00	Breakfast	
09:30-10:30	Travel to Tokyo Skytree	
10:30-12:00	Tokyo Skytree Observation Deck	One of the world's tallest towers
12:00-13:00	Lunch at Skytree Town	
13:00-15:00	Sumida Aquarium	Located in Skytree complex
15:30-17:00	Sumida River Cruise to Asakusa	See Tokyo from the water
17:00-19:00	Explore Asakusa & dinner	Visit Sensoji Temple if time permits
19:30	Return to accommodation	

Estimated Costs:

- Tokyo Skytree: ¥2,100/adult, ¥1,500/child for first observatory
- Sumida Aquarium: ¥2,500/adult, ¥1,200/child
- River Cruise: ¥980/adult, ¥500/child
- Lunch: ¥4,000-6,000
- Dinner: ¥5,000-8,000

Transportation: Tokyo Metro to Tokyo Skytree, river cruise to Asakusa, then Tokyo Metro back

Notes: If weather is clear, prioritize Skytree for excellent city views. The river cruise offers a unique perspective of the city.

Day 9 (Thursday, June 19): Departure

Focus: Last Shopping & Departure

Time	Activity	Notes
08:00-09:00	Breakfast	
09:00-11:00	Packing	
11:00-12:00	Check-out	Store luggage if needed
12:00-13:30	Lunch	Final Japanese meal
13:30-15:30	Last-minute shopping	Pick up souvenirs
15:30-18:00	Travel to airport	Leave plenty of time
Evening	Flight departure	

Estimated Costs:

- Lunch: ¥4,000-6,000
- Airport transfer: ¥4,000 for family

Transportation: Airport Limousine Bus or N'EX to airport

Enrichment Elements

Cultural Context

- **Shrines vs. Temples:** Meiji Shrine (Shinto) vs. temples in Ueno (Buddhist) - notice the differences
- **Tokyo's History:** From Edo to modern metropolis - signs of old and new throughout city
- **Japanese Etiquette:** Learn basic phrases, proper chopstick use, and bathing etiquette

Sensory Experiences to Seek

- **Taste:** Try traditional Japanese sweets (wagashi), different flavors of Kit Kats, conveyor belt sushi
- **Smell:** The aroma of incense at Meiji Shrine, fresh street food in markets
- **Sound:** Temple bells, the announcement jingles at train stations, street performers in Harajuku
- **Touch:** Pet animals at animal cafés, feel the texture of traditional paper
- **Sight:** The contrast between ancient temples and futuristic skyscrapers

Family Interaction Opportunities

- Learn to say "Arigatou gozaimasu" (thank you very much) when purchasing items
- Ask staff at Ueno Zoo about the animals in simple English (most understand basic questions)
- For children: Collect stamps at stations or attractions (many places have stamp stations)

- Take purikura (Japanese photo booth) pictures in Harajuku or game centers

Photography Suggestions

- Family photo with Tokyo Skytree in background from river cruise
- Mt. Fuji from Hakone (if visible) - Lake Ashi with torii gate is iconic
- Children interacting with digital art at teamLab
- Panorama of Tokyo from Skytree or Tokyo Tower
- Japanese garden reflections at Hamarikyu

Contingency Planning

Weather-dependent Activities

- Mt. Fuji visibility - Have full Hakone experience as primary focus regardless
- Outdoor gardens during heavy rain - Substitute with indoor museums
- Hot day alternatives - Department store food halls and shopping centers have excellent air conditioning

Alternative Activities

- If teamLab is sold out: Consider Mori Digital Art Museum, Tokyo National Museum, or Ghibli Museum (requires advance booking)
- If Disneyland is too crowded: Consider Tokyo DisneySea or Joypolis indoor amusement park
- If animal allergies emerge: Replace animal café with Takanawa Gateway Playable Park (new for 2025)

Restaurant Planning

- Have 2-3 backup restaurant options in each area
- Download Google Translate app for menu assistance
- Identify food restrictions/allergies before trip and learn related Japanese phrases
- Many department stores have excellent food courts with plastic food displays for easy ordering

Transportation Tips

- Purchase Suica or Pasma card upon arrival (rechargeable transit card)
- Individual tickets may be more cost-effective than passes for this itinerary
- Save taxi costs by using efficient public transportation network
- Use Japan Transit Planner app or website for route planning

- For Hakone day trip, a guided tour is recommended over self-navigation for families

Additional Notes

- Convenience stores (7-Eleven, Lawson, Family Mart) are excellent for quick meals, ATMs, and necessities
- Public toilets are clean and plentiful, but carrying pocket tissues is recommended
- Bring comfortable walking shoes as days involve significant walking
- Most attractions are stroller-friendly, but metro stations may have stairs
- Consider portable WiFi rental for easy navigation

Key Improvements from Original Plan

This revised itinerary incorporates several improvements based on the fact-check critique:

1. Enhanced Transportation Experiences:

- Added Tokyo Monorail option from Haneda Airport
- Specified front car seating on Yurikamome Line for best views
- Added Sumida River Cruise for unique water transportation

2. Realistic Scheduling:

- Adjusted Hakone day trip timing to account for longer duration
- Reframed Mt. Fuji expectations given June weather patterns
- Corrected opening/closing days for attractions

3. Unique Animal Experiences:

- Added animal café in Harajuku
- Paired Sumida Aquarium with Tokyo Skytree for efficiency
- Added note about checking feeding times at Ueno Zoo

4. Tech & Interactive Elements:

- Added National Museum of Emerging Science (Miraikan)
- Enhanced teamLab booking instructions
- Added Genki Sushi with tablet ordering for interactive dining

5. Practical Improvements:

- Updated ticket prices for Disneyland
- Emphasized advanced booking requirements
- Removed suggestion for Tokyo Metro pass in favor of individual tickets

- Added more themed dining experiences