

**Japan National Tourist Organization London Office
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New in Japan in 2007

Tokyo Midtown

On 30 March 2007 an exciting major urban development called Tokyo Midtown opened in central Tokyo. Tokyo Midtown includes the tallest building in Tokyo as well as a prestigious hotel (Tokyo's first Ritz-Carlton), luxurious serviced apartments (Oakwood), two museums, unique restaurants and shops, a beautiful large park, as well as residences and offices. For more information please visit www.tokyo-midtown.com

New Museums

Tokyo Midtown is home to two museums - the relocated Suntory Museum of Art and the new 21_21 Design Sight. Both opened on Midtown's grand opening day – 30 March 2007.

The Suntory Museum of Art was founded over 40 years ago with the theme of "Art in Life." Based on this, the Museum has brought unconventional genres, such as glassware, textile, and tableware, to light. The new Museum will try, not only to carry on pursuing this, but also to make the image of "art" more inviting and approachable. www.suntory.com/culture-sports/sma/museum/

21_21 Design Sight is produced by fashion designer Issei Miyake and designed by highly acclaimed architect Tadao Ando. Various art and design exhibitions and events will take place here. www.2121designsight.jp

National Arts Centre - just down the road from Tokyo Midtown project this new stunning art museum opened in January. The current exhibition is titled *Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture* and it will run until 13 August. www.nact.jp

Railway Museum - scheduled to open on 14 October the museum will feature displays of

30 railway cars as well as train cab simulators, railway model dioramas, mini trains, displays of rail artefacts, video booths, a multi-purpose hall, a cafe, a museum shop and a research room. It is sure to become a must visit place for trainspotters! The museum will be in Omiya in Saitama prefecture, just to the north of Tokyo. Getting to Saitama is a breeze with three train lines from Tokyo. From Tokyo's Ueno station to Omiya it takes just 19 minutes by rail.

New Hotels

Also opening in Tokyo Midtown in March was the **Ritz-Carlton Tokyo**, which occupies the top nine levels of a dramatic skyscraper. The property features 248 guest rooms, a sky lobby, several restaurants and bars and a large health club and spa. www.ritzcarlton.com/hotels/tokyo/

The **Peninsula Tokyo** is scheduled to open in September and will be located in the prestigious business district of Yurakucho, opposite the Imperial Palace, Hibiya Park and near the Ginza shopping district. The Peninsula will have 314 guest rooms, including 47 suites on 24 floors with impressive use of Tokyo. There will be three restaurants in the hotel – Hei Fung Terrace specialising in refined traditional Cantonese cuisine; Tsuruya sister to the famous award-winning Kyoto restaurant; and the Rooftop Restaurant and Bar with uninterrupted views of the city featuring an international food and drinks menu. The hotel will also feature a fitness centre, swimming pool and The Peninsula Spa by ESPA which will have eight treatment rooms with fantastic views of the city.

www.peninsula.com/tokyo.html

Toyoko Inns - this budget accommodation chain will be rapidly expanding with 34 new hotels scheduled to open this year. New Toyoko Inns will be opening in cities such as Hiroshima, Osaka, Tokyo, Kumamoto and Chubu Airport to name but a few. Toyoko Inns are affordable and convenient, usually being located near central train stations. Toyoko Inn's offer complimentary Japanese newspapers, complimentary continental or Japanese breakfast and free internet access and telephone calls. Room rates start from around ¥4,400 (approx. £18.50/€28) per night. www.toyoko-inn.com/eng/

Hotel Sunroute Plaza Shinjuku will open in one of Tokyo's most popular shopping and nightlife districts on 8 September. Room prices will start from ¥14,700 (approx. £60). www.sunroute.jp

For more information about any of these or images contact JNTO on press@jnto.co.uk