



INSTAGRAMMABLE ART

Photographer **Paris Brummer** was captivated by Instagram images and videos of friends washed in colourful lights and projections. On a trip to Japan, she went to check out what it's all about.

eing a somewhat devoted (but unable-to-quotecharacter-dialogue) sci-fi fan, I was instantly

drawn to the Instagram visuals of humans frolicking in some futuristic museum space with lights and sensory projections that reacted to movement and sound. It was not until I clicked on the hashtag and filtered through 143 000 posts that I understood it to be teamLab Borderless.

Located in Odaiba, Tokyo, the Digital Art Museum is a collaborative initiative between Mori Building, a Tokyo-based urban developer and supporter of art and culture, and teamLab (f. 2001), an interdisciplinary art collective that uses digital technologies. The museum has $10\,000\,\text{m}^2$ of labyrinthine floor space

with projections, sounds and lights that allow visitors to immerse themselves in the art.

After experiencing teamLab Borderless, I understood why the Digital Art Museum has earned the title of "The world's most Instagrammed museum". The sheer volume of content populating the hashtags are more than a self-indulgent need to take selfies in mottled light. Rather, it's an attempt to document a sensory art experience that is best encountered in person.

The word "borderless" best describes the museum's vision to liberate art from physical constrictions and transcend boundaries in a contemporary society where the borders between technology and creativity have become fluid and organic.

Although it opened less than a year ago, the museum's popularity has ensured long lines of eager patrons. To make the most of the experience, buy tickets ahead of time online, visit the popular exhibits early, and allow yourself a good few hours to see everything.

And if Japan is not on your radar, teamLab is hosting exhibitions and installations around the world this year, among others in Spain and Singapore. teamlab.art

Ticket price: ¥3200 (about R415)

Hours: 10 am - 7 pm on weekdays and
10 am - 9 pm on weekends and public holidays

Getting there: Travel from the Tokyo city
centre by taxi or train - Tokyo Teleport

Station (Rinkai Line) or Aomi Station (Yurikamome Line)

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The !Khwa ttu
San Culture and
Education Centre,
located about
an hour's drive
north of Cape
Town along the
West Coast Road,
recently opened
a new Heritage
Centre.

STORIES OF THE SAN

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pened on Heritage Day, 24 September 2018, the

Heritage Centre at !Khwa ttu is an exciting new museum that tells the story of the San people "in their own words". The building is called The Way of The San.

Some of the themes explored in the various exhibition spaces are human origins, colonial encounters, hunting and gathering, storytelling, star lore, traditional remedies and play. This is done through rock art, artefacts, a recording of ambient sounds of nature, and a life-size video installation depicting various aspects of San life.

Designed by KLG Architects, the building has a glass facade and a curved roof, and an organic oval

shape, a reference to traditional nomadic San shelters and the role of the ostrich egg in San culture.

The building is located on previously farmed land. The design follows the contours of the site, and a retaining wall incorporates a granite ridge as part of the museum interior. Granite boulders offer "wall space" against which to project rock art.

The concrete floor was







cast and shaped around pre-existing site features using flexible formwork. A granite aggregate from a local quarry was added to the concrete mix and the surface was ground down to a finely textured finish that delicately exposes the aggregate. Sections of the floor emulate the rich red sand of the Kalahari.

KLG Architects has succeeded in its goal

to sensitively integrate this impressive building in its surroundings. The museum is a reminder that architecture can be used as a device to tell human stories. The result is a museum experience that not only sensitively handles history and heritage, but also visually celebrates the legacy of the San.

khwattu.org klg.co.za

FAST FACT

!KHWA TTU MEANS
"WATERHOLE" IN THE
EXTINCT |XAM LANGUAGE.
THE MOTTO ON THE
SOUTH AFRICAN COAT OF
ARMS IS IN |XAM: !KE E:/
XARRA //KE, WHICH MEANS
"DIVERSE PEOPLE UNITE".

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TACKLING TOKYO

The Rugby World Cup 2019 will be held in Japan later this year for the first time. A quick Google search of what to do in Tokyo brings up about 354 000 000 results, so we've put together an insider's guide to make the most of the wealth of free and affordable things to do and see.



WHERE TO STAY

The colourful Shibuya district is everything the movie Lost in Translation made it out to be... and more. It prides itself on offering some of the best nightlife in Tokyo - karaoke, arcades, clubbing, shopping and restaurants. Its position on the Yamanote Line makes the stop just a few minutes away from Harajuku, Omotesando, Meguro, Roppongi and Shinjuku. It also has direct transport options to both Haneda and Narita airports.

Shibuya is home to some of the best hotels in Tokyo. Shibuya Excel Hotel Tokyu is located in Mark City, with direct access to Shibuya Station. The hotel affords breathtaking views from its top floors and serves a delicious traditional breakfast, featuring an assortment of seasonal pickled and fermented foods to introduce you to Japanese cuisine.

shibuya-excel-tokyu.intokyohotels.com

WHAT TO EAT

To some, Japanese cuisine is as daunting as it is exciting. Dive right in at the Tokyu Foodshow in Shibuya, an example of many markets



and food courts in Japan that offer an array of Japanese foods and confections, often with English descriptions on the menu. Experiment to find out which textures and flavours you like, bearing in mind that a steaming bowl of ramen never disappoints.

With Asian ingredients becoming readily available in supermarkets, Japanese cuisine has reached a new wave of popularity, and presentation is everything. Kappabashi, or Kitchen Town, is a shopping district between Ueno and Asakusa where you'll find specialist kitchenware and more. Kappabashi is a short walk from Tawaramachi Station on the underground Ginza Line.



WHAT TO SEE: ARCHITECTURE

Viewing architecture in Tokyo is an enriching and free activity for your itinerary. Some notable architectural structures are religious sites or public facilities, offering entrance for either a small donation or for free. Take a trip to Asakusa to see Kengo Kuma's multilayered culture and tourism information centre; a train stop away in Ueno, you'll find Le Corbusier's brutalist National Museum of Western Art; and in Minato the National Arts Centre by Kisho Kurokawa boasts a breathtaking glass facade.

Keen to learn a little more? Numerous guided architectural tours are offered online. A personal favourite was a tour inside Kurokawa's futuristic and dystopian Nakagin Capsule Tower. Although this icon of Japanese Metabolism has fallen into disrepair and red tape, visitors can fortunately enter the building on a guided tour to fully understand the scope of its technical feats and cultural legacy.

showcase-tokyo.com/about







WHAT TO SEE: DAY TRIP

At the risk of travelling to Japan and not seeing a single temple, the World Cup fixture schedule fortunately offers some tackle- and try-free days to escape the city for some sightseeing. Kamakura is a historical seaside town often referred to as the Kyoto of Eastern Japan. It is home to numerous significant **Buddhist temples and sacred Shinto** shrines. Rent bicycles and work your way along the temple map, finally stopping at the Daibutsu, or Great Buddha, to fully appreciate its scale against the backdrop of the sky. Kamakura can be reached by train in under an hour from both Tokyo and Yokohama, making it perfect for a day trip.



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WHAT TO SEE: 4RT & DESIGN

You're spoilt for choice with museums, but these three are especially well curated and designed.

21_21 Design Sight is an art space in Roppongi designed by architect Tadao Ando and fashion designer Issey Miyake. The exhibitions are multidisciplinary, with a strong emphasis on art and design.

2121designsight.jp

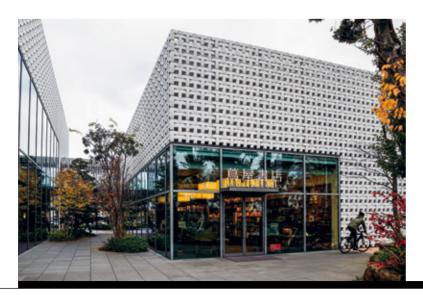
A short walk away in Roppongi Hills is the Mori Art Museum. Exhibitions rotate every three months, with past calendars featuring Takashi Murakami, Ai Weiwei, and artworks and sketches by film director Tim Burton. The gigantic 10 m-tall bronze, steel and marble sculpture of a spider, Maman, by French artist Louise Bourgeois on Roku Roku Plaza outside the museum is worth seeing. mori.art.museum

A little further away in Shinagawa is the Archi Depot Museum. The warehouse-cum-gallery space houses maquettes and final design models from notable architects like Shigeru Ban, Kengo Kuma and Riken Yamamoto, to name a few. The museum is both educational and aesthetically pleasing for architecture enthusiasts. archi-depot.com









WHAT TO BUY

Tsutaya T-site in Daikanyama is a "bookshop" spread across three interlinked buildings adorned with lattices of interlocking T's. Designed by Tokyo's Klein Dytham Architecture, the T stands for Tsutaya - a Japanese rental chain. Across the three buildings you can find collections of CDs and DVDs, magazines, sought-after and rare books, film photography supplies, a café, an upscale convenience store, and the Anjin lounge, where visitors can browse a library of classic design magazines and books. Daikanyama can be accessed on foot from Shibuya or on the Tokyu Toyoko Line. store.tsite.jp/daikanyama/english