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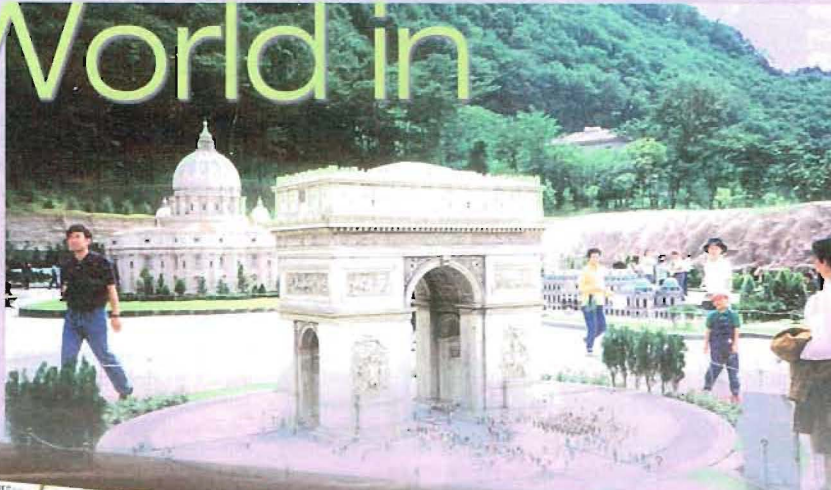
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World in



*Visit scaled-down
wonders of the world
at Tobu World
Square*

Story by Hal Drake
Photos by Hal & Kaz Drake



Torn by terrorist gunfire, the great antiquities of Egypt no longer draw the busloads of tourists they once did—not since submachine-gun fire scarred the tombs and temples of Luxor. But at Nikko, on the edge of a national forest, they can easily be viewed in perfect comfort and absolute safety.

You can take in the Eiffel Tower without running a blockade of hustlers and pickpockets...you can walk New York City streets with no fear of being mugged in the shadow of the World Trade Center...No, that isn't Disneyland Castle in the miniature distance, but the home of an eccentric Bavarian emperor who liked golden coaches with nudes on the prow.

It's all here—at Tobu World Square where strollers are taken around the world in 80 minutes—a scaled-down Lilliputian metropolis where the world's natural wonders and architectural treasures

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World in Miniature at Tobu World Square in Nikko

(Continued from Page 1)

collide with in contradictory splendor. The tower raised by Alexandre Gustave Eiffel for the 1889 Paris Exposition nudges the toy-box turrets of Belvedere Palace in Vienna and casts a girded shadow over a knee-high Notre Dame, seen from gargoyles to bell tower.

Now there is the spirited fanfare of tiny bands beneath the Arc de Triomphe, reduced from magnificence to miniature. The animated musicians trill in tribute to a passing parade of draymen and market workers, the underground army that fought Nazi occupiers during the World War II resistance. Angkor Wat, the honey-combed holy city, is no longer closed by war and distance. The Great Wall of China is an effortless tour, taken without a steep and exhausting step.

The world is at a traveler's fee, from the seat-of-government Diet Building in downtown Tokyo to the Roman Colosseum along Appian Way. Tourists squint through passageways that were routes for gladiators who died by sword or spiked gauntlet. Stone stands and steps are authentically eroded and crumbled, leading down to the arena where Christian martyrs knelt as roaring lions were turned loose.

Why, many ask. Was this trip to import all the world's old and modern wonders really necessary?

Japanese, after all, were often noted as frequent and affluent travelers. Why would they want miniatures when the real thing, full-sized and upfront, was just a jetlag away?

Well, replied some imaginative entrepreneurs at Tobu, not all Japanese were wealthy with flush profits from conglomerates (like Tobu, into everything from department stores to rail lines). A frugal Hokkaido farmer, even in a good year, might count aside only enough to travel to Tokyo and the restful scenery of Nikko.

Why not bring that unaffordable world to him, a few steps out of the shade of the woodlands?

It would take the exacting work of designers and scale-model artisans to fit 97 attractions, from the Parthenon to the sooty backside of New York City, snugly into 80 hectares.

It was done, opening in 1990.

Now there was something more at Nikko than temples, festivals and pageants of revelers dressed as samurai warriors. A plane ticket to Pisa? Why, when adult admission to Tobu World Square is only ¥2,500 and throws in a parfait Kremlin, the Duomo of Milan



The Old Imperial Hotel in all its glory.



"Tourists" seeking Monica at the White House.

Remote and expensive, dangerous because fanatics might want to make a political statement with gunfire? Not at Tobu. It isn't risky to cross Central Park, past the fountain and bandshell bordered by spruce and pine, stunted by expertly retarded roots. The Empire State Building has the same graceful spire. The World Trade Center offers double footing to King Kong. The oblong Flatiron Building, raised in 1902, fits a tight corner, like a ship's prow. Below that, an accident has drawn a mini-crowd. A bakery truck bolted a signal and a rush-hour casualty is lugged to an ambulance.

It's both sides of a varied and violent city—fashionable shops and cheap hotels with a cracked facade. A wall dark with pollution is a gallery of primitive graffiti, chalked with a bound and gagged Mona Lisa.

The Taj Mahal is a drawn breath away, and the White House and Vatican Square, full of tiny spectators in a worldwide cyclorama.

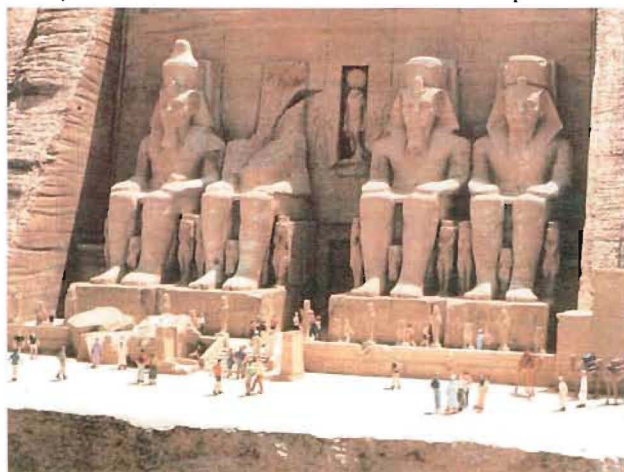
Little is missed, not even famous sites that are no longer sights. Frank Lloyd Wright's Imperial Hotel, opened in 1923 and torn down in 1967, was hailed as a masterpiece and damned as a monstrosity—done away with by executives who wanted a bigger hotel with more money-making rooms. But Wright might have been pleased and grateful to see it at Tobu World Square.

The driveway around a rippling pond is packed with old flivvers and shiny limousines, testifying that all classes of travelers came to Tokyo and wanted that prestigious Imperial sticker on their steamer trunks.

But a lone detail is missing—an electric sign that pointed patrons toward the Prunier Grill, damned by Wright as a "dreadful inscription."

It isn't on *this* Imperial.

Wright would have been thankful.



Tiny figurines ogle the Temple of Abusimbel.

and the Forbidden City in the old-spelling Imperial capital of Peking, peopled with courtiers, yellow-costumed soldiers and the toddler monarch of China...

Crowds flocked and foreign tourists still pour along. Visitors reach about 40,000 in April, swelling to some 160,000 between August and November.

The enigmatic Sphinx kneels at their feet, the face still flawed by Napoleon's cannon. It grovels beneath the Pyramids, which stand slightly taller than tourist heads, and are close to the Temple of Abusimbel, the massive stone faces on a pharaoh's tomb.

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At left: Cellex-C & Derma Peel provide dramatic skin rejuvenation. The right side of the patient's face (left in the photo) has been treated to show Cellex-C's capability. Notice the fewer wrinkles and healthier skin.

uses crystals which are consistently 100 microns wide, others use crystals that vary greatly in size. Crystals that are too small can lodge into the pores and plug them up, leading to acne and other skin problems. Crystals that are too large can gouge the skin and cause damage instead of promoting healthy regeneration. But Dr. Andy doesn't stop with crystal size.

In addition to the Derma Peel, Dr. Andy also offers Cellex-C (Advanced Vitamin C serum 17.5%) skin products and other skin care products which dramatically enhance the Derma Peel procedure by providing essential nutrients for healthy skin development resulting in healthier and younger-looking skin. See the photo at left for an example of Cellex-C's amazing benefits.

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