

Houseboats Weave a Sea of Shimmering Lights in Odaiba

Like a giant tree gradually stretching out its roots, Tokyo has been expanding by reclaiming land from the sea. Since the beginning of the early Edo period, 5,800 hectares of land over a span of 120 years has been reclaimed for the port of Tokyo. This is comparable to the size of Tokyo's Setagaya ward.

The artificial island of Odaiba was constructed by reclaiming land around a battery of forts assembled during the Edo period. Construction of the island began during Japan's period of rapid economic growth after WWII, as the city was in the midst of the excitement over preparations for the last Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964.

The reclaimed area was vacant land for a while. Then, in the Heisei era, the Rainbow Bridge, the Fuji TV building, and the new type of transit, the Yurikamome line, were built. Since then, the area has flourished into a brilliant waterfront.

In the twilight hours, a chilly mid-autumn sea breeze sweeps across the well-maintained beach at the Odaiba Marine Park.

A houseboat can be seen gliding across the deep dark wave front towards the port. One after another, other boats come in. The small harbor is soon filled with colorful lights glowing from the lanterns on the boats.

The photograph is a composite image created by layering the bright areas of 92 images that were shot consecutively over 20 minutes. The result is an image of the many light trails made by the houseboats.

Next summer, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games triathlon and swimming competitions will be held here at the Odaiba Marine Park. The dazzling lights over the sea will surely give the event a new level of glow.

Source: **[Hidden Wonders of Japan] Houseboats Weave a Sea of Shimmering Lights in Odaiba**
<http://japan-forward.com/hidden-wonders-of-japan-houseboats-weave-a-sea-of-shimmering-lights-in-odaiba/>

屋形船が織りなす光の海 お台場」

巨樹がゆっくりと根を延ばしていくように、東京は海を埋めて土地を広げてきた。江戸時代初期から始まった東京港の埋め立ては、この120年間で約5800ヘクタール。世田谷区に匹敵する面積だという。

お台場は、江戸時代に置かれた砲台島の周りを埋め立てた人工島だ。工事が始まったのは、戦後の高度成長期。東京が前回の五輪（昭和39年）で盛り上がる最中だった。

しばらくは、空き地が目立ったが、平成になると、レインボーブリッジやフジテレビ、新交通ゆりかもめが完成、今や華やかなウォーターフロントエリアとなった。

たそがれ時のお台場海浜公園。整備された浜辺をひんやりとした中秋の潮風が吹き抜ける。

一隻の屋形船が黒々とした波面をすべるようにやってきた。また一隻。そして、次から次へと。やがて狭い港を色とりどりに輝くちょうちんが埋め尽くした。

写真は約20分間連続で撮影した92枚を「比較明合成」で画像の中の明るい部分を重ねる。屋形船が幾筋も光跡を描いた。

来夏の東京五輪では、この海でトライアスロンと水泳競技が行われる。まばゆいばかりの明かりにあふれた海は新たな光を放つだろう。

出典: 屋形船が織りなす光の海 お台場

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