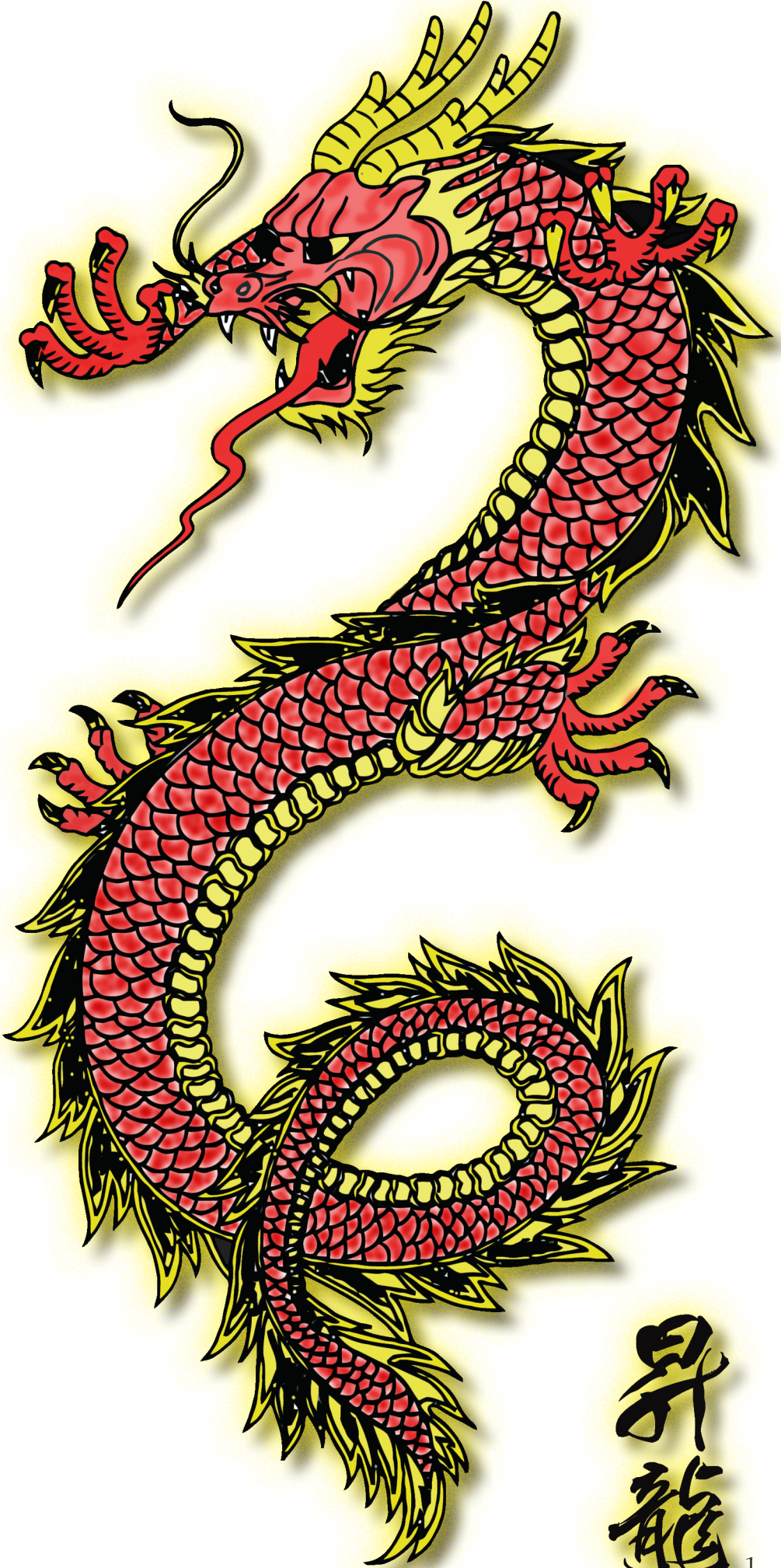


**TRAVEL**  
**FOR**  
**GEEKS**

**AND ON**  
**TO**  
**JAPAN!**

**WHERE TO GO**  
**WHAT TO DO**  
**WHERE TO STAY**

COMPILED BY  
SARA DESIMONE



昇龍

# WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE...

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| <b>WHAT'S NEXT?</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>HISTORY:</b>      | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>MAIN ARTICLE:</b> |           |
| <b>AKIHABARA</b>     | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>WHAT</b>          | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>ABOUT/WHERE</b>   | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>WHERE TO STAY</b> | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>NINTENDO 64</b>   | <b>10</b> |
| <b>NEXT ISSUE</b>    | <b>12</b> |

# What's Next for Japan?

JAPAN'S MITSUBISHI RESEARCH INSTITUTE (MRI) HAS RESEARCHED AND RECOMMENDED JAPAN TO USE AND CULTURE GULFWEEED.

THE SCIENTIFIC NAME FOR GULFWEEED IS SARGASSUM. GULFWEEED CAN GROW SEVERAL METERS LONG, MORE THAN TWO IN JUST A YEAR. AS A SEA-FARING PLANT, GULFWEEED ABSORBS CARBON DIOXIDE AND PURIFIES THE SEAWATER. THIS SEAWEEED AND

ALGAE IS NATIVE TO TROPICAL AREAS AND PROVIDES A HOME FOR SEVERAL DISTINCTIVE AND SPECIALIZED MARINE ANIMALS AND PLANTS OFTEN NOT FOUND ELSEWHERE. SO, THIS ALGA IS GOOD FOR THE ECOSYSTEM AND HAS TWO UNIQUE HUMAN USES. ONE, GULFWEEED CAN BE USED

AS A NON-FOOD ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE FOR BIO-ETHANOL. ALTERNATIVE FUEL HELPS ANYWHERE, BUT IT WOULD MOST HELP JAPANESE TOURISM AND OTHER USERS OF AUTOMOBILES AND GASOLINE IN PROVIDING A CLEANER ALTERNATIVE.

TWO, GULFWEEED CAN BE USED TO RESTORE JAPAN'S URANIUM. PLANTS ABSORB A BIT OF URANIUM FROM THEIR SOIL, SEAWEEED ABSORBS URANIUM THROUGH THE WATER- WHICH IS THOUGHT TO CONTAIN MORE URANIUM THAN IN SOIL. GULFWEEED WOULD HAVE A GOOD BIT OF URANIUM THEN, WHICH WOULD BE TAKEN OUT AND USED TO POWER NUCLEAR REACTORS TO GIVE MORE ELECTRIC POWER.



# LEARN YOUR HISTORY

## HERE'S AN OVERVIEW FOR ALL OF YOU:

### History Lesson of Nippon (Japan):

#### JOMON (10,000 - 300 B.C.)

- Prehistoric period of tribal/clan organization. Hunters and gatherers
- 660 B.C. Mythological Jimmu ("Divine Warrior"), descendant of sun goddess Amaterasu Omikami, founded an empire.

#### YAYOI (300 B.C. - A.D. 300)

- Known for the rice cultivation, metalworking, and the potter's wheel introduction from China and Korea.
- "Yayoi" is a place in Tokyo
- Shinto is found as Japan's oldest religion.
- Local clans form small political units in 100-300 AD.

#### KOFUN (YAMATO) (300 - 645)

- Emergence of powerful clan rulers; Japan establishes close contacts with mainland Asia.

- Yamato clan rulers, claiming descent from Amaterasu Omikami, begin the imperial dynasty that continues to occupy the throne today.
- Japan adopts Chinese written characters.
- Buddhism and the Confucian are recognized

#### ASUKA (645 -710)

- A great wave of reforms called the Taika no Kaishin (Taika Reforms) aims to strengthen the emperor's power.
- New aristocratic families are created.

#### NARA (710 - 794)

- Imperial court builds new capital, modeled upon Chang-an in China, at Nara.
- Legends surrounding the founding of Japan are compiled as history
- Adoption of Buddhism as the state religion

#### HEIAN (794-1185)

- Imperial court moves to Heiankyo (now Kyoto) to escape domination of Nara's Buddhist establishment.
- Buddhism and native Shinto beliefs, continues to flourish.
- Flowering of classical Japanese culture aided by invention of kana (syllabary for writing Japanese language). Court women produce the best of era's literature. Murasaki Shikibu's Tale of Genji (ca. 1002) is the world's first novel.
- Court undergoes decline of power with rise of provincial bushi (warrior class).

#### KAMAKURA (1185-1333)

- Military government established in Kamakura
- 1192: Bushi become new ruling class.
- 1274, 1281: Kublai Khan's Mongol invasions are repelled with help of kamikaze ("divine

winds," or storms). Defense against these invasions weakens structure of the military government at Kamakura.

#### MUROMACHI (1333 -1568)

- Muromachi district of Kyoto becomes base for Shogun Takauji's new military government. Takauji and his successors become patrons of Zen and spontaneity in ink painting, garden design, and the

chanoyu (tea ceremony).



• 1467-1568: The 10 year-long Onin no Ran (Onin War) brings disintegration of central government, followed by the Sengoku Jidai (Era of the Country at War).

• 1543: Firearms introduced by shipwrecked Portuguese soldiers.

• 1549: Christianity introduced by Francis Xavier.

## AZUCHIMOMOYA MA (1568 -1600)

• Oda Nobunaga starts process of reunifying Japan after a century of civil war; he is followed by Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

• Foundation of modern Japan is laid.

• Hideyoshi's ambition to conquer Korea and China is thwarted by local resistance.

• Arts such as painting, monumental decorative designs, and the tea ceremony continue to flourish.

## EDO (TOKUGAWA) (1600 -1868)

• Japan enters an age of peace and national isolation.

• Tokugawa Ieyasu founds new shogunate at Edo (now Tokyo).

• Christianity is suppressed.

• Establishment of rigid social hierarchy ensures peace and stability throughout Japan. (Samurai are ranked highest, followed by farmers, artisans, and merchants.)

• By the early 1700s, cities and commerce flourish. A growing merchant class enjoys Kabuki and Bunraku theater. Printing and publication of books increase; education becomes available to the urban population.

• 1853: Commodore Matthew C. Perry and his steam frigates arrive in Japan



• The United States wants to use Japanese ports as supply bases for its commercial fleet. Japan accepts the U.S. demands and opens its door for the first time in two centuries.

## MEIJI (1868 -1912)

• The emperor is restored; Japan makes transition to nation-state.

Fall of feudal system

• Tries to prevent invasion by Western powers.

• Emphasis is on building a strong military and strengthening industries.

• Japan becomes world power through victories in Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese wars.

1910-45: Korea annexed

## TAISHO [1912-1926]

• Japan expands economic base within Asia and the Pacific.

1925: Universal manhood suffrage begins.

## SHOWA [1926 -1989]

• Japan experiences World War II and its aftermath, as well as economic recovery.



• Japan's liberal rulers replaced; 1931: Manchuria taken over. 1937-1945: World War II; war in China followed by invasion of Southeast Asia.

1940: Japan joins the Axis powers.

1941: Pearl Harbor brings United States into war in the Pacific.

August 1945: First atom bomb is dropped on Hiroshima, the second on Nagasaki. The emperor airs by radio a statement of unconditional surrender.

1945-1952: Allied occupation of Japan; democratic party government restored; women gain legal equality and right to vote. Enactment of the new (democratic) constitution transforms Japan's political life, making it a truly parliamentary state.

1951: Japan regains its independence.

The late 1950s to the early 1970s is called the "High Growth Age" in Japan because of the booming economy.

1972: Relations with China are normalized.

## HEISEI (1989- )

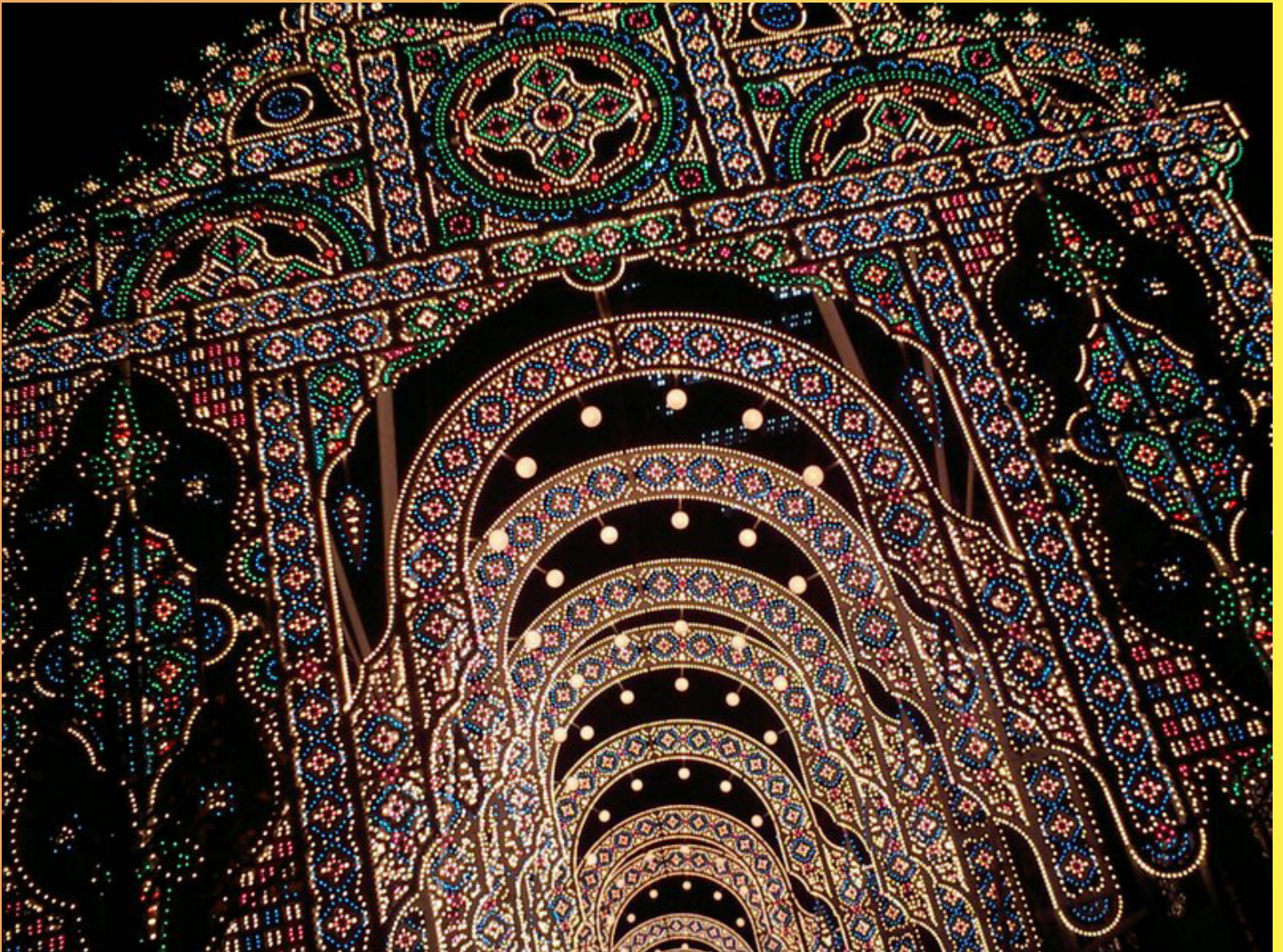
1989: Prince Akihito succeeds to the throne.

1991: The Gulf War ignites controversy over Japan's role in the international community. Should Japan strictly protect the "peace" constitution of 1947, a major cause of its prosperity? Or should it contribute troops as well as financial support to United Nations operations? In 1993, after Japanese troops are pulled out of a United Nations operation in Cambodia, the arguments go on: Should Japan become more internationally minded? Or should domestic peace and prosperity be the main priority?

# TIME TO VISIT

# AKIHABARA





**Akihabara is a small section of Tokyo, but it has all the electronics and know-how a geek will love. It is known as Today's world-famous Electric Town. Tokyo's electronics stores are clustered about Akihabara, so it is the place to shop and is a great place to stay. Here, you will find a wide range of electric appliances before they come out in America, and cheaper than anywhere else in Japan.**

**Basically, a geek heaven.**

# Akihabara

Ha, tired of saying “Akihabara” over and over yet? Many people prefer to call this city “Akiba” as the shortened version.

Akiba is a major shopping area that specializes and has endless electronic, computer, anime, and otaku goods, all offering big discounts and feeding the Electric City.

New items are mostly to be



found on the main street of Chuo-Dori, other used items can be found in the back streets of Soto Kanda.

First-hand parts for PC-building are readily available from a variety of stores. Tools, electrical parts, wires, micro-sized cameras and similar items are found in the cramped passageways near Akihabara station. Foreign tourists tend to visit the big name



shops like LAOX or other specialty shops near the station.

Nowadays, a lot of figures for animation characters are sold in this area, along with other Otaku goods. Further more, you will see many girls and woman are wearing costumes of these animes. You can easily find them on streets or in the cafe which is famous as “maid cafe”. They will invite and serve you by wearing maid costumes.

### ***Our choice to stay in Akihabara is the Capsule Inn.***

A Capsule hotel is a unique style of accommodation in Japan, inspired by the pursuit of efficiency of space and functional comfort, originating from the adaptive, creative spirit of the Japanese mind.

The Capsule Hotel is composed of two major sections; a public lounge space including a bath area, and the other is a private space where the sleeping rooms (“capsules”) are arranged. The actual sleeping room is a capsule unit made of reinforced plastic and designed in the image of a jet airplane’s cockpit. In the capsule unit, all the required amenities are provided; TV, radio, alarm clock, adjustable lighting... almost everything is provided within your

reach and control while in a sleeping position. A wide range of people stay at Capsule hotels in Tokyo, it is an especially great choice for traveling business people that work until midnight to get right to sleep afterward at a less expensive price than traditional hotels. (¥4000 for Capsule Inn vs. ¥6000+ for traditional) The Capsule Inn Akihabara hotel is the best place to learn about the latest in Japanese modern culture, direct from the people staying with you.



nintendo  
is a  
company  
whose  
very  
name is

synonymous with  
video gaming,

# THE N64

chances  
are that  
you have  
played  
on, or  
at least

seen, a n64 or other  
nintendo product.

"get n, or get out!"

OF THE CONSOLES IN THE FIFTH GENERATION, THE NINTENDO 64 WAS THE MOST TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED IN MANY ASPECTS.



A video game console is really a highly specialized computer. Many consoles use the same central processing unit (CPU) as a desktop computer, but consoles are less expensive than a fully tricked-out computer because there are no varying operating systems or different audio/video card capabilities to take into account. Game developers know all the components on a console and write the games to take full advantage of those features.

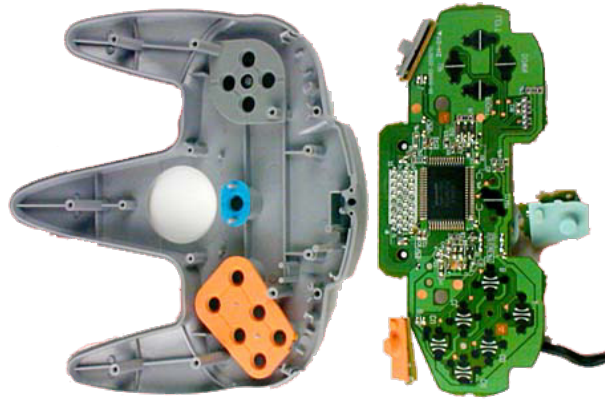
The Nintendo 64 was released in 1996, after the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) and Super Nintendo Entertainment System (SNES) in the 1980s. Nintendo 64 gets its name from being the first to have a 64-bit system.

The console:

The N64's 64-bit R4300i "Reality Engine" is a RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computer) processor. This kind of processor performs simpler and fewer instructions and computations. RISC chips are also superscalar, meaning they can perform multiple instructions at the same time. This allows the CPU to perform better than many chips with faster clock speeds. The Co-Processor "Reality Co-Processor" is a custom chip that handles Graphics and Audio. The graphic's "Reality Immersion Processor" has

- Resolution of 640x480, 320x240 or 256x224
- 21-bit color
- Rendering of 150,000 polygons per second
- and a Geometry engine with
  - Anti-aliasing
  - Perspective correction
  - Gouraud shading
  - Trilinear mip mapping
  - Environment mapping

The N64 has 4 MB of RAM that can be expanded to 8 MB and the system's game medium is a cartridge.



The controller:

The trident-shaped controller of the N64 may be the most unique shape of video gaming systems. There are 14 buttons in all

- Four buttons arranged as a directional pad on the top left
- Start button in the top middle
- Six action buttons on the top right
- One action button on the front left
- One action button on the front right
- One action button in the bottom middle

and an analog joystick.

The controller is connected using a 3 pin connector: a ground wire, a power wire, and a data wire.

Cartridges:

Cartridges have fast load times and are super durable, but have a small capacity (8 MB to 96 MB) and are more expensive to make, compared to CDs.



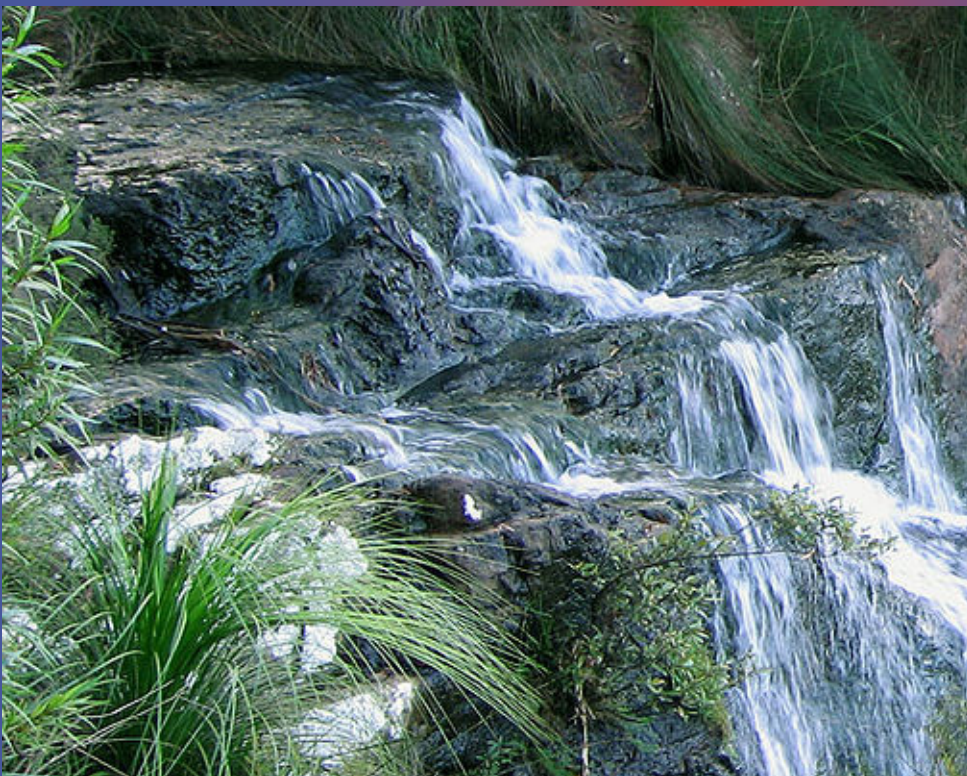
Flat



Gouraud

# IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TRAVEL FOR GEEKS:

**WE TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA TO  
TELL YOU WHAT SYDNEY HAS  
TO OFFER TO A GADGETEER.  
THOUGHT IT WAS ALL  
OUTDOOR FUN? THINK  
AGAIN, WE FOUND A SPOT  
IN SYDNEY THAT IS REALLY  
'HOPPING' WITHOUT ANY OF  
THE OPEN-AIR.**



All pictures are licenced under  
Creative Commons.

**Thank you [jpnphotos.blogspot.com](http://jpnphotos.blogspot.com) and  
[FreeVectors.net](http://FreeVectors.net), all  
other pictures come  
from [WikiMedia  
commons](http://WikiMedia commons).**