

# LEGOLAND® Discovery Center Osaka

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Pictures by Delia Balsells

The opening of a new LEGOLAND® Discovery Center is always an excellent opportunity to see new displays related to the city in which it is built. Given that the LEGOLAND® Discovery Center Osaka had opened just a few months ago, I decided to pay a visit (with permission of Delia). As per usual, adults are not allowed to visit a LDC without a child present, so I sent a press request to visit the center in August.

When we arrived to LDC Osaka, we met with Kae Mori who had been waiting for us. After the introductions, we quickly started the visit. Kae explained to us that LEGOLAND Discovery Center Osaka opened on April, 23rd, 2015 to “make children have a special experience with LEGO attractions and bricks”. Kae went on to explain that visitors will find “lots of bricks, exciting attractions and LEGO models of landmarks from Osaka”.



We began with an interactive display that showed how LEGO® bricks are produced, of course, it was presented in Japanese. Although I didn't understand, I tried my hand at playing some of the suggested games (with terrible results might I add). After this brief introduction, we were given a LEGOLAND® Discovery Center commemorative DUPLO brick and entered into the main hall.

This LDC is slightly smaller in size than the Tokyo one. It has only one main ride (LDC Tokyo has two), a 4D cinema, and playgrounds each with a different theme. There is also a room for workshops and a design room for the Master Builder. In the middle of the main room, there is a restaurant with some meals and drinks. Finally, at the exit, there is a LEGO shop with LEGOLAND® exclusive items as well as two photo booths with exclusive patterns of LDC Osaka.



The ride is quite funny. You go into a car and, following a history set in Castle theme, you have to defeat all the bad guys, and you get points for doing so. The person in the car with the most points win. In this case, Delia won... I can't kill minifigures, even if they are bad guys :D. We also saw in the Cinema 4D a Chima film. It too was quite funny and we left the cinema wet, after rain and wind.

The most interesting part from an AFOL point of view is the MINILAND displays. It reproduces in LEGO form some of the beautiful landmarks that the city of Osaka has to offer. Every five minutes the diorama changes from day to night, allowing guests to see the interior



and street lighting within the displays. There is a main showcase in the center of the room, and some smaller ones on the sides, creating a corridor for guests to follow. The main buildings reproduced are Dotombori street, Tsutenkaku tower, Osaka Castle, Sumo dome, Umeda building, Kansai airport, and much more!

We also had the opportunity to meet again with Kanna Uno Nakayama. I met her 2 years ago during my first visit to Japan, and she currently works at the LDC Osaka as a Master Builder. She also conducts workshops there, but sadly, we didn't have enough time to attend one of them. Something to look forward to on our next visit :).

For child safety we were not allowed to take pictures inside the playgrounds. We were, however, allowed to take pictures of the MINILAND displays.

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Special thanks to: Kae Mori from LEGOLAND® Discovery Center for her kindness in planning and conducting our visit.

LEGOLAND® Discovery Center osaka:  
<https://www.legolanddiscoverycenter.jp/osaka/en/>