

s we excitedly count down to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games—and the city competes with New York, London and Asian capitals to be the global business and cultural hub—what do expatriate and local professionals, academics and creative types expect from serviced apartments located in the pulsating international heart of Tokyo?

During my very pleasant stay at MORI LIVING's Roppongi Hills Residence Serviced Apartments (SA)—which offers furnished accommodation with a minimum stay of one month—in May 2018, with my wife Tomoko and child Kai, aged 3, I asked Europeans, Americans and Japanese what they most valued in SA. They happily replied:

- Convenient location near work, restaurants, transport, schools, childcare, health clinics, shopping, art museum, nature and culture
- Spacious, attractive, practical design
- Privacy, safety, security, and peace of mind for people and property
- Basic, innovative facilities, equipment
- Stunning views from large windows and safe balconies
- Friendly, competent, bilingual staff with 24-hour concierge
- Buffet breakfast, spa (fitness gym and swimming pool)

Of course, some such features are nowadays offered by other operators of luxury furnished and unfurnished, short- or long-term SAs in Tokyo and a number of major cities around the

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world. So what about exclusive benefits or extra value?

Health is on everyone's mind these days. So my family and I were intrigued and comforted to discover the serene Health Consultation Rooms. With 24-hour attention by bilingual nurses, and doctors on duty for weekday mornings, from the famous Tokyo Jikei University Hospital, this special service offers prompt and professional peace of mind—with consulting, treatment and support for minor issues and major emergencies. Such services are very much appreciated by families with small children, such as ours.

There's also the MORI LIVING Smiles exclusive benefits program that offers residents special deals such as private shopping at nearby Roppongi Hills' stores and generous discounts at Mori Art Museum and the Grand Hyatt Tokyo. Also, MORI LIVING holds special events only for residents every month, such as the very popular dance party, and a day trip to enjoy horse races from the VIP room with a special behind-the-scenes tour.

At the daily breakfast buffet—featuring freshly cooked and continental varieties from 07:00 to 10:00—I observed families, couples and singles also enjoy browsing local and global newspapers, magazines and books. Some sat on the balcony to enjoy the dramatic city views and fresh air.

It was here I learned from another diner that membership requirements for the nearby exclusive Tokyo American Club (TAC) are waived for MORI LIVING SA residents without a Japanese working visa or residency status, so they can enjoy TAC's restaurants, fitness center, pool and events. Likewise, TAC members would also find Roppongi Hills Residence SA very convenient indeed to accommodate visiting family, friends, and business associates. I also heard that some people stay at Roppongi Hills Residence SA while their home is being renovated or as a second-home for work or hobbies.

The days went quickly as we thoroughly enjoyed healthy and relaxed mornings, afternoons and evenings at the spa, with its cozy sauna, large Jacuzzi, long glistening swimming pool, multi-directional power showers, professional workout programs, and aesthetic and massage treatments.



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- Other MORI LIVING Serviced Apartments:
- Atago Green Hills Forest Tower Serviced Apartments
- ARK Towers Serviced Apartments
- The Prudential Tower Residences Serviced Apartments