

Anime Films for Non-Anime Fans



Howl's moving castle A young woman named Sophie is cursed by the Witch of the Waste and is turned into an old woman who is unable to tell anyone of her plight. Unable to continue her job at her mother's hat shop, she goes to the ambulatory castle of the notorious wizard Howl and insinuates herself into his household. Sophie befriends Calcifer, the fire demon who powers the castle and who is bound to Howl by a contract, the terms of which Calcifer cannot reveal. They promise to help each other with their problems. Like Calcifer, Howl can also see through the Witch's spell, and he and Sophie fall in love

Spirited away When a young girl gets trapped in a strange new world of spirits, she must call upon the courage she never knew she had to free herself and rescue her parents.

Kono sekai no katasumi ni = In this corner of the world Set in Hiroshima during World War II, an eighteen year old girl gets married and now has to prepare food for her family despite the rationing and lack of supplies. As she struggles with the daily loss of life's amenities she still has to maintain the will to live.

Akira A powerful psychic force known only as Akira resurfaces in Neo-Tokyo in the 21st century. Tetsuo, a young, inexperienced motorcycle biker driven beyond the boundaries of sanity by the power of Akira, is forced to conjure up demons laying dormant within his subconscious.

Tokyo godfathers The story takes place on Christmas Eve in Shinjuku, Tokyo. Middle-aged has-been Gin, aging transvestite Hana, and teenage runaway Miyuki are homeless friends who have formed a makeshift family structure bond. That bond is tested when they find an abandoned baby while searching for food in a trash dumpster.

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Grave of the fireflies Two orphans in war-time Kobe, Japan, face fire-bombs, hunger, homelessness, and despair as the war and their lives come to an end.

Perfect blue A pop singer quits her trio in order to become an actress. But when she lands a role in a murder mystery, her life begins to imitate art.

Miss Hokusai As all of Edo flocks to see the work of the revered painter Hokusai, his daughter O-Ei toils diligently, creating the paintings sold under her father's name. Shy in public, in the studio O-Ei is brash and uninhibited. Seeking to come into her own as an artist, O-Ei sets out into the bustling city of Edo (present-day Tokyo), where she encounters spirits, dragons, con-men and traders

The tale of the Princess Kaguya Found inside a shining stalk of bamboo an old bamboo cutter and his wife, a tiny girl grows rapidly into an exquisite young lady. The mysterious young princess enralls all who encounter her, but ultimately she must confront her fate, the punishment for her crime

Paprika A beautiful scientist turns into a dream warrior named Paprika at night, in this psychedelic sci-fi anime adventure, that will take both versions of the woman to save the world.

Wolf children Hana was a student before she was a mother. Then she met a man, who turned out to be a wolf, and together they built a family. Hana loved her mate fiercely, but fate took him from her, leaving her alone with two unusual kids she didn't know how to raise. This is a mother's journey. Teach your children to chase their dreams - and smile through the tears as they disappear into the world in search of who they will become. Hana wasn't always a mother, but it was always what she was meant to be.

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Cowboy bebop the movie A terrorist bomb destroyed a tanker truck on Highway One on Mars releasing a deadly virus killing hundreds. The rewards for the bomber's capture is massive and the bounty hunter crew of the spaceship Bebop would love to get their hands on it.

A letter to Momo The last time Momo saw her father they had a fight, and now all she has left to remember him by is an incomplete letter that he had started to write her, a blank piece of paper penned with the words "Dear Momo," but nothing more. Moving with her mother from bustling Tokyo to the remote Japanese island of Shio, she soon discovers three goblins living in her attic, a trio of mischievous spirit creatures who have been assigned to watch over her

5 centimeters per second Witness the story of Takaki, a young man on a journey from Tokyo to reunite with his childhood best friend, Akari. Feel his emotions superimposed on the gorgeous, heavily researched and impressively animated backdrops of Japan, as he travels by train to see her. Join Takaki on a voyage into three interconnected tales of love and lost innocence that span the minutes and months of their lives

The wind rises Jiro dreams of flying and designing beautiful airplanes, inspired by the famous Italian aeronautical designer Caproni. Nearsighted from a young age and unable to be a pilot, Jiro joins a major Japanese engineering company in 1927 and becomes one of the worlds most innovative and accomplished airplane designers. Jiro meets and falls in love with Nahoko, and grows and cherishes his friendship with his colleague Honjo. The film chronicles much of his life, depicting key historical events.

Ghost in the shell It's 2029. A female government cyber agent and the Internal Bureau of Investigations are hot on the trail of a "The Puppet Master," a computer virus capable of invading cybernetic brains and altering its victim's memory. Created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and codenamed "Project 2501," this 'hacker' is actually a prototype virtual agent which has now defied its makers by seeking asylum within a new host body outside of the electronic net.

My neighbors the Yamadas Follows the misadventures of the a middle class family living in the suburbs of Tokyo.

The boy and the beast When Kyuta, a young orphan living on the streets of Shibuya, stumbles into a fantastic world of beasts, he's taken in by Kumatetsu, a gruff, rough-around-the-edges warrior beast who's been searching for the perfect apprentice. Despite their constant bickering, Kyuta and Kumatetsu begin training together and slowly form a bond as surrogate father and son. But the unlikely pair will be put to the ultimate test; a final showdown.

Barefoot Gen : the movies 1 & 2 The bombing of Hiroshima as seen through the eyes of an elementary student living in Japan during WWII

Tekkinkreet In Treasure Town, life can be both gentle and brutal. This is never truer than for our heroes, Black and White, two street urchins who watch over the city, doing battle with an array of old-world Yakuza and alien assassins vying to rule the decaying metropolis. When foreign investors want to destroy the town and turn it to an amusement park, they face their greatest adversaries yet.

Your name = Kimi no na wa Mitsuha and Taki are two total strangers living completely different lives. But when Mitsuha makes a wish to leave her mountain town for the bustling city of Tokyo, they become connected in a bizarre way. She dreams she is a boy living in Tokyo while Taki dreams he is a girl from a rural town he's never been to. What does their new-found connection mean? And how will it bring them together?

Princess Mononoke A young warrior searching for a cure for a deadly curse becomes entangled in a battle between a clan of humans and the forest's animal gods

From up on Poppy Hill In the year 1963 in Yokohama, a romance blossoms between two high school students, Umi and Shun. While trying to save a dilapidated Meiji-era club house from demolition, the relationship flourishes. But a buried secret from their past emerges to cast a shadow on the future and pull them apart.

Only yesterday A twenty-seven-year old woman reflects on her life and childhood as she travels from the city to see her relatives in the country

Colorful There is a train station on the other side of death, yet not all who arrive on the platform will be judged ready for passage onwards. For one unready soul, there will be both a test and a second chance. Rather than be reborn, this soul will awake in the body of 14-year-old suicide, Makoto Kobayashi, where it must not only find a way to fit into Makoto's existence, but also unravel two mysteries. What is the secret of the great sin it committed in its own previous life?

Porco Rosso Slouching towards middle age, Porco Rosso makes his living by flying about in his red bi-plane and fighting sky bandits who prey on cruise ships sailing the Adriatic. When he's not engaging in dog fights, this pilot lives on a deserted island retreat. Porco was once a strapping young man, but after his entire squadron was wiped out, he is mysteriously transformed into a pig. He was defeated in a dogfight against a dashing American rival, who was hired by the dastardly bandits. After his plane was damaged, he found a repair hanger near Milan where a local woman fixes his plane.

A silent voice "A deaf elementary school girl named Shoko Nishimiya transfers to a new school and meets a boy named Shoya Ishida. Shoya leads the school in bullying Shoko over her disability until she transfers to another school. Immediately, the class bullies Shoya for having bullied Shoko. Shoya loses contact with Shoko, and for years he suffers the consequences of his guilt. Upon entering high school, Shoya finally decides he must find Shoko, determined to make amends for what he did in elementary school

Steamboy Ray Steam receives a Steam Ball, a mysterious, powerful device, from his inventor grandfather. Governments and businesses around the world covet Ray's Steam Ball, and he finds himself in a murderous conflict over its possession. He's also caught between his father who builds terrible weapons for an American arms merchant, and his grandfather, who believes science should improve people's lives

Metropolis "In the industrial, tri-level world of Metropolis, Duke Red is a powerful leader with plans to unveil a highly advanced robot named Tima. But Duke Red's violent son Rock distrusts robots, and intends to find and destroy Tima. Lost in the confusing labyrinth beneath Metropolis, Tima is beginning a friendship with the young nephew of a Japanese detective. But when Duke Red separates the two innocents, Tima's life-- and the fate of the universe-- is dangerously at stake.