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# Japan

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to find (in Tokyo). What a welcome sight, then, to find a branch of this Hawaiian chain, which serves fat (one-third to half-pound) burgers with avocado or bacon. On the side you can also nosh on American sides like fries and onion rings, and wash it all down with an imported Kona beer. There are other branches around Tokyo, all with English signage and menus.

**Tsukiji Tama Sushi** (Map p133; ☎ 3599-6556; 5th fl, Decks Tokyo Beach, 1-6-1 Daiba, Minato-ku; meals ¥2000-4000; 🕒 11am-11pm; 🚉 Yurikamome line to Odaiba Kaihin-kōen, main exit) Settle yourself near the windows and sip from a huge, earthy cup of green tea while you wait for your sushi, which will come immaculately presented and perfectly fresh. It has an English menu and also offers an all-you-can-eat sushi special (men/women ¥3675/3045).

For fun – and a little dim sum (yum cha) – check out the array of Hong Kong-style eateries at **Daiba Little Hong Kong** (Map p133; www.odaiba-decks.com, in Japanese; 6th & 7th fl, 1-6-1 Daiba, Minato-ku; 🕒 breakfast, lunch & dinner; 🚉 Yurikamome line to Odaiba Kaihin-kōen, main exit). *Rāmen* lovers will want to check out the **Rāmen Stadium** (Map p133; 5th fl, Aqua City, 1-7-1 Daiba, Minato-ku; 🕒 11am-11pm; 🚉 Yurikamome line to Daiba, main exit).

## DRINKING

Bar and club life being what it is, the venue of the moment might be passé come tomorrow morning. The following is a rundown on bars and clubs that have shown some staying power and were going strong at the time of writing. For up-to-the-minute listings, check the websites noted on p124.

For a true Japanese drinking experience, round up a few people and check out an *izakaya*; chains like **Tsubohachi** (Map p134; ☎ 3464-5681; B1 fl, 33-1 Udagawachō, Shibuya-ku; meals ¥3500; 🕒 5pm-midnight Sun-Thu, to 3am Fri & Sat; 🚉 JR Yamanote line to Shibuya, Hachikō exit) have branches all over Tokyo and huge picture menus to choose what to eat with your *nama-biiru* (draught beer). During the summer, many of the large department stores like Keiō (p189) in Shinjuku or Matsuya (p189) in Ginza open up their rooftop beer gardens, a treat on hot summer evenings. Join the salarymen after work and hoist a few on these open-air terraces.

And of course, most high-rise hotels have bars with stupendous views over the city. Try the New York Bar at the Park Hyatt (p168), the Bello Visto at the Cerulean Tower Tōkyū Hotel (p168), or Lobby Bar at the Ritz-Carlton (see the boxed text, p170).

## Ginza & Shiodome 銀座・汐留

Business folk meet for after-work drinks at local *izakaya* and cement collegial relationships at fancy lounges in these neighbourhoods. Though not a party zone, there are some nice places for a drink or two.

**300 Bar** (Map p138; ☎ 3571-8300; www.300bar-8chome.com; B1 fl, No 2 Column Bldg, 8-3-12 Ginza, Chūō-ku; 🕒 5pm-2am Mon-Sat, 5-11pm Sun; 🚉 JR Yamanote line to Shimbashi, Ginza exit) One of the few places in Ginza that can truthfully say it offers a bargain, this bar charges ¥300 for every drink or snack (tax not included). There's no cover at this friendly standing bar.

**Aux Amis des Vins** (Map p138; ☎ 3567-4120; www.auxamis.com/desvins, in Japanese; 2-5-6 Ginza, Chūō-ku; 🕒 5.30pm-2am Mon-Fri, noon-midnight Sat; 🚉 Yūrakuchō line to Ginza itchōme, exits 5 & 8) Both the informal indoor and a small outdoor seating area at this wine bar feel welcoming in all seasons. A solid selection of mostly French wines comes by the glass (¥800) or by the bottle. You can also order small plates or full prix-fixe dinners.

## Ueno & Asakusa 上野 浅草

Yawn – definitely not the neighbourhoods for a wild night out. But if you're in Asakusa, try the beer halls in the Asahi Breweries complex (look up and follow the Flamme D'Or – aka the 'Golden Turd' – to the east side of the Sumida-gawa).

**Kamiya Bar** (Map pp146-7; ☎ 3841-5400; 1-1-1 Asakusa, Taitō-ku; 🕒 11.30am-10pm Wed-Mon; 🚉 Ginza, Toei Asakusa lines to Asakusa, exits 3 & A5) Spend an evening at this Shitamachi bar, which opened in 1880 and is said to be the oldest Western-style bar in Japan. There's a smoky beer hall on the ground floor, where you order and pay for beer and food as you enter.

**Warrior Celt** (Map pp146-7; ☎ 3836-8588; www.warriorcelt.com; 3rd fl, Ito Bldg, 6-9-22 Ueno, Taitō-ku; 🕒 5pm-5am Tue-Sat, to midnight Sun & Mon; 🚉 JR Yamanote line to Ueno, south central exit) If you do find yourself hanging around old Shitamachi at night, head to this pub in Ueno, where drinks are only ¥600 from 5pm to 7pm. It's a fun, friendly place with a good selection of English and Irish brews, as well as free live music several nights a week.

## Shinjuku 新宿

Gaudy Shinjuku is awash with nightspots of every shape and size, many of which fall into the sordid category and don't cater to foreigners. That said, there's still plenty to do here at night if you have a high tolerance for neon and blitzed salarymen.