

4 must visit secret bars in tokyo

If you're visiting Tokyo Japan, love a good cocktail and have a little sense of adventure this video is for you as today I am going to be showing you four secret bars in Tokyo you NEED to visit

These secret bars pay homage to the prohibition era and some are harder to locate than others

But believe you me when I say that Japan just does everything better from a coffee shop with a secret to a jazz band inside a coca cola fridge we are going to be having a little fun today!

So remember to subscribe and come on let me take you on a little journey!

Location 1 - Jazz Bar inside a Coca Cola Fridge

our first stop is located in the neighborhood of Setagaya is a secret bar for Jazz lovers which actually took quite a bit of effort to find

As is it is not located on street level

Also, the only indication of the bars location is a little sign on the streets

but if you can find it, get in the elevator to go up you will eventually find a bright red coca cola fridge which is actually a portal a small hole in the wall bar

That is an absolute must visit for music lovers

the bar is named after an album by saxophonist Hank Mobley

The intimate venue regularly features live performances that are highly popular with the locals

On stage tonight when i went was popular Japanese composer Otomo Yoshihide

When there isnt a live band playing the venue is a jazz kissa aka listening bar playing from a highly curated selection of vinyl records

This was truly one of the highlights of my trip especially after spending days experiencing language barriers when communicating because music truly transcends all language barriers

Oh yea, this is No Room For Squares and I have placed the address and google map pin in my caption

Location 2 - Listening Cocktail Bar inside Locker Room doors?

But this next one was high up on my list of secret bars to visit when I was planning my Japan trip

It is located in the popular neighborhood of Ebisu which is incidentally is the birth place of popular beer Yebisu which is why it is hardly surprising that the area is chock full of amazing restaurants and bars

But this one im about to show you is hidden behind a wall of old lockers that I am willing to bet you wouldve just walked straight past if you didn't know what was behind it

But if you pull on the door and walk down a flight of stairs you would've officially entered one of Tokyo's BEST secret bars, in my humble opinion!

The bar features a wall brimming with vinyl records, a live dj spinning some 90s and 00s hits as well as a WELL stocked bar that serves all your standard drinks BUTTT in my humble opinion you NEED to try their cocktails

The ones I had were some of the most delicious AND uniquely named cocktails I've ever drank!

Let me show you what i mean

So I started with a cocktail called "feel like a cinema" which was made from don julio, corn syrup cream and caramel

It was SO delicious, I mean it tasted like I was drinking liquid popcorn!

But I dont know guys, either the drinks here are strong or Im a light weight OR both because

I was a little tipsy by the time I was done with the first drink

And was thinking well its time to call it a night but then i saw THIS drink on their menu and couldn't resist getting it as well, I mean could you?

Their "are you depressed?" cocktail is served with drops of CBD oil on the top and whilst im not sure it cured my depression it certainly was delicious

The staff were incredibly friendly which instantly made me feel comfortable going to a bar alone as a solo traveller

This bar is called a10 named after the locker handle you need to pull on in order to enter and I really recommend you check it out

Location 3 - Coffee Shop with a Secret!

I have to say though that if I was short for time and could only pick ONE speakeasy out of this list to visit it would be this one

It is hidden behind a small hole in wall coffee shop in Shibuya and if youre thinking "Yup this is one I'll go to as well" HOLD UP because you can't just waltz straight in, you need a reservation

Without a reservation this spot will remain somewhere you can get a good cup of coffee from and nothing more

To make a reservation you need to head to their website, URL here and in my description box

You are now confronted with your first riddle which is to locate the reservation form on the website

I wont spoil the fun for you but basically this is the page you need to locate

Assuming you solved the riddle you should have your reservation proof ready to show the barista at the coffee shop

At which point they will ask you to push on this shelf in order to gain access into Janai Coffee bar which is honestly HANDS DOWN my favourite secret bar in Tokyo

True to the shopfront's theme absolutely EVERYTHING on the menu has coffee in it

I started with a coffee lemon sour with gin, fermented lemon and coffee which was delicious but while I was drinking that I noticed that there were hints at an off menu, secret drink, one that you can only get if you can solve ANOTHER riddle

Again I wont spoil the fun for you but IF you are successful you will be rewarded with THIS secret cocktail that really knows how to make an entrance
A flaming tomatina with mezcal ,jalapeno and lemon and man thi was even better than the coffee lemon sour

Do note that they change up the secret cocktal on a regular basis so don't be too surprised if you get something else when you visit

Drinks aside the staff, bartender and even patron were super friendly and I ended up staying a lot longer than i intended after a long day of shooting content because of the conversations I struck up with them

They even sent me off with a cup of coffee!

So definitely put Janai Coffee onto your list and let me know you go with the riddles!

Location 4 - Cheapest Secret Bar in Tokyo

But when I posted about the first 3 bars I received some feedback that the recommendations are SO expensive

Which for the record for me it is pretty much on par with Sydney prices

But that prompted me to suss out this next bar where you can get cocktails for just 700 Yen

Yea, that works out to be \$4.50 US or \$7 AUD

And only in Japan would you find a secret bar that's tucked away inside a Family

Mart

which to me is the last place where you think you'd find a bar
but when you think about it, it kinda makes sense!

I mean, Japanese convenience stores are already where the locals go for
EVERYTHING!

Their menu is surprisingly extensive, you can get a Japanese whisky for 500 Yen
(\$3 US)

Asahi Beers for 600, a glass of red or white for 500 and you can even get
some food

Yes the food is just from the family mart but they heat it up for you so that you can
have it with your drinks

I ended up settling on a Amaretto Ginger cocktail which was so delicious and only
cost 700 Yen

Honestly if there was something like this in back home in Sydney all of us would
be drunk
every single day

And so if you re looking to drink whilst keeping it wallet friendly I strongly
recommmend you
check out the Liqour Museum in Shibuya

Outro

But I wanna know, have you been to any of these bars before? Do you have bar
recommendations? let me know in the comment section

If youre heading to Tokyo Japan for the first time planning can be a bit daunting,
check out my what you need to know before going to Tokyo video to make sure
you dont miss out on anything important

Need recommendations on what to see and do? check out my Japan playlist for more

Don't forget to subscribe for more helpful travel guides such as this and lets continue this conversation in the next video

Ciao!