

Blog by blog guide to ... Tokyo

Benji Lanyado puts Tokyo's army of bloggers through their paces to bring you the ultimate cyber guide to the Japanese capital

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From sukiyaki to sushi ... take a gastronomic wander round Tokyo's food blogs.
Photograph: Sutton-Hibbert/Rex Features

Good lord. This week's blog by blog is in a minor state of shock. We should have seen it coming, really. Our subject is Tokyo: home of all things hi-tech, modish and online, which, somewhat predictably, offers the online traveller the mother of all blogosphere rabbit holes.

After hours of blogroll surfing and [technorati](#) bashing, dodging weirdo anime and hundreds of puzzlingly inane "this-morning-I-had-breakfast" blogs as I went, I think (and hope) we've come up with some winners. Sitting comfortably?

The sake hunt

Start by whetting your palate with a tasty slurp of well-written sake homage over at [Tokyo Through the Drinking Glass](#), the foodie and sake-related musings of Tokyo resident Melinda. Next up, shimmy on over to [Urban Sake](#), "one man's journey into the world of Sake". Said man is Timothy, whose focus is on sake drinking in the States ... but is an excellent reference point for a bit of mix and match. His recent [Golden Masu Awards 2007](#) pinpoints his favorite Nigori, Spring Nama, and Fall Nama amongst other categories. Jot down his suggestions, and head over to [Metropolis' sake sampling page](#), which picks out a couple of spots in Tokyo in which to neck a freebie. Willing to cough up a few yen? Check out Tokyo Foodcast's [sake category](#), including "[Mitsuya in Nishiogikubo](#) ...one of THE best sake shops around Tokyo". When bloggers use bold caps, they mean business.

Arty business

When it comes to art, design, fashion, and general avant-gardism in the Japanese capital, the blogosphere yields one clear scene-shaper. [Jean Snow](#) is a Tokyo creative svengali whose sitemeter reveals that he currently has 2,479 subscribers ... in layman's terms, his is a seriously popular blog. At first glance it's difficult to see why - it's a tad chaotic - but spend some time clicking through the hundreds of links on his site and you're guaranteed to find something interesting, usually adorned with Snow's creative fingerprints somewhere or other. He's the manager of gallery and creative hub [Café Pause](#), and the author of the smashing [superfuture pdf guide to Tokyo](#) (which cost a well-worth-it \$20). Honorable