

NADESHIKO HOTEL SHIBUYA

THE STORY: Once upon a time in Tokyo, capsule hotels were mostly for men only. Nadeshiko, which is situated in the cozy part of Shibuya called Shinsen, is one of several modern spots that are turning this trend on its head

and offering accommodation for women only.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: It's the little things that count. When you check in to your cocoon, you'll receive a yukata, tabi socks, and some essential amenities. Head down to the public bath and enjoy recharging while gazing at the traditional-style Mt. Fuji mural, painted in pretty pink colors on the bathroom wall. They also have a bar and restaurant on site, and a comfy tatami lounge. nadeshiko-hotel.jp



The Modern Capsule

Tokyo has dramatically upped its tiny hotel room game

Words by Annemarie Luck and Lisa Wallin



Nacasa & Partners

NINE HOURS

THE STORY: First launched in 2009, Nine Hours has seven locations around Japan, including at Narita Airport, and in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Sendai. They have a women's-only hotel in Kanda, a new property opened in Akasaka in May, and another will open in Kamata in July.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: Since capsule hotels are meant to offer short stays for urbanites, Nine Hours has created a design style and ambience that encourages guests to get out and about and explore the city. Walking past their Akasaka property, you can glimpse the cute, stylish capsules through the huge glass windows, so there's a sense of no barrier between inside and outside. And their name? It's based on the total

amount of time generally needed for the three basic actions of each guest: shower (one hour), sleep (seven hours), get dressed (one hour) = nine hours. ninehours.co.jp



THE MILLENNIALS

THE STORY: Opened in Shibuya in March, this is a new take on the ubiquitous capsule hotel, and unabashedly aimed at the millennial set. They also have a branch in Kyoto.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: According to The Millennials, the future of travel means making the most of technology, design, and convenience. They offer all the benefits of a capsule's tiny lodging style, but add a strong focus on creating social connections and using sleek design. Common areas feature a shared kitchen, dining space, bar, workspace, and even a "play zone" — all available 24 hours a day. Smartpods — that's the name of the capsule rooms — use IoT technology, making your stay in this innovative hotel both comfortable and practical. www.themillennials.jp



FIRST CABIN

THE STORY: First Cabin is a new-style compact hotel with design inspired by airplane first-class cabins, and based on the concept of "compact and luxury" accommodation. The company was founded in 2006, and has expanded to include 18 locations nationwide, with eight locations in Tokyo alone.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: The word "cabin" is the perfect term to describe the compact suites on offer. Depending on your budget and how much space you want, you can choose between four different types — First Class, Business Class, Premium Economy Class, and Premium Class. Except for the Premium Class cabins, the cabins are divided up into men's and women's areas, and they offer public baths, showers, powder rooms, and even a bar at some of the locations. first-cabin.jp

