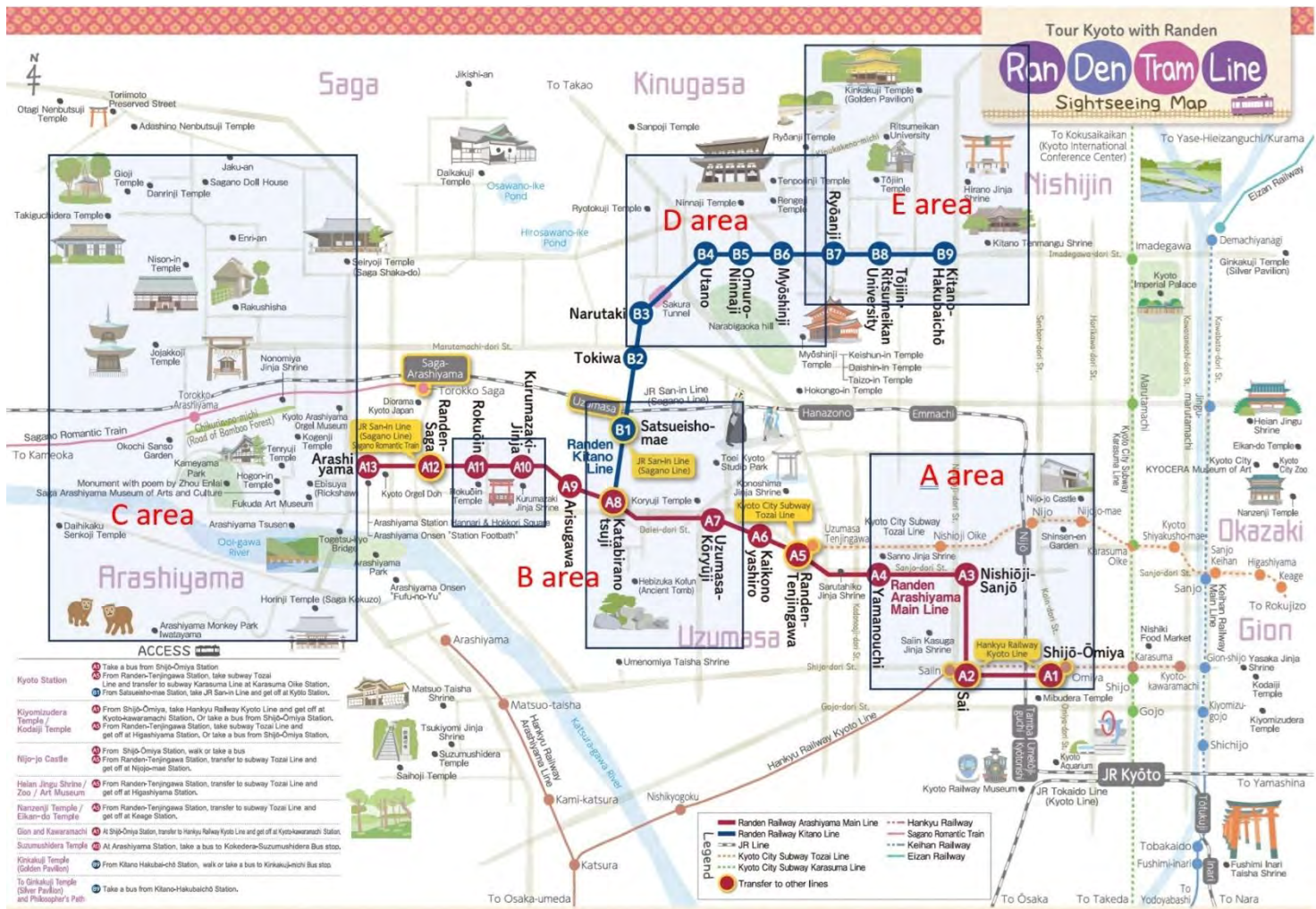


University students' recommendation: Attractive Walking Tour along the Randen Line



((©2024 KKST.NET))

* The information provided is valid as of December 2024. Why not enjoy a leisurely trip on a retro streetcar? University students will introduce an attractive tour of discovery!

* Please tap/click on the area box on this map. You will be taken to each page, which suggests walking courses and sightseeing spots that can be visited in half a day from each station on the Randen line. The walking times displayed were calculated using the Mapion app.

* Tap/click the underlined text on each page to go to the related information page.

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1. Useful links for emergencies and other difficulties

disaster, poor physical condition, voice translation, route map, AED location, how to take a bath, Halal certified restaurant, etc.

2. Randen's attractions and the railway user's guide

What is Randen / How to ride Randen

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1. Useful links for emergencies and other difficulties

Please refer to the multilingual information below. However, the AED (assistive devices during a heart attack) map is not multilingual. Please ask for help from a nearby Japanese person.

Kyoto City's support website for large-scale disasters :

[Kyoto City Evacuation Support Site \(kyoto.lg.jp\)](https://www.kyoto.lg.jp/)

[PDF Map for people having difficulty returning home \(kyoto.lg.jp\)](https://www.kyoto.lg.jp/)

If you are sick or not feeling well :

[AMDA, Medical Information Center \(amdamedicalcenter.com\)](https://amdamedicalcenter.com/)

AED Locations in Kyoto (Japanese only) :

[Kyoto City AED Installation Facility Search System “AED Map”](#)

Multilingual voice translation app service (in 31 languages) :

[VoiceTra Support Page - NICT](#)

Kyoto City Bus and Subway Route Map (several language versions) :

[Kyoto City Transportation Bureau: Route Map \(kyoto.lg.jp\)](#)

Kyoto City Transportation Route Search :

[City Bus and Subway Guide: Routes, Timetables, etc. \(kyoto.lg.jp\)](#)

Free WiFi Information in Kyoto :

<https://ja.kyoto.travel/wifi/>

Halal certified restaurant in Kyoto city :

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g298564-zfz10751-Kyoto_Kyoto_Prefecture_Kinki.html

Kyoto City Tourist Information :

[Kyoto City Official Site: Kyoto Tourism Navi \(kyoto.travel\)](#)

[Kyoto City Tourist Information Center](#)

About unique customs such as how to take a bath :

[Japanese bath culture and how to use a bath- LIVE JAPAN](#)

[The correct way to enjoy Japanese culture and hot springs, and some important points to remember](#)

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2. [Randen's attractions and the railway user's guide](#)

The Arashiyama Main Line, Shijo Omiya - Arashiyama, opened in 1910, and the Kitano Line, Karabiranotsuji - Kitano (now Kitano Hakubaicho), opened in 1926. Since it opened, it has always been affectionately known by the people of Kyoto as “Randen”.

It is a local transport line in western part of Kyoto that connects the JR Sagano Line, the Kyoto Municipal Subway Tozai Line and the Hankyu Kyoto Line. Along the line, there are Arashiyama, Saga and Toei Kyoto Studio Park , as well as the World Heritage Sites Nijo-jo Castle, Tenryu-ji temple, Ninna-ji temple, Ryoan-ji and Kinkaku-ji temple, and other famous temples and shrines such as Kitano Tenmangu shrine, Myoshin-ji temple and Nonomiya Shrine, making it one of Japan's top tourist routes. The line is also known for having many station names that are difficult for even Japanese people to read correctly, using historical place names and temple/shrine names, such as Sai, Karabirano-tsuji, and Kurumazaki-jinja etc..



Operation: During the daytime, the trains run at 10-minute intervals.

Travel time: “Shijo Omiya” to “Arashiyama”: 24 min.

“Arashiyama” to “Kitano-Hakubaicho” (change at “Katabiranotsuji”) : 30 min.

Fare: 250 yen for adults, 130 yen for children (flat fare)

We recommend the “Randen 1-Day Free Ticket” (ONEDAY Ticket) (700 yen for adults, 350 yen for children), which allows you to freely ride the Randen train for one day. The “Randen 1-Day Free Ticket” (ONEDAY ticket) is now on sale at “Shijo-Omiya”, “Katabashinotsuji”, “Arashiyama”, and “Kitano-Hakubaicho” stations !

Payment Method: Postpaid in cash or by Transportation IC cards

Access:

*From JR Kyoto Station

- alight at Sagano Line “Uzumasa St.” walk 3 min to “Satueijo-mae St.”
- alight at Sagano Line "Saga-Arashiyama St." , walk 2min to "Randen-Saga St.”.

*From Kyoto Municipal Subway Tozai Line

- alight at “Uzumasa-Tenjingawa St.” walk to “Randen-Tenjingawa St.”

*From Hankyu Line

- alight at Hankyu Kyoto Line “Sai-in St.”, walk to "Sai St."
- alight at Hankyu Kyoto Line "Omiya St.", walk to " Shijo-Omiya St."

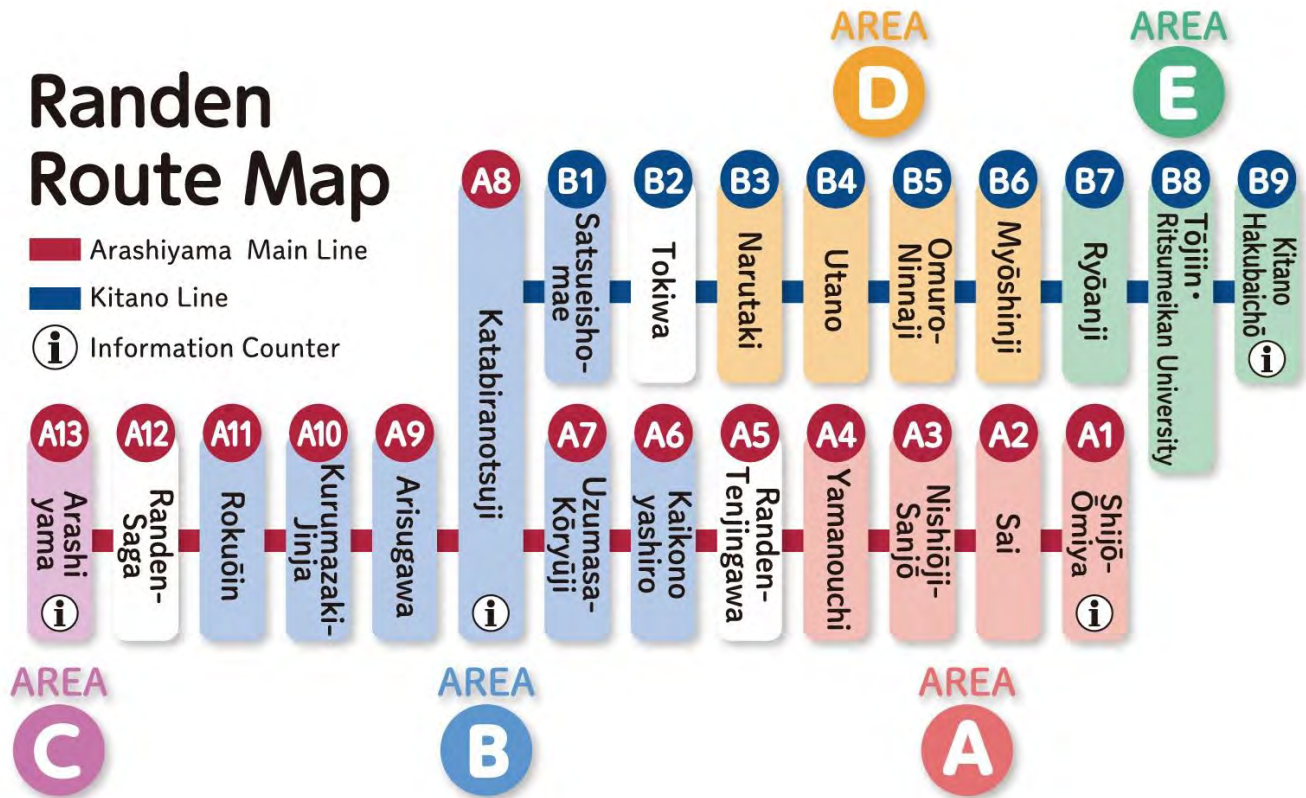
How to ride the Randen is explained in the [Randen How to Use Guide](https://www.keifuku.co.jp/en/keifuku/kyoto/kyoto_randen/)
[| Keifuku Electric Railway Co.\(keifuku.co.jp\)](https://www.keifuku.co.jp/en/keifuku/kyoto/kyoto_randen/)

Randen Route Map

■ Arashiyama Main Line

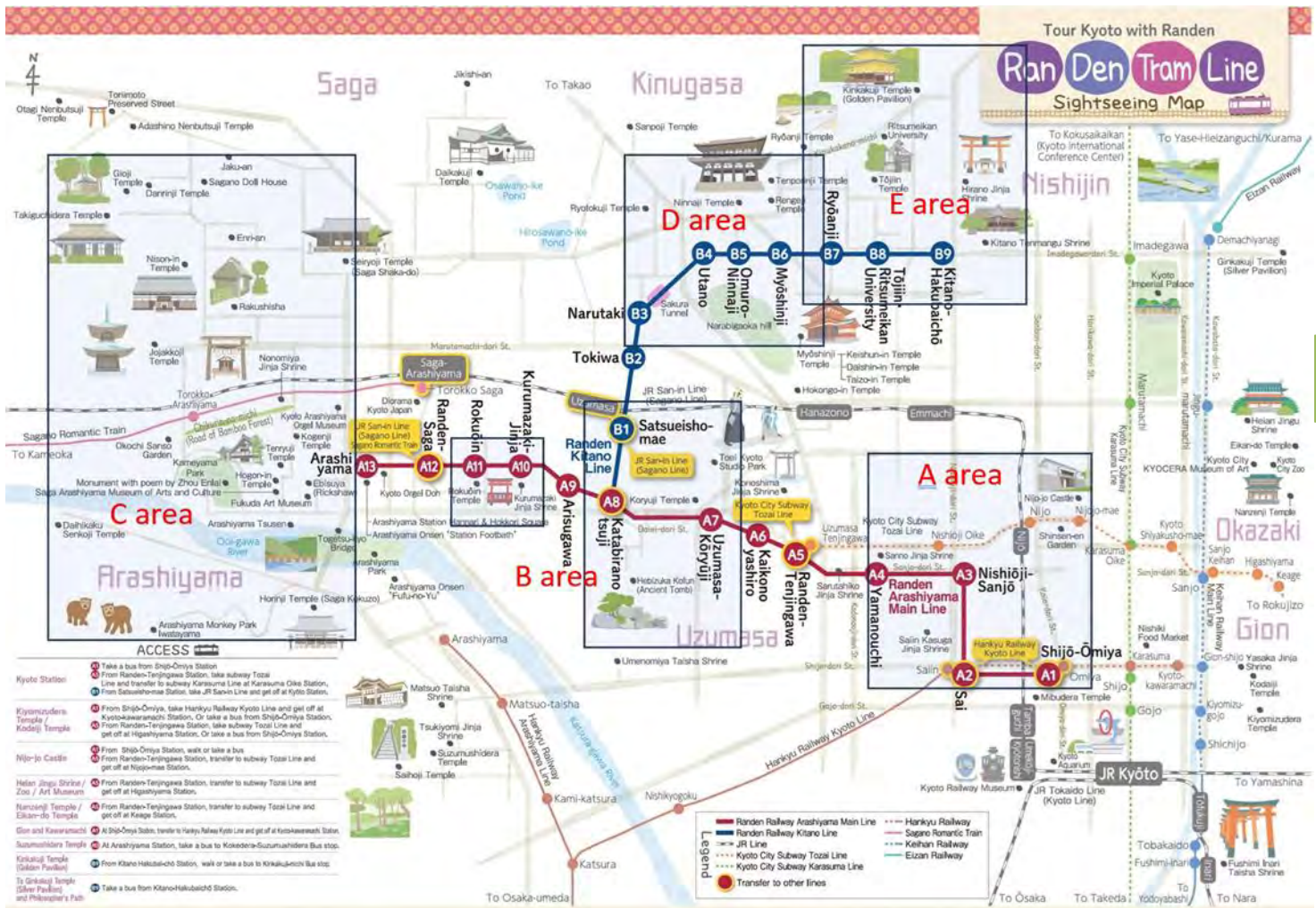
■ Kitano Line

i Information Counter



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3. Area-specific “walking tour courses and tourist spots” information



Area A: A Course to experience samurai culture:

Nijo-jo Castle, Shinsen-en Garden, Mibu-dera Temple, Kasuga-jinja Shrine Festival, Gion Festival Mikoshi Procession, Public bath Sento, Samurai Experience, Pickle Making Experience, The Sai-in Festival (Musical Festival)

Area B: A course that takes you through old Kyoto and the city of film :

Koryu-ji Temple, Hebizuka Kofun (7th century tomb), Daiei Street Shopping Street (Kinema Kitchen, Eikaza), Uzumasa Toei Studio Park, Kurumazaki-jinja Shrine, Rokuo-in Temple, Temple Inn: Women-Only Lodging “Shukubo”

Area C: A course to enjoy Arashiyama through three themes: “Japanese gardens”, “classical literature”, and “nature”. :

Tenryu-ji Temple, Okouchi Villa Garden, Fukuda Art Museum, Jyokakko-ji Temple, Gio-ji Temple, Rakushisha Hut, Saga Arashiyama Museum of Arts and Culture, Arashiyama Monkey Park, Daihikaku Senko-ji Temple, River play, Yusai-tei, Fufu no Yu Onsen, Bamboo Grove Path

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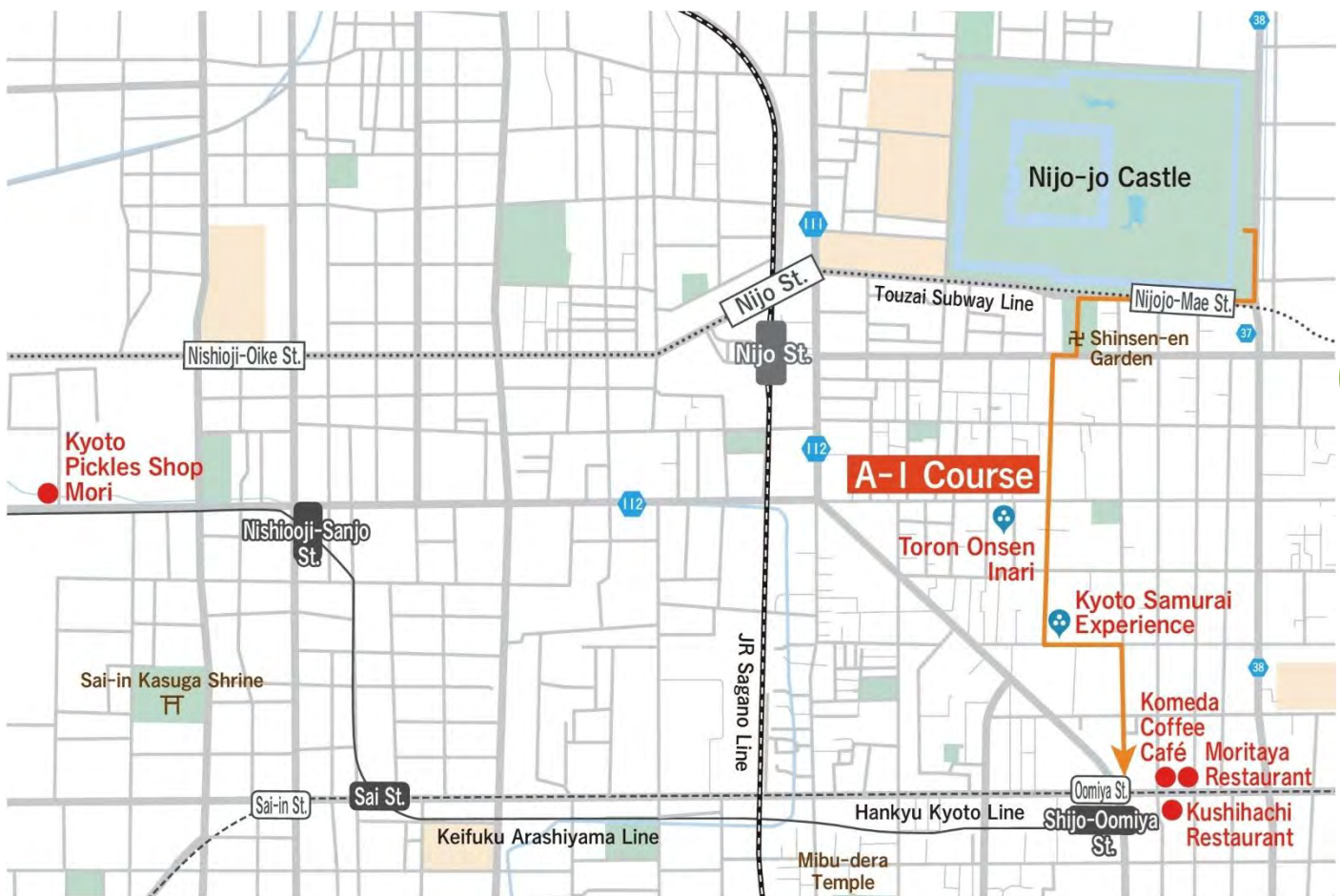
Area D: A course that takes in two ancient temples, Ninna-ji and Myoshin-ji

Ninna-ji Temple, Omuro 88 Temples Pilgrimage (Hiking Course) , Myoshin-ji Temple: Taizoin (Zazen Experience), Hanazono Kaikan (Temple Hotel), Chopstick Shop Ohashi-koubo, Wanda Café

Area E: A course that is guided by the God of learning, admiring the charms of this area

Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, Kamishichiken, Hyakuyoubako (yokai goods store), Tawara-ya Needle restaurant, Toyouke Chaya Tofu restaurant, Awamochi-shop Sawaya, Castella de Paulo, Toji-in Temple, Kyoto Museum for World Peace @ Ritsumeikan Univ., Insho-Domoto Museum for Fine Art, Gontaro Needle restaurant, Kinkaku-ji Temple, Ryoan-ji Temple, Seigen-in, Kyoto accessories shop Kinugasa, Kyoto pickles shop Tomikawa, Ryoan-ji shopping street (Katsu, Tombo no Ie, Aioi restaurant)

Area A (Shijo-Omiya St. - Yamanouchi St.)



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In 1910, Arashiyama Electric Railway Co., Ltd. opened a tram line connecting Arashiyama, which had long been famous as a tourist and recreational spot, with the center of Kyoto. This was the beginning of Randen. At the time, Ukyo Ward did not yet exist, and the only terminal station in the Kyoto city area, the current Shijo-Omiya Station, was named "Kyoto Station" because it was the western gateway to Kyoto City. The word "Omiya" means "the emperor's residence", and Shijo Street is the central business district of Kyoto. In the past, this area was one of the central areas of Kyoto, and it was the gateway to the western area of Kyoto and the Osaka area.

In July, during the Gion Festival's Kankosai, the Nakagoza-mikoshi, portable shrine procession of Yasaka Shrine, travels to Shijo-Omiya. Mibu Kyogen, a traditional Noh comedy, is held four times a year at

Mibu-dera Temple. There are also many other attractive events, such as the Nijo-jo Castle Light-up event, the Sai-in Kasuga Shrine Festival in October and the Sai-in Festival. The “Yokai Densha” (monster train) that runs between Shijo-Omiya St. and Arashiyama St. on the Randen line in mid-August is a seasonal summer tradition in Kyoto.

Nijo-jo Castle, a World Heritage Site built by Tokugawa Ieyasu in 1603, is one of the most famous castles that convey samurai culture. In this tour course, we propose a plan that starts from Nijo-jo Castle to other tourist spots where you can experience the samurai culture firsthand.

On the way, we will stop at Shinsen-en Garden, which has its origins in a Japanese garden created in the Heian period (794-1185). Please also stop by Mibu-dera Temple, famous for the stationing of the Shinsengumi during the final days of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Nishioji-Sanjo St. to Yamano-uchi St. is a street route of Randen. Along the way, you will find Kyoto Pickles shop Mori. Here, you can enjoy a variety of Japanese pickles culture.

Recommendation: Walking course to experience Samurai culture (A-1)



Nijo Castle is just a short walk from Nijojo-mae Station on the Kyoto Municipal Subway or Nijojo-mae Station on the Kyoto City Bus.

After touring the castle, exit the gate and walk to the south and turn right at the intersection. After walking a little bit, you will find Shinsen-en garden on your left.



8 min walk

Shinsen-en, where you can get an idea of the Japanese gardens of the Heian period. You can imagine the Heian aristocrats enjoying boating in the large pond. Immerse yourself in the atmosphere of Heian-kyo for a while.



6 min walk



Sanjo Shopping Arcade: Walking south after leaving Shinsen-en, you will hit the shopping arcade. It is one of the most vibrant local shopping streets in Kyoto. Enjoy exploring the shopping arcade.

There is also a public bathhouse nearby. Foreign residents frequent this public bathhouse. If you have time, how about taking a bath at Tron Onsen Inari.



5 min walk



Kyoto-samurai-experience: You can experience martial arts in a 250-year-old samurai residence. The experience of cutting Tatami-Tsutsu (rolled up Tatami mats) using a genuine katana sword is a thrilling experience. Please be sure to



make a reservation in advance.

8 min walk

Randen Shijo-Omiya St.

There are many attractive pubs and restaurants near Shijo-Omiya Station. Here we will introduce a Japanese beef restaurant and a retro coffee shop, among others.

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A-1: Detailed information on the walking course to experience Samurai culture

Nijo-jo Castle [二条城 世界文化遺産・元離宮二条城 \(kyoto.lg.jp\)](https://www.kyoto.lg.jp/)

[Google map](#)



The starting point of this course is Nijo-jo Castle, a World Heritage Site. For more than 400 years Nijo-jo Castle has witnessed dramatic changes in the history of Japan. It was built by Tokugawa Ieyasu to guard the Kyoto Imperial Palace and to accommodate the shogun when he traveled to Kyoto. The castle once had a castle tower, but it was destroyed by lightning, and in 1867, the 15th Tokugawa shogun, Yoshinobu Tokugawa, famously announced his intention to return the power to the emperor, ending the Tokugawa shogunate.

The Tokugawa shogunate's many extravagant and gorgeous cultural assets are a must-see. The Ninomaru-Goten Palace, a national treasure, is a typical example of the *shoin-zukuri* style of architecture from the Edo period. The corridors are called "uguisu-bari", and when you walk through them the floors produce a bird-like chirping sound. Take a moment to walk along the corridors and listen to the sound. It is said that this is to prevent enemies from sneaking in, but the sound is actually due to deterioration over time.



We also recommend the Ninomaru Garden, a daimyo-style garden with powerful garden stones and imposing pine trees. In spring, there is a cherry blossom viewing event.

Light-up events are held in which the historical buildings are transformed into a glittering space with light shows such as projection mapping and lighting that match the season (for details, see the sightseeing point information below).





Shinsen-en Garden is located about an 8-minute walk from Nijo-jo Castle. 800 years ago, there was already a description of Shinsen-en Garden in a book. It is the oldest garden in the Heian period (794-1185). It was a garden for the emperor and was built adjacent to the inner sanctuary of Heian-kyo.

It is also known as the sacred site where Kobo-Daishi Kukai, the founder of the Shingon sect of Buddhism, prayed for rainfall during a drought. The current Shinsen-en Garden was built in the Edo period (1603-1867) and is much smaller than the former Shinsen-en Garden.

Kyoto is known as the capital of “water,” and there are springs all over the city. Looking at the view of the vermillion bridge (Hosei-kyo Bridge) reflected on the water, we can imagine how aristocrats used to float their boats and enjoy boating on the pond in the Heian period.



Visitation of this garden is free of charge. Anyone may enter the garden during viewing hours. During the Gion Festival, the portable shrine parades to Shinsen-en, receives prayers from monks at this temple, and then returns to Yasaka-jinja Shrine. The fact that Nijo-jo Castle, a symbol of samurai culture, is adjacent to a symbol of aristocratic culture of the Heian period, Shinsen-en is a “rare sight” unique to the ancient capital of Kyoto.

Sanjo Shopping Arcade

[Google map](#)

After leaving Shinsen-en Garden, walk south down Shinsen-en Dori street for about 6 minutes and you will come to the arcade of the shopping street. This is the Sanjo Shopping Arcade, one of the liveliest shopping streets in Kyoto that has been around since the Taisho era. As the sign at the entrance gate says, “A town with sunshine 365 days a year”, you can stroll under the arcade without worrying about the weather. There are all sorts of shops here, from traditional stores to stylish shops in renovated *machiya* townhouses. Please enjoy your time strolling through the shopping arcade.

There is a public bath called "Toron Onsen Inari" in the nearby shopping district. If you have time, why not freshen up at a public bath (Sento) in Kyoto? It is a traditional public bath that is also a favorite of the foreigners who live nearby.

[Google map](#)

This public bathhouse, which has a history of over 100 years, is famous for its “Tron Hot Spring”. For information on how to use public baths and Japanese bath etiquette, please refer to the “[Information on unique customs such as how to use the bath](#)” section in the “Useful links for emergencies and other problems” section of this guidebook. This public bathhouse also allows people with tattoos to bathe. They also lend out towels, shampoo, soap, etc. Visitors from overseas and tourists can also feel free to bathe here. For information on opening hours, bathing fees, etc., please refer to the above website for Inari.

“Tron Onsen (hot spring)” is a term used to refer to artificial hot springs that have been approved by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan. They use a hot spring bath additive made from a mixture of natural trona stones and several types of mineral ore. They are known to be effective for treating back pain, stiff shoulders, neuralgia, poor circulation, and fatigue. This is because the far-infrared energy released from the ‘Tron bath additive’ warms the body from the inside out. It will surely help you recover from the fatigue of your travels. As a cold drink after taking a bath, you can try chilled TRON water here. There is also handmade cider from Nanzan-Kousensho bottled in old-fashioned bottles that have been reused. Try cooling down your body, which has been warmed by the TRON hot spring, with a cold drink.



Kyoto Samurai Experience

http://waraku-kyoto.com/kyoto_samurai_experience/

[Google map](#)

Walking down Sanjo Shopping Arcade to the south and turning left at the corner where it meets Kyoto Municipal Rakuchu Elementary School, you will find a samurai residence that is over 250 years old on your left. Here you can Samurai experience. This residence, which is close to Nijo-jo Castle, was once the home of the cheaf warden of Nijo-jo Castle's prison. For this reason, the residence is full of elaborate devices to prevent enemies from entering. Hidden doors and

fusuma sliding doors, which were designed and installed in layers to get to the back important room, are one example.



The Samurai Workshop is held for about two hours. After changing into training clothes, you will first be given an explanation in English or Japanese about the history of the samurai residence and *iaido*. You will then watch the sword techniques of a master instructor who excels at *iaido*. The refined *iaido* is combined with the sound of the call and the drum, and the power is so overwhelming and amazing. In particular, the highlight is the “five *tatami* mat rolls cut in half” performed in the courtyard, where the samurai-like figure of the swordsman cuts off five *tatami* mat rolls with his sword is truly impressive.

Next, all the participants go outside to the courtyard to try their hand at *iai-giri*. First, they practice the basic form with wooden swords.

They are given careful instruction one by one. The instruction is very thorough, covering everything from how to hold the sword to the number of steps and strides when cutting, and the height of the arm swing.

Then, we try cutting a tatami mat tube at various heights using a real sword. It's not something you get the chance to do very often in your life. Even for Japanese people, it is a very uplifting experience. We think it would be an irresistible experience for people from overseas who like Japanese anime or are curious about Japanese martial arts. The participants from overseas have a different kind of sparkle in their eyes.

Finally, you can experience *Zen*. *Zen* is said to have been introduced from India and is closely related to *Bushido*. The *zazen* you will experience is the basic form of *Zen*, in which you sit facing a fusuma painting and unify your spirit through deep, long breathing. If sitting on the floor is problematic, you can also do it while sitting in a chair. In the old days, *Samurai* also used *Zen* to stabilize their minds and hone their swordsmanship. It is said that the “Five Cuts of the Tatami Tube” cannot be done without this kind of mental concentration.

Kyoto Samurai Experience is the perfect place for foreign tourists to learn about *Bushido* and Japanese culture. In addition to the martial arts experience, it is also possible to arrange options such as calligraphy and, in the evening, watching Noh while eating dinner. Even for a Japanese student, it is a very moving experience. We would recommend this tourist spot to Japanese and foreigners alike.

The hours are 10:00am - 12:00pm and 3:00pm - 5:00pm (closed on Saturdays and Sundays), so please see the official website for details, costs, reservations, etc. Advance reservations are required.





After your samurai experience, head towards the Randen Shijo-Omiya Station area. There are lots of unique *izakaya* (Japanese-style pubs) around the station. For food and a rest at a café or restaurant, we recommend Moritaya Shijo Inokuma restaurant, Komeda Coffee café, and “Kushihachi Shijo Omiya” *kushikatsu* restaurant. *Kushikatsu* are various meats and veggies skewered and deep-fried in oil).



Moritaya Shijo Inokuma restaurant [四条猪熊本店 | \[京都\] すき焼き・しゃぶしゃぶ・オイル焼・ステーキ | \(創業明治二年\) \(moritaya-kyoto.co.jp\)](#)

[Google map](#)

From the Shijo Street side, enter the alley and you will find the entrance to Moritaya Shijo Inokuma. An English menu list is provided. Delicious wagyu beef dishes are available. We recommend that you call in advance to make reservations for both lunch and dinner.

At the supermarket owned by Moritaya facing Shijo Street, you can ask for a boxed lunch of *wagyu* beef. If you do not have time for a meal, why not take it back to your hotel and enjoy a Japanese beef lunch box?

Restaurants offer a variety of set menus, including *yakiniku*, *shabu-shabu*, and *sukiyaki* courses, as well as *yakiniku ojyu*, or other dishes that allow you to enjoy delicious *wagyu* beef to your liking.







Komeda Coffee Shijo Omiya

<https://www.komeda.co.jp/shop/detail.html?id=897>

[Google map](#)

Komeda Coffee is a café that originated in Nagoya. You can take your time to relax and unwind from your trip while savoring Japan's retro cafe culture.

Shironoir is recommended as a sweet to relieve travel fatigue. For more information about the shop's services, please visit the official website (in Japanese) .

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Area A Recommended Sightseeing Spots and Events Information

Nijo-jo Castle Light-up Event [Event information | 二条城 世界遺産・元離宮二条城 \(kyoto.lg.jp\)](#)

Nijo-jo Castle, located about eight minutes on foot from Shijo-Omiya Station on the Randen Line and six minutes by bus from the Shijo Horikawa bus stop, has recently been the site of a fascinating project.

Since the spring of 2017, NAKED Co., Ltd. has been hosting a seasonal event to light up Nijo Castle at night.

In 2023, visitors were fascinated by the digital art that projected the beautiful scenery of each season under the themes of “cherry blossoms” in spring, “fireworks” and “festivals” in summer, and “flowers” and “autumn leaves” in fall.

In projection mapping, the stone walls of Nijo-jo Castle were used as a canvas to depict fireworks, autumn leaves, and various other seasonal artworks. When fireworks were displayed on the stone wall during the summer event, visitors to the venue call out “Tamaya !” (The name of the fireworks studio in the old days. It is still used today as shouts from onlookers for the nice fireworks).





Autumn event offered a different kind of serene atmosphere. The stone walls of Nijo-jo Castle were gorgeously projected with colorful autumn leaves and brightly colored flowers blooming under the light of the full moon, adding a touch of elegance to long autumn evenings. On days when the wind was calm, as shown in the photo, the surface of the water became a “water mirror,” doubling its beauty.

Mibu-dera Temple is closely associated with the Shinsengumi, a group of samurai who played an active role at the end of the Edo period. The Shinsengumi was formed in March 1863 in Mibu and called itself the Mibu Roshigumi. It was active in Kyoto at the end of the Edo period to maintain public order and suppress anti-Shogunate forces.

Isamu Kondo, Toshizo Hijikata, and Soji Okita are particularly famous and still have many fans today. Toward the end of the Edo shogunate, Japan established diplomatic relations with various foreign countries. During this time there were many *roshi* in Kyoto who rebelled against the *shogunate* through subversive activities. The Shinsengumi, based at Mibu-dera Temple, thoroughly cracked down on the rebels. The Shinsengumi imposed a rule called “Kyokuchu-hato (code of conduct)” on its members, strictly forbidding desertion from the Shinsengumi, private financial schemes, and private disputes. If a member disobeyed these rules, he would be punished with seppuku (ritual suicide).

Because of their fierceness, they were feared by the townspeople of Kyoto, but thanks to the Shinsengumi, the city's security was protected. These samurai still have many admirers today. On an island in a pond to the east of the Mibu-dera temple grounds, there are graves called Mibuzuka, where 11 members of the Shinsengumi are enshrined. Busts of Isamu Kondo and Toshizo Hijikata have also been erected on the temple grounds.

You can also learn more about Mibu-dera Temple and the Shinsengumi by visiting the Mibu-dera Temple, where there are materials and panel displays about them.



Mibu-dera Temple holds the Mibu Kyogen (Mibu Dainenbutsu Kyogen) performance three times a year (Setsubun, spring, and fall), which has a history of about 700 YEARS.

"Mibu Kyogen" is a religious drama that is performed by the movements of the performers and the sound of musical instruments without any dialogue. Some may wonder if they will be able to enjoy it if they know nothing about it. However, there is no need to worry. The "Horaku Wari," in which thousands of plates are dropped from the stage and broken, and the "Tsuchigumo," in which a giant spider sprays a large number of threads, elicit loud gasps and groans from the audience. We university students who were watching Kyogen for the first time were overwhelmed.



The performers are local members of the preservation society, ranging in age from elementary school students to adults. They carry on Mibu Kyogen with the thought, “We cannot let this long-lasting tradition die out”.

Before the performance begins, booklets (Japanese and English) with a synopsis of each performance will be available for purchase. We hope you will enjoy watching, listening to, and reading Mibu Kyogen in different ways, as it is performed without words and remains in your heart.

Kyogen is generally thought of as a “contrivance performed between Noh plays,” but Mibu Kyogen is a little different. The most unusual thing about Mibu Kyogen is that there is no dialogue. Enkaku Shonin, who greatly developed Mibu-dera Temple during the Kamakura period (1192-1333), started Jisai Yuzu Nembutsu, which introduces the Buddha's teachings in an easy-to-understand manner through pantomime (mute drama) set to music without using difficult words, out of his desire to “have more ordinary people understand the teachings of the Buddha. This Jisai Yuzu Nembutsu, which has no dialogues, is the origin of Mibu Kyogen.

The themes of good and evil, cause and effect, and the masks worn by all performers have been passed down to the present day. Influenced by Noh plays and other narrative literature, Mibu kyogen has gradually added humorous pieces that are accessible to the common people, which is another characteristic and appealing feature of Mibu kyogen.

The spring public performance is held for seven days from April 21 to May 5, during the Mibu-daibutsu-e, a 700-year-old Buddhist memorial service, and is performed three times a day: morning, noon, and evening. The autumn public performance is held for three days during the consecutive holidays in October. Also, on the day of

Setsubun and the day before Setsubun, the performance “Setsubun” is performed four times a day.



Gion Festival Kanko Matsuri

[祇園祭の行事 | 主な神事・行事 | 八坂神社 \(yasaka-jinja.or.jp\)](#)

Three mikoshi (portable shrines) are carried through the city as part of the Gion Festival, one of Kyoto's three major festivals. One of the three mikoshi, the “Naka-goza-mikoshi” (middle-mikoshi), is paraded to Shijo-Omiya area during the Kanko Matsuri on July 24 to return the deities to Yasaka-jinja Shrine. The intersection of Shijo Omiya ([Google Map](#)) is one of the best places to photograph the Kanko Matsuri. The sight of the mikoshi being turned by the many carriers is spectacular.

The 2023 event we covered was the first time the event was held after the Corona pandemic, and the scale of the crowds did not seem to have returned, but it was still as busy as in the photo. The intersection of Shijo-Omiya is said to be very crowded every year. Seeing the powerful parade of portable shrines, we were deeply impressed by the fact that the Gion Festival was originally held to drive out plague and disease from the city of Kyoto. I hope that these prayers will be answered and that people will continue to live a life of good health.



Sai-in Kasuga-jinja Shrine, Autumn Grand Festival “Kasuga Matsuri”

[春日祭 | 年中行事 | 春日神社 | \(kasuga.or.jp\)](#)

[Google map](#)

In addition to Kyoto's three major festivals, there are many other attractive festivals rooted in local communities in Kyoto. One such festival that you should not miss is the Kasuga Matsuri. You can see a video of the festival at the website above.

Sai-in Kasuga-jinja Shrine is located about a 9-minute walk from Sai Station on the Randen Line. It is a rare shrine that enshrines frogs, and there are three frog statues on the shrine grounds. It is believed that the frogs will grant us our wishes and are also called the frogs of wish fulfillment.

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Sai-in Kasuga-jinja Shrine has one of the largest “Mikoshi” (portable shrine) in Japan, weighing more than 2 tons! Dozens of men can carry it with their combined strength. The carriers are always

shouting “Fight! Fight!” to get into the spirit of the event. The sight of them carrying the mikoshi through the streets around the shrine is something to behold.

Unfortunately, the day of the 2023 festival, which we covered, was cold and rainy. Even so, the festival was filled with enthusiasm that blew away the cold. In front of Sai Station on the Randen Line, we were able to take this collaborative photo of the Randen and the festival procession.



It is not only the portable shrines that are large in scale. The road in front of Sai-in Kasuga-jinja Shrine is lined with yatai stalls on both sides for approximately 1 km from north to south. The scale of the festival is said to be second only to the Yoiyama of the Gion Festival in Kyoto City. Despite the rain, the area was crowded with people. The delicious smells that filled the air around the stalls whetted our appetite. This is a rare opportunity to actually experience the Japanese “yatai” culture. Please come and visit.



The Sai-in Fest

[ザ・西院フェス \(saifes.net\)](http://saifes.net)

The Sai-in Fest is a tipping system music festival held in the fall with free admission at all venues. 2023 saw 53 groups and individual musicians gather at eight venues, including Sai-in Kasuga-jinja Shrine.

One of the most interesting aspects of the festival is the opportunity to experience the music played by the musicians up close and personal in an atmosphere not usually seen at such festivals, such as drumming and singing on the grounds of shrines.

Another attraction of this event is that musicians of various genres gather here, so you can experience not only the genres you are

interested in but also the kinds of music you do not usually listen to. While wandering around the many venues, you can get to know the town of Sai-in deeply by enjoying drinks and meeting various people along with music.



This type of music festival has been held in Sai-in since 2002. The organizers of the festival wanted to take advantage of the potential of the city of Sai-in itself. The at-home atmosphere created by the unique stores and friendly residents is the charm of this town. They also wanted to enliven the town with an event that combined the traditions of the Kasuga-matsuri Festival and the music culture that has taken root in the town. Inheriting the thoughts of the originators, the 2023 festival was held at the end of the Corona pandemic.

As an operator, his hope for the future is to go beyond a mere music event and develop it into a “community cultural festival”. In the past, the audience was limited because only bands of a particular genre of music, mainly jazz, participated. From now on, he expressed his aspiration to value diversity on the performers' side, to allow a variety of non-music performers to participate, to evolve the festival into a local festival that both performers and audience can be excited about, and to jack up the entire city.



Kyoto Pickles Shop Mori
(kyoto-mori.co.jp)

京都 漬物 京つけもの もり

もり本社ビル - Google map

Between Nishioji-Sanjo Station and Yamanouchi Station, the Randen runs as a streetcar on Sanjo-dori Street, and halfway between the two stations there is a Japanese pickles shop, Mori.

This shop is filled with an array of colorful pickles. From “Kyoto specialties” such as senmaizuke and shibazuke, to pickled onions, pumpkins, and bamboo shoots. Japan is a country with a “pickles culture” rarely seen in the world, and the diversity of pickles is astonishing. The pictures of the various pickles displayed in the product cases are sure to be a good photo-op. Kyo Tsukemono Mori has also developed bottled products such as “Kyo-Pickles,” pickled radish, lotus root, yam, and other vegetables, and “Kyoto Olives”: pickled olives. Any of these make for perfect souvenirs!

There is also a tasting corner, so please find your favorite pickles. Also, “Kyo Tsukemono Mori” regularly holds pickles-making events. For more information, please inquire online or make a reservation before visiting.



Randen Yokai Train

The Randen Yokai Train, which runs between Shijo-Omiya St. and Arashiyama St. in the evening during the summer *Bon Festival*, has become a tradition in Kyoto. For more information, please refer to the announcement on the Randen website(<https://www.keifuku.co.jp/>).

The Randen Yokai Train started out as a “running haunted house” event where people could just enjoy the atmosphere inside the train.

In recent years, however, it has become an established participatory summer event, where passengers are welcome to dress up as *yokai* and participate in this event, enjoying the cosplay.

At the departure station, excited passengers line up in anticipation of the train's arrival.

When the train departs, a blue-white light comes on and passengers of all ages, from children to adults, can interact with the *yokai* for about 30 minutes. Some children happily shake hands with the *yokai*, while others continue to cry and scream, no matter how much their parents try to calm them down.

These projects began in 2006 as a result of collaboration with art university students (now supported by “Hyakuyoubako” introduced in Area E's information in this guidebook) and the local community. Recently, foreign tourists have also been seen at this event, mixed in with local residents. Why not blow off the summer heat through encounters with *yokai*?



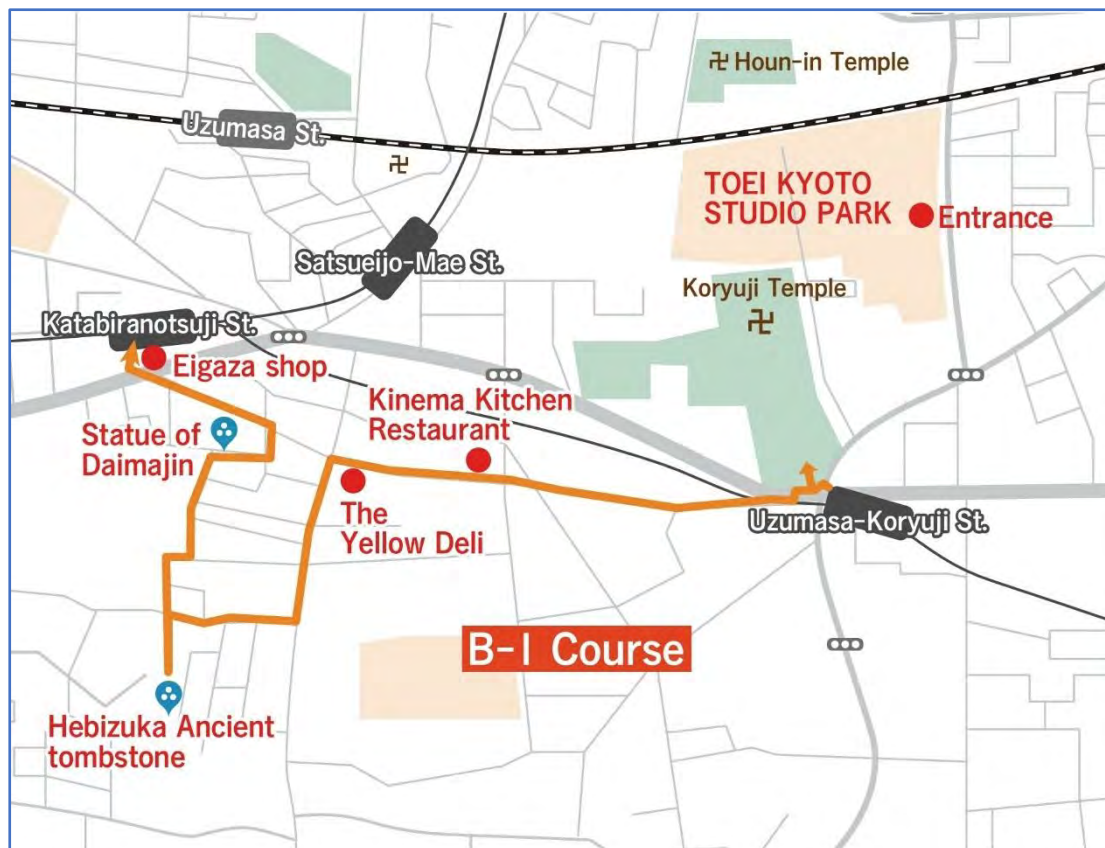


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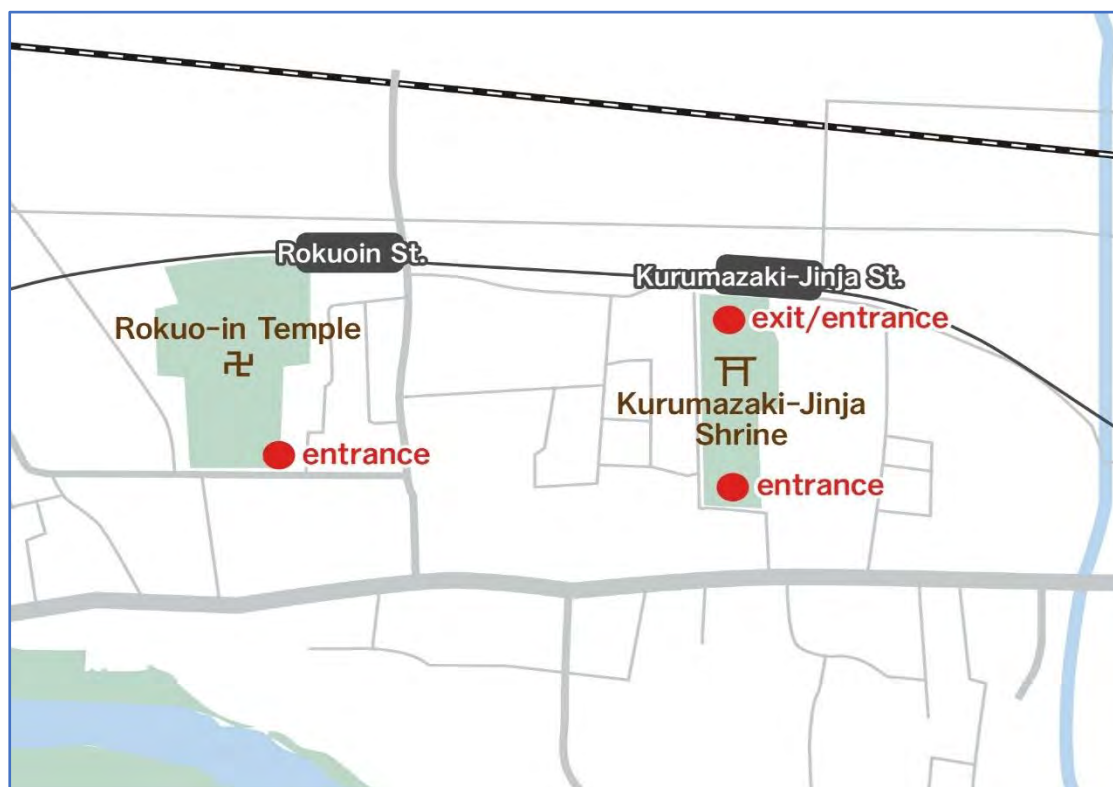
Area B (Uzumasa-Koryuji Station—Rokuo-in Station)

Map of Area B East side (From Uzumasa-Koryuji Station to Katabiranotsuji Station)



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Map of Area B West side (From Kurumazakijinja Station to Rokuo-in Station)



The station names on the Randen line are all rather unusual, and even for Japanese people they can be difficult to read. In particular, the area is home to the unusual place names of Uzumasa and Katabiranotsuji. In ancient times, before the capital was moved to Kyoto, the area was a culturally and industrially advanced region, with the immigrant Hata clan in power. During the Heian period, when Kyoto was the capital, Arashiyama became a popular spot for aristocrats to go sightseeing, and there is an old anecdote that successive emperors would travel here in ox carts to enjoy the short trip. The names “Karabiranotsuji” and “Kurumazaki” originated from such ancient events.

In modern times, Uzumasa has been called “Japan's Hollywood” and has prospered as the birthplace of Japan's film industry. Famous Japanese film studios such as Toei, Shochiku and Daiei competed with each other, and produced numerous masterpieces of Japanese cinema. In 1975, Toei Kyoto Studio Park was founded as a theme park for Japanese films. In preparation for the 50th anniversary of its opening in 2025, the park will be refurbished between 2024 and 2028, and will be upgraded as an interactive theme park. If you are interested in period films, samurai, or ninjas, Toei Kyoto Studio Park is a must-see.

In Area B, we will introduce a recommended walking route from Uzumasa-Koryuji Station to Kabiranotsuji Station. Koryu-ji Temple, which is located right next to Uzumasa-Koryuji Station, is said to be one of the oldest temples in Kyoto. After visiting the statue of Miroku Bosatsu (Maitreya) designated as Japan's first national treasure, you can take a break at the Daiei shopping street, and then head to the final destination of Kabiranotsuji Station, passing by the Hebizuka Kofun (7th century tomb), the Daimajin statue. In Area B, we will introduce other tourist spots such as Kurumazaki-jinja Shrine and Rokuo-in Temple, which are listed on the map for the west area.

Recommendation: A walking tour of ancient Kyoto and the movie town (B-1)

Uzumasa-Koryuji Station



1min walk

Koryu-ji Temple: Get off at Uzumasa-Koryuji Station and you will find Koryuji Temple right in front of you. The temple's Repository of Sacred Treasures is home to many priceless Buddhist statues, including the Miroku Bosatsu Hanka-zo which has been designated as Japan's first national treasure.

7 min walk (to Kinema Kitchen restaurant)

Daiei Shopping Street: This area is home to three of the major film studios that supported Japan's film industry. Daiei was one of them. The Kinema Kitchen restaurant displays valuable film-related materials.

9 min walk (from Kinema Kitchen)

Hebizuka Kofun (tomb): After walking south from the Daiei Street shopping arcade and into the residential area, you will come to Hebizuka Kofun. It is said to be the tomb of the Hata clan, who prospered in this area before the capital was moved to Kyoto. You need to make a reservation to see the tomb's interior.

7min walk



Daimajin Statue: When you return from the Hebizuka Kofun to the Daiei Street shopping district, in front of a supermarket, you will see the Daimajin Statue, famous from the movie “Daimajin”.



3 min walk

Kabirano-tsuji Station

There is a popular candy store called “Eikaza”.

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B-1: Detail Information of Tour of Ancient Kyoto and Movie Town Course

Koryu-ji Temple

https://ja.kyoto.travel/tourism/single01.php?category_id=7&tourism_id=284

広隆寺 – Google map

When you get off at Uzumasa-Koryuji Station, you will see the main gate of Koryu-ji Temple right in front of you. The oldest Japanese history book, the Nihon Shoki, states that Hata no Kawakatsu “received a Buddhist statue from Prince Shotoku in 603 and built Hachioka-dera (the old name of Koryu-ji Temple)”. The Hata clan were of Chinese descent and came to Japan via the Korean Peninsula. They were an important clan who introduced sericulture, weaving, sake brewing and water control technology to Japan. It is said that they served Prince Shotoku and were responsible for teaching and passing on culture and technology from the continent.



(The photo by permission of Koryu-ji Temple)

Koryu-ji Temple is also famous for its national treasure, the “Miroku Bosatsu Hanka-zo” (Maitreya Bodhisattva in the half-lotus position). The National Treasure system was introduced to Japan in 1950 under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, and the following year, it was one of the first 181 items to be designated as a National Treasure. At that time, it was registered as “Sculpture No. 1” with the serial number assigned to it. The famous German philosopher Karl Jaspers praised the statue, saying that it “expresses the highest form of human existence”.

Koryu-ji Temple has a very deep connection with Prince Shotoku. The wooden statue of Prince Shotoku that is enshrined here is displayed to the public every year on November 22nd, the day of the Prince Shotoku Fire Festival. This statue is famous for the fact that it is dressed in a yellow-dyed ceremonial robe. These robes were only worn by the Emperor during important ceremonies. The same type of clothing as that worn by the emperor has been donated to Koryu-ji by successive emperors, and is worn by this statue of Prince Shotoku.

Daiei-dori Shopping Street

[大映通り商店街 \(kinemastreet.com\)](http://kinemastreet.com) (in Japanese)

After leaving the main gate of Koryu-ji Temple, cross Sanjo-dori Street and turn right. The entrance to the Daiei-dori shopping street is on the left-hand side of the three-way junction. The Daiei-dori shopping Street has developed alongside the three major film studios in Uzumasa that support the Japanese film industry, including Toei, Daiei and Shochiku. Film studios began to be built in this area and along the Randen Kitano Line from around 1926, and the area eventually became known as the “Japan’s Hollywood”. Since then, many film crews and actors have walked through this shopping arcade. However, with the decline of Japanese film, Shochiku Kyoto Studio closed in 1965, and Daiei Kyoto Studio closed in 1986. In addition, the advance of large-scale commercial facilities in the area led to the gradual decline of the shopping street.

Over 25 years ago, the Daiei-dori Shopping Street Promotion Association began a movement to revitalize the shopping district, using the motif of “the town of movies”. The shopping district has become a focus of attention as a unique shopping district in Kyoto, with features such as the design of the pavement to look like a film reel and the design of the streetlights to resemble movie cameras. In recent years, the filming of “Kyoto Uzumasa Monogatari” (2010), directed by Yoji Yamada, has been done as a project of the College of Image Arts and Sciences at Ritsumeikan University.

Kinema Kitchen Restaurant

<https://www.facebook.com/Kinemakitchin/>

[Google map](#)

Let's take a short break at the Daiei-dori shopping street. How about visiting the Kinema Kitchen restaurant, run by a local NPO? If you're planning to have a meal, we recommend the set meal with *obanzai*, which is made using a carefully prepared broth and a generous amount of seasonal vegetables. The shop also has screening facilities, and you can browse old-fashioned projectors, movie character figurines, old movie magazines, and valuable scripts that are on display. The restaurant is also used as a popular community space for events such as talk sessions with people involved in the film industry, neighborhood association meetings, children's meetings, and gatherings of citizen groups.





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The Yellow Deli [Home - The Yellow Deli](#)

[Google map](#)



If you walk past Kinema Kitchen, you will soon come to The Yellow Deli café. This is a popular place with local residents, and it is also a good place to take a break. The Yellow Deli is a bakery café that has branches in several countries, including the US and Australia. The interior is decorated in a country style, creating a relaxing atmosphere. The bread baked in the stone oven is delicious. The flour is 100% from Hokkaido in Japan. All bread contains at least 70% whole wheat flour, and they also use ingredients and production methods that are particular about things like French Guérande salt and Hokkaido butter. They also have homemade fermented natural yeast bread that doesn't contain eggs or milk. If you turn left at the crossroads just past The Yellow Deli and move away from the Daiei-dori shopping street, the “Hebizuka Kofun” tumulus will suddenly appear in the middle of a residential area.

Hebizuka Kofun [蛇塚古墳 | 【京都市公式】京都観光 Navi \(kyoto.travel\)](#)

[Google map](#)

After enjoying a stroll through the Daiei-dori shopping street, to get to the Hebizuka Kofun tumulus, turn south at the crossroads by The Yellow Deli and walk for about 7 minutes. Surrounded by ordinary houses, you will see a large archaeological site. Built around the 7th century the stone chamber tomb is the largest in Kyoto City, with a total length of 17.8m, a burial chamber length of 6.8m, and a burial chamber width of 3.9m (the original burial mound is estimated to have been around 70m in length). It is one of the largest in Japan. Hebizuka

Kofun is thought to be the tomb of the Hata clan, a powerful family that ruled this area around the 7th century. It is protected by a fence and locked, but it is possible to open the lock and enter. The local residents have organized the “Hebizuka Kofun Preservation Society” and manage the key. When visiting the stone chamber, you must first apply by phone to the Kyoto City Cultural Properties Protection Division (075-366-1498) and receive the key to the fence from the person in charge of the local residents.

In the past, the area around the ancient burial mound was overgrown with weeds and left to fall into disrepair, and as you can see in the picture below, it became a children's playground. Since the preservation society was formed in 1990, the local residents have been working together to clean the area every week, and it has been kept beautiful and clean ever since. It is said that 3,000 to 4,000 tourists from Japan and overseas visit the site each year.



If you follow the map back to the Daiei-dori shopping street, you will find a large statue of Daimajin in front of the supermarket Fresco. Daimajin is the hero of the famous film series, “Daimajin Trilogy”. The series are in fact the first ever special effects movie produced at the Daiei Kyoto Studio in 1966. A replica of Daimajin was made for the 1999 Kyoto Film Festival, but following the festival it was lying dormant in a warehouse. At the suggestion of the chairman of the Daiei-dori Street Shopping District Promotion Association, and with the support of a Kyoto Prefecture subsidy, the statue was installed in front of the Super Fresco in 2013. The statue of 'Daimajin' is about 5 meters tall, and is made of synthetic resin, so it is surprisingly light. It is said that the statue sometimes travels to events held by Kadokawa, the successor company to Daiei, or to the front of Kyoto City Hall. When the statue of Daimajin travelled to Akita prefecture, the statue of Akita's “Namahage” was set up in its place in the shopping district. There is an interesting anecdote that tells of local children who actually were so scared they started to cry once they saw the statue of Namahage while unmoved by the statue of Daimajin.

If you walk west from the statue of Daimajin, you will soon come to the Randen Karashinotsuji Station. Go into the supermarket Fresco in the station building and walk upstairs, and you will find Eikaza, a shop that sells sweets and other small items.



Eikaza (small toy and candy store)

[Google map](#)

This is a small candy store on the second floor of the shopping center in the station building at Kabiranotsuji Station. It is a popular spot for local children. You can also see a few foreign tourists in the store. It is a very popular store because you can buy inexpensive, wonderful Japanese-style souvenirs. There is also a photo spot where a movie camera is set up in a retro Showa-style living room.

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Area B: Recommended tourist spots and event information

Toei Kyoto Studio Park

toei-eigamura.com

[Google map](#)

Toei Kyoto Studio Park is located about 8 minutes (450m) walk north from Uzumasa-Koryuji Station. To enjoy the park, it is convenient to buy an admission ticket with attraction tickets. You can also buy tickets in advance online. Kyoto Studio Park is a film theme park that opened in 1975 within the Toei Kyoto Studio. It is scheduled to be upgraded as an interactive theme park between 2025, when it will have been open for 50 years, and 2028.

Although Kyoto Studio Park is a theme park, it is also adjacent to a film studio, so if you get the chance, you can enjoy watching the filming of theatrical films and TV programs taking place on the open sets. As a theme park, there are also fun events and facilities related to film.

At the “Historical Drama Costume House”, you can choose from 24 different historical drama characters, such as princesses, maiko, Shinsengumi soldiers, and Sakamoto Ryoma, and enjoy trying on historical costumes, with the help of the professional staff who work with the props, wigs, and costumes. You can also explore the village's Edo- and Meiji-era-style photo sets for about an hour.

You can also enjoy the attractions unique to Kyoto Studio Park, such as the “Karakuri Ninja House”, “Ninja Shows”, “Oiran Processions”, and “Sword Fighting Demonstrations” by sword masters. The Haunted House, where professional actors play the roles of ghosts, is also a popular attraction with the locals, as it offers a realistic scare. You can also take photos dressed up as characters from the Pretty Cure or Kamen Rider series, making this a tourist attraction that is sure to satisfy people of all ages.



You can take photos with the staff throughout this park, and at the “Evangeliion Kyoto Base” you can even take a photo of yourself standing on the full-size Evangelion Unit-01!



©khara





Samurai experience at Toei Kyoto Studio Park

In particular, we recommend Samurai (sword fighting) experience. The “Historical Drama Costume House” has specialist staff for props, wigs and costumes. You can choose from a range of historical drama characters, such as princesses, *maiko*, Shinsengumi soldiers, and Sakamoto Ryoma, and enjoy trying on those costumes. You can also explore the park's Edo- and Meiji-era film sets, and try your hand at sword fighting under the guidance of professional actors. You are free to take photos and videos of yourselves with the actors.

Please note that Samurai experience is a seasonal event held only in spring and autumn.



[Google map](#)

On the map of the west side of Area B, there are two tourist spots. One of these is Kurumazaki-jinja Shrine, which you will find right there when you get off the vermilion-lacquered Kurumazakijinja Station platform. This shrine enshrines Kiyohara Yoriie, a Confucian scholar from the Heian period. Kiyohara Yoriie was so well-liked that he was said to be “a man whose talent should be revered as divine”, and he has been the focus of deep devotion for over 800 years as a god who “keeps peoples' promise”. About 770 years ago, when Emperor Go-Saga visited Arashiyama, the wooden part of the oxcart that was carrying the emperor, broke at the shrine gate, and since then, the story of how the shrine came to be called Kurumazaki (a broken cart)-jinja Shrine has been famous.

The fundamental concept of Shinto is that “gods reside in all things”. Here at Kurumazaki-jinja Shrine, people put their faith in stones. In the Edo period, a man picked up a stone in the precincts of the shrine, made a wish on it, and took it home. When his wish came true, he wrote a thank-you message on a replacement stone and dedicated it to the shrine. At Kurumazaki-jinja Shrine, there is a charm called “Kinen Shinseki” (Stone of Prayer), and many people follow this tradition and leave a stone offering in its place. Looking at the stone offerings that have been returned to the grounds of the shrine somehow gives us a sense of joy and gratification.

Recently, power spots have been attracting attention in Japan, and Kurumazaki-jinja Shrine is often featured in information magazines. Kurumazaki-jinja Shrine is also famous for its entertainment shrine: Geino-jinja Shrine. If you have a favorite entertainer, it would be a good idea to visit this shrine to pray for their success.



Mifune-matsuri Festival

[三船祭 | イベント一覧 | 京都府観光連盟公式サイト
\(kyoto-kankou.or.jp\)](http://kyoto-kankou.or.jp)

Mifune-matsuri Festival recreates the elegant boating enjoyed by the nobility of the Heian period. Kurumazaki-jinja Shrine holds many festivals, but the Mifune-matsuri Festival, held on the third Sunday of May every year, is particularly well-known. During the festival, Arashiyama is crowded with tourists. It is said that there are around 300 festivals in Kyoto, but the Mifune-matsuri Festival is a relatively new festival that began in 1928 to commemorate the enthronement of Emperor Showa. On the boats floating down the Ooigawa River(part of Katsura River), poetry and court music are performed.

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(Photo provided by Kurumazaki-jinja Shrine)

Another tourist spot on the map of the west side of Area B is Rokuou-in Temple, which is a 6-minute walk from Rokuou-in Station. Rokuou-in Temple was built in 1379 by Ashikaga Yoshimitsu. After he retired from his position as shogun, Yoshimitsu built the famous Kinkaku-ji Temple, but Rokuou-in Temple was built when he was still young, at the age of 22, following a dream revelation he had. The name is said to come from the fact that there were deer in the area at the time of its construction, and that Ashikaga Yoshimitsu was particularly fond of deer, which are considered auspicious in Buddhism.

At Rokuou-in, there is also a framed calligraphy art done by Ashikaga Yoshimitsu: at the entrance gate, you can see the characters “覚雄山 (Kakuouzan)”, and in the corridor by the garden, you can see the characters “鹿王院 (Rokuou-in)”. These two framed calligraphies are precious items that have been passed down to the present day, having survived the Warring States period, when most of the buildings in Kyoto were burned down. The mud wall around the entrance to the temple is also a time capsule that has survived from the time of its construction.

Travel back in time to Arashiyama 600 years ago

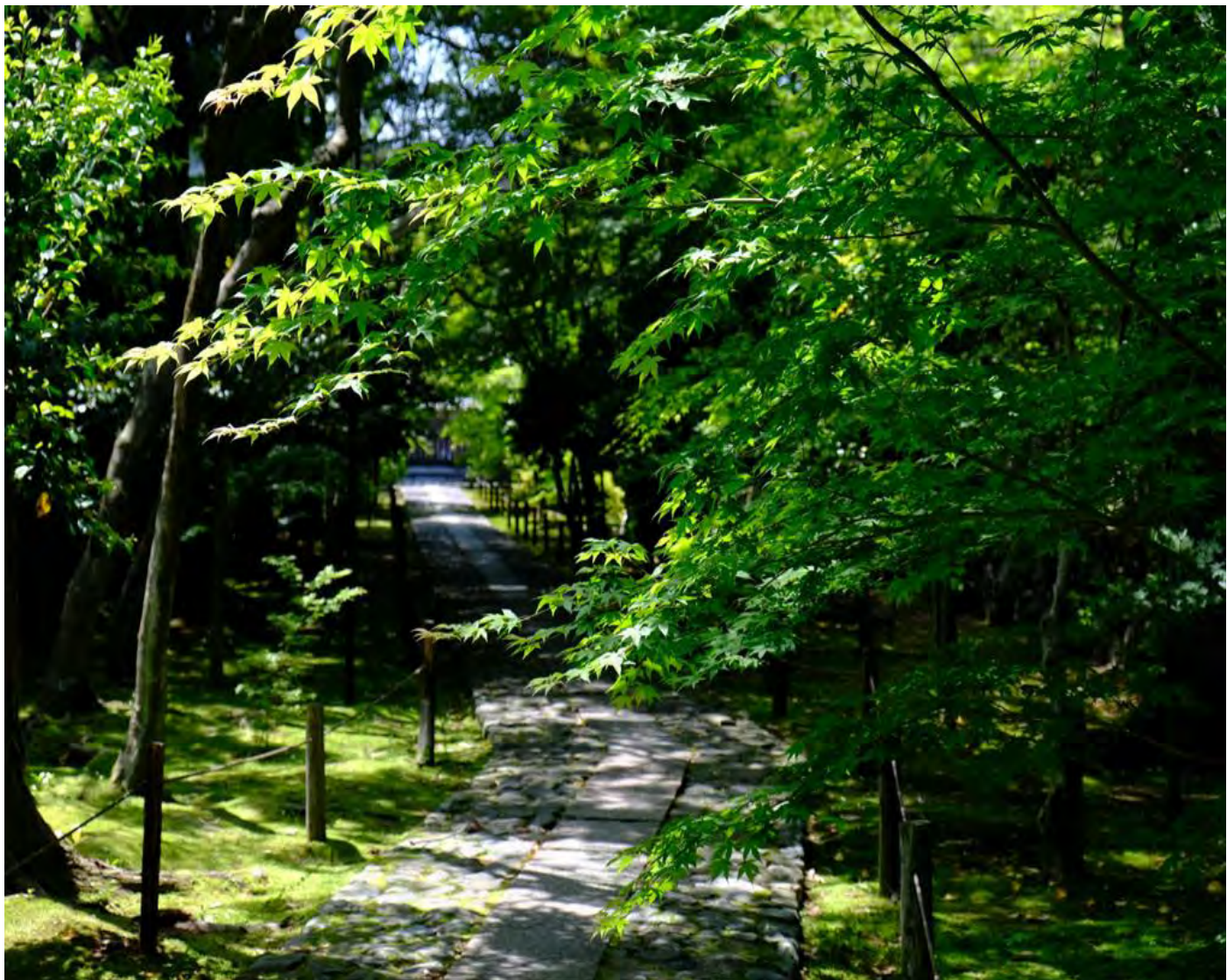
A reproduction of the Oei-Kinmei-Ezu map is on display inside the main hall. The original was created in 1426, and this reproduction was created around 1700. This is a map of the Arashiyama area from long ago, but few of the temples depicted are still in the same location today, with only seven temples still standing in the same place as they

were in the past: Rokuou-in, Tenryu-ji, Rinsen-ji, Kongo-in, Daikaku-ji, Seiryō-ji and Nison-in. The Togetsukyo Bridge was also in a different location. Try to find it on this map!

A garden that evokes the passage of time

The moss garden at Rokuou-in Temple is in the flat style of *karesansui*, which uses the scenery of Arashiyama as a backdrop. *Karesansui* (a style of garden that uses white sand to represent a flowing river) has an ancient and elegant beauty, and since it was completed, no more sand has been added. For this reason, it may seem like there is less sand than in other *karesansui* gardens, but it is precisely this effect that allows you to take your time and appreciate the passage of 600 years.





Little-known places of scenic beauty in autumn

The most attractive thing about Rokuou-in Temple is the autumnal foliage. The approach to the temple, which runs from the main gate, is lined with trees, and on a clear day you can bathe in the pleasant sunlight filtering through the leaves. The crimson autumn leaves combine with the calm atmosphere of Rokuou-in to draw us into a mysterious world that we rarely encounter in our daily lives. At this hidden autumnal beauty spot you can enjoy the autumn leaves in a relaxed and quiet atmosphere, away from the crowds of Arashiyama.



(Photos taken by Hideo Torimoto.)

Experience “good old Japan” at a women-only temple lodging

Another attraction of Rokuou-in Temple is its women-only *shukubo* accommodation. You can stay overnight at the temple and enjoy a vegetarian breakfast based on Buddhist precepts. *Shukubo* accommodation was originally used by trainee monks. Over time this has changed, and at Rokuou-in Temple, it is now a women-only facility open to tourists throughout the year. On a clear early morning, when you open the door, the fresh air and dazzling sunlight will spread out before you, with the garden of Arashiyama as a backdrop. It is truly a moment of bliss. Why not spend some time at the quiet Rokuou-in temple, leaving the world of everyday life behind and experience the “good old Japan” that will cleanse your heart? Please note that the *shukubo* experience is not available during the autumn foliage season due to the nighttime illumination.



Special evening viewing

Rokuou-in Temple holds a nighttime illumination event during the autumn foliage season. The event not only allows you to enjoy Rokuou-in Temple at night, but also gives you the chance to enjoy matcha tea and Japanese sweets. The event was held in 2023 for the first time in three years, from November 8th to December 17th. Please check the website for details such as the event dates, or contact Rokuou-in Temple directly by email.

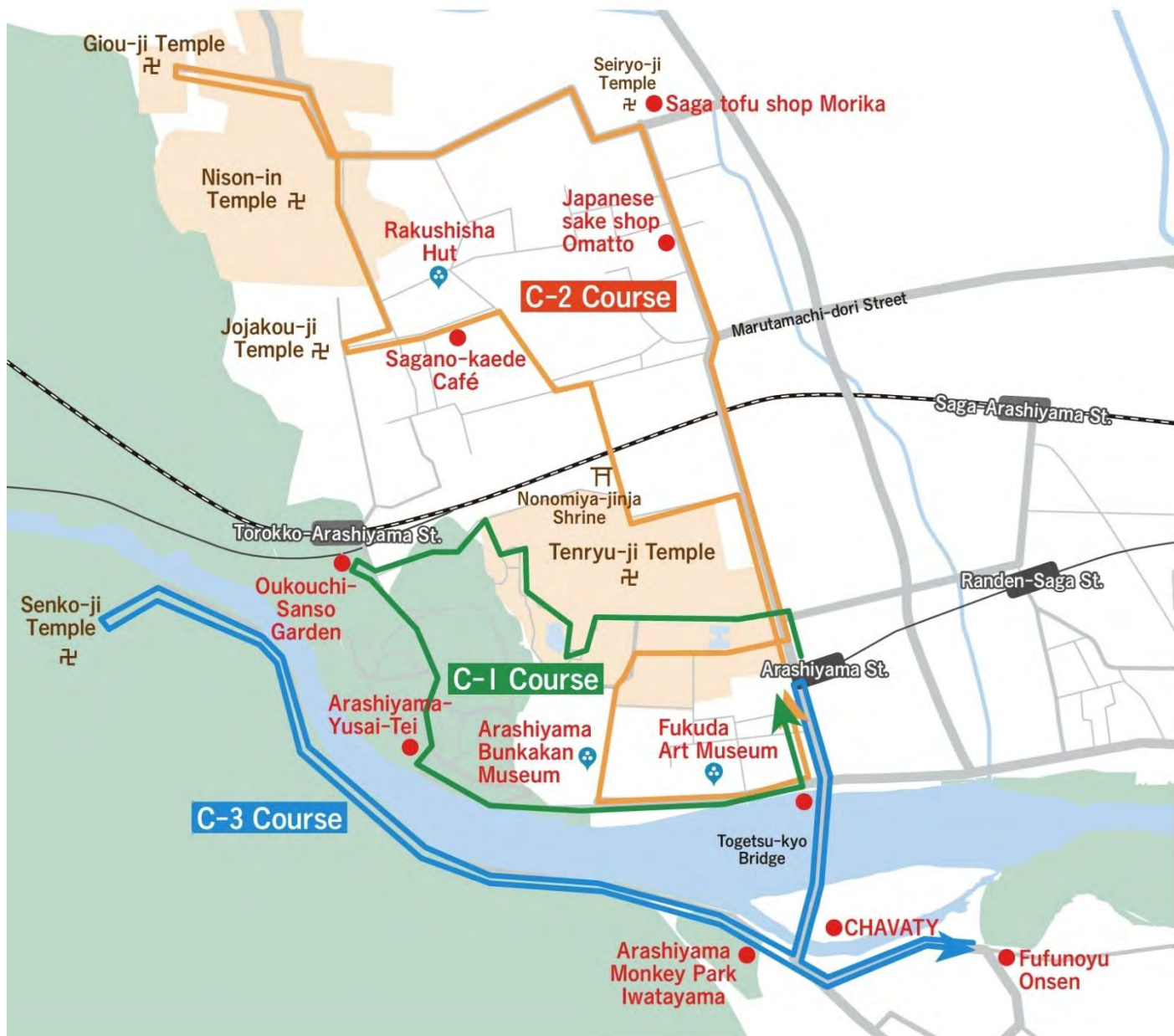




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Area C (Arashiyama Station)



Arashiyama is the most popular and enduring sightseeing spot in Kyoto. As mentioned earlier, the Randen began as a streetcar line connecting Arashiyama and Shijo-Omiya, which used to be the western gateway to Kyoto. To enjoy the Arashiyama area, which can be explored in half a day on foot starting from Arashiyama Station on the Randen Line, we propose three walking courses that delve deeply into Arashiyama. These courses focus on three different points: a/ Japanese gardens (not to be missed); b/ classical literature and art deeply associated with Arashiyama; c/ the nature.

If you would like to enjoy Arashiyama in a less crowded area, we recommend renting a bicycle from the Arashiyama Randen station.

Please refer to [the Ranbura Bicycle Rental Map](#) (created by university students). These maps also show attractive cycling courses proposed by university students. Ranbura rental bicycles come with a footbath ticket to be enjoyed at Arashiyama Station. The wind and sunlight are very pleasant in Arashiyama while riding a bicycle.

Our recommendation: 3 walking courses (C-1 C-2 C-3)

The following three courses are recommended for walking trips near train stations.

[Course C-1: A walking course to enjoy Arashiyama while visiting famous gardens](#)

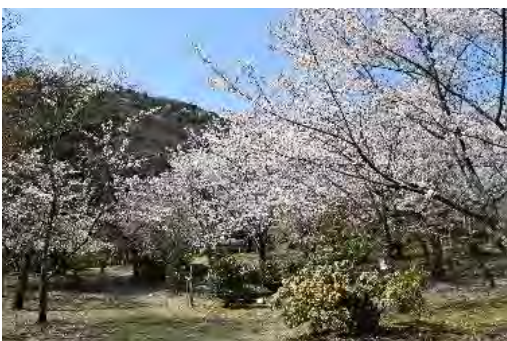
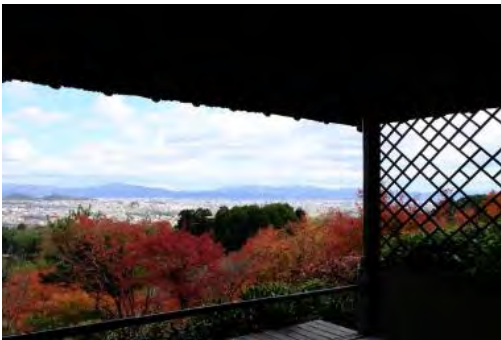
[Course C-2: A walking tour closely related to classical literature and art](#)

[Course C-3: A walking course to experience and savor the nature of Arashiyama](#)

C-1: A walking course to enjoy Arashiyama while visiting famous gardens

* We recommend starting your walk early in the morning. Arashiyama is illuminated by the morning sun earliest in Kyoto City. You can enjoy majestic views in the morning sun.

Arashiyama station



2min walk (9min to Sogenchi Garden)

Tenryu-ji Temple: Direct admission tickets to Sogenchi Garden are available at the reception booth. From the Sogenchi Garden, wander through the Hyakka-en Garden. After our visit to the temple, you can exit through the North Gate leading to the Bamboo Grove Path.

4min walk

Okouchi-sanso Villa: Okouchi-Sanso Garden has several viewpoints that are simply spectacular. Please enjoy strolling through the garden. After exiting, you will find the Kameyama Public Garden straight ahead.

2min walk

Kameyama Public Park: Admission is free. In spring, you can enjoy the cherry blossoms here, and in autumn, you can enjoy the autumn leaves of Arashiyama. Walk along the Katsura River toward Arashiyama Station, and you will

find the Fukuda Art Museum.

8min walk



Fukuda Art Museum: Rest your feet
While admiring traditional Japanese
paintings at the Fukuda Art Museum.
The garden, which can be enjoyed from
the café, with the Katsura River in the
background, will soothe your soul.

5min walk



Arashiyama station

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C-2: A walking tour closely related to classical literature and art

*The cafes, tofu shops, liquor stores and other places to drop in
along the walk route are very attractive as well.

Arashiyama station



22min walk

Jojakko-ji Temple: Passing through
Bamboo Grove Path, the road leading to
Jojakko-ji Temple is lined with very
picturesque scenery. We recommend
you stop by the “Sagano Kaede Café ” on
the way.



5min walk



Rakushisha Hut: On the way to Gio-ji Temple, we will stop by Rakushisha. This is a thatched hut built as a villa by Kyorai, a disciple of Basho, the master of *haiku*. Why not try composing a *haiku* poem here, at the holy place of *haiku*?



22min walk

Gio-ji Temple: Gio-ji Temple is a sight where Gio, who appears in the Heike Monogatari (Tale of the Heike), a classic of medieval literature, took refuge after being disappointed in love. It stands at the foot of Mt. Ogura, along with Jojakko-ji Temple. The beautiful moss garden is a must-see.



19min walk

Saga Tofu "Morika": From Gio-ji Temple, head towards Seiryō-ji Temple and then back towards the Arashiyama Station on the Randen Line. Along the way, you will pass Saga Tofu "Morika" and the "Omatto" sake shop, where you can get local sake.

Go through the main gate of Tenryū-ji Temple and take a shortcut to the Saga Arashiyama Museum of Arts and Culture.



25min walk



Saga Arashiyama Museum of Arts and Culture: This is a museum themed around the Ogura Hyakunin Isshu. The cafe in the museum is also recommended.

11min walk



Arashiyama Station

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C-3: A walking course to experience and savor the nature of Arashiyama

* Please take your time and enjoy strolling through the nature of Arashiyama.

Arashiyama



4min walk

Togetsu-kyo Bridge: From Arashiyama Station on the Randen line, head towards Togetsu-kyo Bridge and cross to the other side. On the way across the bridge, take a moment to enjoy the spectacular view of Arashiyama. After crossing Togetsu-kyo Bridge, cross another smaller bridge.

12min walk





Arashiyama Station

Arashiyama Monkey Park: On the other side of the river, turn right and you will see a sign for the entrance to “Arashiyama Monkey Park”. Climb the mountain path to reach the park. You can observe wild Japanese Monkey.

8min walk

Arashiyama Tsusen Boat: From Monkey Park, return to the Katsura-gawa River and you will soon come to the south boarding area for the Arashiyama Tsusen Boat. The view of Arashiyama from the boat is very special. Get off the boat and head upstream along the small road.

20min walk

Daihikaku Senko-ji Temple: This area offers a quieter riverside walk than the area around Arashiyama Station. Soon you will come to a sign for the entrance to Senko-ji Temple. The Senko-ji Temple is located at the end of the mountain path.

30min walk

Fufu-no-Yu Onsen: Let's heal the fatigue of your trip at a hot spring. You can take a relaxing soak in the hot water from the hot spring source. It is truly a blissful time where body and soul are enveloped by nature.

13min walk

C-1: Detailed information on a walking course to enjoy Arashiyama while visiting famous gardens

Tenryu-ji Temple [World Heritage | 天龍寺 \(tenryuji.com\)](https://www.tenryuji.com/)

[Google map](#)

Exit Arashiyama Station, cross the pedestrian crossing and turn right, you will be in front of the Tenryu-ji Temple gate. The temple is the head temple of the Tenryu-ji School of the Rinzai Sect of Zen Buddhism, and is recognized as a World Heritage Site. The temple is famous for its Sogenchi Garden, the first garden in Japan to be designated as a Historic Site and Special Place of Scenic Beauty.

Tenryu-ji Temple was founded in 1339 by Ashikaga Taka-uji. At that time, Tenryu-ji Temple boasted an area about 10 times larger than it is today. However, due to eight different conflagrations, no buildings remain from the time of its foundation.

Every night, from 9:00 p.m., the monks of Tenryu-ji Temple have a mandatory practice. This is called Ya-za: meditation facing Sogenchi Garden. The trainee monks sit in zazen in the zendo of the training hall from 5pm, and then from 9pm for about two hours they sit in zazen facing the Sogenchi Garden on the veranda of Daihoujou hall. This is called “yaza”.

That is why Tenryu-ji Temple does not hold nighttime lighting events. During this time, monks are engaged in rigorous ascetic training.

Instead, early in the morning, tourists can enjoy the serenity of this famous garden. Arashiyama is the first place in Kyoto where the morning sun rises. Enjoy the majestic moment illuminated by the morning sun.

Sogenchi Garden

Sogenchi Garden is a famous garden created by Soseki Muso at the time of the construction of Tenryu-ji Temple. Facing this garden, Soseki Muso aimed to calm the mind and train the spirit by becoming one with nature.

During the Corona pandemic, Tenryu-ji Temple made a decision never to close its gates to visitors. A frequent visitor to Tenryu-ji said, “When I look at the Sogenchi Garden, tears naturally well up in my eyes and my painful feelings are washed away. Zen priest Shusei Ogawa, who has been training monks for a long time here, said that these words made him realize once again the ideas that Muso Soseki had put into this garden.



In the winter of 2023, Zen priest Ogawa showed us photos of Tenryu-ji monks practicing the ascetic practice of begging for alms (going around the city with a bowl to receive alms) in bare feet and straw sandals, even in the snow. Zen priest Ogawa explained that Tenryu-ji Temple is a strict ascetic training center for monks.



The beauty of the garden with Arashiyama in the background is enhanced during the autumn foliage season, when the leaves begin to change color from October, and the three colors of yellow, green, and ripe red leaves can be enjoyed.

Peak foliage season is from mid-November to early December. During the fall foliage season, the gates open at 7:30 a.m. instead of the usual 8:30 a.m., so “early morning visit” is recommended.

At the far northern end of the Sogenchi Garden is the Hyakka-en Garden. After enjoying this garden, visitors can exit Tenryu-ji Temple through the north gate at the northwest end of the temple and pass through a small path in the bamboo grove.



Following the path through the bamboo grove on the left, you will come to the Okouchi-sanso Garden. This is a strolling garden that was built by the great Japanese actor Denjiro Okouchi over a period of 30 years from 1931 until his death. Mr. Okouchi is famous for his roles in period dramas in Japanese film history.

As you walk through this garden, surrounded by the wonderful natural environment, you can feel Okouchi's love for Arashiyama. If you follow the arrows as you walk through the garden, you will truly understand the saying "the scenery changes with every step". Each tree has been carefully tended to, and the leaves of different heights and colors blend together as a whole. The garden blends beautifully with the surrounding scenery, and you feel as if you are walking through a painting.



As you would expect, Okouchi was captivated by the scenery of Arashiyama, and over the course of roughly 30 years, he carefully and painstakingly created this garden. There are cherry trees, maple trees and pine trees planted here and there, and it really does have the feel of a natural mountain path. From Gekkotei, you can enjoy a wonderful view of Hiei-zan Mountain and the Kyoto cityscape in the background. From the Arashiyama Observation Deck at the summit, you can see the Hozu-gawa River and Arashiyama in all its glory. During the autumn foliage season, the colorful curtains of the Daihikaku Senko-ji Temple, the autumn leaves and the green leaves all come together to create a beautiful scene that looks like a palette of paints being spread out.

Okochi built a “Jibutsu-do” (a small house for a private Buddhist statue) here, and spent his days reading Buddhist scriptures and chanting “Namu Amida Butsu” (=I sincerely believe in Amitabha) morning and evening. Stories like this further cleanse our hearts.







If you leave the Okouchi-sanso Garden and continue straight ahead, you will come to a park, called Kameyama Park. It is a Kyoto Prefectural park.

Kameyama Park was developed as a park at the end of the Meiji era. On the hills that make up the south-eastern part of Mt. Ogura, Japanese red pine trees were planted along with cherry blossoms, maples, and Japanese azaleas. There are paths that lead in all directions, as well as open spaces, rest areas, observation decks, and playgrounds for children. The western side of the park offers an excellent view of the Hozu-kyo Gorge.

The Emperor Kameyama, after whom this park is named, was the 90th emperor of Japan, and the location of his imperial villa, Kameyama-den, became Tenryu-ji Temple. This park is a famous place for cherry blossoms and autumn leaves, and has been selected as one of the “100 Best Places to View Cherry Blossoms in Japan” and “100 Best Places to View Autumn Leaves in Japan”. The Nakanoshima area of Arashiyama Park is planted with cherry blossoms and pine trees.





(There is a stone monument with a poem that Zhou Enlai read as a young man on Arashiyama, erected in 1979 to commemorate the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty).



(There is a statue of Suminokura Ryo-i, a wealthy merchant from Kyoto who invested his own money to open up the Ooigawa River (Katsura River) in 1608.)

[Fukuda Art Museum](#)

fukuda-art-museum.jp

[Google map](#)

The Fukuda Art Museum has a collection of more than 2,500 works by major Japanese painters from the Edo period to the modern era.

The concept of the museum is "to present a collection of works that will impress even those who are not familiar with art," and visitors can view a variety of works from the Kyoto art world.

The Fukuda Art Museum building incorporates the characteristics of traditional Kyoto townhouses called *Machiya*, while also aiming to blend in with the surrounding scenery. The museum features a modern Japanese exterior that makes full use of materials such as metal and glass. The interior also incorporates Japanese elements in various places, such as the exhibition rooms, which are designed to resemble traditional storehouses (*Kura*), the verandah-like corridors (*Engawa*), and the glass-covered wall, which incorporates an *Ajiro* pattern design. In the garden, a large water basin has been created, and together with the seasonal flowers and plants, planted as *ikebana*, a beautiful landscape spreads out, with Arashiyama as the borrowed scenery.





From the cafe, which is only open to visitors, you can enjoy a 180-degree panoramic view of the garden, which features the Katsura-gawa River, Togetsu-kyo Bridge and Arashiyama in the background, while enjoying a light meal or a drink. There is also a shop in the museum, where you can buy original goods featuring motifs from the museum's collection, as well as craftwork by artists with connections to Kyoto.

After leaving the Fukuda Art Museum, walk back to Arashiyama Station where you can take a footbath to relieve fatigue !



[Back to C-Area Course List](#)

C-2: A walking tour of spots closely related to classical literature and art

Bamboo grove path

[Google map](#)

After leaving Arashiyama Station on the Randen line, cross the pedestrian crossing, turn right, and after walking for about 300 meters, turn left and you will find the Bamboo Grove Path. Along the way, you will see Nonomiya-jinja Shrine on your left as you walk north along the path through the bamboo grove. This shrine appears in the “Katagi no maki” chapter of Murasaki Shikibu's masterpiece of Japanese literature, “Tale of Genji”, which was written in 1008 during the Heian period.

By the way, the black wooden *torii* gate made from oak wood at Nomiya-jinja Shrine is the oldest style of *torii* gates in Japan. Nomiya-jinja Shrine is a popular power spot for women as a god of love.

Keep walking past Saga Children's Park on your right, and turn left after checking the map to find Jojakko-ji Temple.

Jojakko-ji Temple [常寂光寺 JOJAKKO-JI](#) – (in Japanese)

[Google map](#)

This Nichiren sect temple is located on the side of Mt. Ogura and is famous for its spectacular views of Kyoto City and Mt. Hiei. Near the temple gate, there is a stone monument that reads “The place where the Ogura Hyakunin Isshu anthology was compiled”. The mountain path that leads from the temple gate to the Nioh Gate and the main hall becomes a tunnel of about 200 colored maple trees in autumn. At the “Kasen-shi” shrine, there are wooden statues of Fujiwara Sadaie

and Fujiwara letaka. The popular name “Ogura Hyakunin Isshu (a famous collection of 100 waka poems by 100 different poets)” has become established because of the origin of the anthology, which Sadaie compiled near Mt. Ogura.



After passing through the reception area, you will find the Nioh-mon Gate, which is surrounded by green leaves in summer and red leaves in autumn. If you climb the stairs and look back at the Nioh-mon Gate, you will see a beautiful view and the imposing figure of the gate. If you

continue climbing the stairs, you will come to the main hall, which was moved from the guest hall of the Momoyama-jo Castle. Continue up the stairs and you will come to a beautiful, well-proportioned pagoda called the “Taho-to” tower which is about 12 meters high. This is a great spot from which to enjoy a panoramic view of the Saga area.

In the Hyakunin Isshu poem, it is sung, “*Ogurayama Mine no momijiba Kokoro araba Ima hitotabi no Miyuki matanamu*. ‘If the maple leaves on Mt. Ogura had hearts, I'd like to make them to be as beautiful as they are until next Emperor's pilgrimage’.” The maple leaves here have attracted many Japanese people since the ancient times. *Hyakunin Isshu* is now popular around the world as a sport called “competitive karuta”. For more information, please see [the All Japan Karuta Association \(karuta.or.jp\)](http://the All Japan Karuta Association (karuta.or.jp)).





[Google map](#)

Haiku is the world's shortest form of poetry. Matsuo Basho is the person who developed *haiku* to the level of art. Rakushisha is a thatched hut in Sagano that was built by his disciple, Mukai Kyorai, and is registered as a tangible cultural property of Japan. The name comes from the fact that 40 persimmons in the garden fell to the ground overnight. Kyorai's grave is nearby. It is a cute old house like the ones you see in Japanese folk tales.

Basho visited this hut three times and wrote his 'Saga-nikki Diary' here. Inside Rakushisha, there are various stone monuments inscribed with *haiku*. In addition to those by Kyorai, there are many by Basho and other *haiku* poets, so please take your time to appreciate them. Also, the *haiku* submission box at the 'Haiku Dojo Rakushisha' is well known, and you can actually submit a *haiku* of your own. Selected *haiku* poems will be published in the quarterly magazine “Rakushisha”. Why not make a *haiku* to remember your trip by?





Giou-ji Temple [祇王寺 \(giouji.or.jp\)](http://giouji.or.jp)

[Google map](#)

From Rakushisha, walk back along the same road, turn right, and walk about 550m to find Giou-ji Temple. This is the place where Giou, a female entertainer who appears in the classic medieval Japanese literature “Tale of the Heike”, entered the Buddhist priesthood and

lived in hiding. It is also famous for its beautiful moss garden.

At the end of the Heian period, the samurai began to gain power. Giou was taken under the wing of Taira no Kiyomori, who wielded power as the samurai leader, but his favor did not last long. From the sadness of her lost love, Giou, along with her younger sister Kijo and mother Toji, became nuns and took refuge here. There is a grave in the corner of the grounds to commemorate them. In the hall, there are wooden statues of Kiyomori, Giou, Kijo, and Hotokegozen, who became rivals in love, all lined up and enshrined together.





From Giou-ji temple, walk back along the same road, turn left and head towards Seiryō-ji ([Seiryōji \(Saga Shakado\) - Google Maps](#)). Seiryō-ji Temple was the location of the villa of Minamoto no Toru, who is said to have been the model for the main character of the Tale of Genji, Prince Hikaru Genji. After his death, the villa was turned into a temple. In the Hyakunin Isshu, Minamoto no Toru is referred to as Kawahara no Sadaijin, and his waka poems are included in the anthology. The grave of Minamoto no Toru is also located at Seiryō-ji Temple.

After passing the main gate of Seiryō-ji Temple, you will find the famous tofu shop Morika on your left after about 50 meters.

Saga Tofu Shop MORIKA

[嵯峨豆腐森嘉\(sagatofu-morika.co.jp\)](http://sagatofu-morika.co.jp)

[Google map](#)

Local foodies say that when it comes to tofu, it's all about Saga Tofu Morika. Moriya is a long-established tofu shop with a history of over 150 years, and it is a famous tofu shop with a long history that even appears in the novel “Koto” by a Nobel Prize-winning author Yasunari Kawabata. It is said that whether or not you can tell the difference in tofu is a testament to your sensitivity to Kyoto culture. Why not give it a try? Take out not only tofu, but also fried tofu and fried bean curd cakes, and try them with your favorite seasoning, such as soy sauce or salt.





Sake store Omattou 「おまっとう」 (kyotoomatto.official.ec)

[Google map](#)

Omattou is a long-established *sake* shop that sells Kyoto's local *sake*. Over its long history of 200 years, it has been delivering the best *sake* to us with its discerning eye. In addition to Kyoto's *sake*, it also sells carefully selected *sake* and *shochu* from all over Japan, so you can compare a lot of *sake* and choose the one that suits you best.



The restaurant across the street has a sake tasting menu.

If you walk straight for 600m after leaving Omatto, you will return to the main gate of Tenryu-ji Temple. If you turn left after entering Tenryu-ji Temple, you can reach Saga Arashiyama Museum of Arts and Culture by a short cut.

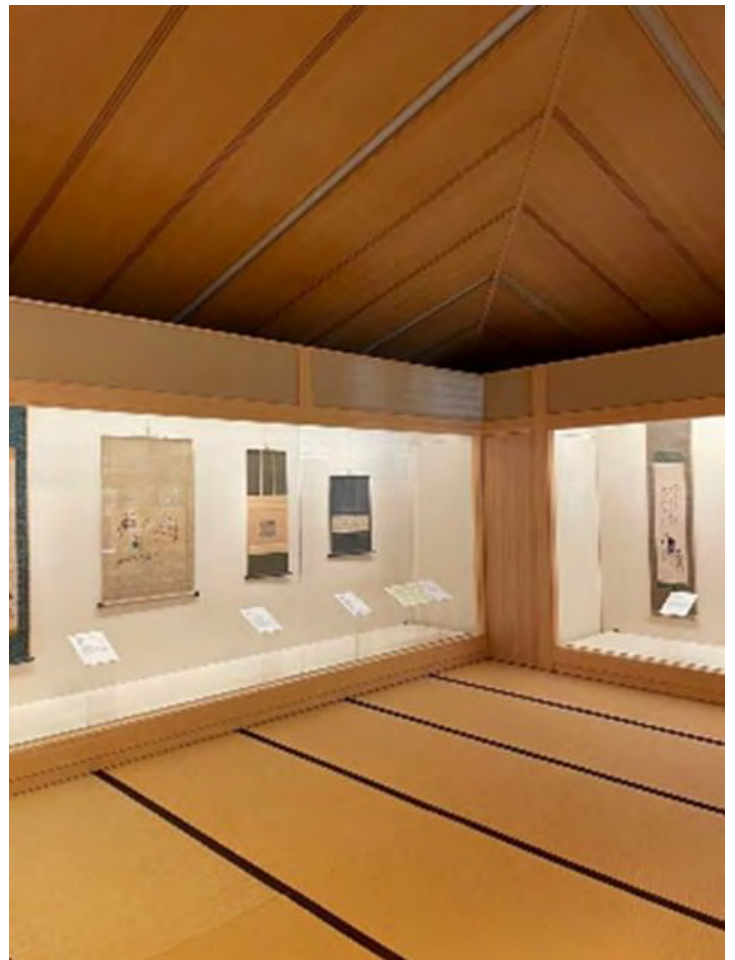
Saga Arashiyama Museum of Arts and Culture

[嵯峨嵐山文華館 \(samac.jp\)](http://samac.jp)

[Google map](#)

Saga Arashiyama Museum of Arts and Culture is the only museum in Japan dedicated to the Ogura Hyakunin Isshu poetry anthology and Japanese painting, and was established to promote the revival of arts and culture associated with Kyoto. In addition to the permanent exhibition of Hyakunin Isshu, there are also four special exhibitions a year. In the permanent exhibition of waka poems, all the poems are translated into English, so you can get a feel for the waka poems. Interestingly, the figures of the poets are also displayed together.

In addition, the second floor tatami mat gallery hosts special exhibitions. The Japanese paintings on display in the 200m² room are truly spectacular. Here, you can sit down on the tatami and enjoy the exhibits. The content of the experience will differ depending on the special exhibition, but you can try things like writing haiku poems or coloring in artwork.



In addition to the gallery, the museum also has a museum shop and cafe. Even if you are not a museum visitor, you can enjoy the cafe, a great place to rest while taking in the view of Arashiyama.



After leaving Saga Arashiyama Museum of Arts and Culture, turn right and you will hit the Katsura-gawa River. If you continue left along the river, you will soon come to the Togetsu-kyo Bridge. Turn left and walk along the Arashiyama Station shopping street which will take you to Randen Arashiyama Station.

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C-3: A walking course to experience and savor the nature of Arashiyama

Togetsu-kyo Bridge

[Google map](#)

After leaving Arashiyama Station on the Randen line, cross the pedestrian crossing, turn left and follow the shopping street until you come to the Katsura-gawa River. Immediately right in front is the Togetsu-kyo Bridge, the symbol of Arashiyama. It is said that the bridge got its name from the poem that Emperor Kameyama (1249-1305) composed when he was a retired emperor, after watching the moon slowly moving across the bridge.

When Heian-kyo (the former name of Kyoto) was founded, a bridge was built, but the location of that bridge was different from its present location. This area was prone to flooding, and the bridge was often washed away. In the great war known as the Onin-no-ran War, which lasted between 1467 and 1477, the capital of Kyoto was almost completely destroyed by fire, and the bridge also burned down.

In 1606, Suminokura Ryo-i, a wealthy Kyoto merchant, invested his private fortune in flood control works, equivalent to about 15 billion yen today. The scenery of Arashiyama today is the result of the efforts of our predecessors. Goods such as rice, salt and lumber, which until then could only be transported by raft, could now be transported by boat. During the flood control works, the bridge was moved to its current location. The current Togetsu-kyo Bridge was built in 1934 using reinforced concrete, and has not been washed away since.

Cross the Togetsu-kyo Bridge, enjoying the scenery on either side, and cross another bridge to get to the other side of the Katsura-gawa River. At the end of the bridge, turn right onto a small road and go up the slope to reach the entrance to Arashiyama Monkey Park.



Arashiyama Monkey Park [嵐山モンキーパーク \(monkeypark.jp\)](http://monkeypark.jp)

[Google map](#)

At Arashiyama Monkey Park, around 120 Japanese monkeys live in the wild. The hiking course to the mountain top rest area, where the monkeys gather, takes about 20 minutes. You should probably allow about 30 minutes for the actual experience. In addition, there are some steep slopes and winding paths, so it is best to avoid high heels and sandals.

A long slide is located in the popular playground at the top of the mountain road, a place where visitors can have fun even after interacting with the monkeys.

At the Monkey Park, you are allowed to feed the monkeys. You can buy food such as bananas, apples and peanuts for around 100 yen per bag. The food is given to the monkeys outside the cage through a metal mesh, while we enter the cage to feed them. If you go up to the observation deck, you can enjoy the view of Kyoto city with the

monkeys. If you ask the staff, you can also take a photo with the monkeys. Please be careful not to get too close to the monkeys, as you will be warned not to do so.



Arashiyama Tsusen Boat (South Pier)

[嵐山屋形船 | 嵐山通船 \(arashiyama-yakatabune.com\)](http://arashiyama-yakatabune.com) (in Japanese)

[Google map](#)

The boats operate upstream from the Togetsu-kyo Bridge, and depart from the riverbank. The boatman uses a long pole to guide the boat upstream along the gently flowing river, and after enjoying the nature of Arashiyama as you make your way upstream to near Senko-ji Temple, you will return at a leisurely pace. The scenery you see from the boat (cherry blossoms in spring, colored leaves in autumn) is different from the view from the Togetsu-kyo Bridge, and is exceptional. The *yakatabune* boats can accommodate smaller groups, are perfect for families and couples, and you can spend a relaxing time listening to the boatman's stories. Furthermore, rowing boats are also available for short-term hire. Please enjoy a relaxing time.

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From the Arashiyama-tsusen Boat South Pier, walk along the path for about 1 km upstream. The tranquil atmosphere is a complete change from the hustle and bustle of the area near Arashiyama Station, and you can calm your mind in this peaceful place. From the path, walk up the steep slope to reach Senko-ji Temple.

Senko-ji Temple was built by Suminokura Ryo-i as a commemoration site for the people who lost their lives while working on the flood control projects in this area. From the Daihikaku building in the precincts, you can see not only Arashiyama but also the city of Kyoto. Matsuo Basho, a famous *haiku* poet from the Edo period, composed the *haiku* “*Hanano yama ni chou agareba Daihikaku*” (Enjoying the mountain of flowers, we step up for a while to reach Daihikaku). After passing through the reception area, you will see a wooden statue of Suminokura Ryo-i, where anyone can offer incense and pray.





We should be grateful that the magnificent view of Arashiyama that we have today is thanks to the blood and sweat of our predecessors who worked on the flood control of the Katsura River, enjoying the magnificent view from here.

Fufu-no-Yu Onsen

[共立リゾート\(dormy-hotels.com\)](http://dormy-hotels.com)

[Google map](#)

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From Senko-ji Temple, walk back the way you came to Togetsu-kyo Bridge, and after walking about 300m, you will see a sign for “Arashiyama Onsen Fufu-no-yu”. Turn left at this point and you will find the entrance.

This is a hot spring facility located at the source of the Arashiyama hot spring. It is a popular spot for relaxation where you can refresh yourself after having enjoyed the sights of Arashiyama. The hot spring is very popular because it is only a 2min walk from Hankyu Arashiyama Station, as it is very easy to access from the station.

In addition to towels for sale and for rental, the reception area also has a full range of amenities. The bathroom is also equipped with shampoo and other toiletries, so you can drop in without any preparation. For information on Japanese bath etiquette, please refer to the “[Information on unique customs such as how to take a bath](#)” in the “Useful links for emergencies and other problems” section of this guidebook.

The hot spring water is slightly alkaline, and is said to have a beautifying effect on the skin. The open-air baths allow you to relax while feeling the pleasant natural breeze on your skin, and the indoor baths are fully equipped with an Arashiyama hot spring bath, a cold

bath, a silky bath, and a dry sauna. The women's baths also have a mist sauna where the steam warms your body. In addition, foot massage is available at the relaxation facilities in the building. Please spend some relaxing time in the Japanese-style space.





(These photos are provided by Fufu-no-Yu)

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Area C: Recommended Sightseeing Spots

Dyeing experience @ Yusai-tei [【公式】 嵐山 祐斎亭 \(yusai.kyoto\)](#)

[Google map](#)

Yusaitei is a dyeing art gallery created by the dyeing artist Okuda Yusai based on the concept of “beautiful Japan”. Yusaitei is a 150-year-old Meiji-era building located on the site of the former Kameyama Palace, a villa of the retired Emperor Kameyama. It was originally a Japanese-style inn called Chidori, and is also known as the place where Kawabata Yasunari stayed and wrote his novel “Yama no Oto”.

This dyeing art gallery displays the works of Yusai, who has created a unique style of expression that is unmatched anywhere in the world and is highly acclaimed.

In particular, the unique dyeing technique of *Yumekouro-zome*, which makes garments change color in sunlight, is both elegant and unique. *Yumekouro-zome* is a dyeing technique that was discovered through research into the dyeing of the garments put on the statue of Prince Shotoku at Koryu-ji Temple (the same garments worn by the Emperor at his enthronement). When the yellow-dyed garments are exposed to sunlight, they take on a reddish hue, changing color as if they were the sun itself. This mysterious feature probably served to enhance the nobility of the emperor. Okuda Yusai has thus managed to bring these ancient dyeing methods back to life in the modern age.

After viewing the Yumekouro Zome works, you can receive personal instruction from a skilled dyeing artist and try your hand at dyeing your own original scarf (100% silk, 45cm x 180cm). The finished scarf will be sent to you at a later date. This is a very luxurious experience program that can only be enjoyed at Yusaitei Gallery. Please be sure to

make a reservation in advance via the website and give it a try.



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Zen meditation experience at Tenryu-ji Temple

[行事案内：天龍寺 \(tenryuji.com\)](http://tenryuji.com)

[Google map](#)

At Tenryu-ji Temple, zen meditation is held in a building called “Yu-un-an” on the second Sunday of every month between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. There is no charge to participate, and you can try it without a reservation. However, please note that it is closed in February, July and August. You can do *zazen* in the same place where the trainee monks practice *zazen* every day at Tenryu-ji Temple, therefore it would be a very unique and valuable experience.

There are also foreigners participating. The *zazen* is taught only in Japanese though. Even for a Chinese student who has lived in Japan for more than two years, there were some unknown Buddhist terms. I imitated the movements of the regular participants sitting next to me. The instructor gave me careful guidance and corrected my incorrect posture.

I understood that the key to *zazen* is to regulate the state of the body and mind by breathing correctly. Not counting the first five minutes of instruction and the five-minute break in the middle, the actual *zazen* time took 50 minutes. I couldn't imagine at first that I would be sitting in the same position for nearly an hour. My legs did get a little numb, but I didn't feel tired at all. On the contrary, I felt that my mind and body were filled with energy, and that my mood had become calm and I had gained vitality. It was a valuable time in which I was able to experience a little of the essence of Zen Buddhism.

Arashiyama Onsen "Station Footbath"

Arashiyama Onsen is known for its ability to relieve fatigue, improve neuralgia, and promote good health. The hot spring water is delivered to the Onsen at the affiliated *ryokans* (Japanese inn) and the platform of Randen Arashiyama Station. The fee for using the “station footbath” is around 200 yen, and it also comes with an original towel that you can take home. The water is at a high temperature, so it will warm you up even in winter.

You can enjoy a footbath while looking at the “Kimono Forest”, a forest of around 600 poles decorated with *Yuzen* dyed cloth. The sight will soothe the tiredness in your feet from walking around all day sightseeing in Arashiyama. Please purchase a ticket (with a towel) at the information center in the Arashiyama Station building.



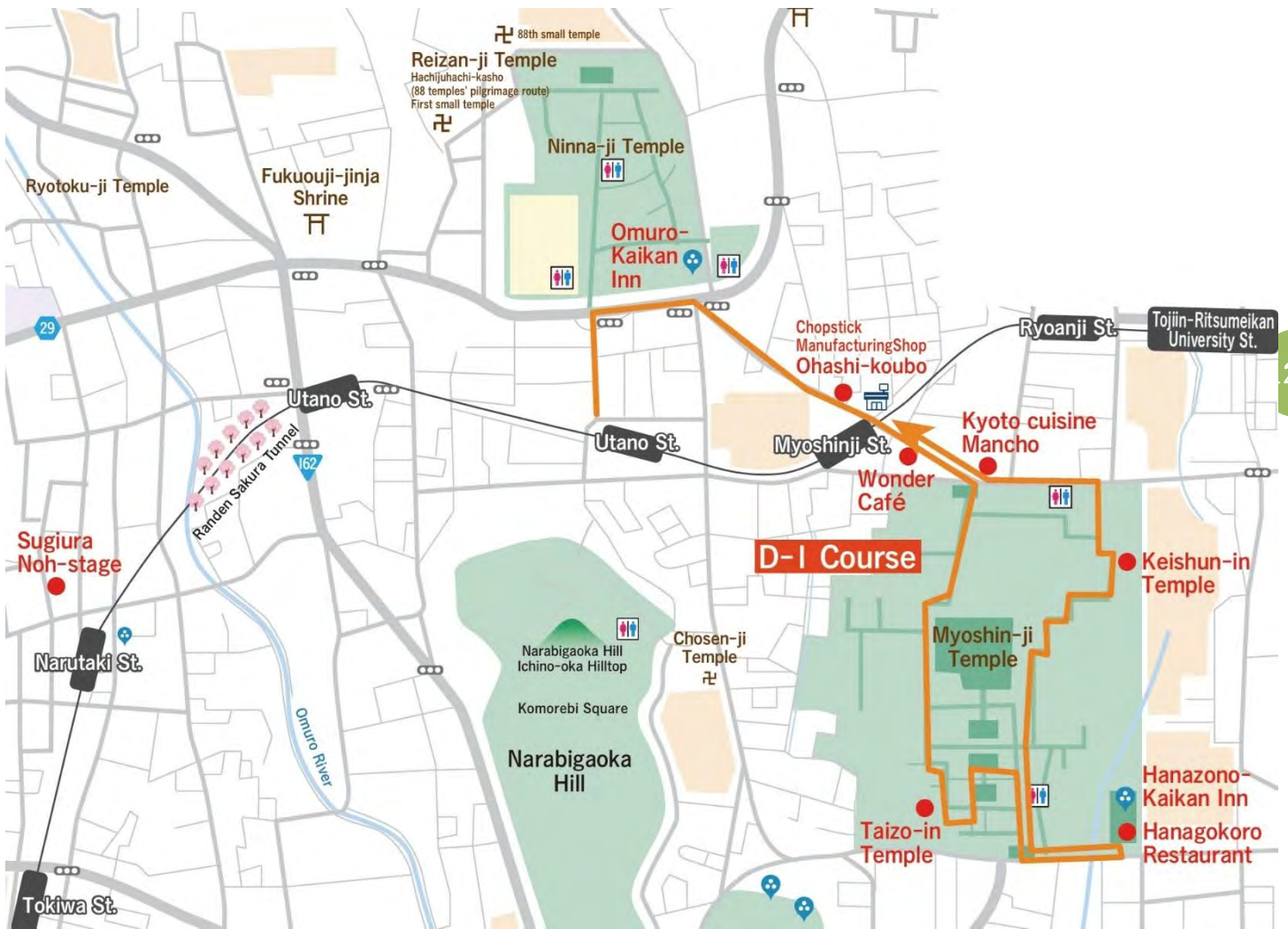


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Area D (Myoshin-ji Station — Narutaki Station)



Along the Randen Kitano Line (between Kabiranotsuji Station and Kitano-Hakubaicho Station), there are three temples that were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1994. The World Heritage Site in Area D is Ninna-ji Temple. Why not take a stroll to visit two ancient temples, Ninna-ji, the head temple of the Omuro sect of Shingon Buddhism, and Myoshin-ji, the head temple of the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism? Although they belong to different sects, both temples are training and educational centers where young monks still engage in rigorous training.

This walking tour takes you to two ancient temples, where you can experience the essence of Buddhism that continues to live in Japan today. The other tourist spots in the area worth visiting include the Sugiura Noh Butai, where you can experience the traditional Japanese performing art of Noh up close, and the 88 Temples Pilgrimage, where you can enjoy a walk along a scenic mountain path while experiencing Buddhist culture. In spring, the Omuro cherry blossoms at Ninna-ji Temple have been a famous spot since the Edo period. In addition, the area between Narutaki Station and Utano Station is famous as the “Arashiyama Cherry Blossom Tunnel”, where you can enjoy the cherry blossoms in spring. Along the walking course, there are many unique shops, such as the Chopstick shop, where you can have custom-made chopsticks made to fit your hands perfectly, and the Wonder Cafe, where you can enjoy the atmosphere of the Showa era.

Our recommendation: A walking course that takes you to two ancient temples, Ninna-ji and Myoshin-ji (D-1)

Omuro-Ninnaji Station



4min walk

Ninna-ji Temple: Nioh-mon Gate of Ninna-ji Temple can be seen just after exiting the Omuro-Ninnaji Station. The reception desk is on the left, and tickets are required to visit the Ninna-ji palace garden area. If you walk straight, you can see the main hall Kondo and five-story pagoda from the outside.



7min walk



Ohashi-kobo(Chopsticks shop):

There is a chopstick shop where you can have chopsticks made to order. Here you can experience picking up sesame seeds with the shop's chopsticks. This is a unique characteristic of the delicate Japanese chopsticks.

Cross the Myoshinji Station railroad crossing and on your right you will find our recommended Wanda Cafe.

3 min walk



Wanda Café: Inside the restaurant, there is a display of various nostalgic items and magazines. Please relax surrounded by the retro gems that the owner has collected over the years.

3min walk



Myoshin-ji Temple: There is a map of the entire temple complex on the right-hand side as you enter the north gate. The Hodo, the central temple building, as well as subtemples Taizo-in and Keishun-in, can be visited all year round. If you are lucky, you be able to enjoy special visits to other subtemples.

8min walk





Taizo-in: A subtemple of Myoshin-ji Temple, is located at the far end of Myoshin-ji temple grounds coming from the north gate. The two gardens, “Motonobu's Garden” and “Yokou-en”, are very different types of gardens and well worth seeing. After your visit to the gardens, walk around the temple grounds and stop by the Hanazono Kaikan hotel. 7min walk



Hanazono Kaikan and the shop: After strolling around the precincts of Myoshin-ji and stopping by the Hanazono Kaikan, head for Keishun-in. From the north gate of Myoshin-ji, walk back to the Myoshinji Station on the Randen line.



21min walk

Myoshinji Station

Detailed information of D-1 course : Ninna-ji and Myoshin-ji Temple:
A walking tour of two ancient temples.

Ninna-ji Temple [世界遺産 真言宗御室派総本山 仁和寺 \(ninnaji.jp\)](http://ninnaji.jp)

[Google map](#)

When you get off at Omuro-Ninnaji Station and exit the station gate, the Ninnaji Nioh-mon Gate will catch your eye. Ninna-ji Temple was founded in 888. It was almost completely destroyed in the Onin-no-ran War (1467-77), but was rebuilt by the Tokugawa shogunate in 1646. It is also known as “Omuro Gosho” because Emperor Uda (reigned from 887 to 897) became a monk and lived here after as a retired emperor. Therefore the temple has a deep connection with the Imperial Family, as it had received the head priest from the Imperial Family until 1867.

The palace on the left just after passing through the Nioh-mon Gate requires an admission fee to enter. It was once used as the residence of the chief priest, and there are also rooms of great formality that no one but the emperor is allowed to enter. The Ninna-ji Gosho Garden is worth a look. At the premises, there is the “Kondo” building, a national treasure that was moved from the Shishinden building in the Kyoto Imperial Palace. It is a great example of the architectural style of the imperial palace. On the way to the ‘Kondo’, there are many attractive cultural assets, such as the 380-year-old “Five-storied Pagoda”.

There are two guardian statues standing on either side of the Nioh-mon Gate. Can you see any difference between the two statues? Take a good look at their faces.



What are Nioh-zo, the two guardian statues on either side of the gate saying?

If you look closely at the two guardian statues on either side of the gate, you will notice that their mouths have different shapes. The sound of an open mouth is “阿 = a”, and the sound of a closed mouth is “吽 = hum”. These are the first and last sounds of the Sanskrit alphabet, and correspond to the Greek letters alpha and omega. Yes, it is the same phrase from the Bible that says “I am the Alpha and the Omega”. In Buddhism, “阿吽 = Aun” symbolizes the wisdom that fills the beginning and the end of all things, and indicates that the area beyond this gate is a sacred area.

The mysteries of Omuro cherry blossoms

The cherry blossoms at Ninna-ji Temple are called Omuro cherry blossoms, and have been selected as one of the “100 best places to see cherry blossoms in Japan”. The Omuro cherry blossoms have two characteristics that differ from ordinary cherry blossoms. The first is that they are a shrub. The reason for this has been thought to be the natural soil in this area. However, a joint research project with Tsukuba University and Chiba University has revealed that the soil beneath the cherry trees at Ninna-ji contains a layer of clay. If this was intentional landscaping, it was done to create a landscape where the cherry trees would only grow to a low height. The high level of landscaping technology in the Edo period is astonishing. The low height means that we can see the cherry blossoms at eye level. When you look at the cherry blossoms that spread out before you, it feels as if you are in a sea of clouds of flowers. The second characteristic is that they bloom late. The best time to see the Omuro cherry blossoms is about a week later than in the city area of Kyoto. The reason for this is that many of the Omuro cherry trees are of the Omuro Ariake variety. In case you just missed the cherry blossoms in Kyoto town area, you will still be able to see them at Ninna-ji. The “Omuro Flower Festival” held in the temple area is charged.



At Ninna-ji Temple, scientific efforts are made on a regular basis, such as flying drones to accurately grasp the location of the roof tiles on the buildings at the precincts in 3D images. The images are then used for maintenance and inspections. In addition, QR codes are displayed in various places at the precincts, and you can listen to multilingual explanations on your smartphone.

How about a special, luxurious stay?

Ninna-ji Temple offers a unique experience plan that allows you to stay at the Shorin-an guesthouse for a price starting at 1 million yen per night. After closing time, Ninna-ji Temple is available for private hire, and if you make separate arrangements, you can enjoy a variety of cultural experiences. Spending a night at Ninna-ji Temple is a special experience, and it makes for a lifetime memory! Why not give it a try?





View the interior of the Kondo Hall in VR

At Ninna-ji Temple, you can also experience VR to get a close-up view of the temple's precious Buddhist statues and the interior of the Kondo Hall. You can see the details of the Buddha statues up close from all angles. You can also experience the interior of the main hall, which is only open to the public on special occasions, using VR. Its audio guide is available in five languages: English, Korean, Chinese, Japanese and Spanish. Up to four people can experience it at once. It takes about 20 minutes. However, please search KYOTO CITY OFFICIAL TRAVEL GUIDE(<https://kyoto.travel/en/>) for detailed information such as the period of implementation and costs. Advance reservations are required.

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Chopstick Shop Ohashi Kobo

[京都おはし工房_京都の誂え御箸専門店 \(kyoto-ohashi.com\)](https://kyoto-ohashi.com)

[Google map](#)

From the five-way intersection at the eastern end of Ninna-ji, walk south for about 4 minutes and you will find Ohashi Kobo. Please be careful of cars as the road is narrow in places. At Ohashi Kobo, all chopsticks are made to order. This shop's motto is to make chopsticks that fit perfectly in your hands, depending on your gender and height. You can choose your favorite material from a wide range of wood.



With chopsticks made in this way, it is easy to pick up small things like sesame seeds. It is interesting that the rice you eat with such delicate chopsticks tastes completely different than usual.



The owner of Ohashi Kobo is a *medaka* (small freshwater fish) enthusiast, and he also sells them in his shop. *Medaka* are small fish that are familiar to Japanese people, as they used to live in rice paddies and streams. However, recently they have become endangered and there are many conservation activities going on. On the other hand, various rare breeds of *medaka*, like carp, have been developed one after another, and there is a big boom in ornamental *medaka* in Japan.

Wonder Cafe

[@wonder.cafe.kyoto](https://www.instagram.com/wonder.cafe.kyoto) • Instagram 写真と動画

[Google map](#)

After crossing the Randen railway crossing, you will see Wonder Cafe on your right after a short walk. The shop is filled with retro goods and books that give off a Showa-era (1926-1989) atmosphere, and it is the perfect place to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The owner is very friendly, and if you talk to him, he will give you some deep Kyoto information. In addition, here you can find lots of leaflets and booklets with travel information about Kyoto. Wonder Café is a relaxing space where you can spend time at your leisure. Try the cream puff set or the various ice creams, which are all very filling. Be sure to check out the restroom on the second floor too. The owner's design sense really shines through here.

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[Myoshin-ji Temple](http://myoshinji.or.jp) [臨濟宗大本山 妙心寺 公式サイト](http://myoshinji.or.jp)
(myoshinji.or.jp)

[Google map](#)

It takes about 13 minutes from Ninna-ji's Nioh-mon Gate to reach the north gate of Myoshin-ji. There is a railroad crossing on the way, and that is Myoshinji Station. Cross this railroad crossing and follow the road, and you will see the north gate of Myoshin-ji on your right. If you enter through the north gate, you will see a map of the grounds on

your right. Myoshin-ji is the head temple of the Myoshin-ji branch of the Rinzai school of Zen Buddhism, which has over 3,400 temples throughout Japan. The seven halls and temples are neatly arranged in a row, and 46 smaller temples called “tacchu” surround them. It is designated as a national historic site, but it still fulfills the role of a “training temple” for training Zen monks. As a religious corporation, it also has affiliated educational institutions ranging from nursery school to university. The Hattou Hall, Taizo-in, and Keishun-in are open to the public all year round.

In the Hattou hall, you can see the ceiling painting of the Dragon & Cloud by Kano Tanyu and the temple's national treasure, the temple bell. It is said to be the oldest in Japan with a dated inscription (698). The reception desk for visitors is located at the entrance to the Hojo hall ([About Visiting the Temple | Myoshinji \(myoshinji.or.jp\)](http://myoshinji.or.jp)).



Pine trees are a prominent tree species at the precincts of Myoshin-ji Temple. The reason for this is that the temple continues to observe an anecdote about Rinzai Gigen (? - 867), the founder of the Rinzai school of Zen Buddhism. In ancient China, Rinzai Gigen planted pine trees in the temple grounds. When his master, Oubaku Kiun, asked him why he was planting only pine trees, Rinzai replied, "I'm planting pine trees so that people can see that this is exactly a Zen temple." Oubaku is said to have replied, "The sect you have created will greatly flourish." The sight of many lush pine trees gives us a glimpse of the strict attitude of Zen training.

Besides pines you can also enjoy the plum blossoms, cherry blossoms, sal trees and autumn leaves in the gardens of each small temple, *tacchu*. If you are lucky enough to be able to visit a special viewing event being held at one of the *tacchu*, please be sure to visit. Each *tacchu* temple is full of unique charm.

How do Zen monks practice?

At the training temple, the monks undergo strict Zen training. The same is true at Tenryu-ji Temple, which is part of the Rinzai sect. In order to be accepted as a trainee, a monk has to bow his head and ask to be accepted at the front gate for two or three days, and then after five days of zazen (seated meditation) facing a wall in the room, he would be accepted. During training, he would wake up at 3:30am, chant sutras in the morning, have breakfast, do zazen, clean the various halls and gardens, attend lectures, chant sutras again. After lunch, he continues with cleaning, working in the fields, looking after the trees in the garden, and in the evening heating the bath and taking a bath. The day ends with dinner and zazen, and he goes to bed around 9:30pm. Of course, he also has to study. The breakfast consists of rice porridge, pickled plums and other pickles, lunch is

mostly barley with a side dish, and dinner is very simple, with leftovers from lunch. Sometimes the monk trainees go outside the temple grounds to practice alms-giving. The sight of the monks walking in Kyoto chanting “Ho-u (法雨) , Ho-u (法雨) ” is one of the traditions of the ancient capital.

Taizo-in Temple [退蔵院 | 京都 妙心寺 \(taizoin.com\)](http://taizoin.com)

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Taizo-in Temple is a sub-temple of Myoshin-ji Temple that is open to the public all year round. It was built within Myoshin-ji Temple in 1404 to enshrine the Zen priest Muin Shuin for over 600 years. According to the deputy chief priest, Daikou Matsuyama, at Taizo-in, it is important to understand and accept people from different backgrounds. Daikou Matsuyama teaches Zen in a way that is easy to understand. There is a miniature garden next to the reception desk at Taizo-in, and you can use the stones next to it to create your own miniature garden. It is a simple way of showing everyone the path to Zen, which is to face your own mind and be honest with yourself.

First, when you head towards the Hojo room, you will see a reproduction of the national treasure “Hyonen-zu” hanging on the wall. In Zen Buddhism, “dialogue” is conducted between the teacher priest and the disciple. In the painting, a man is holding a gourd in his hand and glaring at a catfish swimming in front of him. This is a *koan* (a question used in Zen Buddhism to help students think for themselves) that was thought up by the shogun Ashikaga Yoshimochi (1386-1428). The picture shows the strange answers given by famous monks. Miyamoto Musashi, who is said to have been a master of martial arts, is said to have stayed at Taizo-in, and he used the gourd catfish design on the guard of his sword.

From the inner room of the Hojo, you can appreciate the historical

and scenic Kare-sansui garden “Motonobu's Garden”, created by the famous painter Kano Motonobu (1476-1559). The key to appreciating this garden is to view it from the back of the room. This is because you can see it as a single piece of art framed by the window. As you would expect, it is a beautiful garden created by a painter.





There is another garden at Taizo-in. It is called Yoko-en, and was created by the landscape gardener Kinsaku Nakane, under the supervision of Daikou's grandfather. The pond in this garden is said to be shaped like a gourd. Daikou's grandfather is said to have released two catfish into this pond. It was a truly dynamic idea, and he managed to catch the catfish in the gourd. This is surely a brilliant answer to the *koan* !

Yoko-en is full of playful touches that contrast with the stillness of the Motonobu's garden, such as the weeping cherry tree that blooms beautifully in spring and the *suikinkutsu* (buried earthen jar that makes cool sound when water drips into it). While facing these gardens, you can experience yet another aspect of the Zen spirit.

Enjoy the bliss of admiring the garden while drinking matcha tea at Yoko-en.

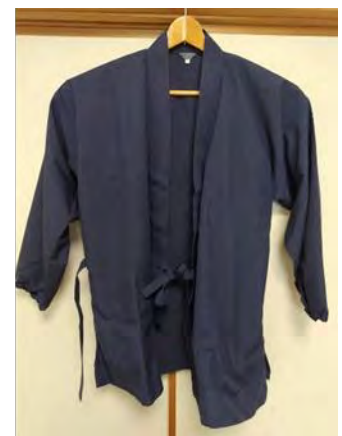




[Google map](#)

Myoshin-ji Temple has the Hanazono Kaikan affiliated as a temple hotel. The shop here sells Buddhist statues, Buddhist altar equipment and other items that you would expect to find in a temple. In particular, we would like to recommend the “*samue*” (see photo below). The *samue* is the work clothes worn by monks while carrying out tasks such as cleaning, chopping wood and working in the fields to maintain the temple. In Zen Buddhism, such chores are also seen as part of the training. Try wearing a *samue* to start a new way of life?

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Hanazono Kaikan has Western-style rooms (single and double) and Japanese-style rooms (10 tatami mats), as well as barrier-free rooms that are safe for elderly people and wheelchair users. We also

recommend the “Terracks” hands-on accommodation plan. You can experience zazen meditation in the Hodo, enjoy matcha tea, and enjoy *shojin ryori* (Buddhist vegetarian cuisine). Please check the [official Hanazono Kaikan website](#) for information on dates, fees, etc.

Myoshin-ji Temple is open 24 hours a day. In the early morning, you can see local residents enjoying the quiet precincts while taking a walk. Why not stay at the Hanazono Kaikan and take a morning walk? At Myoshin-ji Temple, morning sutra services are held in the Hodo Hall, and you can observe the proceedings from outside the hall. The sound of the monks chanting reverently in the early morning silence is solemn and moving. It is a spectacular sight, and you will be able to experience something out of the ordinary.

At the restaurant in the building, “Hanagokoro”, you can enjoy Japanese cuisine such as udon noodles, sashimi and vegetarian-style dishes. The prices are reasonable, so it is recommended for those who want to enjoy Japanese food casually. How about this Kujo leek udon for vegans?



After leaving Hanazono Kaikan, you might like to return to Myoshin-ji and drop in at Keishun-in Temple. The small streets of Myoshin-ji are often used as filming locations for period dramas and television dramas. If you are lucky, you might even come across a filming location.

If you exit from the north gate of Myoshin-ji Temple, you will see a private house opposite the gate decorated with flowers as shown in the photo. The owner, Kunio Matsuyama, is like the modern-day Hanasaka Jiisan (the old man who made flowers bloom). He also takes great care of the flowerbeds at the Ryo-anji Station (photo below) . “When you look at flowers, you feel a sense of peace and comfort. I take great care of the flowers every day, hoping to bring that happiness to the people who pass by my house and make the world a little more peaceful.” says Mr. Matsuyama.



Meeting people like this is also part of the fun of traveling. On the left side of this house is the Kyoto cuisine restaurant Mancho. If you want to have a meal that really captures the essence of Kyoto, please stop by. If you follow this road, you will reach a railroad crossing. On the left and right are Myoshinji Station.

Kyoto cuisine restaurant Mancho [京料理 萬長\(まんちょう\) | \(mantyo.com\)](http://mantyo.com)

Please enjoy Kyoto cuisine at Mancho. You can enjoy Kyoto cuisine at reasonable prices, such as the Tsurezure Bento boxed lunch. The owner is the chairman of the Kyoto History Corridor Council (a council established to promote tourism in Kyoto).



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Area D: Recommended Places to Visit

Sugiura Noh Stage [能を体験する | 能楽師 杉浦豊彦](#)
(noh-sugiura.com)

[杉浦能舞台 - Google map](#)

There is a Noh stage about a 3-minute walk from Narutaki Station. You can experience Noh, a traditional Japanese performing art, in such a familiar place. Mr. Toyohiko Sugiura, a Noh performer of the Kanze school, regularly holds the Narutaki Club on the Noh stage. The stage, made of Japanese cypress, was built by Mr. Sugiura's predecessor, as a practice space in his home. It was a convenient way for many people to enjoy this traditional form of art. Workshops are also held where even amateurs can enjoy Noh by touching the props and experiencing the chanting together.

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The Narutaki Noh Butai is characterized by its proximity to the stage and audience seating, where you can almost reach out and touch the performers, and enjoy the powerful performances. The Narutaki Noh performed at the Sugiura Noh Butai is designed to be accessible even for beginners.

At Narutaki Club, where we were able to participate, the performers themselves explained the program in detail (20 minutes), and then put on the Noh costumes while adding humorous commentary (30 minutes), followed by the performance (40 minutes). At the end, there was a re-appearance of all the performers and an introduction of the performers, which is rarely done at Noh performances. This was a very intimate performance where even beginners could enjoy Noh to the full, not just by enjoying the Noh play, but also by understanding the play and the dressing process. The “Narutaki Club”, a fun course aimed at promoting Noh, is held about four times a year. You can gain

valuable experience under the guidance of professional Noh performers, such as seeing the costumes up close, trying on Noh masks, and practicing the chanting called *Utai*.

However, there are no interpreting services at this event. We recommend that foreign tourists bring someone with them who can act as an interpreter. For more information, please check the official website for the event, confirm the date and time, and make a reservation before coming to the event.

Omuro 88 Temples Pilgrimage

[First temple - Google map](#)

[88th temple- Google map](#)

In the mountains to the north of Ninna-ji Temple, visitors can experience a miniature version of the Shikoku “*Ohenro*” pilgrimage. In 1827, a temple samurai guarding Ninna-ji Temple visited the 88 temples of Shikoku and brought back sand from each temple. The sand was then brought back to the north of Ninna-ji Temple. The sand was buried in the 88 temples on Mt. Jouju-san, which extends to the north of Ninna-ji Temple, and temple hall was built on top of it, thus opening the 88 temples of Omuro.

This is a 2-hours walking course. It is well maintained and an easy trail, so you can walk with peace of mind. If the weather is good, you can see not only the city of Kyoto but also Fushimi-jo Castle from the rest and observation spots along the way. There is a rest spot in front of the 23rd temple, Yakuo-ji. There is also a spectacular spot between the 50th and 51st temples where you can see the whole city of Kyoto.

In recent years, the character “Omuro Musume (Girl)” was created as a way to make the 88 temples more accessible to young people. If you scan the QR codes at each temple, you can see an illustration of Omuro Musume, and you can get a sense of being on the pilgrimage with cute girl character. Have fun meeting the unique image characters “Omuro Musume”, created by 88 voice actors and 88 illustrators, whose personalities reflect the characteristics and benefits of each temple!

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The Omuro 88 Temples Pilgrimage is a safe course that is also used as a field trip route for kindergarten and nursery school children in the local area, but there are some steep sections. Please be careful where you step and take care to protect yourself from insect bites. Don't be shy greeting people you meet along the trail, saying “Konnichiwa”. Exchanging greetings with each other will warm your heart.





Cherry blossom tunnel (宇多野駅～鳴滝駅)

The 200-meter section between Narutaki Station and Utano Station on the Randen Kitano Line is lined with cherry trees that were planted by local residents when the Kitano Line first opened, and is known as the “Randen Sakura Tunnel”. In the past, the cherry trees formed a tunnel over the tracks, but in order to improve the safety of train operations, they were cut down, and now the cherry trees are lined up along the tracks, but the view from the train looks as if it is covered in cherry blossoms, and the name “cherry blossom tunnel” has become firmly established. Among the approximately 80 *Someiyoshino* cherry trees planted on both sides of the tracks, there are a few still existing since they were planted when the line opened in 1925. You will be fascinated by the cherry trees that have taken root along the tracks.





Zen Experience Class at Taizo-in Temple

[外国人禅体験 | 退蔵院 \(taizoin.com\)](http://taizoin.com)

[妙心寺退蔵院 四季の移ろい 千古不易\(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

[妙心寺 退蔵院 - Google map](#)

At the quiet premises of Taizo-in Temple in Myoshin-ji, you can experience *zazen* or Zen meditation (prior reservation required, groups of 10 or more only). Please be sure to check availability in advance.

We experienced *zazen* for the first time. After learning how to sit and take deep breaths, and hearing about Zen meditation, we were ready to try it out. Concentrating on our breathing and letting ourselves be carried away by the sounds around us, we felt like a tiny being in the universe, and we felt a sense of happiness as if we were being embraced by the great nature. We felt completely refreshed.

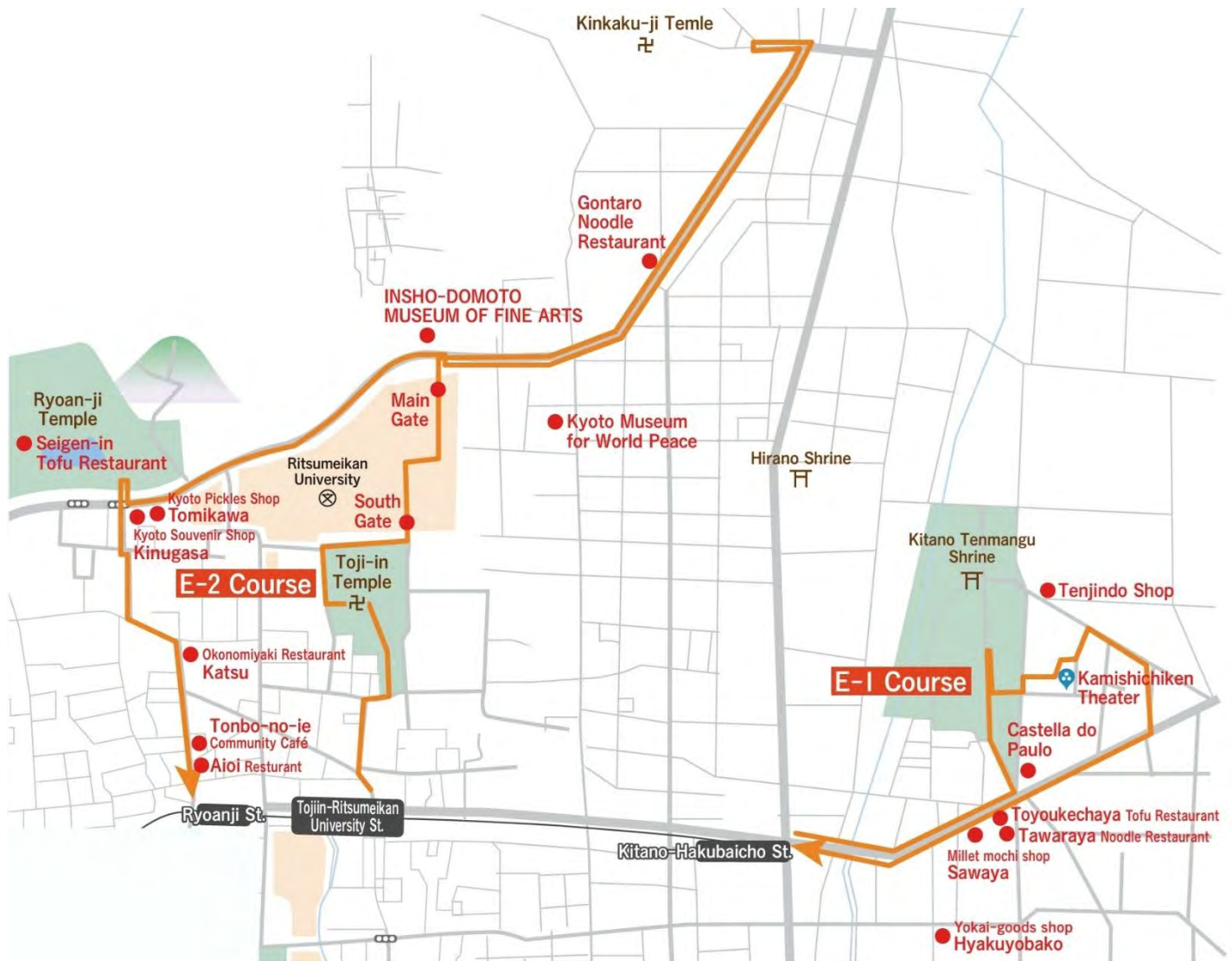
In addition to the Zen experience at Taizo-in Temple, you can also experience Zen at Shunko-in Temple in 90-minute or 60-minute sessions, depending on your schedule. This is a popular program for foreign tourists, where the abbot teaches the manners and philosophy of Zen directly in English. You can experience a slice of life of a Buddhist monk, from morning services to *zazen*, tea ceremony, calligraphy and vegetarian cuisine. Reservations are required via the internet.



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Area E (Ryoanji Station – Kitano-Hakubaicho Station)



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(Former Kitano Station of Randen Line)

When the Randen Kitano Line (Katabiranotsuji Station ~ Kitano-Hakubaicho Station), which branched off from the Randen Arashiyama Line at Katabiranotsuji Station, opened in 1926, the eastern terminal station was not Kitano-Hakubaicho Station, but Kitano Station located a short distance south of the main gate (*torii*) of Kitano Tenmangu Shrine. The aim was to connect the famous tourist destinations of Arashiyama with Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, the Nishijin area.

In addition to Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, the E area also includes two World Heritage Sites, Ryoan-ji Temple and Kinkaku-ji Temple, as well as Toji-in Temple, Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus, and the Kyoto Museum for World Peace. In this area, you can feel the “spiritual light” of the local community in the way that the local people are working to revitalize the town while having fun. One such example is the Taishogun shopping street, where locals are working to revitalize the area as a “youkai (monster) street” centered around the Hyakuyobako youkai goods store. At Ritsumeikan University's Kinugasa Campus, an SDG project is underway to protect the endangered plant, *Fujibakama*.

Two walking courses (E-1) (E-2) guided by the God of learning, admiring the charms of this area

E-1 Course

Kitano-Hakubaicho Station



9min walk

Kitano Tenmangu Shrine: Walk east from Kitano-Hakubaicho Station for about 9 minutes and you will reach the main gate of Kitano Tenmangu Shrine. A flea market, known as “Tenjin-san”, is held here on the 25th of every month.



Once you pass through the main gate, you will see statues of cows lined up on either side. These are known as “Nade-Ushi: rubbing cows”. According to folk beliefs, if you gently rub a statue over the same part of the body where you have pain, your pain will be gone.



Exit from the east gate of Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, pass through Kamishichiken Kaburenjo, and head towards Kamishichiken Street. Later on, in the sightseeing spot information section, we will introduce the spring and autumn dance performances held at Kamishichiken Kaburenjo as well as the summer beer garden!



Kamishichiken-dori Street:

Kamishichiken is Kyoto's very old “Hanamachi” (geisha district). The streets are lined with traditional-style buildings. Take a stroll down Kamishichiken-dori Street and you may find a wonderful shop.

7min walk



From Kamishichiken-dori street, head out onto Marutamachi-dori street and return to Kitano Tenmangu. In case you get hungry you can try some udon at a townhouse over 400 years old. The udon is rather unusual in that it has a strong ginger flavor.

9min walk



Kitano-Hakubaicho Station

E-2 Course

Tojiin-Ritsumeikan University Station



8min walk



Recommended Optional Route

Tōji-in Temple: Get off at this Randen station, (which had the longest station name in Japan until a few years ago), and head north. Soon you will see the main gate of Toji-in Temple on the street south of Ritsumeikan Univ.

3min walking

Ritsumeikan University: After visiting Tōji-in, turn right, exit through the west gate, and then turn right again and walk on to reach Ritsumeikan University. You can then walk across the university campus in order to reach the Insho-Domoto Museum of Fine Arts.

INSHO-DOMOTO Museum of Fine Arts: This museum is a beautiful building designed by the artist Insho Domoto himself. Enjoy the works that demonstrate his talent in a variety of fields, including Japanese-style painting, oil painting, pottery, and furniture.

When you leave the Insho-Domoto Museum of Fine Arts and turn left and keep walking, you will eventually get to the World Cultural Heritage site, Kinkaku-ji Temple in about 15 minutes. We recommend that you avoid the crowded buses and instead enjoy the World Heritage sites, Kinkaku-ji and Ryoan-ji Temple, along this walking route.



32min walk from Kinkaku-ji

13min walk from the art museum

Ryoan-ji Temple: Ryoan-ji Temple, a World Heritage Site, is famous for its rock garden, which symbolizes the spirit of Zen. The Kyo-yochi Garden spreads out around the pond, therefore you can enjoy the splendid contrast of garden culture.

Seigen-in temple restaurant is located within the grounds of Ryoan-ji Temple. Here you can enjoy the exquisite tofu dishes while admiring the beautiful Japanese garden. It is the spot that attracts a lot of attention from foreign tourists.



In front of Ryoan-ji Temple, there is the Kyoto accessories shop Kinugasa and the Kyoto pickles shop Tomikawa. You can buy souvenirs to remember your trip by. The Kyoto pickles at Tomikawa are excellent.



8min walk

Ryoani-ji Shopping Street: Between Ryoan-ji Temple and Randen Ryoanji Station, you will find the community café “Tombo no Ie”. This shopping street is known as “Tatsu no Michi (dragon's path)” and is involved in a variety of activities to revitalize the local area. Here, let us introduce some of the shops.

3min walk



Ryoanji Station

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E-1: A walking course guided by the god of learning: admiring the charms of this area. (Part 1) —Detailed information

Kitano Tenmangu Shrine [北野天満宮 \(kitanotenmangu.or.jp\)](http://kitanotenmangu.or.jp)



[Google map](#)

If you get off at Randen Kitano-Hakubaicho Station and walk east, you will reach the main gate of Kitano Tenmangu Shrine in about 9 minutes. Kitano Tenmangu Shrine was founded in 947. It enshrines Michizane Sugawara, a man of many talents who rose to the position of Grand Minister (the head of the highest government institution) during the Heian period. It is said that there are around 12,000 shrines dedicated to Michizane Sugawara throughout Japan, and Kitano Tenmangu Shrine is the head shrine of all of them.

Michizane Sugawara was an extremely skilled government official, and yet he was exiled to Kyushu on false charges. After his death, Kyoto was hit by a series of disasters, including a famine, misfortune befalling the imperial family, and lightning strikes, and these were thought to be the “curse” of his spirit. In order to console him for his suffering, the Imperial Court built Kitano Tenmangu Shrine as a place of worship.

He was a man of outstanding talent as a scholar, writer and politician, and he became known to people as a god of learning. Every year, many students preparing for exams and people with ambitions in the fields of learning, study and the arts visit Kitano Tenmangu Shrine.

In Shinto, it is believed that a god resides in all things. In Japan, large rocks, large trees, and old trees are considered to be objects of prayer because they are thought to be inhabited by gods. You can often see people praying with their hands together in the rising sun. In Shinto, even outstanding people are revered as gods.

Mr. Kusuhiro Higashikawa, who serves as a priest at Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, explained to us that “the main tenet of Shinto is the idea that all things in the universe have a divine spirit (spirituality), and that humans live in harmony with nature and are sustained by its blessings. It is a way of life that is deeply integrated into the everyday lives of Japanese people.”

Cattle and Shintoism

When you pass through the large torii gate, you will notice that there are statues of cows on either side. All of the statues of cows were donated by people, and they come in various forms, such as cows with red eyes and mothers with calves.



These cows are familiar to people who stroke them, and it is said that if you gently rub the part of the cow's body where you want to be healed, your wish will come true. The oldest statue is said to be the one with the missing face, which is located behind the main shrine to the left, next to a small torii gate. It is so old that there is no record of when it was made, and it is called "Ichigan Jōju no Oushisama" (the cow that grants one wish) because it grants the wishes of one worshipper.

The ancient custom of worship at Kitano Tenmangu Shrine was to first visit the main shrine, then go around to the back and visit the "back shrine" as well. Then, it is said that people would pray to the "Ichigan-joju-no-oishisama" and hang an *ema* votive tablet.





“Nature” living in Tenmangu Shrine

At Tenmangu Shrine, you can enjoy the changing seasons and the beauty of nature in various ways, such as the plum blossoms in February and March, the Maple green leaves in June, and the Maple red leaves in November. Approximately 1,500 plum trees in the shrine grounds were planted in honor of Michizane Sugawara, who loved plum blossoms. The white, red, and pale pink plum blossoms delight our eyes. During the plum garden opening period, you can enjoy the blossoms while drinking tea and eating sweets. From summer to autumn, you can enjoy the maple leaves beautiful colors. In fact, there are few places in Kyoto where you can see old maple trees in the city, but at Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, there are maple trees that have been growing wild for about 400 years. The Maple Garden is open for two types of maple trees, green and red, depending on the season, and both are spectacular.

Plum Garden “Flower Garden”: Early February to late March
Maple Garden (green maple leaves): Mid-April to late June
Maple Garden (red maple leaves): Late October to early December, Opening hours: 9:00 - 16:00





Kamishichiken-Dori Street

After visiting Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, exit through the east gate and walk along Kamishichiken-dori Street, passing in front of the Kamishichiken Kaburenjo Theater. We will give more detail on the Kamishichiken Kaburenjo Theater later in the sightseeing spot information section for Area E.

Kamishichiken-dori is one of Kyoto's oldest “Hanamachi” (geisha districts) and is located just to the east of Kitano Tenmangu Shrine. A “Hanamachi” is a town that is centered around teahouses where you can enjoy the company of geisha. However, many of the shops with maiko and geisha refuse first-time customers, so even if you visit as a tourist, you won't be able to actually go inside the shops.

Even without visiting a *chaya*, you can still enjoy Kamishichiken-dori street to the full.

That's because even the first-time visitors have the opportunity to meet maiko or geisha. There are two ways to do so: the dance drama performances held in spring and autumn at Kamishichiken Kaburenjo Theater, and the summer beer garden. We will tell you more about these later in the sightseeing spot information. Kamishichiken-dori is lined with everything from high-end kaiseki restaurants to casual cafes, and there are also shops selling cute Japanese-style goods. The scenery is so valued that even the post office and other buildings have



been given a unified, old-fashioned design, giving the street a unique atmosphere. The street is not very long so take your time and enjoy the gentle flow of time.

From Kamishichiken-dori street, you will walk out onto Imadegawa-dori street and return to Kitano-Hakubaicho Station. On the way, there are many attractive restaurants and sweets shops near Kitano Tenmangu Shrine. Let us recommend some shops.



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Tenjin-do Japanese sweets shop [「やきもち」天神堂 | 京都ツウ読本 \(kyototwo.jp\)](#)

[天神堂 - Google map](#)

This Japanese sweets shop, which was established in 1952, is famous for its *yakimochi* (grilled rice cake). The shop's sign and

noren (traditional Japanese shop curtain) with the word “*yakimochi*” written on it are eye-catching, yet the shop itself is very simple.

A gentle-mannered couple runs the shop. They usually sell their

famous *yakimochi*, but in winter they also sell *inaka manju*, *mikasa manju* and *roppouyaki*. *Yakimochi* is a snack that is perfect for eating on the go or taking home as a souvenir, and is sold at a reasonable price. It is made with homemade red bean paste wrapped in a thin crust, and has a simple flavor that makes you want to eat another one after you've finished. The shop closes as soon as the *yakimochi* runs out. According to the locals, it often sells out in the morning, so be sure to drop by in the morning.



The husband, who is a Portuguese castella baker, met his wife, who trained as a castella baker in Japan, in Portugal. At first, they opened a shop in Portugal, but they moved to Japan together with the desire to introduce the authentic Portuguese castella culture to Japan, and set up a shop on the east side of the Ootorii gate in Kitano Tenmangu Shrine. With the set menu “Food Culture Comparison Experience Plate” like the one in the photo, you can enjoy various types of Portuguese sponge cake from three regions of Portugal and Japanese sponge cake at the same time. Japan is a rare place in the world that has embraced diverse food cultures from around the world and has pushed forward with the multiculturalization of food. This is the only shop in Japan that is suitable for the international city of Kyoto, where you can taste and compare the authentic Portuguese castella and the castella that has evolved through its importation to Japan.





(This is the “Food Culture Comparison Experience Plate”!)

Tawaraya Udon [『たわらや』 - Kyotopi \[キョウトピ\] グルメ](#)

[たわらや - Google map](#)

The udon noodles served in the townhouse *machiya* are superb! The specialty “Tawara-ya Udon” is commonly called “Ippon Udon”, and is a simple dish of a single, extra-thick noodle cut in half, served in broth with grated ginger. It is a dish that contains the wish that you will live a long and healthy life, and is delicious and will warm you up. In Kyoto, there are wooden buildings called “machiya”. Their origins date back

to the Heian period, and in the Edo period, they became the type of building that we know today, with a living space and a shop combined. Most of the machiya that still exist today were rebuilt in the Meiji and Taisho periods, but Tawaraya was built about 400 years ago, making it a historical building. The shop has a window lattice that allows people to see the outside from inside, but not the other way around, which accentuates the simple appearance of the building. You can also see traditional townhouse in the restaurant, such as the staircase chest of drawers, which makes effective use of the space under the stairs and the well. Please enjoy the atmosphere of the townhouse along with the food.



[Google map](#)

Sawayaya, which is a 2-minute walk from Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, is a historic millet rice cake shop that has been in business since the Edo period. The shop is mentioned in a book called “Kebukigusa”, a book of haiku published in 1638, which also contains information on local specialties. Millet is one of the five grains, and in the old days it was a food that was familiar to the common people. The shop began when the millet, which was the main food of the farmers, was made into rice cakes and sold in the precincts. The current owner is the 12th generation, and it has been a much-loved confectionary for many years in front of Kitano Tenmangu Shrine.

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During the Pacific War, the shop was closed due to the rationing system. Nevertheless, the shop was reopened after the war, and the ancestral production methods are still being followed today. There is a nostalgic atmosphere inside the shop. As you eat the millet rice cakes in the relaxed flow of time, you can't help but feel as if you've slipped back in time to the Edo period.



This tofu shop is always busy with customers. At first, it was only a mail-order business, but due to popular demand, it has now expanded to include a shop on the first floor and a restaurant on the second and third floors. It is popular all over the country, and at lunchtime, the shop is packed with tourists, with long queues forming outside. The restaurant's many original dishes, which use seasonal Kyoto vegetables and stick to traditional methods, are worth the wait. On the first floor, they also sell yoghurt and pudding made with soy milk (made by soaking soybeans in water, grinding them, heating them, and straining them), as well as man-ju (steamed buns) made with soybeans (the ingredient used to make tofu). We recommend them as a souvenir from Kyoto. This is truly a shop that can be called a “specialist in soy bean cuisine”.





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E-2: A walking course guided by the god of learning, admiring the charms of this area. (Part 2) —Detailed information

[Toji-in Temple](#) [臨濟宗 天龍寺派 等持院 \(toujiin.jp\)](#)

[Google map](#)

It is said that “Tojiin Ritsumeikan Universty Station (等持院・立命館大学衣笠キャンパス前駅)” was once the longest station name in Japan. If you get off at this station and walk north for 8 minutes, you will find Toji-in Temple, which is adjacent to Ritsumeikan University. Toji-in Temple was founded in 1341 by Ashikaga Takauji, the first shogun of

the Muromachi Shogunate, who commissioned the Zen priest Muso Soseki to build it. After Takauji's death, it became the family temple of the Ashikaga shoguns. In the Reikoden Hall, there are wooden statues of the successive Ashikaga shoguns. They are faithful reproductions of the originals, and expresses the personality of the individual.

Japanese culture changed significantly from the Muromachi period (1336-1573) onwards. As the main players in Japanese society shifted from the aristocracy to the samurai, Zen Buddhism developed, and the culture of the aristocracy, the culture of the samurai, and the philosophy of Zen Buddhism blended together to create a new culture unique to Japan. It is no exaggeration to say that the culture of modern Japan was created during this period. The Japanese garden as the core of Japanese culture, the *shoin-zukuri* architectural style seen in buildings such as Ginkaku-ji, and the arts of *kyogen* (comedy theater), *ikebana* (flower arrangement) and *chadō* (Tea ceremony) were all established during the Muromachi period.



If you walk along the corridor between the *Hojo* and the *Hojo* garden, you will hear a beautiful sound coming from the floor, similar to the sound of a small bird. It is called '*uguisu-bari*' because it sounds like a Japanese bush warbler. According to Kyoto experts, the *uguisu-bari* at Toji-in is the most beautiful sound in Kyoto. The garden at Toji-in, created by a monk architect Muso Soseki, is considered to be one of the three great gardens in Kyoto. The viewer's impression of the garden changes in various ways depending on the way the viewer feels and their viewing perspective. The garden itself changes from moment to moment depending on the season, the weather, and even the time of day, showing us a variety of different appearances.



This garden is a strolling garden, so you can put on the sandals provided and go down into the garden to take a short stroll. As you walk around, you will probably notice that the scenery in the front

garden is quite different from that in the back garden. The front garden is centered around the Fuyo Pond. The stonework is distinctive, and the stones express the movement of the water in the waterfall. The back garden is centered around the Shinji Pond (when viewed from above, the pond forms the character “心 : heart”). You can enjoy the beautiful scenery of each season: cherry blossoms in spring, Hangesho in summer, colored maple leaves in autumn, and Sazanka in winter. On your walk, you can also visit the grave of Takauji. If you ask at the entrance, you can enjoy tea and sweets while looking at the garden on the red carpet in the *tatami* room.



There used to be a film studio on the grounds of Toji-in Temple. Around 80 years ago, there were many film studios in this area, and it was called “Hollywood of Japan” and was bustling with activity. The man who built this studio was Shozo Makino, who is known as the “father of Japanese film”. A statue of him has been erected on the grounds of Toji-in Temple.



You can walk across the Ritsumeikan University campus to get to the Insho-Domoto Museum of Fine Art. From Toji-in Temple, you will walk from the southern gates of Ritsumeikan University to the main gate on the north side. On the way, you will pass through the East Square (see photo below), where the “Randen *Fujibakama* Project” is being carried out.



Fujibakama is one of the seven autumn flowers of Japan. It was once thought to be extinct due to the fact that the area suitable for its natural growth had decreased in Japan. However, the flower was rediscovered in Japan about 30 years ago, and was recognized as an endangered species therefore becoming a protected species. In collaboration with Keifuku Electric Railway Co., Ltd., Ritsumeikan

University is currently running the *Fujibakama* Project, which aims to protect biodiversity and realize a sustainable society (SDGs) by growing *Fujibakama*. The project is expanding its activities, including holding dyeing events using *Fujibakama* and offering *Fujibakama* footbaths at Arashiyama Station for limited periods.

“Phantom Flowers and Butterflies” - the endangered species *Fujibakama*

This project has helped plant the *Fujibakama* seedlings along the Randen Kitano Line, and local people are also growing *Fujibakama*. *Fujibakama* is helping to bring together various people. From the end of summer to early autumn, when the *Fujibakama* is in bloom, you can see a very beautiful butterfly called the *Asagimadara*, which was once nominated as a candidate for the national butterfly. If you are interested, please check out the Randen *Fujibakama* Plant Project website. (嵐電沿線フジバカマプロジェクト : [HOME | Fujibakaman](#))







In addition, the university's gymnasium and central square are designated as evacuation shelters in the event of a large-scale disaster, and the university has stockpiled disaster prevention goods, food, and beverages. Periodic disaster prevention drills are also held with the participation of nearby elementary schools and local residents. The Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus is also working to fulfill its role as a local evacuation shelter in the event of a large-scale disaster in order to protect people's lives.

Insho-Domoto Museum of Fine Arts

[京都府立堂本印象美術館 \(insho-domoto.com\)](http://insho-domoto.com)

[Google map](#)

Insho-Domoto Museum of Fine Arts is located in front of the main gate on the north side of Ritsumeikan University. The museum was opened in 1966 by Insho Domoto, a prominent figure in a variety of artistic fields, when he was 75 years old. The museum's design was also done by Insho Domoto himself.

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You can enjoy the works of Insho Domoto in the museum's gallery and the large exhibition room on the second floor. In addition, there are works on display in the new building. After returning from studying in Europe after the world war 2nd, Insho Domoto began to experiment with abstract painting. He also designed wooden furniture. Domoto

challenged himself to create a diverse range of works throughout his life, based on the idea that “as a painter, once you have perfected a style, you must immediately break away from it, and without resting on your laurels, you must move on to the next stage by generously discarding it”. Based on his multi-talent in various fields of art, Insho Domoto could be called “Japanese Picasso”. In addition, the Insho Domoto Residence, which is next to the museum, is currently managed by Ritsumeikan University, and various workshop projects are being carried out there. There is also a space on the third floor of the museum where Insho Domoto’s art materials are on display. Please watch the introductory video by the Ritsumeikan University Rakugo Research Club. Postcards printed with Insho Domoto’s works are popular souvenirs. There are many places to sit inside the museum, so you can rest and immerse yourself in the artistic world of Insho Domoto.



Optional route suggestion: stop by Kinkaku-ji Golden Temple

After leaving the Insho Domoto Museum of Fine Art turn left, and if you walk along the main street you will get to the World Cultural Heritage site of Kinkaku-ji Temple in about 15 minutes. We recommend that you avoid the crowded buses and instead enjoy the World Heritage sites, Kinkaku-ji and Ryoan-ji Temple, along this walking route. On the way, we recommend the restaurant Gontaro as a place to stop for a meal.

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Kinkaku-ji Temple [金閣寺 | 臨濟宗相国寺派 \(shokoku-ji.jp\)](https://www.shokoku-ji.jp/)

[Google map](#)

Originally a villa belonging to a noble family, it was given to Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, the third shogun of the Muromachi Shogunate, who renamed it Kitayama-dono. Yoshimitsu was keen to revive trade with China, which had been suspended for a long time. It is said that the garden and architecture centered on Kinkaku-ji represented the Pure Land in this world, but historians believe that he wanted to use it as a stage to impress the Chinese (Ming) envoy with Japan's national power and cultural level.

After Yoshimitsu's death, the temple was established in accordance with his will, and Muso Soseki was appointed as the first abbot. In 1994, it was registered as a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO as part of the “Cultural Heritage of Ancient Kyoto”, along with Kiyomizu-dera, Ryoan-ji, Nijo-jo Castle, and other sites. Along the road from the Insho Domoto Museum of Fine Art to Kinkaku-ji Temple, you will find the famous udon and soba noodle restaurant Gontaro.

[Google map](#)

Gontaro is located halfway between Ryoan-ji and Kinkaku-ji. It is a quaint restaurant that has been converted from a 100-year-old Kyoto-style private house. There are over 10 different types of *udon*, *soba* and rice bowl dishes, so you'll be spoilt for choice! There are also special dishes unique to Kyoto, such as “*nishin soba*” (*soba* noodles with pickled herring), “*yuba ankake udon*” (*udon* noodles with *yuba* and starchy sauce), and “*sobami- tofu*” (*soba* noodles with *tofu*), which you can only try at the Gontaro Kinkaku-ji branch.

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From Kinkaku-ji to Ryōan-ji, it takes about 32 minutes on foot along the road, Kinukake-no-michi. In 1994, Ryoan-ji Temple was also registered as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO as one of the “Cultural Heritage of the Ancient Capital Kyoto”. Kyoto has been the cultural center of Japan from the 8th century to the present day, and is home to many cultural assets, but Ryoan-ji is particularly famous for its stone garden, which is a fine expression of the Zen Buddhist philosophy. However, before it was designated as a Zen temple by Hosokawa Katsumoto in 1450, it was originally a villa for nobles, and you can still see traces of this in the garden surrounding the pond to the south of the stone garden. Please enjoy the two contrasting garden spaces: the dry landscape garden and the pond garden with water and trees.

The Ryoan-ji temple's Hojo Garden is a garden made up of only white sand and 15 natural stones. What a simple, tranquil, natural space! This garden reflects the hearts of those who look upon it. You are free to interpret it as you see fit.

We would like to introduce one way of looking at this garden. In the stone garden at Ryoan-ji, there is no position from which you can see all 15 stones at once. If you can see them at all, it is only from above. So what should we do on the ground? In order to grasp the overall picture of the 15 stones, we must change our own position and change the angle from which we look. We think that this kind of effort reflects human society. By going beyond our own perspective and relying on the perspectives of others, we can begin to see the world from the perspective of those who are different from ourselves.

This is a rock garden that can be enjoyed to the full in spring with its cherry blossoms, in autumn with its changing leaves, and in winter with its snowy landscape.





(These photos provided by Ryoan-ji Temple)





If you go around to the back of the stone garden, you will find a stone wash basin with the characters “吾唯足知” carved into it. This is a replica of the stone wash basin in front of the tea ceremony room Zoroku-an (not open to the public). A stone washbasin is a basin placed in front of a tea ceremony room for washing one's hands before entering. It is said that this stone washbasin was donated by Mitsukuni Mito as a gift of thanks when he borrowed 13 volumes of the Taiheiki from Ryoan-ji Temple in order to compile the Dai Nihon Shi (The Great History of Japan) during the Edo period. The phrase “吾唯足知” can be simply translated as “Be content with what you have”. The Buddha, who founded Buddhism, said that “those who know contentment have peaceful minds, while those who do not know contentment have disturbed minds”, and this phrase expresses the

essence of Buddhism.

In this day and age, when the very nature of civilized society is being fundamentally called into question due to climate change, war and other factors, it can be said that this is a maxim that strikes a chord in our hearts.

After leaving the rock garden, let's take a stroll along the path around the Kyoyochi pond. On the way, you will come across Seigen-in temple restaurant. The vegetarian cuisine and tofu are served while enjoying the views of the Japanese garden, which is rich in water and greenery and contrasts with the dry landscape of the rock garden. The hot tofu, which contains many ingredients such as Chinese cabbage, Potherb mustard, and Kyoto-style wheat gluten, was devised by the previous chief priest with the wish that it would nourish people. You can spend a relaxing moment listening to the sound of water from the stream and the Shishi-Odoshi (a deer-scaring device), and the birdsong.



When Ryoan-ji was still a villa for nobles, the nobles would enjoy boating on the Kyoyochi pond. Cherry blossoms and maple trees have been planted around the pond, and they delight the eye with their colorful beauty in each of the four seasons. Please take a leisurely stroll around the pond and enjoy the beauty of each season.

After leaving Ryoan-ji Temple, walk through the Ryoan-ji shopping street and head for the Randen Ryoanji Station.



[Google map](#)

After leaving Ryoan-ji Temple, cross the pedestrian crossing, and you will soon come to “Kyokomono Kinugasa”. The store was established in 1968 as a Japanese accessories shop in front of Ryoan-ji Temple. In 2012, it was reopened as a store that selects Japanese accessories with excellent design. Inside the store, you will find lots of goods that make you feel “Kyoto”! Fans of various designs, “Gamaguchi” purses and bags made from Nishijin textiles, etc. make great souvenirs that are typical of Kyoto. The best-selling item is the “Nejiri-bako” box. This is a mysterious hexagonal box made from Nishijin gold brocade. Twist it gently to the left and the lid will open. You can use it as a container for accessories or small items while enjoying the scent of the incense pouch inside. You can use bar code payment and credit cards.





Kyoto pickles shop TOMIKAWA [京つけもの富川 \(kyoto-tomikawa.jp\)](http://kyoto-tomikawa.jp)

[Google map](#)

Along the road in front of the main gate of Ryoan-ji Temple, you will find “Kyoto pickles shop Tomikawa”. Inside the shop, you will find a wide range of pickles made from various vegetables. Many of the carefully selected vegetables are grown in the owner's private farm on the outskirts of Kyoto! The fact that the shop is involved in all aspects of production, processing and sales, is its greatest strength. The standard Kyoto pickles, such as *senmai-zuke*, *shiba-zuke* and *suguki-zuke*, as well as the wide variety of products such as bamboo shoots and eggplant pickles are beautiful to look at. The staff have also tried their hand at pickled Tamba black soybeans and broccoli:

this is the first time in Kyoto Tomikawa has made Kyoto pickles from such vegetables.

Besides pickles, the homemade rice balls are also sold, particularly popular with overseas visitors, as well as soft ice cream (also available in green tea flavor), famous for its rich flavor. In summer, many people stop by for soft ice cream.



If you walk south along the path on the right of “Kyokomono Kinugasa”, you will reach the Ryoanji Shopping Street. The Ryoanji Shopping Street is a shopping street located between the main gate of Ryoan-ji Temple and the north gate of Myoshin-ji Temple. It calls itself the “Tatsu-no-Michi: Dragon Path” and is involved in various local revitalization activities. If you follow this path, you will reach the Randen Ryoanji Station. Let us introduce some attractive shops here.

Community Café, Tonbo-no-ie

[とんぼの家 - Google map](#)

The “Tonbo-ni-ie (Dragonfly House)” is a community cafe that was created as a place where local people can gather and interact with visitors to the shopping street. It functions as a place for local people and tourists to relax, and is also a base for various local activities. You can also experience the culture of origami and calligraphy for foreigners. There is also a real sword on display, so you can see valuable Japanese culture item up close. Why not enjoy interacting with local people in the Ryoanji shopping street during your travels?



Aioi Restaurant

[あいおい - Google map](#)

Aioi is a homely restaurant that has been in the Ryoanji shopping street for about 60 years. It has Menu with actual photos in English, Chinese (simplified and traditional characters) and Korean, created by students of Ritsumeikan University, so it is easy to order and foreigners can feel free to come in. It has been loved by local people for many years as a student cafeteria and local restaurant, and it is a reasonably priced, easy-to-enter restaurant. Why not drop by for lunch?



お好み焼 克(かつ) - Google map

Okonomiyaki Katsu opened about 30 years ago as a restaurant where you could eat okonomiyaki even at lunch time. The rumor that the husband and wife who run the shop can have friendly conversations in English with foreigners has spread, and many foreign tourists visit this restaurant.

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Area E: Recommended Sightseeing Spots and Events

Tenjin Flea Market @ Kitano Tenmangu Shrine [北野天満宮天神市](#)
[2024（毎月 25 日早朝～）骨董市（kyototravel.info）](#)



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Kitano-Tenmangu Shrine is bustling with activity on the 25th of every month, when the flea market called “Tenjin-san” is held. Kitano-Tenmangu Shrine is the place where Izumo no Okuni, who is said to be the founder of Kabuki, began performing Kabuki dances. Okuni's temporary performances at the Okuni-za theater became popular as the “Kabuki dances”, in which the dancers dressed as men, and Okuni came to have a permanent stage at Kitano-Tenmangu Shrine. This was a groundbreaking event that revolutionized the way entertainment was presented. From then on, more and more people began to gather, and the area was lined with movable tea stalls with umbrellas overhead. People enjoyed the new entertainment to their

hearts' content, while savoring the tea and food served at the tea stalls. Against this backdrop, the flea market “Tenjin-san” also began to thrive.



On the day of Tenjin-san, there are many stalls set up around Kitano-Tenmangu Shrine. As well as snacks such as *yakisoba* and *takoyaki*, there are also stalls selling antiques, secondhand clothes, kimono and more, so the event attracts not only locals but also many visitors from further afield. This is because you can sometimes find rare bargains. The “Shimai-tenjin” (the last Tenjin Festival in a year) on December 25th and the “Hatsu-tenjin” (beginning of the Tenjin Festival in a new year) on January 25th are particularly crowded. There are sometimes as many as 1500 stalls lining the precincts. The festival goes on until around 7pm, but depending on the weather, it may finish earlier. Also, on the days of “Tenjin-san”, parking is not allowed. So please come by public transport.



Yokai Street (Taishogun Shopping Street)

[大將軍商店街について | 大將軍商店街振興組合 一条妖怪ストリート \(kyoto-taisyogun.com\)](http://kyoto-taisyogun.com)

The Taishogun Shopping Street is a unique shopping street that is trying to revitalize by promoting itself as a “*Yokai* (ghosts and monsters) Street”. This street has a legend called “Hyakki Yagyou” . In the Heian period, old tools that were thrown away, turned into monsters and marched down this street. People in the Heian period saw Ichijo-dori street as a boundary between the two worlds, with the south being the space where people lived and the north being the space where non-human things lived. Ichijo-dori was a place where monsters and ghosts appeared at night. The people of the shopping street came up with the novel idea of “revitalizing the town with *Yokai*”

as Ichijo Street is a place with such a connection to *Yokai*.

At the time, graduate student Shunya Kono, who was researching *yokai* culture in the Graduate School of Tourism Design, joined the students in the Yokai Street project.

The “Yokai Street” gradually became well known to the public as the Keifuku Electric Railway began to hold events such as the Yokai Train. The “Yokai Street” is also home to the “Hyakuyoubako” gallery store, which focuses on the theme of *yokai*.

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[Youkai Gallery Shop “Hyakuyoubako” 百妖箱 \(kyotohyakki.com\)](http://kyotohyakki.com)

[Google map](#)

If you walk straight south for 4 minutes from *Ootori*, the main gate of Kitano-Tenmangu Shrine, you will see a banner with the words “Ichijo-dori Yokai Street” written on it. This is the entrance to the Taishogun Shopping street. Walk straight west along this street for about 2 minutes, and if you look left at the intersection, you will see an interesting shop. It is the Yokai Gallery Shop “Hyakuyohako”. This is a shop run by Hyakuybako, a yokai art group led by Kono Junya, where



original yokai goods such as yokai masks and illustrations made from Japanese paper are sold.

The most popular item is the acrylic stand of the Yokai (see photo). The Yokai picture book and T-shirts featuring Yokai created by Mr. Kono are also very popular with children. Foreign tourists also visit the store.







The Yokai Art group: *Hyakuyobako* also plans and holds events such as the Ichijō *Hyakki Yagyou* and the *Mononoke Ichi* as part of its community development activities. In addition, the Yokai Train, which is a summer tradition in Kyoto and was introduced in Area A, features the *yokai* designed by Mr. Kono.

Ichijyo Hyakki Yagyou

The Ichijyo Hyakki Yagyou event is a street parade where members of the *Hyakuyobako* group, as well as *yokai* designers and fans from all over the country, dress up as *yokai* and parade through the Taishogun shopping street. The event is based on the legend that old tools that had been used and then abandoned, turned into *yokai* called *tsukumogami*. These yokai formed gangs and paraded through the streets of Kyoto late at night. Mr. Kono cites “Tsuresuregusa”, “Tsukumogami-ki”, “Uji Shui Monogatari”, “Konjaku Monogatari” and other documents as references linking the *Hyakki Yagyou* to Ichijo-dori (Taishogun Shopping Street). The date of the event changes from year to year, so if you are interested, please gather information in advance from sources such as *Hyakuyobako* (kyotohyakki.com).







Mononoke-Ichi Flea Market @ Taishogun Shopping Street

The “Mononoke-Ichi” is an art flea market with a *yokai* theme that has been held since 2009. It is held on the grounds of the Taishogun-Hachi-Jinja Shrine ([Google Maps](#)). Artists from all over the country who work with the theme of yokai sell their original *yokai* artwork. You can buy everything from *yokai* goods to stylish accessories. The special currency in the form of paper money with *yokai* illustrations that can be used at the flea market is recommended as a souvenir. There are also events such as ghost stories for a fee, and you can take commemorative photos with people dressed up as yokai. There are around 30 to 40 stalls, and the event is held from 10:00 to 17:00, and from 13:00 to 20:00 in the summer. It is held three or four times a year, so please see the following website if you are interested.

([Mononoke-ichi, Kyoto's Yokai Art Flea Market - Together](#))





Cherry blossom viewing spot: Hirano-jinja Shrine

[HIRANO-JINJA \(hiranojinja.com\)](http://HIRANO-JINJA (hiranojinja.com))

平野神社 - Google map

Hirano-jinja Shrine is a famous place for cherry blossom viewing that represents Kyoto. There are 400 cherry trees of 60 different varieties planted in the precincts, and the shrine is crowded with visitors during the cherry blossom season. Hirano-jinja Shrine is also known as a museum of cherry blossoms. In recent years, rapeseed flowers have been planted at the base of the cherry trees, and the contrast between the yellow of the rapeseed flowers and the pink of the cherry blossoms is beautiful. Various cherry trees have been planted at Hirano-jinja Shrine since the Heian period, and some of the cherry trees at the shrine are said to have originated there. For information on when the cherry blossoms are in bloom, and the opening hours and admission fees for the cherry garden, please check the official website.

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Kamishichiken Kaburenjo Theater

[上七軒歌舞会 | 公式ウェブサイト \(maiko3.com\)](http://maiko3.com)

[上七軒歌舞会 - Google map](#)



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At Kamishichiken Kaburenjo, you can enjoy maiko's and geiko's dance performances twice a year. In spring, the *Kitano Odori* festival is held from March 20th to April 2nd. Every year, a stage play is performed based on an original script, like a picture book. The play is full of dialogue, and the performers aim to create a performance that everyone can enjoy and understand. The "Kotobuki-kai" is held from November 13th to 18th. Unlike the "Kitano Odori" in spring, classical works are performed. The dialogue is all in the classical style, and it is positioned as a stage for *geiko* to hone their skills.



(Provided by the Kamishichiken-Kabu-Kai)

In addition to this, a beer festival is held at its garden from July 1st to around September 7th in the summer. This beer garden was started with the aim of providing a place to enjoy the cool of the evening while chatting by the pond. It is open from 5:30pm to 10pm, and you can enjoy it after ordering the first set (in 2024, the set menu was 2,500 yen and included drinks, tofu, and edamame). Please make a reservation online before coming. Here, you can eat and drink while taking photos and having fun conversations with *geiko* and *maiko*, who you wouldn't normally have a chance to meet.



(Provided by the Kamishichiken-Kabu-Kai)

In 1444, part of the Kitano-Tenmangu shrine was destroyed by fire. When Ashikaga Yoshitane, the 10th shogun of the Muromachi shogunate, ordered the shrine to be rebuilt, seven teahouses were built using the leftover materials. These teahouses were known as the seven teahouses located north of the imperial palace, and eventually came to be called Kamishichiken. When Toyotomi Hideyoshi hosted the Kitano Grand Tea Ceremony, he was so impressed by the *mitarashi dango* he ate at the Shichiken Chaya that he granted them the exclusive right to sell *mitarashi dango* and the right to operate throughout Kyoto. Because of this connection, Kamishichiken uses the dango as its emblem. The five dango emblems on the lanterns at the Kamishichiken Kaburenjo are displayed for this reason. On February 25th, the anniversary of Sugawara Michizane's death, the Kitano-Tenmangu Shrine holds a plum blossom festival 'Baikasai'.

During this time, the *geiko* and *maiko* of Kamishichiken hold a tea ceremony event called “Nodate no Kai”. You can enjoy the tea ceremony performed by *geisha* and *maiko* while eating sweets. Also, on December 1st, a tea ceremony is held with the participation of three schools: *Omotesenke*, *Urasenke*, and *Mushanokoji-senke*. Kamishichiken participates as *Urasenke*, and you can watch the tea ceremony performed by *geisha* and *maiko*.









[Google map](#)



The Kyoto Museum for World Peace was established in May 1992. It was the world's first peace museum to be established by a university. In May 2016, 24 years after its establishment, the total number of visitors reached one million. This means that more than 40,000 people visited the museum each year. After closing for two years, it reopened in September 2023. The aim is not just to look back on the sad times of war in the past, but to learn from that history, to develop the ability to look at things from a variety of perspectives, and to provide a foothold for building ideas for peace in the future. When the museum was renovated, the concept of providing a place where a diverse range of visitors could meet and exchange ideas was emphasized. The stairs

have been made easier for everyone to use, and universal design has been adopted in various places. There is also a nursing room and first aid room. In addition to learning about the past, the “Question Corner” has been set up so that everyone can think about ideas for peace-building for the future. It is a place where visitors can share their thoughts and feelings about the exhibits with other visitors. Visitors can think again about their own thoughts on the exhibits, comparing them with the opinions of others. This new concept makes the museum a place for not only getting but also sharing knowledge.



On the second floor, there is a space called “Peace Commons” where visitors can interact with each other. This space can be used freely for things like “doing some preliminary study before looking at the exhibits”, “reflecting on what you've seen after you've finished”, and “discussing your impressions with other visitors”. We highly recommend visiting this museum.



Message from Peace Museum Staff

“We hope you will come, see, feel, think, and use your visit to this place as an opportunity to take a step towards building peace. Building a peaceful society depends on our imagination and creativity. We would also like to hear your ideas on how to make the most of this space. Our hope is that the Kyoto Museum for World Peace will contribute, even in a small way, to building peace in the world.”



Ms. Tashiki (left) and Mr. Tajima (right)

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4. How to enjoy the “Randen in-depth travel” by theme

❶ I want to stay at a temple. . . .

Rokuo-in Temple Women's Lodging (Area B)

Myoshin-ji Hanazono Kaikan Temple Hotel(Area D)

❷ I want to experience *Zen* meditation . . .

Tenryu-ji Temple (Area C)

Myoshin-ji Temple, Taizo-in(Area D)

Myoshin-ji Temple, Shunko-in(Area D)

❸ I want to have a *samurai* experience. . . .

KYOTO · SAMURAI · EXPERIENCE (Area A)

TOEI KYOTO STUDIO PARK (Area B)

❹ I want to spend time by/on the river. . . .

Arashiyama/Katsura-gawa River (Area C)

❺ I want to enjoy the bamboo grove. . . .

Arashiyama (C-1 and C-2 courses)

❻ I want to enjoy public baths and hot springs . . .

Toron Onsen Inariyu (Area A)

Fufu no Yu Onsen (Area C)

Arashiyama Station Footbath (Area C)

- ⑦ I want to explore a Japanese university campus. . . .

Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus (Area D)

- ⑧ I want to learn about war and peace. . . .

Kyoto Museum for World Peace (Area D)

- ⑨ I need a break in a quiet and stylish museum. . . .

FUKUDA Art Museum (Area C)

Inho-Domoto Museum of Fine Art (Area D)

- ⑩ I want to enjoy nature. . . .

Arashiyama C-3 Course (Area C)

Omuro 88 Temples Pilgrimage (Area D)

- ⑪ I want to meet *yokai*: ghosts and monsters. . . .

Randen Yokai Train (Area A)

TOEI KYOTO STUDIO PARK .

Haunted House (Area B)

Yokai Goods Shop/Hyakuyobako (Area E)

Mononoke-ichi Flea-Market (Area E)

Taishogun Shopping Street, Hyakki-Yagyo (Area E)

- ⑫ I want to experience *Noh* performance up close. . . .

Sugiura Noh Stage (Area D)

- ⑬ Cherry blossom spots you don't want to miss. . . .

Nijo-jo Castle (Area A)

Arashiyama C-1 course, C-3 course (Area C)

Randen Cherry Blossom Tunnel (Area D)

Ninna-ji Temple, Omuro Cherry Blossom (Area D)

Myoshin-ji Temple, Tatezo-in (Area D)

Ryoan-ji Temple (Area E)

Hirano-jinja Shrine (Area E)

- ⑭ Fall foliage spots you don't want to miss. . . .

Rokuo-in Temple (Area B)

Arashiyama C-1, C-2, C-3 Course (Area C)

Myoshin-ji Temple, Tatezo-in (Area D)

Kitano Tenmangu Shrine (Area E)

- ⑮ I want to meet *Maiko*. . . .

Kamishichiken Kaburenjo Theater (Area E)

16 I want to visit a world cultural heritage site. . . .

Nijo-jo Castle (Area A)

Tenryu-ji Temple (Area C)

Ninna-ji Temple (Area D)

Ryoan-ji Temple (Area E)

Kinkaku-ji Temple (Area E)

17 I want to enjoy the Japanese garden. . . .

Ninomaru Garden @ Nijo-jo Castle (Area A)

Shinsen-en Garden (Area A)

Tenryuji Temple Sogen-chi Garden (Area C)

Okouchi-sanso Villa Garden (Area C)

Ninna-ji Temple Goten Garden (Area D)

Myoshin-ji Temple, Taizoin: Motonobu's Garden,
Yokou-en (Area D)

Toji-in Temple (Area E)

Ryoanji Temple, Rock Garden (Area E)

Kinkaku-ji Temple (Area E)

18 I would like to see Japanese festivals/events. . . .
Nijo-jo Castle Light-up Event (Area A)

Mibu Kyogen (Area A)

Gion Festival, Kanko Matsuri (Area A)

Kasuga Matsuri (Area A)

The Sai-in Fest (Area A)

Lights up event at Rokuo-in Temple (Area B)

Mifune Matsuri (Area C)

19 I want to visit a unique cafe. . . .
Wonder Cafe (Area D)

Castella do Paulo (Area E)

20 I want to experience vegetarian and vegan food culture. . . .
Kyoto Pickles Shop Mori (Area A)

Tofu Shop Morika (Area C)

Tofu Restaurant Seigen-in (Area D)

Kyoto Pickles Shop Tomikawa (Area D)

Tofu Restaurant Toyouke-Chaya (Area E)

Udon Restaurant Tawaraya (Area E)

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6. Other sightseeing-related links

・ List of Kyoto Tourism Events - Kyoto Tourism Federation Official Site
京都観光イベント一覧 | 京都府観光連盟公式サイト
(kyoto-kankou.or.jp)

・ Kyoto Tourism Official Site_Kyoto Tourism Navi Plus 京都観光オフィシャルサイト_京都観光 Navi ぶらす (kyoto.travel)

・ Walking in Kyoto, the Bus and Rail Expert 歩くまち京都 バス・鉄道の達人 (arukumachikyoto.jp)

・ List of convenience stores in Kyoto Prefecture 京都府のコンビニ一覧 - NAVITIME

- ・ KYOTO CULTURE HUB - A portal site for disseminating information on the appeal of culture and events from Kyoto [KYOTO CULTURE HUB | 京都から文化の魅力・イベント情報発信ポータルサイト](#)

- ・ Kyoto Historic Corridor Association - This organization was established in 2004 with the participation of local citizens, temples and shrines, artists, shop owners, and universities in the northwestern area of Kyoto City [京都歴史回廊協議会 | 京都歴史回廊協議会は、京都市北西部エリアの一般市民・寺社・芸術家・商店主・大学が参加し、2004年に設立されました。\(kyotokairou.org\)](#)

- ・ Japan Safe Travel Information

<https://www.japan.travel/en/japan-safe-travel-information/>

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