

## 1. Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto



Kyoto city

Since its establishment as the capital of Japan, then called Heian-kyo, in 794, Kyoto remained as the Imperial resident capital for over a thousand years and prospered as the center of Japanese culture. Many Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines were founded in the city and the surrounding area under the patronage of the Emperors and Shoguns (warrior elite leaders), and remain today as they used to be. Each building accurately represents the culture of the historical period when it was built. Thus the whole Kyoto could be regarded as a museum of Japanese history.

Many of the architectural properties are designated as National Treasures or Important Cultural Assets, among which a set of 17 historic sites was registered as World Cultural Heritage in 1993.

### How to get to Kyoto from Kyoya Ryokan ?

**By Shinkansen** (¥5640/about 40-50minutes)

1. Go to JR Nagoya station Taiko-guchi exit.
2. Take the JR Tokaido Shinkansen "Nozomi", "Hikari" or "Kodama".
3. Get off at Kyoto Station .

※Japan Rail Pass can be used on all Shinkansen trains except Nozomi, and Mizuho trains.

**By JR Highway Bus** (¥2500/about 2hours 30minutes)

1. go to JR Nagoya station
2. Take the JR Bus.
3. Get off at Kyoto Station Karasuma-guchi exit.

※Japan Rail Pass can be used on JR highway bus bound for Kyoto.  
※Reservation is required. Please reserve your seat in advance.

### 1. 賀茂別雷神社(上賀茂神社)/Kamo Wake-ikazuchi Jinja (Kamigamo jinja)



Address: 339 Motoyama Kamigamo Kita-ku, Kyoto  
Access: City Bus Stop Kamigamo-jinja-mae  
(from Keihan Railway Demachiyana Station and Subway Kitayama Station)  
5-minute walk from City Bus Stop Kamigamo misonobashi  
(from Hankyu Railway Kawaramachi Station /Keihan Railway Demachiyana, Sanjo Stations /Subway Kitaoji Station /Kyoto Station)  
Website: <http://www.kamigamojinja.jp/english/index.html>

### 2. 賀茂御祖神社(下鴨神社)/Kamo Mioya Jinja



Address: 59 Izumigawa-cho Shimogamo Sakyo-ku, Kyoto  
Access: 8-minute walk  
from Keihan Railway /Eizan Railway Demachiyana Station  
City Bus Stop Shimogamo-jinja  
(from Subway Kitaoji Station/JR Kyoto Station)  
Website: <http://www.shimogamo-jinja.or.jp/pg217.html>

The Kamo Shrines, Shimogamo Shrine and Kamigamo Shrine, are two of the most important shrines in Kyoto and jointly hold one of Kyoto's three biggest festivals, the Aoi Matsuri. Every May 15th at 10:30am, a large procession dressed in the style of the Heian court leaves from the Imperial palace, continues to Shimogamo, and ends the day at Kamigamo. Both shrines also host other smaller festivals throughout the year.

### 3. 宇治上神社/Ujigami-jinja



Ujigami-jinja is the oldest shrine in Japan. The inner Shrine (Honden), the oldest extant structure, are buildings dating back to the 14th century. It is a quiet place and located across the Uji-gawa River from Byodo-in Temple and next to the Uji-jinja Shrine.

Address: 63 Uji-Yamada, Uji City, Kyoto  
Access: 10-minute walk from Uji Station on the Keihan Uji Line  
20-minute walk from JR Uji Station

### 4. 仁和寺/Ninna-ji



Ninna-ji Temple is a large complex which has an exquisite five-storey pagoda, a massive main gate, delightful landscape gardens (with ponds, bridges, and old stones), raked gravel gardens, tea-houses, and beautiful halls for prayer and residence. It is famous for its late-blooming cherry trees.

Address: 33 Omuro-Oouchi, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto  
Website: [http://www.ninnaji.or.jp/multilingual\\_info.html](http://www.ninnaji.or.jp/multilingual_info.html)  
Access: 20-minute walk from JR Hanazono Station on the JR Sagano Line  
<http://ninnaji.wordpress.com/access/>

### 5. 清水寺/Kyomizu-dera



Kyomizu-dera Temple is perhaps the most beloved of Kyoto's temples. The temple's veranda juts out of the side of a mountain supported by 13-meter-high wooden columns, from there, one can appreciate fine views facing west over the city of Kyoto. The main hall houses a priceless statue of Kannon Bodhisattva, the goddess of mercy.

Address: 1-294 Kiyomizu Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto  
Access: 10-minute walk from City Bus Stop Gojozaka (from Keihan Shichijo Station and JR Kyoto Station)  
10-minute walk from City Bus Stop Kiyomizu-michi  
(from Keihan Shijo Station, Hankyu Kawaramachi Station)  
25-minute walk from Keihan Gojo Station  
10-minute walk from City Bus Stop Higashiyama-gojo  
Website: <http://www.kyomizudera.or.jp/lang/01.html>

### 6. 平等院/Byodo-in Temple



This temple was converted from a Fujiwara villa into a Buddhist temple in 1052. The "Phoenix Hall" (Houou-do), more properly known as the Amida-do, was built in 1053 and is the only original building remaining. Its graceful lines and warm colors give the building the appearance of a majestic bird spreading its wings. It is popularly known as the "Phoenix Hall," and when seen with its reflection on the large pond in front, it almost appears to be gliding above the earth. This view is one of the most famous in Japan, and it has been replicated on back of the 10 yen coin.

Address: 116 Uji-enge, Uji City, Kyoto  
Access: 10-minute walk from JR Uji Station on the JR Nara Line  
Website: <http://www.byodojin.or.jp/english.html>

### 7. 鹿苑寺(金閣寺)/Rokuon-ji(Kinkaku-ji)



The temple, formally known as Rokuonji, was the retirement villa of the shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu. Its top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. It is perhaps the most widely-recognized image of Kyoto. Seen reflected in the adjoining "mirror pond" with its small islands of rock and pine, Kinkaku-ji Temple, "The Temple of the Golden Pavilion," is a breathtaking must-see.

Address: 1 Kinkakuji-cho Kita-ku, Kyoto  
Access: City Bus Stop Kinkaku-ji-michi (from Kyoto Station)  
City Bus Stop Kinkakuji-mae  
(from Subway Sanjo-Keihan Station, Shijo Station)  
10 minutes by taxi from Subway Kitaoji Station  
Website: <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3908.html>

### 8. 西芳寺(苔寺)/Saiho-ji (Koke-dera)



Kokedera means Moss Temple, referring to the temple garden's estimated 120 different varieties of moss. In an effort to protect the moss from being trampled by too many visitors, the temple has adopted a restricted admission policy.

Aspiring visitors must write to the temple in advance to request a reservation. (To apply, write your preferred date, number of people, and name and mailing address.)

Address: 56 Jingatani-cho, Matsuo, Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto  
Access: 10 minute walk from Matsuo Station on the Hankyu Arashiyama Line.  
Website: <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3937.html>

※Fortune fee: 3,000 yen



## 9. 二条城/Nijo-jo



Nijo Castle was built in 1603 as the Kyoto residence of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first shogun of the Edo Period. The Ninomaru Palace, the castle's main attraction, served as the residence and office of the shogun during his visits to Kyoto, and contains the wide moat, massive stone walls, and heavy yet elaborate gates, gorgeous paintings on the walls and sliding doors. It was here that the last shogun, Tokugawa Yoshinobu, restored the emperor to his ancient seat of power in 1867.

Address: 541 Nijo-jo-cho Horikawa-nishi-iru Nijo-dori Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto  
 Access: City Bus Stop Nijo-jo-mae  
 (from JR Kyoto Station/Hankyu Railway Karasuma Station),  
 Tozai Subway Line Nijo-jo-mae Station.  
 Website: <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3918.html>

※English audio guides are available for rent (500 yen) at a kiosk just inside the gate!

## 10. 西本願寺/Nishi Hongan-ji



Nishi-Hongan-ji Temple is the finest example of Momoyama-era(1568-1598) architecture that is characterized by its Grandeur and gorgeousness, the temple features large buildings, elaborate gates with gold trim, gilded altars, painted statues, and a host of other items deemed National Treasures, including the oldest Noh stage in Japan. As the temple is headquarters of the Japan's largest Buddhist sects, there is a good place to experience contemporary Japanese Buddhism.

Address: Hanauya-cho sagaru, Horikawa-dori, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto  
 Access: City Bus Stop Nishi-hongan-ji-mae (bus route no.9,28 or 75 )  
 City Bus Stop Shimabara-guchi (bus route no.18,71,206 or 207 )  
 City Bus Stop Shichijo-horikawa (bus route no.206 or 208 )  
 few minutes by taxi from Kyoto Station  
 Website: <http://www.hongwanji.or.jp/english/>

## 11. 高山寺/Kouzsan-ji



Kozan-ji Temple stands in a mountain forest. The temple was founded by a priest named "Myoe(明恵)", who restored a previous mountain temple with help from the retired Emperor Gotoba. The emperor's hall and Myoe's former residence still stand. Kozan-ji's charm lies in its quiet and secluded atmosphere. You can sit on the temple's veranda overlooking the Kiyotaki-gawa river valley, admire the scenery of green hills, listen to the forest sounds.

Address: Umegahata-Toganoo-cho, Ukyo-ku  
 Access: take the JR Bus Takao-Keihoku line from JR Kyoto Station / Subway Shijo-Omiya Station, get off at Togano'o  
 Website: <http://www.kosanji.com/access.html> (Japanese)

## 12. 龍安寺/Ryoan-ji



Ryoan-ji Temple is famous for its mysterious rock garden, the most celebrated in Japan, which defies attempts at explanation. Enclosed by an earthen wall, fifteen carefully placed rocks seem to drift in a sea of raked white gravel. A viewing platform right above the garden gives visitors an unimpeded view, although from whatever angle you view the garden, you can never see all fifteen stones.

Address: 13 Ryoanji-Goryo-Sita-machi, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto  
 Access: 7-minute walk from City Bus Stop Ritsumeikandaigaku-mae (from JR Kyoto Station/Hankyu Oomiya Station)  
 1-minute walk from City Bus Stop Ryoan-ji-mae (from Hankyu Sanjo Station)  
 7-minute walk from Keifuku Railway Ryoan-ji-michi Station  
 Website: <http://www.ryoanji.jp/>

## 13. 醍醐寺/Daigo-ji



Daigo-ji Temple spreads across Daigo-san Mountain and is well-known as the "Temple of Flowers". The five-story pagoda, Goju-no-to is now the oldest building in Kyoto having survived the Onin War in the 1400's. On the second Sunday in April, a feast is held to commemorate a famous cherry blossom viewing party held 1598 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who helped to rebuild the damaged buildings.

Address: 22 Daigo-Higash-ji-cho, Fushimi-ku, Kyoto  
 Access: 10-minute walk from Daigo Station on the Tozai Subway Line, Keihan Bus Stop Daigo-Sanpo-in (from JR Yamashina Station and Keihan Railway Rokujizo Station)  
 Website: [http://www.daigoji.or.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.daigoji.or.jp/index_e.html)

## 14. 慈照寺(銀閣寺)/Iisyo-ji(Ginkaku-ji)



Ginkaku-ji Temple was modeled on its sister temple Kinkaku-ji Temple (the Golden Pavilion). Yet Ginkaku-ji Temple was never gilded in silver, and the main temple building remains an unpainted brown--and in its way, exemplifies the Japanese idea that something plain can be beautiful. Next along the route is an expansive, meticulously maintained dry sand garden, known as the "Sea of Silver Sand (銀沙灘/Ginsyadan)", with a massive sand cone named "Moon Viewing Platform (向月台/Kougetsudai)".

Address: 2 Ginkakuji-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto  
 Access: 10-minute walk from Keihan Demachiyana Station  
 3-minute walk from City Bus Stop Doshishyamae  
 5-minute walk from City Bus Stop Ginkakuji-mae /Ginkakujimichi

## 15. 天龍寺/Tenryu-ji



The main attraction of Tenryu-ji Temple is the Zen garden dating back to the 14th century. In autumn, the maples provide a fine display of fall color, while in spring you might see the blossoms of wild cherry trees or the stunted trunks of Japanese red pines on the distant hills. In any season, as you sit in the shelter and view the garden. The garden has a way of calming one's spirit and it was designed partly for this reason. Visitors can also sample the temple's Zen vegetarian cuisine, known as "shojin ryori".

Address: 68 Saga-tenryuji-susukinobaba-cho, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto  
 Access: 10-minute walk from JR Saga-arashiyama Station on the JR Sagano Line  
 1-minute walk from City Bus Stop Keifuku Arashiyama-eki-mae  
 3-minute walk from Keifuku Railway Arashiyama Station  
 15-minute walk from Hankyu Railway Arashiyama Station

## 16. 延暦寺/Enryaku-ji



Enryakuji (延暦寺) is one of the most important monasteries in Japanese history. There is no temple or stupa called Enryakuji, in Heizen. Heizen itself represents Enryakuji. Many influential monks studied at Enryakuji, including the founders of a number of later sect. At its peak, Enryakuji had as many as 3000 subtemples and a powerful army of warrior monks. On his way to remove all potential rivals and unite the country, Oda Nobunaga attacked and destroyed here in 1571. Therefore, most of today's temple buildings date back to the early Edo Period, when Enryakuji was rebuilt.

Address: 4220 Sakamoto Honmachi, Otsu City, Shiga Website: <http://www.heizen.or.jp/pdf/english.pdf>  
 Access: There are direct buses from Kyoto Station and Keihan Sanjo Station to Heizen's Todo area. There are 4-6 buses per day, except from December through mid March, when there are only two buses per day on weekends only.  
 Eizan Main Line from Demachi-yanagi Station →Yase-Heizen-guchi Station→ Eizan Cablecar→Eizan Ropeway →the summit of Heizen  
 From the summit, it is 5 minute bus ride or 30 minute walk to the Todo area.  
 JR Kosei Line Kyoto Station→Hiei-Sakamoto Station→(15 minute walk or 5 minute bus ride) →lower station of the Sakamoto Cablecar→upper station  
 ※Information for access, please see [this web site.](http://www.heizen.or.jp/pdf/english.pdf)

## 17. 教王護国寺(東寺)/Kyoogoku-ji(To-ji)



To-ji's 5-story pagoda is the highest pagoda in Japan, and has long served as a city landmark. Homotsukan Museum (treasure house), Kondo-hall, Miedo hall, lecture hall houses many statues and other important artifacts. (Homotsukan Museum is only open from late March to late May and again from late September to late November.) A popular flea market is held on the 21st of each month at Toji Temple from the early morning hours until around 16:30 in the afternoon. A wide variety of new and second hand goods are on sale, including clothes, tools, sculptures ... and so on.

Address: 1 Kujo-cho Minami-ku, Kyoto  
 Access: 5-minute walk from Kintetsu Railway To-ji Station  
 City Bus Stop To-ji-higashimon-mae,  
 15-minute walk from JR Kyoto Station Hachijo-guchi exit  
 Website: <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3919.html>

◆When you have to take a bus, please see a [PDF of the bus route map.](#)

◆For more information, please check each website .

◆At Kyoto Tourist Information Center (KyoNavi), information service in English is available.

Location: 2nd Floor of the Kyoto Station Building on the north-south walkway

## Kyoto Tourist Information Center

