

Jetset Journals

no.1

2026

KYOTO

4 Days

Cityguide



a travel guide

SUMMARY

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INTRO

Everything you need to know before your trip to the former capital city - Kyoto.

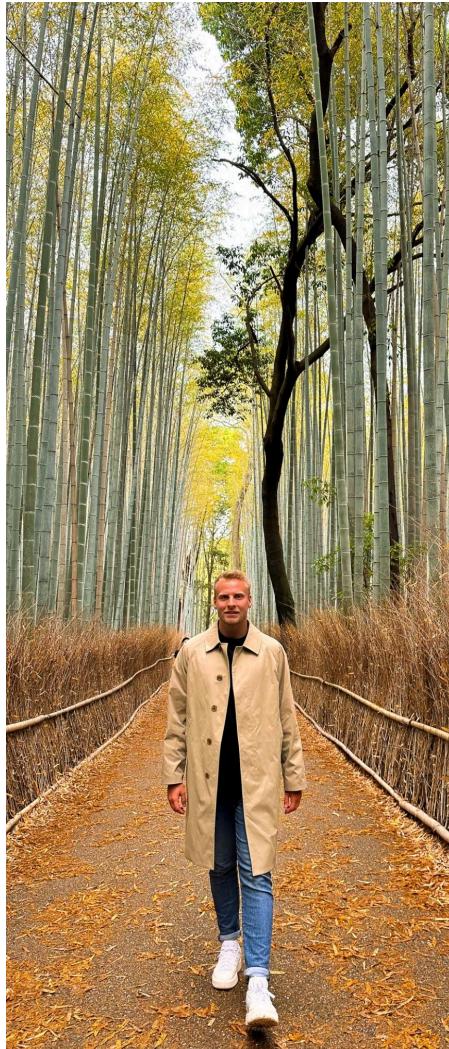
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INTRO

Kyoto – the ancient imperial city and, in my opinion, the most beautiful city in Japan—should definitely be included in any tour of the country.

From Europe, you will probably take a flight to Tokyo or Osaka, but from there you can quickly and easily reach Kyoto by Shinkansen. From Osaka in particular, the journey time is only about 30 minutes.

Although Kyoto is now only ninth on the list of the country's largest cities, it is still home to some of the most famous buildings and spots in all of Japan.

From Kyoto Central Station, you can get anywhere, including your accommodation, preferably by bus.

In Kyoto, the bus network is particularly well developed, whereas the metro network is not so extensive. However, large suitcases are not welcome on buses, so taxis are a good alternative for getting to your hotel.

If you want to use the bus to visit the city's top attractions, the journey time is often 45–60 minutes from the city center. The city center is easy to get around by foot.

You should plan at least four days for a stay in Kyoto, especially if you also want to include a day trip to Nara during your stay.

HIGHLIGHTS



01.

Fushimi Inari Shrine

One of the city's most famous highlights is definitely the Fushimi Inari Shrine. The corridors there, lined with classic red torii gates, are one of the most popular photo spots in the country.

It is best to visit this important Shinto shrine early in the morning before it gets too crowded. If you walk to the top of the sacred hill, you will also have a great view of the city. The shrine is open 24 hrs/day and entrance is free.

02.

Kinkaku-Ji Temple

The Zen temple, covered in gold leaf, stands out even among the many temples worth seeing in the country.

The surrounding green park and the location by the pond are particularly beautiful, and it is no surprise that the temple is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Also worth seeing is the Ginkaku-Ji temple at the other end of the city. Entrance fee for each temple is only about 3€.

03.

Arashiyama Bamboo Forest

The Arashiyama Bamboo Forest is also a very popular destination in Kyoto.

Admission here is free, and a walk along the tall bamboo plants can be very calming. Here in Arashiyama, there is also the Iwatayama Monkey Park, the Tenryu-Ji Temple, and the Katsura River flows along here. In addition, cafés and restaurants invite you to stay and relax here.



04.

Kiyomizu-dera Temple

Kiyomizu-dera Temple is located above the old town and offers a great view over the rooftops of the old town.

The huge wooden structure and the construction method using a special plug-in technique are very unique.

05.

Toji Pagoda

The Toji Pagoda is another building in Kyoto that is well worth seeing. The five-story wooden pagoda is the tallest in the country. The Kennin-Ji Temple is another cultural highlight.

06.

Nishiki Market

Nishiki Market is something of a food hotspot in Kyoto.

Here, vendors on both sides of a covered walkway offer all kinds of food for consumption. From fish to desserts, from jewelry to engraved chopsticks—you can find everything here.

07.

Nijo Castle

Nijo Castle is also one of the highlights of the old imperial city.

The castle was home to the first Tokugawa shogun. It was built in the early 17th century, and today visitors can also explore the beautiful surrounding park.



08.

Higashiyama

The Higashiyama district is Kyoto's old town and particularly worth seeing. Popular photo spots here include Yasaka-dori Street with its view of the pagoda of the same name, as well as the Ninenzaka and Sannenzaka alleys.

If you want to stroll through "old Japan" in peace, you should get up very early and enjoy the atmosphere.



09.

Nara

Nara, a city in itself, is on the list of Kyoto's highlights because it can be reached in just an hour by train, making it a popular day trip destination. Here you can visit important temple complexes in another ancient imperial city and, of course, see the famous deer that bow down before you.



10.

Gion

Similar to the Higashiyama district, the Gion district also offers a glimpse of historic Japan. It is also known for the geisha who live and work here, whom you may catch a glimpse of here and there. In recent years, however, some streets have been closed to tourists in order to protect the privacy and life of the geisha.



DAY TO DAY

Day 1 – We traveled from Nagoya to Kyoto by *Shinkansen* and arrived at the *main station* around mid-morning.

After checking in, we first looked for something to eat for lunch at the *Nishiki Food Market*.

From there, we took the bus to *Arashiyama* in the afternoon and visited the famous *bamboo forest*. In the evening, we went to *Musashi Sushi*, a running sushi restaurant near our hotel, and then ended the day in the hotel *onsen*.

Day 2 – On day 2, a day trip to the city of **Nara** was on the agenda.

Once we arrived, we first visited *Kofuku-ji Temple*, then spent a few hours in *Nara Deer Park* feeding the *sika deer* roaming freely. After having tea at *Saryo Zeze* and visiting *Todaiji Temple*, we headed back

towards the station. We had some *mochi ice cream* at *Nakatanidou* and then returned to Kyoto, where we had dinner at *Ichiran*.

Day 3 – The next day, we started early in the morning with a visit to the *Fushimi Inari Shrine*. We then took the bus to the golden *Kinkaku-Ji Temple*,

and also the *Toji Pagoda*.

In the evening, we strolled through the *Gion district* and had dinner at *Curry & Tempura Koisus*.

Day 4 – On day 4, we started very early in the morning again with a visit to the *Higashiyama district* around *Yasaka Pagoda*.

Afterwards, we visited *Ginkaku-ji*, *Kennin-ji*, and *Kiyomizu-dera temples*.

The next day, we continued on to *Osaka*.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurants:

★ Curry & Tempura Koisus

Very delicious Japanese Curry
3 Chome-292 Miyagawasuji, Higashiyama

• Musashi Sushi

Nice Running Sushi, or boxes to go
604-8005 Kyoto, Nakagyo Ward, Ebisuchō,

• Ichiran Ramen

Ramen restaurant-chain, delicious & spicy
Shimogyo Ward, Tachiuri Nakanochō, 102-3



• Onimaru Yaki-musubi

Great & various Onigiri to go
7 Otabimiyamotocho, Shimogyo Ward

• Nishiki Food Markt

Diverse Street Food
Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, 604-8055, Japan



Cafés:

• 2050 Coffee

Good and stylish Coffee-Shop
402 Sakuranochō, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto

• Kurasu Ebisugawa

Great coffee & sweets
551 Yamanakacho, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto

★ Saryo Zeze

Nice tea & good atmosphere in Nara
〒630-8213 Nara, Noboriojicho, 63番地

• Söt Coffee Kyoto Shichijo

Great Coffee Shop in Higashiyama
5 Chome-148-2 Honmachishin

• YUGEN

Nice small Café
146 Kameyacho, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto,
604-0865, Japan

WHERE TO SLEEP

There is a wide variety of excellent hotels in Kyoto. Due to the sometimes quite long distances, it makes sense to look for a hotel in the center. We also wanted to have a nice onsen area directly in the hotel again, so we decided on **Hotel Resol Kyoto Kawaramachi Sanjo**.

Thanks for reading! You can find more details on my website or Instagram & TikTok!



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<https://www.jetset-journals.com/>