

JAPAN

2025

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TOKYO

DISCOVER EFFICIENT
ROUTES TO SAVE TIME AND
VISIT AS MANY TOURIST
ATTRACTIONS AS POSSIBLE

KYOTO

MUST-VISIT TEMPLES
LOCAL CULINARY DELIGHTS
MATCHA GUIDE + TEA CEREMONIES
DAY TRIPS TO NARA & OSAKA

GOURMET GUIDE

EXPLORE LOCAL FOOD
MARKETS, MICHELIN-STARRED
RESTAURANTS AND
HIDDEN BARS



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IDEAL TIME TO VISIT *Japan*

The most favourable time for traveling in Japan is during all months except July and August, as these two months are unbearably hot and very humid.

Sakura season typically begins in **late March and can last until early April**, but the exact timing varies depending on the location within Japan and the weather conditions in a given year. Major cities like Tokyo and Kyoto usually see the cherry blossoms bloom in early April. The Japanese tradition of enjoying cherry blossoms is called *hanami*.



Momiji refers to the beautiful autumn foliage, particularly that of the maple trees. This season typically begins in **mid to late October and can last through early December**, varying slightly depending on the region and the specific type of maple tree.

Keep in mind that popular tourist spots can be crowded during peak seasons of Hanami and Momiji, so it's a good idea to plan ahead and make reservations early.

TRAVEL TIPS *from Insider*

- Get an e-SIM on the Airalo app.
- Pack very lightly to save luggage space for shopping and souvenirs.
- If you arrive at Narita Airport in Tokyo, use the Narita Express to reach the city center and save money.
- Consider arriving in Tokyo and departing from Osaka, or vice versa, to see more locations, avoid backtracking and save on Shinkansen tickets.
- Ensure you always have cash, as many tourist locations (especially in Kyoto) only accept cash.
- Get a socket adapter. Most hotels provide you with one, but sometimes one is not enough.
- Book restaurants in advance, especially for Kaiseki (high-end, multi-course) restaurants; they often require full payment in advance.
- If you need assistance with restaurant reservations, use tableall.com.



When buying Shinkansen (high-speed train) tickets from Tokyo to Kyoto or vice versa, ask for seats with a view of Mount Fuji.

- Popular activities such as tea tasting, Shibuya Sky and TeamLab need to be booked in advance. Tickets may not be available on the day during high season.



WHERE TO STAY *Tokyo*

A **zabudai** is a relatively quiet and upscale area with high-end apartment buildings, luxury hotels and a peaceful environment. **Akasaka** and **Roppongi** are bustling commercial and entertainment districts with numerous bars, restaurants, and shops. All three areas are conveniently located for accessing other parts of Tokyo, many even within walking distance.

*Some good hotels in these areas:
The Tokyo EDITION Toranomon
(offering the best view of the tower),
Janu Tokyo, The Prince Gallery Tokyo
Kioicho and Mitsui Garden Hotel
Roppongi Tokyo Premier.*



G **inza** is a popular district in Tokyo known for its high-end shopping, dining and entertainment. The area is also well-connected to other parts of Tokyo via Tokyo Station, making it easy to explore the city.

The best luxury hotels in Ginza: The Tokyo EDITION Ginza, Four Seasons and Aman.



The itinerary is organized by day, with a detailed plan for each day's activities.

If you find a location particularly captivating and wish to spend more time there, you can divide the planned activities for one day into two.

Enjoy



Tokyo DAY 1 MINATO GINZA SHIBUYA

If you are staying in Roppongi or Azabudai, you can take the following route: *Zōjō-ji Temple – Imperial Palace – Ginza*. If you are staying in Ginza, you can reverse the direction of the route.

Zōjō-ji Temple – a historic Buddhist temple founded in 1393, it served as the family temple of the Tokugawa clan, who ruled Japan during the Edo period (1603-1868). It is the main temple of the Jōdo-shū (Pure Land) sect.

Pick up an omikuji (small paper with fortunes) at the temple. If you receive an unfavourable omikuji, you can tie it in the designated area and leave the bad luck behind.

In this area: Tokyo Tower and Shiba Park.

The Tokyo Imperial Palace – the primary residence of the Emperor of Japan. While the inner grounds of the palace are closed to the public (except for the Emperor's birthday), the East Gardens are a popular destination, offering beautiful views.

In this area: Park View Garden and Hibiya Park



After visiting the palace grounds, go down Marunouchi Naka-Dori Ave, it will lead you straight to the Ginza area.

In addition to many boutiques, you will find here:

- **Kabukiza Theatre**

Kabuki is a traditional Japanese theatrical genre that combines elements of drama, dance, and music.

- **茶禅 Chazen** is a traditional Japanese café where you can attend a tea ceremony with geishas (book in advance).
- **Nissan Crossing**, where on the second floor you can have coffee with your photo.
- **Tsukiji Outer Market** – this is the place where the fish market used to be.

Some interesting shops:

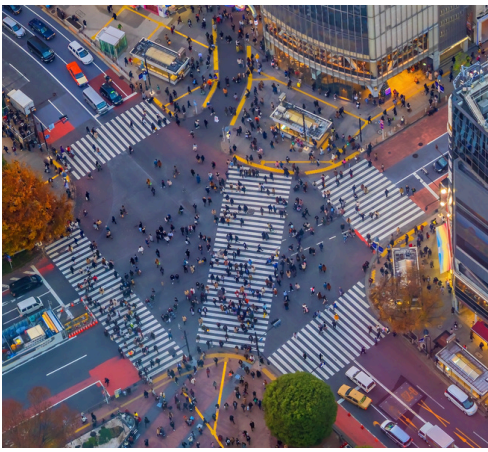
- **b8ta Tokyo** – store with interesting electronics, robots and other gadgets.
- **Pokémon Center Tokyo DX** – a store with Pokémon merchandise.
- **Ginza Itoya** – a 7-story store of stationery goods.
- **IMADEYA GINZA** – the best sake shop in Japan, offering sake from different regions of Japan.
- **Daikokuya Ginza** and **Ginza Class Luxury Shop** – here you can find rare models of Hermes and Chanel.



WHERE TO EAT *Ginza*

- **Birdland** - yakitori (grilled skewers)
- **Tempura Abe Honten** - tempura restaurant
- **Kyoto Hyoki Ginza** - shabu-shabu restaurant
- **Tokyo Ramen Street** - ramen street (Kikanbō is the best ramen)
- **Nihonryōri Kanda** - kaiseki restaurant
- **Ginza Kojyu** - kaiseki restaurant
- **Sushi Ginza Onodera - Souhonten**
- **Sushi Ya**
- **Sushi Arai**





Shibuya DAY 1

After Ginza, go to Shibuya district – Tokyo's calling card. It's best to come here at sunset when neon signs light up everywhere.

Explore these locations:

- **Shibuya Scramble Crossing** – the most famous intersection in the world.
- **Hachikō Memorial Statue** – a monument to the most faithful dog.
- **Shibuya Sky** – observation deck. The best time to come here is at sunset (book in advance).
- **MAGNET by SHIBUYA109** – a shopping mall with Hello Kitty shop, RECOfan (a vinyl and CD shop), and Mag's Park Rooftop Shibuya Crossing (another observation deck, but much lower).



Walk around this area and enjoy the neon lights of Shibuya.



WHERE TO EAT *Shibuya*

- **Kotaro** – izakaya restaurant, perfect for dinner with sake
- **KINKA** – sushi bar izakaya
- **Teppanyaki Ten** – teppanyaki restaurant
- **Tsuru Ton Tan Shibuya** – udon noodles with a view
- **Han's kitchen annex** – yakiniku (Japanese style of barbecue)
- **Oreryu Shio-ramen Shibuya-main store** – ramen restaurant
- **Ichiran Shibuya** – best ramen chain

Worth-visiting restaurants in neighborhood areas:

- **Shunji** – sushi restaurant
- **Sushi Yamaguchi** – sushi restaurant
- **Gonpachi Nishi-Azabu** – izakaya restaurant from movie Kill Bill



Tokyo DAY 2

ROPPONGI
AOYAMA & OMOTESANDO
HARAJUKU & SHINJUKU



For foodies

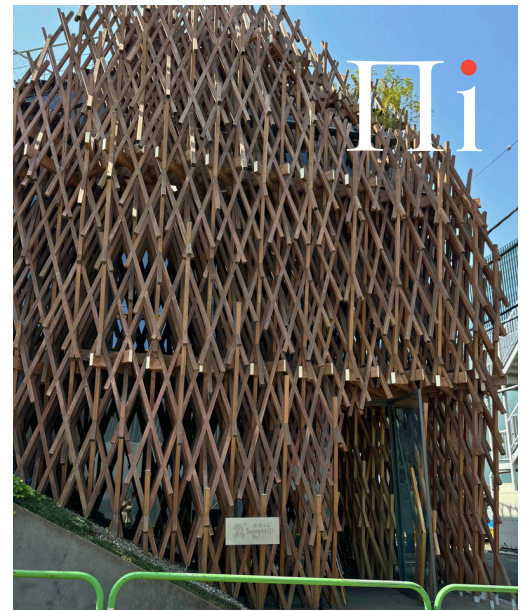
Mercer Brunch Roppongi – perfect place for breakfast, offering the best Japanese toasts.

This place, while part of a chain, boasts the most ambient atmosphere, and you can easily walk to your next destination.



Museum options for today (you can visit all of them in this order):

1. **The National Art Center** – one of the largest exhibition spaces in Japan.
2. **Mori Art Museum** – featuring rotating exhibitions of international contemporary artwork.
3. **Beni Museum** – dedicated to the traditional red dye of the Edo period.
4. **Taro Okamoto Memorial Museum** – showcasing the sculptures and paintings by Taro Okamoto in his former house and studio.
5. **Nezu Museum** – housing a vast collection of Japanese and East Asian art, complemented by a beautiful garden.



After visiting the Nezu Museum, take a stroll around **Omotesando**, known as one of the most stylish areas of Tokyo. This district features modern, innovative buildings designed by renowned architects.

Some of the most impressive buildings in Omotesando include the five-story glass Prada boutique and SunnyHills cafe.

Fans of Japanese designer brands will also enjoy stores such as Yohji Yamamoto, Issey Miyake and Comme des Garçons.

Cafes and Restaurants in the area:

- **Neko Neko Cheesecake** – pastries
- **Blue Bottle Coffee Aoyama Café** – coffee
- **Café Kitsuné Aoyama** – coffee
- **The Matcha Tokyo Omotesandō** – matcha
- **Sahsya Kanetanaka** – good place for lunch

Activity

Taku Nakano CeramicArts

Try Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery using gold (book in advance).





Before exploring the Harajuku area, stop by **Tokyu Plaza Omotesando** for its mirrored entrance and terrace on the 6th floor.

HARAJUKU

Harajuku is renowned for its unique street fashion and youth culture.

Takeshita Street, in particular, is famous for its vibrant cosplay scene and interesting shops offering a variety of styles from punk to kawaii.

There are two interesting cafes in the area:

- **CAFE REISSUE** – where you can try 3D latte art
- **Rand表参道** – a cafe where communication occurs only through gestures

Meiji Jingu – the largest Shinto shrine in Tokyo and the burial place of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken.



SHINJUKU

Shinjuku is a bustling district known for its vibrant atmosphere, skyscrapers and neon lights. It's a major commercial and entertainment hub.

Day Time

- **Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden** – one of the most beautiful parks in Tokyo, especially during sakura and momiji.
- **Hanazono Shrine** – an Edo-period Shinto shrine known for its serene atmosphere and yearly festivals.

Evening

- **Kabukicho** – Tokyo's red-light district with a lively nightlife scene, featuring bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues.
- **Cross Shinjuku Space** – home to the famous 3D cat animation on the building.
- **Omoide Yokocho** – a landmark alleyway lined with small restaurants and izakayas (Japanese pubs), offering a glimpse into old Tokyo.
- **Golden Gai** – narrow alleys lined with small, unique bars. It's a great place to experience Tokyo's nightlife.

Cafes and Restaurants in the area:

- **Blue Bottle Coffee Shinjuku** – coffee
- **The Matcha Tokyo Shinjuku** – matcha
- **Soba House Konjiki-Hototogisu** – ramen
- **Robot Restaurant** – known more for its entertainment than its food
- **Yakiniku Motoyama** – grilled meat
- **Ostrea Oyster Bar & Restaurant** – oyster bar





Tokyo DAY 3

AKASAKA
ASAKUSA
AKIHABARA

Let's start with **Hie Shrine**, a historic Shinto shrine dedicated to the deity Hie-no-kami. This place is known for its vibrant red torii gates.

You can add **secret garden at Hotel New Otani** – a tranquil 400-year-old garden with carp ponds, bridges and a waterfall.



For foodies

- **Sushisho Saitō**
- **Kioicho Mitten**
- **Kobe Beef Kaiseki 511**

After this, you can visit one or both of these parks (*highly recommended during Sakura season*):

- **Chidorigafuchi Moat** – you can enjoy a boat ride along the moat of the former Edo Castle.
- **Ueno Park** – one of the most popular (and crowded) parks for hanami. There are over 1,000 sakura trees and more than 50 varieties. You can also find the moon pine, Ueno Zoo (home of giant pandas), Toshogu Shrine and Benten-do Temple in this area.



ASAKUSA

One of Tokyo's most historic and culturally rich districts, known for its traditional atmosphere and iconic landmarks.

- **Kaminarimon** – the iconic outer gate of Sensō-ji. Featuring a massive red lantern and imposing statues of gods, it serves as a dramatic and welcoming entrance to the temple complex and Nakamise Shopping Street.
- **Nakamise Shopping Street** – historic market stretching over 250 meters, lined with traditional shops and stalls selling a variety of souvenirs.
- **Sensō-ji** – Tokyo's oldest and most significant Buddhist temple, founded in the 7th century.
- **Asakusa Jinja** – a Shinto shrine adjacent to Sensō-ji.
- **SAMURAI NINJA MUSEUM TOKYO** – an immersive experience into Japan's warrior culture. Visitors can explore exhibits on samurai and ninja history and try on traditional armor.



For foodies

- **Asakusa Chaya Tabanenoshi** – matcha crepe with crème brulee.
- **Suzukien Asakusa** – the largest selection of matcha ice cream in the world.
- **Chacha Futatsume** – matcha mont blanc (chestnut dessert)
- **Asakusa Kagetsudō** – the largest melonpans (melon buns).

Shopping in Asakusa

- **Marugoto Nippon** – four-story building where you can buy Japanese goods from all regions of Japan
- **Kappabashi Street** (also known as Kitchen Town) – famous for its shops selling kitchenware and restaurant supplies
- **MUSASHI JAPAN** 浅草店 – knife shop
- **Sanrio Gift Gate Asakusa** – Hello Kitty store



Akihabara is Tokyo's bustling hub for electronics and otaku culture. It's famous for its vast selection of electronics shops, anime, manga stores and themed cafes like maid cafes.

- **Yodobashi Camera** – massive electronics store.
- **Radio Kaikan** – multi-story building with shops selling anime, manga, model kits, and collectible figurines.
- **Gachapon Hall** – hundreds of gachapon (capsule toy) machines.
- **Super Potato** – a retro gaming paradise.
- **M's** – famous seven-level sex shop.

Dinner options near Akihabara

- **Jambo Hanare** – yakiniku (meat) restaurant
- **Totoya** – Seafood restaurant
- **Karashibi Miso Ramen Kikanbō Kanda Honten** – ramen





Day trip **FUJI** TAKE THE EARLY FUJI EXCURSION EXPRESS FROM SHINJUKU TO KAWAGUCHIKO STATION (1 H AND 50 MIN).

The Best Views of **Mount Fuji**

Visit **Chureito Pagoda**. Take a bus or taxi to Arakurayama Sengen Park. A short hike up to the pagoda offers one of the most iconic views of Mount Fuji.

Explore **Lake Kawaguchi**, the second-largest of the Fuji Five Lakes.

Head to the **Momiji Corridor** on the northern shore of Lake Kawaguchi. This area is particularly stunning during the Momiji (autumn foliage) and Hanami (cherry blossom) seasons.

Have **lunch with a view** at one of the lakeside restaurants. Many offer terraces with views of Mount Fuji. *Consider trying Houtou, a local noodle dish.*

Oishi Park offers stunning views of Mount Fuji, especially during lavender season.

Visit **Tenku no Torii** (Sky Torii) for a unique view of Mount Fuji framed by a traditional torii gate. It's a bit of a hike, but the view is worth it.

Drive or take a taxi to **Iwamoto Mountain Park in Fujinomiya**. The park offers spectacular views of Mount Fuji, especially during sakura season.
(1h from Kawaguchiko)

Visit **Iyashi no Sato**, a reconstructed traditional Japanese village. This open-air museum offers beautiful views of Mount Fuji and insights into traditional Japanese culture.

Onsen - Fuji Yurari Hot Spring. Onsen is Japanese hot spring and the bathing facilities.



Tokyo DAY 4 ODAIBA AZABUDAI & MORE

Man-made island of **Odaiba**

The most beautiful route: From Shimbashi Station, take the Yurikamome Line Monorail to Hinode Station. From the pier, board a boat that will take you to the island.



Things to see in Odaiba:

- **DiverCity Tokyo Plaza** known for its life-size Gundam statue outside.
- **Odaiba Seaside Park** – great views of Tokyo Bay and the Rainbow Bridge.
- **TeamLab Borderless** – an immersive digital art museum offering interactive and colorful exhibits that blur the lines between art and technology. *(There is also one in Roppongi)*
- **Odaiba Palette Town:** Home to the iconic Daikanransha Ferris Wheel, which offers stunning views of Tokyo and the bay area.
- **Statue of Liberty Replica:** A smaller version of New York's Statue of Liberty.

After this, go to **Azabudai** and explore the area.

You can visit **teamLab Borderless: MORI Building DIGITAL ART MUSEUM** (if you choose to visit this one, don't go to the one in Odaiba).

Make sure to try **Mr. Cheesecake** at Azabudai Hills.





The Jade Room + Garden Terrace offers the best view of the Tokyo Tower. The food is okay, but its highly recommended to come here for sunset and enjoy a cocktail.

IN ADDITION

Here are some more interesting locations you can visit on you last day in Tokyo. However, be aware that they are located far away from everything.

Gotokuji Temple, located in Setagaya, is a Buddhist temple with thousands of Maneki-neko, or "beckoning cat" figurines, which are believed to bring good luck and prosperity.



Option for Ghibli anime fans:

You can visit **Ghibli Museum** – Hayao Miyazaki Anime Museum.

Shirohige's Cream Puff Factory – a place that sells totoro-shaped pastry.

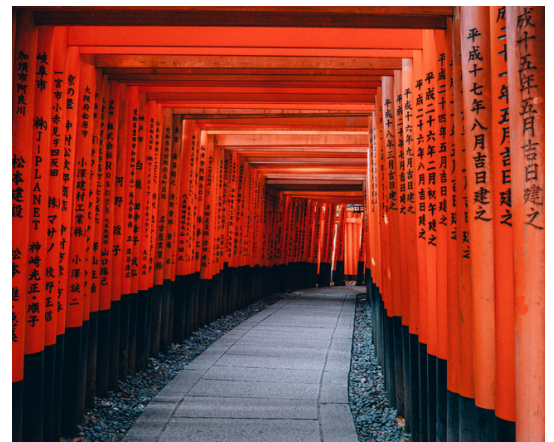




DAY 1 *Kyoto*

You can visit all these locations in the following order:

- **Fushimi Inari Taisha** – the famous red torii gates and a peaceful hike up the mountain. (Start your day early to avoid the crowds)
- Foodies! Stop by 巨大蟹カマ and treat yourself to delicious crab meat.
- **Kōmyō-in Temple** – serene temple known for its beautiful gardens and tranquil atmosphere.
- **Tōfuku-ji Temple**, just a short walk from Kōmyō-in, visit this large temple complex with its famous autumn foliage and stunning Zen gardens.
- **Kiyomizu-dera** – one of Kyoto's most famous temples. Enjoy the panoramic views of the city from its wooden stage.
- Walk down the historic **Sannenzaka street**, filled with traditional shops and teahouses.





- Grab a **Kyoto latte** at **% ARABICA**, next to the first % ARABICA out of the chain.
- **Yasaka Kōshin-dō Temple** – colorful temple, known for its vibrant display of “kukuri-zaru” (hanging monkey talismans).
- Take a short walk to the iconic **Yasaka Pagoda** for some great photos.
- Explore the beautiful gardens and tranquil surroundings of **Kōdaiji Temple**.
- Adjacent to Kōdaiji, visit **Entoku-in** for its serene gardens and historic significance.
- Enjoy a stroll through **Maruyama Park**, a popular spot for cherry blossom viewing in spring.
- Head towards the **Higashiyama Jisho-ji** (Ginkaku-ji, Silver Pavilion) and enjoy its picturesque gardens and tranquil environment.
- Visit this less crowded **Okazaki Shrine**, renowned for its rabbit statues, which symbolize fertility and protection of children.
- **Murin-an Garden**, a hidden gem known for its beautiful landscape and tranquil ambiance.





KYOTO *Evening*

In the evening, walk around **Gion** – Kyoto's **geisha district**. Make sure to return here during the daytime and feel how different it is.

- **Hanamikoji Street** – a charming street lined with traditional wooden machiya houses, offering a glimpse of Kyoto's historic architecture and geisha culture.
- **Gion Corner** – a cultural center where you can experience traditional Japanese performing arts.
- **Gion Tatsumi Bridge** – picturesque bridge offering beautiful views of the Shirakawa Canal. (Visit both at day and night time)
- **Shinbashi-dori** – beautifully preserved street with traditional tea houses and sakura trees, especially enchanting in the evening light.
- **Kiyamachi Dori** – lively street along the Takase River, filled with restaurants and bars. Choose and book a restaurant for your dinner from the following page.



WHERE TO EAT *Kyoto*

Street Food

- **Nishiki Market** – A must-visit local market with street food. Try the best wagyu sushi and eel with uni.
- **Ninenzaka & Matsubara-Dori** streets – Many cafes and street food options, such as marinated cucumber on a stick, chestnut ice cream or mochi, matcha sweets and drinks, and mitarashi dango.

Restaurants

- **Nikuryori Yama** – Amazing meat omakase course
- **Minokichi Honten Takeshigerou** – Kyoto-style Japanese restaurant
- **Gion Yata** – Kyoto-style Japanese restaurant
- **Jiki Miyazawa** – Kaiseki restaurant
- **Kyoryori Fujimoto** – Kaiseki restaurant
- **Doujin** – Reasonable prices, high quality
- **京焼肉 新 先斗町店** – Yakiniku restaurant with upmarket beef and a tabletop grill
- **Kyoto Sushi Saeki** – Kaiseki restaurant
- **Inayoshi Restaurant** – Kaiseki restaurant
- **Tominokoji Yamagishi** – Kaiseki restaurant





Kyoto DAY 2

Start your day at **Kinkaku-ji** (Golden Pavilion), one of Kyoto's most iconic landmarks.

Head to **Ryōan-ji**, famous for its rock garden and peaceful atmosphere.

Visit **Kitano Tenmangū Shrine**, dedicated to the deity of learning and scholarship. (Particularly beautiful during plum blossom season.)

Travel to **Kenkun Jinja**, a lesser-known but beautiful shrine with a rich history, offering a more intimate experience.

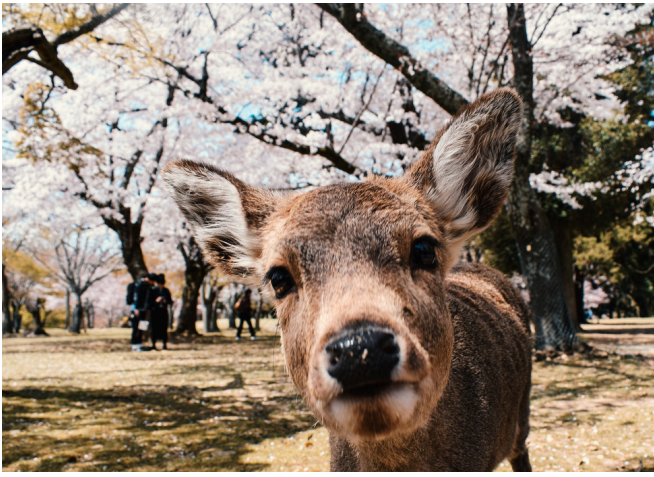
Head to **Korin-in**, a sub-temple of the Daitoku-ji Temple complex. Known for its beautiful gardens and tea rooms.

Kamigamo-jinja, one of Kyoto's oldest Shinto shrines. Its expansive grounds and traditional architecture are very impressive.

Make sure to check the exhibitions at the **Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art**.

End your day with **Japanese spa** at *HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO, a Luxury Collection Hotel & Spa*. (Book in advance)





Day trip NARA

YOU CAN CHOOSE THE KINTETSU AONIYOSHI EXPRESS TRAIN FROM KYOTO TO NARA (1 HOUR).

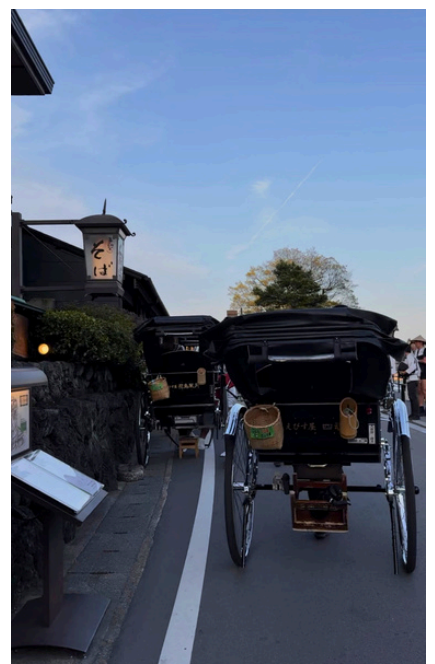
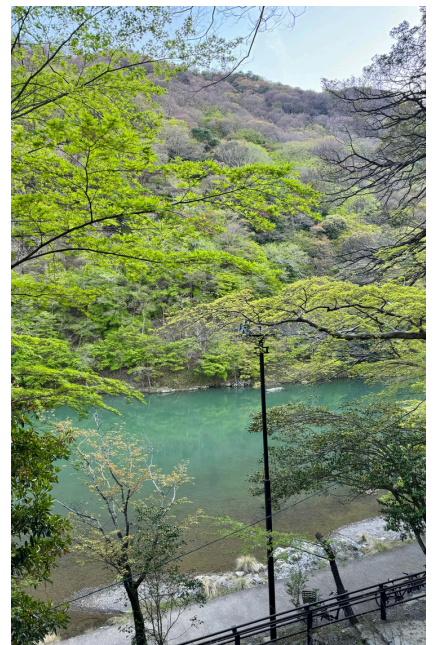
Follow these locations:

- **Todai-ji Temple**, home to the Great Buddha (Daibutsu). Explore the massive wooden structure and the surrounding Nara Park, where you can see and feed the friendly deer.
- Stroll through **Nara Park**, enjoy the natural beauty and interact with the deer. The park is also home to several other significant sites.
- Visit **Kasuga Taisha**, famous for its many lanterns. The serene atmosphere and beautiful surroundings make it a must-see.
- **Nakatanidou - Mochi Show** – enjoy the famous mochi pounding show and try some mochi.
- Explore **Kōfuku-ji**, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple's pagoda is an iconic part of Nara's skyline.
- Visit **Isuien Garden**, a beautiful Japanese garden known for its scenic views and peaceful ambiance.
- **Naramachi**, the old merchant district of Nara. Explore the traditional buildings, quaint shops and tea houses. It's a great place to buy souvenirs and experience the historic atmosphere.
- If you have time, visit the **Nara National Museum**, which houses a vast collection of Buddhist art and artifacts.



Kyoto DAY 3

- Start your day early at the **Arashiyama Bamboo Forest** to enjoy the serene atmosphere before the crowds arrive.
- Head to the nearby **Okochi Sanso Villa**, the former home and garden of a famous Japanese actor. *Enjoy a cup of matcha tea included with the entrance fee.*
- Visit **Jōjakkō-ji Temple**, known for its beautiful autumn foliage and peaceful setting.
- Walk to **Nisonin Temple**, another tranquil temple with beautiful gardens.
- After head to **Gioji**, a small temple known for its moss garden and thatched-roof hall.
- Walk to **Saga Toriimoto Preserved Street**, a historical street lined with traditional machiya houses. *It's a great place to buy some souvenirs.*
- Visit **Seiryō-ji Temple** which houses an important wooden statue of Shakyamuni Buddha.



- Explore **Tenryu-ji**, one of Kyoto's most important Zen temples. The temple's garden, designed by the famous garden designer Muso Soseki, is a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Visit the **Arashiyama Monkey Park Iwatayama**. Hike up the hill to see the monkeys roaming freely and enjoy the panoramic views of Kyoto from the top.

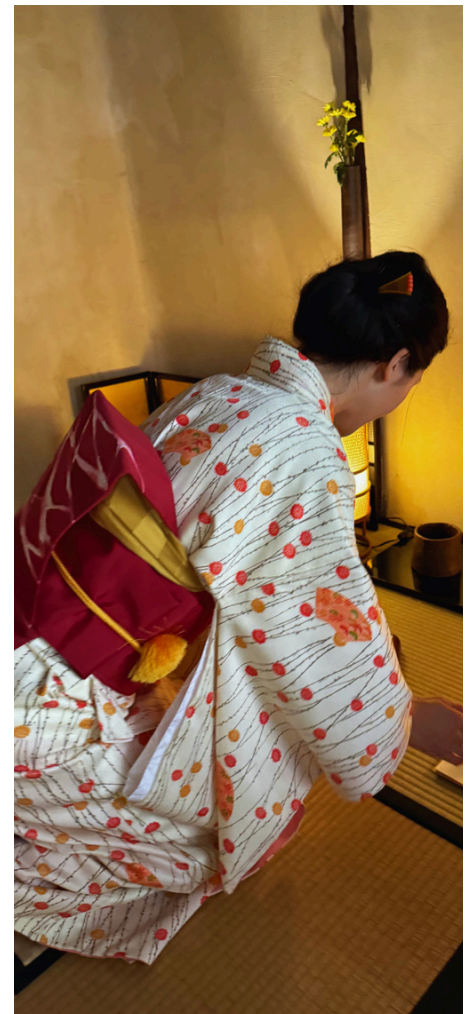


Kyoto is the birthplace of the Japanese tea ceremony. Book in advance one of the following:

- **KIMONO TEA CEREMONY KYOTO MAIKOYA at NISHIKI**
- **KIMONO TEA CEREMONY MAIKOYA at GION KIYOMIZU**
- **Tea Ceremony Camellia GARDEN**
- **京都武家屋敷 Kyoto Samurai House**

In addition, on one of the days you can visit:

- **Kyoto Geisha Show & Experience GION MAIKOYA** – an immersive experience featuring a traditional geisha performance, tea ceremony, and cultural activities.





MATCHA *Guide*

Kyoto has a long history with matcha which dates back to the 12th century when the monk Eisai brought tea seeds from China to Japan.

The Uji region, located near Kyoto, is renowned for its ideal conditions for growing high-quality tea leaves.

Uji matcha is particularly prized for its rich flavor, vibrant color, and smooth texture. Therefore, we recommend buying this type.

- **MATCHA GARDEN 京都 八坂** – here you can buy everything you need for your home tea ceremony. They have a beautiful selection of bowls, quality matcha and whisks.
- **Saryo Tsujiri Tea House, Gion Main Shop** – chic, wood-lined tea house and gift shop specializing in matcha-flavored ice cream, drinks & sweets.
- **Umezono** – a hidden gem that offers an intimate, cozy, and traditional setting, making it a lovely place to rest and enjoy exquisite Japanese desserts.
- **Okochi Sanso Garden** – elegant, tranquil Japanese gardens with scenic views and a tea house serving matcha and sweets.



Kyoto BAR HOPPING

Bars in Kyoto are unlike bars in other places. They are more tranquil and most of the time, there is no music, allowing guests to focus on having conversations and enjoying their drinks.

- **The Common One Bar Kyoto** – Bar in Japanese style with an inside garden
- **Gion Finlandia Bar** – Very ambient bar with great cocktail selection
- **K36** – Rooftop bar
- **Bar Rinto** – River view bar
- **L'Escamoteur** – Experimental cocktail bar with mysterious theme
- **Gen Yamamoto** – The cocktail version of a tasting menu





Day trip OSAKA

You can either take a day trip to Osaka from Kyoto or stay overnight and depart Japan from Osaka if there's a convenient flight to your home country. This way, you can avoid returning to Tokyo and save on Shinkansen tickets.

Explore these locations:

- Start your day with a visit to **Osaka Castle**. Explore the historic castle, its museum, and the beautiful surrounding park.
- Head to **Dotonbori**, the main foodie area of the city and a famous entertainment district with a lively atmosphere, iconic neon signs, and the famous Glico running man. *Here, you can try local specialties like takoyaki (octopus balls) and okonomiyaki (savory pancakes).*
- Stroll through **Shinsaibashi**, a popular shopping street.
- Visit the **Umeda Sky Building** and go up to the Floating Garden Observatory for panoramic views of the city.
- If you have time, visit **Universal Studios Japan**, which has a great Harry Potter section.



Foodies DICTIONARY

In Japanese cuisine, restaurants often specialize in specific formats and types of dishes. Here are some of the most popular dishes and types of restaurants that are definitely worth trying.

- **Izakaya:** Japanese pub-style restaurant serving small dishes.
- **Kaiseki:** A multi-course set menu showcasing a series of meticulously prepared and artfully presented dishes.
- **Kare Raisu:** Japanese curry rice.
- **Katsu Curry:** A variation of Kare Raisu, where a breaded and deep-fried cutlet is served on top of the curry and rice.
- **Oden:** A type of Japanese hot pot with various ingredients.
- **Okonomiyaki:** A savory pancake containing a variety of ingredients.
- **Omakase:** Literally means "I'll leave it up to you." The chef selects and prepares a series of dishes based on seasonal ingredients.
- **Onigiri:** A popular snack consisting of rice formed into triangular or ball shapes wrapped in nori and usually filled with fish, pickled plum or other ingredients.
- **Ramen:** A popular noodle soup topped with sliced pork, nori, menma (fermented bamboo shoots) and a boiled egg.
- **Soba:** Buckwheat noodles, often served cold with a dipping sauce.
- **Sukiyaki:** A hot pot dish with thinly sliced beef and vegetables cooked in a sweet soy sauce broth.
- **Tempura:** Deep-fried seafood or vegetables.
- **Tonkatsu:** Breaded, deep-fried pork cutlet.
- **Udon:** Thick wheat flour noodles.
- **Yakitori:** Grilled chicken skewers.
- **Yakiniku:** Translates to "grilled meat," diners cook bite-sized pieces of meat on a grill embedded in the dining table.



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