

Hotels & Hostels

Want more Sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- **Tour Club** (p148)
- **Budget Inn** (p148)
- **Utano Youth Hostel** (p154)
- **Ryokan Uemura** (p152)
- **Ryokan Shimizu** (p148)
- **Ryokan Motonago** (p152)
- **Hotel Unizo** (p150)
- **Palace Side Hotel** (p151)
- **Karasuma Kyoto Hotel** (p149)
- **Hyatt Regency Kyoto** (p152)

SLEEPING

When it comes to accommodation, you're spoiled for choice in Kyoto. Want to try a night in a traditional ryokan (Japanese-style inn)? This is the place to do so and you'll find ryokan in all budget ranges. How about a night in a world-class hotel? Again, you've got plenty to choose from in Kyoto, and the service at a good Japanese hotel is unrivalled. If you're on a tight budget, you'll still find lots of comfortable options in Kyoto – the city accommodates backpackers from all over the world and there are plenty of guesthouses, youth hostels and cheap ryokan at ease with foreign guests.

Bear in mind that much of Kyoto's accommodation can be booked out during Kyoto's two tourist high seasons: the early-April cherry-blossom season and the November autumn-foliage season. It can also be hard to find rooms during Golden Week (29 April to 5 May) and O-bon (mid-August). Whatever you do, try to reserve as early as possible if you plan to be in town during these times.

Credit cards are accepted at most hotels but don't expect to pay with plastic at any of the budget places. As for ryokan, the higher the price, the better your chances of being able to use a credit card.

ACCOMMODATION STYLES

The following are the most common accommodation types you will encounter in this book and on your travels.

Business Hotels

A very common form of midrange accommodation is the so-called 'business hotel'. Generally these are economical and functional places geared to the lone traveller on business, although most in Kyoto also take couples. In Kyoto, a room in a business hotel will have a pay TV and tiny bathroom, and cost between ¥6000 and ¥12,000. As is the case with various ryokan, some business hotels accept credit cards, but you should always ask when you check in. There is no room service and you will usually be required to check out at 10am or 11am and check in after 3pm or 4pm. At some of the nicer business hotels, there are large shared baths and saunas in addition to the private ones in the guest rooms.

Business hotels are identifiable by their small size (usually three to five floors), their

simple (often concrete) exteriors, and a sign (usually in both English and Japanese) out the front. Although you can't expect much English from the front desk clerk, if you smile and speak slowly you should be okay.

Standard or Luxury Hotels

In addition to business hotels, you will find a variety of standard/luxury hotels in Kyoto. These will be similar to standard/luxury hotels anywhere else in the developed world, although, this being Japan, you can expect the service to be on a superior level. English is spoken at these hotels, and the rooms are usually very well maintained and larger than business-hotel rooms. In addition, most standard/luxury hotels in Kyoto have several good restaurants and bars on their premises, some of which offer outstanding views over the city.

Ryokan

Although some ryokan will allow you to pay by credit card, you should always ask when you make reservations.

Youth Hostels

Kyoto's youth hostels are much like youth hostels that you'll find elsewhere: not much atmosphere and a mixture of dorms and private rooms. They can also be noisy. On the plus side, they are used to foreigners and are cleaner than many of their overseas counterparts. A room in a typical youth hostel costs

PRICE GUIDE

The following is a guide to the pricing system in this chapter. Prices are per room per night, including bathroom and air-con (unless otherwise stated).

¥¥¥	over ¥15,000
¥¥	¥6000-15,000
¥	under ¥6000