



Kyoto

📍 075 / POP 1.47 MILLION

Includes →

Sights	280
Activities.....	308
Courses	309
Festivals & Events	309
Sleeping.....	310
Eating	315
Drinking.....	326
Entertainment.....	328
Shopping	329

Best Temples & Shrines

- Fushimi-Inari Taisha (p304)
- Nanzen-ji (p299)
- Kinkaku-ji (p299)
- Ginkaku-ji (p295)

Best Places to Stay

- Tawaraya (p312)
- Hyatt Regency Kyoto (p313)
- Westin Miyako, Kyoto (p314)
- Kyoto Hotel Ōkura (p312)
- Chion-in (p293)

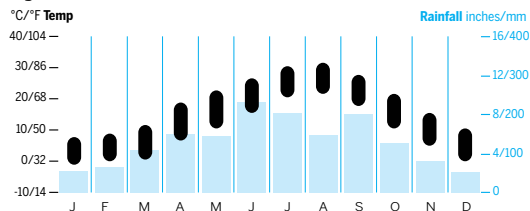
Why Go?

For much of its history, Kyoto (京都) *was* Japan. Even today, Kyoto is *the* place to go to see what Japan is all about. Here is where you'll find all those things you associate with the Land of the Rising Sun: ancient temples, colourful shrines and sublime gardens. Indeed, Kyoto is the storehouse of Japan's traditional culture, and it's even the place where the Japanese go to learn about their own culture.

With 17 Unesco World Heritage Sites, more than 1600 Buddhist temples and over 400 Shintō shrines, Kyoto is one of the world's most culturally rich cities. And traditional architecture is only half the story: there are also dazzling geisha dances, otherworldly kabuki performances, and an incredible range of shops and restaurants. All told, it's fair to say that Kyoto ranks with Paris, London and Rome as one of those cities that everyone should see at least once in their lives. Thus, Kyoto should rank at the top of any Japan itinerary.

When to Go

Kyoto



Late Mar–mid-Apr Kyoto in cherry-blossom season is one of the world's great sights.

May–Sep Summer is hot and humid and June is rainy, but summer evenings are magical in Kyoto.

Oct–early Dec Fall foliage makes the perfect backdrop for Kyoto's temples, shrines and gardens.



Kyoto Highlights

- 1 Pass through vermilion shrine gates at **Fushimi-Inari Taisha** (p304)
- 2 Marvel at the golden hall of **Kinkaku-ji** (p299) floating over its tranquil pond
- 3 Spend a night in a traditional **ryokan** (p310)
- 4 Take an evening stroll through **Gion** (p293) and keep your eyes peeled for geisha
- 5 Immerse yourself in a green fantasy world at **Arashiyama's Bamboo Grove** (p301)
- 6 Wander along the **Tetsugaku-no-Michi** (p295)
- 7 Visit **Kurama-dera** (p307), and the hot spring below
- 8 Be dazzled by the spring or autumn **geisha dances**
- 9 Explore **Nishiki Market** (p284), known to locals as 'Kyoto's pantry'
- 10 Relax in the **Kyoto Imperial Palace Park** (p286)