



# Kyoto

📍 075 / POP 1.47 MILLION

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Omen (p337)
- ➔ Kyōgoku Kane-yo (p333)
- ➔ Roan Kikunoi (p334)
- ➔ Kitcho Arashiyama (p338)
- ➔ Yoshikawa (p334)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Tawaraya (p323)
- ➔ Capsule Ryokan Kyoto (p321)
- ➔ Hyatt Regency Kyoto (p329)
- ➔ Westin Miyako Kyoto (p330)
- ➔ Dormy Inn Premium Kyoto Ekimae (p322)

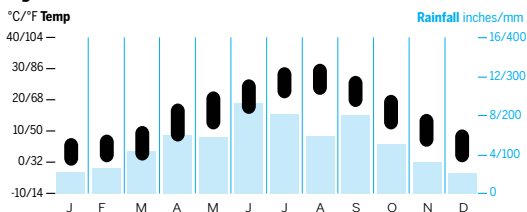
## Why Go?

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 traditions, 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 (stylised Japanese theatre) 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.

## 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.

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



## Kyoto Highlights

- 1 Wandering through arcades of vermilion shrine gates at **Fushimi-Inari Taisha** (p314).
- 2 Marvelling at the golden hall of **Kinkaku-ji** (p310) floating over its tranquil pond.
- 3 Spending a night in a traditional Kyoto ryokan, such as **Tawaraya** (p323).
- 4 Strolling through atmospheric **Gion** (p303).
- 5 Immersing in the green fantasy world of **Arashiyama Bamboo Grove** (p312).
- 6 Pondering the meaning of it all as you stroll along the **Path of Philosophy** (p305).
- 7 Climbing to the mountain temple of **Kurama-dera** (p318).
- 8 Being charmed by Geisha at **Miyako Odori** (p341).
- 9 Browsing **Nishiki Market** (p294) for Kyoto specialties.
- 10 Picnicking in the spacious grounds of **Kyoto Imperial Palace Park** (p297).