

# Arashiyama & Sagano

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- ➊ Entering the magical green world of the **Arashi-yama Bamboo Grove** (p110). If you've seen *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, you'll know what to expect.
- ➋ Meditating on the garden at **Tenryū-ji** (p110).
- ➌ Meandering the trails through the garden at the superb **Ōkōchi Sansō** (p110) villa.
- ➍ Hiking up to the moss garden at **Giō-ji** (p113).
- ➎ Visiting with our simian cousins at **Arashiyama Monkey Park Iwatayama** (p113).



For more detail of this area, see Map p219 ➔

## Explore: Arashiyama & Sagano

Located at the base of the mountains on the west side of the city, the Arashiyama and Sagano area is Kyoto's second-most important sightseeing district after Southern Higashiyama. It's home to Kyoto's most iconic sight, the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, along with the superb Tenryū-ji Zen temple and the expansive Ōkōchi Sansō villa.

A half day is sufficient to do the main tourist track through the area, which usually starts at Tenryū-ji and ends at Adashino Nenbutsu-ji (or whenever you get tired). Keep in mind that getting out to this area from Downtown Kyoto will take about an hour if you take public transport, and about half an hour if you go by taxi.

Since some of the best sights in Northwest Kyoto, like Kinkaku-ji and Ryōan-ji, are not far from Arashiyama and Sagano, you can make a full-day tour of western Kyoto if you are willing to travel between these two areas by taxi.

There are several ways to get to Arashiyama and Sagano from Downtown Kyoto and the Kyoto Station area. If you're coming from Downtown Kyoto, Kyoto City bus 11 will get you from Shijō-dōri to Tenryū-ji-mae (the main Arashiyama stop). Alternatively, you can take the Tōzai subway line to the westernmost stop, Uzumasa-Tenjin-gawa, and transfer to the Randen street tram, which will take you to central Arashiyama.

From Kyoto Station, you can take the JR Sagano/San-in line and get off at Saga Arashiyama Station (be careful to take only the local train, as the express does not stop in Arashiyama).

## Local Life

- ➔ **Hang-outs** Kameyama-kōen (p110) is popular with locals for picnics.
- ➔ **Romantic strolls** The Hozu-gawa riverbank is favoured for romantic strolls in the early evening.
- ➔ **Family favourite** Arashiyama Monkey Park Iwatayama (p113) is a favourite of Kyoto's kids.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Train** The JR Sagano/San-in line from Kyoto Station to Saga-Arashiyama Station. The Keifuku Arashiyama, Randen, line from Ōmiya Station to Keifuku Arashiyama Station. The Hankyū Arashiyama line from downtown to Arashiyama (change en route at Katsura).
- ➔ **Bus** From Marutamachi-dōri, bus 93; from Shijō-dōri, bus 11; from Kyoto Station, bus 28.
- ➔ **Subway** The Tōzai subway line stops at Uzumasa-Tenjin-gawa, where you can transfer to the Randen street tram.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The main drag of Arashiyama and Sagano is overdeveloped and unlovely. As soon as you can, head west into the hills to escape (via Tenryū-ji or straight through the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove).

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Hakko Shokudo Kamoshika (p114)
- ➔ Shigetsu (p115)
- ➔ Hiranoya (p115)

For reviews, see p114. ➔

## Best Places to Enjoy Nature

- ➔ Arashiyama Bamboo Grove (p110)
- ➔ Kameyama-kōen (p110)
- ➔ Ōkōchi Sansō (p110)

For reviews, see p110. ➔

## Best Places to Gaze on a Garden

- ➔ Tenryū-ji (p110)
- ➔ Giō-ji (p113)
- ➔ Takiguchi-dera (p113)

For reviews, see p110. ➔