



Kyoto

**“All you’ve got to do is decide to go
and the hardest part is over.**

So go!”

TONY WHEELER, COFOUNDER – LONELY PLANET

Kate Morgan,
Rebecca Milner

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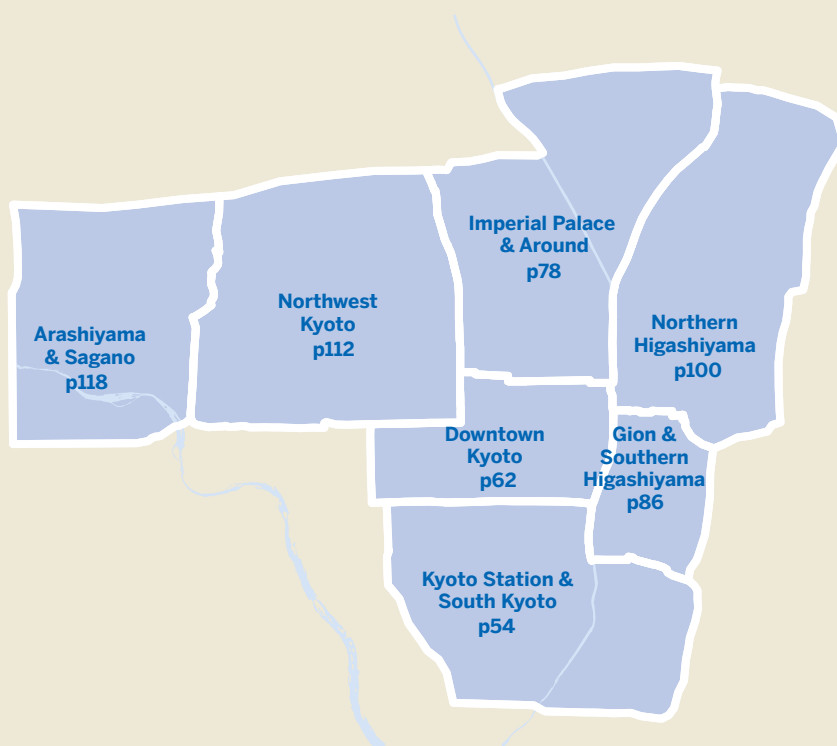
(left) **Geisha p167** Spot geisha in the old town.

(above) **Higashiyama p86** Wander this area's lovely lanes.

(right) **Tea ceremony p179** Take part in the age-old ritual.



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Top Itineraries

Day One

Southern Higashiyama (p86)

 Start your Kyoto experience by heading to the city's most important sightseeing district – Southern Higashiyama contains the thickest concentration of worthwhile sights in Kyoto. Kick off with **Chion-in** and **Shoren-in** before a wander through **Maruyama-koen**.



Lunch At Hisago (p95) go for the house speciality, *oyako-donburi*.

Southern Higashiyama (p86)

 Walk off your lunch with a stroll through the lanes of **Ninen-zaka** and **Sannen-zaka**, stopping in at teahouses and boutiques. Then head to one of the city's premier sights, **Kiyomizu-dera**. Spend the afternoon fully exploring this delightful temple.



Dinner Get your first taste of an *izakaya* at Gion Yuki (p94).

Southern Higashiyama (p86)

 After dinner you'll want to spend your first evening taking in the atmospheric **Gion** district and keeping an eye out for geisha shuffling around the traditional lantern-lit streets. Round off the evening with a drink at the **Gion Finlandia Bar**.

Day Two

Northern Higashiyama (p100)

 There's a lot of ground to cover and a number of excellent temples to explore in Northern Higashiyama. Beat the crowds with an early visit to **Ginkaku-ji** before making your way along the **Path of Philosophy** to the splendid **Eikan-do** temple and exploring the vast **Nanzen-ji** temple complex and gardens.



Lunch Fuel up on a tasty bowl of noodles at Hinode Udon (p109).

Downtown Kyoto (p62)

 Take a break from temples and head to the downtown area to check out the famous **Nishiki Market**; don't miss the world-renowned chef's knives for sale at **Aritsugu** here. Carry on shopping in this area along the Teramachi covered arcade and the department stores on Kawaramachi-dōri and Shijo-dōri.



Dinner Try the delicious delicacy *unagi* (eel) at Kyōgoku Kane-yo (p67).

Downtown Kyoto (p62)

 For an after-dinner stroll, make your way along atmospheric **Ponto-chō**, stop in for a drink at **Atlantis** or grab a takeaway refreshment at the nearest convenience store and head for the Kamo-gama to hang out riverside.



Ryōan-ji (p115)

Day Three

Northwest Kyoto (p112)

 Jump on a bus bound for the northwest temples of Kyoto. Kick off with a wander through the peaceful grounds of the temple complex **Ninna-ji** before exploring the famous rock garden of **Ryōan-ji** nearby. Take the bus or walk 20 minutes to one of the city's most well-known sights, **Kinkaku-ji**. Admire the stunning golden temple and the Zen garden.



Lunch Tasty noodle dishes at Gontaro (p117).

Arashiyama & Sagano (p118)

 Grab a taxi and head west to the Arashiyama and Sagano district, which has a dense concentration of first-rate sights. Start at **Tenryū-ji** and stroll through the famed **Arashiyama Bamboo Grove** and on to lovely **Ōkōchi Sansō**. Continue temple-hopping in the hills, stopping to check out **Jōjakkō-ji**, **Nison-in** and as far as **Giō-ji**, or **Adashino Nenbutsu-ji** if you have the stamina. Work your way back to the main strip or take a bus if your legs need a rest.



Dinner Book ahead at one of the city's finest, Kitcho Arashiyama (p127).

Downtown Kyoto (p62)

 Head back to spend what's left of your evening wandering down bar-and-nightlife-filled pretty Kiyamachi-dōri and end the night with a gin cocktail at **Nokishita 711** or further down at sophisticated **Bar K6**.

Day Four

Kyoto Station & South Kyoto (p54)

 While the immediate Kyoto Station area doesn't offer much in the way of sightseeing, head a little further south on day four to see two absolutely stunning attractions: **Tōfuku-ji** (don't forget to enter the Hōjō Garden) and **Fushimi Inari-Taisha**. Head back to the station to marvel at the architecture if you haven't taken time to do this already.



Lunch Take your pick of nine ramen joints at Kyoto Rāmen Kōji (p59).

Imperial Palace & Around (p78) & Downtown Kyoto (p62)

 From Kyoto Station, take the subway or board a bus for **Daitoku-ji**, a maze of lanes with tucked-away temples featuring incredible Zen gardens. Spend your time wandering around before jumping back on the subway to the Imperial Palace Park (p81) for a stroll around the lovely expansive grounds, then head back downtown for a spot of dinner.



Dinner Book in advance for delicate tempura at Yoshikawa (p71).

Downtown Kyoto (p62)

 After dinner, head over to **Sake Bar Yoramu** to get an education in sake while taste testing, or drop into the intimate hidden-away **Bar Rocking Chair** for expertly made cocktails.

Behind the Scenes

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- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
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- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

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- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro/MTR/MRT station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Skytrain/Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

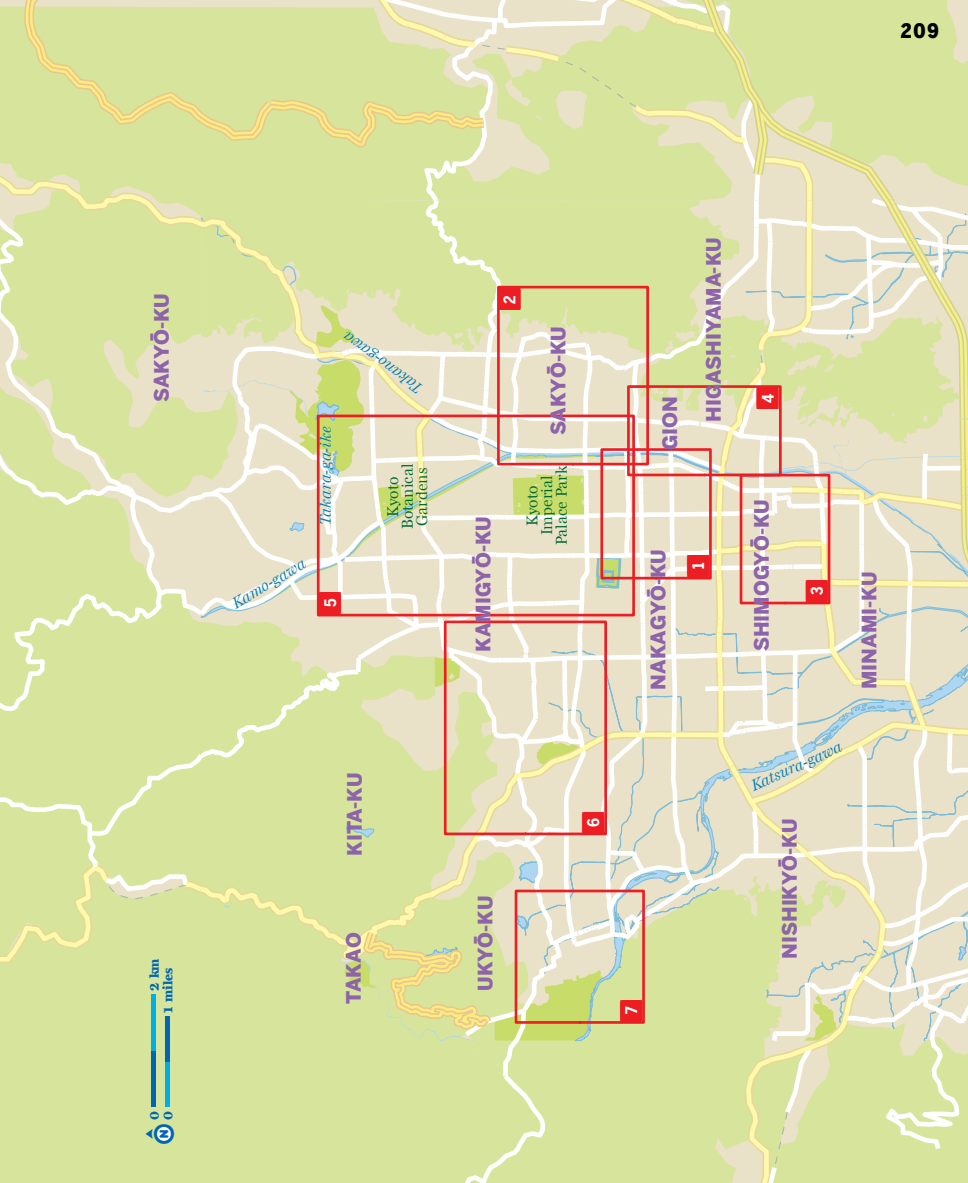
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- Sportsground
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Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book

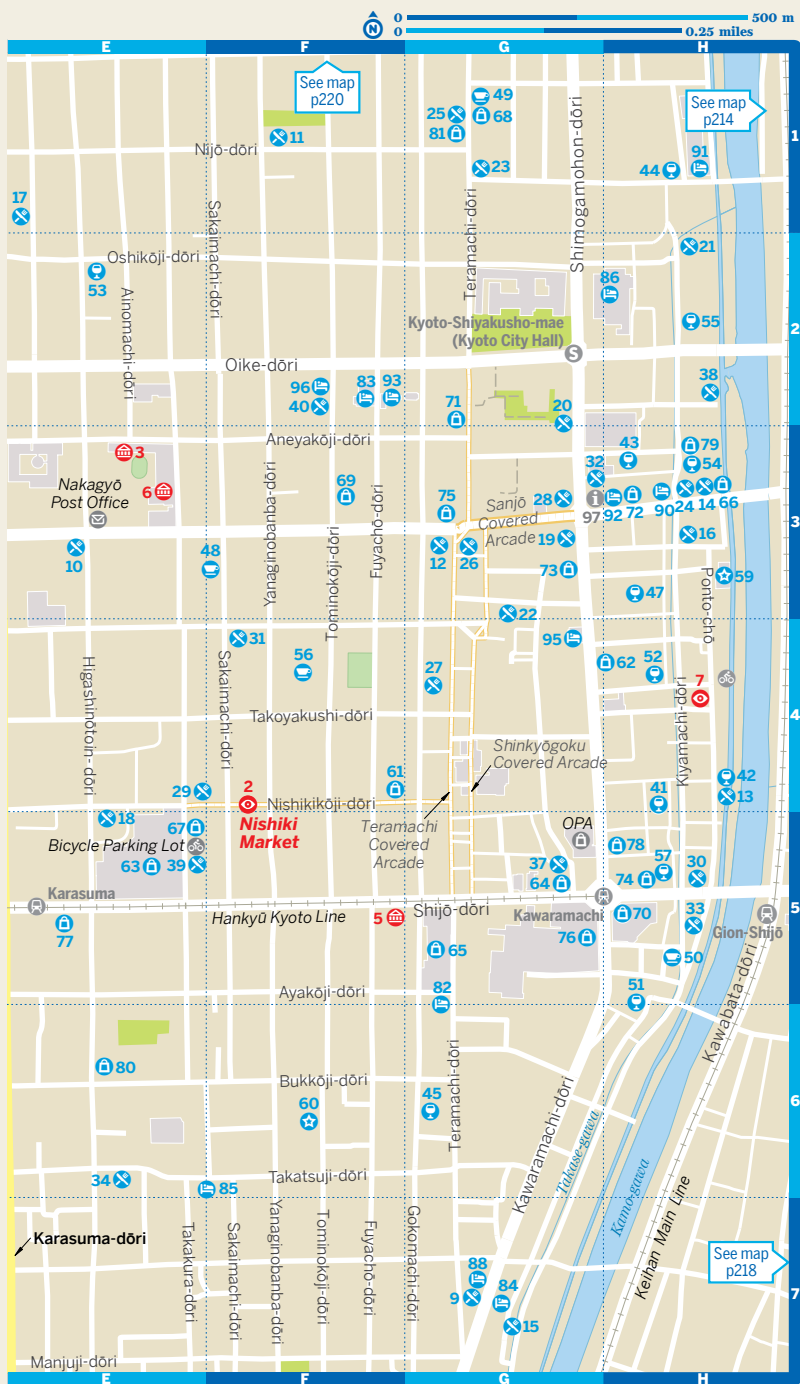


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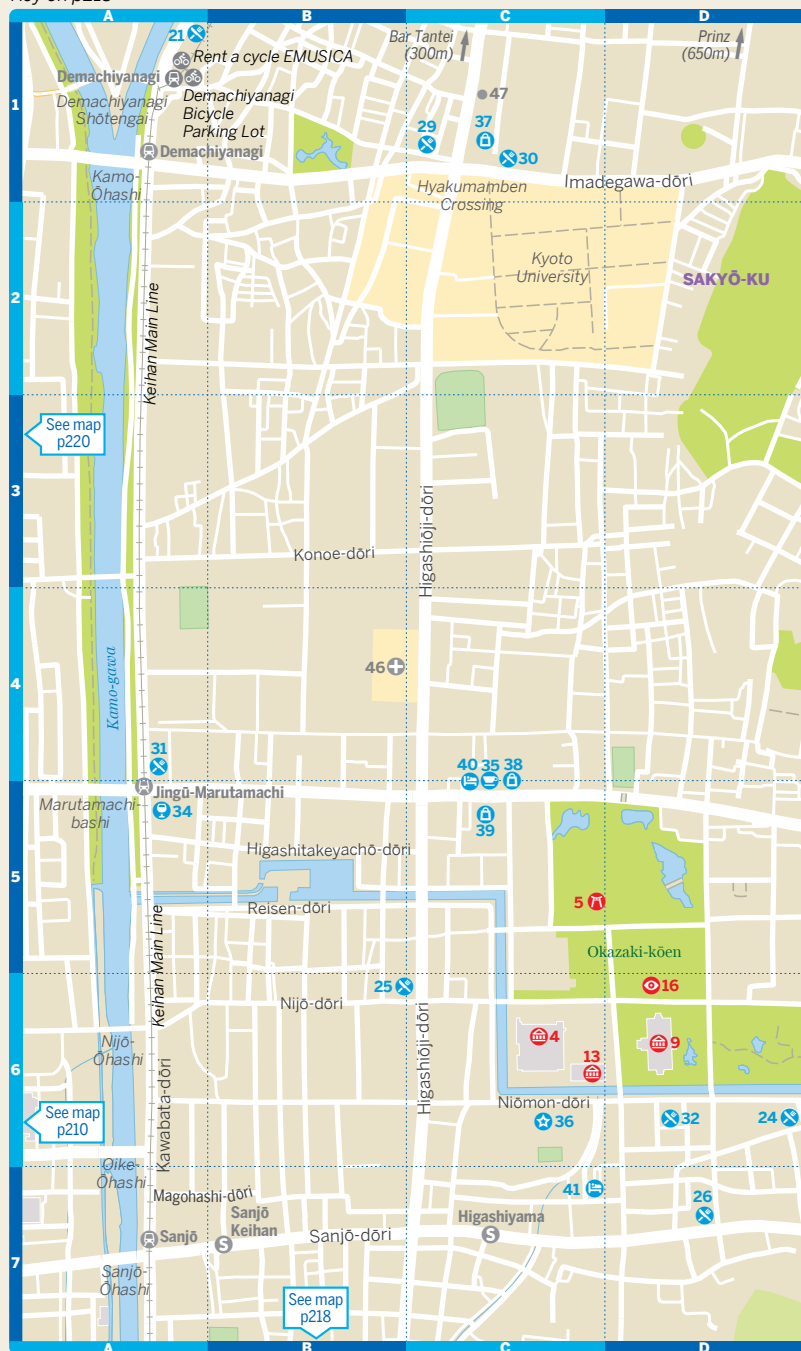
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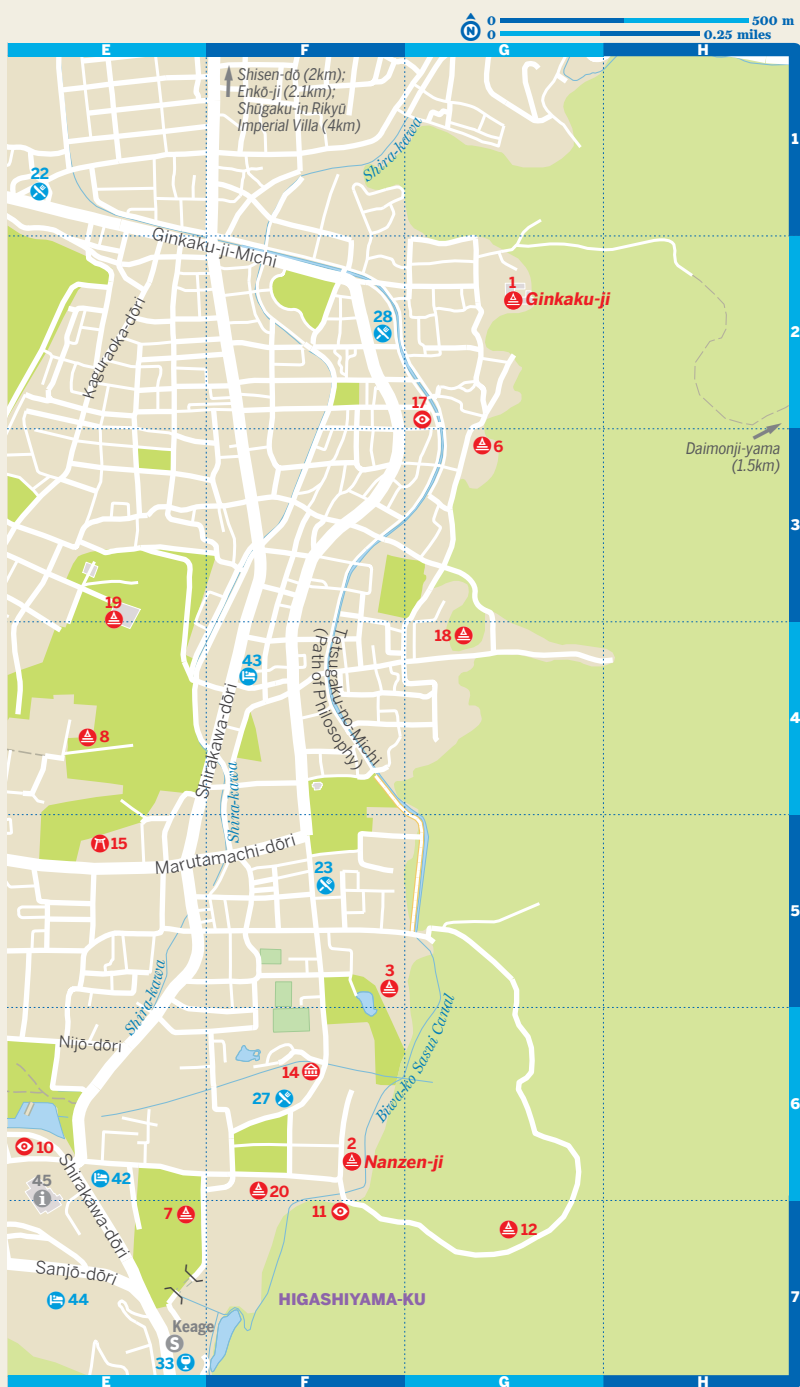
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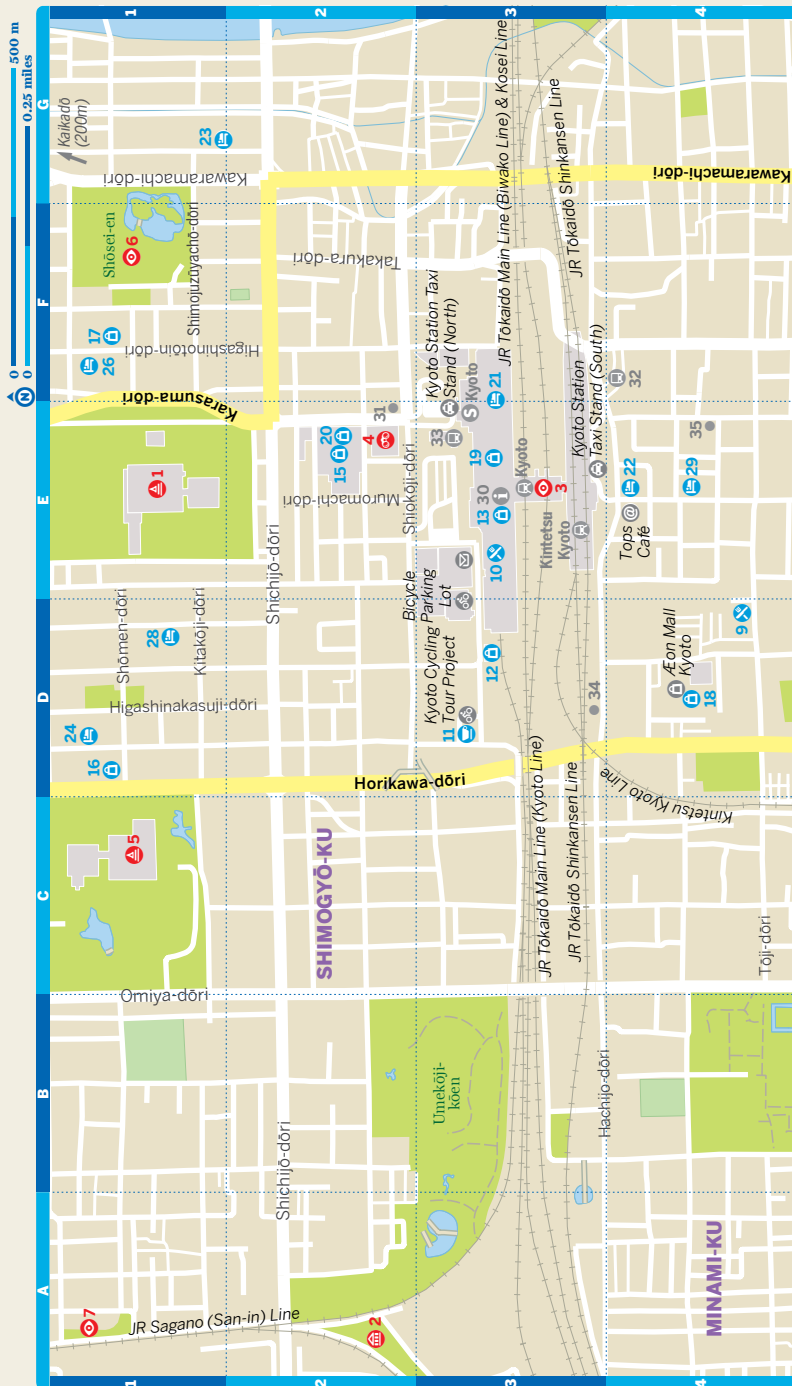
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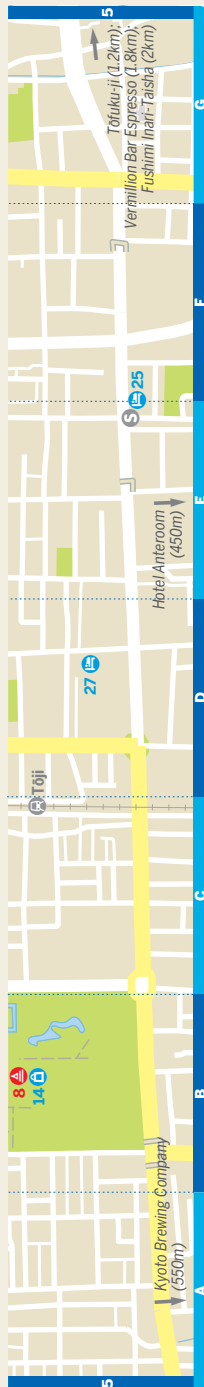
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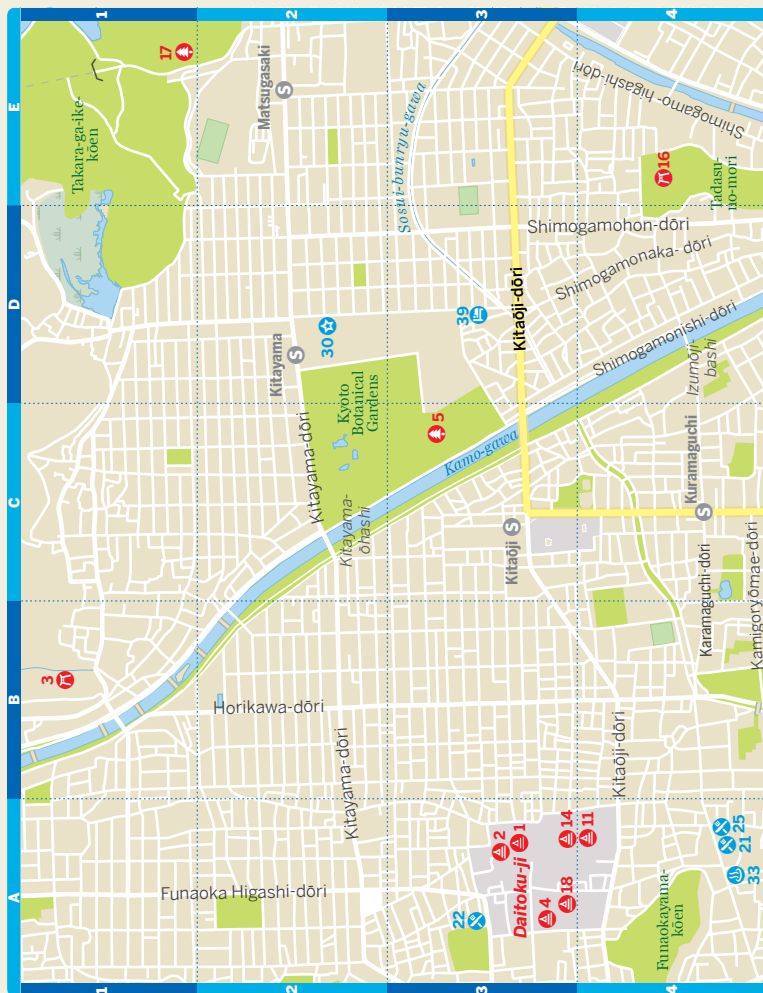
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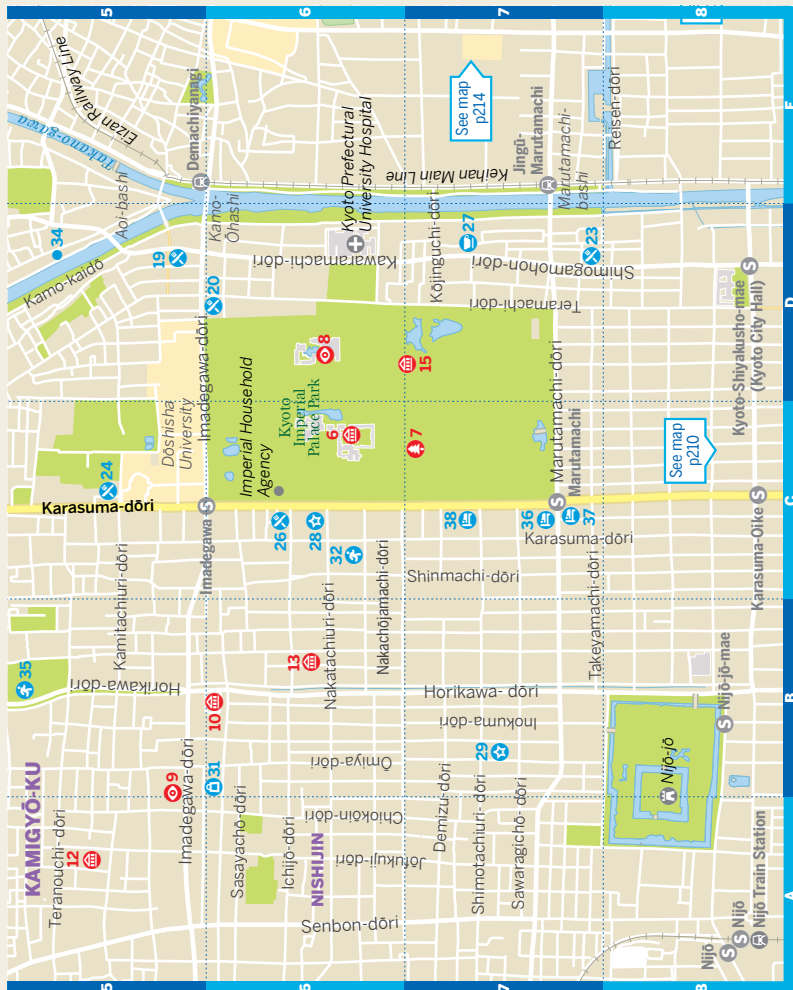
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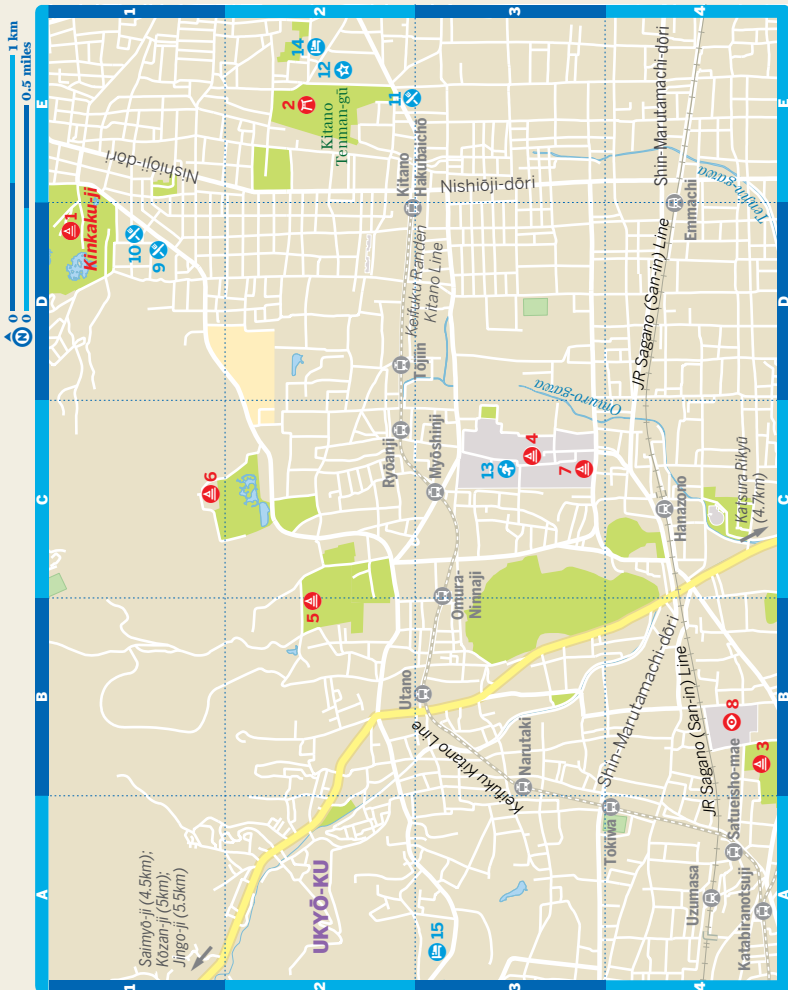


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Our Story

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

Our Writers



Kate Morgan

Having worked for Lonely Planet for over a decade, Kate has covered plenty of ground working as a travel writer on destinations such as Shanghai, Japan, India, Russia, Zimbabwe, the Philippines and Phuket. She has done stints living in London, Paris and Osaka but these days is based in one of her favourite regions in the world – Victoria, Australia. In between travelling the world and writing about it, Kate enjoys spending time at home working as a freelance editor.



Rebecca Milner

California born, longtime Tokyo resident (15 years and counting!), Rebecca has co-authored Lonely Planet guides to Tokyo, Japan, Korea and China. A freelance writer covering travel, food and culture, she has been published in the *Guardian*, the *Independent*, the *Sunday Times Travel Magazine*, the *Japan Times* and more. After spending the better part of her twenties working to travel – doing odd jobs in Tokyo to make money so she could spend months at a time backpacking around Asia – she turned the tables in 2010, joining Lonely Planet's team of authors.

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