

Kyoto e-Guidebook Sample

We have been selling our Kyoto guidebook for more than 3 years with updates every 6 months. However, we have decided to provide this guidebook as a PDF file. It is not free, although it is definitely more reasonably priced than other guidebooks. Nonetheless, we thought that you should be able to peek inside before making a decision.

So here's a short sample of our Kyoto e-Guidebook. If you are looking for a guidebook, why not give it a try? This selection covers the Kinkaku Area. Here, you can find information on sightseeing spots, restaurants and shops.

Remember, this (and the Kyoto e-Guidebook that sold on this website) is a PDF. It is not optimized for any e-book reader. That being said, you can print out the entire thing or just the pages you think are important and bring them with you. Or, simply download it to your favorite mobile device, hopefully one with a relatively big screen such as a tablet, and open it whenever you need it.

Note that hyperlinks have been deactivated since this is a sample. The full guidebook has this feature, which makes it easy to navigate through the guidebook. In the sample, these parts are highlighted with blue. This should help you understand what kind of information you can find in the actual guidebook.

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Kinkaku Area



Kinkaku Area is in the northwestern part of Kyoto. Kinkakuji Temple (Rokuonji Temple), Ryoanji Temple and Kitano Tenmangu are covered in this area. It is tempting to visit Kinkakuji Temple first, but for the sake of transportation convenience, maybe Ryoanji Temple or even Kitano Tenmangu Shrine is a better place to start to avoid going back and forth.

Sightseeing Spots

Ryoanji Temple

Ryoanji Temple was built by order of Lord Hosokawa Katsumoto in 1450. Hosokawa Katsumoto was a high ranking soldier at the time. It was a villa belonging to the Tokudaiji family (court noble), who offered it to Katsumoto. This temple has two famous spots which are Sekitei (a stone garden) and a pond called Kyoyouchi. Queen Elizabeth visited this stone garden in 1975 and praised it, which made this temple wildly popular inside and outside of Japan. There are 15 stones in this garden, but it is said that only 14 at a time from any given angle can be seen. In oriental numerology, 15 means perfect thus 14 is imperfect. It is said that you need to see the last one with your mind, which is all about Zen. However there is a spot where actually all of them can be seen at once. It might be fun to look for THE spot. Tsukubai, a stone water basin located at the backside of the hall, has a kind of word puzzle with four different Chinese characters at North, East, South, and West, and one Chinese character at the center. When this one is combined with the other characters, they mean “a man with knowledge has fortune even though he is poor, but a man without knowledge is poor even though he has fortune”.

MAP: **3B Kinkaku 1**

ACCESS:

Train – From the Keifuku Line (Randen) get off at Ryoanji.

Bus – From City Bus Line 50 get off at Ritsumeikan Daigakumae. From City Bus Line 59 get off at Ryoanjimae.

PRICE:

500 yen/adult and HS student, 300 yen/child

OPEN HOURS:

8:00 – 17:00 (March – Nov) 8:30 – 16:30 (Dec – Feb)

Ninnaji Temple

Ninnaji was built by order of Emperor Koukou in Ninna year 2 (886). Although he died the following year, the next Emperor Uda followed his predecessor and completed the construction in Ninna year 4 (888). Ninnaji Temple is designated as a World Heritage Site. The beautiful cherry blossoms here are worth seeing. Especially the cherry blossom called Omuro Zakura has been attracting people since the Edo period (1603 - 1867).

Map: [4A Kinkaku 1](#) & [1A Kinkaku 4](#)

PRICE:

Main hall 500 yen/adult and HS student, 300 yen/JHS and Elem. student) Note that during cherry blossom season, 500 yen entry fee is required.

OPEN HOURS:

(March – Nov) 9:00 – 17:00 Last Entry 16:30

(Dec – Feb) 9:00 – 16:30 Last Entry 16:00

Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)

Kinkakuji Temple is one of the most popular spots in Kyoto. It is easy to see why. This temple used to be the villa of a court noble, Saionji Kintsune, who offered it to **Ashikaga Yoshimitsu** who was the Shogun at the time. After his death, due to his will, this villa was turned into a Zen temple. For details, please read **10 Places to Visit in Kyoto**.

MAP: **1A Kinkaku 2**

ACCESS:

From City Bus Line 12, 59, 101 or 205 get off at Kinkakujimichi.

PRICE:

400 yen/adult, 300 yen/JHS and Elem. student

OPEN HOURS:

9:00 – 17:00

Insho Domoto Museum of Art

This art museum was started by the Japanese artist Insho Domoto to display his works. He was a modern Japanese artist, but he brought European style painting techniques into his works. Also he himself designed this museum, so not only his works but also the museum itself are art. This museum is located between Kinkakuji Temple and Ryoanji Temple. Note that this museum will close from January 2017.

MAP: **2C Kinkaku 1**

PRICE:

500 yen/adult, 400 yen/Univ and HS student, 300 yen/JHS and Elem student

OPEN HOURS:

9:30 – 17:00 (Last Entry 16:30)

CLOSED ON:

Mainly Mondays/New Year Holidays (December 28th – January 4th).

Hirano Shrine

Hirano Shrine used to be inside Tamura Kokyu, a house of the Empress at the capital Heijoukyo (Nara). But when the capital was moved to Kyoto in 794, this shrine was also moved to Kyoto. This shrine is very famous for its cherry blossoms, and it has 400 cherry trees of about 50 different types inside its premises.

MAP: **3B Kinkaku 2**

OPEN HOURS:

6:00 – 17:00

Kitano Tenmangu Shrine

For students or people who are thinking about studying again, it might be a good idea to visit Kitano Tenmangu Shrine. This historical shrine is dedicated to a well-known politician/aristocrat/poet of the Heian Period (794 - 1185) named **Sugawara no Michizane** (845 - 903). There are many shrines all over Japan enshrining him as a deity, and Kitano Tenmangu Shrine is the head of this order. He is thought to be a

God of knowledge. Therefore many students come here to pray during the New Year Holidays so that they can pass the entrance exams for their favorite schools. Also this shrine boasts many plum trees planted inside its premises. Around the end of February, these will be in full bloom, which is worth viewing. They have a plum garden, but plenty of plum flowers outside of the garden can be seen as well.

Map: [4B Kinkaku 2](#)

PRICE:

Main area is free. Plum Garden (10:00 – 16:00) 600 yen/adult, 300 yen/child (Snack included)

OPEN HOURS:

5:00 – 18:00 (April – Sept) 5:30 – 17:30 (Oct – March)

Myoshinji Temple

Myoshinji Temple is one of the most prestigious Zen temples in Japan. In 1337 Myoshinji Temple was built at the wish of Emperor Hanazono. This is how the Rinzai sect Myoshinji group began, which now has temples at 3400 locations in and outside of Japan. This temple has had many great preachers during its history, and was supported by Samurais. Inside the premises, there are 46 different buildings, which is why Myoshinji is thought to be one of the biggest Zen temples in Japan.

MAP: [2B Kinkaku 4](#)

PRICE:

Free to enter the premises. Guided tour of the lecture hall, ceiling picture, Big Bell and Bathroom (National Treasure). Tours start every 20 minutes from 9:10 to 11:40 and 13:00 to 15:40. There is also one at 12:30. 500 yen/adult, 300 yen/JHS student, 100 yen/Elem. student and younger

CLOSED ON:

Irregular

Houkongoin Temple

Houkongoin Temple was built in 1130 at the wish of Taikenmonin, the mother of Emperors Sudoku and Goshirakawa. This temple is sometimes called the Lotus Temple thanks to its collection of about 85 different types of lotus from all around world. The best season to visit this temple for lotuses is July to August.

MAP: 3B Kinkaku 4

PRICE:

500 yen/adult, 300 yen/HS, JHS and Elem. student

OPEN HOURS:

9:00 – 16:00

Koryuji Temple

Koryuji Temple is the oldest temple in Kyoto (built in 603) and had a deep relationship with Prince Shotoku who created a basic national system based on the

Emperor and supported Buddhism. Inside the Reihokan museum there are many priceless Buddha statues. Some of them are designated as National Treasures.

MAP: 4C Kinkaku 3

PRICE:

Reihokan museum 700 yen/adult, 500 yen/HS student, 400 yen/JHS student and younger

OPEN HOURS:

9:00 – 17:00 (March - Nov) 9:00 – 16:30 (Dec – Feb)

Toei Kyoto Studio Park

For those who are interested in Japanese Samurai and Ninja culture, this place should be on the places-to-visit list. This theme park is operated by a studio specializing in traditional dramas such as Samurai shows. They have live Ninja shows, Samurai Sword Fighting Lessons (volunteers will be chosen from audience) and so on. Plus a Haunted House or a Ninja Mystery House are also provided. And of course, they have many restaurants and souvenir stores.

MAP: 4C Kinkaku 3

PRICE:

2200 yen/adult, 1300 yen/HS and JHS student, 1100 yen/3 years and up

OPEN HOURS:

March – September (Weekends & Holidays) 9:00 – 18:00

March – September (Weekdays) 9:00 – 17:00

October – November (Everyday) 9:00 – 17:00

December – February (Weekends & Holidays) 9:00 – 17:00

December – February (Weekdays) 9:00 – 16:30

Kaiko no Yashiro Shrine

Konoshima Shrine is known as Kaiko no Yashiro. This shrine was related to immigrants from the Korean Peninsula more than 1300 years ago. They were good at silk making. In Japanese, Kaiko means silkworm, and Yashiro means shrine. It is unknown when this shrine was built, but the name of this shrine is printed on a document written in 701, so it must have been before that date. Also this shrine has a very unique Torii gate supported by three pillars. Thanks to this architecture, praying from three different directions is possible.

MAP: [4A Kinkaku 4](#)

Restaurants & Cafés

Café Sora

'Sora' means sky, and Café Sora is trying to create an atmosphere where the sky can be communed with. This café serves several foods with four different Obanzai (Kyoto's light home-style food). They have Matcha latte in addition to coffees and teas. Even for those who don't like Matcha's bitter taste, maybe a latte style Matcha can be enjoyable. Note that this café allows dogs to be brought in.

MAP: **2B Kinkaku 2**

PRICE:

420 – 1500 yen

OPEN HOURS:

11:30 – 19:00

Closed on: Irregular

lori

It might be difficult to find the restaurant and also requires reservation, so this should be for serious macrobiotic fans. It's a macrobiotic course with plenty of vegetables which changes every season. Reservation is required.

MAP: **1C Kinkaku 3**

PRICE:

4000 yen

OPEN HOURS:

11:30 – 18:30

CLOSED ON: Irregular

075-461-5911

Exit Utano station (Randen) from exit 2 (very important), walk south and turn left at the second street on your left. Second or third house is the restaurant.

Omura House

Omura House is a popular Omrice (omelet covered rice) restaurant. It has more than ten different Omrices including everything from standard Omrice such as chicken and mushroom, to highly unique Omrice such as tofu and Oyako (salmon and salmon roe).

MAP: [2A Kinkaku 2](#)

PRICE:

750 – 1200 yen

OPEN HOUSE:

11:00 – 15:30

CLOSED ON:

Mainly Mondays

Shops

Oimatsu

Oimatsu provides many eye-catching traditional Japanese sweets. Oimatsu has been in business since 1908 reflecting Kyoto's long history of sweets. Their flagship sweet Goshoguruma, meaning 'court carriage,' is worth trying.

MAP: [4C Kinkaku 3](#)

PRICE:

90 – 500 yen

OPEN HOURS:

8:30 – 18:00

Kyogashi Tsukasa Sasaya Enshu

For people who are planning to visit Konoshima Shrine (Kaiko no Yashiro), this traditional sweet shop, Sasaya Enshu should be on the list as well. They have a Konoshima Shrine themed sweet called Konoshima (150 yen), which is a pastry with sweet beans inside and sweet chestnuts on top. Also miso (fermented bean paste) sponge cake (600 yen) might be fun to try.

MAP: [4C Kinkaku 2](#)

PRICE:

150 – 600 yen

OPEN HOURS:

8:00 – 17:30

CLOSED ON:

Thursdays

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