

KYOTO EXCURSION GUIDE



A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE IN A SPECIAL PLACE

KYOTO EXCURSION PROGRAMS FOR MEETINGS & EVENTS

The historic city of Kyoto offers organizers of meetings and events not only unique venues, such as World Heritage shrines and temples, historic buildings, and museums, but also a wide variety of special excursion programs.

These programs offer team-building cultural or culinary experiences that take place outdoors in nature or in historic buildings such as shrines, temples, or *machiya* (traditional wooden townhouses), which are sure to leave a deep impression on participants and lead to higher satisfaction with the overall event.

These excursions also present a valuable opportunity to interact with the local community through Zen priests, artisans, chefs, businesspeople, and guides, leading to new discoveries and deeper knowledge.

Furthermore, the programs offered here are designed to contribute to the preservation of Kyoto's cultural heritage and natural environment, giving back to the communities that make these unique experiences possible.

We hope that in addition to more standard excursions, you will consider these unique Kyoto excursion programs that seek to both build lasting memories for participants and contribute to society at the same time.



For Event Organizers

This guide offers specific examples of possible excursions, but we can also suggest shrines, temples, facilities, and more to match each organizer's needs. Please contact the Kyoto Convention & Visitors Bureau for more details.

CONTENTS

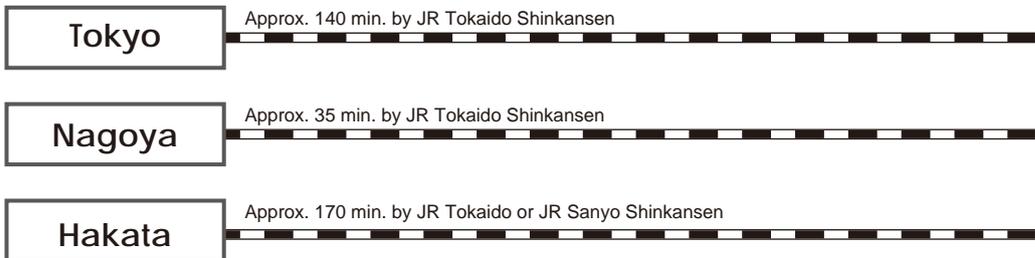
- 1** **Zen Experience at a Buddhist Temple**
 Learn about and experience Zen as a team at a historic Buddhist temple, while contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage. P.5
- 2** **Miniature Potted Japanese Garden-Making with a Landscape Gardener**
 Learn about Japanese aesthetics and the history and appreciation of Japanese gardens from a landscape gardener before making a miniature potted Japanese garden as a team, which can be donated to help enhance the local landscape. P.6
- 3** **Cooking Experience in a Kyo-Machiya Traditional Wooden Townhouse**
 Experience traditional Kyoto cooking inside a *Kyo-machiya* (traditional Kyoto wooden townhouse). Learn about the lifestyles and food culture of the people of Kyoto while supporting the preservation of the buildings. P.7
- 4** **Sake Brewery Tour in Sake Hotspot Fushimi**
 Learn about sake brewing and enjoy sake tasting in a historic sake-brewing area. Support the development of local industry while strolling through town and admiring the picturesque view created by rows of sake breweries. P.8
- 5** **Hands-On Traditional Handicraft Workshop Experience**
 Visit a traditional workshop for a hands-on experience with traditional handicrafts. Be inspired by interaction with local artisans and learning about traditional culture and techniques, while contributing to the preservation of traditional industry. P.9
- 6** **Cultural Manga Experience in the Birthplace of Japanese Manga**
 Learn about the history and production of Japanese manga (comic books), and create a short story as a team in a unique venue. P.10
- 7** **Woodworking Experience with Sustainably-Grown Kitayama Cedar**
 Try your hand at woodworking with sustainably-grown Kitayama cedar, commonly used in the wooden buildings of Kyoto, and contribute to the development of the forests. P.11
- 8** **Knowledge Exchange with Leading Kyoto Companies**
 Experience Kyoto's leading corporate technology and be inspired by Kyoto's spirit of enterprise. P.12
- 9** **Walking Trails in the Higashiyama Mountains**
 Savor the rich nature of Kyoto and help promote nature conservation by walking the trails of the Higashiyama Mountains overlooking central Kyoto as a team. P.13
- 10** **Evening Excursions and Receptions at A Cultural Property**
 Hold team-building activities in a cultural property available exclusively for you in the evening. Boost satisfaction with the event by continuing with a reception in the same venue. P.14



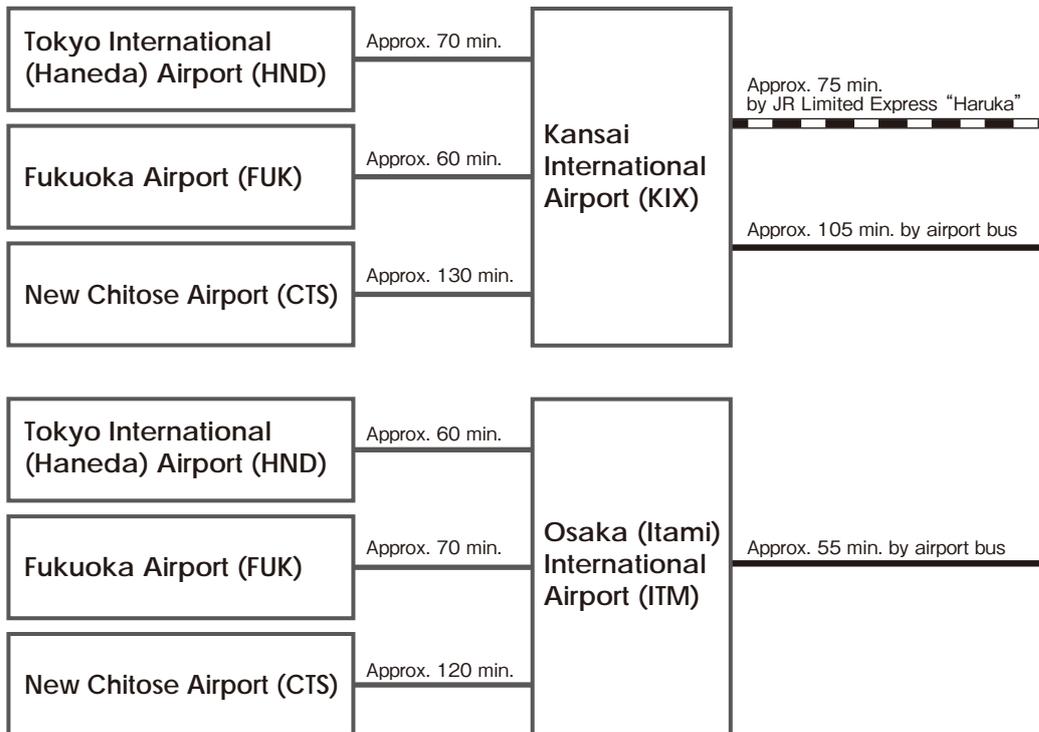
Access to Kyoto



By Shinkansen (Bullet Train)



By Plane



KYOTO

【Icon Types】

Team-Building

Community Development

Cultural Experience

Traditional Industry

Networking

【Total Duration】

Time required for each program is approximate, and may change depending on the number of participants, program content, etc.

【Estimated Cost】

Estimated cost includes participation and entrance fees. Transportation fees, etc. are not included.



FOR EXCURSIONS,
RELY ON THE CITY OF **KYOTO VISITORS HOSTS**,
SPECIALIST INTERPRETER GUIDES CERTIFIED BY THE CITY OF KYOTO!



City of Kyoto Visitor Hosts are specialist interpreter guides who are certified by the City of Kyoto. Candidates are selected from a large pool of applicants for their exceptional language skills and hospitality, and roughly 50 new guides are appointed each year after completing 6 months of special training.

City of Kyoto Visitors Hosts are eager to use their love for Kyoto to help make each participant's experience in Kyoto extraordinary.

Registered guides: 153 (as of October 2018)

Languages: English, Chinese, French, Spanish, Japanese

Specialization: Cultural heritage, traditional industries, traditional culture, food culture

Suggested roles:

- A guide for a 1-day excursion visiting famous destinations in Kyoto
- A guide for an excursion visiting various workshops of traditional industry
- A personal guide to accompany a VIP

Fee: Please inquire

How to find a guide:

1) To find a guide on your own:

Search for the right guide using the City of Kyoto Visitors Host search engine, Clematis
<https://www.kyotovisorshost.com/>

2) To ask for a consultation:

Contact the City of Kyoto Visitors Host Secretariat (within the Kyoto City Tourism Association)
TEL: +81-(0)75-213-0070 (Available 9:00 – 17:00 on weekdays)





1 Zen Experience at a Buddhist Temple

Team-Building

Community Development

Cultural Experience

Learn about and experience Zen as a team at a historic Buddhist temple, while contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage.

The ancient former capital of Japan, Kyoto has over 1,200 years of history and is home to numerous cultural treasures, including World Heritage Sites.

Kyoto's many Buddhist temples serve as the setting for the pursuit of knowledge, with a spiritual atmosphere characterized by historic wooden architecture, Buddhist sculptures with high artistic value, and exquisite Japanese gardens.

This excursion includes a lecture from a Buddhist monk about Zen Buddhism, followed by a *zazen* meditation experience as a team. A variety of other programs are also available upon request, such as tasting *shojin-ryori* (traditional Japanese Buddhist cuisine), hand-copying Buddhist sutras, or participating in the daily cleaning of the temple, which is a part of ascetic practice. These excursions can also be scheduled for the early morning.

The fees for these programs contribute to the preservation and maintenance of temples in Kyoto.

Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (15 min.)

↓
Zen Experience (90 min.)

↓
Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (15 min.)

Zazen meditation, hand-copying of sutras, special tour, etc. : Approx. 90 min.

Total Duration: 120 min.

Minimum Participants: 2 or more adults

Estimated Cost (Per Person):

Starting at JPY 5,000

*Estimated cost is not an official quotation



© UEYAKATO LANDSCAPE Co., LTD.

2

Miniature Potted Japanese Garden-Making with a Landscape Gardener

Team-Building

Community Development

Cultural Experience

Learn about Japanese aesthetics and the history and appreciation of Japanese gardens from a landscape gardener before making a miniature potted Japanese garden as a team, which can be donated to help enhance the local landscape.

One of the highlights of visiting Kyoto's shrines and temples is the chance to appreciate the beauty of the Japanese gardens within them. This excursion offers the chance to make a miniature potted Japanese garden under the instruction of a landscape gardener with experience managing beautiful scenic gardens in Kyoto.

Under the guidance of a landscape gardener, participants will tour a famous Japanese garden and learn how to appreciate their beauty from the perspective of a creator, while also gaining a deeper understanding of Japanese culture through explanations of Japanese aesthetics and the history of Japanese gardens. Participants will work together as a team to create their own miniature Japanese garden in a pot, creating a sense of unity by discussing the garden's image and concept, designing a layout, and assigning roles together. For participants living in Japan, the finished garden can be taken home as a souvenir. Otherwise, the garden can be returned to the earth, thereby taking consideration of the environment.

Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (15 min.)

↓
Cultural Experience (90 min.)

↓
Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (15 min.)

- **Explanation of Japanese Garden-Making:**
Approx. 30 min.
- **Miniature Potted Japanese Garden-Making:**
Approx. 60 min.

Total Duration: 120 min.

Minimum Participants: 2 or more adults

Estimated Cost (Per Person):
Starting at JPY 20,000

*Estimated cost is not an official quotation



3

Cooking Experience in a *Kyo-Machiya* Traditional Wooden Townhouse

Team-Building

Community Development

Cultural Experience

Experience traditional Kyoto cooking inside a *Kyo-machiya* (traditional Kyoto wooden townhouse). Learn about the lifestyles and food culture of the people of Kyoto while supporting the preservation of the buildings.

The *Kyo-machiya* of Kyoto are traditional wooden townhouses that offer a glimpse into the lifestyles of the people of Kyoto, seen through the furnishings and equipment, which have their own artistic value, and the layout of the building, which reflects knowledge of how design can affect daily life.

In this excursion, participants will learn about *washoku* (Japanese traditional cuisine), which has been designated a UNESCO Intangible World Cultural Heritage, right inside of a *Kyo-machiya*. A professional chef will teach participants about various aspects of Kyoto's food culture, including the use of ingredients and cooking techniques that take the seasons into account, sophisticated *Kyo-ryori* dishes with exquisite plating arrangements, *obanzai* dishes that take advantage of seasonal local vegetables, and more.

This program presents an opportunity to understand the Japanese people's respect for nature and life, as well as the meaning behind the phrases "*itadakimasu*" and "*gochisousama*", which are said at the beginning and end of meals to show gratitude to those involved in the process of growing and preparing food. Participants will split into teams and cook dishes under the direction of an instructor. It is also possible to accommodate special requests, for example how to make *dashi*, the soup stock that forms the basis of Japanese cooking; how to clean and prepare a fish; or how to select the best vegetables.

The program fee includes the cost of preserving the decreasing number of *Kyo-machiya*, allowing participants to give back to the community.

Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (10 min.)

↓
Tour of *Kyo-machiya* (60 min.)

↓
Cooking Experience (60 min.)

↓
Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (15 min.)

• **Tour of *Kyo-machiya* with Guide:**

Approx. 60 min.

• **Cooking Experience:**

Approx. 60 min.

Total Duration: 140 min.

Minimum Participants: 2 or more adults

Estimated Cost (Per Person):

Starting at JPY 5,000

*Estimated cost is not an official quotation



4 Sake Brewery Tour in Sake Hotspot Fushimi

Cultural Experience

Community Development

Traditional Industry

Learn about sake brewing and enjoy sake tasting in a historic sake-brewing area. Support the development of local industry while strolling through town and admiring the picturesque view created by rows of sake breweries.

Since *washoku* (traditional Japanese cuisine) was designated as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, worldwide interest in Japanese sake has only continued to increase. Sake brewing has flourished in Kyoto since ancient times, and the Fushimi area is home to many famous sake breweries.

In this excursion, participants will take a walk around sake breweries in Fushimi, a valuable chance to interact with traditional Japanese food culture. The area is well-equipped with walking paths, making it ideal for a leisurely stroll, and the white walls of traditional sake breweries, visible behind the willow trees lining the Horikawa River, create an atmosphere that feels as if one has stepped centuries into the past. During the brewery tour, participants will learn about sake production from a guide and enjoy sake tasting.

The program fees contribute to the preservation of the historic buildings that help create the scenic atmosphere.



*Estimated cost is not an official quotation



5 Hands-On Traditional Handicraft Workshop Experience

- Team-Building
- Community Development
- Cultural Experience
- Traditional Industry

Visit a traditional workshop for a hands-on experience with traditional handicrafts. Be inspired by interaction with local artisans and learning about traditional culture and techniques, while contributing to the preservation of traditional industry.

Kyoto is a creative city with a thriving manufacturing industry, whose history goes back to making furnishings for the imperial court in the Heian period (794 – 1185), and continues up to today with the production of high-quality Buddhist items, wooden and bamboo handicrafts, lanterns, textiles, pottery, and more, created with techniques perfected over hundreds of years.

This excursion program includes a tour of a traditional workshop and a hands-on activity with local artisans who are carrying on the tradition. In addition to learning about traditional culture and techniques that have been passed down through the ages, by creating their own works of art, participants can also support the next generation of artisans.

One example is a visit to a bamboo workshop. As a location surrounded by mountains, Kyoto is also known as a leading producer of bamboo, and its bamboo products for tea ceremony and flower arranging have been well-loved for centuries. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about bamboo handicrafts and also create their own works of art that can be used as interior decoration and more.

A variety of workshop activities can be arranged upon request. An experience with one-of-a-kind traditional Kyoto industries, complete with a creation that participants can take home with them, is sure to serve as a source of future inspiration.

Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (15 min.)

↓

Hands-On Traditional Handicraft Workshop Experience

↓

Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (15 min.)

- **Buddhist Prayer Bead Bracelet-Making:**
Approx. 60 min.
- **Raku Pottery Sake Cup-Making:**
Approx. 60 min.
- **Nishiki-ori Brocade Weaving Loom Experience:**
Approx. 90 min.
- **Japanese Candle-Painting Experience:**
Approx. 120 min.

Total Duration:
Varies depending on the selected activity
Minimum Participants: 2 or more adults

Estimated Cost (Per Person) :
Starting at JPY 4,000

*Estimated cost is not an official quotation



6 Cultural Manga Experience in the Birthplace of Japanese Manga

Team-Building

Community Development

Cultural Experience

Learn about the history and production of Japanese manga (comic books), and create a short story as a team in a unique venue.

Now a representative example of Japanese pop culture, Japanese manga has its origins in the *Chōjū-jinbutsu-giga* (Scrolls of Frolicking Animals and Humans) of Kosan-ji Temple, said to be the oldest manga in Japan and created in the 12th – 13th centuries. The scrolls are designated as a National Treasure of Japan, and two of the four scrolls have been entrusted to the Kyoto National Museum.

During a visit to the Kyoto International Manga Museum, whose collections include approximately 300,000 volumes of manga ranging from the mid-Edo period (1603 – 1868) to the present, participants of this excursion will be able to freely peruse 50,000 volumes of manga published between the 1970s and the present, in addition to viewing exhibitions on the findings of manga-related research.

After a tour of the museum, a manga-drawing workshop can be held at a unique venue, where participants will hear a lecture from an up-and-coming Kyoto-based manga artist before separating into teams to create their own 4-panel manga strips, to be presented at the end of the workshop. Requiring original ideas, an easily-understood narrative, and a central theme or concept, 4-panel manga strips have many parallels to modern presentations, making this workshop valuable practice. Additionally, participating in this program helps support current and future manga artists.

Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (10 min.)

↓
Kyoto International Manga Museum

↓
Workshop at Unique Venue (60 min.)

↓
Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (10 min.)

• **Tour of Kyoto International Manga Museum:**

Approx. 45 min.

• **Manga Workshop:** Approx. 60 min.

Total Duration: Approx. 125 min.

Minimum Participants: 2 or more adults

Estimated Cost (Per Person):

Starting at JPY 5,000

*Estimated cost is not an official quotation



7 Woodworking Experience with Sustainably-Grown Kitayama Cedar

Team-Building

Community Development

Cultural Experience

Try your hand at woodworking with sustainably-grown Kitayama cedar, commonly used in the wooden buildings of Kyoto, and contribute to the development of the forests.

Kyoto City is blessed with lush greenery, with forests covering over 70% of the city's area. The Kitayama cedar, which is grown with pure mountain water on the cool slopes of the Kitayama Mountains, has played an important part in supporting the wooden architecture and lifestyles of Kyoto. It serves as an indispensable building material for tea rooms and tea houses, and has also been planted in famous Japanese gardens such as those of Shugakuin Imperial Villa and Katsura Imperial Villa.

Recently, sustainable forestation has been gaining attention as a strategy to combat global warming. The environmentally-friendly chopstick-making experience provided by this excursion program makes use of materials produced by tree thinning, and a portion of the program fees are donated to help develop the forests.

Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (50 min.)

↓
Tour of Kitayama Cedar Forest and Woodworking Experience (130 min.)

↓
Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (50 min.)

- **Observation of Kitayama Cedar Pruning:**
Approx. 20 min.
- **Kitayama Cedar Log Bark Peeling:**
Approx. 30 min.
- **Tour of Kitayama Cedar Log Production Plant:**
Approx. 20 min.
- **Lecture about Kitayama Cedars:**
Approx. 30 min.
- **Chopstick-Making Experience:**
Approx. 30 min.

Total Duration: Approx. 230 min.

Minimum Participants: 2 or more adults

Estimated Cost (Per Person):
Starting at JPY 2,000

*Estimated cost is not an official quotation



8

Knowledge Exchange with Leading Kyoto Companies

Team-Building

Networking

Experience Kyoto's leading corporate technology and be inspired by Kyoto's spirit of enterprise.

Kyoto is headquarters for many prominent global companies who are world leaders in state-of-the-art technology. Through our independent network with such companies, we can help arrange visits and networking opportunities for your company or organization.

During a visit to the requested company, participants will not only be able to see the latest technological developments and products first-hand, but also participate in team-building exchange such as interviews, discussions, and networking events. We can help you get in touch with Japan's cutting-edge technology by introducing you to the company of your choice, from innovative companies that have introduced products to revolutionize everyday life, such as automatic ticket gates and ATMs, to electronic parts manufacturers who are leading the industry through research and development, production, and sales of new and original electronic devices.

Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (15 min.)



Company Visit and Information Session (60 min.)



Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (15 min.)

• **Introduction of Company Products and Technology:** Approx. 30 min.

• **Opinion Exchange/Networking:** Approx. 30 min.

Total Duration: Approx. 90 min.

Minimum Participants: 2 or more adults

Estimated Cost (Per Person):
Starting at JPY 1,500

*Estimated cost is not an official quotation



9 Walking Trails in the Higashiyama Mountains

Team-Building

Community Development

Savor the rich nature of Kyoto and help promote nature conservation by walking the trails of the Higashiyama Mountains overlooking central Kyoto as a team.

Although Kyoto is a metropolis with a population of 1.47 million, it also has a diverse natural environment, with the Kamogawa River running through central Kyoto and mountains bordering the city on three sides.

The mountains surrounding Kyoto are equipped with a total 132km of walking and hiking trails. With the help of a guide, your team can enjoy a walk in the woods and see historical sites such as Daimonji, where the mountains light up with burning kanji characters once a year, and the Shogunzuka Mound, said to be built when the capital of Japan moved to Kyoto. A portion of the program fee is used for trail maintenance, thus contributing to the conservation of Kyoto's lush natural environment.

It is also possible to arrange other walking or hiking courses.

Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (30 min.)

Walking Trails in
the Higashiyama Mountains (60 min.)

Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (30 min.)

Kyoto Loop Trail Higashiyama Course

Fushimi-Inari Station → Mt. Daimonji →
Ginkakujimichi → Eizan Cable Hiei Station

*Courses can be arranged depending on
desired time and total duration

Total Duration: Approx. 120 min.

Minimum Participants: 2 or more adults

Estimated Cost (Per Person):
Starting at JPY 5,000

*Estimated cost is not an official quotation



10 Evening Excursions and Receptions at A Cultural Property

Team-Building

Community Development

Cultural Experience

Hold team-building activities in a cultural property available exclusively for you in the evening. Boost satisfaction with the event by continuing with a reception in the same venue.

The Old Mitsui Family Shimogamo Villa is one of Kyoto's many cultural properties, and one of a select few that are available for exclusive use in the evening.

Strengthen the solidarity of your team by hosting group events, for instance yoga workshops or cultural experiences such as tea ceremony or flower arranging, within a magical atmosphere created by the evening illumination.

It is also possible to follow the activity with a reception or dinner hosted in the same venue, making this an attractive option for an excursion.

Take advantage of the uniquely Kyoto experience of building teamwork in a venue steeped in history, while also contributing to the maintenance and preservation of cultural properties.

Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (10 min.)

↓
Cultural Experience or Evening Meal at the Old Mitsui Family Shimogamo Villa (120 min.)

↓
Central Kyoto: Shijo Karasuma Area (10 min.)

• **Evening Cultural Experience, Evening meal (Social Event):**

Approx. 120 min.

Total Duration: Approx. 140 min.

Minimum Participants: 2 or more adults

Estimated Cost (Per Person):
Please inquire

*Estimated cost is not an official quotation



Kyoto Convention & Visitors Bureau

Editing • Publishing • Inquiries

Kyoto Convention & Visitors Bureau

78 Kankoboko-cho, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto 600-8009, Japan

TEL: +81-(0)75-353-3053 FAX: +81-(0)75-353-3055 E-mail: kyoto@hellokcb.or.jp

URL: meetkyoto.jp

We support the promotion of initiatives to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

