



**Special
Guided Tours
in
English!**



Kyoto State Guest House

Special Public Opening with English Guided Tours

Kyoto State Guest House was built in 2005 as a place to receive foreign visitors and offer them Japan’s finest and most heartfelt hospitality. Located here in the heart of Japan’s iconic city of history and culture, it serves as a place to increase understanding of Japan and deepen international goodwill.

The Kyoto State Guest House has received dignitaries from all over the world, including Former U.S. President George Bush, German Chancellor Angela Dorothea Merkel, and South Korean diplomat and Former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon. In contrast with its western style counterpart in Tokyo, the Akasaka Palace and State Guest House, the Kyoto State Guest House is a modern interpretation of traditional Japanese architecture and interior design.

The guest house and its furnishings were crafted with the cooperation of some of Japan’s greatest traditional artisans and includes the work of Japanese Living National Treasures. This is an incredible and rare opportunity to see their masterpieces up close and experience a space that was designed to be the ultimate expression of Japanese craftsmanship and hospitality.

For the first time, the Kyoto State Guest House will be offering guided tours in English!

Dates open to public

Monday, February 6, 2017 – Thursday, February 23, 2017 (Closed on Wednesdays)

Note: Dates may change in the case of an official reception, etc. The period of the special public opening may be changed and/or extended. For more information, please visit our website: <http://www8.cao.go.jp/geihinkan/kyoto/kyoto-e.html>

Time

Tour begins at 12:30 PM, please arrive by 12:00 noon. (Tour is approximately 1 hour)

Cost

Adults – 1,500 Yen, Jr. High / High School - 700 Yen (Must be born April 1, 2004 or earlier to participate.)

To Participate

Please apply in advance no later than 5 PM (JST) the day before at the following webpage: https://form.cao.go.jp/kyoto_geihinkan/en_opinion-0039.html

Tour capacity is limited. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. "Admission Cards" will be available for purchase at the door only when tickets have not sold out in advance.





Entrance

The dramatic entryway and hallways are all made out of Japanese lumber. The floors are made out of the wood of the Japanese Zelkova tree, the ceilings are Japanese Cedar, and the walls are finished simply and elegantly with traditional Japanese plaster. The doors of the entryway are made out of massive boards cut from a 700 year old Zelkova tree.



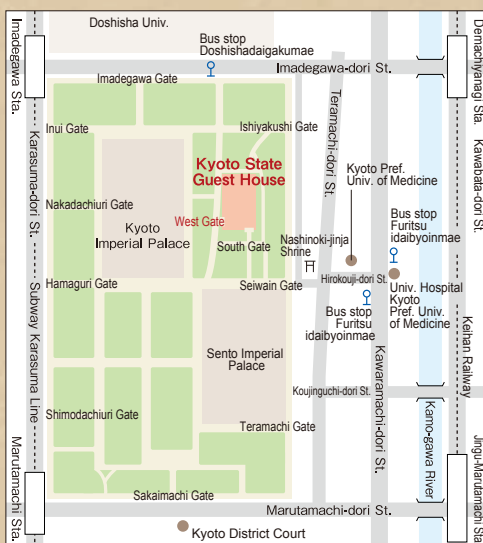
Fuji no Ma

The largest room, the Fuji no Ma (Wisteria Room), is used for receptions and banquets. The tapestry is woven with the design of 39 different flowers. The stage doors were decorated with platinum and gold leaf by a Japanese Living National Treasure using the Kirikane technique which is usually used in Buddhist statuary and paintings. The ceiling lighting is made of a latticework of Kyoto-style joinery that can be arranged into 15 different configurations and uses Honminoshi Paper (UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage) to diffuse the light.



Kiri no Ma

In the Kiri no Ma (Paulownia Room) colors are more reserved allowing the natural materials, like wood, paper, lacquer, and straw tatami floors to take center stage, revealing the depth of Japan's peaceful aesthetic. The 12 meter black lacquer table offers guests an optimal view to gaze out at the gardens.



Access

Kyoto City Bus

About a 7-minute walk from 'Furitsu-Idai Byoin mae' bus stop (Recommend to use Route No.4, 17, and 205 via Kawaramachi Street from Kyoto Station / Route No.3, 4, 17, 37, 59 and 205 from Kawaramachi Station of Hankyu Railway)

Subway

About a 15-minute walk from Imadegawa Station (exit No.3) of Karasuma Line

Keihan Railway

About a 20-minute walk from Demachiyana Station of Keihan Oto Line

Taxi

About a 5-minute walk from Teramachi Hirokoji Street

Kyoto State Guest House

http://www8.cao.go.jp/geihinkan/kyoto/koukai-kyoto_e.html

The tour will be guided by the City of Kyoto Visitors Hosts, highly qualified interpreter guides specialized in Kyoto. These guides are officially certified by the City of Kyoto and have undergone special training including an extensive curriculum of history, culture and traditional arts as well as guiding and communication skills.

