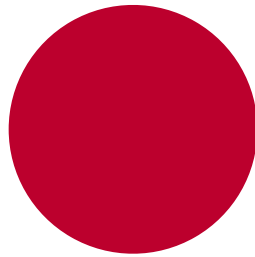




# 3-day Kyoto Itinerary



Kyoto



# Kyoto: A Journey Through Japan's Cultural Heart

Welcome to Kyoto, Japan's former imperial capital and a living museum of traditional culture. This 3-day guide will take you through ancient temples, serene gardens, and historic districts, offering an immersive experience in Japanese history and aesthetics.

## Historical Overview

Kyoto served as Japan's imperial capital for over 1,000 years, from 794 to 1868. The city miraculously escaped major damage during World War II, preserving countless temples, shrines, and cultural treasures that offer a window into Japan's rich past.

## Iconic Landmarks

- Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion): A Zen temple covered in gold leaf, reflecting beautifully in its mirror pond.
- Kiyomizu-dera Temple: A UNESCO World Heritage site offering panoramic views of Kyoto.
- Nijo Castle: A magnificent example of feudal architecture with stunning gardens and nightingale floors.
- Kyoto Imperial Palace: The former residence of Japan's Imperial Family.

## Cultural Treasures

- Gion District: The famous geisha district, with its preserved wooden machiya merchant houses.
- Nishiki Market: Known as "Kyoto's Kitchen," featuring local delicacies and traditional foods.
- Daitoku-ji Temple: A major Zen temple complex known for its Zen gardens and tea ceremony traditions.
- Higashiyama District: A well-preserved historic area with traditional shops and architecture.

## Natural Wonders

- Arashiyama Bamboo Grove: A mesmerizing bamboo forest that's become an iconic symbol of Kyoto.
- Philosopher's Path: A peaceful stone path lined with cherry trees, perfect for contemplative walks.

- Ryoan-ji Temple: Home to Japan's most famous Zen rock garden.

### **Practical Travel Tips**

- Transportation: Use the efficient bus system and subway; consider renting a bicycle.
- Best Times to Visit: Spring (March-April) for cherry blossoms, Fall (November) for autumn colors.
- Temple Etiquette: Dress modestly and be mindful of photography restrictions.
- Language: Basic Japanese phrases are helpful; English signage is common at major sites.

### **3-Day Itinerary Highlights**

#### **Day 1: Northern Kyoto**

- Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion)
- Ryoan-ji Temple
- Kyoto Imperial Palace
- Nijo Castle

#### **Day 2: Eastern Kyoto**

- Kiyomizu-dera Temple
- Higashiyama District
- Gion District
- Nishiki Market

#### **Day 3: Northwestern Kyoto**

- Philosopher's Path
- Daitoku-ji Temple
- Arashiyama Bamboo Grove
- Tenryu-ji Temple

### **Additional Notable Locations**

- Kamigamo Shrine
- Ninna-ji Temple
- Daigo-ji Temple
- Byodoin Temple
- Eikando Temple
- Hosomi Art Museum
- Kyoto Railway Museum
- Kyoto National Museum
- Kyoto International Manga Museum

Kyoto is more than just a destination; it's a journey through time that allows you to experience Japan's cultural soul. As you walk through its ancient streets and peaceful gardens, you'll discover why this city has captured the imagination of travelers for centuries.

Whether you're watching the sunrise at a temple, participating in a tea ceremony, or simply strolling through historic neighborhoods, Kyoto offers countless opportunities to connect with Japan's cultural heritage. Let the city's tranquil beauty and timeless charm create lasting memories during your visit.



# Itinerary Preview

3 days

**DAY**  
01

Kinkaku-ji  
Ryōan-ji  
Kyoto Sento Imperial Palace  
Nijō Castle

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**DAY**  
02

Kiyomizu-dera  
Higashiyama Ward  
Gion  
Nishiki Market

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**DAY**  
03

Philosopher's Path  
Daitoku-ji Temple  
Arashiyama Bamboo Forest  
Tenryu-ji





# **Daily Events**



## Day 1

09:00

### **Kinkaku-ji**

1 Kinkakujichō, Kita Ward, Kyoto, 603-8361, Japan

11:00

11:45

### **Ryōan-ji**

13 Ryōanji Goryōnoshitachō, Ukyo Ward, Kyoto, 616-8001, Japan

13:45

14:30

### **Kyoto Sento Imperial Palace**

Kyotogyoen, Kamigyo Ward, Kyoto, 602-0881, Japan

16:30

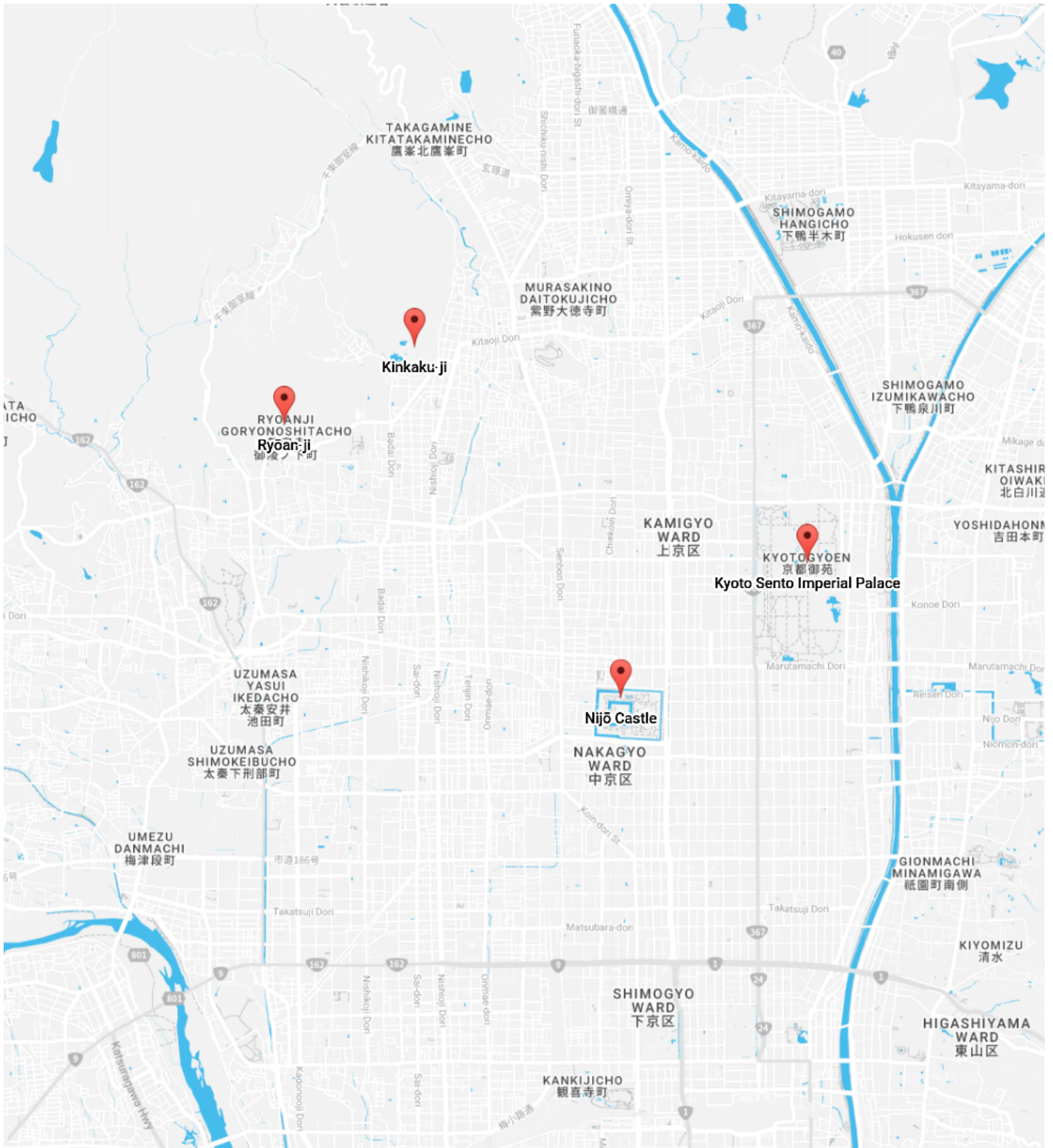
17:15

### **Nijō Castle**

541 Nijōjōchō, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, 604-8301, Japan

19:15

# Map for Day 1





## Day 2

09:00

### **Kiyomizu-dera**

1-chōme-294 Kiyomizu, Higashiyama Ward, Kyoto, 605-0862, Japan

11:00

11:45

### **Higashiyama Ward**

Higashiyama Ward, Kyoto, Japan

13:45

14:30

### **Gion**

Gion, Higashiyama Ward, Kyoto, Japan

16:30

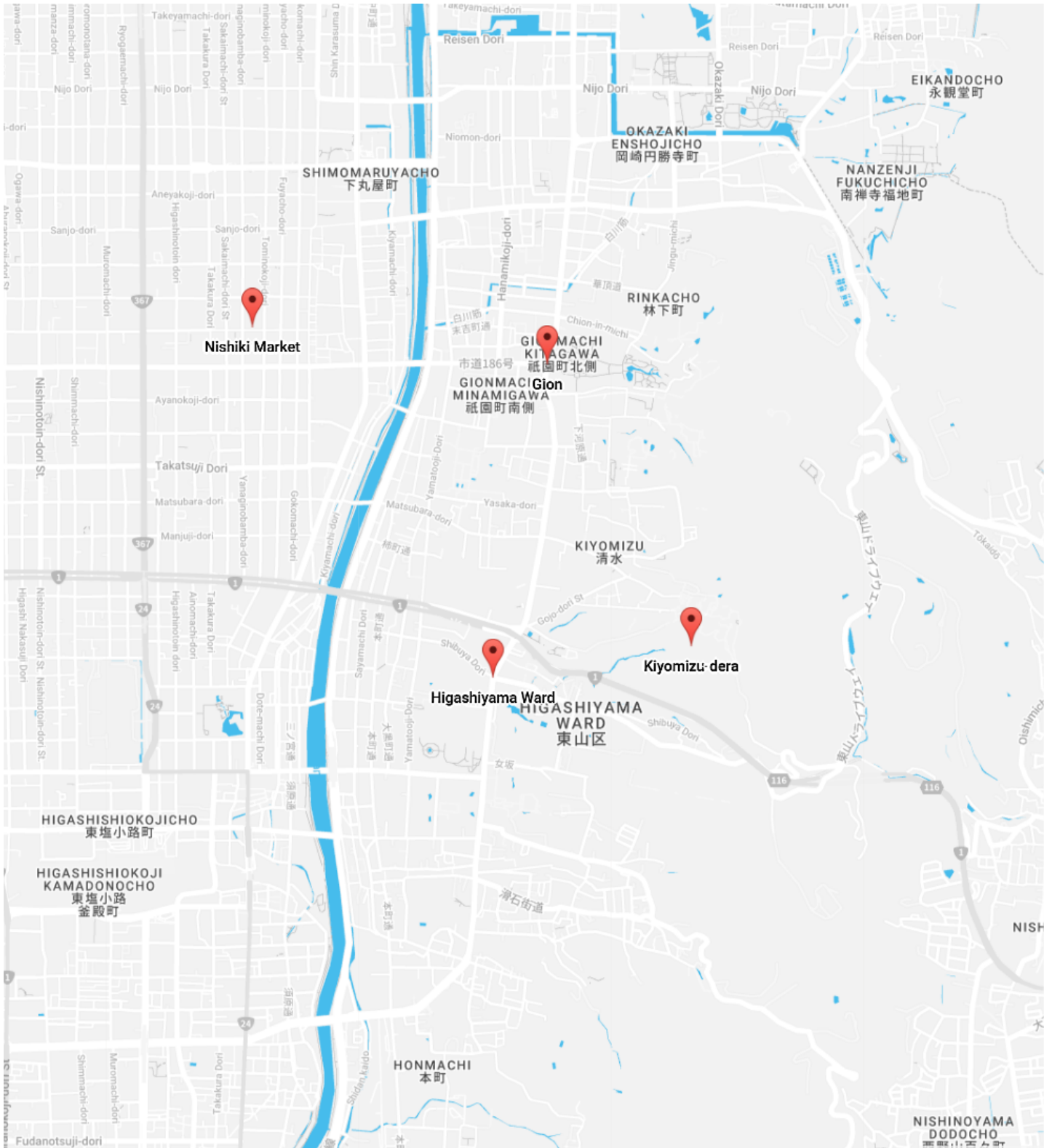
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### **Nishiki Market**

Higashiuoyacho, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, 604-8055, Japan

19:15

# Map for Day 2



## Day 3

09:00

### **Philosopher's Path**

Tetsugaku No Michi, 浄土寺石橋町 左京区 京都市 京都府 606-8426, Japan

11:00

11:45

### **Daitoku-ji Temple**

53 Murasakino Daitokujichō, Kita Ward, Kyoto, 603-8231, Japan

13:45

15:15

### **Arashiyama Bamboo Forest**

Sagaogurayama Tabuchiyamacho, Ukyo Ward, Kyoto, 616-8394, Japan

17:15

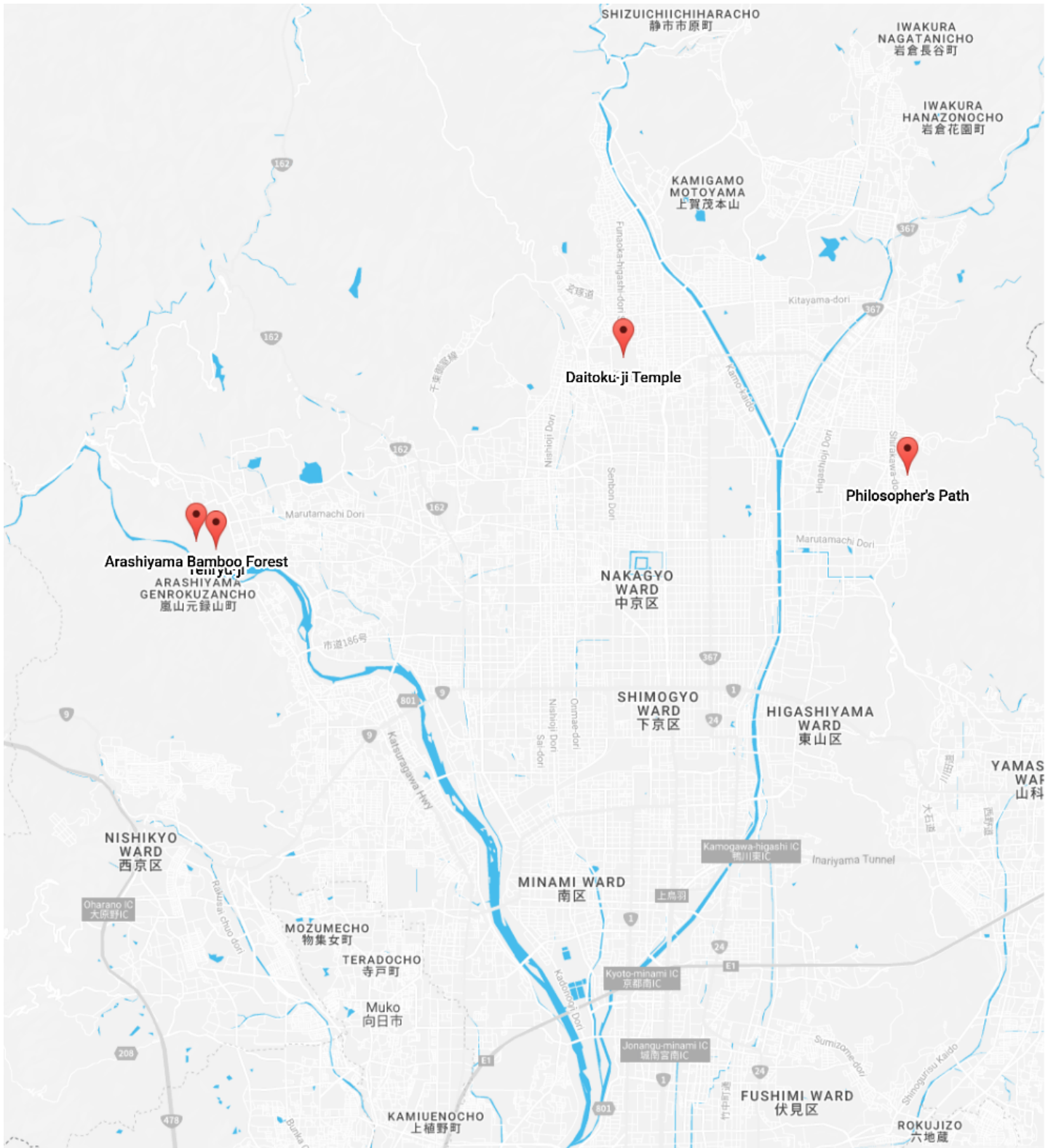
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### **Tenryu-ji**

Japan, 〒616-8385 京都府京都市右京区嵯峨天龍寺芒ノ馬場町6 8

19:30

# Map for Day 3





# Spots



## Philosopher's Path

Tetsugaku No Michi, 浄土寺石橋町 左京区 京都市 京都府 606-8426, Japan

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Tuesday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Wednesday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Thursday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Friday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Saturday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Sunday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM

### Phone:

075-343-0548



## Kyoto International Manga Museum

452 Kinbukichō, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, 604-0846, Japan

### Summary:

Museum featuring an extensive array of Japanese comic books & graphic novels, plus reading areas.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday: Closed  
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Friday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Phone:

075-254-7414



## Tenryu-ji

Japan, 〒616-8385 京都府京都市右京区嵯峨天龍寺芒ノ馬場町6-8

### Summary:

This venerable Zen temple at the foot of mountains features teahouses & serene, expansive gardens.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

### Phone:

075-881-1235



## Kyoto Railway Museum

Kankijicho, Shimogyo Ward, Kyoto, 600-8835, Japan

### Summary:

Contemporary space with exhibits on the railway & an array of locomotives & trains on display.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



## Hosomi Museum

6-3 Okazaki Saishōjichō, Sakyo Ward, Kyoto, 606-8342, Japan

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### Summary:

Museum displaying classical Japanese art & objects, with a traditional tea room & a modern cafe.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Friday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Phone:

075-752-5555



## Ninna-ji Temple

33 Omuroōuchi, Ukyo Ward, Kyoto, 616-8092, Japan

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### Summary:

This historic Buddhist temple featuring picturesque gardens & a 5-story pagoda was founded in 886.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Phone:

075-461-1155



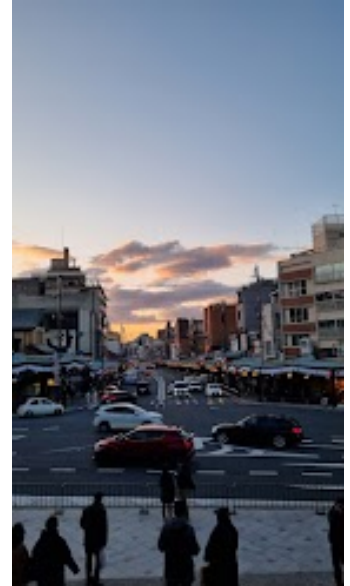


## Gion

Gion, Higashiyama Ward, Kyoto, Japan

### Summary:

Geisha district featuring high-end shops & restaurants, a Zen garden & women in colorful kimonos.



## Daitoku-ji Temple

53 Murasakino Daitokujichō, Kita Ward, Kyoto, 603-8231, Japan

### Summary:

Famed for its gardens, this sprawling Buddhist temple complex is part of the Rinzai Zen sect.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Thursday: 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

### Phone:

075-491-0019



## Arashiyama Bamboo Forest

Sagaogurayama Tabuchiyamacho, Ukyo Ward, Kyoto, 616-8394, Japan

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### Summary:

A popular sightseeing path runs uphill through this forest of towering bamboo stalks.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Open 24 hours  
Tuesday: Open 24 hours  
Wednesday: Open 24 hours  
Thursday: Open 24 hours  
Friday: Open 24 hours  
Saturday: Open 24 hours  
Sunday: Open 24 hours

### Phone:

075-343-0548



## Kamigamo Shrine

339 Kamigamo Motoyama, Kita Ward, Kyoto, 603-8047, Japan

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### Summary:

This Shinto shrine complex with 7th-century origins is full of trees & set on the banks of a river.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 5:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Tuesday: 5:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday: 5:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Thursday: 5:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Friday: 5:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Saturday: 5:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 5:30 AM - 5:00 PM

### Phone:

075-781-0011



## Eikandō Temple

48 Eikandōchō, Sakyo Ward, Kyoto, 606-8445, Japan

### Summary:

Major Buddhist temple with ancient art, such as a famed statue of Buddha looking over his shoulder.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### Phone:

075-761-0007



## Tetsugaku No Michi

Tetsugaku No Michi, Sakyo Ward, Kyoto, Japan

### Summary:

Scenic pedestrian path along a cherry tree-lined canal that passes by various temples & shrines.



## Kyoto National Museum

527 Chayachō, Higashiyama Ward, Kyoto, 605-0931, Japan

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### Summary:

Long-running museum with Japanese sculptures, paintings, calligraphy & metalwork, plus a cafe.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

### Phone:

075-525-2473



## Nijō Castle

541 Nijōjōchō, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, 604-8301, Japan

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### Summary:

Built in 1603, this cypress-wood castle with extensive gardens was a home for the shogun Ieyasu.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday: 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday: 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

### Phone:

075-841-0096



## Daigo-ji

22 Daigohigashiōjichō, Fushimi Ward, Kyoto, 601-1325, Japan

### Summary:

Buddhist temple with scenic grounds that include a pond, gardens & a 5-story pagoda, plus a museum.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

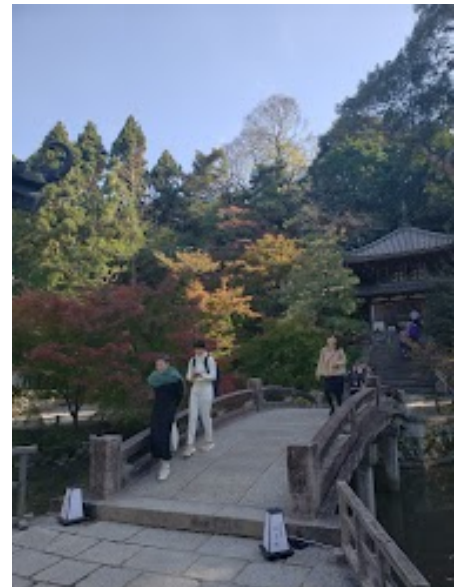
### Phone:

075-571-0002



## Higashiyama Ward

Higashiyama Ward, Kyoto, Japan



## Byodoin

Renge-116 Uji, Kyoto 611-0021, Japan

### Summary:

Tours are offered of this iconic temple with a scenic pond & garden, plus a building with artifacts.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Tuesday: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Wednesday: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Thursday: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

### Phone:

0774-21-2861



## Kinkaku-ji

1 Kinkakujichō, Kita Ward, Kyoto, 603-8361, Japan

### Summary:

Historic, tranquil temple with a gold-leaf facade set amid landscaped gardens & a reflecting pond.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Phone:

075-461-0013



## Ryōan-ji

13 Ryōanji Goryōnoshitachō, Ukyo Ward, Kyoto, 616-8001, Japan

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### Summary:

On the scenic grounds of this 15th-century temple is a famous Zen rock garden & a yudofu restaurant.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Phone:

075-463-2216



## Kyoto Sento Imperial Palace

Kyotogyoen, Kamigyo Ward, Kyoto, 602-0881, Japan

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### Summary:

Scenic grounds of a 17th-century palace destroyed by fire, with tree-lined footpaths & ponds.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Thursday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Sunday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

### Phone:

075-211-1215



## Nishiki Market

Higashiuoyacho, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, 604-8055, Japan

### Summary:

400-year-old iconic market studded with stalls offering all manner of Japanese edibles.

### Phone:

075-211-3882



## Kiyomizu-dera

1-chōme-294 Kiyomizu, Higashiyama Ward, Kyoto, 605-0862, Japan

### Summary:

Iconic Buddhist temple on Mount Otowa known for the scenic views afforded from its sizable veranda.

### Opening Hours:

Monday: 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Tuesday: 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Wednesday: 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Thursday: 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Friday: 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday: 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday: 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

### Phone:

075-551-1234

