

Course 1: for first-time visitors

An introduction to Kyoto's world heritage sites

Itinerary

Time

[13:00] Kyoto TERRSA ----- Kinkaku-ji Temple
----- Nijo Castle ----- Kiyomizu Temple
----- Banquet site

13:00-



KINKAKU-JI TEMPLE

World Heritage Site

Kinkaku-ji was built in 1397 by Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu as his retirement villa. The gardens are designated as a special national historic and scenic site. The "Sekka-tei" tea house, located in the garden, is famous for its staggered shelves made of bush clover wood, and its Nanten alcove pillar.



NIJO CASTLE

World Heritage Site

This castle was built in 1603. The entire compound, measuring 500 meters from east to west and 400 meters from north to south, is surrounded by a tall stone embankment and moat. A corridor in the main building was ingeniously designed to make a sound like a Japanese nightingale when walked on. The castle's sliding door paintings are also famous.



KIYOMIZU TEMPLE

World Heritage Site

The main hall, famous for its spacious outdoor, cliff-like balcony supported on an intricate, tall structure of wooden pillars, is a designated National Treasure. Much of the large temple area offers outstanding views of the city.



Course 2: Sake brewery and shrine

Southern Kyoto's heritage sites

Itinerary

Time

[13:00] Kyoto TERRSA ----- Fushimi Inari Shrine
 ----- Gekkeikan Okura Museum (Sake tasting)
 ----- Byodoin Temple ----- Banquet site

13:00-



FUSHIMI INARI SHRINE

The head shrine of more than 40,000 Inari shrines throughout Japan, Fushimi Inari Shrine is one of the oldest in Kyoto. Enshrining the god of good harvests and business, the shrine is crowded with people during the New Year and on the first day of each month.



GEKKEIKAN OKURA MUSEUM

[Sake Tasting]

This row of sake warehouses covered in wood at the bottom and plastered white on the top is a beloved sight in the sake brewing town of Fushimi. Designated as one of Kyoto's 100 scenic places, this view from the promenade along the river is exquisite.

Gekkeikan Sake Company Ltd. is one of Kyoto's oldest sake brewers. This museum has exhibits related to sake brewing and superb visual displays. Sake tasting and souvenir shopping are also possible here.



BYODOIN TEMPLE

World Heritage Site

Byodoin features the most beautiful of Japan's few remaining Pure Land Gardens, which were popular during the Heian Period. The Phoenix Hall was built in 1053 by a member of the Fujiwara clan. It is one of Japan's most famous temples and depicted on the 10 yen coin.



Course 3: Japanese culture tour

Experience the Heian era of Kyoto

Itinerary

Time

[13:00] Kyoto TERRSA ----- Shimogamo Shrine
 ----- Myoshin-ji Zen Temple Complex and Taizo-in Sub-temple (Tea experience and special viewing)
 ----- Banquet site

13:00-



SHIMOGAMO SHRINE

World Heritage Site

This shrine is one of the oldest in Kyoto. The shrine's Aoi Matsuri Festival, held on May 15 every year, is famous throughout Japan for its procession of hundreds of people wearing the costume of the Heian nobles.



Juni Hito was formal dress for court ladies during the Heian era (794-1191). It must have been uncomfortable for the court ladies to move around in it, but they put more emphasis on outward appearances than practicality.



Myoshin-ji Zen Temple Complex and Taizo-in Sub-temple

[Tea experience and special viewing]

Myoshin-ji is the biggest Zen temple complex in Japan and located in northwestern Kyoto. With its beautiful gardens and Japanese art treasures, Taizo-in is the oldest and most famous sub-temple of the Myoshin-ji complex. It is one of the few Buddhist temples in Kyoto to offer real Zen culture to international visitors. We will have a special English guided tour of the temple by Priest and experience Japanese traditional green tea in its beautiful garden.

