



One-day Tour

Disclaimer

Please kindly note that the conference is only responsible for organizing the one-day tour. We do not assume any liability for the personal safety and property of individuals during the tour. It will be appreciated for your kind understanding.

Time

8:30-18:30, April 14, 2025

Gathering Time & Point

Please wait for further notice.

Classic One-day Tourist Attractions

Sagano Scenic Railway / Arashiyama Bamboo Forest / Todaiji / Nara Park / Mizuyachaya / Mall / Togetsukyo Bridge / The Uji River / Byodoin Temple / Uji Shrine

(Notice: The tour order and duration depends on the day's traffic conditions. Thanks for your kind understanding.)

One-day Tour Cost

92 USD per person

Include: Transportation, Tour Guide

Exclude: Meals and Self-funded Projects

(Notice: The minimum size of our group is 6 guests. If there is less than 6 people applying to join in, we will cancel the one-day tour and you can reschedule your time.)

Itinerary

★ Sagano Scenic Railway

The Sagano Scenic Railway (also known as the Sagano Romantic Train or Sagano Torokko) is a sightseeing train line that runs along the Hozugawa River between Arashiyama and Kameoka. Its charming, old-fashioned trains wind their way through the mountains at a slow pace, taking about 25 minutes to make the seven kilometer journey and giving passengers pleasant views of the scenery as they travel from Arashiyama through the forested ravine and into rural Kameoka.



Western Kyoto has long been known for its natural beauty. In fact, the Arashiyama district has been a tourist favorite for well over 1,000 years. The beauty of this region peaks twice a year, first during the cherry blossom season, and later during the autumn. The Sagano Scenic Railway is a wonderful way to tour and enjoy this rural region.

★ Arashiyama Bamboo Forest

Arashiyama's Sagano Bamboo Forest, or Bamboo Grove, is both locally famous and world-renowned and it is often listed as one of the most beautiful or must-see-before-you-die places on earth. Visitors can stroll paths lined with endless rows of towering bamboo. The experience has been described as other-worldly, serene, and dreamlike.

The sound of the rustling bamboo within this forest has been named one of the "100 Soundscapes of Japan" by the Japanese Ministry of Environment.

In Japan, bamboo trees are a symbol of strength believed to keep evil spirits at bay. This probably explains why the entrance to Tenryu-ji is located at one end of the grove and the entrance to Okochi-Sanso Villa at the other end.



★ Todaiji

Todaiji (東大寺, Tōdaiji, "Great Eastern Temple") is one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples and a landmark of Nara. The temple was constructed in 752 as the head temple of all provincial Buddhist temples of Japan and grew so powerful that the capital was moved away from Nara in 784 in order to lower the temple's influence on government affairs.



Until recently, Todaiji's main hall, the Daibutsuden (Big Buddha Hall), held the record as the world's largest wooden building, despite the fact that the present reconstruction of 1692 is only two thirds of the original temple hall's size. The massive building houses one of Japan's largest bronze statues of Buddha (Daibutsu). The 15 meters tall, seated Buddha represents Vairocana and is flanked by two Bodhisattvas. Several smaller Buddhist statues and models of the former and current buildings are also on display in the Daibutsuden Hall. Another popular attraction is a pillar with a hole in its base that is the same size as the Daibutsu's nostril. It is said that those who can squeeze through this opening will be granted enlightenment in their next life.

Along the approach to Todaiji stands the Nandaimon Gate, a large wooden gate watched over by two fierce looking statues. Representing the Nio Guardian Kings, the statues are designated national treasures together with the gate itself. Temple visitors will also encounter some deer from the adjacent Nara Park, begging for shika senbei, special crackers for deer that are sold for around 200 yen.

★ Nara Park

As one of Japan's oldest and most famous parks, Nara Park is not only home to deer and ancient relics, but also a magical place where tradition and modernity converge. Founded in 1880 and located in the heart of Nara City, Nara Park is one of Japan's oldest parks.

However, its roots can be traced back to the early 8th century, as the surrounding attractions bear deep connections to the politics, culture, and religion of the Nara period (710-794). The renowned Todai-ji Temple and Kasuga Taisha Shrine were constructed during this period.

Today, Nara Park spans 660 hectares. It is not only a great place to relax but also a must-visit spot for tourists traveling from Kyoto.



But what truly sets Nara Park apart is its over 1,200 freely roaming deer. Considered messengers of the gods in Shintoism, these deer have become symbols of harmony between humans and nature in the city. If you happen to have deer crackers in hand, don't be surprised they will approach you for a delightful treat. All the deer in Nara Park are wild and can be freely observed. The deer also have learned to bow as a trick for food. Interestingly, they are especially fond of deer crackers or shika senbei. When a deer wants food, it will bow its head to you. Simply hold the deer crackers and bow gently to the deer, signaling friendliness. Then you can give the deer crackers to the deer. More often than not, once you've fed one to the deer they'll bow back in response.

★ Mizuyachaya

This small, charming teahouse (officially named Mizuyachaya but often mistakenly referred to as Mizutani chaya), between Kasugataisha Shrine and Todaiji Temple, looks like a traditional road-side stop from a Samurai drama. Sitting by a small river just off the road, it looks spectacular in autumn, but it offers refreshments in all seasons, from hot udon and soba noodles in winter to shaved ice in summer, along with traditional sweets. There are a few tables inside, or you can take a seat on the red-covered benches outside, shaded by parasols on sunny days.



★ Mall

Arashiyama's shopping district is also a must-see for tourists, with a variety of small shops and restaurants where you can experience the real Japanese culture and flavors.

There are many Japanese confectionery shops in Arashiyama's shopping district, and the Japanese confectionery here is well-made and has a wide variety of varieties. If you've got a sweet tooth, try authentic Japanese sweets, such as the famous "Bird's Whisker Soup" and "Horai Cake", both of which are Arashiyama's specialty dim sum.

Japanese lacquerware is known for its fine craftsmanship and



unique style, and there are many lacquerware shops in Arashiyama's shopping streets. Lacquerware comes in a variety of styles and uses, such as bowls, chopsticks, fans, and more, so whether you're looking to buy a souvenir or a gift, you'll find something for yourself.

There are also many street food stalls on the commercial street, and they sell a wide variety of things. For example, fried chicken skewers, grilled fish, grilled corn, etc., these snacks are all local specialties and are very delicious. If you want to try some local street food, come here to try it.

In addition to Japanese sweets and lacquerware, there are many handicraft shops on the shopping street. There are a variety of handicrafts such as wood carvings, fabrics, and jade, each of which is a unique work of art. If you're interested in handicrafts, you might want to take a stroll here and you'll be pleasantly surprised.

★ Togetsukyo Bridge

The Togetsukyo Bridge has been a landmark in Western Kyoto's Arashiyama District for over four hundred years. The wooden bridge spans the Katsura River in front of Arashiyama Mountain, offering incredible views. The spring cherry blossoms and fall colors draw large crowds, as the scenery is spectacular. Many period movies, TV shows, and commercials have used the spectacular setting of the Togetsukyo Bridge.

It is also the site of an important initiation for local children. Young boys and girls (the latter clad in kimono) first receive a blessing from a local temple and then make their way across the bridge under orders to do so without looking back. If one ignores this instruction, it is said to bring bad luck as a result, so the stakes are high!



★ The Uji River

The Uji River divides the city of Uji in two. The river is a central focal point of the town, with most shops and restaurants arrayed along its banks. "The Tale of Genji," widely considered the world's first novel, features the river's idyllic bridge.

Constructed around A.D. 646, Uji Bridge is the main passage over the Uji River, and is considered to be one of the three oldest bridges in the country. It's been destroyed and rebuilt many times throughout the



years, but is thought to retain its basic original structure.

The bridge has been mentioned in many works of literature and appeared in various Japanese artforms, from old woodblock prints to recent anime. It is most notable for its appearance in "The Tale of Genji," a novel written by a Japanese noblewoman in the 11th century and often considered to be the world's first novel.

★ Byodoin Temple

Byodoin Temple (Byōdōin) is a striking example of Buddhist Pure Land (Jodo) architecture. Together with its garden, the temple represents the Pure Land Paradise and was influential on later temple construction. Byodoin was initially built in 998 as a countryside retreat villa for the powerful politician Fujiwara no Michinaga, not as a temple.



Michinaga's son turned Byodoin into a temple and ordered the construction of its most spectacular feature, the Phoenix Hall. Although the building was given another official name, almost immediately after its construction in 1053, it was nicknamed Hoodo ("Phoenix Hall") because of its shape and the two phoenix statues on its roof. The hall is now featured on the back of the Japanese ten yen coin. Byodoin's buildings were repeatedly lost to fires and other calamities over the centuries, however, the Phoenix Hall was never destroyed, making it one of the few original wooden structures to survive from the Heian Period. Visitors to Byodoin can enter the Phoenix Hall on short guided tours (in Japanese) that start every 20 minutes and cost an additional 300 yen. It houses a statue of the Amida Buddha. Byodoin's unique treasure house is constructed mostly underground to not distract from the Phoenix Hall. It exhibits an assortment of the temple's most valuable artifacts, including dozens of designated important cultural properties and national treasures. The treasure house also contains informative, multilingual displays on Byodoin's construction and history.

★ Uji Shrine

Standing on the banks of the Uji River, Uji Shrine was established in 313. It is located on the former site of Emperor Ojin's detached palace (Kirihana Higeta-no-miya), and its enshrined deity is Uji-no-Waki-iratsuko-no-mikoto, son of Emperor Ojin. The main hall (an Important Cultural Property) was built in the Kamakura period (1185-1333) in a three-peaked nagare-zukuri style, but

there are other remaining cultural treasures as well such as wooden guardian dogs and Noh masks.

Despite the fact that the Ujigami Shrine is often overlooked by travelers to Uji who flock in hordes to Byōdō-in Temple and shopping streets filled with green tea treats, Ujigami Shrine is a UNESCO World Heritage Site believed to possibly be the oldest extant Shinto shrine in the country. Located just a few minutes' walk away



from Byōdō-in over the Uji River and behind the newer Uji Shrine, Ujigami Shrine is an example of the most classic of Shinto architecture tucked into a small, nature-filled alcove against the rolling hills of southern Kyoto. Though the grounds aren't large, they provide an interesting contrast to the shrine architecture visitors may have already grown accustomed to, with the main hall contained in a large wooden "cage" of sorts. If you're in the area it's worth stopping by for the oldest remaining shrine, the lush greenery and water, and the many cute rabbit-shaped charms!

