



FRANCE TRAVEL CENTER

**KYOTO
In and Around Kyoto**

Day 1 : Tokyo / Kyoto

Departure to Kyoto by train from Tokyo station in the morning, visits and free meals. Overnight at the hotel.

Kyoto is the cultural capital of Japan. Former residence of the emperors and the first shoguns between 794 and 1868, this provincial city, although modern, jealously perpetuates its cult of tradition. The city is a mixture of modern districts and countless islands of traditional monuments, not to mention private residences with their gardens and tea pavilions, where ceremonies of floral arrangements, dance and music with lute and harp are still commonly practiced.

Day 2 – 4 : Kyoto

Visits and meals at your convenience. Nights in the same hotel.

Day 5 : Kyoto / Tokyo

Visits and meals at your convenience.

Departure to Tokyo by train from Kyoto station.

Choose the type of lodgings you desire for each day or let us reccomend you some!

Let us know which of the listed tours interest you or ask us to make you a personalized day plan!

You can freely shorten or lengthen your stay or spice it up by adding other destinations or activities not listed here.

Options for one day tours of Kyoto and its surroundings

Important: The larger the group, the cheaper the cost per participant.

All-in-one day tour package can include:

- Services of a licensed English-speaking guide (including transportation and meal expenses)
- Lunch excluding drinks
- Entrance fees for visits and activities
- Transportation fees (public transport, car rental, parking fees, etc.)

The must-see places in Kyoto one day tour

- Temple Ryoan-ji
- Temple Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion)
- Nijo Castle
- Gion Historical District
- Kiyomizu-dera Temple



Gion Historical District (Kyoto)

Kyoto extended visit (one day tour)

- Fushimi Inari Shrine
- Ginkaku-ji (Silver pavilion)
- Tetsugaku no michi (Path of Philosophy)
- Temple Nanzen-ji



Fushimi Inari Shrine (Kyoto)

Arashiyama area Visit (one day tour)

*During the Heian period (794-1185), **Arashiyama** was the favorite walking destination of the imperial court. The landscape is still influenced by this period.*

- Arashiyama Park
- Togetsu-kyō (lit. "Moon Crossing Bridge")
- Sagano Bamboo forest
- Tenryū-ji Temple (celestial dragon temple).
- Gio-ji temple (The other Kyoto moss temple).



Togetsu-kyō (Kyoto)



One day excursion Visit of Kurama and Kibune

Kyoto / Kurama / Kibune / Kyoto

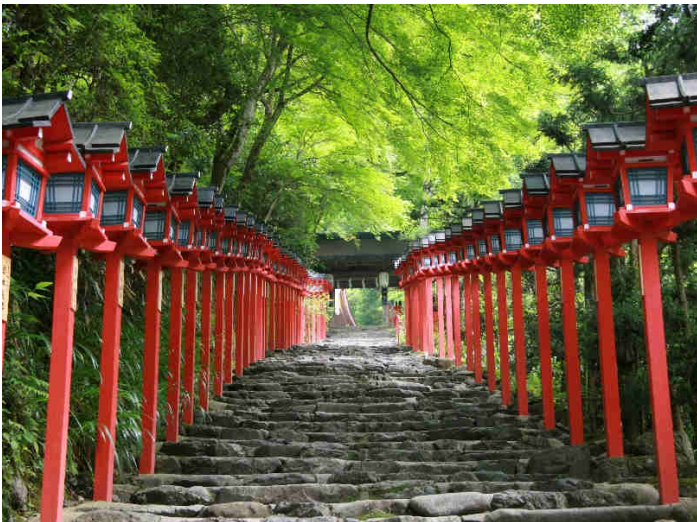
Départ for Kurama by train in the morning.

*Only 30 minutes north of Kyoto, **Kurama** and **Kibune** are two quiet valleys, long appreciated by citizens of Kyoto eager to forget the hustle and bustle of the city. Nothing could be more pleasant, on the oppressive summer days, than to enjoy a delicious meal on platforms above the cool, white waters of the Kibune-gawa!*

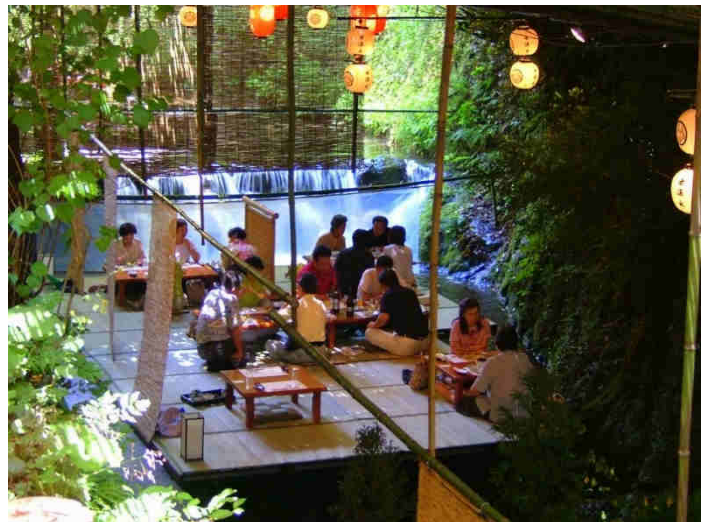
The two valleys lend themselves to being explored together. In summer, start from Kurama, climb up to its temple, then down the other side to Kibune to enjoy a cool lunch above the torrent.

- Kurama-dera Temple
- 30-minute hike from Kurama to the Kibune valley
- Lunch at a *Kawadoko* restaurant, with tables over the river
- Kibune-jinja Shrine

Return to Kyoto by train.



Kibune-jinja Shrine (Kyoto)



Kawadoko (kyoto)

One day excursion in Nara

Kyoto / Nara / Kyoto

Departure for Nara by local train.

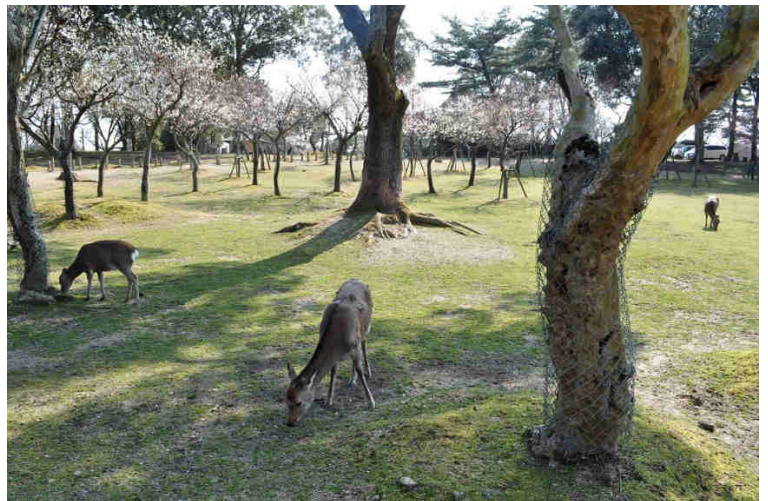
***Nara** is the heart of Japanese civilization where after assimilating the Chinese and Korean contributions, Japan's own culture was developed. Nara was the first great capital from 710 to 784..*

- Nara park (A vast green space that welcomes nearly 1,400 Shika deer that roam freely.)
- Todai-ji Temple
- Kasuga Shinto Sanctuary
- Naramachi (This old quarter is home to merchants' houses dating from the 18th or 19th century).
- Optional Nara National Museum visit

Back to Kyoto by train.



Todai-ji Temple (Nara)



Nara Park (Nara)



One day excursion Visit of Himeji castle and Mt Shosha

Kyoto / Himeji / Kyoto

Departure for Himeji by rail transport (1h30 by local train)

Located fifty kilometers west of Kobe, Himeji deserves a stop for its wonderful feudal castle: Himeji Fortress, or the "White Heron", is one of the oldest monuments in medieval Japan. A cultural treasure of Japan, it was built in the 14th century and has often been used as a set for movies, notably in films by director Akira Kurosawa.

- Himeji castle
- Shoshazan Engyoji (Buddhist temple on Mount Shosha rising to 371 meters above sea level),

Return to Kyoto by local rail transport.

OPTIONS

- Round trip by **Shinkansen** fast train



Himeji Castle (Hyogo)



One day excursion : Cruise on Lake Biwa and discovery of Mt Hiei

Kyoto / Otsu / Mt Hiei / Kyoto

Departure to Otsu by train from Kyoto station, visits and Shojinryori (monk's lunch) included.

*Ōtsu is known as the main port of Lake **Biwa**, the largest lake in Japan.*

It briefly served as the capital of Japan from 667 to 672 AD during the Asuka period(538 - 710).

*Mount **Hiei**, located northeast of Kyoto city, is a mountain famous for the priest Saichō, with its temples scattered all over the mountain, is a truly magical place.*

- Cruise on the lake of Biwa (duration 80min)

Departure to Mt. Hiei by rail and cable car.

*Mount **Hiei** is located north-east of Kyoto. It's a mountain famous for the priest **Saichō**, propagator of the **Tendai** sect who created the **Enryaku-ji** temple. At its peak, around the 15th century, it counted more than 3,000 soldier-monks. Mount Hiei, with its temples scattered all over the mountain, is a truly magical place.*

- Enryaku-ji temple

Back to Kyoto by bus.



Cruise Ship (Shiga)



Mount Hiei



Suggested visits for children and teens:

- **Seaside resort of Lake Biwa**

Omimaiko beach is very easy to reach from Kyoto. You have a great view of the mountains surrounding Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan

- **Toei Uzumasa Theme Park**

This park offers a large open-air cinema set reproducing the streets of the city during the feudal period. If a period film shoot is taking place here, you will be able to see actors dressed in magnificent outfits.

- **International Manga Museum**

The Kyoto International Manga Museum offers a three-storey exhibition gallery featuring historical documents from the 19th century to the present day, popular contemporary works and future trends in manga.

- **Kyoto Zoo**

In the east of Kyoto, in the Okazaki district, you can visit the Kyoto City Zoo, located within walking distance of famous places such as Heian-jingu Shrine and Nanzen-ji Temple.

- **Kyoto Railway Museum**

The Kyoto Railway Museum, not far from Kyoto station. It is the largest railway museum in Japan, with 31,000 square meters of exhibition space.

- **Universal Studios Japan (USJ)**

Opened in 2001, Universal Studios Japan is the world's first dedicated to movie park outside the United States. The complex offers attractions related to movies or cartoons such as Harry Potter, Spider Man, Jurassic Park, Sesame Street or Shrek.