

Published based on [Kyoto - A City With Over Centuries Of Traditions](#)

# **Kyoto - A City With Over Centuries Of Traditions**

Kyoto is a unique city where the ancient Japanese culture still influences the fast-paced, busy city life of an ultra-modern city. Kyoto was the old capital of Japan for a very long time, and it resembles Tokyo, the current capital in many different ways. Even among all the urban excitement, it blends with the tranquility and peacefulness of the city's shrines and gardens, resulting in a place people love to vacation to. If you are thinking of traveling to Kyoto, start by getting your passport.

If you don't have a passport or if you have a passport that is expired or lost, online passport services can help you get everything straightened out. These are websites that specialize in passport expediting, meaning that whatever service you need, they can help you get it completed quickly and free of stress. All sorts of services are available, from [renewing passports online](#) to getting your first ever passport in time for a trip.

Within the city of Kyoto and some surrounding areas, there are a total of 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. One of these World Heritage Sites is Nishi-Hongan-ji Temple, which is famous for housing a variety of National Treasures, such as the oldest Noh Theatre in the world. As well as being visually stunning, it also has incredibly intricate gates that are trimmed with gold. The complex of Nijo Castle, which was the residence of the shoguns, is another World Heritage Site. It displays gold leaf details and awesome wood carvings. Within it, there is Ninomaru Palace, which is almost completely constructed out of cypress. Kamigamo Shrine is among the oldest Shinto shrine in the country, and it represents the spirituality and sacred nature of Japanese life.

If you are into Japanese culture and history, you should look into visiting the four imperial palaces and imperial villas that can be found in Kyoto. In order to get the best experience possible, it's recommended that you go when the cherry blossoms are blooming or when the leaves are changing, Spring or Fall, respectively. Actually, Kyoto is one of the best places in the entire country to see the cherry blossoms during the Spring. Definitely make a stop at Iwatayama Monkey Park, where there are a total of 170 Japanese macaque monkeys that are very friendly towards humans. They wander the park without any walls or fences, and if you plan on visiting, be sure to bring food to feed the monkeys!

Gardens and museums are part of the cultural experience. If someone in your travel group likes trains, consider visiting the Umekoji Steam Locomotive Museum, where there are 19 old steam locomotives on display. Manga is a huge part of Japanese culture, and it's becoming very popular in the United States today. The Kyoto International Manga Museum is a good stop if you have a manga fan with you. The Kyoto Botanical Garden is an absolutely stunning place to visit. The atmosphere is overwhelmingly tranquil.

Kyoto will not disappoint you if you are looking to immerse yourself in a new sort of historical, cultural, or natural setting. However, just do not forget that a [U.S. passport](#) is necessary if you are thinking of traveling to Kyoto. Surf the web to find good travel document companies that can help you with renewing passports online or even getting one for the very first time.

You can also find this article published on [Kyoto - A City With Over Centuries Of Traditions](#), and on the tag pages [ancient japanese culture](#), [life](#), [Manga](#), [time](#), [unesco world heritage](#), [unesco world heritage sites](#).