

京都朝観光
REI-MEI

Kyoto Morning Guide

In the stillness of Kyoto's morning,
feel the dawning of your journey.

Early-morning visits to shrines and temples that bring clarity to the mind.

Morning coffee spots and public bathhouses filled with a local atmosphere.

Spectacular views found by venturing beyond the city center.

Seasonal flavors shaped by the land, discovered at morning markets.

In Kyoto's mornings, a wealth of lesser-known pleasures awaits.

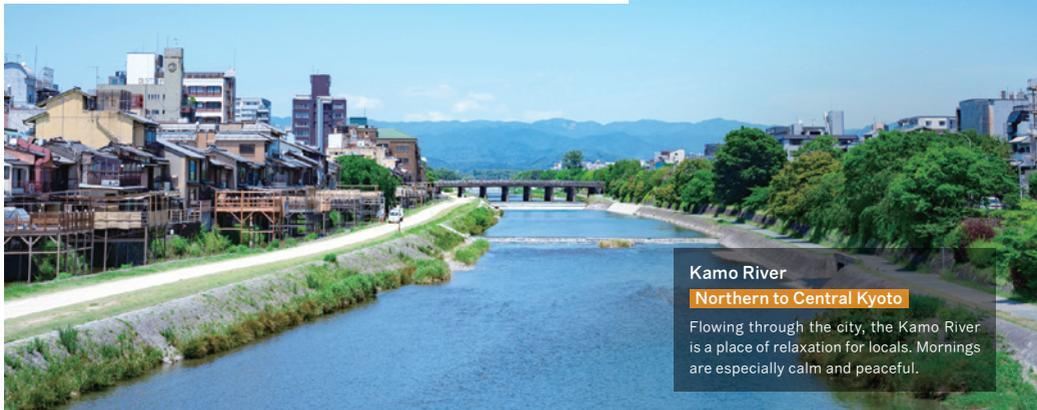
Japanese
WEB SITE



English ver.

Morning Run

Run lightly past famous landmarks and feel the spirit of the ancient capital.



Kamo River
Northern to Central Kyoto

Flowing through the city, the Kamo River is a place of relaxation for locals. Mornings are especially calm and peaceful.

Breakfast

A moment of reward that fills both heart and stomach.



Murafudo Shokudo Tsuchi no Ubu
Minamiyamashiro Village, Soraku-gun

Located at the "Michino Eki (farmers market) of Kyoto Tea Country," it is famous for its breakfast tea porridge.

MUNI KYOTO

Western Kyoto / Arashiyama

A small luxury hotel popular for its restaurant overlooking Togetsukyo Bridge.



Spectacular Views



Discover a beautiful Kyoto you'll want to visit at least once.



Bamboo Path Muko City

A bamboo grove located in Muko City, a well-known bamboo shoot-growing area. Morning walks in the clear air are recommended.

Morning Bath

Fresh and refreshed! Start the day feeling clear and energized.

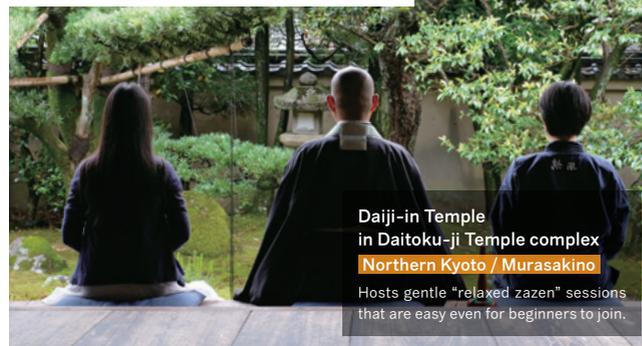


Sauna Umeyu
Central Kyoto / Kawaramachi-Gojo

A public bathhouse founded in the Meiji era, now run by a younger owner. Uses groundwater heated with firewood.

Morning Temple Practice

In temples wrapped in silence, turn inward—mind and body alike.



Daiji-in Temple
in Daitoku-ji Temple complex
Northern Kyoto / Murasakino

Hosts gentle "relaxed zazen" sessions that are easy even for beginners to join.

Encountering Tradition

Masterful techniques nurtured by Kyoto's land and people.



Sasaki Sake Brewery
Central Kyoto / Nishijin

The only sake brewery in central Kyoto. During the brewing season, early-morning tours are offered on limited dates (reservation required).

Handmade Markets

First come, first served—a joyful hunt for one-of-a-kind treasures.



Hyakumanben Handmade Market
Eastern Kyoto / Hyakumanben

Held on the 15th of every month at Chion-ji Temple, with around 350 stalls lining the temple grounds.

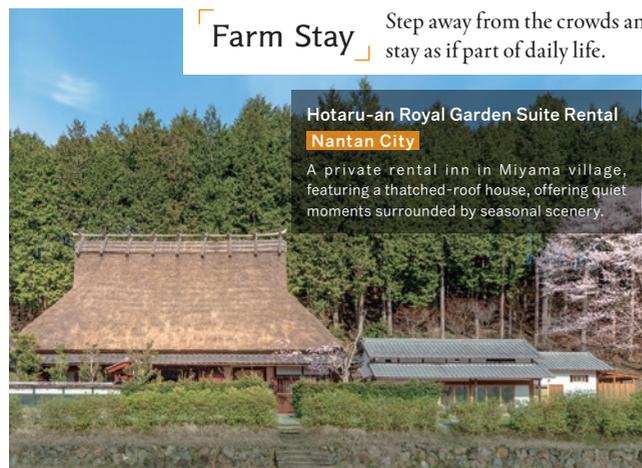


Farm Stay

Step away from the crowds and stay as if part of daily life.

Hotaru-an Royal Garden Suite Rental
Nantan City

A private rental inn in Miyama village, featuring a thatched-roof house, offering quiet moments surrounded by seasonal scenery.



My Favorite Ways to Enjoy the Morning & Night Hours

Special Interview



Kundo Koyama

Born in 1964 in Amakusa City, Kumamoto Prefecture. Known as the creator of Kumamon, he wears many hats—as a broadcast writer, screenwriter, proprietor of Shimogamo Saryo, and Vice President of Kyoto University of the Arts. In recent years, he has also been actively promoting “Yudo—the way of bathing.”

Walking, Drawing Water, Public Baths —Fully Active from the Morning

My morning routine usually starts with a walk. Kyoto has temples everywhere, so I enjoy visiting different ones and reading the boards on which short Buddhist sayings displayed at temple entrances. It's like collecting words instead of insects. Some sayings are serious, others playful, and each temple has its own personality. You gain small lessons and realizations along the way, and it makes Kyoto feel like an entire city that functions as a school. Above all, mornings are quiet, with far fewer people around. Especially during peak sightseeing seasons like cherry blossom or autumn foliage time, I really recommend taking an early-morning walk. I also often go to draw water. Kyoto is rich in groundwater, and there are many places—such as Shimogoryo Shrine—where you can collect famous spring water. I like to pay my respects, draw some water, take it home, and use it to brew my morning coffee. Taking a walk, drawing water, making coffee, and then pausing for a quiet moment—doesn't that feel like the perfect way to start a good day? Another thing I can't skip is a morning bath. Kyoto has many public bathhouses that open in the mornings on weekends, and “Monzen-yu” near Daitoku-ji Temple is a rare one that even opens on weekday mornings. I should mention that I take a bath every morning at home as well, so on days I go to a sento early, I end up “bath-hopping” from the morning.

The Pleasure of Heading Out Early and Taking Time to Enjoy

On most days, I enjoy walking and morning baths, but when I have extra time, I sometimes visit the “Ohara Fureai Morning Market.” I buy lots of things—coffee beans, seasonal vegetables, tofu—and bring them home. When it comes to places a bit farther away, the morning scenery when I stayed overnight in Ine was truly wonderful. I also visit Kameoka City fairly often for work, and lately I've been particularly interested in the Ishida Baigan Memorial Museum, which opened in 2025. If possible, I'd love to arrive right when it opens and take my time exploring it.

My Recommended Spots



Shimogoryo Shrine

Central Kyoto / South of the Imperial Palace



Monzen-yu

Northern Kyoto / Murasakino



Ishida Baigan Memorial Museum

Kameoka City

We asked two Kyoto experts about their favorite ways to enjoy the city in the morning and night. You're sure to discover a new side of Kyoto!

Surprisingly Enjoyable Sightseeing Spots After Dark

When people think of sightseeing in Kyoto, visiting shrines and temples usually comes to mind. Once visiting hours end, these places tend to empty out. But I think temples and shrines are actually fascinating even when viewed only from the outside. Take To-ji Temple for example. Its five-story pagoda is illuminated at night, creating a solemn atmosphere that feels completely different from the daytime view. The Kagai district of Kamishichiken is also beautifully atmospheric after dark, with lanterns glowing softly—and because there are very few tourists around, it's an ideal spot for photography. NIDEC Kyoto Tower also has a completely different feel at night compared to the day. There are surprisingly few places where you can enjoy night views in Kyoto, which makes it especially worth recommending. Another spot to watch is Uzumasa Kyoto Village, which will begin night operations in March 2026. Having a drink in an Edo-period townscape feels like a distinctly grown-up kind of pleasure.

Bar-Hopping in Unfamiliar Neighborhoods

At night, food and drinks naturally take center stage, but in Kyoto, stepping just slightly away from the city center reveals entirely different personalities. Areas like Saiin and Omiya are filled with locals, while Hyakumanben has a strong student vibe. That's why I think it's more interesting to explore a variety of neighborhoods rather than sticking only to the center. Recently, I went bar-hopping in Yamashina and Chushojima—places I don't usually visit—and discovering unfamiliar streets and shops was a lot of fun. Lately, I've also been curious about Maizuru. I like the idea of driving there using a one-way car-sharing service, enjoying some drinks, and then taking the train back. With so much information available on social media these days, I actually recommend doing the opposite—heading into an unfamiliar area without much prior research. Locally run places tend to reflect the personality of their owners very strongly, which gives them a unique charm that's genuinely enjoyable to discover.



Yuto Hosoi

Born in 1980 in Kameoka City, Kyoto Prefecture. Editor-in-chief of Kyoto Sokuho, a news website that shares information on newly opened spots in Kyoto. His YouTube channel “Rojiura TV” boasts 45,000 subscribers, where he delivers the latest Kyoto news on a daily basis.

My Recommended Spots



To-ji Temple

Southern Kyoto / Kujo



NIDEC Kyoto Tower

Central Kyoto / Kyoto Station

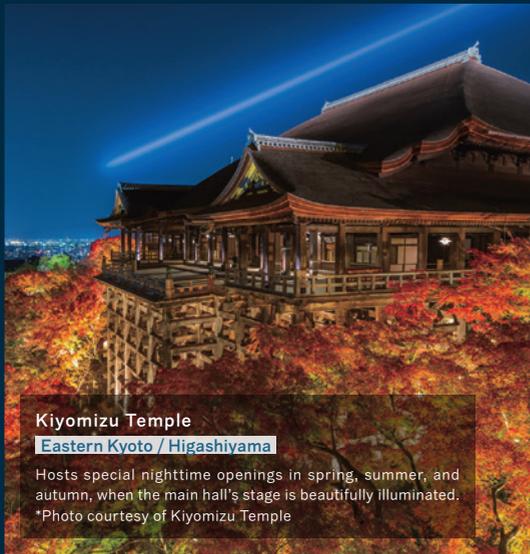


Uzumasa Kyoto Village

Western Kyoto / Uzumasa

Nighttime Special Openings & Illuminations

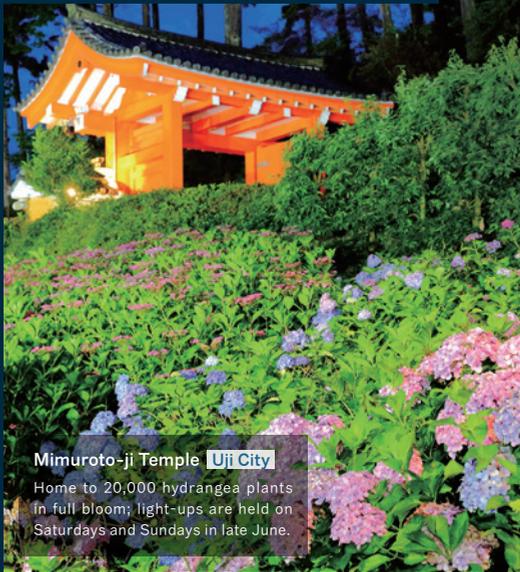
An ethereal world emerging from the darkness.



Kiyomizu Temple

Eastern Kyoto / Higashiyama

Hosts special nighttime openings in spring, summer, and autumn, when the main hall's stage is beautifully illuminated. *Photo courtesy of Kiyomizu Temple



Mimuroto-ji Temple Uji City

Home to 20,000 hydrangea plants in full bloom; light-ups are held on Saturdays and Sundays in late June.

Live Music

Live sound felt with eyes, ears, and body—in search of moments that stir the heart.



Takutaku

Central Kyoto / Shijo-Kawaramachi

Founded in 1974. A legendary venue for music lovers, housed in a converted wooden sake brewery. *Photo by Mai Narita

Late-Night Ramen

One tempting bowl after dark—the perfect way to end the night



Chukasoba Takayasu

Northern Kyoto / Ichijoji

A long-standing favorite in Kyoto's highly competitive ramen district. The Kyoto-style tonkotsu broth is exceptional.

Bar-Hopping Drinks

Moving from place to place within one building—a deep Kyoto way of drinking



Yuasa Kaikan

Central Kyoto / Gojo-Karasuma

A Taisho-era townhouse renovated into a complex of distinctive venues, including standing bars and bistros.

Spectacular Views

Wordless vistas that color the quiet of early night.



Tango Eco Future Park Miyazu City

A park surrounded by both sea and mountains. Stay overnight or join an event to enjoy stargazing under the night sky.

Immersive Experiences

Into a non-everyday world that stimulates all five senses.



Events

Special moments shaped by the seasons and themes



Uji River Cormorant Fishing Uji City

Cormorant masters skillfully guide the birds from boats, showcasing perfectly synchronized techniques. A traditional summer spectacle.



Kyoto Illumination Synesthesia Hills Nantan City

An illumination spot where light art and music merge, offering an immersive experience year-round.

TAKE FREE

Kyoto Night Guide

京都夜観光 yoi-yoi

Kyoto Night Guide

In the deepening colors of Kyoto's night,
savor time as it gently melts away.

Shrines and temples grow ever more mysterious under the moonlight during evening visits.

Cherry blossoms and autumn leaves glow gracefully when illuminated.

Spectacular views where you can escape the crowds and lose yourself in starlight and city lights.

Live houses and clubs where culture comes alive.

Bar-hopping drinks, late-night cafes, hidden bars, and the bliss of a final bowl of ramen.

In Kyoto's nights, "endless choices for staying up late" unfold.

main photo by kojohn!(Gift)

Japanese
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