

Kyoto: The Highlights Guide



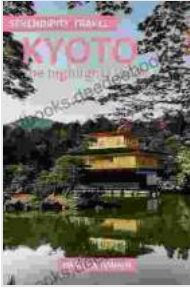
Kyoto is a city steeped in history and culture. From its ancient temples and shrines to its vibrant modern districts, there's something for everyone to enjoy in this captivating city. In this guide, we'll take you through some of the highlights of Kyoto, including must-see temples, gardens, and museums. We'll also provide tips on getting around the city and where to stay. So whether you're a first-time visitor or a seasoned traveler, read on for everything you need to know about Kyoto.

Kyoto the highlights guide (Serendipity Travel)

by Hidemi Woods

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Must-See Temples

Kyoto is home to some of Japan's most famous and iconic temples. Here are a few of the must-sees:

- **Kiyomizu-dera Temple:** This UNESCO World Heritage Site is known for its beautiful wooden architecture and its stunning views of the city. The temple is built on a hillside, and its main building is supported by 139 pillars. From the verandah, you can enjoy panoramic views of Kyoto and the surrounding mountains.
- **Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine:** This shrine is dedicated to the god of rice, and it's known for its thousands of vermilion torii gates. The gates wind their way up the mountainside, creating a beautiful and mystical atmosphere. Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine is a popular destination for both tourists and locals, and it's a great place to hike or just take in the scenery.
- **Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavilion):** This temple is one of Kyoto's most iconic landmarks. The temple is covered in gold leaf, and it's

reflected in the mirror pond in front of it. Kinkaku-ji Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and it's a must-see for any visitor to Kyoto.

- **Ginkaku-ji Temple (Silver Pavilion):** This temple is the less famous sister temple to Kinkaku-ji Temple. It's also covered in gold leaf, but it's not as flashy as its more famous counterpart. Ginkaku-ji Temple is a beautiful and serene place to visit, and it's a great place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city.

Must-See Gardens

Kyoto is also home to some of Japan's most beautiful gardens. Here are a few of the must-sees:

- **Gion Corner:** This small garden is located in the Gion district, and it's a great place to escape the crowds and enjoy the beauty of nature. The garden is home to a variety of plants and flowers, and it's a great place to relax and take in the scenery.
- **Heian Shrine Garden:** This garden is located in the Heian Shrine, and it's one of Kyoto's most popular tourist destinations. The garden is home to a variety of plants and flowers, and it's a great place to take a stroll or have a picnic.
- **Maruyama Park:** This park is located in the Higashiyama district, and it's a great place to relax and enjoy the outdoors. The park is home to a variety of trees and flowers, and it's a great place to go for a walk or have a picnic.
- **Arashiyama Bamboo Forest:** This forest is located in the Arashiyama district, and it's a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. The

forest is home to thousands of bamboo trees, and it's a great place to take a walk or just enjoy the scenery.

Must-See Museums

Kyoto is also home to some of Japan's most interesting and informative museums. Here are a few of the must-sees:

- **Kyoto National Museum:** This museum is home to a large collection of art and artifacts from Japan's history. The museum has a variety of exhibits, including ones on Japanese painting, sculpture, ceramics, and textiles.
- **Kyoto International Manga Museum:** This museum is dedicated to the art of manga, and it's a great place to learn about the history and development of this popular art form. The museum has a large collection of manga, and it's a great place to spend an afternoon browsing through the exhibits.
- **Nishiki Market:** This market is one of Kyoto's most popular tourist destinations. The market is home to a variety of food stalls, and it's a great place to sample some of Kyoto's local cuisine. You can find everything from fresh seafood to pickled vegetables to traditional sweets at Nishiki Market.
- **Pontocho:** This street is located in the Gion district, and it's known for its traditional teahouses and restaurants. Pontocho is a great place to experience Kyoto's nightlife, and it's a popular destination for both tourists and locals.

Getting Around Kyoto

Kyoto is a relatively easy city to get around. The city has a good public transportation system, and there are also a number of taxis and rental cars available. Here are a few tips for getting around Kyoto:

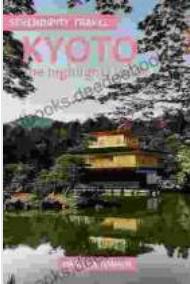
- **Public transportation:** Kyoto's public transportation system is very efficient and affordable. The city has a network of buses and subways, and it's easy to get around using public transportation.
- **Taxis:** Taxis are available in Kyoto, but they can be expensive. If you're planning on taking a taxi frequently, it's a good idea to purchase a taxi pass.
- **Rental cars:** Rental cars are also available in Kyoto, but they can be expensive. If you're planning on renting a car, it's a good idea to do so in advance.

Where to Stay in Kyoto

There are a variety of hotels and guesthouses available in Kyoto. Here are a few of the most popular options:

- **The Ritz-Carlton, Kyoto:** This luxury hotel is located in the heart of Kyoto. The hotel offers a variety of amenities, including a spa, a fitness center, and a rooftop pool.
- **Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto:** This luxury hotel is located in the Gion district. The hotel offers a variety of amenities, including a spa, a fitness center, and a rooftop bar.
- **Kyoto Granvia Hotel:** This hotel is located near Kyoto Station. The hotel offers a variety of amenities, including a spa, a fitness center, and a rooftop restaurant.

- **Kiyomizu-dera Temple:** This temple offers a unique overnight 住宿 experience. Guests can stay in one of the temple's traditional buildings and experience the tranquility

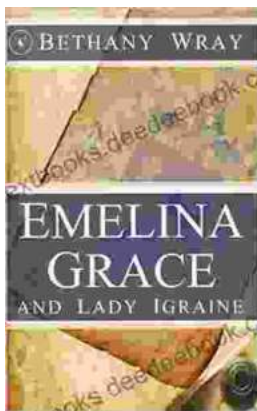


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