



YAMAMOTO TRAVEL

SELF  
GUIDED  
TOUR  
**BLAALID &  
ROWLESS  
FAMILY**

MARCH  
2026

# ARASHIYAMA KYOTO DAY 1

Monkeys, Sagano, and Kinkaku-ji shape the calm rhythm of Kyoto — a day of nature, temples, stories, and stillness to welcome you into the city.

Welcome to Kyoto!

**OVERVIEW****03**

Introduction and Essentials, this is where you will find the google map link for the overview and Linktree links for food and shopping recommendation.

**ARASHIYAMA****04**

**Starting route:** Begin at Arashiyama Station and stroll across Togetsukyo Bridge. Explore the bamboo grove, visit Tenryu-ji, and enjoy a walk by the river.

**GOLDEN PAVILION****19**

Transportation guide from Arashiyama to Golden Pavilion

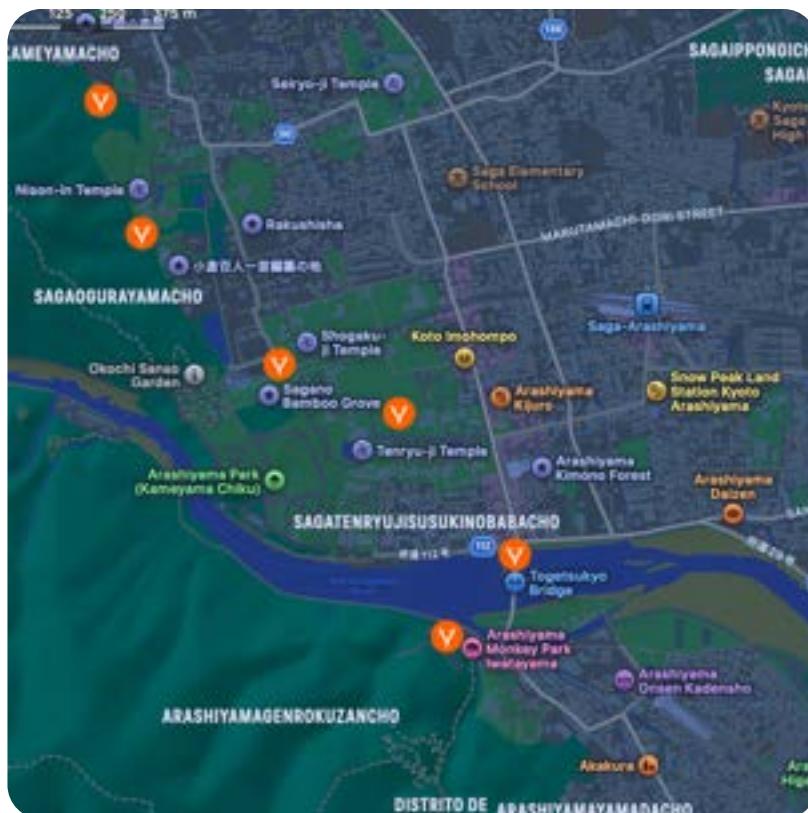
**DINNER****22**

End the day with a choice of ramen, tonkatsu, or shabu-shabu at a local Kyoto restaurant.

**SNACKS****28**

Unique Kyoto stops offering floral cones, seasonal gelato, and soft serve near Arashiyama.

# DAY 1 KYOTO ESSENTIALS



Code: **8989**

Weather:

[CLICK HERE](#)

A slow and easy day on Kyoto's quiet side. We'll start in Arashiyama with a walk by the river, a visit to the **monkeys, the bamboo grove, and Tenryu-ji Temple**. After lunch, we'll head into Sagano to see some of the smaller temples with moss gardens and peaceful paths. We'll finish at Kinkaku-ji in the late afternoon, when the light turns it golden.

## Cross Hotel Kyoto

Walk about 7 minutes (450 m) to Sanjo Keihan Station.

## Sanjo Keihan Station

Board the Subway Tozai Line Local toward Uzumasa-Tenjingawa.

Line: Kyoto Municipal Subway Tozai Line  
Ride 6 stops (about 12 minutes).

Platform 1 · Stop ID: T11

## Uzumasa-Tenjingawa Station

Walk about 2 minutes to Randen-Tenjingawa Station.

## Randen-Tenjingawa Station

Board the Randen Tram Local toward Arashiyama.

Line: Randen (Keifuku) Arashiyama Line  
Ride 8 stops (about 14 minutes).  
Stop ID: A5

## MORNING (START)



Our day begins in the heart of this landscape, where the Katsura River flows beneath the iconic **Togetsukyo Bridge**, first built over 400 years ago. From there, we'll hike to **Iwatayama Monkey Park**, explore the **bamboo grove** once favored by aristocrats, and walk through temple grounds that have stood for centuries. These aren't just scenic spots — they're living layers of Kyoto's story, waiting to unfold as we move quietly through them.

Spanning the Katsura River, Togetsukyo Bridge is the symbol of Arashiyama. First built in the **Heian period** and rebuilt in the 1930s, its name means "**Moon Crossing Bridge**," inspired by an emperor who said the moon looked like it drifted across the water. It's appeared in poems, prints, and paintings for centuries.



# IWATAYAMA MONKEY PARK

**Our first goal? A hilltop view and 120 wild monkeys.**

Let's ease into the day with a bit of movement. A 15–20 minute uphill walk takes you to a breezy overlook of Kyoto, a home to a troop of wild macaques. They roam freely, but feeding is only allowed inside the small station (for ¥100). The park is open from **9 AM to 4 PM**, with **admission at ¥600**. The entrance is near the base of Togetsukyo Bridge. Just follow the signs past the shrine gate and up the hill. Comfy shoes and a slow pace make all the difference . The view (and the vibe) is worth it!

## SNACKS TO TRY NEAR MONKEY PARK



### TAKARA SUSHI

Family-run sushi spot (**Hidden gem**) in Arashiyama, known for its fresh seasonal fish and intimate, traditional atmosphere. Just a short walk from the station, it's a favorite among locals for authentic Kyoto style sushi.

#### **What to order:**

Seasonal Nigiri Set: a chef's selection of the freshest daily catch, prepared with delicate Kyoto-style touches.

### ARASHIYAMA CANNELE

A charming specialty shop in Arashiyama dedicated to the

**French-inspired cannelé crisp** on the outside, custardy on the inside. With flavors ranging from classic vanilla-rum to matcha and seasonal twists, it's a sweet stop while exploring the district.

#### What to order:

**Matcha Cannelé:** a Kyoto twist on the classic, blending rich matcha flavor with the dessert's signature caramelized crust.



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# SNACKS TO TRY NEAR MONKEY PARK



## CHAVATY KYOTO ARASHIYAMA

A stylish riverside café known for its artisanal tea lattes and freshly baked scones. Located near **Togetsukyo Bridge**, it's a perfect spot for a relaxing break.

What to order:

**Uva Tea Latte:** A signature drink made from high-quality **Uva tea leaves**.

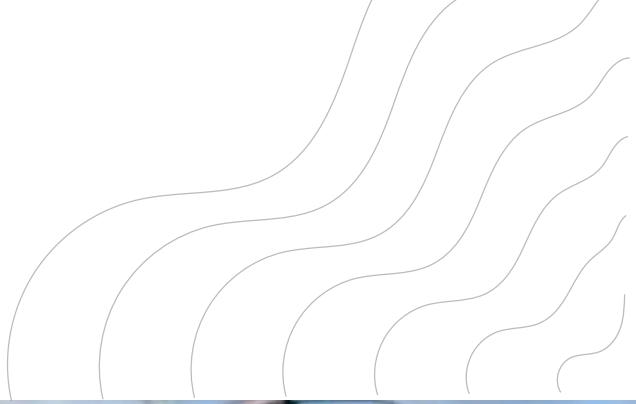
## FUKUSHICHI

is a charming dessert shop near Togetsukyo Bridge, offering a unique selection of puddings inspired by the **Seven Lucky Gods**. Each pudding features Kyoto white bean paste blended with flavors like **matcha-yuzu**, roasted **hojicha-orange**, and cherry-pistachio, served in elegant wooden containers. It's a delightful spot to enjoy a sweet treat amidst the scenic beauty of Arashiyama.



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## MORNING (PASS BY)



### KIMONO FOREST



The **Kimono Forest** was made in **2013** at the Randen tram station in Arashiyama. It's a walkway lined with more than **600** pillars, each wrapped in real kimono fabric from Kyoto's traditional **Kyo-yuzen style**. In the daytime you can see all the colors and patterns clearly, and at night the pillars light up like lanterns. In the middle there's a small "dragon pond," which people say brings peace and good luck. It's modern, but it feels like it belongs here. A little reminder of Kyoto's craft and beauty as you arrive in Arashiyama.

LATE MORNING

WALKING  
ROUTE



## BAMBOO GROVE

After the monkeys, make your way down to one of Kyoto's most iconic and photographed spots. Though the path is short, the feeling is otherworldly: towering bamboo sways overhead, light filters through in soft green hues, and everything feels calm and cinematic. Bamboo has long symbolized **strength and resilience** in Japanese culture. Walk slowly and take it all in. **Continue all the way to the end of the path** and you'll pass the north gate of Tenryu-ji Temple on your right. Keep walking just a bit further to enjoy the full grove, then **circle back** for a proper visit to the temple grounds.

MORNING



# TENRYU-JI

Founded in **1339** by shogun Ashikaga Takauji, Tenryu-ji is a **UNESCO World Heritage** Site and the spiritual crown of Arashiyama. Built to honor Emperor Go-Daigo, it later became the head temple of the **Rinzai Zen school**. The garden is designed by Zen master **Musō Soseki**, it mirrors the surrounding mountains, blending architecture and nature into one timeless view. It's one of Japan's oldest surviving landscape gardens. Walk slowly.

# WHERE TO EAT AT ARASHIYAMA



## ARASHIYAMA YOSHIMURA

is a renowned soba restaurant in Kyoto's Arashiyama district, offering handcrafted **soba noodles** made from domestically sourced buckwheat. Situated near the iconic Togetsukyo Bridge, the restaurant provides diners with stunning views of the river and surrounding mountains through its expansive glass windows.

## KIJUROU

is a peaceful spot known for premium **Wagyu beef** with garden views. Go for the Wagyu Sirloin Steak Box or the Yudofu Set for a classic Kyoto tofu experience. Quiet, elegant, and perfect for a relaxed lunch.



# WHERE TO EAT AT ARASHIYAMA



## BANBAN

One of my quick favorites in Arashiyama. A casual, fast, and satisfying. Great handmade **udon and soba**, perfect after the bamboo grove. No fuss, just solid local flavor.

## SUSHI NARITAYA

A cozy 16 seat sushi bar tucked just off the main street in Arashiyama. Fresh, made to order **nigiri** with standout pieces like **chutoro, ikura, and anago**. English menu, gluten-free soy sauce, and stroller-friendly. Great for a quick, quality lunch after the bamboo grove. Open 11:00 AM–3:00 PM.



# RICKshaw RIDE



For the rickshaw ride, I suggest doing it after Arashiyama to explore some of the smaller temples and shrines nearby. The route can include **Jojakko-ji, Giōji, Adashino Nenbutsu-ji, and Otagi Nenbutsu-ji**. You can cover these within about 2 hours at a relaxed pace. And an optional ride to **Daikaku-ji Temple** if you're planning to skip Golden Pavilion for the day.

AFTERNOON  
(HIDDEN GEM)

WALKING  
ROUTE

# JOJAKKO-JI TEMPLE



Tucked into the hillside of Sagano, Jojakko-ji is a quiet, lesser-known temple built in the late **1500s**. Once home to a **literati monk** who sought peace away from city life, it's now known for its maple trees, soft moss paths, and a gentle climb that opens to views over Kyoto's rooftops. It's especially stunning in autumn, but peaceful year-round. A true hidden gem!

AFTERNOON  
(HIDDEN GEM)

WALKING  
ROUTE



## GIŌJI TEMPLE

Hidden in the quiet woods of Sagano, Gio-ji is a tiny temple with a powerful story. It honors **Gio**, a dancer from the **Heian period** who, after heartbreak and exile, chose a life of reflection here. The temple's moss garden is its centerpiece, soft and green like a living painting that shifts with the seasons. Though the visit is brief, it feels emotionally rich and deeply peaceful.

# ADASHINO NENBUTSU-JI



At the far edge of Sagano lies this deeply sacred site, once a burial ground for those with no family or name. The temple dates back over **1,200 years**, and today, more than **8,000 stone statues** stand here to honor **Kyoto's forgotten souls**. It's quiet, a little eerie, but deeply moving. The path winds through bamboo, opening into a stone-filled clearing that feels timeless. Simple, spiritual, and one of the most humbling places in Kyoto- a truly magical place.

## Route Guide: Arashiyama to Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion)

Start Time: 2:00 PM – **Last entry 4:30PM**

2:00 PM – Depart Arashiyama Station

Walk about 9 minutes (600 meters) to **Saga-Arashiyama Station.**

2:09 PM – Board JR San-In Line (Local) from Saga-Arashiyama Station

- Ride to **Emmachi Station**
- Duration: 7 minutes (3 stops)
- Fare: ¥200

2:16 PM – Arrive at Emmachi Station

Walk approximately 4 minutes to Nishinokyo Enmachi bus stop.

2:25 PM – **Board Kyoto City Bus No. 204 or 205**

- Destination: Kitaoji Bus Terminal via Kinkakuji
- Ride approximately 9 minutes (6 stops)
- Fare: ¥230

2:34 PM – Arrive at **Kinkakuji-michi Bus Stop**

Walk 2 minutes (180 meters) to the entrance of Kinkaku-ji.

2:36 PM – Arrive at Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion)

- Entry Fee: ¥500 (subject to change)

AFTERNOON (OPTIONAL OR NEXT DAY)

BUS GUIDE

## KINKAKU-JI

If you're starting to feel temple fatigue or running low on time, Kinkaku-ji doesn't need to be your last stop today. You can always visit it tomorrow morning instead, when the crowds are lighter. It also pairs well with other spots in the area like [Ryoan-ji](#) (famous for its Zen rock garden), [Ninna-ji](#) (a quieter temple with pagodas and seasonal gardens), or the peaceful [Kitanotenmangu Shrine](#), especially if you're chasing plum blossoms or flea markets.

Kinkaku-ji is open daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with **last admission at 4:30 PM**. If you're planning a late afternoon visit, aim to arrive by 4:00 PM to ensure ample time to appreciate the temple and its surroundings.

## AFTERNOON (OPTIONAL OR NEXT DAY)



Let's end the day with **gold** (literally!). Kinkaku-ji is one of Kyoto's most iconic sights, and when you see it shimmer across the still pond, you'll know why. The top two floors are covered in real gold leaf, and when the light hits just right, it looks like the whole pavilion is floating between the sky and water.

Originally built in **1397 as a retirement villa for shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu**, it was later converted into a Zen temple that blends the shogun's love of beauty with spiritual intention. Unlike Kyoto's more minimal temples, Kinkaku-ji emphasizes harmony between **nature, luxury, and peace**.

The garden is meant to be taken slowly. As you walk the path, the view changes little by little—gold against green, the temple reflected in the water. You'll see old tea houses, mossy stones, and a small island where people toss coins and make a wish.



# ARASHIYAMA HIGHLIGHTS

- **Iwatayama Monkey Park** – hilltop views and macaques roaming free
- **Bamboo Grove** – short, quiet, and best in the morning light
- **Tenryu-ji** – Zen temple with a mountain-framed garden
- **Togetsukyo Bridge** – classic riverside Kyoto scene
- **Jojakko-ji & Gio-ji** – moss, trees, and soft temple paths
- **Adashino Nenbutsu-ji** – 8,000 stone souls in stillness
- **Kinkaku-ji** – golden temple glowing by the pond
- Optional: **Pontocho walk** – lantern alley and quiet dinner vibes

## DINNER OPTIONS NEAR HOTEL



### MENBAKA FIRE RAMEN

The fire ramen shop where chefs ignite green onion-topped broth right in front of you. A fun, dramatic experience that's more about the show, but the ramen is tasty too.

### COMOREBI RAMEN HOUSE

**MUST TRY!** A cozy ramen shop known for clean, balanced flavors and careful presentation. Popular with locals for its smooth broth and tender chashu.

#### **What to order:**

Signature Shoyu Ramen

Side of gyoza if available



## DINNER OPTIONS NEAR HOTEL



### KATSUKURA TONKATSU SANJO MAIN STORE

A Kyoto favorite for crisp, juicy **tonkatsu** served with freshly ground sesame and house-made sauce. Cozy atmosphere and consistently top-quality pork.

### 熟成刺身と旨い酒 京都 ひとしお

Hitoshio – **Aged Sashimi & Fine Sake** (Kyoto)

A refined izakaya in central Kyoto known for expertly aged sashimi using the Tsumoto method and a rotating selection of over 30 premium sake labels. The space is warm and intimate, with private rooms and counter seating facing a small garden. Perfect for a relaxed evening of traditional flavors with a modern touch.



## DINNER OPTIONS NEAR HOTEL



### TAKEZAKI

An intimate 6-seat kaiseki restaurant led by **Chef Sho Takezaki**, known for refined seasonal dishes and a calm, traditional setting. Located near Karasuma Oike Station, it's perfect for a quiet, elevated dining experience.

### WAGYU SUKIYAKI SHABUSHABU MIYAKO

A modern Kyoto hotpot spot serving **A5-ranked Omi beef in sukiyaki or shabu-shabu** style. Their signature sukiyaki uses cotton candy instead of sugar for a dramatic melt-in-the-pan presentation. Located near Sanjo Station.



## DINNER OPTIONS NEAR HOTEL



### GRILL DEMI

A cozy yoshoku spot near Marutamachi Station, famous for its juicy **hamburg steaks** and rich demi-glace sauce. No reservations, so expect a line. (but worth the wait). A Japanese American restaurant that's good for quick bites.

### KOBE BEEF KISSHOKICHI KYOTO MAIN STORE

A refined teppanyaki restaurant offering **A5-grade Kobe beef** paired with seasonal Kyoto vegetables. Located on the 8th floor near Sanjo Station, it features counter seating with city views and semi-private rooms. Courses start around ¥13,750.



## SWEETS BEFORE 6PM



### MICASADECO & CAFE KYOTO

The fluffy pancake here is their signature — soft, cloud-like, and cooked to order. A bright, modern café that's perfect for a sweet break.

#### **What to order:**

- Ricotta Pancakes
- Matcha Latte

### CHAO CHAO GYOZA - SHIJO KAWARAMACHI

The famous gyoza spot known for its thin, crispy dumplings that come out bite-sized and full of flavor. A lively stop near Kawaramachi that's casual and fun.

#### **What to order:**

Signature Chao Chao Gyoza (small, crispy, and addictive)

Seasonal specials if available



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# BEST ICE CREAM!



## GION KINANA HON TEN

The shop is known for its handmade ice cream with rich, natural flavors and a focus on Kyoto ingredients. A cozy stop in Gion for something refreshing and seasonal.

### **What to order:**

- Kinana Ice Cream (Kinako, Matcha, or seasonal flavors)
- Parfait with mochi and sweet toppings

## SHINPACHI CHAYA

A popular spot in **Arashiyama** for quick bites and local sweets, right near the bamboo grove. Known for its mitarashi dango grilled over charcoal and served with a sweet soy glaze.

### **What to order:**

Mitarashi Dango (skewered rice dumplings) if available

Matcha soft serve



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# BEST ICE CREAM!



## (THISIS)SHIZEN

A creative ice cream shop in Kyoto where each cone is decorated with edible flowers. Light, pretty, and perfect for a sweet stop while exploring the city.

## KYO KURARA

A specialty shop in Kyoto focusing on nama-fu (fresh wheat gluten), a traditional ingredient often served in Buddhist cuisine. They offer both savory skewers and sweet treats, all soft and chewy with a unique texture.

### **What to order:**

- Grilled Nama-fu Skewers (savory)
- Sweet Nama-fu with miso or matcha glaze



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# BEST ICE CREAM!



## ATELIER PAGES KYOTO

A hidden café in Kyoto blending French charm with Japanese detail. Known for delicate cakes, seasonal tarts, and perfectly brewed coffee in a quiet, stylish space.

### **What to order:**

- Seasonal Fruit Tart
- Coffee or Café Au Lait



## PRE-MARCHE GELATERIA

A well-loved gelato shop in Kyoto offering more than 40 rotating flavors, from classic chocolate to unique Japanese ingredients like yuzu, sesame, and sake. Everything is handmade with natural ingredients.

### **What to order:**

Seasonal Japanese flavors  
(try yuzu or sesame)

A double scoop to mix something classic with something new

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## Arashiyama Station

Board the Randen Tram Local toward Shijō-Ōmiya.  
Line: Randen (Keifuku) Arashiyama Line  
Ride 8 stops (about 13 minutes).  
Stop ID: A13

## Randen-Tenjingawa Station

Walk about 3 minutes to Uzumasa-Tenjingawa Station.

## Uzumasa-Tenjingawa Station

Board the Subway Tozai Line Local toward Rokujizō.  
Line: Kyoto Municipal Subway Tozai Line  
Ride 5 stops (about 10 minutes).  
Platform 1/2 · Stop ID: T17

## Kyoto Shiyakusho-mae Station

Walk about 6 minutes (400 m) to Cross Hotel Kyoto.