Here is a list of tourist information centers, tourist attractions and other helpful information sites for your travels around Kyoto.

Languages available at Tourist Information Centers:
- English
- Chinese
- Korean

Major Kyoto Prefecture Tourist Information Centers:
- Kyoto Tourist Information Center (All of Kyoto Prefecture)
- Kawaramachi Sanjo Tourist Information Center (Kyoto City)
- Keihan Uji Station Tourist Information Center (Kyoto Infused with Tea)
- Kyoto Prefecture Tourist Information Center in Tokyo (All of Kyoto Prefecture)
- Kyoto Station Building 2F, Karasuma Shiokoji-sagaru, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto City
  Tel: 075-343-5346
  Open every day: 8:30-19:00
- Kyoto Asahi Kaikan 3F, 427 Ebisu-cho, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto City
  Tel: 075-213-1717
  10:00-18:00 (Closed: Dec. 29-Jan. 3)
- Kamese City Tourist Information Center / JR Kamese Sta. (Kyo-to-in forests)
  JR Kamese Station 3F, 1-4 Takahashi, Odogawabashi, Kameoka City / JR Kameoka Station
  Tel: 0771-22-5859
  9:00-17:30 (Closed: Dec. 29-Jan. 3)
- Kyoto Asahita Line Station Tourist Information Center / Kyoto by the Sea
  Kyoto Asahita Line Building 1F, 7-13 Ii-cho, Otsu-shi, Otsu City
  Tel: 0754-66-7001
  9:00-17:00 (Jan. 2-Jan. 3: 10:00-15:00, Closed: Dec. 29-Jan. 1)

Visit our website for the locations of other tourist information centers in Kyoto Prefecture.

JNTO Visit Tourist Information Center in Japan

Kyoto Prefecture Tourist Information Websites:
- Official Site for Kyoto Prefecture, Japan Kyoto Tourism
  http://www.kyototourism.org/
- Kyoto in Forests
  http://kyoto-forest.jp/
- Kamese City Sightseeing Guide
  http://www.kamese.jp/en/
- Miyama Tourism Association
- Kyoto Infused with Tea
  http://ochanokyoto.jp/
- Japan Rail Pass
  http://www.japanrailpass.net/en/
- Kyoto Manners
- Amanohashidate Travel Guide
- Ine Town Sightseeing Guide
- Kyoto City
  Kyoto City Official Travel Guide
  http://kyoto.travel/en

Tourist Information Websites:
- Kyoto Free Wi-Fi & Tax-Free Shop Navi
  http://kyoto-wifi-taxfree.jp/?lang=en
- Kyoto Manners
- Japan Rail Pass
  http://www.japanrailpass.net/en/

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Discover your own Kyoto

Kyoto City—where the temples, shrines, townscapes, and traditions of the ancient capital remain. Venture out a little farther, and you’ll find another Kyoto entirely. To the north you will find “Kyoto by the Sea,” with unimaginable views of the natural vistas of the magnificent Sea of Japan. In the center of the prefecture, you’ll find “Kyoto in forests,” where the rich culture of the woodlands has been passed down from generation to generation. To the south is “Kyoto Infused with Tea,” where expansive tea plantations have fostered the Japanese tea culture. Last but not least is “Kyoto Otokuni Bamboo Grove,” which was the capital of Japan before it was moved to Heian (modern day Kyoto City), and is still home to ancient burial mounds and bamboo forests. Kyoto, a beautiful place shaped by nature, is out there waiting for you!
A Journey to Experience the History and Culture of Japanese Tea

Kyoto Infused with Tea

Kyoto’s tea-producing region, the birthplace of Japanese tea, spreads south of Kyoto City and produces high-quality matcha green tea, gyokuro (the finest grade of green tea), and many other varieties. Enjoy a journey through Japanese history and tea culture by visiting sites such as the birthplace of Nagashima Soen, where you can learn the history of Japanese tea, and Byodo-in Temple, a World Heritage Site, and try matcha green tea sweerts and hands-on experiences of Japanese tea culture.

Suggested Itinerary

1 night / 2 days: Immerse yourself in the world of tea

Dive into the history of Japanese tea, shrines and Buddhist temples south of Kyoto City

Kyoto Sta. — JR Kamo Sta. (1 hr via JR Rapid Service)

Shimoku Ichijyo-ji, Wazuka Town, Soraku District

10:00-17:00 (Dec-Feb: 10:00-16:00)

Open every day

Admission fee: 400 JPY

Take the Kizugawa City Community Bus from JR Kamo Sta. to Joruji-mae. Walk 3 min.


...Must-See Sights...

Joruri-ji Temple

This World Heritage Site was converted from a villa into a temple by Fujiwara no Yorimichi in 1052. The Phoenix Hall is pictured on the 10-yen coin.

116 Ujirenge, Uji City

8:30-17:30 (Last admission: 17:15)

Open every day

Admission fee: 600 JPY

10 min walk from JR Uji Sta. or Keihan Uji Sta.

http://www.byodoin.or.jp/

...Must-See Sights...

Iwashimizu-Hachimangu Shrine

One of the three major Hachiman shrines in Japan. The 10 buildings enshrined atop Mt. Otokoyama are National Treasures.

30 Yawata Takabo, Yawata City

5:30-18:30 (Oct: 6:00-18:00, Nov-Mar: 6:30-18:30 (except Dec. 31 and Jan 19))

Open every day

Free admission

Take the Otokoyama Cable Car from Keihan Yawata Sta. to Otokoyama-sanjo Sta. Walk 5 min.

https://www.facebook.com/iwashimizu.or.jp

...Must-See Sights...

Shuon-an Ikkyu-ji Temple

This temple is linked to Ikkyu, a Zen Buddhist monk of the Muromachi Period (1336-1573) who also happens to be the figure that the Japanese anime “Ikkyu-san” is based on. The temple garden is filled with beautiful blooming flowers that are a sight to behold.

102 Takigisatonouchi, Kyotanabe City

9:00-17:00

Open every day

Admission fee: 500 JPY

15 min walk from JR Kyotanabe Sta.

http://www.ikkyuji.org/

...More info...

http://ochanokyoto.jp/
Recommended Sightseeing Spots

**Mimuroto-ji Temple**  
A temple constructed in 770. The garden features many kinds of flowers, with azaleas and rhododendrons in full bloom in May, followed by hydrangeas in June and lilies in July.

- 20 min by bus/on foot from Byodoin Temple (MAP)
- 8:30-16:30 (Nov-Mar: Closes at 16:00)  
- Entrance fee: 500 JPY (800 JPY during hydrangea season)
- Take the Kyoto Keihan Kotsu Bus from JR Kinkakuji Sta. to Kofukuji Minaruto Sta.  
- https://www.facebook.com/mimuroto

**Shoju-in Temple**  
This temple is believed to have been built around 800 years ago. The reception hall of the temple features a beautiful heart-shaped window and decorative ceiling paintings.

- 35 min by car from Byodoin Temple (MAP)
- 1:40-0:50, 0:00-11:00  
- Regular holidays: Admission fee: 200 JPY  
- Take the Toden Arakawa Line to Shoju-in Sta.  
- https://travel.japanin.ru/spot/399

**Sewaritei Cherry Blossoms**  
A 1.4-km embankment between the Uji and Kizugawa Rivers. In spring, roughly 250 cherry trees bloom to form an impressive cherry blossom tunnel.

- 20 min by cable car/on foot from Byodoin Temple (MAP)
- 8:30-16:30 (Nov-Mar: Closes at 16:00)  
- Admission fee: 400 JPY  
- Take the Kyoto Keihan Kotsu Bus from JR/Keihan Uji Sta. to Ichu-mae. Transfer to the Community Bus to Okuyamada. Walk 10 min.  
- https://www.facebook.com/mimuroto

**Nagarebashi Floating Bridge**  
The 356.5 m wooden bridge that straddles the Kizugawa River is a famed filming location for historical dramas. The bridge is designed to float downstream when the Kizugawa rises.

- 35 min by cable car/on foot from Kasagi-dera Temple (MAP)
- Free admission  
- Take the Kintetsu Bus from Keihan Yawatashi Sta. to Kozuya-Nagarebashi. Walk 5 min.  

**Twinkle Joyo Light Pageant**  
Joyo City’s winter wonderland is decorated with the illumination of 700,000 lights and a stunning 8 m illuminated tree. The event is held every year in December at Konosuyama Sports Park.

- 50 min by bus/on foot from Byodoin Temple (MAP)
- Free admission  
- Special bus service (tentative) every day from JR Joyo Sta. or Kintetsu Terada Sta. during the event period.  

**Birthplace of Nagatani Soen**  
The restored birthplace of Nagatani Soen, an Edo Period tea farmer who developed green tea manufacturing methods still in use today. Drying equipment and other tools used for tea processing still remain in the house.

- 30 min by car from Byodoin Temple (MAP)
- Free admission  
- Open to the public on Sat., Sun., and public holidays (9:00-17:00)  
- Take the Kyoto Keihan Kotsu Bus from JR Kinkakuji Sta. to Kofukuji Minaruto Sta.  
- https://keihanna-park.net/en/

**Shoji-in Temple**  
A temple constructed in 862. An image of the Maitreya Buddha, a sacred object of Buddhist beliefs, is carved into a 15 m rock wall. It is also believed to be a place flowing with sacred, spiritual energy.

- 20 min by car from Tenku Café (MAP)
- Summer: 8:00-17:00, Winter: 8:00-16:00  
- Admission fee: 300 JPY  
- Take the Keihan Bus from Keihan Yawatashi Sta. to Kozuya-Nagarebashi. Walk 5 min.  

**Kasagi-dera Temple**  
A temple constructed in 682. An image of the Maitreya Buddha, a sacred object of Buddhist beliefs, is carved into a 15 m rock wall. It is also believed to be a place flowing with sacred, spiritual energy.

- 20 min by car from Tenku Café (MAP)
- Free admission  
- Take the Keihan Bus from Keihan Yawatashi Sta. to Kozuya-Nagarebashi. Walk 5 min.  

**Tamagawa River Cherry Blossoms**  
The 500 cherry trees that line both banks of the Tamagawa River are in full bloom in early April. During this time, you can enjoy the Ido Town Cherry Blossom Festival and evening illuminations.

- 30 min by train/on foot from Joruri-ji Temple (MAP)
- Free admission  
- Open every day for the duration of the event  
- Take the Keihan Bus from Keihan Yawatashi Sta. to Kozuya-Nagarebashi. Walk 5 min.  

**Keihanna Commemorative Park**  
A park carved into nature, where you can walk around the woodland landscapes of Minamishimashiro and the Japanese garden featuring a rock cluster composed of 500 giant stones.

- 40 min by train/bus from Joruri-ji Temple (MAP)
- Free admission  
- Library/or Garden: Free admission  
- Open every day for the duration of the event  
- Take the Keihan Bus from Keihan Yawatashi Sta. to Kozuya-Nagarebashi. Walk 5 min.  
- https://keihanna-park.net/en/
Recommended Hands-on Experience Spots

Tea-making Workshop
Uji Tea Dojo/Takumi-no-Yakata
Learn about three delicious types of tea — gyokuro, sencha and matcha — and how to make and enjoy them.

10 min on foot from Byodoin Temple
- 17-1 Uji, Uji City
- Open: 10:00-17:00 (Last order: 16:00)
- Closed: Wed.
- 10 min walk from Keihan Uji Sta.

Tea-making Workshop (Gyokuro, Sencha, Matcha)
- Reservation required
- 1,500 JPY (Cash only)
- If you need an interpreter, you can reserve one in advance

Asahi-yaki One-Day Pottery Class
Asahi-yaki Pottery Studio
Asahi-yaki pottery dates back over 400 years and has a deep connection to Uji tea culture. During the one-day pottery class, you can create an asahi-yaki tea bowl.

10 min on foot from Byodoin Temple
- 17-1 Uji, Uji City
- Open: 10:30 and 14:00 (Start times are negotiable)
- Closed: Mon.
- 10 min walk from Keihan Uji Sta.
- https://www.facebook.com/michinoeki.minamiyamashiro/

Green Tea Plantation Factory Tour
Tour of Magouemon
Enjoy colorful sweets made from local ingredients from Seika Town, Ikkyu brand Plum Wine — a prominent Japanese plum producing area — makes the perfect souvenir.

Tour the fields where Sencha is picked by hand, and the factory to learn how Sencha is processed to become matcha green tea. After the tour, enjoy tasting the rarest, highest grade tea and seasonal sweets, while learning about the history of tea and how to brew it at home.

40 min by train from Shuon-an Ikkyu-ji Temple
- 20-1 Mizushi Minamigaito, Joyo City
- Tea-picking experiences are offered around May of each year
- http://www.magouemon.com/
- Starting at 9:30 (Start times are flexible). Tours take around 2 hr 30 min.
- Reservations required at least one week in advance
- 6,480 JPY (Visa, Mastercard and JCB accepted)
- If you need an interpreter, you can reserve one in advance (Extra fee of 4,320 JPY)
- http://www.magouemon.com/tour/

Shokado Bento (Boxed Lunches)
Kitcho Shokado
Kitcho Shokado
A boxed lunch served on a compartmentalized tray that resembles the one used by Shokado Shojo, A monk from Iwashimizu-Hachimangu Shrine.

20 min by cable car from Iwashimizu-Hachimangu Shrine
- 20 min walk from Kintetsu Tonosho Sta.
- Closed: Mon. (Open on public holidays. Closed on weekdays after public holidays, New Year holidays), New Year holidays
- Free admission
- http://www.magouemon.com/tour/

Sweets

Tea Sweets & Japanese Plum Wine
Enjoy colorful sweets made from local ingredients from Seika Town, Ikkyu brand sweets proudly offered by Kitcho Shokado, and more. Japanese plum wine made in Iwashimizu — a prominent Japanese plum producing area — makes the perfect souvenir.

10 min walk from JR Tsukigaseguchi Sta.
- Shokado Bento (Boxed Lunches)
- English text is available
- Visa and Mastercard accepted
- 10 min walk from JR Tsukigaseguchi Sta.
The sky and sea extend endlessly in northern Kyoto Prefecture, which faces the Sea of Japan. Encounter magnificent scenery, from Amanohashidate, one of the top three scenic spots in Japan, to the town of Ine, where people live on the sea in one-of-a-kind *funaya* (homes on the water with space for boats on the bottom floors), and more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested Itinerary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 night / 2 days:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feel the salty sea breeze</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience the distinct culture and presence of the magnificent sea</td>
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**Depart**

| Kyoto Sta. | Tantetsu Line (Kyoto Tango Railway) Amanohashidate Sta. (from JR Limited Express) |
|**Amanohashidate Sta.** | Ine-Seto Station (JR) Santou Station (Tantetsu) |

**Ishii Bay Pleasure Cruises**

- 230 distinctive *funaya* (boat houses) stand in a row around the bay. For picturesque scenery, a boat tour is recommended.
- 11-Azumi Hidetaka Int. 1F, Yosano-shi, 510-0266
- Open: 09:00-17:00
- Closed: Dec 17

**Amanohashidate / Kasamatsu Park**

- The unusual terrain of this park features 8,000 pine trees growing on a sandy beach. The name “Amanohashidate” describes the way the sandbar looks like a bridge crossing over to the heavens. From Kasamatsu Park, enjoy the view of a flagpole like a dragon rising into the sky.
- 75-Takenouchi, Kasamatsu-cho, Miyazu-shi
- Open: 07:30-17:30
- Closed: Dec 23
- Entrance Fees: 300 JPY
- Proceeds are used for the promotion of Amanohashidate Kasamatsu Park.
- **Hands-on Experience**
  - Try your hand at making *kiku* with a tabletop handweaving loom. You can make small accessories with your choice of colored thread.

**Handweaving Experience**

*Yosano Town Sightseeing Association*

- Visit the *Yosano* handweaving museum with your choice of colored thread. You can make small accessories with your choice of colored thread.
- 101-1,REG, Yosano-shi, 619-0803
- Open: 10:00-16:00
- Closed: Dec 23
- Entrance Fees: 1,200 JPY
- Proceeds are used for the promotion of the Amanohashidate Kasamatsu Park.
- **Hands-on Experience**
  - Try your hand at making *kiku* with a tabletop handweaving loom. You can make small accessories with your choice of colored thread.

**More Info**

http://www.uminokyo-st.jp/

The sky and sea extend endlessly in northern Kyoto Prefecture, which faces the Sea of Japan. Encounter magnificent scenery, from Amanohashidate, one of the top three scenic spots in Japan, to the town of Ine, where people live on the sea in one-of-a-kind *funaya* (homes on the water with space for boats on the bottom floors), and more.
**Recommended Sightseeing Spots**

**Tateiwa Rock**
(Early [San'in Kaigan Geopark]
Location: Taiza, Tango-cho, Kyotango City
- Free admission
- Take the Tango Kairiku Kotsu Bus from Tantetsu Mineyama Sta. to Tango-Chosha-mae. Walk 5 min.

**Natural Scene**
A gargantuan rock with views that are truly magnificent. Legend has it that an ogre is trapped inside this rock.

50 min by car from Ine Bay Pleasure Cruises Ferry boarding place ([MAP](#))

**Yuhigaura Bay**
(Early [San'in Kaigan Geopark]
Location: Hamazume, Amino-cho, Kyotango City
- Free admission
- Take the Tango Kairiku Kotsu Bus from Tantetsu Yuhigaura-Kitsu-Onsen Sta. to Hamazume. Walk 3 min.

**Nature**
A spot from where you can best appreciate the view of the Sea of Japan. Don’t miss the setting sun or the view of the surface of the sea changing from dark crimson to blue.

50 min by car from Amanohashidate ([MAP](#))

**Nariai-ji Temple**
Location: 339 Nariaiji, Miyazu City
- 8:00-16:30
- Open every day
- Admission fee: 500 JPY (Cash only)
- 20 min by car from Tantetsu Amanohashidate Sta.

**Must-See Sights**
10 min by bus from Amanohashidate ([MAP](#))

**Ayabe Gunze Square**
Location: 1-2 Kamenashi, Aono-cho, Ayabe City
- 9:00-17:00 (The museum is open from 10:00-16:00)
- Closed: Tue. (Unless public holiday, then next day is a holiday)
- Free admission
- 10 min walk from JR Ayabe Sta.

**Must-See Sights**
40 min by car from Maizuru Brick Park ([MAP](#))

**Former Bito Family Residence**
Location: 1085 Kaya, Yosano Town, Yosa-gun
- 9:00-17:00
- Closed: Mon. (Unless public holiday, then next day is a holiday), New Year holidays
- Admission fee: 200 JPY (Cash only)
- Take the Tango Kairiku Kotsu Bus from Tantetsu Yosano Sta. to Chirimen-Kaido. Walk 1 min.

**Must-See Sights**
3 min on foot from Handweaving Experience ([MAP](#))

**Kongo-in Temple**
Location: 595 Kahara, Maizuru City
- 9:00-16:00
- Open every day
- Entrance fee: 300 JPY, Treasure House: 500 JPY (Reservations required)
- 25 min walk from JR Matsunoodera Sta.

**Must-See Sights**
35 min by bus/on foot from Maizuru Brick Park ([MAP](#))

**Fukuchiyama-jo Castle**
Location: 5 Naiki, Fukuchiyama City
- 9:00-17:00 (Last entry 16:30)
- Closed: Tue. (Unless public holiday, then next day is a holiday), New Year holidays
- Admission fee: 320 JPY (Cash only)
- Take the West JR Bus from JR Fukuchiyama Sta. to Fukuchiyama-Koen-mae. Walk 1 min.

**Must-See Sights**
40 min by car from Handweaving Experience ([MAP](#))

**Yoshihara District**
Location: Nishiyoshihara, Maizuru City
- Free admission
- 25 min walk from JR Nishi-Maizuru Sta.

**Must-See Sights**
40 min by bus/on foot from Maizuru Brick Park ([MAP](#))

**Fukuchiyama-jo Castle**
Location: 5 Naiki, Fukuchiyama City
- 9:00-17:00 (Last entry 16:30)
- Closed: Tue. (Unless public holiday, then next day is a holiday), New Year holidays
- Admission fee: 320 JPY (Cash only)
- Take the West JR Bus from JR Fukuchiyama Sta. to Fukuchiyama-Koen-mae. Walk 1 min.

**Must-See Sights**
40 min by car from Handweaving Experience ([MAP](#))

**Recommended Sightseeing Spots**

**Former Bito Family Residence**
A modern retro Western-style house on the Chirimen Kaido, a road that connects the chirimen silk crepê industry. Exhibits inside the warehouse and rooms show nostalgic traces of the past.

3 min on foot from Handweaving Experience ([MAP](#))

**Kongo-in Temple**
A famous spot for viewing a three-tiered pagoda (an Important Cultural Property) against gorgeous seasonal scenery: lush green leaves in the spring, stunning autumn colors, and beautiful layers of snow in the winter.

40 min by bus/on foot from Maizuru Brick Park ([MAP](#))

**Yoshihara District**
This colorful district sits on the shores of Maizuru Bay. The distinct fishing village scenery is a popular spot for pictures.

40 min by bus/on foot from Maizuru Brick Park ([MAP](#))

**Fukuchiyama-jo Castle**
The warlord Akechi Mitsuhide constructed the castle during the Warring States Period (end of the 15th century to end of the 16th century). Currently, the castle serves as a local history museum that features artifacts from the castle and surrounding areas. From the castle tower, you can see unobstructed views of the Fukuchiyama townscape.

40 min by car from Handweaving Experience ([MAP](#))

**Yoshihara District**
This colorful district sits on the shores of Maizuru Bay. The distinct fishing village scenery is a popular spot for pictures.

40 min by bus/on foot from Maizuru Brick Park ([MAP](#))

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40 min by car from Handweaving Experience ([MAP](#))
Kyoto by the Sea has all the flavors of winter. The fishing season starts on November 6, and with it the season for sashimi and hot-pot.

Gourmet & Souvenirs

Each area in the Kyoto by the Sea region is home to several sake breweries that use only the purest water and highest-quality rice to brew their sake. At these breweries, you can learn how sake is made, and taste it too!

Sake Brewery Tours/Various Areas in the Kyoto by the Sea Region

Opening hours, holidays, etc. vary by facility

Hands-on Experiences

The Kyoto Tango Railway—known locally as “Tantetsu”—takes you to famous places around the Kyoto by the Sea region. The Kumaotsu, Akaotsu and Kurootsu sightseeing trains feature interiors decorated with different tree themes, and are popular not only with railway fans but also with tourists who visit these areas. The train passes over bridges between Tango-Yota and Tango-Kasukai stations to give passengers expansive views of the Sea of Japan stretching out beneath them. In the Kumaotsu Train, you can request a multi-course lunch to enjoy the local cuisine during the ride.

Sightseeing Train

- Kumaotsu Train: Dining car, reservations required (Reserved seating)\n  \n  Open on Fri., Sat., Sun., and public holidays

- Akaotsu Train: Reservations required (Unassigned seating). No trains on Tue/Wed.

- Kurootsu Train: Reservations required (Unassigned seating). Operates daily

- Routes vary by train


Kyoto Tango Railway Sightseeing Train

15 minutes only by bus and walk from Ine Bay Pleasure Cruises ferry boarding place


Fruits

The Kyotango region produces more fruit than any other in Kyoto. Its specialties are melons, pears and grapes, with other seasonal fruits to be enjoyed throughout the year. Fruit picking is also highly recommended.

Hands-on Experiences

A sightseeing and exchange facility where you can enjoy a meal while viewing the beautiful Ine Bay. You can have lunch prepared with locally sourced ingredients as well as fresh and delicious seafood.

- 593-1 Aza Hirata, Ine Town, Yosa-gun
- Ine Café: 11:00-17:00
  \n  (Open at 10:00 on Sat, Sun, public holidays; Last order: 15 min before closing),

- Sushi restaurant Wadatsumi: 11:30-15:00, 17:30-21:00
  \n  (Last order: 30 min before closing)

- Closed: Wed, irregular holidays

- Visa, Mastercard, JCB, AMEX and other credit cards accepted

- Take bus from Tantetsu Amanohashidate Sta. to Ine. Walk 8 min.

- http://www.facebook.com/funayabiyori/

Maizuru Port Tore Tore Center

A roadside rest area with a large seafood market. Choose from a lineup of farm-fresh seafood, and have your purchases grilled or made into sashimi on the spot.

- 40 min by bus/on foot from Maizuru Brick Park

- S60, S65, S220, S400, S2000

- Visa, Mastercard and JCB accepted (Some stores may not accept credit cards)

- Take the Kyoto Tango Station from JR Maizuru Sta. to Maizuru Port Tore Tore Center on foot. Walk 1 min.

A Region Full of Ancient and Modern History

Kyoto Otokuni Bamboo Grove

Suggested Itinerary

1 day:
Experience history and feel the embrace of nature
A journey to experience history and feel refreshed in the bamboo groves

Depart

Kyoto Sta. → JR Mukomachi Sta. (20 min by JR)
JR Mukomachi Sta. → Higashiyama (20 min by Hankyu Bus)

Take-no-Michi (Bamboo Path)

This 1.8-km bamboo forest path is lined with lush green thickets and trim bamboo hedges. The sound of bamboo grass in the wind and the sunlight streaming through the grove makes this a popular place for a soothing stroll.

- From Shibuya Station, transfer to the Hankyu Line at Higashiyama Station.
- Walk 5 min.
- Free admission
- Take the Hankyu bus from JR Mukomachi Station to Higashiyama Station in 20 min.

Train + bus (30 min)

Take-no-Michi (Bamboo Path), Muko City

Kyoto Otokuni Bamboo Grove

A Region Full of Ancient and Modern History

Asahi Beer Oyamazaki Villa Museum of Art

Train (30 min)

This is a British-style mountain villa that was built between 1912 and 1932. It houses an art museum and boasts a garden full of colorful flowers to be enjoyed in any season.

- 5:3 Zambon, Oyamazaki Town, Otokuni District
- 10:30-17:00 Last admission: 16:30
- Closed Mon. (Open public holidays, and New Year holidays and additional holidays)
- Admission fee: 800 JPY (Visa, MasterCard, and other credit cards accepted in cash)
- 10 min walk from Hankyu Oyamazaki Sta. or JR Yumura Sta.

Train + bus (35 min)

Take-No-Michi (Bamboo Path), Muko City

A Shinto shrine where Sugawara no Michizane, the god of learning, is enshrined. In addition to traditional festivals, you can admire plum blossoms, Kirishima azaleas and other seasonal flowers that Michizane adored. During the autumn, the leaves are illuminated at night for visitors to enjoy.

- Address: 2-15-13 Tenjin, Nagaokakyo City
- 9:00-18:00 (Oct-Mar: Closes at 17:00)
- Open every day
- Free admission
- 20 min walk from JR Nagaokakyo Station.

More Info > http://otokuni-kyoto.sakura.ne.jp/
Recommended Sightseeing Spots

Muko-ji Shrine
Founded in 714, this shrine is a designated Important Cultural Property. The stone-paved path that leads to a majestic torii (archway) of the shrine is a great spot for cherry blossoms in the spring, and autumn leaves in the fall.
- 10 min by car from Take-no-Michi
- 5 min walk from Muko-cho, Muko City
- Open every day
- Free admission

Komyoji Temple
A temple constructed in 1718. Every year from November to December, this well-known spot for viewing autumn leaves is bustling with tourists.
- 20 min by bus/10 min from Nagakyo-tenmangu Shrine
- 3-14-7 Inokashira, Nagaokakyo City
- Open every day
- Free admission
- Take the Hankyu Nishi-Muko Sta. or Nishi-Muko Sta.

Okoki-dera Temple
Believed to be the oldest temple in this region. Toward the end of April, around 2,000 tree peonies bloom into large, round flowers.
- 15 min by bus/10 min from Nagakyo-tenmangu Shrine
- 3-1-1 Aokake, Nagaokakyo City
- Open every day
- Free admission

Yanagidani Kanon Yokoku-ji Temple
This temple was founded on a hilltop in 806, and it is believed to be a temple that can heal ailments of the eye. The beautiful garden within the grounds is a well-known spot for viewing hydrangeas and autumn leaves.
- 15 min by car from Nagakyo-tenmangu Shrine
- 2-7-1 Yodo, Nagaokakyo City
- Open every day
- Free admission

Mount Tennozan
A lush 270.4 m tall mountain with stunning vistas and hiking courses, a crowd favorite amongst Kansai hikers.
- 1 min walk from Asahi Beer Oyamazaki Villa Museum of Art

Gourmet & Souvenirs

Nearby recommendations...

Creative Bamboo Shoot Cuisine
Taste bamboo shoots creatively incorporated into stewed and grilled dishes, sashimi, tempura, and other dishes unique to this region.
- 10 min walk from JR Nishi-Muko Sta. or Nishi-Muko Sta.

Bamboo Shoot Macarons
Bamboo shoots are a local specialty product with a distinctively soft texture, that come into season in late March.
- 20 min on foot from Asahi Beer Oyamazaki Villa Museum of Art

Japanese Whisky
Suntory Yamazaki Distillery
Enjoy tours and tastings and buy exclusive souvenirs at Yamazaki Distillery, where Japan’s first authentic whisky was created.
- 20 min on foot from Asahi Beer Oyamazaki Villa Museum of Art

Bamboo Products
Various products made from bamboo range from practical sundries to traditional folk crafts.

Spicy Cuisine
Muko City “Gekikara” Spicy Shopping District
Enjoy various spicy dishes from ramen to curry and bread—even spicy drinks!
- 5 min walk from JR Mukocho Station or Hankyu Nishi-Muko Station
- https://ja-jp.facebook.com/kyotogekikara/

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Muko City “Gekikara” Spicy Shopping District
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The Riches of the Forest
Arouse Each of the Five Senses

Kyoto in forests

The meaty, fragrant ayu (sweetfish) grow naturally into their full size in the Yuragawa River. From June to September, you can enjoy grilled or broiled salted ayu from Miyama and other parts of the Kyoto in forests region. For more information about ayu cuisine, please contact the following restaurants in Miyama-cho, Nantan City.

- Miyama Tourism Association, Tel: 0771-75-1906
- 2 Shimonakajima, Hozu-cho, Kameoka City
- 9:00-15:30 (Early Dec-early Mar: 10:00-14:30)
- Closed New Year holidays (Service is canceled during bad weather)
- 4,100 JPY
- English OK for reservations/reception
- Take 10 min walk from JR Kameoka Sta.

Take in the magnificent views of the Western Kyoto mountains on a 16-km ride down the Hozugawa River on a boat operated by a skilled captain. The vast mountains and forests that spread across central Kyoto Prefecture shower people with blessings as they interact with the nature there. This region’s abundance of nature is a great place to stimulate each of your senses through fresh, locally grown Kyoto vegetables, flowers that vividly color the villages in the foothills, mountain and river scenery, and more.

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- 4,100 JPY
- English OK for reservations/reception
- Take 10 min walk from JR Kameoka Sta.
Recommended Sightseeing Spots

*Amanoiwato-jinja Shrine*
- 206-1 Busshoji Aza Hiuragadake, Oe-cho, Fukuchiyama City
- Open every day
- Free admission
- 20 min walk from Tantetsu Oeyamaguchi-naiku Sta.
- This Shinto shrine built atop bedrock is one of the three historic original Ise shrines. Visitors have to use the chains fastened to the bedrock to reach the shrine.

*Amanoiwato-jinja Shrine*

*Himurogatake Place of Worship*
- 217 Nuku Aqua Miyayama, Oe-cho, Fukuchiyama City
- Open every day
- Free admission
- 20 min walk from Tantetsu Oeyamaguchi-naiku Sta.
- A place of worship at Mt. Himurogatake, said to have been touched by the gods. It is said that one wish will come true at this place of worship on the route from Motoise Kotai-jinja Shrine to Amanoiwato-jinja Shrine.

*Ankoku-ji Temple*
- 1 Teranodan, Ankokuji-cho, Ayabe City
- 8:00-18:00 (Oct-Mar: 8:30-17:00)
- Open every day
- Free admission (Reservations and donations required to see the inside)
- Take the Aya Bus from JR Ayabe Sta. to Ankokuji-mae. Walk 1 min.
- Reported to be the birthplace of Ashikaga Takauji, the first shogun of the Muromachi shogunate (1338-1573). The grounds of this temple are full of colorful leaves in autumn.

*Wachi Ningyo Joruri (Puppet Theatre)*
- East side of Kameoka Sports Park Gym, Anagawanomizu, Yoshikawa-cho, Kameoka City
- Mid-Sep-Oct: 9:00-16:00 (Sat., Sun., and public holidays: Closes at 16:30)
- Open every day
- Free admission (Reservations and donations required to see the inside)
- Take the Keihan Kyoto Kotsu Bus from JR Kameoka Sta. to Undokoen-Mae. Walk 1 min.
- A traditional performing art in which an actor operates a puppet to tell a story. The actor uses various voices to evoke a range of emotions, and the colorful tones of a shamisen (three-stringed Japanese lute) set the scene.

*Nanatanigawa River Cherry Blossoms*
- In spring, roughly 1,500 cherry trees bloom along this riverside street. It is one of the most famous local cherry blossom sites in “Kyoto in forest”.
- Kokubu, Chitose-cho, Kameoka City
- Cherry blossoms are in full bloom around April 10
- Free admission
- The cherry blossoms are illuminated in the evenings
- Take the Furusato Bus from JR Kameoka Sta. to Nanatanigawa. Walk 1 min.

*Rurikei Prefectural Natural Park*
- An attractive spot for viewing the beautiful scenery throughout the seasons. Enjoy a pleasant trek along the 4-km boardwalk through the gorge.
- Iwakura, Sanai-cho, Kameoka City
- Free admission
- Take the Nantan City Bus from JR Sanai Sta. to Hata. Transfer to the bus bound for Rurikei. Walk 1 min.

*Kyoto Tamba / Kameoka Yume Cosmos Garden*
- The largest cosmos garden in the Kansai region. From mid-September through October, more than 8 million cosmos of 20 different varieties are in bloom.
- East side of Kameoka Sports Park Gym, Anagawanomizu, Yoshikawa-cho, Kameoka City
- Mid-Sep-Oct: 9:00-16:00 (Sat., Sun., and public holidays: Closes at 16:30)
- Open every day during season
- Admission fee: 500 JPY (Weekdays: 300 JPY), special price during Sep
- Take the Kitaro Kyoto Kotsu Bus from JR Kameoka Sta. to Undokoen Mae. Walk 1 min.
- https://www.facebook.com/yumecosmosen/

*Kiri-no-Tenbodai (Sea of Clouds Observation Platform)*
- Fog forms in the valley of Kameoka from autumn to winter. From the observation platform atop Mt. Tatsugaoyama, you can look out over the mystical sea of clouds.
- Okawachi, Sonobe-cho, Nantan City
- Free admission
- Take the JR Tamba-goko Line from JR Kameoka Sta. to Hata. Transfer to the bus bound for Rurikei. Walk 1 min.

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- Free admission
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*Tamba Sannomai Package*
- A traditional performing art in which an actor operates a puppet to tell a story. The actor uses various voices to evoke a range of emotions, and the colorful tones of a shamisen set the scene.
- East side of Kameoka Sports Park Gym, Anagawanomizu, Yoshikawa-cho, Kameoka City
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- Open every day during season
- Admission fee: 500 JPY (Weekdays: 300 JPY), special price during Sep
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*Wachi Ningyo Joruri (Puppet Theatre)*
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- https://www.facebook.com/yumecosmosen/
Recommended Hands-on Experience Spots

**Paragliding**

Birds Paraglider School

Enjoy the views of villages in the foothills of Kyoto from the sky—ride with a professional instructor or take a solo flight! All skill levels are welcome to the challenge.

- Chitohe Takada, Chita-cho, Kameoka City
- 8:30-17:00 (May change due to weather)
- Irregular holidays
- Course fee starts from 4,500 JPY
- Visa and Mastercard accepted
- Reservation required
- Simple English OK
- Pickup from JR Kameoka Sta.
- [https://www.facebook.com/birdspara/](https://www.facebook.com/birdspara/)

**Handmade Japanese Paper**

Kurotani Washi Kaikan

- 3 Higashidani, Kurotani-cho, Ayabe City
- 9:00-16:30
- Closed: Sat., Sun., and public holidays
- Free admission, Hands-on experience: 700 JPY and up (Cash only)
- Take the Aya Bus Kurotani Route from JR Ayabe Sta. to Kurotani-Washi-Kaikan-mae. Walk 2 min.
- [https://kurotaniwashi.kyoto](https://kurotaniwashi.kyoto)

**Notable Experiences**

**Zen Experience**

Kyoto International Zendo

Experience the daily routine of a monk, such as their morning and midday chores and their vegetable-based meals. An orderly life and Zen meditation cultivate a spirit of gratitude and generosity toward others.

- Inukai, Sogabe-cho, Kameoka City
- 4:00-21:00
- Irregular holidays
- 1 night/meals included: 3,000 JPY (Cash only)
- Reservations required
- 15 min drive from JR Kameoka Sta.

**Horse-Drawn Carriage Tour**

Kyobasha

Feel the breeze as you tour the Kameoka area on a leisurely horse-drawn carriage ride that starts at Tonsoki Kameoka Station. If you also want to enjoy a boat ride down the Hozugawa River, the carriage can bring you to the boat boarding area.

- Yamamoto Jiguro, Shino-cho, Kameoka City
- 8:30-15:30
- Closed: Wed., Jan and Feb
- 15 min tour: 1,500 JPY, 25-min tour: 1,000 JPY
- English OK
- 1 min walk from Tonsoki Kameoka Sta.

**Soba Noodle Making Experience**

Various Areas of the Kyoto in forests Region

The Kyoto in forests region produces vast amounts of soba (buckwheat) thanks to its fertile soil and extreme differences between daytime and nighttime temperatures. You can experience making soba noodles at various facilities.

**Gourmet & Souvenirs**

**Wild Game Cuisine**

Wild deer live in the verdant mountain areas of the Kyoto in forests region. Various dishes using venison can be enjoyed from autumn to winter.

**Wild Boar Hot Pot (Botan-Nabe)**

Nothing says "winter" in this region like the local delicacy botan-nabe (wild boar hot pot). Low-calorie, high-protein boar meat is boiled together with vegetables to create a delicious hot-pot stew.

**Kyoto Vegetables**

Throughout the Kyoto in forests region, you can taste fresh vegetables grown in the unique climate of the Tamba Highlands.

**Miyama Milk and Miyama Pudding**

Enjoy the rich flavor and sweetness of Miyama milk, which is used to make the popular Miyama pudding and gelato.

**Japanese Sake**

Each brewery produces unique Japanese sake using the purest water from the forests.
Kyoto City’s history as a capital city dates back more than 1,000 years, and the traditions of the olden days are still alive today. Experience its history by walking through the shrines and temples, taste the cuisine that changes along with the seasons, touch fabrics used in kimono culture, and so much more! Kyoto is the place to experience the origin of fine Japanese culture.

Experience the Origin of Japanese Culture in the Ancient Capital

**KYOTO CITY**

**Must-See Sights**

**Kodai-ji Temple**

This temple was established by Lady Nene to commemorate the passing of her husband Toyotomi Hideyoshi, an influential feudal lord during the Warring States Period (the end of the 15th century to the end of the 16th century). Visitors can enjoy nighttime illuminations of cherry blossoms in the spring and colorful leaves in the autumn.

- 526 Shimokawara-cho, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto City
- Open every day
- Admission fee: 600 JPY

**Yamashina IC**

**Kyoto-minami IC**

**Kiyomizu-dera Temple**

This World Heritage Site features a main temple complex with a large wooden stage and other scenic areas. It is also a well-known viewing spot for cherry blossoms and autumn leaves.

- 26-27 Onin-cho, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto City
- Open every day
- Admission fee: 400 JPY
- Take the Kyoto City Bus from JR Kyoto Sta. to Gojozaka. Walk 15 min.

**Kyoto Cuisine**

Kyoto cuisine exhibits the simple tastes of ingredients such as seasonal Kyoto vegetables and tofu, and is built on the elegant taste of dashi stock. The beautiful presentation of Kyoto cuisine stimulates each of the five senses.

**Japanese Confectionery Sweets**

Traditional Japanese confectionery sweets developed alongside imperial culture and sado (Japanese tea ceremony). The shapes and colors of these sweets highlight the characteristics of the four seasons.

**Nishijin-ori (Nishijin Weaving)**

Silk fabrics with a history of more than 1,000 years. An extensive range of products from kimono washers to Japanese accessories, all woven with detailed patterns using beautifully dyed threads are available in the city.
Here is a calendar of places of interest in Kyoto for every season — including events and festivals that are traditional for locals — and when seasonal flowers are in bloom.

**Spring**

| Mar | Spring Events Calendars
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early to late Mar</td>
<td>Camellias (Bagu-in jiha Shiro and other locations in Minohji Temple)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Mid-Apr | Sakura Cherry Blossom Festival
(Rohto Life Agriculture and Forestry Product Direct Sales Store in Mitaniyama-shiroiga (Waga)) |
| Apr | First Tea of the Season Festival at the Birthplace of Nagatani Soen (Birthplace of Nagatani Soen’s (Kawara Town)) |
| Mid-Apr | Ennen Longevity Festival
(Sakura-inji Shinto Shrine Town) |
| Mid-May | Fukuchiyama Castle Festival
(Goryo Park in Fukuchiyama City) |
| Late-May | Takaragawa Shiro Festival
(Takaragawa Shiro Park in Yusa Town) |
| * Schedules of festivals and events, and peak flower viewing times may vary due to weather or other unforeseeable reasons. |
| * Please use public transportation to travel to event venues. |

**Summer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Summer Events Calendars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Early in late Jun | Hydrangeas
(Goryo-ji Temple and other locations in Higashiyama City) |
| Jul | Kasagi Floating Lanterns
(Summer of Kasagi Bridge/Kasagi Town) |
| Jul | Ukai Coromorant Fishing
(Saguri-jinja Shrine and other locations in Kumiyama Town) |
| Jul | Miiyazawa Floating Lanterns and Fireworks Festival
(Kimiyama Park and Miyazawa Bay Area, Miyazawa City) |
| Jul | Summer Festival
(Nagata Tennin-ji Shinto Shrine in Nagata City) |
| Jul | Hydrangeas Festival
(Yokoku-ji Temple and other locations in Nagaokakyo City) |
| Jul | Ine Festival
(Ono Residence in Aoyama) |
| Jul | Miiyazawa Floating Lanterns and Fireworks Festival
(Kimiyama Park and Miyazawa Bay Area, Miyazawa City) |
| Aug | Miiyazawa Floating Lanterns and Fireworks Festival
(Kimiyama Park and Miyazawa Bay Area, Miyazawa City) |
| Aug | Summer Festival
(Nagata Tennin-ji Shinto Shrine in Nagata City) |
| Aug | Hydrangeas Festival
(Yokoku-ji Temple and other locations in Nagaokakyo City) |
| Late-Jul | Amanoashikadate
(Miyakoji Mountain and other locations in Nagaokakyo City) |
| Late-Jul | Take-no-Michi
(Bamboo Path/Fukuchiyama City) |
| Oct | Winter Fireworks
(Yoichi-sando and other locations in Uji City) |
| Nov | Chichiri Sake Festival
(Chichiri Sake Brewery and other locations in Uji City) |
| Nov | Chichiri Sake Festival
(Chichiri Sake Brewery and other locations in Uji City) |

**Autumn**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Autumn Events Calendars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mid-Sep | Chichiri Sake Festival
(Chichiri Sake Brewery and other locations in Uji City) |
| Oct | Chichiri Sake Festival
(Chichiri Sake Brewery and other locations in Uji City) |
| Nov | Chichiri Sake Festival
(Chichiri Sake Brewery and other locations in Uji City) |

**Winter**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Winter Events Calendars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Early Dec | Plum Blossom Festival
(Nagata Tennin-ji Shinto Shrine in Nagata City) |
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(Nagata Tennin-ji Shinto Shrine in Nagata City) |
| Early Dec | Plum Blossom Festival
(Nagata Tennin-ji Shinto Shrine in Nagata City) |
| Late Dec | Winter Fireworks
(Yoichi-sando and other locations in Uji City) |
| Jan | Winter Fireworks
(Yoichi-sando and other locations in Uji City) |
| Feb | Winter Fireworks
(Yoichi-sando and other locations in Uji City) |

**Kyoto Infused with Tea**

| Early to late Mar | Camellias (Bagu-in jiha Shiro and other locations in Minohji Temple) |
| Mid-Apr | Sakura Cherry Blossom Festival
(Rohto Life Agriculture and Forestry Product Direct Sales Store in Mitaniyama-shiroiga (Waga)) |
| Apr | First Tea of the Season Festival at the Birthplace of Nagatani Soen (Birthplace of Nagatani Soen’s (Kawara Town)) |
| Mid-May | Ennen Longevity Festival
(Sakura-inji Shinto Shrine Town) |
| Mid-May | Fukuchiyama Castle Festival
(Goryo Park in Fukuchiyama City) |
| Late-May | Takaragawa Shiro Festival
(Takaragawa Shiro Park in Yusa Town) |

**Kyoto by the Sea**

| Early to late Mar | Camellias (Bagu-in jiha Shiro and other locations in Minohji Temple) |
| Mid-Apr | Sakura Cherry Blossom Festival
(Rohto Life Agriculture and Forestry Product Direct Sales Store in Mitaniyama-shiroiga (Waga)) |
| Apr | First Tea of the Season Festival at the Birthplace of Nagatani Soen (Birthplace of Nagatani Soen’s (Kawara Town)) |
| Mid-May | Ennen Longevity Festival
(Sakura-inji Shinto Shrine Town) |
| Mid-May | Fukuchiyama Castle Festival
(Goryo Park in Fukuchiyama City) |
| Late-May | Takaragawa Shiro Festival
(Takaragawa Shiro Park in Yusa Town) |

**Kyoto Otokuni Bamboo Grove**

| Mar | Plum Blossom Festival
(Nagata Tennin-ji Shinto Shrine in Nagata City) |
| Apr | Oni-kusube
(Oni-kusube (Smoking Out Demons) (Miyazaki Shinto Temple, Gyokutaki Temple)) |
| Apr | Flower Festival/
Izumo Furyu
Flower Dancing
(Surina-Shinji Shinto Shrine in Nantan City) |

**Kyoto in forests**

| Mar 17 | Ennen Longevity Festival
(Sakura-inji Shinto Shrine Town) |
| Apr 16 | Plum Blossom Festival
(Nagata Tennin-ji Shinto Shrine in Nagata City) |
| Apr 16 | Oni-kusube
(Oni-kusube (Smoking Out Demons) (Miyazaki Shinto Temple, Gyokutaki Temple)) |
| Apr 14 | Flower Festival/
Izumo Furyu
Flower Dancing
(Surina-Shinji Shinto Shrine in Nantan City) |

**Kyoto City**

| Last Sat. in March | Kyoto/Nagashiyama Hanatouro
(Light and Blossoms Festival) (Nagashiyama area) |
| Late Apr to early May | Wisteria
(Uminoya) |
| Mid-Nov | Aoi Matsu Festival
(Shinto Shrine, Kanagawa jiha Shima) |
| Jun 14 | Touta-no-kagura
(Fuki Songs and Dancing) (Hoshaku-ji Temple, Kameoka City) |
| Aug 16 | Kasagi Floating Lanterns
(Upstream of Kasagi Bridge/Kasagi Town) |
| Jul to Sep | Kyo no Tanabata
(Various venues in Kyoto City) |
| Oct 22 | Jidai Matsuri
(Various venues in Kyoto City) |
| Sep 25 | Take-no-Michi
(Bamboo Path/Fukuchiyama City) |
| Oct 23-25 | Yamashiko Events at the Kameoka Festival
(Kamagawa River area/Nagaokakyo City) |
| Oct 14 | Fukuchiyama Dokkoise Festival
(Yoichi-sando/Fukuchiyama City) |
| Jan 28-29 | Setsubun Ceremony
(Ushikubi-gi Shrine and other locations) |