



Kyoto Afternoon Walking Tour
 Approx. walking distance: 3.5 km
 Tour Duration: 4 hrs
 Tour starts at: 13:45



Yasaka Shrine

This shrine is one of the most revered in the city, as it is home to one of the biggest festivals of the year, Gion Matsuri, in the summer. At New Years as well, it is home to one of the most sacred festivals held to welcome in the coming year. Hundreds of thousands of Kyotoites flock here on New Years Eve and throughout the New Year period to pray for good health and fortune in the coming year. And during cherry blossom time, this colorful shrine takes on a beauty all its own.

Meet your tour guide



Meet your tour guide right in front of the hotel at **13:45**, and then board a city bus bound for Kiyomizu Temple.

Now you will walk along Shijo Street into the heart of Gion, which is filled with shops selling crafts and souvenirs and with all kinds of restaurants and teahouses as well as traditional theaters including the Kabuki-za Theater.

Kiyomizu Temple (World Heritage Site)



One of the most celebrated of Kyoto's temples; Kiyomizu offers visitors a stunning view of Kyoto from its massive wooden terrace. The popular expression 'jump off the terrace of Kiyomizu' is the Japanese equivalent of 'take the plunge' and at Kiyomizu it means that if one were to jump (it is 13 meters or 40 feet down) and survive, ones wishes would come true!

Jumping has been prohibited here, though it was once popular during the 19th century. Beneath the terrace is a small waterfall where parishioners believe that if you drink its waters you will enjoy wisdom, health, and longevity. 1300 years old, the temple was chosen by Unesco as a World Heritage site in 1994.

Gion District



A stroll through Gion is a stroll through history with its narrow lanes lined with elegant old wooden buildings. It is an architectural delight that has remained intact and untouched for centuries. The ambience is pure Kyoto at its traditional finest what with the old 'machiya' townhouses, traditional Geisha houses, time-honored restaurants and interesting shops selling all manner of crafts and unusual souvenirs.

Next, you will walk about 30 minutes along **Ninenzaka and Sannenzaka**. These two cobblestone lanes lead to and from Kiyomizu Temple and are popular with visitors because of the charming shops that line these sloping lanes. You will walk down towards Kodaiji Temple, stopping as you like to look at the crafts or sample the tea and sweets that are proffered by shopkeepers.

The Tour ends at Gion District around 6:00 pm

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Kodaiji Temple



Constructed in 1605 in memory of the one of the great figures in Japanese history, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, by his grieving widow, this large complex features many fine temple halls as well as a lovely tea garden featuring a small bamboo grove and designs inspired by Zen philosophies.

Next you will stroll 15 minutes to Yasaka Shrine. The narrow streets you walk through will take you back in time to the Kyoto of old.

