



Uniquely Kyoto Cycling Tour:

Approx riding distance/Duration:

20.5km / 2h

Tour duration: 7 hrs.



Meet your Guide at the hotel lobby and depart



Your first ride is only 10 minutes, but is an excellent warm up and takes you to a famous temple, as well.

Sanju Sangendo

Temple of the 33 Bays...This magnificent structure, Japan's longest wooden structure, is dedicated to the Goddess of Mercy, Kannon. Naturally, people come to pray for good health and healing. Within the building you find 1001 thousand-armed Kannon statues, all made from Japanese Cypress. This is also the site of famous archery contest held here every spring.



Next you will ride about 30 min. north, along the Kamo River passing through Shijo and Gion and then along the Shirakawa Canal. This route is particularly fun for bikers but is not easy for first time visitors to find without a guide.

Heian Jingu Shrine

The area where this famous shrine is located is quite literally the cultural heart of Kyoto with its many museums, theaters, craft galleries, shops, and restaurants. The Heian Jingu Shrine is one of the newest in the city, having been built in the 19th century to commemorate the city's having been capital for 11 centuries. Its massive vermillion gates and buildings attract millions of tourists, and there a plenty of wonderful photo opportunities here. The entire area can be thoroughly enjoyed at leisure on a bike.



You next ride about 20 min. west to the Kyoto Imperial Palace Garden. On the way, you will stop to visit the fascinating Biwako-Sosui Canal. With its incline, this structure was the first large-scale construction to be undertaken by Japanese engineers (in the 1880s). Until that time, such construction was the province of foreign engineers.

Kyoto Imperial Palace Garden

The Kyoto Imperial Palace was once home to the Emperor, and is appropriately grand and well worth a visit, but if you wish to tour the palace, you must apply a few days or so prior to the day you wish to enter. However, you are free to wander at will through the large and very lovely gardens surrounding the palace. If you are lucky enough to come in the spring or fall, you will no doubt be bewitched by its matchless beauty.

Continue to ride west to the famed Nishijin Textile producing district.

Lunch in the Nishijin area

This tour includes lunch and your guide will choose the appropriate restaurant according to your particular preferences. The restaurants are located in the traditional 'machiya' style ownhouses here.

After lunch you will ride south for about 10 minutes until you arrive to the area that is home to both the Urasenke and Omote-senke Tea Houses along with many tea ceremony-related shops and establishments. This is a particularly serene area, rich in culture and history.

Raku Museum



This small ceramic museum was a gift from the Raku family to the people of Kyoto. This family has been producing uniquely elegant ceramics for centuries, and in the museum you will find a fascinating collection of about 1000 pieces that have been produced by the artisans of the family over the last few centuries. Your tour guide will explain in detail the ceramics here with particular regard for the famed Raku Tea Bowl.

Next you will ride south for about 15 minutes to in the center of Kyoto city to where you will experience the complex of latest modern style and traditional Kyoto townhouse style.

Shiori-An Museum

This Kyoto 'Juban' (kimono undergarments) and 'Machiya' (traditional Japanese house) Museum was originally established as a medical clinic in the late Edo period. In 1926, it was refurbished in the modern western style and is designated as a tangible cultural property of Kyoto and historic Medical Research Institute of Kyoto.

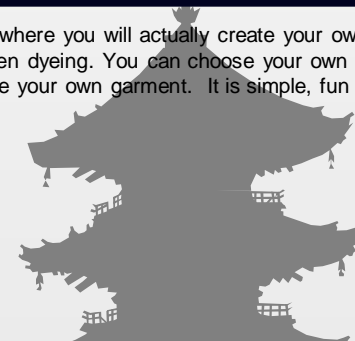
Also on exhibit year-round are historical and valuable Japanese folding screens (byoubu), which are displayed during 'Byoubu Matsuri', one of the many unique attractions of the Gion Festival that takes place every July. The only difference is that you are allowed the opportunity in this tour to examine and appreciate the exquisite details of these beautiful screens without the usual crowd atmosphere.



Next you will ride north for about 10 minutes to a workshop on Horikawa-dori Street where you will create your own Yuzen dyed T-shirt.

Kyo-Yuzen Marumasu Nishimuraya

We think you will really get a kick out of this workshop where you will actually create your own T-shirt using age-old dyeing techniques known as Yuzen dyeing. You can choose your own pattern and then, with the assistance of the staff, create your own garment. It is simple, fun and will be a great conversation piece!



When you are finished you will bike back to the Hotel (about 20 min.)

Hotel Granvia Kyoto

901 Higashi-Shiokoji-cho, Shiokoji Sagaru,
Karasuma-Dori, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto 600-8216
Contact: 075-344-8888