



World Heritage Sites and Gion Cycling Tour

Approx riding distance/Duration:
13.5km / 1h 20min
Tour duration: 6 hrs.



Meet your Guide at the hotel lobby and depart



You will ride east to Higashiyama, the eastern side of Kyoto, for about 20 minutes; then you will ascend the gently sloping Gojo-zaka lane, lined with pottery and sweet shops. Leave your bike and begin your exploration of the fascinating Kiyomizu Temple and its precincts.

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, one's 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.

Free time and shopping: This tour allows you a lot of time to browse the shops along the busy lanes approaching the temple.

Then, pick up your bike and ride down through the pass, to a small shrine in a secluded corner here. Good for bike ride to this small Shrine in the secluded corner.

Yasui Kompira Shrine

One of the beauties of this tour is that you will be taken to places not normally on the tourist track, such as this charming little shrine. People come here to pray for good relationships in love or to break off a bad one and make a better one. The aura here has a mysterious yet magical feel to it. Omikuji or paper fortunes are offered here.



If you buy one, be sure to tie it on the branch of a nearby tree to make sure it either comes true...or doesn't come true.

Lunch at Gion area

Lunch is included in this tour and your guide will choose the appropriate restaurant in one of the old 'machiya' (traditional Kyoto style townhouses) after your make your preferences known.

Back on your bike, you will be taken through neighborhoods that are rich in Kyoto architecture and history as you wind your way to the Tatsumi Bridge in Gion.

Gion Tatsumi-bashi Bridge

An infinitely picturesque spot, here you can sometimes see Geisha in their lavish kimonos crossing the Shirakawa River, a narrow canal that twists through the city, on this bridge. Scenes from the movie 'Memoirs of a Geisha' were filmed here.

Leaving the Higashiyama area, you will cycle northwest towards central Kyoto, riding about 20 minutes, first along the Takase-gawa River.

Nijo Castle (World Heritage Site)



Built by the Shogun in Tokyo in 1603 as his Kyoto residence, this magnificent castle with its typical Momoyama period architecture is a lavish treat for visitors with its beautifully painted sliding doors, its elaborate woodcarvings and its lush Japanese gardens. It is famous for its 'nightingale' flooring, designed to emit sounds when someone walks on them, as a warning of unwelcomed visitors.

The precincts are quite large and well worth spending the allotted 80 minutes of time here. UNESCO has recognized the Castle as a World Heritage site.

Leaving Nijo Castle, you will bike along Horikawa Street for about 25 minutes until you reach the hotel.

Hotel Granvia Kyoto

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Return to Hotel

