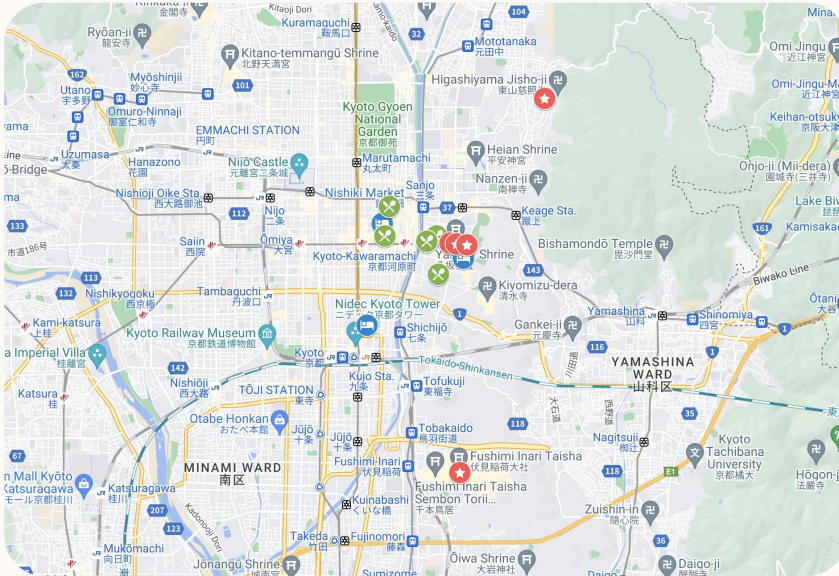


Kyoto Recommendations



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Where to stay

I recommend staying in a ryokan during your time in Kyoto.

It's a special experience, one that your family won't soon forget. I've included a few options below. They all offer the full experience – kaiseki (multi-course Japanese meal), floor futons, and yukatas (robes). They are all located in easy-to-explore areas – Motonago is located in the geisha district, Matsui is across the river from the geisha district, and Izuyasu is closer to Kyoto Station. Matsui is a good spot for families, offering larger rooms.



MATSUI HONKAN

Izutsuyacho, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, 604-8113



MOTONAGO

605-0072 Kyoto, Kyoto, Higashiyama-ku Kodaiji-dori Washio 511



Izuyasu

272 Sasayachō, Shimogyo Ward, Kyoto, 600-8156

Where to eat

- **Tempura Endo Yasaka** – Enjoy a 12-course tempura lunch prepared before your eyes by a master. You can expect local vegetables, the freshest shrimp, and even a tiny river fish that when fried is edible in its entirety. Of course, pairing it with sake is a must.
- **Nishiki Market** – Eat and drink your way through the market, enjoying traditional Japanese desserts and other snacks.
- **Misoka-an Kawamichi-ya** – Indulge in authentic soba noodles at a shop that has been operating since the edo period.
- **Gion Niku Tei Shin** – Book a reservation for a 10-course, steak-focused dinner featuring all forms of omi wagyu steak, sea urchin, and foie gras. There are other menu options, but the steak course is divine.
- **In the Moon** – Enjoy a drink at this rooftop bar with stunning views of the city.

What to see

- **Fushimi Inari Taisha + a secret bamboo forest** – Arashiyama, a short train ride from central Kyoto, is home to a famous bamboo forest and its surrounding temples and gardens. Although a nice stop, it's quite crowded with tourists. Alternatively, you can book a 3-hour hiking tour to see the famous Fushimi Inari Shrine + a secret bamboo forest.
- **Gion District** – walk along the picturesque canals of the geisha district.
- **Yasaka Shrine** – there are over 2,000 temples and shrines in Kyoto, so you will definitely stumble upon them just while walking around! Yasaka Shrine is especially beautiful at nighttime (and less crowded).
- **Maruyama Park** – This park is known to be the best for viewing cherry blossoms. It's right next to Yasaka Shrine.
- **Philosopher's Path** – To see more cherry blossoms, stroll down Philosopher's Path where the cherry blossoms reflect off the canal. There are a number of temples and shrines to see along the path as well.