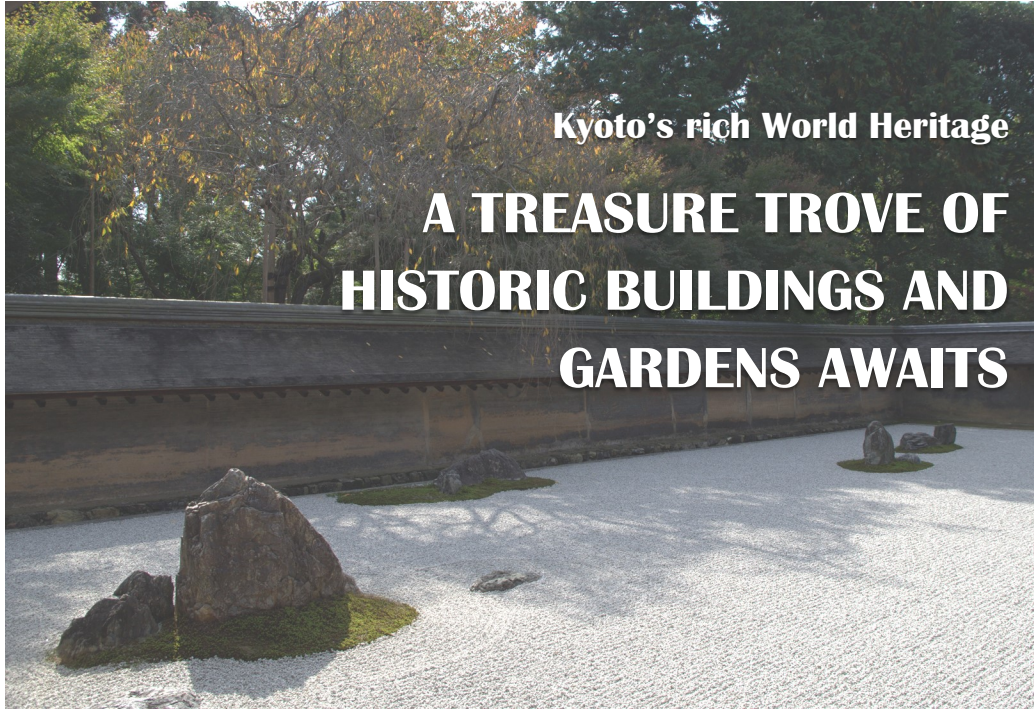


Kyoto's rich World Heritage

A TREASURE TROVE OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND GARDENS AWAITS



For more than 1,000 years, Kyoto was the imperial capital of Japan, from the city's foundation in 794CE through to the middle of the 19th century when the Imperial Household moved to Tokyo after the Meiji Restoration (1868).

In 1994, UNESCO listed a new property as a World Heritage site—the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities). As the listing explains:

*Kyoto was the main centre for the evolution of religious and secular architecture and of garden design between the 8th and 17th centuries, and as such it played a decisive role in the creation of Japanese cultural traditions which, in the case of gardens in particular, had a profound effect on the rest of the world from the 19th century onwards.**

The property 'Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto' consists of seventeen components, which include 198 buildings and twelve gardens in total. Most of the components date from between the 10th and 17th centuries. All but one of the seventeen components are religious establishments; the exception is the wonderful **Nijo Palace**.

Given the age of the buildings, they have of course been restored and reconstructed over time. However, the Japanese tradition of respecting the original form, decoration and materials of such structures means that the buildings reflect the original construction.

Many of Kyoto's most famous temples and shrines are part of the listing. For example, there is **Kiyomizu Temple** with its wide veranda overlooking the city from the eastern slopes. The temples **Kinkakuji**, the Temple of the Golden Pavilion (above right),

and **Ginkakuji**, the Temple of the Silver Pavilion—both former villas of shoguns—are also part of the listing, as is the temple of **Ryoanji**—home to Japan's most famous Zen-style rock garden (above left) and a less famous but just as serenely beautiful mossed garden (see cover image). Some are less familiar to overseas visitors, such as **Ninna Temple** (bottom left), also highly regarded for its garden. While it is possible to see the best known temples in a relatively short time frame, it is worth taking your time to discover them at your leisure.

And make time to travel beyond the city limits! The temple of **Byodoin** in Uji city is home to one of the finest examples of Heian Period (794-1185) architecture—the Phoenix Hall.

It's not just the built environment that makes Kyoto so special. It is a city known for refined crafts, beautiful art and excellent cuisine. There is so much to explore and enjoy!

*UNESCO (United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation) <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/688/>

List of all 17 components

www2.city.kyoto.lg.jp/bunshi/bunkazai/sekaiisan-e.htm

