



Tour Name

Kyoto Lanes & Lanterns

Tour City

Kyoto

Tour Snapshot

The true magic of Kyoto comes alive at the end of the day, when past and present blend into the night! Take to the streets as dusk falls and see how argon lights mix with paper lanterns, age-old shrines squeeze into busy shopping streets, and aged wood is decorated with modern street art.

Highlights

- See Kyoto transition from a daytime haven of shrines and temples to a magical nighttime town
- Wander the back streets of Gion and see if you can spot a few *Geiko* walking through the old quarter
- Visit local spots rarely discovered by tourists such as the Yasui Konpira-gu Shrine
- Jump through history, from the wooden walls and lanterns of Yasaka Shrine to the bustle of Karasuma's *tachinomi*
- Sample tasty snacks as you soak up the lively local atmosphere

Inclusions: Local English-speaking guide, food samples (traditional Japanese snacks and drink).

Exclusions: Additional food and drink, souvenirs and items of a personal nature, transportation to and from the meeting point, tips/gratuities for your guide.

Schedule details

- Duration: 3.5 hours
- Meeting point:
Entrance to Gion Corner, by Hanamikoji Dori, Gionmachi Minamigawa area, Higashiyama ward, Kyoto.
GPS coordinates: 35°00'05.7"N 135°46'29.0"E
[View on Google Maps.](#)
- Find the exact meeting point with what3words: [///scoring.braced.renders](https://www.what3words.com/#!/en/@@@scoring.braced.renders)
- Starting time: 6.30 PM
- Ending point:
Shijo - Karasuma station.

Full Itinerary

Experiencing Kyoto by night is an essential part of any visit to Japan's city of tradition. Walking through the old town's lantern-lit wooden streets is an otherworldly experience not to be missed!

We'll begin our Kyoto tour at Gion Corner in Kyoto's famed Geisha district of Gion. As we wander, there's a good chance you'll see both *Geiko* and *Maiko* breezing through the narrow alleyways of the old quarter.

From there, we'll avoid the crowds and traverse the serene backstreets of Higashiyama via the unique but rarely visited Yasui Konpira Gu Shrine, the marvellous Yasaka Pagoda and the bustling and colourful Yasaka Shrine.

We'll then avoid the crowds a second time as we dart into the backstreets of northern Gion, walking through the narrow streets lined with smaller and more modern clubs and bars — a fascinating contrast to the quarter's old buildings and historical air.

Crossing the Kamo River, we'll take in the sprawling view of Kyoto's restaurant district as it stretches into the distance along the river, before crossing into Pontocho. A centuries-old entertainment district now lined with bars and restaurants, Pontocho is lit almost entirely by traditional Japanese lanterns of every shape and size. Each restaurant has its own unique menu and atmosphere, but all retain an old-world charm.

From Pontocho, we'll cross to Teramachi, a traditional Japanese-style arcade strip that stretches off into the distance. Roofed with glowing, cathedral-like arches, Teramachi is home to a countless variety of merchants and restaurants, including traditional Japanese bookstores and the ubiquitous, brightly lit *Manga* comic shops. Here, you can find everything from statues of ancient gods at a *Butsudan-ya* (Buddhist altar shop) to high-quality sushi knives and vintage clothing.

Leaving Teramachi's arcade, we'll head past the Nishiki food market to check out a *tachinomiya* — translated in English, '*tachinomiya*' literally means 'stand and drink shop.' Bars with no seats offer locals a chance to enjoy drinks and light snacks en route to home or engagements elsewhere.

For additional directions to meeting point:

Gion Corner is four blocks south from the intersection of Shijo and Hanamikoji streets. Hanamikoji is two blocks east of Shijo-Ohashi Bridge.

- *By city bus to "Shijo Kawaramachi"*
- *By Hankyu Railway: Kawaramachi Station exit 1 (10-minute walk)*
- *By Keihan Railway: Gion -shij? Station exit 6, (5-minute walk)*
- *From JR Kyoto Station: by city bus in approximately 25 minutes, or approximately 15 minutes by taxi*

Download a map here: <http://www.kyoto-gioncorner.com/global/en.html>

Additional information

Inclusions: Local English-speaking guide, food samples (traditional Japanese snacks and drink).

Exclusions: Additional food and drink, souvenirs and items of a personal nature, transportation to and from the meeting point, tips/gratuities for your guide.

Dress standard: The tour includes a brief visit to a small shrine. As such, modest dress is highly recommended. We recommend having your shoulders covered and wearing pants or a skirt that covers the knees.

Your Trip: For your Urban Adventure you will be in a small group of a maximum of 12 people.

Confirmation of booking: If you have your voucher, your booking is confirmed. We'll see you at the start point. Get in touch if you have any concerns or require more information via the email address or phone number (business hours only) on your voucher.

Additional Information: Some food allergies can be accommodated for but please check beforehand with us at info@kyotourbanadventures.com.

Child Policy: Travellers under 20 years of age are not permitted to join this tour

Local contact

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