

Kyoto's Zen Heritage – The Golden Pavilion and Ryoan-ji Rock Garden

Capacity: 30



Kinkaku-ji Temple

Join us on a trip to some of Kyoto's most important Zen monuments – including the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of the Golden Pavilion of Kinkaku-ji Temple and the rock gardens at Ryoan-ji Temple.

We will head north to Kitayama where the city meets the mountains, first stepping into Ryoan-ji's extraordinary *karesansui* rock garden. We will then visit Kinkaku-ji Temple, whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Finally we'll go to the Jotenkaku Museum at Shokoku-ji Temple, to see treasures and masterpieces of Zen art including *shoheki-ga*, exquisite hand painted screens.

Itinerary

*The itinerary is subject to change without notice.

8:30	Meet at Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo	==== Chartered bus =====
9:00 - 10:00	Ryoan-ji Temple	==== Chartered bus =====
10:10 - 11:40	Kinkaku-ji Temple	==== Chartered bus =====
12:00 - 13:00	Jotenkaku Museum of Shokoku-ji Temple	==== Chartered bus =====
13:30	Tour ends at JR Kyoto Station	

Note: We will walk around a large garden; walking shoes are recommended, please avoid high heels. When entering temple buildings, make sure to wear socks.

Ryoan-ji Temple: Built in the mid-15th century, the temple is famous for its *karesansui* rock garden, with 15 stones of different sizes placed on white sand in a space of 25 m x 10 m, which is said to represent the view of the world as seen by the Zen sect of Buddhism.

Rokuon-ji (Kinkaku-ji) Temple: This temple was built at the end of the 14th century by the third Muromachi shogun, Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, originally as a villa called Kitayama-dono. It is famous for its *shariden* hall, but is widely known as Kinkaku - the Golden Pavilion. We will have special permission to enter the garden, and follow the path around the central pond, surrounding the main hall and Golden Pavilion, which was designed to represent the Buddhist concept of *Pure Land*.

Jotenkaku Museum of Shokoku-ji Temple: This museum houses works of art held by the Shokoku-ji Temple and its branch temples, including the Rokuon-ji (Kinkaku-ji) Temple and the Jisho-ji (Ginkaku-ji) Temple and other sub-temples, to preserve, exhibit, restore, study them to make Zen culture more widely known to the public. Its collection includes many outstanding cultural properties, including paintings by some of the greatest artists in Japan's painting history. Five of the works in its collection are designated as National Treasures, and 143 as Important Cultural Properties.



Rock garden at Ryoan-ji Temple



Jotenkaku Museum of Shokoku-ji Temple (*Shoheki-ga* paintings by Ito Jakuchu, relocated from the Osho-in room at Rokuon-ji Temple)