

Imperial Villa and Grand Shrine in the Natural Environment of the Rakusai Area

Capacity: 40



Located in southwestern Kyoto, the district of Nishikyo boasts beautiful natural surroundings; the Katsura River flows gently to the east and the Nishiyama mountain range area with many scenic spots including Arashiyama to the west.

This tour is designed to explore the traditional beauty of Japan by visiting the Katsura Imperial Villa, renowned for its beautiful architecture, and the Matsuo Taisha Shrine with its long history, both located in the delightfully leafy area of Nishikyo.

Shoin building in the Katsura Imperial Villa

Itinerary

*The itinerary is subject to change without notice.

8:15	Meet at Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo	==== Chartered bus =====
9:00 - 11:00	Katsura Imperial Villa	==== Chartered bus =====
11:30 - 12:30	Matsuo Taisha Shrine	==== Chartered bus =====
13:15	Tour ends at JR Kyoto Station	

Note: We will walk around a large garden; suitable walking shoes are recommended, please avoid high heels.

Katsura Imperial Villa: The villa was built from the early to the mid 17th century. The exquisite beauty of this villa was introduced to the world by a German architect, Bruno Taut, who was impressed by its harmonious combination of buildings and garden. With the elaborately designed *sukiya*-style buildings and the garden in which stepping stones, stone lanterns, water basins and all other components are meticulously arranged, the Katsura Imperial Villa is considered the finest example of imperial villa architecture and its garden as among the most beautiful Japanese gardens.

Matsuo Taisha Shrine: This is the oldest shrine in Kyoto, associated with the Hata clan, a powerful clan that originated in ancient Korea. Its precincts are located at the foot of Mt. Matsuo, the object of worship of the shrine. The main hall, built in the Muromachi period in the 14th century, is one of the few *ryonagare*-style buildings, and is designated as a National Important Cultural Property. Since medieval times, the shrine has been popular among sake brewers for enshrining the god of sake.



The first room of the Shokintei tea pavilion
in the Katsura Imperial Villa



Matsuo Taisha Shrine