

Visiting Temples in the Quiet Mountain Village of Ohara

Capacity: 30



Sanzen-in Temple

Join us on a trip to the village of Ohara, tucked at the foot of Mt. Hiei. Although it's only a one-hour bus ride from Kyoto Station, you'll feel like you've travelled further when you arrive in this densely wooded and mountainous area. The village was once a hidden place, where people who abandoned Kyo, the then-capital, lived secluded lives. Ohara is now known for its beautiful natural environment that has long remained unchanged, a landscape and lifestyle that is closely tied to the seasons, and local specialties, such as mountain vegetables and *shibazuke* pickles. You are sure to feel relaxed as you dip a toe – and your chopsticks – into Japanese village life.

Itinerary

*The itinerary is subject to change without notice.

8:45	Meet at Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo ===== Chartered bus =====
10:15–11:15	Ohara Sanzen-in Temple ===== Chartered bus =====
12:00–13:00	Jakko-in Temple Walk (About a 15-minute walk from the bus stop)
13:00–14:30	Lunch ===== Chartered bus =====
15:15	Tour ends at JR Kyoto Station

Note: When entering temple buildings, make sure to wear socks.

Ohara Sanzen-in Temple: Located in the village of Ohara, this is one of the three Tendai-sect monzeki temples, with its origins in a thatched hut opened by Saicho, the founder of the Tendai sect, in the Enryaku-ji Temple on Mt. Hiei. The Ojo-gokuraku-in hall, an Important Cultural Property, enshrines the statue of Amida Triad, a National Treasure, and a replica of the painting on the ceiling of the Ojo-gokuraku-in hall is exhibited in the Ennyu-zo treasure house. Yusei-en, a garden attached to the temple, reveals a different landscape in each season, with cherry blossoms in spring, green maple leaves in summer, autumnal leaves in fall, and snow in winter.

Jakko-in Temple: This is a nunnery where Kenreimon-in, a daughter of Taira no Kiyomori and mother of Emperor Antoku, entered in 1185 after the downfall of the Heike clan and lived in seclusion as a nun. There are descriptions about the Jakko-in Temple in the historic Japanese text, the Tale of the Heike. A particularly well known episode tells of a secret visit by Cloistered Emperor Go-shirakawa to the temple.



Ennyu-zo treasure house



Jakko-in Temple