

## The Gardens and Architectural Delights of Kyoto's Imperial Palaces

Capacity: 50



Kyoto Imperial Palace

Get to know the ancient capital of Japan by strolling through the magnificent Imperial Palaces and grounds located right in the heart of the city. Kyoto became the seat of the Imperial Court in 794. When Emperor Kogon took the throne in 1331 it became the Imperial Residence, a state that lasted for more than 500 years. The stories of the Imperial Court will come to life when you hear them amid the stunning surrounding in which they first unfolded.

### Itinerary

\*The itinerary is subject to change without notice.

9:30 Meet at Hamaguri-gomon Gate of Kyoto Imperial Palace .....Walk.....

10:00–12:00 Kyoto Imperial Palace, Sento Imperial Palace, Omiya Imperial Palace (End of tour)

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

**Kyoto Imperial Palace:** Kyoto Imperial Palace, which was reconstructed in 1855, retains the traditional structure of the Inner Palace (the Residence of the Emperor). Consisting of historical buildings such as Shishinden (Hall for State Ceremonies), Seiryoden (Emperor's Residence), Kogosho (Court Room), Ogakumonjo (Imperial Study), and Otsunegoten (Emperor's Residence), Kyoto Imperial Palace allows visitors to trace the history of the Japanese Court since the Heian period (794-1185).

**Sento Imperial Palace:** Sento Imperial Palace was built in the early 17th century as the residence for retired Emperor Go-mizunoo. Although the original palace burnt down and was lost in 1854, its gardens and teahouses remain today.

**Omiya Imperial Palace:** While Omiya Imperial Palace was originally built in the early 17th century as the residence for Tofukumonin, the wife of the Emperor Go-mizunoo, the current palace was reconstructed in 1867 for Empress Dowager Eisho, a chief consort of Emperor Komei. Today, the palace is used as a lodging for the Imperial Family when they visit Kyoto.



Kenrei-mon Gate



Sento Imperial Palace