

Visit the Mountains Where 17th and 20th Century Architecture Blends with Nature

Capacity: 30



Shugakuin Imperial Villa (Upper garden)

Nestled at the foot of the mountains northeast of Kyoto, you will find two very different examples of Japanese architecture; the 17th century Emperor's country retreat Shugakuin Imperial Villa, and the early 20th century Komai Family Residence. The extraordinary landscape of mountains, rice paddies and vegetable fields are incorporated into the design of Shugakuin Imperial Villa, in one of Japan's best known examples of 'borrowed landscape'. The Komai Family Residence is a fascinating example of Western-style architectural design within a Japanese environment. This trip will offer you a true insight into the harmonious coexistence of architecture, landscaping and wilderness.

Itinerary

*The itinerary is subject to change without notice.

8:45	Meet at Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo	==== Chartered bus =====
10:00–11:30	Shugakuin Imperial Villa	==== Chartered bus =====
11:40–12:40	Komai Family Residence	==== Chartered bus =====
13:20	Tour ends at JR Kyoto Station	

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

Shugakuin Imperial Villa: The Shugakuin Imperial Villa was built by Emperor Go-mizunoo in the mid 17th century. Its three gardens, known as the upper, middle and lower gardens, are famous for the "borrowed landscape" technique, that brings the visible landscape into the decorative arts of the interiors. The gardens are considered to be among the most beautiful in Japan, comparable with those of the Katsura Imperial Villa. The Shugakuin Imperial Villa covers a vast area of 540,000 m², in which rice paddies and vegetable fields form a natural patchwork and dense lines of pine trees connect the gardens.

Komai Family Residence: This building was designed by W.M. Vories Architectural Office and was constructed in 1927 as a private residence of Dr. Taku Komai, Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University, who was known as the "Darwin of Japan" for his achievements in the field of genetics. While its outer appearance is designed in the Spanish style, the roof is covered with red Japanese tiles, and whereas its floor plan is designed in the Western style, there is also a Japanese-style room in a corner of the residence. Characterized by the harmonious combination of Japanese and Western styles, this architectural gem blends pleasantly with the surrounding environment. Today, it is managed by the Japan National Trust.



Guest hall, Shugakuin Imperial Villa



Komai Family Residence