

Important Cultural Property and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the City



Shimogamo Shrine

Head to the north of the city to see two architectural treasures. Traditional residential architecture is followed by a stunning vermillion temple. World Heritage Site, Shimogamo Shrine is internationally celebrated. But the oldest shrine in Kyoto City is more popular amongst its Japanese visitors as a 'power spot' that confers the twin blessings of matchmaking and warding off of evil. You will be sure to appreciate the glorious art and architecture on display here, and enjoy visiting the point where the Kamo and Takano rivers meet near the shrine, a popular spot where locals get together to relax.

Itinerary

*The itinerary is subject to change without notice.

8:45	Meet at ticket gate at Keihan Demachiyonagi StationWalk.....
9:00-10:00	Old Mitsui Family Shimogamo VillaWalk.....
10:15-11:00	Shimogamo Shrine (End of tour)	

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

Old Mitsui Family Shimogamo Villa: This villa was completed in 1925 for the Mitsui family of wealthy merchants living in Kyoto. The villa was constructed by relocating another villa built by the family in 1880 in Kiyomachi to use as the main building, with front entrance built to fit it. The villa is valued as a classical Japanese-style residence of the Taisho period, and is kept in excellent condition. It is nationally designated as an Important Cultural Property. You will see many examples of the sophisticated aesthetic stylings of the Mitsui family throughout the villa.

Shimogamo Shrine: Kyoto City developed around the Kamo River, and the locals refer to this shrine as "Shimogamo-san" as it is located downstream (Shimogamo literally means "down the Kamo River"). Both the east and west main halls of the shrine are National Treasures. In the precincts of the shrine, a huge forest called Tadasu-no-Mori spreads along the approach to the Shimogamo Shrine, and this spot is believed to have the power to help with romantic matchmaking. The Kawai Shrine, an auxiliary shrine of the Shimogamo Shrine, is dedicated to a guardian deity for women, known for vanity-mirror-shaped *ema*, a type of wishing plaque. The shrine is popular with women seeking good looks!



Shimogamo Shrine



Old Mitsui Family Shimogamo Villa