

KYOTO COLOR

FALL NEWSLETTER 2024

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."
—Albert Camus



FALLING FOR KYOTO

Memories from my first trip to Kyoto are deep and lasting like inscriptions in stone, and as tangible as a drawer full of old photos. Picture the afternoon light near the Yasaka shrine illuminating a ginkgo tree as bright and yellow as the sun itself. And walking along the Philosopher's Path, where ancient footsteps seem present. Then standing in the Enkouji bamboo forest, looking up at the tree tops high enough to tickle the clouds. But, it wasn't *entirely* ethereal. I shamelessly channeled Scarlett Johansson hopscotching across the stepping stones in a reenactment from *Lost in Translation*—captured on my partner's iPhone at the exact location in Maruyama Park. Less cinematically, we attempted sleeping on tatami floor mats at a rustic ryokan in the Gion District, after a bath in our en-suite "mini-onsen" (a square wooden tub *almost* the size of a Coleman cooler). By morning, we surrendered our zealous sightseeing plans in favor of contemplating the linear patterns in the Ginkaku temple's zen garden.

Years have passed, and we are back for another go at Kyoto. It's late autumn but some vivid color is still adrift in the trees like a rainbow fog. Soon, winter's bare branches will add depth to this view while the hillsides hibernate, awaiting new colors in spring.

—Haines Wilkerson, *Founder*



KYOTO TRAVEL TIPS

1. **OBSERVE** Kyoto's beauty with an appreciation for its sacred and fragile structures. Be mindful to stay on public-access streets and avoid private roads in the Gion District.
2. **HONOR** the residents' privacy by not photographing them without their permission. Do not pursue geisha or maiko to photograph them and certainly never touch their kimonos.
3. **RESPECT** local traditions at Kyoto's many temples. Always remove your shoes inside or use the supplied booties. Plan for a LOT of walking, so wear comfy shoes that are easy to slip on and off.

For our complete travel guide:

[Kyoto](#)



NAOSHIMA ISLAND

Two trains and a ferry take you on a fantasy ride from Kyoto to the Art Island of Naoshima, where creativity inhabits the landscape like a modern Rousseau's *Peaceable Kingdom*. The airy grace of Tadao Ando designed galleries and lodging form the heart of the Benesse Art Site where each structure appears as one with the sweeping grounds that reach to the sea. Each window frames a stunning vignette—some with a polka-dot Kusama pumpkin as the payoff on the horizon. Sleep in minimalist luxe comfort at Benesse House, and awaken to a teaming contemporary art safari assembled to amaze the senses.

For info & tickets:

[Benesse Art Site](#)



ALONE IN KYOTO

We've curated a playlist of songs inspired by Kyoto in the Fall.

[Playlist](#)

* All photos shot on iPhone by Haines Wilkerson
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