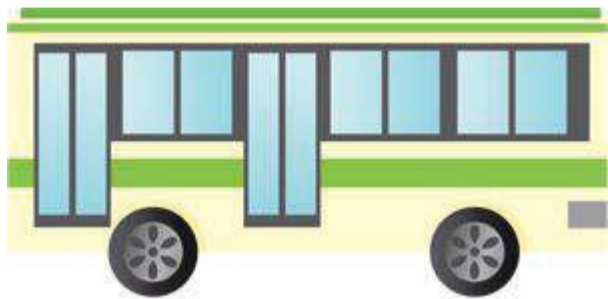


How to travel around Kyoto in low budget?

There is a saying that if you want to know about modern Japan, travel around Tokyo but if you want to know about ancient Japan, Kyoto is the best city. As it can be seen in the sentence, Kyoto retains most of aspects related to Japanese history. However, many travelers have misconception that Japan need high budget to be out of reach, but it would be not expensive as people think in present. Here are some tips breaking the misconstruction about traveling Japan.

Very first tip for traveling Kyoto cheaply is one day bus ticket. Many foreign travelers prepare for the pass that they can use in Kansai area (Area of Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe and Nara) such as Kansai Thru Pass can be used for 2 days and costs 4000 yen but if you are planning to stay in Kyoto more than 2 days, it would be total waste of your money. One day bus ticket is literally bus ticket which only cost for 500 yen that can be used in Kyoto area for one day. No matter where you go and how many times you take bus. It does not matter. One of other advantages of this ticket is subway in Kyoto does not go to in front of every tourist attractions unlike other cities in Japan while Kyoto city bus does. It will help you to reduce transportation fee to 1000 yen for traveling Kyoto for 2 days.



Second sweet tip is going to be places that do not have entrance fee! You will be obviously considering that entrance fees when you make a plan for travel but that is foolish think in Kyoto. Of course, most famous tourist attractions would have entrance fee but there are many places free to get in. For example, Fushimi Inaritasha is the really gorgeous and famous place because its grown awareness by movie called “Memoirs of Geisha.” This place does not charge for entrance fee. Also, Arashiyama which gets more famous to foreigner recently because of beautiful bamboo forest and river side also does not require spending money. There are so many other places that do not have entrance fee and it will only take five minute to find on Google. If the purpose of your travel is seeing only famous place, there is no point to argue; however, it is questionable that which place would be more preferable between a famous tourist attraction with too much crowds bothering to have any chance to appreciate the attractiveness of the place or place where requires no fee and enables tourists to enjoy the place with more composure.

Last tip is to become local and to act like local. In general thinking, restaurants near tourist attractions are more expensive than local restaurants. It is sadly true. As I compared several restaurants in Kyoto, local one was generally from 300 yen to 400 yen cheaper and offered much better food and tasted better than restaurants near tourist attractions. Travelers may think how come they know the restaurant famous for local but people who work in accommodation facility or convenient store will absolutely have their own recommendations.

Moreover, you may need to charge double price for accommodation on holidays of Japan and even for Friday. Hence, try to avoid on Japan's holiday. Those tips would be worthy to regular travelers and students who want to travel Japan. Do not hesitate to pack your bag because we never know when we die. Please, enjoy your travel with these advices.

By Cha Bo

A story makes your travel fun

I will introduce a temple which has an interesting story. The temple is called Kozanji and located at across Nishiohji-Shijyou. It looks like a typical Japanese temple but it is related to a popular belief in Japan.

It is said in Japan that children who died earlier than their parents go to “Sai no Kawara”. It is the riverside of “Sannzu no Kawa” which is a border of dead or alive. If you can cross the river, you were already dead and no longer belong to the real life. The opposite bank is beyond the grave.

At “Sai no kawara”, children have to plie stones on top of another and make a

tower in order to hold a memorial service for their parents. They should have done it when they were alive but since they are dead, they cannot do it anymore. That is why they ought to make a tower at the “Sai no kawara” for their parents.

Once they finish the duty of building memorial service, they will be permitted to cross the river. However, in fact, they can never accomplish the memorial service because the Demon always destroys it when the memorial service is almost completed. The dead children have to do the never-ending duty forever.

The region where the Kozanji is called Saiin and a river has run through the area before. They said that children were actually buried in the riverside a long time ago and people hold a memorial service for them to make a stone statue which is called “Jizou”. The Jizou is enshrined at the Kozanji and people usually pray for having a baby and the safety of children there.

Do you want to visit the Kozanji now? I think it is important to learn culture and history before the travel because you can understand the culture better and remember it for longer. And above all, you can have much more fun!

By Moe Hasegawa

Making Japanese Confectionery

These days, the number of foreigners who visit Kyoto is increasing. And almost all of them visit Japanese traditional temples and shrines. For example, Kiyomizu temple and Fushimiinari shrine are very popular tour spots. On the other hand, a new trend is coming up now. Can you guess what it is? Actually, it is getting popular to make Japanese confectionery. The other day, I went to a Japanese confectionery shop and experienced how to make it. In this essay, I will share my great experience with you

First of all, you will need to make a reservation before. It is like a lesson. It takes about an hour and costs about two thousands yen. (It depends on what you want to make.)

During the lesson: A Japanese confectionery craft man will teach you how to make Japanese confectionery. In that day, we made three kinds of sweets after all. (You can see them in the picture.)

It was very easy to make them on your own. Everyone can make them well because the teacher will explain the process step by step. After making the sweets, we could eat them at the kitchen and the teacher will serve you a cup of green tea. Eating Japanese confectionery with green tea is the best. When you visit Kyoto, not only can you visit temples and shrines, but you can also apply for this lesson. It will be a great experience for you.

By Kana Nogami



1.Hoshi-gashi (干菓子)
2.Persimmon shaped Jo-namagashi(柿の形の上生菓子)
3.Jo-namagashi with minced bean paste(そぼろ餡の上生菓子)

My Recommendations of Manga

Do you like to read manga? In addition, paperback and electronic book are sold in the market. Which do you prefer?

This time, I'll introduce Japanese manga to everyone to enjoy them. Of course, many people may have already read manga in order to learn language or to enjoy the fantasy world that doesn't come true in reality.

I'd like to recommend one of the sightseeing spots in Kyoto, Manga museum. There are many gathered masterpieces, for example, nostalgic ones, those of parent generation and so on. Once you would have had thought, "I want to read, but it is large burden when I buy all of them." You can visit



the Manga museum so you don't have to worry about that. If time permits, you can read as many as you like. You would get attracted by timeless classics. And, if you can understand foreign languages, why don't you try to read popular manga translated in English, German, and Chinese? (The picture on the left is a Japanese manga that has been translated into English)

And then, I would introduce a manga application which is free of charge. It's called "comico". I would like recommend this application to those who want to read manga easily. We can read colored manga which are serialized every day. You only need to install it or access the official website. The vertical scrolling style is the feature. You can continue reading to the bottom instead of turning pages. It may increase the popularity because the most attractive manga, RELIFE will be made into an animation.

Besides, I would like to introduce one manga from the application to people who are not interested in manga and get bored with stereotypical story. The name of the manga is "遠くの日には青く". It's a collection of short stories, although it's a serial sometimes. The manga challenges multi genre, for example fantasy, horror, comedy and so on. It keeps characters' words to a minimum in order to leave



interpretation to the readers. The beautiful illustrations give a clue in advance. You may create new thought sometimes by the influence of your feelings of that day.

There are often strong messages, which are posed to us behind heartwarming pictures. It is a deep story. Please read by all means if you get interested in.

— The sea looks blue although scooping water is clear. The sky looks blue although the air is clear. Even though today that I live is so much clear and I am clear now. —
(This sentence quoted from the manga)

By Mai Nishigaki

Autumn Color

There are many foreign people come to visit Kyoto for "autumn colors". It is well known that the best time to see autumn colors is the period from the middle of November to the first 10 days of December. Japanese call autumn colors "koyo". (紅葉) Today I want to introduce popular "koyo" spots in Kyoto.

✚ Eikando Zenrin-Ji Temple (永観堂)



Eikando locates in Sakyo-Ku. We can go there within 30 minutes from Kyoto station by bus. This temple is famous for autumn colors. During the season of autumn colors, each tree is illuminated at night. We can see the beautiful lightened-up autumn colors from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The lightened-up autumn colors are so beautiful and many foreigner visit Eikando to see the beauty that they cannot see in their countries.

In this picture, the surface of the lake reflects beautiful red leaves. Many visitors are attracted by this scene and here is best spot to take photos in Eikando.



✚ Genkouan (源光庵)



Genkouan has become another popular autumn colors spot recently. This temple located at the north of Daimonji Mountain and we can reach there within 40 minutes from Kyoto station by bus. Some TV programs and magazines had featured this temple for past few years. This temple is famous for having both shape of windows, a round window and a square window. People call the round window "window of enlightenment". This window describes heart of the Zen sect (禅宗) which also carried the meaning of space. On the other hand, people call the square window "window of hesitation". This window is symbol of human life and the shape of square means hardship of aging, illness and death. It is said that these windows were built for individuals to notice these concepts of life by looking at the windows. Although this picture was taken in autumn, we can see different landscape in different seasons as well.

In addition, this temple is famous for blood ceiling.(血天井) In 1600, Torii Mototada(鳥居元忠) who was a vassal of Tokugawa Ieyasu(徳川家康), was defeated in War of Fushimi castle. The floorboard that attached his trace of blood was being used as the ceiling of this temple to lament their death. These two interesting short stories are the reasons that make Genkouan popular now.

I have introduced two popular "koyo"(紅葉) spots in this article, but there are many more place you can see autumn colors in Kyoto. I think autumn is best season to visit Kyoto. How about trying to find out your original best "koyo" spot? We may also learn history or tradition of the temple while we enjoy seeing autumn colors.



By Chiaki Hirose

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