

Cheiron School 2012

Kyoto Tour

Date: September 27, 2012 (Thursday)

Schedule

08:30 Dep. SPring-8
↓ (via Sanyo & Chugoku Expressway)
10 min. rest-stop on the way to Kyoto
↓ (via Meishin Expressway)

10:50 English-speaking guides will get on the bus

11:20 Arr. Sanjusangen-do



The original **Sanjusangen-do** was built in 1164 at the request of the retired emperor Goshirakawa. The temple burned to the ground in 1249 but faithful copy was constructed in 1266. The temple's name refers to the 33(*sanju-san*) bays between the pillars of this long narrow building that houses 1001 statues of the 1000-armed Kannon (the Buddhist goddess of mercy). Visitors seem to keen to spot resemblances between friends or family members and any of the hundreds of images.

12:00 Dep. Sanjusangen-do

12:20 Arr. Kyoto Handicraft Center for lunch and shopping

This is a huge cooperative that sells, demonstrates and exhibit crafts. It is the best spot in town for buying Japanese souvenirs. Lunch buffet is served here.



14:00 Dep. Kyoto Handicraft Center

14:30 Arr. Kinkaku-ji



The famed **Golden Temple** is one of Japan's best known sights. The original building was constructed in 1397 as a retirement villa for Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu. His son converted it into a temple. In 1950 a young monk consummated his obsession with the temple by burning it into the ground. The monk's story was fictionalized in Mishima Yukio's *The Golden Pavilion*. In 1955 a full reconstruction was completed that exactly followed the original design, but the gold-foil covering was extended to the lower floor.

15:20 Dep. Kinkaku-ji

15:40 Arr. Ninna-ji



This temple was founded in 888, and the present temple buildings, including a five-story pagoda are from the 17th century. The Main Hall called Kondo had been used as the Ceremonial Hall at Kyoto Imperial Palace, and it was reused here when this temple was re-established in the 17th century. This temple was formerly called the Old Imperial Palace of Omuro as it served as a residence for the ex-emperor. The extensive grounds are full of cherry trees that bloom in early April.

16:20 Dep. Ninna-ji

16:45 Arr. Kyoto City Hall Area

Supper by yourself

18:15 Dep. Kyoto City Hall Area

↓ (via Meishin & Chugoku Expressway)

10 min. rest-stop on the way back

↓ (via Sanyo Expressway)

21:00 Arr. SPring-8

