The Cross Experience

Concierge Map

Concierge paper for walking in the city of Kyoto today.

UJI FROM CROSS HOTEL KYOTO

A Cooling Walk on the Uji Waterfront

Uji: A Journey Through a Thousand Years of Tea Culture

The Uji River has flowed through this ancient capital for millennia, embraced by mountains of deep green. Since the Heian period, this enchanting region has captivated visitors with its tea culture, nurtured in harmony with nature and thrives to this day. Stroll leisurely through landscapes steeped in history, and discover moments of tranquility over a fragrant cup of tea.

TEA SQUARE MORIHAN

Morihan, a historic tea house established in 1836. Enjoy a "Traditional Japanese and Modern styles meet" experience in their serene storehouse setting, with treats like matcha Mont Blanc and matcha ice cream.

Marukyu Koyamaen Main Plant

Upon approaching the factory, the rich aroma of tea grows delightfully stronger! Their premium matcha and sencha green tea—crafted with generations of expertise—make perfect souvenirs. The matcha sweets are popular with locals too.

A little trip from the heart of Uji

OGURA AREA

Kintetsu Kyoto Line

Ogura Station

Approximately 7 minutes by Kyoto Keihan Bus from JR Uji Station to Kintetsu Ogura Station

Café m-alie

A botanical café dedicated to wholesome, locally sourced ingredients. Their fresh fruit parfaits change with the seasons, offering something new to discover with each visit.

Nintendo Museum

©Nintendo

The official Nintendo Museum, where you can discover and experience the company's games and toys. With interactive exhibits and Hanafuda playing card workshops, visitors of all ages become absorbed and lose track of time. The museum also offers a wide variety of exclusive merchandise available nowhere else—making it a destination that delights with every visit.

*Entry requires advance reservations through a randomly selected drawing.

About 40 minutes to Keihan Uji Station with a short walk and train ride.

CROSS HOTEL KYOTO

Cross Hotel Kyoto is conveniently situated on Rybina Street, just one street south of the Kawaramachi Sanjo intersection. A minute's walk to the dining area of Pontocho Alley and the picturesque Takase River in Kiyamachi Street, and a 9-minute walk to the traditional streetscapes of the Gion precinct, it's the ideal location from which to explore the ancient capital of Kyoto.

Keihan Uji Line

Mimurodo Station

Historical Park of Tea & Uji Land CHAZUNA

Facility that includes a museum where you can learn about Uji tea and its history. You can also participate in a variety of experiences here.

JR Nara Line

Take a break with rich matcha soft serve!

Keihan Uji Station

Uji River

Blessed with abundant, fast-flowing waters, Uji River is the only river to take its water from Japan's largest lake, Lake Biwa.

The Tale of Genji Museum, UJI CITY

Immerse yourself in the world of the classical masterpiece "The Tale of Genji" with video, models and more. There's also an exhibit outlining the Uji chapters of the book.

Shortcut to Mimurotoji through residential streets. There's a monument to "The Mayfly" chapter of The Tale of Genji along the way.

The Tale of Genji Museum to Mimurotoji is a 15-minute walk, approx. 1,700 steps.

The shortcut path to Mimurotoji

World Heritage Site!

Tsuen

Founded at the foot of Uji Bridge in 1160, Tsuen is Uji's oldest tea house. The present building dates back to the 17th century. There's a great view of the river from the café.

Maple trees make a lush green tunnel in summer and a blaze of red in autumn.

Lots of greenery, especially near Ujigami Shrine

Sawarabi-no-michi Road

Ujigami Shrine

An ancient temple at the foot of Mt. Daikichi. A National Treasure, the main hall dates back to the 11th century and is the oldest extant shrine in Japan.

Daikichiyama Trail

A 20-minute walk, approx. 2,200 steps

A short hike up the 131-meter Daikichiyama Observatory (Mt. Buttobu)

Daikichiyama Viewpoint

The viewpoint is about 20 mins on foot via a trail from the north side of Ujigami Shrine and offers panoramic views of Uji River and Byodoin Temple. Highly recommended by locals!

It's like the Pure Land!

Mimurotoji Temple

This ancient temple was founded in the 8th century and is the tenth of 33 stops on the Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage. Famously associated with flowers, in summer over 200 lotuses bloom in the premises of the temple.

Kyogamo kitchen ZEN

A specialty shop where you can casually enjoy Kyoto's prized Kyo-gamo (Kyo-duck). Their Kyo-duck burger, loaded with Kujo green onions, is truly unforgettable!

JR Uji Station

Tea jar Postbox

Chawaka

Fine matcha makes the perfect gift!

Yamamoto Jinjiro

Sixth-generation tea farmers growing tencha (tea leaves ground to make matcha) according to the centuries-old honzu method of shading tea plants. The store is open Friday to Sunday and national holidays. During the harvest season (April–June), the shop may be temporarily closed.

Full of local flavor!

Osakaya Market

A retro arcade with 60 years of history, revitalized by a new generation. Enjoy coffee, chai, pizza, banh mi sandwiches and more at a range of specialty shops.

Statue of Murasaki Shikibu

Fresh's from the old bridge!

Uji Bridge

Reportedly first built in 646. Uji Bridge is one of the oldest bridges in Japan. The current structure was built in 1996.

Salon de Thé Consolateur

Enjoy a refreshing seasonal "Goldfish Bowl Soda" for afternoon tea.

Great river view!

Kunugi Teahouse

Try some matcha fondue, green tea soba noodles, or "dam curry"—curry and rice made to look like Amagase Dam!

A historical street with old Uji-cha shops and the scent of green tea in the air.

The approach to Byodoin

Tachibana Bridge

Crags over the bridge to the island. It's a popular place for a stroll.

Tachibana-jima Island

Pottery experiences available

Asahiyaki Shop & Gallery

Pottery works founded 400 years ago by Kobori Enshū. Elegant teaware for tea ceremonies and everyday use made from Uji clay.

Fukujuen Ujicha Kobo

Asagiri Bridge

Asagiri-dori Street

UJIGAMI SHRINE AREA

Koshoji Temple

Training monastery of the Soto school of Zen Buddhism founded by priest Dōgen Zenji. Catch some welcome shade under the maples lining the approach. Meditation experiences offered.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CONCIERGE

Uji, renowned as one of Japan's finest tea regions, has captured international attention as a must-visit destination. You'll find not only exquisite tea to savor but also enriching cultural experiences, while the neighboring Ogura district welcomes the new Nintendo Museum. Enveloped by nature and centuries of history, Uji presents a refreshingly different character from Kyoto's city center. We invite you to explore and find your own treasured corner of this captivating area!

Ujibashi Shopping Street

Nakamura Tokichi Honten

The distinctive façade of this tea shop was part of the original tea merchant's residence built in the late 1800s. Popular dishes at the café include the Maruto Parfait served in bamboo and the Fresh Tea Jelly.

Kyoudon Miyoshiya

Kyoto-style udon noodles that are a favorite with locals. The tempura rice balls are also popular. Takeout available.

Showen Kumihimo

Based in Uji, Kyoto, this workshop carries on the traditional craft of kumihimo braiding. Delicately woven cords, crafted with precision and care, are popular both as souvenirs and for everyday use.

See the birds of summer cormorant fishing!

Cormorant House

Tono-shima Island

Kisen Bridge

13-storied Stone Pagoda

An important Cultural Property, this 13th-century pagoda is 15 meters tall!

A lovely walking path along the left bank with inns and eateries along the way.

Ajirogi-no-michi Road

World Heritage Site!

BYŌDŌIN AREA

Byodoin Temple

Byōdōin was founded in 1052. Pictured on the 10 yen coin, the magnificent Phoenix Hall (a National Treasure) is the embodiment of the Buddhist paradise dreamed of by people seeking salvation at that time. The building gives the impression of a palace floating above the pond like a scene of the Buddhist Pure Land.

Tatsumiya

Restaurant specializing in Kyoto-style dishes containing matcha. Dinner cruises to see the cormorant fishing are offered in summer.

Agata-dori Street

Horii Shichimeien

The retail outlet of Okunoyama Tea Garden, one of a small number of plantations endorsed by Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu some 600 years ago. The plantation is a 7-minute walk from the shop. Search online for details.

Agata Shrine

About Uji

A town seeped in dynastic culture and the scent of tea

Uji initially developed as a strategic point on ancient traffic routes. With the establishment of the capital in Kyoto at the end of the 8th century, the Heian nobles, attracted to Uji's scenic beauty, began to build vacation villas here. The custom of cormorant fishing that lights up the night skies each summer goes back to this era. Uji is also known as the setting for the final chapters of Murasaki Shikibu's classic work, The Tale of Genji.

Uji is synonymous with the fine quality, fragrant green tea known as Uji-cha. Tea was first cultivated here in the 13th century, and the local product flourished and gained renown thanks to a combination of favorable environmental conditions and the patronage of Muromachi and Edo shogunates. The matcha, sencha and gyokuro varieties of tea drunk throughout Japan today are produced according to methods developed in Uji.

Byōdōin Highlights

Originally a holiday villa, Byodoin was established in the 11th century by powerful court noble Fujiwara no Yorimichi who procured the property from his father, Michinaga, and converted it into a temple. Phoenix Hall was completed a year later with the central hall housing an image of Amida Nyorai (Amitabha Buddha) created by Jōchō, the greatest Buddhist sculptor of the time, and the temple prospered. Miraculously, we can see the very same statue and building today. The hall is open to the public, so don't miss the chance to experience the splendor of Heian dynastic culture.

View historical temple treasures up close in the museum. The original pair of phoenixes that stood atop the roof of Phoenix Hall in the 11th century are a must-see.

The principal image of Amida Nyorai, a National Treasure, is enshrined here. The building is named for the pair of phoenixes that grace the roof and its resemblance to a phoenix with outstretched wings. The majestic world inside the hall is breathtaking!

Get your goshuin stamp here

Principal Image of Amida Nyorai (National Treasure)

Some dance, some play music—each one is different!

Praying Bodhisattva on Clouds (National Treasures)

Fifty-two Bodhisattva statues riding on clouds. About half adorn the walls of Phoenix Hall and the remainder are kept at Hōshō-kan Museum.

Scan the QR code for more information!

Cultural Experiences in Uji

Fukujuen Ujicha Kobo

Fukujuen Ujicha Kobo offers a variety of tea-related experiences such as making matcha on a stone mortar, hōjicha (roasted green tea)-making, and tea bowl-making.

CHAZUNA

A hands-on cultural center where you can enjoy learning about Uji's thousand-year tea heritage. Experience not only grinding Matcha by yourself but also Wagashi (Japanese sweets) making, Kyoto candy crafting, hand-formed Kyo-yaki pottery, tea canister creation, and more. Tea-picking experiences are also available in mid-April.

Incense Kitchen

Join one of Incense Kitchen's workshops and make your own matcha incense in Japanese sweet molds. Held irregularly at Eshin-in Temple and other locations.

Chawaka Kyoto Uji

Experience the Chawaka workshop, where you engage all five senses through fragrance, color, and texture. Perfect for creating lasting travel memories.

Showen Kumihimo

Try your hand at braiding a beautiful silk cord at Showen Kumihimo. Staff will make your cord into a strap or a bracelet.

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