The Cross Experience

Concierge Map

Concierge paper for walking in the city of Kyoto today.

SAGA ARASHIYAMA FROM CROSS HOTEL KYOTO

Enjoy the Journey! Saga Arashiyama

The picturesque landscape of Saga Arashiyama once flourished as an area where aristocrats built their holiday villas in the Heian period. Home to a number of temples and shrines, you may delve into local history, enjoy specialty dishes such as Saga tofu and soba noodles, or soak up the beautiful scenery from temple precincts. Stretch your legs a bit further and you will find yourself in a tranquil landscape of the Saga area as if you have traveled back in time.
Join us at Saga Arashiyama, a place with new discoveries every time you visit!

Restaurant with delicious Tofu

Great place for Soba noodles

A spot a stunning view

Oku Saga Area
(Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings)

Ayuchaya Hiranoya
A tea shop with 400 years of history. Their specialty "Shinko Dango" is homemade with rice flour dough, handtwisted to represent the trail up Mt. Atago.

A teahouse that feels like one is back in time. Sipping matcha while the view of Gion Yasaka Jinja, Atagoyama, a shrine which enshrines the god of fire.

Kyoto City Saga Toriimoto Town Preservation Center
Materials of the Toriimoto area, designated as one of Japan's Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings, are available for free. There are detailed diorama models of the townscape and of the thatched-roof house.

Ayu-no-Yado Tsutaya
A sweetfish restaurant of 400 years since the Edo period. Also runs a teahouse where you can enjoy their "Matcha Set" with matcha tea and two pieces of sakura mochi.

Adashino Nenbutsu-ji Temple
A Jodo sect temple known for its "Saiin no Kawara". The approximately 8,000 stone pagodas and Buddhas were grave markers scattered across the fields and mountains in this area, gathered to this temple in the Meiji Period with help from local residents.

Adashino
A restaurant and cafe inside a renovated Kyo-machiya townhouse from some 150 years ago. Customer favorites include zosui rice soup, a yudofu (tofu hot pot) set, and their specialty beer.

Chikusen
A Kyoto cuisine restaurant that serves yudofu prepared with Saga tofu. Their special "Goma Tofu" is excellent.

Nison-in Temple
This Tendai sect temple enshrines two Buddhist sculptures, Shaka Nyorai and Amida Nyorai. In addition to these two Important Cultural Properties, many of the temple's valuables are designated as Kyoto's cultural properties.

Hyakunin Isshu Place of Compilation Stone monument

Hyakunin Isshu no Sato Area

Jojakko-ji Temple
A Nichiren sect temple located in Mt. Ogura, a mountain widely known from Hyakunin Isshu (One Hundred Poems by One Hundred Poets). It is told that there was a cottage called Shiguretei that belonged to Fujiwara no Teika, and within the precincts is a Kasenshi (Immortal Poets' Shrine) dedicated to Teika with his statue inside.

The temple grounds offer a view of Kyoto's Sagano district. The thatched-roof Shin'yoden is rare to see.

Ogura Pond

Mikami Shrine
The only shrine in Japan that enshrines the originator of hairdressing, and is visited by a faithful community of barbers and hairdressers. Within the precincts, there are wooden tablets with wishes written on them by visitors with concerns about their hair.

Amulets are in the shape of scissors and combs, and you can also give your hair as an offering.

Mt. Ogura

Okochi sanso Gareden
A garden created by classic actor Okochi Denjiro who spent 30 years landscaping. Enjoy a beautiful view of Kyoto city in the peaceful atmosphere.

Beautiful Japanese Garden!

Torokko Arashiyama Station

Nonomiya Shrine
A shrine with a Black Torii Gate, believed to be the oldest style of torii in Japan. Famously mentioned in The Tale of Genji, the shrine is a popular destination for its blessings that help you with matchmaking and having children.

The "carpet moss" believed to depict Arashiyama is a must-see

Bamboo forest
An approximately 400-meter path from Nonomiya Shrine to the North Gate of Tenryu-ji Temple, then to the Okochi Sanso villa. A stroll in the early morning is recommended since the path is crowded during the day.

Early morning is the best timing for the photo shooting!

Tenryu-ji Temple
Head temple of the Tenryu-ji school of the Rinzai sect. The famous Sogenchi Teien is a Chisen Kaiyu-shiki garden (garden to stroll around a pond), where visitors may enjoy some vegetarian Buddhist cuisine at "Shigetsu" inside the Ryumontei building.

The cloud dragon painted on the Dharma Hall's ceiling is worth seeing!

JR Saga-Arashiyama Station

Rakushisha
Surrounded by about 40 varieties of seasonal flowers, the soan-style hut once belonged to Mukai Kyorai, a disciple of haiku master Matsuo Basho. There is a box where visitors can submit their own poem, of which the best piece may be published on their quarterly journal.

Write a poem about your Kyoto trip in a calming wabi-sabi atmosphere

Sanshi Suimei Area

Arashiyama Park Kameyama Area
A hilly area that occupies the southeastern side of Mt. Ogura with an open space, resting area, observatory and playground. The western side offers a stunning view of the Hozukyo Gorge.

Saga Arashiyama Museum of Arts and Culture
A museum where you can learn about Hyakunin Isshu and Japanese paintings. The permanent exhibition offers an easy-to-understand explanation from the origin of Ogura Hyakunin Isshu to modern-day competitive karuta.

Yudofu Restaurant "Sagano"
Dishes are prepared with select Kyoto ingredients and tofu. Their yudofu is exceptional especially when served inside the traditional sukiya-style architecture that blends well with the surrounding landscape.

Bread,Espresso and Arashiyama.
A cafe nestled inside a 210-year-old private house designated as a cultural asset of Kyoto Prefecture. The location has two buildings, one for their cafe, Espresso, and the other for their bakery and shop, Bread.

Fukuda Art Museum
Housing a collection of approximately 2,000 works of Japanese painters from the Edo period to modern times, the cafe inside the museum offers a beautiful view of the garden and the Togetsu-kyo Bridge.

Katsura River

Does the Japanese Liking for Rankings Stem from Hyakunin Isshu?

Mt. Ogura in the Saga district is famously known as the birthplace of Ogura Hyakunin Isshu by Fujiwara no Teika. It is an anthology of a 100 select waka poems by 100 different poets. In other words, the compilation is a Fujiwara no Teika version of top 100 waka poems. This style of editing and compiling had an effect on later generations, resulting in the creation of various Hyakunin Isshu including "Buke Hyakunin Isshu" by 100 warriors and "Retsujo Hyakunin Isshu" by 100 exemplary women. People in Japan are known to like rankings of different kinds, and this might be the reason why.

Sagano Area

Yudofu Takemura
A yudofu specialty restaurant where you can enjoy their "Goma (sesame) Tofu" and "Yuzu-gama Tofu" made with the same recipe that has been passed down for 50 years.

Ine Kyoto Arashiyama
A Saga tofu specialty restaurant. Offers "Vegetarian Gozen" for vegetarians. Annexed to the restaurant is a sakura mochi and warabi mochi specialty cafe.

eX cafe Kyoto Arashiyama
Modern Japanese-style cafe that serves Japanese sweets. Order their popular "Hokuhoku, Odango Set" and cook your mini mochi skewers on a shichirin charcoal grill.

Kyo Sagano Chikujian Main Branch
The exquisite "Nama Warabi-mochi" can only be purchased in the store. The raw Japanese confection made from bracken starch has a soft texture and an elegant sweetness that matches perfectly with finely grounded kinako.

Randen Arashiyama Station

Soba Shiki
Soba noodles are handmade by experts with love and the most delicious in-season buckwheat selected from across the country. Also offers a variety of creative soba dishes.

KUMONOCHA
A popular stylish cafe currently expanding in Kyoto with several locations in the city. The cloud-shaped cake "Kumo no Mousse" gives a calming effect just by looking at it.

Tofu Dishes Matsugae
An affiliated restaurant of Arashiyama Yoshimura in the same premises. Offers savory dishes and sweets including soba tofu, matcha tofu, and yuba made with homemade soymilk.

Halal meal is available!

Yosiya-Main Street Shop
Tempura cooked with minced fish and seasonal Kyoto ingredients are sold at the storefront. Their specialty "Yuba Cheese" is an absolute delight. Meals are also available inside.

Marun
A hard-to-resist shop full of cute and colorful sweets and little items. With various products including Kyoto sake, it is a perfect place to find some gifts.

Arashiyama

Togetsu-kyou Bridge

cafe de emu
A cafe inside Nakanoshima Park where they offer hot dogs and Japanese sweets such as mitarashi dango with sweet soy sauce, warabi (bracken) mochi and zenzai (sweet adzuki bean soup with mochi). Shaved ice are offered all year round.

Togakushi
A handmade soba restaurant near the Togetsu-kyo Bridge. Their wide range of set menus are also tasty!

Originally owned by the Matsudaira family, the building was a place where Rikan, Suichi, Kitaoji Rosanjin and Yokoyama Taikan gathered.

Japanese painter Kawamura Manshu

Arashiyama Yoshimura
This is the famous Kyoto-based soba restaurant group Yoshimura's main restaurant! The window seats on the 2nd floor offers a scenic view of the Togetsu-kyo Bridge to go with your meal. Don't miss the signage written "Busho" by Kitaoji Rosanjin.

Arashiyama Area

Arashiyama Monkey Park
A theme park where visitors can hang around with wild Japanese macaques. Enjoy a 20-minute hike inside the park, and you will be greeted with a scenic view of Kyoto city from the resting area on the hilltop.

Mt. Iwata

Mt. Arashi

Also known for "Jusan Mairi" where 13-year-old children pay a visit to the temple for wisdom and good fortune

Horin-ji Temple
A renowned temple with a long history, mentioned in "Makura no Soshi (The Pillow Book)" as one of Kyoto's major temples. The panoramic view of the Togetsu-kyo Bridge from the spacious "Butai (stage)" observatory deck is a must-see.

The practical Micro SD-type amulet is a popular item!

Denden-gu Shrine
Enshrines a guardian god of electricity and radio waves inside Horin-ji Temple.

Cross Hotel Kyoto
Cross Hotel Kyoto is conveniently situated just south of Kawaramachi Sanjo on Ryōma Street, with the Kawaramachi Street shopping district on its west side and the picturesque Takase River and Kiyamachi Street on its east side. Close to the dining establishments of Pontocho Alley and only 9-minutes' walk to the historical Gion precinct, it's the ideal location from which to explore the ancient capital of Kyoto.

By train from Cross Hotel Kyoto
Take the Tozai Subway Line
From "Kyoto Shiyakusho-mae" to "Uzumasa Tenjingawa"
Then take the Keifuku Electric Railroad
From "Randen Tenjingawa" to "Arashiyama"
Approx. 35 min.

By bus from Cross Hotel Kyoto
Take the Kyoto City Bus #11
From "Kawaramachi Sanjo" to "Arashiyama"
Approx. 50 min.

Arashiyama Nomura
Ingredients are carefully chosen from across Japan! Despite being a Japanese sweets cafe, they also offer Kyoto-style savory pancakes called "Negiyaki" filled with Kujo green onions and sweet beef soboro.

Arashiyama Park Nakanoshima Area
A sandbank in the Katsura River. Bustling with visitors, the riverbank offers a full view of the Togetsu-kyo Bridge with Mt. Ogura in the background.

The Secret of Soft but Slightly Firm Saga Tofu

Saga tofu is one of the popular local specialties of Kyoto. Unique for having both qualities of kinu (silken) and momen (firm) tofu, Saga tofu was first created after the war. It was a time when there was not enough nigari (bittern) to make tofu, and people used "sumashiko (calcium sulfate)" which was used in the Chinese method of making tofu. It is believed that this sumashiko is what makes its smooth texture compared to regular tofu that is made with nigari. Make sure to enjoy some delicious Saga tofu while you are in Kyoto!

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