



HeianJingu shirine

hosted by Former shrine priest and garden expert

Period
Jan. 01, 2024 to Dec. 30, 2024 (Reservation required)
Place: the heart of Kyoto
Language: Japanese
Access : 15 minutes drive from Kyoto Station
Minimum number of participant 1 person
Available all the year
Time required : 150 minutes
Price : / Group
[Not Included in the price]
Transportation, Interpretation, Eating and drinking

- [High lights]
- Enjoy the garden with its seasonal highlights
 - Visit to a normally closed-to-the-public building that was part of the Imperial Palace
 - Observe Japanese native species and other species of the waterside that are now rare and precious.

Located in the museum-heavy Okazaki area and built for the city's 1,100th anniversary, Heian Jingū is a new shrine as far as Kyoto goes. A replica of a famous Heian Period structure, its architecture has a distinctive Chinese influence noticeable throughout. Visitors enter through the grand Ōtenmon Gate into the outer sanctuary, a sprawling open space surrounded by look-out towers with a large ritual hall directly ahead. Heian Shrine's Shin'en Garden, which consists of four distinct sections, is particularly beautiful and famous for its cherry blossoms in spring and irises in summer. The torii gate leading up to the Heian Shrine is actually one of the largest in the country, towering overhead at a height of about 24 meters. Heian Shrine is host to the grand Festival of Ages in October as well as many others throughout the year.



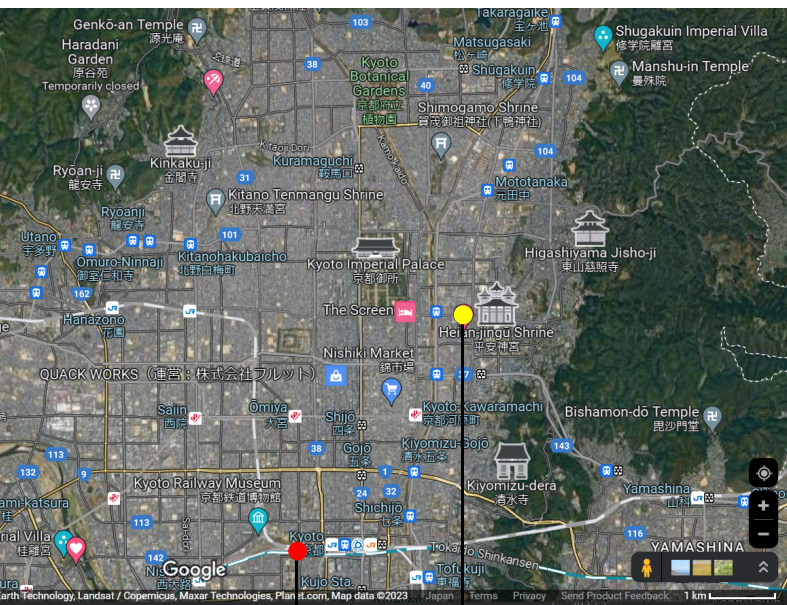
this building was completed in 1913 and is a relocated version of the Kyoto Exposition Hall, which was located in the Kyoto Imperial Palace. The original tiled roof was replaced by a cypress bark roof in 1940 for landscape reasons. The sliding door paintings are by Mochizuki Gyokkei, a famous Japanese painter active in the 19th century, and each room is decorated with cranes, pine trees, bamboo, and plum blossoms on a gold background.



After the experience, you can enjoy afternoon tea with a view of the garden. Seat reservations are available. However, there are days when it is not open.

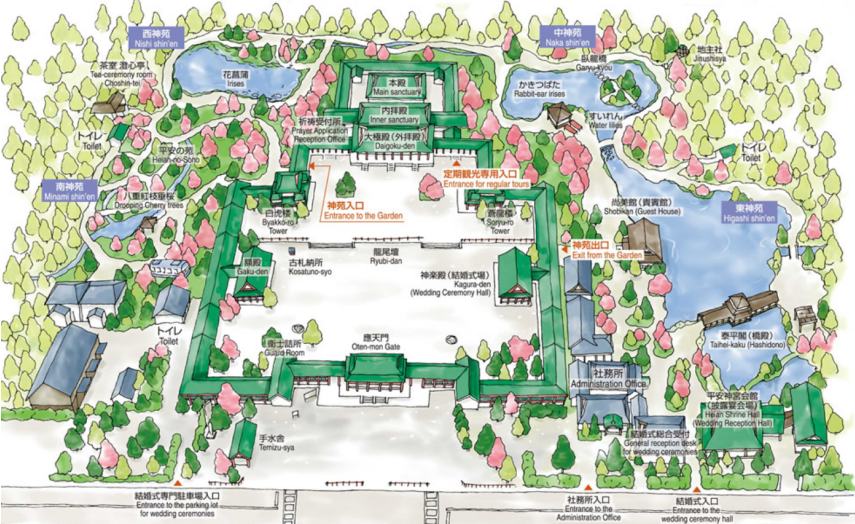
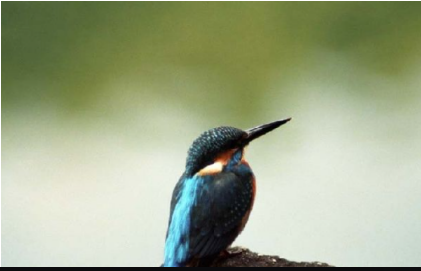


A relatively new shrine, Heian Shrine came to be as a partial reconstruction of the original Heian capital's palace done at a 5/8 scale for the 1895 Industrial Exhibition Fair that happened to also be the 1,100th anniversary of Kyoto's founding as the capital. Though the idea was to build the shrine on the site of the original palace, not enough land could be procured for the project, and the location was changed to the Okazaki area. The shrine was constructed based on designs by the famous architectural historian Itô Chūta (1867–1954). Though the exhibition complex was removed after the end of the fair, the shrine was still maintained and is dedicated to Emperor Kanmu, the 50th Emperor of Japan who oversaw the establishment of Kyoto in 794. Later Emperor Komei, the last Emperor to rule from Kyoto before the capital was moved to Tokyo, was also enshrined in Heian Shrine in 1940. Despite the main sanctuary burning down in a fire set in 1976, the shrine was rebuilt three years later and appears rather pristine to this day. Because the shrine is a replica of the Chōdō-in (Great Hall of State), the main administrative building of the Heian capital, its architecture sets it apart from shrines built in or modeled on later styles of construction, and has a distinctive Chinese influence noticeable throughout.



Kyoto Station

Heianjingu Shrine



The garden boasts an area of 33,000 square meters. The beauty of the human-created garden goes without saying, but even though the garden was created only a little over 100 years ago, it is still alive with a variety of natural life in its vast natural setting. All of the plants in the garden were planted after 1895, when the garden was founded, and the ponds, which make up one-fourth of the garden, are home to a wide variety of living creatures. The water in the pond is drawn from the Lake Biwa Sosui, and freshwater fish and shellfish, species directly descended from Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan, have been introduced into the pond, thus preserving the ecosystem of Lake Biwa, which was in the process of being lost. Many native species have been confirmed, and the pond has attracted so much attention that it has been nicknamed "mini Lake Biwa."



Option;
The garden at Heian Shrine is the work of Jihei Ogawa, a gardener considered a pioneer of modern Japanese gardens. There are many prominent gardens by Jihei Ogawa throughout Japan. Today, the Ogawa family continues to create gardens from the 18th century to the present. We can arrange for the current owner, Mr. Ogawa, to give a guided tour of the garden upon request.