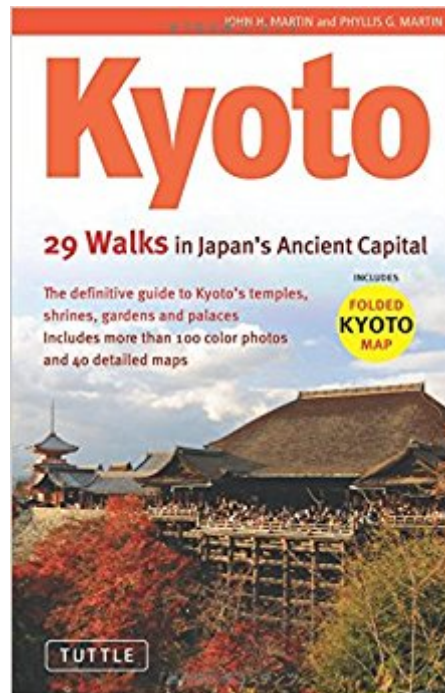




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Kyoto, 29 Walks In Japan's Ancient Capital: .



Synopsis

The only Japan travel guide you'll need for getting around Kyoto! Everything you need is in this one convenient package—including extensive area maps! Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital and modern-day center of tourism and traditional culture, is one of the world's most beautiful and historic cities. Founded nearly 1,300 years ago and undamaged by the war, Kyoto today is the home of over 1,600 Buddhist temples, 400 Shinto shrines, countless national treasures and 17 World Heritage sites, including the famed Golden Pavilion, Nijo Castle and Kiyomizu Temple. To experience the essence of Kyoto, you must walk its avenues and streets, its alleys and byways. Only in this way can you appreciate the true spirit of the place—its quiet lanes and bustling main thoroughfares, and the juxtaposition of traditional and modern houses and shops, serene gardens and holy temples and shrines. This Kyoto travel guide presents 29 easy-to-follow walking tours through Kyoto's history, its many unique districts and scenic areas full of charm and character. You'll discover not only the most renowned sites, such as the Silver Pavilion, the rock garden at Ryoan-ji Temple and the garden of the Heian Shrine, but also little-known areas off the beaten track. Much more than a guidebook, this volume tells the historical and cultural story of Kyoto's great monuments. The colorful tales, fascinating facts, larger-than-life characters and grand events that shaped the city and Japan at large will enthrall every reader. This updated, greatly expanded guide features over 100 color photos, full-color maps that trace each route and detailed diagrams of many individual sites.

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Customer Reviews

"What distinguishes this title from many others purporting to be the last word on the subject is its highly detailed content, reflecting a rare cultural depth and appreciation of subject."

•Stephen Mansfield, The Japan Times"The book that out-templates all the rest; the essence of Kyoto"
•Kansai Time Out"More than 100 color photos and 40 full-color guide maps and diagrams of individual sites make this an indispensable guide. Each walk comes with a huge amount of detail and background information. The beauty of the photos makes this almost coffee-table book like in its quality. Yet, it is small enough to carry around."
•Japan Visitor blog

John H. Martin was a professor of Chinese and Japanese Civilization at the University of Richmond and taught courses in Japanese history, religion and culture at several colleges in New York State. Dr. Martin and his wife, Phyllis G. Martin, have been directors of museums in New York and have traveled extensively in Japan and elsewhere.

I can't believe why other readers did not like this book. I used it for a 6-day trip to Kyoto and this was by far one of the best guide books I have ever used (and I have traveled a lot). Unlike the regular Lonely Planet, Frommer's, and Fodor's, which just give tons of laundry lists of attractions, where to stay, where to eat, etc. without any organization, this book give you beautiful itineraries of how can you spend half a day in different parts of Kyoto. it suggests different attractions that you can visit based on your tastes, along with small gems that the big guidebooks are completely unaware of. Without this book, it would have been much more difficult for me to figure out how to spend my time in Kyoto. Now I just need to select a part of Kyoto and then select an itinerary that I think I'll enjoy the most. Someone criticized that this book has too much information for a week-long traveler but I very much disagree. I thought it was perfect for my 6-day trip, and I enjoyed Kyoto so much because this book helped organize my tour perfectly, that I plan to take another week long trip to Kyoto later this year. Overall, DO NOT GO TO KYOTO WITHOUT THIS BOOK - you'll be missing out big time!

I am sure this book has a lot of information, but it is way too dense and heavy to be used as an effective on the go travel guide. The text size will be almost illegible for anyone over 45 without glasses as the text size is tiny, and the spacing is very tight (see photo). Forget trying to read up on the next walk at night. The index is useless as it does not cover everything in the book. (375 page

book with a 4 page index). In my opinion this book needs a good editor and would be more effective if it could be broken apart so you could take each "walk" out separately and not carry the whole book, like a collection of notebook sized pamphlets where the cover of each pamphlet was the map of the walk. Anyways...that is my two cents.

I just came back from Japan and used this book extensively during 6 days in Kyoto. The historical background included in the suggested walks is superb and enriched my trip. The directions are practical and excellent, even though the book was published several years ago, because Kyoto doesn't change much, thank heavens. I used the book in conjunction with Google Maps, though, because it made things even easier to have micro-directions. I don't speak Japanese. The book is excellent even for field trips like Arashiyama, Fushimi Inari, and the imperial garden at Katsura. Trust me, it is worth the slightly heavy weight. I feel like a relative authority on Kyoto's history after becoming intimate with this book, and I look forward to using it again someday. This was my third trip to Kyoto, but the first one that delved beneath the surface. It was great to have suggestions for logical destinations all in one geographic area. Kudos to the authors.

Kyoto: 29 Walks in Japan's Ancient Capital should not be mistaken as a "map" book. This guide directs travelers to fascinating sites and provides maps, of course, and suggestions. Its real value, though, is as an in-depth reference. To first time visitors, Kyoto appears inaccessible and hopelessly complex. This fine book lets Kyoto's mystery and history shine forth like a brilliant jewel.

There is probably no better guide book for the independent traveller. This will take you deeply into Kyoto and environs. Excellent, in depth history, photos, maps. It is an invaluable book. I'd never go to Kyoto again without it!

This book reads like a history book. It's heavy. I left it behind in Japan.

This is easily my favorite Kyoto travel book I've read. If you want to experience Kyoto the "best" way possible get some comfortable shoes, this book and several days to experience my favorite city in Japan.

I loved the walks and it was helpful to know so much about the shops and markets along the routes.

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