



AMAN
KYOTO



Experiences at Aman Kyoto

What makes a hotel is more than mere rooms and walls, but the experience outside, its connection to its environment and its deep-rooted links to local culture. As with all Aman hotels, Aman Kyoto's immersive activities are all part of how we hope to connect you the world beyond your window.

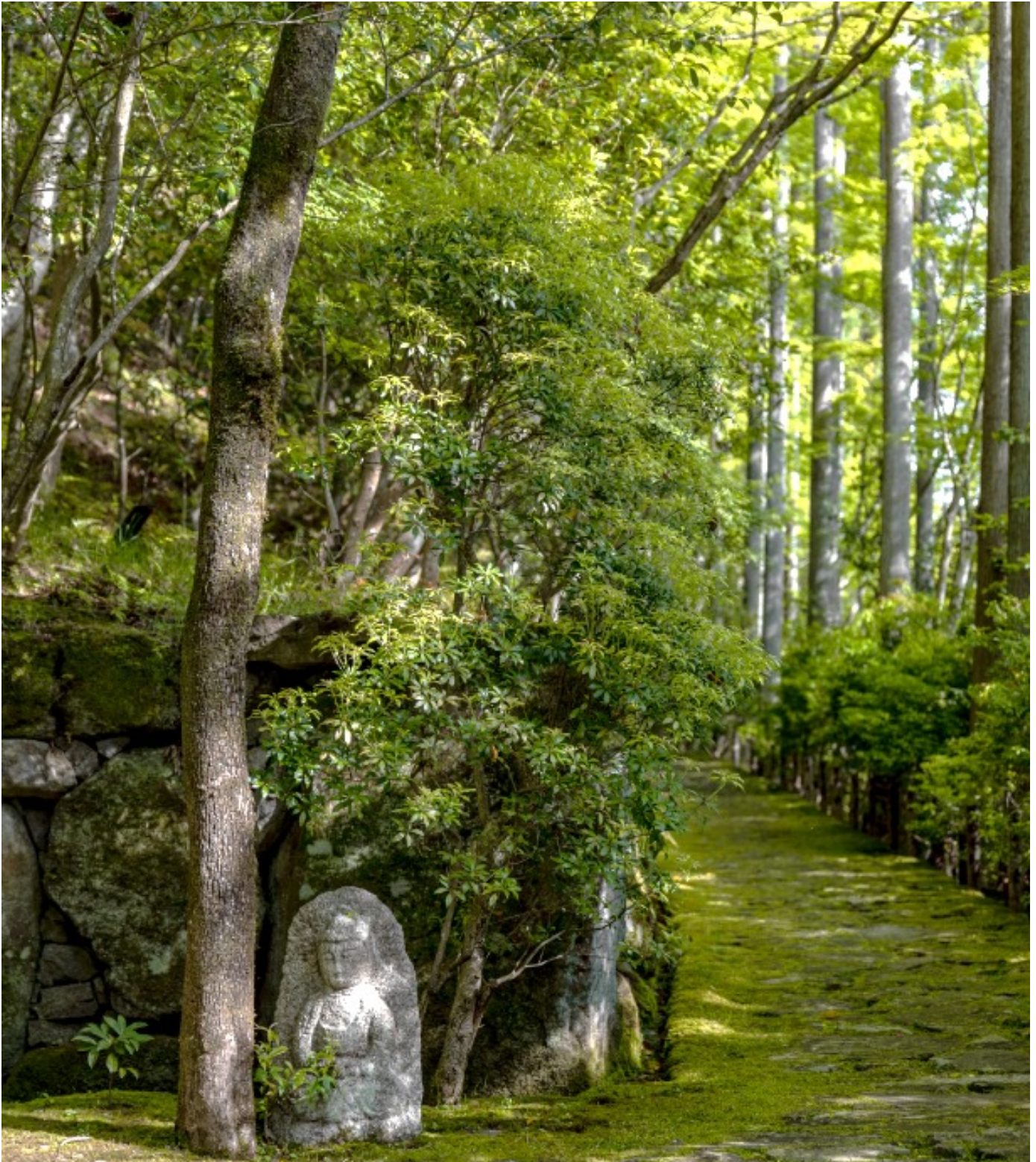
On our doorstep is Japan's cultural capital – home to 17 Unesco sites – as well as the chance to try forest bathing in our immediate secret-garden-like setting, sketching with a local artist, a traditional tea ceremony and even a private temple experience.

Some require planning in advance, so please discuss your interests with our team to allow us to assist with arrangements. Since activities will be reserved exclusively for you, we kindly ask for advance notice.

We look forward to making your stay memorable.

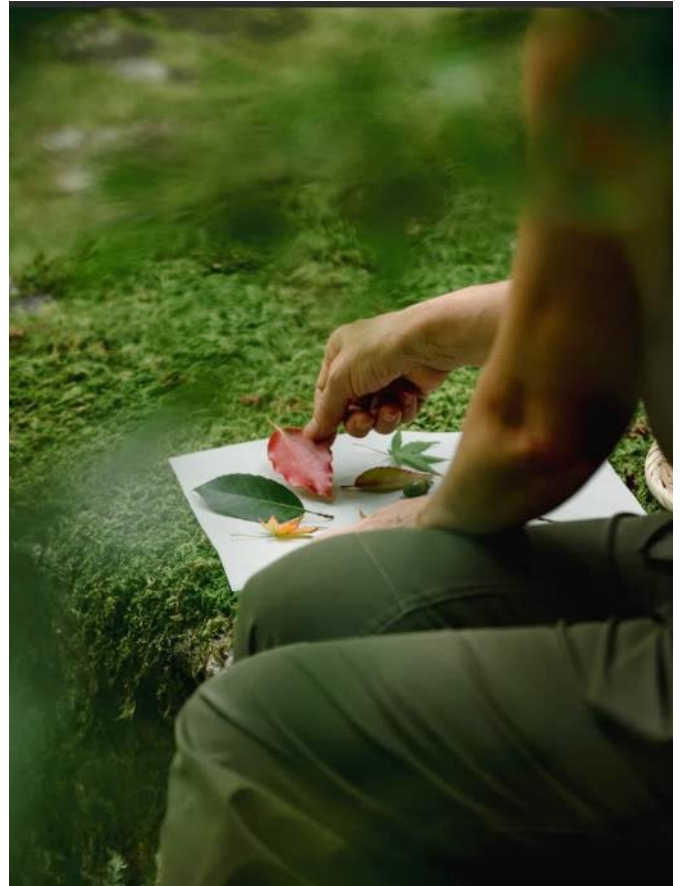
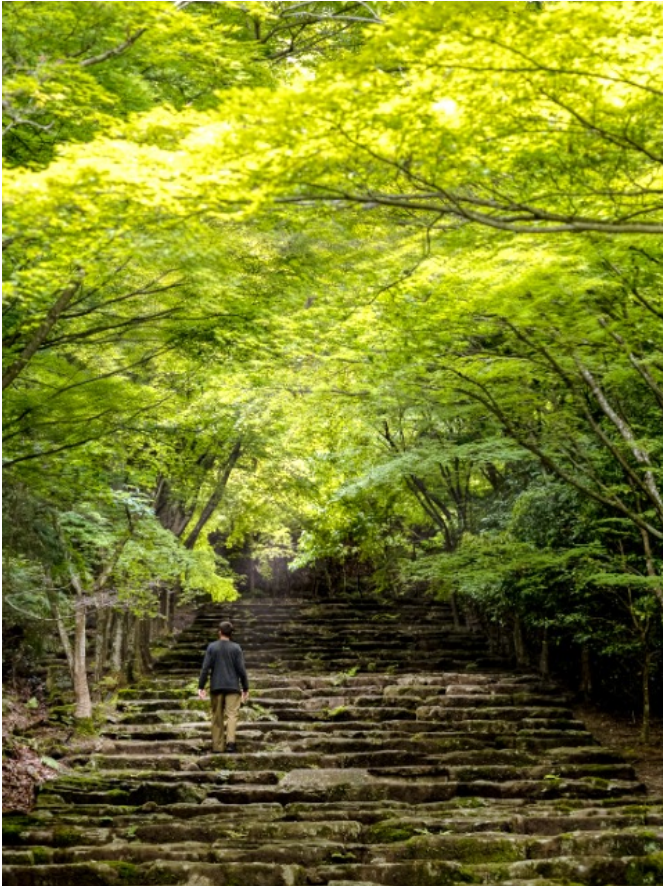
Warm regards,

Your Aman Kyoto family



Activities and Experiences

Set in a secret garden at the heart of an forest, Aman Kyoto lies at the foot of Mount Hidari Daimonji, a stone's throw from Kyoto's golden Kinkaku-ji temple and its 16 other Unesco World Heritage Sites. An ideal base for exploring the ancient capital's many attractions, Aman Kyoto is nonetheless a secluded world apart, where winding footpaths link tranquil forest glades ripe for exploration. Aman Kyoto has crafted a range of unique experiences revealing the property's natural beauty and providing insight into Japan's rich cultural heritage. Fun for the whole family, these activities can be tailored to individual preferences.



Complimentary Garden Experience

Secret Garden Exploring

Discover the most beguiling corners of our enchanted forest on a guided walk. As the seasons change, so too does our garden, ensuring that no two walks are ever the same.

The walk takes about 30-60 minutes. Start between 8.30am to 4pm. Possibly a group experience with other guests.

Origami Art

Be inspired by the natural objects and creatures in our garden and learn a traditional Japanese art form. Origami involves folding paper into three-dimensional shapes such as flowers and birds – even hopping frogs.

The activity takes about 30-60 minutes. Start between 9.30am to 3pm.

Leaf and Acorn in the Secret Garden

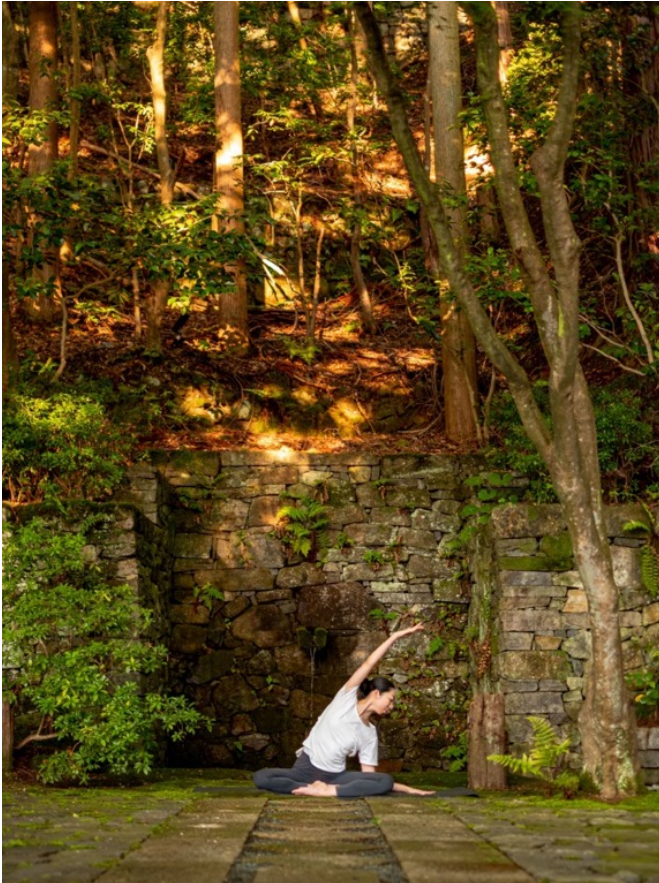
There are so many unique leaves and acorns in our beautiful garden. Find your favourites then make original crafts with coloured paper provided.

The activity takes about 60 minutes. Start between 9.30am to 3pm.

Find my Friend

Calling all little detectives: a froggy friend of ours is missing and we're rather worried... Help us find him with hints scattered around the area.

The activity takes about 40-60 minutes in the garden. Start between 9.30am to 3pm.



Complimentary Experience

Morning Yoga

Breathe in the forest air and let your heart and mind become light. Start your day with morning yoga sessions to ground and reinvigorate yourself, surrounded by the tranquil beauty of nature.

The activity takes about 60 minutes.

Every Tuesday and Friday. Start from 7.30am. A group experience with other guests.

Matcha Green Tea Making and Tasting

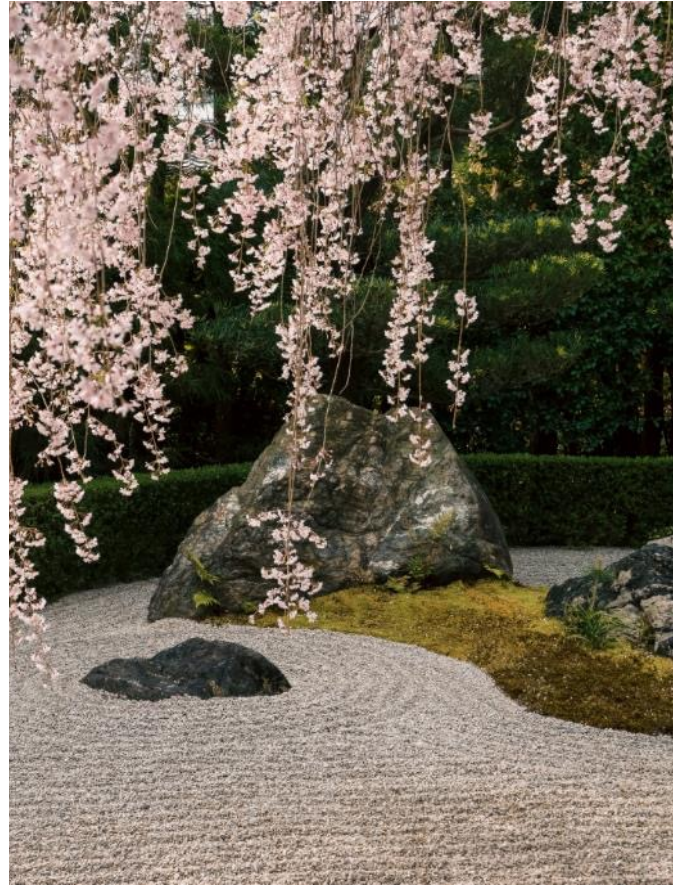
From ancient times, Matcha, cultivated in the tea fields of Kyoto renowned for its excellence, has flourished and become beloved. Join us at The Living Pavilion for daily Kanmi teatime, where you can indulge in delightful sweets and personally experience the art of preparing and savoring Matcha.

Available daily between 2pm and 5pm.

Rental Bikes

Starting from Aman Kyoto's secret garden, explore the ancient city at your leisurely pace. The Aman Kyoto team is also happy to suggest recommended routes based on your preferences. Cross bikes are available as complimentary up to 6 hours.

Available between 8am and 6pm.



Ancient City by Bicycle

Guided Cycling Tour

Venture beyond our garden on a personalised bicycle or e-bike tour and take in the history and culture of this ancient capital. Let us know your interests and we will tailor a route specially for you.

The experience is up to 4 hours.

Start time between 8am and 2pm.

Rental Bikes

Cross bikes are available as complimentary up to 6 hours and additional hours at an extra cost. Electric bikes are available for up to 6 hours per bicycle and at an extra cost for additional hours.

Available between 8am and 6pm.

Please note that for both guided cycling tour and bike rentals, a minimum height of 144cm (4ft 7in) is required due to the size of the e-bike. Due to the limited number of bicycles, please inform us by 5pm one day prior for reservations, changes or cancellations.



On-Site Activities

Colour Your Journey

Join a local Japanese artist and recreate a scene from Aman Kyoto's once-forgotten secret garden during this outdoor art lesson. You'll also learn about traditional Japanese stencilling techniques to make your own set of keepsake postcards.

The activity takes about 90-120 minutes.

Start between 9.30am and 2pm. Outdoors experience (weather and temperature dependent) year-round. Please book at least 3 days in advance.

Bonkei Garden Experience

Bonkei is the art of creating miniature gardens and landscapes. In general, Japanese gardens are an arrangement of wood, stone, moss, soil and waterscapes. Engage in this art form by joining one of our expert gardeners. During the experience, you can touch the moss, soil and stone to create your own unique potted garden.

The activity takes about 60 minutes.

Start between 9.30am and 4pm. Outdoors experience (weather dependent) year-round, unavailable on Sundays and public holidays. This activity is experience only and *Bonkei* pot cannot be brought back. Please book at least 3 days in advance.



Wagashi Sweet Making and Matcha Tasting

The perfect accompaniment to *matcha* green tea, *wagashi* are Japanese confections renowned for their delicacy and variety in appearance, often created to depict the four seasons. We invite you to create your own sweet masterpiece in this hands-on workshop.

The activity takes about 60 minutes.

Starting time 9.30am, 3pm or 3.30pm. Unavailable on Wednesdays. Please book at least 3 days in advance.



Tsumami-Zaiku Crafts (Pinching Crafts)

Dating back over two centuries, *tsumami-zaiku* is a traditional Japanese craft often used to create hair accessories. The practice involves making intricate, floral objects by arranging small, colourful fabric shapes onto a base. Guided by a *tsumami-zaiku* artisan, try your hand at this ancient art using the finest silk cloth dyed by local craftsmen.

The activity takes about 60 minutes.

Starting time 3pm or 3.30pm. Available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays (excluding public holidays) . Suitable age is 10 and over. Please contact us for a similar experience for guests between five and nine. Please book at least 3 days in advance.



UNESCO World Heritage Sites

From 794 until 1869, Kyoto served as the capital of Japan for eleven centuries. Today, it is considered the cultural capital of Japan with 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and countless temples and shrines to explore, including the nearby golden temple of Kinkaku-ji. As tempting as it is to enjoy our secret garden and Aman Spa, this ancient city is full of cultural experiences to explore outside. The Aman Kyoto team can assist with creating personalised itineraries with professional guides or advising on your own self-guided excursion



Kyoto has one of the world's largest collections of UNESCO World Heritage Sites so visiting the city is always unique. We recommend spending about five to six hours with a car in order to visit four of these sites.

Golden Pavilion (officially Rokuon-ji Temple) is located about five minutes by car from Aman Kyoto. It was originally a villa belonging to a powerful statesman back in 1397. With an exterior covered in golden leaf, a pond and a traditional Japanese strolling garden, it is an excellent example of a Muromachi-period garden design.

In five minutes, you will reach a temple renowned for its exceptional Zen Garden. Once the home of an aristocrat, **Ryoan-ji** was converted into a temple in 1450. It is now best known for its exquisite dry landscape garden with no trees or shrubs. There are 15 rocks of various sizes placed harmoniously on a carefully raked bed of white gravel.

Next, move on to **Ninna-ji Temple**. This is the head temple of the Omuro School of the Shingon sect of Buddhism and was established 888. Members of the Imperial Family used to serve as the head priest and the temple was also known as Omuro Imperial Palace.

The last stop of the day is one of the oldest shrines in Kyoto. **Kamigamo Shrine** is dedicated to the God of thunder and rain and was founded 100 years before Kyoto was even born.

Neighbourhoods stroll

If you would like to enjoy the fresh air in the forest, why not have a short stroll around the mountains and visit some of the local shrines.

A 20-minute walk leads to a temple named after one of the most sophisticated people in the 16th century, **Koetsu-ji Temple**. It was named after Koetsu Honami, a master of several Japanese arts and his interest in the tea ceremony is reflected in the layout of this temple.

Close by is **Joshu-ji Temple**, founded in 1616 and associated with the Edo-period courtesan, Yoshinodayu. Her proficiency in poetry, *ikebana* flower arrangement and music made her one of the most famous courtesans. Joshu-ji is particularly well known for its cherry blossoms in spring.



Cultural Journey

For 1,200 years, Kyoto flourished as Japan's capital since Emperor Kanmu established the city then known as "Heian-kyo" in 794. Rich history and tradition have shaped Kyoto into a revered city today, celebrated for its ever-changing natural beauty across the seasons. With shrines dating back almost 1,400 years and temples founded by influential figures, Kyoto's history is entwined with Japan's own story. Within this historical tapestry, a culture known as *ichigen-san okotowari* (invitation only) thrives, reserving exclusivity for longstanding patrons in centuries-old establishments and entertainment districts. Aman Kyoto offers access to these unique institutions through its Aman Journeys itineraries, which help unlock usually inaccessible temples and locations, exclusively for our guests. As these journeys are in high demand, reservations in advance are highly recommended. Please note that full cancellation fees apply.



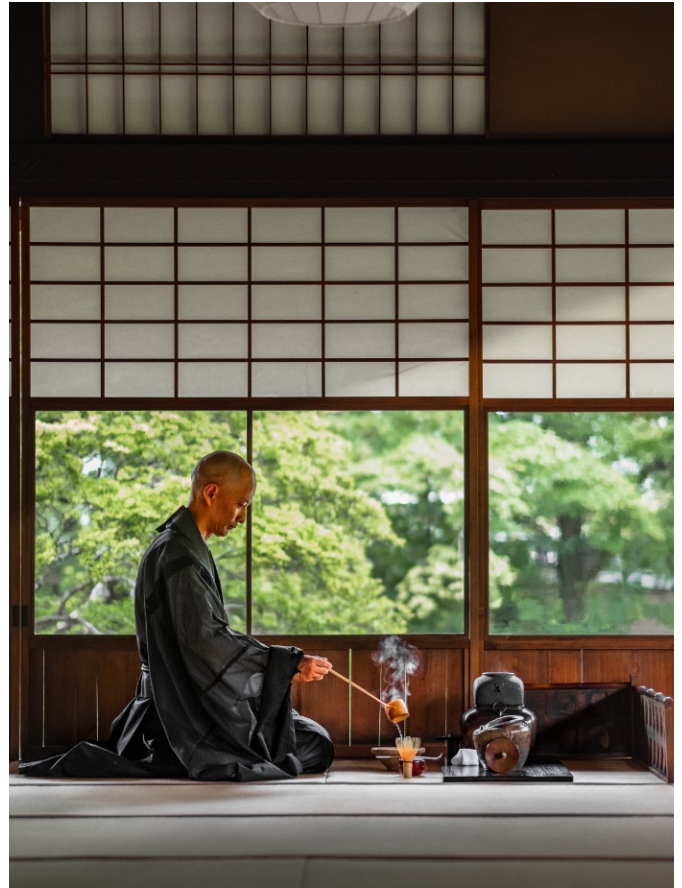


Private Zen Meditation

Enjoy tranquillity and achieve a clear state of mind with a visit to a private temple that is otherwise inaccessible to the public. Sitting on the traditional *tatami*-mat floors in an ancient hall, a Buddhist monk will share the principles of meditation, dispelling some common misassumptions, while encouraging you to find your inner peace. During this morning excursion, you will explore the temple's magnificent Japanese garden.

The experience takes about 60 minutes.

Includes roundtrip transportation to the temple and instructions by personal guide. Please book 10 days in advance.



Private Tea Ceremony

The Japanese tea ceremony was once only enjoyed by those with social status, such as monks, Shogun (military rulers), Daimyo (feudal lords) and the royal family. But centuries later, it has now spread to all people and practised as a hobby. In this journey, you will be invited to a private tea ceremony at a Zen temple, not normally open to the public. The ceremony is therefore dedicated entirely to you. The host will give an insightful introduction to the history and meaning of the tradition while serving the highest quality of matcha tea and traditional Japanese sweets. This simple ritual celebrates hospitality and has helped shape Japanese culture through centuries.

The experience takes about 60 minutes.

Includes round-trip transportation to the temple, instructions by personal guide and matcha and Japanese sweet. Please book 10 days in advance.

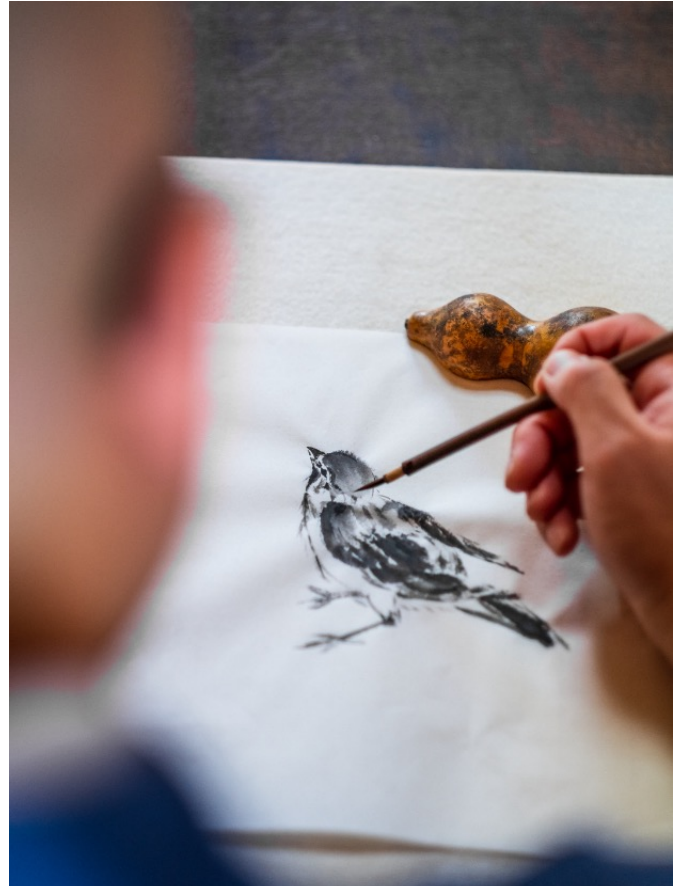


Private Calligraphy Lesson

Shodo (calligraphy) is an ancient art form that was born from Chinese culture. The principles and techniques are similar but have evolved in its current form throughout centuries. As writing was once the only way to keep records, shodo was an essential communication skill and believed to have an inseparable connection with Zen thoughts. No corrections can be made, so there is only one chance in every stroke. The artwork varies greatly depending on its author, reflecting their personality and state of mind. You will visit a private temple that can only be accessed by our guests and learn the charm of shodo. By using simple tools and black ink, we encourage you to let the letters flow and find your spirit.

The experience takes about 60 minutes.

Includes roundtrip transportation to the temple and instructions by personal guide. Please book 10 days in advance.



Private Ink-painting Lesson

Japanese ink painting, also known as *sumi-e*, is a type of East Asian brush painting. It flourished in China thousands of years ago and was introduced to Japan by Zen Buddhist monks. Using just simple black ink and a carefully curated white canvas, *sumi-e* captures the timeless beauty and complexity of the natural world. We are delighted to offer the opportunity to have a hands-on experience, which also helps to focus and purify the mind.

The experience takes about 60 minutes.

Includes round-trip transportation to the temple and instructions by personal guide. Please book 10 days in advance.





Ochaya Tea House Visit

An *ochaya* (tea house) is an establishment where guests are entertained by a Maiko or Geiko (known as geisha outside of Kyoto). Though known as a “tea house”, an ochaya does not normally serve tea or perform tea ceremonies. Ochaya are extremely discreet and exclusive establishments. One may only enter if one is accompanied by a person with reservations and an exceptional relationship. Visiting without these conditions is a serious breach of manners. This outstanding and memorable Aman experience will be held at an ochaya in one of Kyoto’s five Geiko districts. The experience includes watching a traditional dancing performance, engaging in light conversation and playing the traditional *ozashiki* (tea house party) game.

The experience takes about 60 minutes.

Includes round-trip transportation to the house.
Please book 10 days in advance.

Buddhism Cooking Class

Shojin ryori is a vegan Buddhist cuisine. Buddhist beliefs discourage killing animals, so animals and their byproducts are not consumed. Pungent flavours such as garlic or onion are avoided and while this may make the meal sound bland, it is surprisingly far from it. Shojin ryori follows the “rule of five”, where every meal must contain five colours (green, yellow, red, black and white) and provide five flavours (sweet, sour, salty, bitter and umami). Bring balance to your body and find Zen in your mind through the plant-based cuisine of Buddhist monks. Learn the art and philosophy of Buddhist cooking and enjoy the meal.

The experience takes about 150 minutes.

Includes Buddhist cuisine meal and round-trip transportation to the venue. Please book 10 days in advance



Private Tea Farm Visit at Uji

The ideal climate for tea cultivation can be found in nearby Uji, where river fog and temperate weather have led to the region becoming one of Japan's leading tea production areas. A culture unique to Japan, guests are invited to visit a tea plantation renowned for growing the finest Uji tea, where tea has been hand-picked for six generations, alongside learning about the Honzu cultivation method that has been practiced in Uji for over 400 years. Following the plantation tour, embark on a journey of taste and aroma with an Uji tea tasting for an in-depth discovery into the region's unique cultivation.

The experience takes about 90 minutes.

Transportation is not included and can be arranged separately (60 minutes per way to the farm). The experience is unavailable during harvesting season. Please book 10 days in advance.



Private Ikebana Flower Arrangement

Plants play a crucial role in the Shinto religion and the arranging of flowers is known as *ikebana* (giving life to flowers) or *kado* (way of flowers). Ikebana aims to bring out the inner qualities of flowers and express emotion. It has always been considered a dignified art and is believed to aid in refreshing the body and restoring the spirit. Each piece represents a part of humanity, life and time. As ikebana displays can be commonly found in temples and shrines, we believe that the best way to learn this refined art is to visit a special temple with an exclusive space.

The experience takes about 60-90 minutes.

Includes round-trip transportation to the venue. Please book 10 days in advance.

Refunds are not applicable for cancellations made within 72 hours of booked on-site activities.

For the Cultural Journey, once the booking is confirmed, we won't be able to accommodate changes to the timing or cancellations of reservations, as this aligns with the Kyoto etiquette. Full pre-payment and cancellation fees apply so when inquiring about our experiences, we respectfully request that you confirm the date and fees before initiating the inquiry.

For further information or reservations, please contact Aman Kyoto's activity team at amankyoto@aman.com.

We will be delighted to assist you.

From all of us at Aman Kyoto, we wish you a happy and peaceful stay.

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