

Before you leave

Hozugawa & Arashiyama • Later Departure

① Find the team, then board

Have your e-voucher ready. Look for an Easy Go vest or sign and check in with staff in person. Sending a message is not check-in.

② Remember the meeting point first

At every stop, note where and when to return. A photo of the meeting landmark helps. Aim to be back 5 minutes early.

③ Leave a little breathing room

Stop durations include walking, queues, restroom breaks and getting back to the vehicle. Keep some time for the return walk.

Choose your departure city

From Osaka

Kani Doraku Dotonbori East Branch

From Kyoto

Kyoto Station Hachijo Exit Tourist Bus Parking

Arrive 15 minutes before departure; return 5 minutes early during the tour.

Check your latest departure notice for your travel date, departure time and meeting point. Confirm that you booked the later departure; early and later services have different arrangements.

The train & river boat

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Sagano Romantic Train

The journey through the valley is part of the sightseeing.

This railway follows tracks left behind when the JR route changed. The sightseeing service opened in 1991, giving the old valley line a new life. tunnels alternate with glimpses of the river and steep wooded slopes — the journey itself is the attraction. Part of the romance is the unhurried pace — there is time to take in the scenery.

Keep your ticket handy and sit in your assigned seat. Torokko Kameoka and JR Kameoka are different stations. After getting off, stay with the group for the transfer to the boat landing. Use the restroom before boarding the boat; tell Joe if you need help.

Follow staff instructions and keep your body and belongings inside the train. Check your assigned carriage and seat before boarding.

Hozugawa River Boat Ride

Close to the water, watch the scenery and the boatmen' s teamwork.

The river route runs about 16 km from Kameoka to Arashiyama. It once carried goods towards Kyoto: in 1606, merchant Suminokura Ryoï began opening the waterway through this difficult gorge. Today, the scenery is part of the pleasure, but so is watching the boatmen read the current and work together.

Use the restroom before boarding, protect items from splashes and secure your phone. Follow the crew' s life-jacket fitting instructions.

Before boarding: use the toilet, secure your phone and follow the crew' s life-jacket fitting instructions. Stay seated, keep your hands off the outer edge and do not lean out. Follow the boatmen' s directions throughout.

Enjoying Arashiyama

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Free time in Arashiyama

After the boat ride, explore Arashiyama's bamboo paths, Togetsukyo Bridge and Tenryu-ji. Choose a walk that suits your energy and the day's free-time arrangements; there is no need to visit every spot.

Bamboo Grove

Step away from the shop-lined streets and look up: tall bamboo turns the path into a green corridor. The pleasure is in the light, moving leaves and changing perspective. Take a short pause where the path is clear, then keep moving so everyone can enjoy the view. A good choice for a first visit. It can be busy; allow extra time for the walk back and do not enter fenced bamboo areas.

Tenryu-ji Temple

At Tenryu-ji, the Sogenchi pond garden is the highlight. Its design reflects the work of Zen master Muso Soseki about 700 years ago, using the mountains beyond the garden as part of the view. Look from the pond towards the hillside: the scenery does not stop at the temple boundary. A rewarding choice if you enjoy gardens. Garden and building visits may have separate admission arrangements; check at the entrance before buying.

Togetsukyo Bridge

Togetsukyo is the familiar bridge with the mountain behind it. Rather than trying to fit everything into one photograph from the crowded bridge, take in the view from a riverside path. It is a lovely way to enjoy Arashiyama without adding another long walk. Stay on pedestrian paths and keep crossings clear. A short riverside visit is a sensible choice when time or energy is limited.

Check restaurant queues before sitting down. Allow for walking, restroom breaks and the walk back to the bus. Remember your return point before exploring.

Confirm admission and access before entering paid areas such as Tenryu-ji. Stay outside fenced bamboo areas and never mark the bamboo.

Return & practical reminders

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Take the memories home. Leave time to get there.

Before exploring Arashiyama, confirm the day's bus meeting point and meeting time, and take a photo of the landmark. Follow your guide's notice rather than a map from another tour date. Confirm your Kyoto or Osaka drop-off against your booking. Traffic may delay the return, so leave a comfortable margin for later plans.

Use the restroom before returning to the vehicle.

Check your companions, phone and belongings.

Speak to your guide before leaving early or changing drop-off arrangements; do not leave on your own.

Use the restroom before meeting

Boarding in Osaka? Use a restroom at a station or along your way before reaching the meeting point. Nearby facilities may be inconvenient to reach. The drive towards Kyoto is long, and unscheduled restroom stops cannot be guaranteed.

Check your train & boat tickets

Check whether your booking includes the train and boat tickets. Follow your guide's arrangements for ticket collection, assigned seats and boarding.

Check your own booking for meals, personal expenses and optional paid attractions. Confirm what is included before buying any extra tickets.

Weather & operating conditions

Weather and operating conditions may affect the boat and train. Follow updates from your provider and guide; any changes are handled under your booking terms.