

February 25, 2025

Kyoto City Industry and Tourism Bureau
Tourism MICE Promotion Office

Call for Cooperation on Manners, etc. during Sightseeing in Kyoto

Thank you very much for your ongoing participation and support of Kyoto City's tourism promotion measures.

This year, many international tourists are expected to visit Kyoto City in the spring sightseeing season.

While it is a pleasure to see the city of Kyoto bustling with activity, some residents in major tourist spots and other areas have voiced strong concerns about tourism issues such as difficulty in getting on city buses, littering, occupying a wide space while walking in groups, smoking on the streets, and so on.

In fact, in the “Survey for Citizens' Perceptions of Tourism in Kyoto (2023)” conducted by the city government, approximately 50% of citizens responded that they felt “inconvenienced by the violation of manners by tourists” (*1).

Considering this, Kyoto City has been promoting measures to address tourism issues, including etiquette problems, believing that establishing harmony with the lives of its citizens is of utmost importance to ensure the sustainability of tourism in Kyoto.

We have been promoting the awareness of manners in Kyoto tourism through various means, but we believe that direct communication by tour guides accompanying international tourists is particularly effective.

On the other hand, unfortunately, we have received some complaints from citizens(*2) that “tour guides tolerate problematic behavior of international tourists”.

Therefore, we would like to ask you to make sure that you are aware of and observe the following matters indicated in the Appendix, while also utilizing various awareness-raising tools.

Requests to all business operators and tour guides

Information that we would like to ask all business operators and tour guides to convey to tourists

*1 According to the “Survey for Citizens' Perceptions of Tourism in Kyoto” conducted from October to November 2023, 47.7% of respondents were inconvenienced by the violation of manners by tourists (e.g., littering, eating while walking, etc.).

*2 Regarding the problematic behaviors of “trespassing on private properties” and “failing to obey traffic signals,” there were even complaints and comments that tour guides trespassed on private properties or crossed red lights.

<Requests to all business operators and tour guides>

- We ask that all business operators and tour guides understand and observe sightseeing manners.
- In crowded sightseeing areas, please do not keep tourists waiting on the street for a long time or blocking the road to avoid obstructing passers-by.
- If you are traveling by a sightseeing bus, please do not allow the bus to wait in areas where parking is prohibited (e.g., inside a bus stop, in a bus lane, at an intersection, etc.). In addition, please manage your itinerary carefully and reserve a parking space for your bus in advance.
- Even in areas where parking is allowed, please encourage passengers to get on and off the bus quickly, and avoid prolonged parking around public facilities, such as schools and hospitals, to ensure the safety and security of local residents.

<Information that we would like to ask all business operators and tour guides to convey to tourists>

Please inform tourists not to commit the following disruptive behaviors.
Please use the attached “MIND YOUR MANNERS” to raise awareness of good manners.

- **Photographing**
Photographing geiko and maiko in areas where it is not permitted, and photographing temples and shrines where taking pictures is prohibited.
- **Do not block the way**
Do not block the way of other pedestrians or vehicles, for example, by occupying a wide space while walking in groups on a narrow street.
- **Eating while walking**
Eating while walking in crowded tourist areas, eating and drinking in places where eating and drinking are prohibited, such as shrines and temples

○ **Trespassing on private property and graffiti**

Trespassing on railroad tracks or bamboo groves, trespassing on private property such as townhouses, graffiti on cultural properties, etc.

○ **Smoking and littering on the streets**

*City regulations prohibit everyone from smoking and littering on the streets in all areas of the city.

○ **Notification to passengers of sightseeing buses**

*Please use the attached “To All Passengers of Sightseeing Buses”.

Please visit the following website for more details.

Please download the manner awareness tool free of charge from the website below.

<https://www.moral.kyokanko.or.jp/>

MIND YOUR MANNERS

WHEN IN KYOTO...

MOVE LIKE A LOCAL



Shhh...

Be considerate

Move quietly when exploring residential areas or religious sites.



Don't follow the crowd



Leave your luggage behind

Hands Free KYOTO 🔍

BE ECO-FRIENDLY



Bring a reusable bottle & shopping bag



PENALTY
¥

Don't litter

HELP KEEP KYOTO AUTHENTIC



Support local culture

Buy local to support Kyoto's businesses and artisans



PENALTY
¥

Cultural heritage & historical sites are easily damaged

PLEASE...



PENALTY
¥

Don't stop geisha on the street
Don't take photos without permission



PENALTY
¥

No photos where prohibited



PENALTY
¥

Don't block the road



PENALTY
¥

No smoking on public streets



Acts marked with a prohibition sign (⊘) may violate Japanese law.
Depending on the situation, police may intervene.

Attention to All Tour Bus Participants

Thank you for choosing to visit Kyoto City.

In order to more fully enjoy your time in Kyoto City, we ask that you keep the following in mind:

① Please be sure to keep your seatbelt fastened while you are riding on the bus.



② There is potential for injury and accidents while the bus is in motion.

Please wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before standing.



③ Please try your best not to disturb local residents and businesses. Please do not litter, smoke on streets, speak loudly in designated areas, or enter private property without permission to take pictures.



Let's do our part in order to have a safe and enjoyable vacation!