

Take a walk to our Japanese House!

Turn left and you might stumble upon the local temple. Hang a right and you may hear the whirring of silk looms. Just around the corner you could find yourself in the middle of a busy market street where shop owners haggle over who has the better prices.

All of these photos were taken in and around the neighborhood of Nishijin where Kyo no Machiya, our Japanese House, came from! This area has everything from the hustle and bustle of the business districts to the gentle hum of quiet residential areas.

Look before you cross the street!

This is a busy intersection, populated by buses, cars, motorbikes, bicycles and pedestrians. In the background, you can see one of the mountains that overlooks the city.



Another Kyo no machiya!

This traditional home and shop has been transformed into a modern corner store where you can pick up bags of rice, snacks and refreshing beverages on a hot day.



Eat *udon* noodles while you wait?

While walking through Kyoto, you will see many modern buildings right next to traditional homes. Here, you can see a modern apartment, an *udon* noodle shop, and a house with a bus stop in front.



Forgot to pack fruit with your lunch?

No worries! There are many local market streets called *shotengai*, where friendly shop keepers will sell everything from fruits and vegetables to chopsticks to toilet slippers.



An elevator for your car?

In order to save space in a big city like Kyoto, apartment buildings will often have elevators to stack cars on top of each other and fit as many as possible into the garage!



Wait, is this still Japan?

It sure is! The financial and business areas around the neighborhood of Nishijin look just like any other city, with tall buildings and wide roads for all of the traffic.



Shop, Home, Apartment!

Compared to the apartments, these two buildings may look like *machiya* but in fact they are modern structures. Often new homes and shops are built to look more traditional than they really are to create a nice atmosphere in the Nishijin neighborhood.



It's so peaceful here!

There are many temples in Nishijin with houses and small shops just across the street. Some temples were even used as playgrounds.



Say hi to Jizo-san

This may look like a tiny garden, but in fact this is where a Buddhist deity called a Jizo lives. You will find one of these Jizo altars in every neighborhood in Kyoto for protecting children.



Yeah, we arrived!

Here is the neighborhood that The Japanese House used to be a part of. This is a quiet, residential street with both traditional machiya and modern houses. It may not look like it, but the narrow road is a two-way street!

