

Kyoto City

Map of Human-Rights-related Spots

Kyoto, with a millennium-plus history as the capital of the country, is a city where the tradition and culture of respect for human rights, based on the vitality of people living here in diverse positions, have been kept alive in its history.

This map introduces some of the spots related to human rights among the many scenic and historic spots in the city, tracing the footsteps of our predecessors. We hope this map will encourage our cooperation in reconsidering human rights and maintaining Kyoto as a city where human-rights culture is alive.

- The following link and QR code will link you to video of some related facilities.
<http://www.facebook.com/jinkenbunka>
- Please use public transport to visit human-rights-related spots.



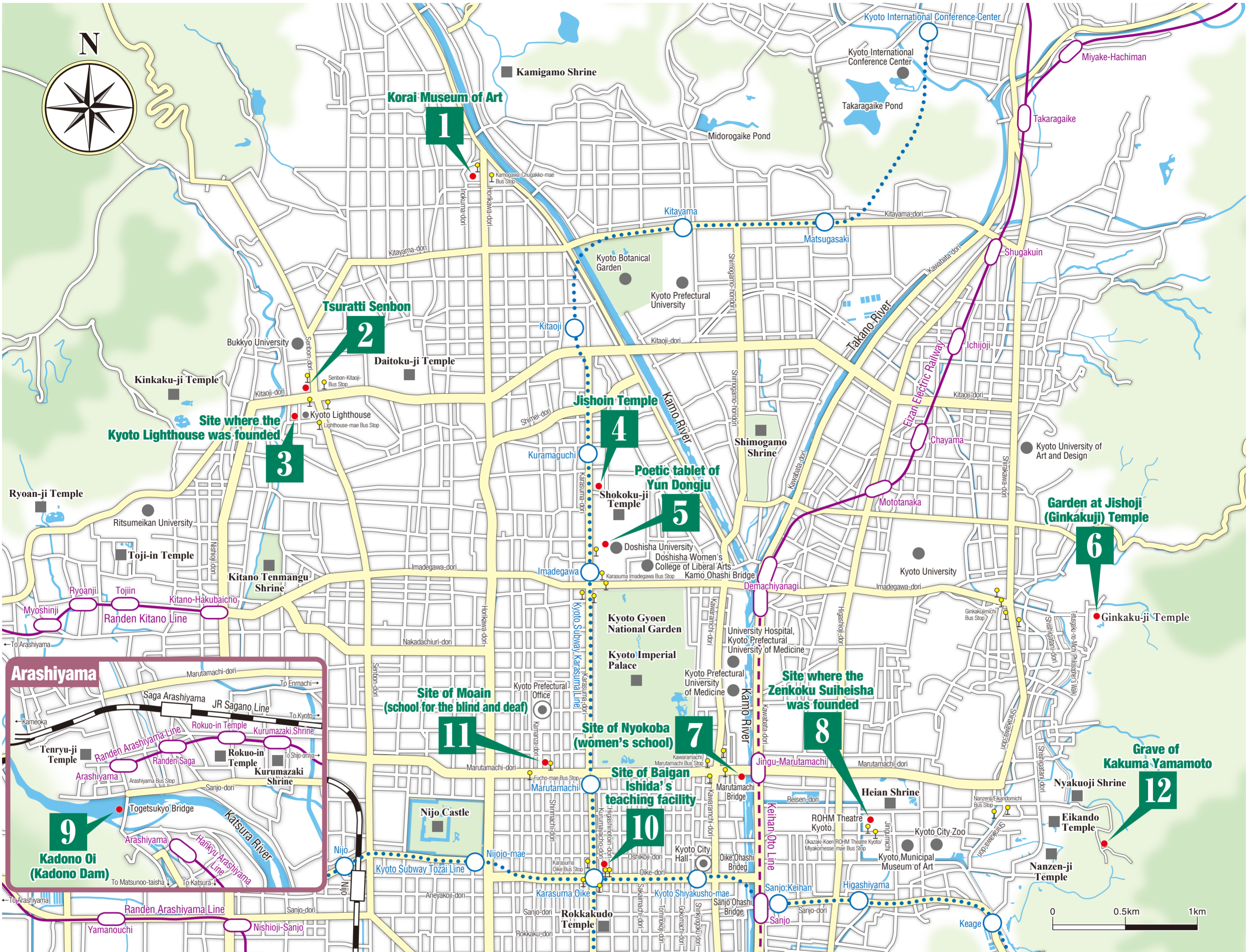
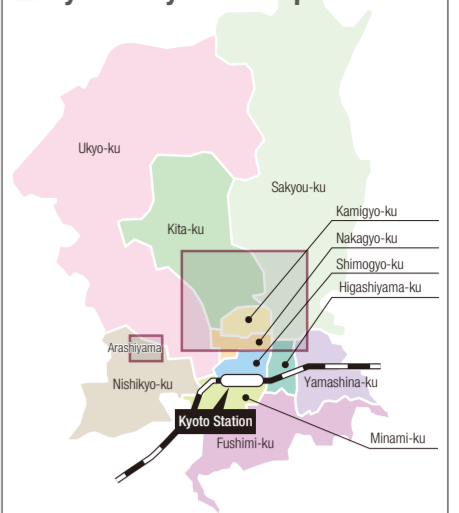
- References**
- Visiting human-rights-related spots I, II, and III, Kyoto City Edition (issued by the Kyoto Committee for the Promotion of Human Rights Education)
 - Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute, ed. 1998. Travel guide to the history of human rights in Kyoto (supervised by Masaki Ueda; published by Jinbun Shoin)
 - Lectures: Visiting human-rights-related spots (issued by the Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute)

Kyoto City's motto on human rights:
Onajidesu Anata to Watashi no Taisetsusa
(Everyone is as precious as everyone else.)

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Kyoto City Area Map



1 Korai Museum of Art

Venue for learning about human rights

The Korai Museum of Art exhibits works of Korean art and craft and everyday items collected by Jeong Jo-mun, a Korean living in Japan who loved Kyoto very much. After entering the gate of the museum, visitors will find stone statues and monuments that represent the Korean culture. The museum provides visitors with an opportunity to enjoy appreciating the Korean culture in Kyoto. Admission fee is required. Phone: 075-491-1192 Fax: 075-495-3718

- Take City Bus No. [4], [9], or [46] to the Kamogawa Chugakko-mae bus stop; 1-min. walk from the bus stop.

2 Tsuratti Senbon

Venue for learning about human rights

In 1994, Tsuratti Senbon was opened as an exhibition facility where people can extensively learn about human rights, by studying the regional history and community building activities in which residents have been involved. The word "Tsuratti" means "doing something together." Tsuratti Senbon was so named in the hope of encouraging citizens to come and see the facility together with their family members. Admission free. Phone/Fax: 075-493-4539

- Take City Bus No. [204], [205], or [206] to the Senbon-Kitaoji bus stop, which is very near the facility.

3 Site where the Kyoto Lighthouse was founded

Place associated with human rights of the socially vulnerable

The Kyoto Lighthouse was established when education for the blind was promoted in the postwar period, with an ardent hope of setting up a library for blind students. Using the donations collected from the general public and the private land offered by Tokujiro Torii, who was a teacher of a school for the blind and who himself was also visually impaired, the Kyoto Lighthouse came into existence as a comprehensive facility, whose activities include not only library operations but also promotion of welfare, culture and education of the visually impaired. A plaque in memory of Tokujiro Torii has been put up at this site.

- Take City Bus No. [6], [46], [59], [206] to the Lighthouse-mae bus stop; 3-min. walk from the bus stop.

4 Jishoin Temple

Place associated with international exchange

Jishoin Temple houses various materials that were used for Japan-Korea exchange in the Edo period, including correspondence, prose and poetry. In front of the temple stands a guide plate that outlines the temple's history, etc. Usually, Jishoin Temple does not accept visitors, as it is not open to the public. However, a group of five or more persons may make a request in advance by telephone to be permitted to view the reference materials. Admission fee is required. Phone: 075-441-6060 Fax: 075-414-0725

- 5-min. walk from Kuramaguchi Station on the Municipal Subway Line.

5 Poetic tablet of Yun Dongju

Reminder of the lessons of history

Yun Dongju came from Korea to Japan. While he studied at Doshisha University, he was arrested and imprisoned on the charge of writing poems in Hangul, whose use was prohibited at that time. He died in prison in Fukuoka in 1945. This poetic tablet was set up in 1995 by Korean graduates of Doshisha University.

- 1-min. walk from Imadegawa Station on the Municipal Subway Line.
- Take City Bus No. [59], [201], or [203] to the Karasuma-Imadegawa bus stop; 1-min. walk from the bus stop. (The poetic tablet is located within the Imadegawa Campus of Doshisha University.)

6 Garden at Jishoji (Ginkakuji) Temple (World Heritage Site)

Place associated with distinguished activities of people discriminated against

Between the medieval to the early-modern periods, there were people called "kawarmono" who were strongly discriminated against. Among them, those engaged in gardening were called "niwamono" and played central roles in creating gardens of Buddhist temples. The most famous among them was Zen-ami, who had outstanding gardening skills and thus was appointed a responsible position by Yoshimasa Ashikaga (1436-1490), the eighth shogun of the Muromachi Bakufu. Zen-ami is considered to have been deeply engaged in the creation of the Higashiyama-dono villa, which would later become Jishoji Temple, the Silver Pavilion. Most parts of the present garden at Jishoji Temple were renovated in the Edo period.

- Take City Bus No. [17], [203], or [204] to the Ginkakuji-Michi bus stop; 8-min. walk from the bus stop.

7 Site of Nyokoba (women's school)

Place associated with human rights of the socially vulnerable

In the Japanese word nyo-ko-ba (女紅場, literally woman-crimson-place), "ko" represents weaving, needlework and other skills that women learned in order to obtain their subsistence in the early Meiji period. At this site, in 1872, a Nyokoba was opened as a school that imparted these skills to women, becoming a harbinger of women's education facilities in Japan.

- Take City Bus No. [202], [204], or [205] to the Kawaramachi-Marutamachi bus stop, which is very near the site.
- 1-min. walk from Jingu-Marutamachi Station on the Keihan Line.

8 Site where the Zenkoku Suiheisha was founded

Place associated with distinguished activities of people discriminated against

In March 1922, a convention to establish the Zenkoku Suiheisha (National Levelers' Association) was held, bringing together Buraku people (a minority group subjected to discrimination on the basis of social status) who sought the elimination of discrimination against them, at the then Okazaki Public Hall in Kyoto City. At the convention, the Founding Declaration of the Zenkoku Suiheisha was adopted, which is said to be Japan's first declaration of human rights. This stone monument indicates the site where the founding convention was held.

- 11-min. walk from Higashiyama Station on the Municipal Subway Line.
- Take City Bus No. [32] or [46] to the Okazaki-Koen Rohm Theatre Kyoto / Miyako Messe-mae bus stop; 2-min. walk from the bus stop (the site is located within the Rohm Theatre Kyoto).

9 Kadono Oi (Kadono Dam)

Place associated with international exchange

The Hata family came from the Korean Peninsula to Japan in the latter half of the 5th century. The family was well versed in river improvement and irrigation as well as civil engineering for farmland development. In the vicinity of what is now Togetsu-kyo Bridge, the Hata family constructed a dam, which held back the river flow to pool water and formed a waterway separated from the main flow. This dam was effective not only in flood prevention but also securing agricultural water, paving the way for the cultivation of the surrounding region.

- 4-min. walk from Arashiyama Station on the Randen Arashiyama Line.
- 7-min. walk from Arashiyama Station on the Hankyu Line.
- Take City Bus No. [11], [28], or [93] to the Arashiyama bus stop; 4-min. walk from the bus stop.

10 Site of Baigan Ishida's teaching facility

Place associated with human rights of the socially vulnerable

Baigan Ishida was renowned for his teachings about moral qualities that people should possess, including integrity, diligence, and frugality. In 1729, he began to deliver his lectures at a private house in present-day Nakagyo-ku, which anyone could attend free of charge, regardless of gender. The teachings of Baigan Ishida won the hearts and minds of many people, primarily merchants, and were called "Sekimon Shingaku." This stone monument indicates the site of his teaching facility.

- 1-min. walk from Karasuma-Oike Station on the Municipal Subway Line.
- Take City Bus No. [15], [51], [51], or [65] to the Karasuma-Oike bus stop; 1-min. walk from the bus stop.

11 Site of Moain (school for the blind and deaf)

Place associated with human rights of the socially vulnerable

In 1878, Kyoto Prefectural Moain was opened as Japan's first school for the blind and deaf. Its forerunner was a classroom established within an elementary school in present-day Kamigyoku-ku by Tashiro Furukawa, who was a teacher of the school around 1875. At this site, there used to be a school building that was completed in 1879 to house Moain.

- Take City Bus No. [10], [93], [202] or [204] to the Fuchō-mae bus stop, which is very near the site.
- 10-min. walk from Marutamachi Station on the Municipal Subway Line.

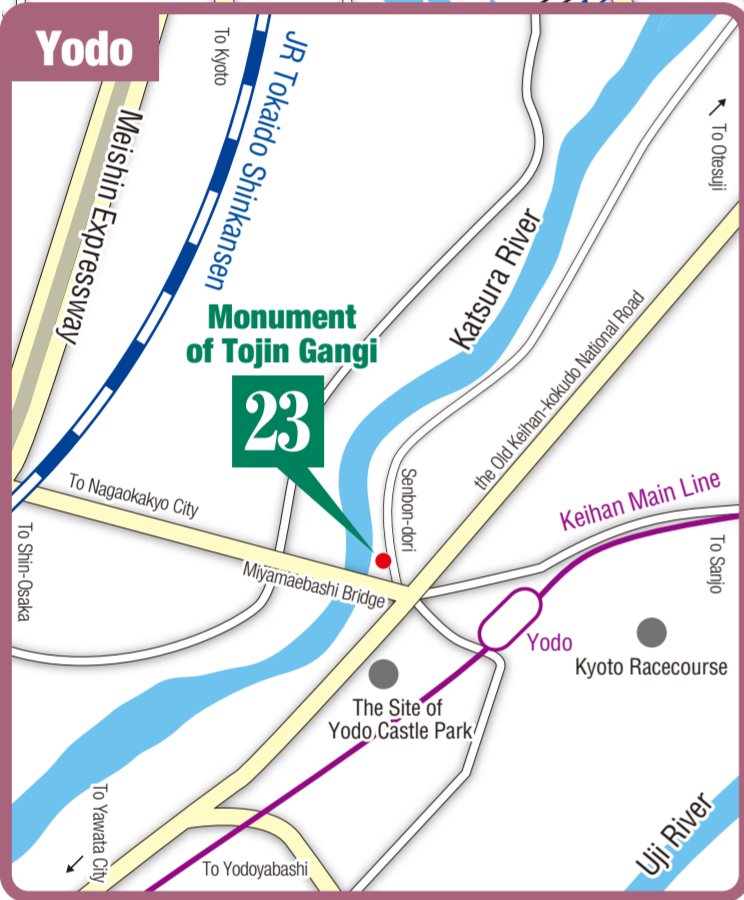
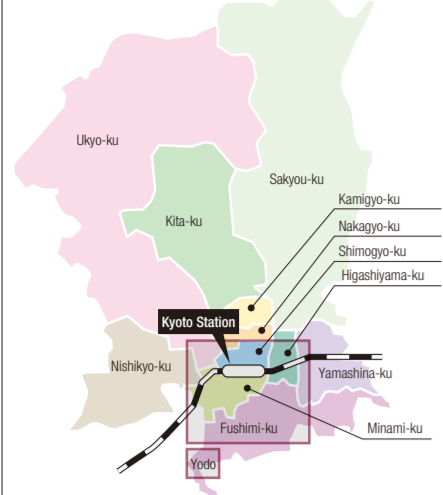
12 Grave of Kakuma Yamamoto

Monument associated with human rights of the socially vulnerable

Kakuma Yamamoto was appointed as an advisor to Kyoto Prefecture, even after he had lost his eyesight and become paralyzed from the waist down, in the upheavals during the closing days of the Edo period. He was committed to advocating the rights of the socially vulnerable, by working toward the establishment of an elementary school, junior high school, mental hospital, school for women, school for the blind and deaf, and other facilities, all of which were the first of their kind in Japan.

- 25-min. walk on the mountain path from Nyakuji Shrine. * To go to Nyakuji Shrine, take City Bus No. [5] to Nanzenji / Eikando-michi bus stop; 5-min. walk from the bus stop.

Kyoto City Area Map



13 Monument for 26 Martyrs
 Reminder of the lessons of history

In the latter half of the 16th century, Christianity rapidly spread in Japan. Kyoto was also home to many believers of Christianity at that time. However, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the then ruler of Japan, persecuted the Christian faithful, and 26 believers were executed by his order in Nagasaki in 1596. In memory of their martyrdom, this stone monument was erected at this place, which is believed to have been a center of missionary work.

- Take City Bus No. [201], [203], or [207] to the Shijo-Horikawa bus stop; 4-min. walk from the bus stop.
- 5-min. walk from Omiya Station on the Hankyu Line.

14 Rokkakudo (Chohoji Temple)
 Place associated with human rights of the socially vulnerable

Legend has it that Rokkakudo (Chohoji Temple) was founded by Prince Shotoku. Since the Heian period (794 - 1185), common people have worshipped at this temple, which has played an important role as a religious venue where they have sought salvation from Kannon, the Bodhisattva of Compassion. It was also a place to give relief to those discriminated against. In a time of famine, a facility to accommodate the sufferers was built in front of Rokkakudo, which then served as a venue to offer a helping hand to the poor.

- 3-min. walk from Karasuma-Oike Station on the Municipal Subway Line.
- 5-min. walk from Karasuma Station on the Hankyu Line.

16 Bronze statue of Okuni
 Monument associated with distinguished activities of people discriminated against

Izumo no Okuni, who was at the bottom of the social scale at that time, began performing kabuki dance in the dry riverbed of Shijogawara in 1603. The dance earned great popularity, and quickly became widespread to various other parts of Japan. It has been handed down as kabuki theater to the present day. This bronze statue was erected in honor of Izumo no Okuni, the originator of kabuki, and indicates its birthplace.

- Very near Gion-Shijo Station on the Keihan Line.
- 2-min. walk from Kawaramachi Station on the Hankyu Line.
- Take City Bus No. [201], [203], or [207] to the Shijo-Keihan-mae bus stop, which is very near the monument.

20 Monument in honor of Gihee Sakurada
 Monument associated with distinguished activities of people discriminated against

Gihee Sakurada became the mayor of Yanagihara Town, located in present-day Shimogyō-ku, in 1889. When the town's leather industry was severely hit by a recession, he worked hard to provide relief to the impoverished people at his own expense. Sakurada also devoted himself to public health maintenance of the region, in order to protect people of the town from a contagious disease that was prevalent at the time.

- 6-min. walk from Kyoto Station on the JR Line or the Municipal Subway Line.
- 10-min. walk from Shichijo Station on the Keihan Line.
- Take City Bus No. [4], [17], or [205] to the Shiojiko-Takakura bus stop; 4-min. walk from the bus stop.

17 Shimabara Omon Gate
 Monument associated with human rights of the socially vulnerable

Shimabara was Japan's oldest area that had been designated by the Tokugawa shogunate as a licensed prostitute quarter (yukaku). When it was established in the early Edo period, the area was called "Nishi Shinyashiki," but later was dubbed "Shimabara" after Shimabara in Kyushu. This Omon, or great outer gate, which corresponded to the east entrance of Shimabara, was a symbol of the quarter. In 1867, it was rebuilt into the present gate, which has been designated by Kyoto City as a tangible cultural property.

- 7-min. walk from Tambaguchi Station on the JR Line.
- Take City Bus No. [206] or [208] to the Shimabara-guchi bus stop; 6-min. walk from the bus stop.

18 Mimizuka 'ear mound'
 Reminder of the lessons of history

In the late 16th century, Japan invaded Korea on the order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi. As proof of their deed, Japanese warriors brought back ears and noses hacked off the faces of killed Koreans, instead of their heads. The Mimizuka (literally "ear mound") was a place where the sliced ears and noses of defeated Koreans sent to Japan were buried for the repose of their souls. Initially, this site was called "Hanazuka (literally "nose mound"), but in the Edo period it became referred to as "Mimizuka."

- Take City Bus No. [206] or [208] to the Hakuobutsukan/Sanjusangendo-mae bus stop; 5-min. walk from the bus stop.
- 6-min. walk from Shicho Station on the Keihan Line.

21 Kyoto Nambu Church of the Korean Christian Church in Japan
 Reminder of the lessons of history

This church now serves as a religious site for many Korean residents in Japan, while also functioning as a recreation, community and cultural center for them. During World War II, however, the church was dissolved under oppression by the Japanese government. After the end of the war, a mission station was set up again. A chapel was constructed, though belatedly, in 1976, which was 35 years after the dissolution of the church. The present-day church building was constructed in 1995.

- Take City Bus No. [202], [207], or [208] to the Kujo-Kawaramachi bus stop; 6-min. walk from the bus stop.

22 Fushimi Inari Taisha
 Place associated with international exchange

Fushimi Inari Taisha, known for its gates called Semon Torii ("thousands of torii gates"), is the headquarters of the Inari shrines nationwide. The shrine is believed to have been founded by the Hata family, who came over to Japan from the Korean Peninsula. As described in the Nihon Shoki (Chronicles of Japan), the Hata family had lived in the Fushimi district since early on, holding dominant power there. It is said that, in addition to Fushimi Inari Taisha, the Hata family founded many other temple and shrines.

- Very near Inari Station on the JR Line.
- 5-min. walk from Fushimi-Inari Station on the Keihan Line.
- Take City Bus No. [Mimami 5] to the Inari Taisha-mae bus stop; 7-min. walk from the bus stop.

15 Site of Todoshikiyashiki residence
 Place associated with human rights of the socially vulnerable

Kakuichi Akashi (Kengyo Akashi) was a blind player of the Heike bwa (a four-stringed Japanese lute used to play the Tale of the Heike) in the period of the Northern and Southern Dynasties. He opened the Todoza, an autonomous guild of mutual aid for the blind. His residence was called "Shikiyashiki," where examinations of arts and crafts skills for the blind were held.

- 3-min. walk from Shijo Station on the Municipal Subway Line.

19 Bank of Yanagihara Memorial Museum
 Venue for learning about human rights

The Bank of Yanagihara, established in 1899, was the only bank founded by people from discriminated communities in Japan called buraku. The building of the bank was relocated and reconstructed in 1997, when it was re-opened as a museum that displays human rights-related materials. This museum is a precious Western-style wooden building that has been registered in the list of tangible cultural properties of Kyoto City. Admission free. Phone/Fax: 075-371-0295

- 6-min. walk from Kyoto Station on the JR Line or the Municipal Subway Line.
- 10-min. walk from Shicho Station on the Keihan Line.
- Take City Bus No. [4], [17], or [205] to the Shiojiko-Takakura bus stop; 4-min. walk from the bus stop.

23 Monument of Tojin Gangi
 Monument associated with international exchange

"Tojin" here refers to the Korean Embassies who were sent by the king of the Joseon Dynasty during the Edo period (1603-1867) to offer congratulations upon the succession of a new shogun or for other auspicious events. From Tsushima, the Korean Embassies took the Seto Inland Sea route and then went up the Yodo River to arrive at the Yodo castle town, from where they left for Edo by land. "Gangi" means the steps of a pier. Currently, a stone monument stands at the site of the anchoring place for boats (Tojin Gangi).

- 5-min. walk from Yodo Station on the Keihan Line.

