

SHOPPING

top picks

- **Ippo-dō** (p109)
This is *the* place to buy green tea, both *matcha* (powdered) and leaf.
- **Kyoto Handicraft Center** (p113)
For one-stop souvenir shopping, this place can't be beat.
- **Kyūkyō-dō** (p109)
A convenient Downtown all-round traditional souvenir shop.
- **Random Walk** (p108)
This is Kyoto's best bookshop, hands down.
- **Morita Washi** (p109)
The selection of *washi* (Japanese paper) is just mind-boggling here.
- **Takashimaya Department Store** (p109)
Our favourite department store in Kyoto – check the 6th floor for traditional souvenirs and the basement for food.

SHOPPING

Kyoto has a fantastic variety of both traditional and modern shops. Most of these are located in the Downtown area, making the city a very convenient place to shop. Whether you're looking for fans and kimono or the latest electronics and cameras, Kyoto has plenty to choose from.

More than offering simple convenience, however, Kyoto has a long history as Japan's artistic and cultural workshop; it's the place where the country's finest artisans used their skills to produce the goods used in tea ceremonies, calligraphy, flower arrangement and religious ceremonies, as well as in kimono fabrics and other textiles. Indeed, Kyoto is the best place to find traditional arts and crafts in all of Japan.

Of course, Kyoto has far more to offer than just traditional items. You will also find the latest fashions in the Shijō-Kawaramachi shopping district, the latest electronics on Teramachi-dōri and a wondrous assortment of food products in markets such as Nishiki Market. And if you're lucky enough to be in town on the 21st or the 25th of the month, you should make every effort to visit one of the city's excellent flea markets.

SHOPPING AREAS

The heart of Kyoto's shopping district is the intersection of Shijō-dōri and Kawaramachi-dōri in Downtown Kyoto (Map p50). The blocks running north and west of here are packed with all sorts of stores selling both traditional and modern goods. Several of Kyoto's largest department stores are here as well, including Hankyū, Daimaru and Takashimaya (see the boxed text, p109). Nearby is Nishiki Market (p108), which is Kyoto's best food market. It's one of Kyoto's real highlights and should not be missed.

Teramachi-dōri, where it runs south of Shijō-dōri, is Kyoto's electronics district and has the full range of the latest in computers, stereos and home appliances. The same street, north of Oike-dōri, is the place to look for a wide variety of traditional Japanese items. A stroll up this street to the Kyoto Imperial Palace Park (p52) is a great way to spend an afternoon, even if you don't plan on making any purchases.

PLAN TO SHOP?

Many travellers plan their trips around the cherry blossoms or one of Kyoto's great festivals. Few, however, plan their trips around Kyoto's brilliant markets. This is a shame because Kyoto's two monthly markets are among the best flea markets in all of Asia. The two dates to keep in mind are the 21st of each month, for the Kōbō-san Market (p111) at Tō-ji, and the 25th of each month, for the Tenjin-san Market (p113) at Kitano Tenman-gū. You'll note that these are close enough together to hit on one slightly extended stay in Kyoto.

The fashion-conscious should explore Kyoto's department stores or the chic shops on Shijō-dōri. Unfortunately, you'll be hard-pressed to find much of a selection of larger ('gaijin-sized') clothes and shoes.

Antiques hunters should head straight for Shinmonzen-dōri in Gion (Map p62), the aforementioned Teramachi-dōri, or one of the city's lively monthly markets – Kōbō-san (p111) or Tenjin-san (p113). To supplement the information in this chapter, pick up a copy of *Old Kyoto: A Guide to Traditional Shops, Restaurants & Inns* by Diane Durston, available at Kyoto's English-language bookshops. *Kyoto Visitors Guide* has a listing of traditional shops and markets in town; it's available from the TIC (p199), which can also help locate unusual or hard-to-find items.

For standard opening hours of shops and department stores, see p190.

BARGAINING

With the exception of antique shops and flea markets, bargaining in Japan is just not done. Possible exceptions are camera and electronics stores (in particular those dealing in used goods). The word 'discount' is usually understood by store clerks. If they are willing to drop the price, their first offer is usually all you'll get – don't haggle further as it will make things very awkward for the clerk.

KYOTO STATION AREA

The Kyoto Station area competes with Downtown Kyoto as the city's retail centre of gravity. The vast new station building itself is bulg-

ing with shops, including Isetan Department Store and the giant new Bic Camera shop. North and south of the station, other Japanese camera/electronics chains are about to open huge new shops, which will further lure customers from Kyoto's traditional electronics neighbourhood along Teramachi-dōri in Downtown. For varied shopping and pleasant strolling, the Kyoto Station area can't compete, but for cheap cameras and electronics, it's hard to beat.

BIC CAMERA Map p46 Cameras & Electronics
☎ 353-1111; Shimogyō-ku, Higashishiojō-ji-chō 927; ☎ 10am-9pm; 🚶 1min walk from Kyoto Station, Nishinotōin gate

This vast new shop is directly connected to Kyoto Station via the Nishinotōin gate; otherwise, it's accessed by leaving the north (Karasuma) gate and walking west. You will be amazed by the sheer amount of goods this store has on display. Just be sure that an English operating manual is available for your purchases. For computer parts, keep in mind that not all items on offer will work with English operating systems.

AVANTI Map p46 Department Store
☎ 671-8761; Minami-ku, Higashikujō Nishisannō-chō 31; ☎ shops 10am-9pm, restaurants 11am-10pm; 🚶 1min walk from Kyoto Station, Hachijōguchi exit

This department store has a decent bookshop on its 6th floor, and a food court and supermarket on its B1 floor. It's geared mostly to younger Kyoto shoppers but it's good for browsing if you have time to kill while waiting for a train. Take the underground passage from Kyoto Station.

ISETAN DEPARTMENT STORE Map p46 Department Store
☎ 352-1111; Shimogyō-ku, Karasuma-dōri, Shiojō-ji sagaru, Higashishiojō-ji-chō; ☎ 10am-8pm, closed irregularly; 🚶 JR Kyoto Station

This large, elegant department store is located inside the Kyoto Station building, making it perfect for a last-minute spot of shopping before hopping on the train to the airport.

KYŌSEN-DŌ Map p46 Fans
☎ 371-4151; Shimogyō-ku, Higashinotōin-dōri, Shōmen agaru, Tsutsugane-chō 46; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm Sun & public holidays; 🚶 10min walk from Kyoto Station

top picks

SHOPPING STRIPS

Shopping neighbourhoods in Kyoto tend to be organised by specialities, which certainly makes things easier if you're after specific items. The following is a list of some of Kyoto's most important shopping streets and what you'll find there.

- **Teramachi-dōri, north of Oike-dōri** (Map p50) Traditional Japanese crafts, tea-ceremony goods, green tea and antiques.
- **Teramachi-dōri, south of Shijō-dōri** (Map p50) Electronics and computers.
- **Shijō-dōri, between Kawaramachi-dōri and Karasuma-dōri** (Map p50) Department stores, fashion boutiques and traditional arts and crafts.
- **Shinmonzen-dōri** (Map p62) Antiques.
- **Gojō-zaka** (Map p62) Pottery.

Kyōsen-dō sells a colourful variety of paper fans; here you can see the process of assembling the fans and even paint your own.

KUNGYOKU-DŌ Map p46 Incense
☎ 371-0162; Shimogyō-ku, Horikawa-dōri, Nishihonganji-mae; ☎ 9am-5.30pm, closed 1st & 3rd Sun of each month; 🚶 15min walk from Kyoto Station

A haven for the olfactory sense, this place has sold incense and aromatic woods (for burning, similar to incense) for four centuries. It's opposite the gate of Nishi Hongan-ji.

DOWNTOWN KYOTO

Downtown Kyoto is the best place in the city to shop. The city's main department stores are all located along Shijō-dōri, between Kawaramachi-dōri and Karasuma-dōri. The streets around this prime shopping strip are thick with stores selling everything from traditional crafts to the latest fashions. Heading north from Shijō-dōri, the twin shopping arcades of Shinkyōgoku and Teramachi are the city's main youth shopping areas, and Nishiki Market, the city's best food market, runs west from Teramachi. The stretch of Teramachi that runs south from Shijō-dōri is the city's main electronics district. If you fancy an afternoon of shopping through markets, shops and department stores, look no further than Downtown Kyoto.

top picks

DOWNTOWN DEPARTMENT STORES

In addition to [Isetan Department Store](#) (p107) and [Avanti](#) (p107) in the Kyoto Station area, Kyoto boasts four major department stores, all centrally located in Downtown Kyoto.

- **Hankyū Department Store** (Map p50; ☎ 223-2288; Shimogyō-ku, Shijō-dōri, Kawaramachi Higashi iru, Shin-chō 68; 🕒 11am-8pm Mon-Wed, 11am-9pm Thu-Sun & holidays; 📍 above Kawaramachi Station, Hankyū Kyoto line)
- **Takashimaya Department Store** (Map p50; ☎ 221-8811; Shimogyō-ku, Shijō Tominokōji kado; 🕒 10am-8pm, restaurants to 10pm; 📍 1min walk from Kawaramachi Station, Hankyū Kyoto line)
- **Daimaru Department Store** (Map p50; ☎ 211-8111; Shimogyō-ku, Shijō-dōri, Takakura Nishi iru, Tachiuri Nishi-machi 79; 🕒 10am-8pm, restaurants 11am-9pm, closed Jan 1; 📍 1min walk from Shijō Station, Karasuma subway line or Karasuma Station, Hankyū Kyoto line)
- **Fuji Daimaru Department Store** (Map p50; ☎ 221-8181; Shimogyō-ku, Shijō-dōri Teramachi; 🕒 10.30am to 8pm; 📍 2min walk from Kawaramachi Station, Hankyū line)

IPPO-DŌ Map p50 Japanese Tea

☎ 211-3421; Nakagyō-ku, Teramachi-dōri, Nijō agaru; 🕒 shop 9am-7pm Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm Sun & public holidays, café 11am-5pm, closed new year holidays; 📍 8min walk from Kyoto-Shiyakusho-mae Station, Tōzai subway line
This old-style tea shop sells the best Japanese tea in Kyoto. Its *matcha* (powdered green tea used in tea ceremonies) makes an excellent and lightweight souvenir. Try a 40g container of *wa-no-mukashi* (meaning 'old-time Japan') for ¥1600, which makes 25 cups of excellent green tea. Ippo-dō is north of the city hall, on Teramachi-dōri. It has an adjoining tea house.

TADASHIYA Map p50 Kimono & Obi

☎ 212-1167; Nakagyō-ku, Teramachi-dōri, Ebisugawa; 🕒 10am-6pm; 📍 10min walk from Kyoto-Shiyakusho-mae Station, Tōzai subway line
This shop has an abundance of high-quality used kimono and obi. The prices are a bit

MEIDI-YA STORE Map p50 Imported Foods

☎ 221-7661; Nakagyō-ku, Sanjō-dōri, Kawaramachi higashi iru, Nakajima-chō 78; 🕒 10am-9pm; 📍 5min walk from Sanjō Station, Keihan line
This famous Sanjō-dōri gourmet supermarket has an outstanding selection of imported food and an excellent selection of wine. Prices are high.

KAMIJI KAKIMOTO Map p50 Japanese Paper

☎ 211-3481; Nakagyō-ku, Teramachi-dōri, Nijō agaru, Higashi gawa; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sun & public holidays, closed irregularly; 📍 5min walk from Kyoto-Shiyakusho-mae Station, Tōzai subway line
A close second to [Morita Washi](#) (below) as our favourite *washi* shop in Kyoto. It's got such unusual items as *washi* computer printer paper and *washi* wallpaper. It's very close to [Ippo-dō](#) (right) tea shop, with which it makes a very good double bill.

MORITA WASHI Map p50 Japanese Paper

☎ 341-1419; Shimogyō-ku, Higashinotōin-dōri, Bukkōji agaru; 🕒 9.30am-5.30pm, closes 4.30pm Sat, closed Sun & public holidays; 📍 3min walk from Shijō Station, Karasuma subway line
A short walk from the Shijō-Karasuma crossing, this place sells a fabulous variety of handmade *washi* (Japanese paper) for reasonable prices. It's one of our favourite shops in Kyoto for souvenirs.

RAKUSHI-KAN Map p50 Japanese Paper

☎ 251-0078; Nakagyō-ku, Sanjō-dōri, Takakura agaru; 🕒 10am-7pm Tue-Sun; 📍 5min walk from Karasuma-Oike Station, Karasuma subway line
On the 1st floor of the [Museum of Kyoto](#) (p49), this fine little shop sells a variety of *washi* goods and traditional Japanese stationery. There are several interesting items here that make good souvenirs, including fine letter-writing paper and cards. You can also pick up blank *washi* business cards to have printed up when you get back home.

KYŪKYŌ-DŌ Map p50 Japanese Souvenirs

☎ 231-0510; Nakagyō-ku, Shimohonnō-jimae-chō 520; 🕒 10am-6pm, closed Sun & 1-3 Jan; 📍 1min walk from Kyoto-Shiyakusho-mae Station, Tōzai subway line
This old shop in the Teramachi covered arcade sells a selection of incense, *shodō* (Japanese calligraphy) goods, tea-ceremony supplies and *washi*. Prices are on the high side but the quality is good.

There is a good selection of Lonely Planet guidebooks and maps, English manga, books on Japan, art books, novels etc.

NIJŪSAN-YA Map p50 Combs & Hair Clips

☎ 221-2371; Shimogyō-ku, Shijō-dōri, Kawaramachi higashi iru; 🕒 10am-8pm, closed 3rd Wed of the month; 📍 1min walk from Kawaramachi Station, Hankyū line
Boxwood combs and hair clips are one of Kyoto's most famous traditional crafts, and they are still used in the elaborate hairstyles of the city's geisha and *maiko* (apprentice geisha). This tiny hole-in-the-wall shop has a fine selection for you to choose from (and if you don't like what's on view, you can ask if it has other choices in stock – it usually does).

MATSUYA Map p50 Dolls

☎ 221-5902; Nakagyō-ku, Kawaramachi-dōri, Shijō agaru, Shimoōsaka-chō; 🕒 10.30am-6.30pm, closed Wed; 📍 1min walk from Kawaramachi Station, Hankyū line
Just north of Shijō-dōri, on the eastern side of Kawaramachi-dōri, Matsuya sells an impressive assortment of delicately painted *kyō-ningyō* (Kyoto dolls).

TANAKAYA Map p50 Dolls

☎ 221-1959; Shimogyō-ku, Shijō-dōri, Yanaginobanba higashi iru, Tachiurihigashi-chō 9; 🕒 10am-6pm, closed Wed; 📍 5min walk from Shijō Station, Karasuma subway line
Tanakaya is one of the best places in Kyoto to buy *kyō-ningyō*. In addition to the full range of *kyō-ningyō*, the shop sells display stands and screens, Japanese traditional shell game pieces and miniature [Gion Matsuri](#) (p16) floats. It occupies a wide stretch of Shijō-dōri and is easy to spot by its dolls in the window.

NISHIKI MARKET Map p50 Food Market

Nakagyō-ku, Nishikikōji-dōri, btwn Teramachi & Karasuma; 🕒 9am to 6pm; 📍 10min walk from Karasuma Station, Hankyū line
Known as Nishiki Ichiba in Japanese, Nishiki Market is easily Kyoto's greatest food market and one of the best shopping streets overall. This is the best place to see all the unusual ingredients that go into Kyoto cuisine. There are several spots to eat and drink here, as well as a few souvenir shops.

JUNKUDŌ Map p50 Bookshop

☎ 253-6460; Nakagyō-ku, Kawaramachi dōri, Sanjō kudaru, Yamazaki-chō 2, Kyoto BAL Bldg; 🕒 11am-8pm; 📍 10min walk from Kawaramachi Station, Hankyū line
On the 5th to 8th floors of the BAL building, right downtown, this is one of Kyoto's best bookshops. The 7th floor has a good selection of English books and a smaller selection of books in other European languages. It also stocks English-language manga, magazines, Lonely Planet travel guides, and Japanese-language textbooks and reference books.

RANDOM WALK Map p50 Bookshop

☎ 256-8231; Nakagyō-ku, Teramachi-dōri, Takoyakushi kudaru, Enpukujimae-chō; 🕒 10am-8.30pm; 📍 10min walk from Kawaramachi Station, Hankyū line
In the Teramachi shopping arcade, this is the best English-language bookshop in town.

CLOTHING SIZES

Women's clothing

Aus/UK	8	10	12	14	16	18
Europe	36	38	40	42	44	46
Japan	5	7	9	11	13	15
USA	6	8	10	12	14	16

Women's shoes

Aus/USA	5	6	7	8	9	10
Europe	35	36	37	38	39	40
France only	35	36	38	39	40	42
Japan	22	23	24	25	26	27
UK	3½	4½	5½	6½	7½	8½

Men's clothing

Aus	92	96	100	104	108	112
Europe	46	48	50	52	54	56
Japan	S	M	M	L		
UK/USA	35	36	37	38	39	40

Men's shirts (collar sizes)

Aus/Japan	38	39	40	41	42	43
Europe	38	39	40	41	42	43
UK/USA	15	15½	16	16½	17	17½

Men's shoes

Aus/UK	7	8	9	10	11	12
Europe	41	42	43	44½	46	47
Japan	26	27	27½	28	29	30
USA	7½	8½	9½	10½	11½	12½

Measurements approximate only, try before you buy

on the high side. It's on the corner with the name of the shop written in English in small letters on the door.

TERAMACHI CLUB Map p50 Kimono & Obi

☎ 212-6445; Nakagyō-ku, Teramachi-dōri, Nijō-agaru; ☎ 10am-6pm; ⌚ 10min walk from Kyoto-Shiyakusho-mae Station, Tōzai subway line
Used kimono and obi are only the beginning at this interesting little antique shop. Prices are on the high side but it usually has some interesting items. It's only a little bit further north than the famous [Ippo-dō](#) (p109) tea shop.

ARITSUGU Map p50 Knives & Kitchenware

☎ 221-1091; Nakagyō-ku, Nishikikōji-dōri, Gokomachi nishi iru, Kajiya-chō 219; ☎ 9am-5.30pm; ⌚ 10min walk from Kawaramachi Station, Hankyū line
While you're in the Nishiki Market, have a look at this store – it's where you can find some of the best kitchen knives in the world. It also carries a selection of excellent and unique Japanese kitchenware.

TANAKAYA Map p50 Noren

☎ 221-3076; Nakagyō-ku, Takakura-dōri-Nishikikōji agaru, Kaiya-chō 558-1; ☎ 9.30am-7pm, closed 3rd Wed of each month; ⌚ 10min walk from Shijō Station, Karasuma subway line
This shop sells *noren* (curtains that hang in the entry of Japanese restaurants) and a wide variety of other fabric goods such as placemats, *tenugui* (small hand towels), handkerchiefs and bedding. It's near Daimaru Department Store.

KŌJITSU SANSŌ Map p50 Outdoor Sporting Goods

☎ 257-7050; Nakagyō-ku, Kawaramachi-dōri, Sanjō agaru, Ebisu-chō 427; ☎ 10.30am-8pm; ⌚ 5min walk from Sanjō Station, Keihan line
If you plan to do some hiking or camping while in Japan, you can stock up on equipment at this excellent little shop on Kawaramachi-dōri. You'll find that Japanese outdoor sporting equipment is very high quality (with prices to match).

ZEST UNDERGROUND SHOPPING ARCADE Map p50 Shopping Arcade

☎ 253-3100; Nakagyō-ku, Kawaramachi Oike B1; ☎ shops 10.30am-8.30pm, restaurants 11am-10pm, closed 1 Jan; ⌚ 1min walk from Kyoto-Shiyakusho-mae Station, Tōzai subway line

This new mall under Oike-dōri in front of Kyoto City Hall has a variety of boutiques, restaurants and a small branch of [Kinokuniya](#) bookshop.

OPA Map p50 Shopping Centre

☎ 255-8111; Nakagyō-ku, Kawaramachi-dōri, Shijō agaru; ☎ 11am-9pm, closed irregularly; ⌚ 1min walk from Kawaramachi Station, Hankyū line
This youth-oriented shopping centre is the place to go to see swarms of *ko-gyaru* (brightly clad Japanese girls) and their mates. It's also a decent spot for those who want to check out a wide variety of fashion boutiques and other trendy shops.

SHIN-PUH-KAN Map p50 Shopping Centre

☎ 213-6688; Nakagyō-ku, Karasuma dōri, Aneyakōji kudaru, Bano-chō 586-2; ☎ shops 11am-8pm Sun-Thu, to 9pm Fri & Sat, restaurants 11am-11pm, closed irregularly; ⌚ 1min walk from Karasuma-Oike Station, Karasuma subway line
This new Downtown shopping complex has a variety of boutiques and restaurants clustered around a huge open-air atrium. The offerings here run to the trendy and ephemeral, which seems to appeal to all the young folk who congregate here. Occasional art and music performances are held in the atrium.

ERIZEN Map p50 Textiles

☎ 221-1618; Shimogyō-ku, Shijō Kawaramachi, Otabi-chō; ☎ 10am-6pm, closed Mon; ⌚ 1min walk from Kawaramachi Station, Hankyū line
Roughly opposite Takashimaya Department Store, Erizen is one of the best places in Kyoto to buy a kimono or kimono fabric. It has a great selection of *kyō-yūzen* (Kyoto dyed fabrics) and other kimono fabrics.

KIDS' STUFF

Kyoto is the prime destination for groups of school-kids from all over Japan, who are brought here at least once during their schooling to learn about Japan's culture. Of course, as soon as they get a free moment, they ditch the temples to join others of their kind in two of Kyoto's most popular shopping streets, the [Teramachi](#) and [Shinkyōgoku covered arcades](#) (Map p50). Lined with restaurants, cinemas, a mix of tacky shops and more traditional, upmarket stores, these arcades are a lot of fun and they're the best place to look for kitschy souvenirs such as T-shirts with slogans *Ichiban!* (number one) and *Nippon* (Japan).

Prices are not cheap but the service is of a high level. Staff can measure you for a kimono and post it to your home later.

TSUJIKURA Map p50 Umbrellas

☎ 221-4396; Nakagyō-ku, Kawaramachi-dōri, Shijō agaru higashi gawa; ☎ 11am-8pm, closed Wed; ⌚ 2min walk from Kawaramachi Station, Hankyū line
A short walk north of the Shijō-Kawaramachi crossing, Tsujikura has a good selection of waxed-paper umbrellas and paper lanterns with traditional and modern designs.

NISHIHARU Map p50 Wood-Block Prints

☎ 211-2849; Nakagyō-ku, Sanjō-dōri, Teramachi; ☎ 2-7pm, closed irregularly; ⌚ 10min walk from Sanjō Station, Keihan line
This is an attractive shop dealing in wood-block prints. All the prints are accompanied by English explanations and the owner is happy to take the time to find something you really like.

CENTRAL KYOTO

Central Kyoto is really an extension of Downtown Kyoto and it contains many of Kyoto's best shops, with a heavy concentration of traditional craft shops. Teramachi-dōri, between Oike-dōri and Marutamachi-dōri, is Kyoto's single best shopping strip for traditional crafts and tea. Other good shopping options can be found in the streets south of Shijō-dōri.

KŌBŌ-SAN MARKET Map pp54-5 Flea Market

☎ 691-3325; Minami-ku, Kujō-chō 1 (Tō-ji); ☎ dawn to dusk, 21st of each month; ⌚ 10min walk from Kyoto Station
This market is held at [Tō-ji](#) (p57) on the 21st of each month to commemorate the death of Kōbō Taishi, who in 823 was appointed abbot of the temple. If you're after used kimono, pottery, bric-a-brac, plants, tools and general Japanalia, this is the place.

YWCA'S THRIFT SHOP Map pp54-5 Flea Market

☎ 431-0351; Kamigyō-ku, Muromachi-dōri, Demizu agaru, Konoe-chō 44; ☎ 11am-2pm, 1st & 3rd Sat of each month; ⌚ 15min walk from Marutamachi Station, Karasuma subway line
On the first and third Saturday of each month there is a flea market and general get-together of foreigners here.

KYOTO-KIMONO PLAZA Map pp54-5 Kimono & Obi

☎ 352-2323; Shimogyō-ku, Karasuma Takatsuji agaru; ☎ 10am-5pm, closed Tue; ⌚ 2min walk from Shijō Station, Karasuma subway line
This is one of Kyoto's more approachable kimono shops. As with other shops specialising in new kimono and kimono fabrics, prices are not cheap, but the quality is high. You can be measured for a custom kimono here and the shop will post it to your home.

SHIKUNSHI Map pp54-5 Kimono & Obi

☎ 221-0456; Shimogyō-ku, Shijō-dōri, Nishinotōin higashi iru, Kakukoyama-chō 12; ☎ 10.30am-7pm; ⌚ 5min walk from Shijō Station, Karasuma subway line
In a wonderful old *machiya* (traditional Japanese town house) on Shijō-dōri, east of Nishinotōin-dōri, this shop sells a variety of kimono. Have a look at the small shop in the restored warehouse at the back.

SOUTHERN HIGASHIYAMA

While Southern Higashiyama is renowned as more of a sightseeing district, you will find plenty of interesting little souvenir shops scattered about, particularly in the streets leading up to Kiyomizu-dera (p63) and down towards Kōdai-ji (p64), such as Ninen-zaka and Sannen-zaka. Shops in this area are particularly good for ceramics and fabric items such as *noren*.

KAGOSHIN Map p62 Bamboo Crafts

☎ 771-0209; Higashiyama-ku, Sanjō-dōri, Ōhashi 4 chōme; ☎ 9am-6pm; ⌚ 3min walk from Sanjō Station, Keihan line
Kagoshin is a small semi-open bamboo craft shop on Sanjō-dōri, only a few minutes' walk east of the Kamo-gawa. It has a good selection of baskets, chopstick holders, bamboo vases, decorations and knick-knacks. The baskets make a good, light souvenir and look great in alcove displays.

ONOUCHIKUZAITEN Map p62 Bamboo Crafts

☎ 751-2444; Higashiyama-ku, Sanjō-dōri, Ōhashi higashi iru 3-39; ☎ 10am-7pm; ⌚ 3min walk from Sanjō Station, Keihan line
With a name that even residents find hard to pronounce, this fine little specialist

IN THE MARKET FOR...

Ceramics

Kyoto is a great place to pick up some of Japan's famed ceramics. In Southern Higashiyama (Map p62), Ninen-zaka and Sannen-zaka slopes, close to **Kiyomizu-dera** (p63), are renowned for a distinctive type of pottery known as Kiyomizuyaki. You'll find more pottery shops along Gojō-dōri between Higashiōji-dōri and Kawabata-dōri. Of course, you'll get far better deals at Kyoto's two great flea markets: **Kōbō-san** (p111) and **Tenjin-san** (opposite).

Used Kimono & Obi

If you're in the market for a used kimono or obi (kimono sash), you'll definitely find the widest selection and best prices at Kōbō-san and Tenjin-san. If you're not lucky enough to be in town on the 21st or 25th of the month for these markets, don't give up hope. There are several shops around town where you can buy a used kimono for a lot less than you'd pay for a new one. We suggest **Tadashiya** (p109) and **Teramachi Club** (p110) in Downtown Kyoto.

store stocks a selection of bamboo crafts. It's only a few steps away from its main competition, **Kagoshin** (p111), which allows for easy comparison shopping. Like Kagoshin, it stocks baskets, bamboo vases, decorations and knick-knacks.

TŌKI MATSURI Map p62 Ceramics

Higashiyama-ku, Gojō-dōri, btwn Higashiōji & Kawabata; ☎ 10am-8pm; 🕒 7-10 Aug; 🚶 10min walk from Gojō Station, Keihan line

This is Kyoto's largest ceramics fair and it's a good place to snap up some bargains, especially late on the last day. Even if you don't intend to buy, it's fun to stroll past the stores. The market runs between Kawabata and Higashiōji.

TESSAI-DŌ Map p62 Wood-Block Prints

☎ 531-9566; Higashiyama-ku, Shimokawara-chō 463; ☎ 10am-5pm; 🕒 7min walk from Higashiyamayasu bus stop, bus 206 from Kyoto Station

While exploring the lovely Nene-no-Michi lane in Higashiyama's main sightseeing district, you might want to step into this fine little wood-block print shop. This shop specialises in original prints, some of which are quite old. Prices average ¥10,000 per print and the owner will be happy to consult with you about what sort of print you are after.

NORTHERN HIGASHIYAMA

Similar to Southern Higashiyama, Northern Higashiyama is more of a sightseeing district than a shopping district. There are a few worthwhile shops scattered about, however,

including our favourite one-stop souvenir shop: the Kyoto Handicraft Center. You'll also find a good temple market, the Chion-ji Tezukuri-Ichi, which is held on the 15th of every month.

GREEN E BOOKS Map pp68-9 Bookshop

☎ 751-5033; Sakyō-ku, Kawabata Marutamachi; ☎ 1-9pm Mon & Fri, 11am-9pm Sat & Sun; 🚶 1min walk from exit 4, Marutamachi Station, Keihan line

This small bookstore has a decent selection of used books. It also organises a variety of interesting events in town.

KYOTO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HOUSE

Map pp68-9 Flea Market

☎ 752-3010; Sakyō-ku, Awataguchi, Torii-chō 2-1; ☎ 11am-4pm; 🕒 5min walk from Keage Station, Tōzai subway line

Twice a year, in spring and autumn, recycled items, clothes and household goods are sold here. Call for dates, as they vary each year.

CHION-JI TEZUKURI-ICHI

Map pp68-9 Handmade Crafts

☎ 781-9171; Sakyō-ku, Tanaka Monzen-chō 103; ☎ dawn to dusk, 15th of each month; 🚶 1min walk from Hyakumamben bus stop, bus 206 from Kyoto Station

The Tezukuri-ichi (handmade market) is held at Chion-ji on the 15th of each month. Wares include food and handmade clothes. This is a good chance to see Kyoto's alternative community out in full force.

KYOTO HANDICRAFT CENTER

Map pp68-9 Japanese Crafts

☎ 761-8001; Sakyō-ku, Shōgo-in Entomi-chō 21; ☎ 10am-6pm, closed 1-3 Jan; 🚶 10min walk from Marutamachi Station, Keihan line

The Kyoto Handicraft Center is a huge cooperative that exhibits and sells a wide range of Japanese arts and crafts. It also has two in-house wood-block printmakers and a corner where you can try your hand at making some of your own prints.

All in all, this is the best one-stop emporium in the whole of Kyoto. It's located near **Heian-jingū** (p72).

NORTHWEST KYOTO

Northwest Kyoto is hardly a shopping mecca, but like most Kyoto neighbourhoods it has plenty of stores scattered about. Of most interest to foreign travellers is the famous Tenjin-san Market, held once a month at Kitano Tenman-gū. The area is also home to the Nishijin textile district, which is where you'll find the Nishijin Textile Center.

TŌKI-ICHI Map p74 Ceramics

Kamigyō-ku, Mizomae-chō (Daihōon-ji, Senbon Shaka-dō); ☎ 10am-8pm 9-12 Jul; 🚶 10min walk Kitano Tenmangū-mae bus stop, bus 50 or 101 from Kyoto Station

This is a large pottery fair held at Senbon Shaka-dō, where around 30 vendors sell various wares.

MYŌREN-JI Map p74 Flea Market

☎ 451-3527; Kamigyō-ku, Teranouchi-dōri, Horikawa nishi iru; ☎ 10am-4pm, 12th of each month; 🚶 10min walk from Kuramaguchi Station, Karasuma subway line

On the 12th of each month there is a bazaar at Myōren-ji, northwest of Imadegawa-Horikawa. Goods on offer include such items as Japanese textiles and bric-a-brac.

TENJIN-SAN MARKET Map p74 Flea Market

☎ 461-0005; Kamigyō-ku, Bakuro-chō (Kitano Tenman-gū); ☎ dawn to dusk, 25th of each month;

🚶 1min walk from Kitano Tenmangū-mae bus stop, bus 50 or 101 from Kyoto Station

This market is held once a month at **Kitano Tenman-gū** (p76) and marks the birthday (and coincidentally the death) of the Heian-era statesman Sugawara Michizane (845-903). Items on offer are similar to those at **Kōbō-san** (p111). It's pleasant to explore the shrine before or after you do your shopping.

NISHIJIN TEXTILE CENTER

Map p74 Kimono & Obi

☎ 451-9231; Kamigyō-ku, Horikawa-dōri, Imadegawa minami iru; ☎ 9am-5pm; 🚶 1min walk from Horikawa-Imadegawa bus stop, bus 9 from Kyoto Station

The Nishijin Textile Center (see also p75) is part museum, part event hall and part shop. Downstairs, it occasionally hosts kimono fashion shows, highlighting the area's distinctive Nishijin-ori weaving. Upstairs there are displays where artisans demonstrate the use of traditional looms and dyeing techniques. A variety of goods, including kimono and obi (kimono sashes), are for sale on the 2nd floor.

GREATER KYOTO

Greater Kyoto, which comprises the outskirts of the city, is of little interest to foreign shoppers. Most of the stores exist to serve the needs of the many residential neighbourhoods here. The yearly antique fair held at Pulse Plaza, however, is worth the trip, even if you have no intention of buying anything. The variety of treasures on display will make you wish you were made of money.

PULSE PLAZA Map pp42-3 Antiques

☎ 0771-26-3603; Fushimi-ku, Takeda Tobadono-chō 5; ☎ 10am-5pm Fri & Sat, to 4pm Sun; 🚶 free shuttle bus leaves from northeast exit, Takeda Station, Karasuma subway or Kintetsu line

Several times a year, an Antiques Grand Fair is held here in this hall in the southern part of Kyoto. Check with the **TIC** (p199) for exact dates.

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