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Photo Credit: [Kyle Kroeger](#)

Things To Do In September In Kyoto

Kyoto is well known for holding lots of festivals and events in the summertime, with Gion Matsuri lasting the whole month of July, but that doesn't mean there's nothing to do when the summer heat eventually starts to die down. As Kyoto's landscapes turn from beautiful pinks and greens to deep reds and oranges, the city comes alive in a whole new way as people make the most of the last of the warmer weather and begin moving activities indoors. Whether you're looking for crowded fairs or calming exhibits on folk crafts, we've got you covered!



The full moon over the trees - Photo Credit: [Daikakuji Temple Official Website](#)

Kangetsu Kai (Moon Viewing)

With the moon appearing in many different Japanese folktales and symbolism, and anticipation of the autumn harvest moon, it's common to find lots of Kangetsu Kai or 'moon viewing' events all across Japan in September and October, but merging the experience with the traditional atmosphere of Kyoto creates something really special. This tradition actually dates all the way back to the Heian Period (794-1185 CE) and can include everything from tea ceremonies and theatre to simply gazing upon the full moon in awe. Whilst the harvest moon is a little later than usual this year, here are some of the top places we'd recommend to view both the moon itself and the beautiful atmosphere it casts upon the ancient shrines of Kyoto.

Kodai-ji Temple

Location: [Kodai-ji Temple - Google Maps](#)

Website: [鷲峰山 高台寺](#)

Daikakuji Temple

Location: [Daikaku-ji Temple - Google Maps](#)

Website: [秋の行事 – 旧嵯峨御所 大本山 大覚寺](#)

Yasaksa Shrine

Location: [Yasaka Shrine - Google Maps](#)

Website: <https://www.yasaka-jinja.or.jp/>

Kamigamo Shrine

Location: [Kamigamo Shrine - Google Maps](#)

Website: <https://www.kamigamojinja.jp/>



Outdoor dining geisha garden - Photo credit: [Kamishichiken Kabukai Official Website](#)

Kamishichiken Geisha Beer Garden

If you're looking to enjoy some outdoor dining in the last of the summer weather but you also want to see some geisha and maiko (geisha apprentices) whilst in Kyoto then look no further than Kamishichiken Kabukai who are hosting an outdoor beer garden where you can be served by geisha! This is a great way to experience some of Japan's rich culture and history whilst also taking time to relax during your stay so why not give it a try?

Date: 7th July - 6th September (5:30pm-10pm)

Price: 2,500 yen (reserve in advance)

Website: [ビアガーデン | 上七軒歌舞会 | 公式ウェブサイト](#)

Location: [Google Maps - Kamishichiken Kabukai](#)



Chrysanthemums at the choyo no sekku - Photo Credit: [SHUNGATE](#)

Chōyō no Sekku (Chrysanthemum Festival)

If you're coming in the early stage of autumn and worried you've missed the vibrant flora Japan has to offer, don't fret! The Kyoto chrysanthemum festival has got you covered! Appreciating nature in a different way to the nighttime moonviewings, this day time festival includes chrysanthemum sake tasting, ritual dances that the crowd can join in with, and even an appearance from the Saiō-dai!

Date: 9th September (10am - 5pm)

Price: Free

Website: [Chōyō no Sekku | Discover Kyoto](#)

Location: [Kamigamo Shrine - Google Maps](#)



Some examples of beautifully crafted Mingei - [What Is Mingei? 5 Things to Know About Japanese Folk Crafts](#)

100th Anniversary of Mingei Exhibit

Refining the methods over an entire century, Mingei is a style of Japanese folk craft that can be applied to many mediums and that originated in Kyoto itself. To celebrate this lasting artform, the Kyoto City museum of art is holding a special exhibit displaying lots of different Mingei artefacts, statues and ceramic from across the years to giving you an insight into this unique regional style.

Date: 13th September - 7th December

Price: 2,000 yen (adult), 1,500 (university and high school students), free for junior high students and younger

Website: [The 100th Anniversary of Mingei: Kyoto's Legacy of Everyday Life | Official Website](#)

Location: [Kyoto City KYOCERA Museum of Art - Google Maps](#)



Aikidō performance at yoshitsune-sai. Photo credit: [Discover Kyoto](#)

Yoshitsune-sai

In memory and celebration of Minamoto Yoshitsune, a famous general and warrior from Japanese legend, an annual festival is held at Kurama-dera, where he trained as a young boy. With displays of Aikido, a type of martial arts, traditional dances and a portrait of the noble warrior on display this is the perfect opportunity to delve into a specific part of Japanese history whilst also enjoying the Kurama-dera temple itself.

Date: 15th September (starts at 10am)

Price: 200 yen

Website: [Yoshitsune-sai | Discover Kyoto](#)

Location: [Kuramadera Temple - Google Maps](#)



Crowds at the anime and manga fair - Photo credit: [KYOMAF Official Website](#)

Kyoto International Anime and Manga Fair

Perhaps one of the most well known events in Kyoto, this event is perfect for anyone who came to Japan to find rare merchandise for their favourite anime or connect with other people that love that one specific manga. Spanning across 3 whole days, the Kyoto International Anime and Manga Fair (or KYOMAF for short) included everything you could want from a convention, including anime screenings, themed food and special guests!

Date: 20th - 21st September (10am - 7pm)

Price: 2,300 yen (elementary school and below are free!)

Website: [Event Outline | 京都国際マンガ・アニメフェア\(京まふ\)2025](#)

Location: [Kyoto International Manga Museum - Google Maps](#)



Hello Kitty Statue - Photo Credit: [Japan Kuru](#)

Hello Kitty 50th Anniversary Exhibit

Perhaps one of the most well-known characters to come out of Japan, in the year of 2025, Hello Kitty celebrates its 50th anniversary by holding an exhibit in Kyoto all about the cat herself! This exhibit, with its artist collaborations, merchandise displays and exclusive video content is a must visit for any fans or nostalgia-seekers! Plus, there's even a ticket option that included limited goods, making this the perfect event for anyone looking to expand their collection!

Date: 25th September - 7th December 2025 (10am - 6pm)

Price: 2,000 yen (general, same-day), 800 yen (child, same-day), 1,800 yen (general, advanced), 600 yen (child, advanced), 3,000 yen (limited goods included ticket)

Website: [Hello Kitty Exhibition -When I Change, Kitty Changes- | Events | Kansai Television Broadcasting Kantele](#)

Location: [Higashiyama Cube - Google Maps](#)



Traditional hair combs - Photo credit: [The Kansai Guide](#)

Kushi Matsuri

The 'Kushi', or comb, festival is an annual festival held at Yasui Konpiragu dedicated to the memorial of old used combs and hairpins and expressing gratitude for beauty. Around 1pm a ritual is held where people come forward to deposit their combs onto the Kushizuka (comb mound) whilst a dance takes place in the shrine hall. Not only is this festival steeped in interesting culture and tradition, but it is also a great way to appreciate the beauty of geisha makeup and hairstyles a little bit away from the crowds of the Gion district.

Date: 25th September (1pm start)

Price: Free

Website: [Annual events | Yasui Konpiragu](#)

Location: [Yasui Kompiragū Shrine - Google Maps](#)



Beer garden set - Photo Credit: <https://hotelfauchonkyoto.com/post-3207/>

Fauchon Hotel Beer Garden

If you're looking for a good beer to enjoy outside before the weather gets too cold, then September is the perfect month to explore some beer gardens and outdoor restaurants! A lot of outdoor dining in Japan is seasonal only so if you want to enjoy something like the [Fauchon Hotel](#) beer garden, and the variety of things it has on offer, then September is not only your last chance before it closes for the winter, but also the perfect weather to enjoy a peaceful drink outside.

Date: 7th May - 30th September 2025

Price: 6,000 yen (beer garden set), 8,000 yen (with main course of your choice)

Website: [Hotel Fauchon Kyoto | Spring Valley Brewery](#)

Location: [Fauchon Hotel Kyoto - Google Maps](#)

And there you have it! Good food, displays of some of the finest traditional arts and a variety of character merchandise to stuff your suitcase with before you head home! Kyoto is well known for being the traditional, slightly quieter city, but hopefully by incorporating one (or more!) of these events into your itinerary, you can really enjoy this beautiful city and everything it has to offer.