

Kyoto by the Sea

Emerald Escapes

Discover Kyoto's Coastal Paradise

Known affectionately as "Kyoto by the Sea," the northern part of Kyoto Prefecture is defined by the stunning coastline scenery that is one of its most alluring attractions. With dramatic cliffs and calm inlets, breathtaking views await. Visitors to Kyōtango City in the northern part of the Tango Peninsula, which juts out into the Sea of Japan, will find beaches with sparkling white sands and clear emerald-green waters just like a tropical resort, all within a couple of hours of downtown Kyoto.

This area is part of the UNESCO San'in Kaigan Geopark, preserving a dynamic geological heritage that dates back around 25 million years to when the Japanese archipelago split from the Eurasian continent. Fifteen unique beaches unfold along its varied coastline.

Take a long bike ride or drive and feel the kiss of the sea breeze, or go for a swim in the ocean. Perhaps you'd like to try surfing with a local guide or a mini adventure through some of the coastal inlets on a SUP (stand-up paddleboard). There are also 40 hot springs sources (the greatest number in any one location in the prefecture) here as a result of ancient volcanic activity, so put some spa-hopping on your itinerary as well. Now let's explore six of the area's most scenic beaches.



Byōbuiwa Rock, Kyōtango City



① Yūhigaura

Known for beautiful sunsets. Visit during the magic hour to experience the breathtaking sight of the shimmering gold shoreline and the glowing orange and blue hues of the sea and sky. There's a 5-meter-high wooden beach swing called Yurari, making it a popular spot for an impressive Instagram snap. Nearby Kyōtango 135°EAST offers surfing and SUP experiences. You'll also find Yuhigaura Onsen here and plenty of beachside accommodation options.



② Hacchō-hama

A beautiful arched white sandy beach with shallow, emerald-green waters. Hacchō-hama is also popular as a surf spot due to the powerful waves that hit this area. There's a grassy park in front of the beach, so it's ideal for families with children.



③ Kotohiki-hama

A scenic spot with 1.8 km of white sand and green pines, known as one of Japan's best "singing sands" beaches. Walking on the sand produces a charming squeaking sound due to the friction of the quartz in the sand. It was made the world's first non-smoking beach because clean sand is necessary for the sand to "sing." Look for the small open-air hot spring on the beach.



④ Tateiwa and Nochiga-hama

For those who enjoy both dynamic landscapes and beaches, Nochiga-hama is the place to go. You'll find this area of outstanding natural beauty near a 20m-high, single giant volcanic rock called Tateiwa. The nearby hot spring Hashiudo-sō is popular for its outdoor baths with views of Tateiwa. The neighboring Sunagata Beach (MAP ⑤) boasts crystal-clear marine blue seas on a sunny day and gentle shallow waters perfect for playing on the shore.



⑥ Kyūso Beach

A small beach, but incredibly clear water. Visitors can also tour secret caves with a local guide on an SUP. The wide, open views as you paddle across the water are like nothing else! Afterwards, relax at the nearby hot spring Ukawa Onsen. To book a SUP tour, contact Kyoto by the Sea DMO (visit@uminokiyoto.jp)

