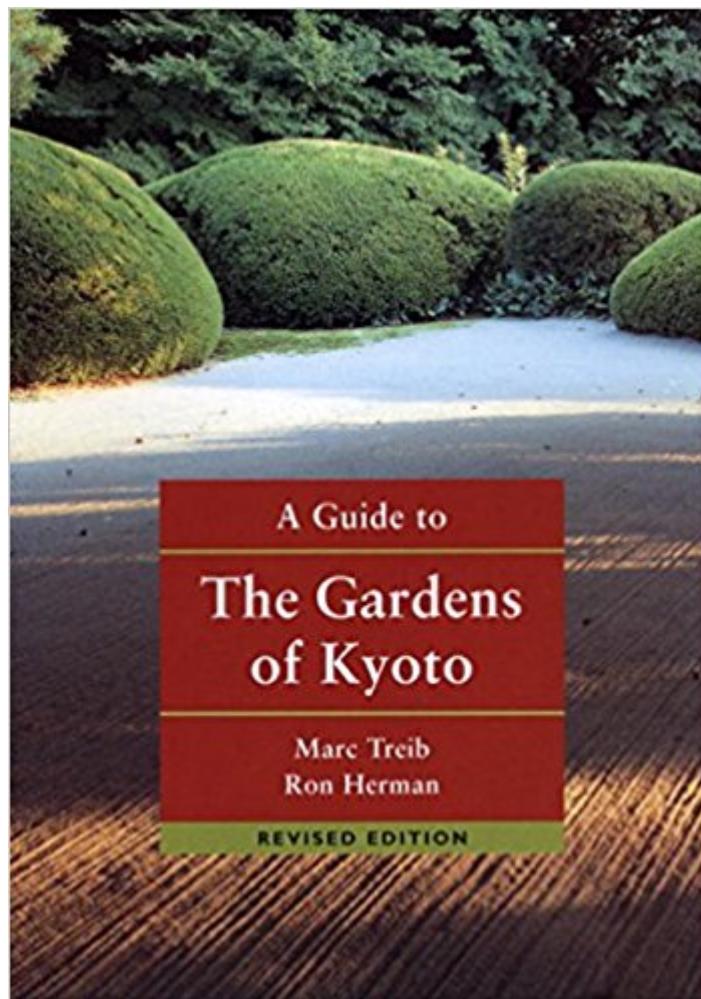


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# A Guide To The Gardens Of Kyoto



## Synopsis

Designed for the layman as well as the professional, this concise yet comprehensive guide provides both practical information and theoretical insights into the design of the Japanese garden. Kyoto, the capital of Japan for over one thousand years, possesses a richness of garden art without equal as a living chronicle of Japanese cultural history and environmental design. Following the introductory essays are individual entries for more than fifty temple and palace gardens. The text is augmented by an excellent selection of photographs, historical prints, maps and color plates.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book's design is refreshingly simple and uncluttered, and as a guide is easy to carry around. It provides a solid, and at times charming, introduction to the extraordinary gardens of Kyoto. "The East

MARC TREIB is Professor of Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, a practicing designer, and a frequent contributor to architecture, landscape and design journals. His books include *Modern Landscape Architecture: A Critical Review* (editor, 1993); *Space Calculated in Seconds: The Philips Pavilion, Le Corbusier and Edgard Varese* (1997); *Garett Eckbo: Modern Landscapes for Living* (co-author, 1997); and *The Architecture of Landscape, 1940-60* (editor, 2002)

RON HERMAN is a landscape architect specializing in residential and estate gardens, with his office in San Leandro, California. After receiving his degree in landscape architecture from the University of California, Berkeley, he studied the history of Japanese gardens at Kyoto University. He has

lectured widely on Japanese landscapes and been the recipient of two Japan Foundation fellowships for garden research. His professional work has been extensively published.

I've met Ron Herman and he is one of the most talented landscape gardeners and an authoritative western expert on Japanese gardens in particular. Kyoto does not change fast, so even though the book is old this is still a highly valuable guide for anyone planning on visiting this remarkable city. This guide book describes all the major gardens in the 5-districts and their surroundings, and will help you decide what you want to see and how to get there. He also offers itineraries to help plan your trip. The book has many good color and b/w photos, and numerous diagrams to give you an idea of what to expect. It also offers a brief history of Kyoto and the gardens, and describes the various styles. If you are visiting Kyoto for the first time, do a web search and find a good ryokan, or traditional inn for your stay. The Japanese understand service like no other, and this will significantly enhance your experience. They can be expensive and you'll get what you pay for (avoid Yachiyo Ryokan, it's not worth the price and they're rude to westerners in a subtle and very Japanese way, like sticking you in the noisiest room when the place is empty or telling you to come back if you arrive a little early). I also recommend Diane Durston's book "Old Kyoto", which has good cultural info and all the great places to shop & eat. You can skip the big name guide books if you get these two. Have a great one!

This book is an indispensable aide to anyone planning a trip on his own. This book contains over 50 individual entries describing the gardens of Kyoto and environs, grouped by geographic location within the city. Overview maps for the different districts show the approximate location of the individual gardens, so that the traveller can put together itineraries for daytrips in the Kyoto area. Each entry gives details of opening hours, historic background and special features of the garden described. The name of the garden and its location are additionally specified in Japanese characters, making this book the ideal travel guide for those embarking on a trip to Kyoto. There is a limited number of photos, so that those wanting to plan a trip using the guide might consider referencing other books with numerous color photos to pick the specific gardens they are interested in.

This is an excellent, well organized book. It's small enough to take with you and the maps are not so detailed as to be confusing and yet detailed enough to be useful. I've been pouring over many books on Kyoto gardens - I'm going to Kyoto next week and this is the ONE book I will be taking

with me. The book is organized into the different areas of Kyoto, so if you're interested in the northeast area you can easily see what there is to see in that particular area. The one drawback is the lack of blank pages for personal notes and itineraries. My guess is that the authors wanted to keep the overall size of the book as small as possible so that people could take it with them. As I said, I'm taking mine with me. This is a useful, well organized, well thought out book. If you're going to go to Kyoto, this is the book to get.

... and Japanese gardens generally. Of all the joys I experienced living and learning music in Japan, the most intense was just sitting in some of the less-touristed gardens of Tokyo and 'letting time happen' around me. But I'm not writing now to review this guidebook or to praise the beauties of raked gravel and maple leaves. The pictures of the earthquake devastation in northeastern Japan have shaken my feelings fearsomely. Don't just think about making a contribution for aid and relief! Do it! Give until it hurts! People in the upper tax brackets, GIVE that extra 3% or 4% you begrudge in taxes so adamantly! Give until your greed-meter overheats! Today's Huffington Post has very dependable and worthy agencies to recommend for your generosity. I'll add the link in a comment.

Don't leave home without this book! Anyone who is planning a trip to Japan (resident foreigners included) and has even the slightest interest learning about the Gardens of Kyoto should buy a copy of this superb book, which is small enough to carry in your shoulder bag. The book contains gives the balance of detail, giving good a historical background and landscape points overview. This is a buy you will not regret. Well done to the authors.

I was greatly impressed with the historical text in the beginning of the book, which sets the stage for the rest. I have several books on Kyoto and Gardens of Japan, but this one is now my favorite.

I've visited the gardens and temples of Kyoto twice before, and am going again soon. I will take this book, the 2nd edition I've carried as I wore the first one out. A truly indispensable guide to the history and contents of the 50 sites it covers.

What they consider celebrities are important people in the communist party not what we would consider celebrities. They do not show the interiors. The photos of the exteriors are the size of postage stamps. They show the location of the houses on tiny local maps which you could never find the houses using. A very disappointing book. It would have been interesting to see large photos

of the interiors of the courtyard houses fully furnished, but that would be another book. Seeing the door from the street is not very interesting.

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