

HOTEL THE MITSUI  
K Y O T O

Press Release

September 2, 2026

**HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO Launches Exclusive After-Hours Tour of  
UNESCO World Heritage Site Nijo Castle**



Kyoto, Japan – [HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO](#) is pleased to introduce an exclusive guest experience offering private after-hours access to the adjacent Nijo Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site, while supporting its future conservation. Available to only four groups during the programme period, the experience combines luxury accommodations overlooking the castle grounds with rare access to areas normally closed to the public.

This offering coincides with the 400th anniversary of the historic Kanei Imperial Visit of 1626, when Emperor Go-Mizunoo was welcomed to Nijo Castle in an event renowned for its extraordinary splendor and cultural significance.

The exclusive after-hours tour begins at 4:00 p.m., once Nijo Castle has closed to the public. Limited to a single group, guests will have the rare opportunity to explore the World Heritage site in the tranquility of dusk, taking in the same views once enjoyed by shoguns and emperors while experiencing the castle's remarkable atmosphere in near solitude.

A highlight of the experience is the Higashi Ote-mon Gate, a nationally designated Important Cultural Property visible from select guest rooms at HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO. Closed to the public for approximately a decade, this historic structure will open exclusively for participating guests, providing rare access to its interior and offering a unique perspective on the castle's architectural legacy.

The tour continues past the magnificent Karamon Gate and through the picturesque Ninomaru-teien Garden, including areas not normally accessible to visitors, before arriving at the National Treasure Ninomaru-goten Palace. Guests will enjoy special access to the normally restricted Yon-no-Ma, an exceptional opportunity to appreciate the palace's outstanding artistry, craftsmanship, and centuries of history at close quarters.

Nijo Castle is currently undertaking extensive conservation and restoration initiatives, including major repairs to the National Treasure Ninomaru-goten Palace and other significant historic structures throughout the castle grounds. This special experience has been created to support these ongoing preservation efforts, helping to safeguard one of Japan's most important cultural treasures and ensure its legacy endures for future generations.

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As dusk settles over Nijo Castle, guests are invited to become part of its continuing story. Combined with an elegant stay overlooking the castle grounds, this extraordinary experience offers an intimate encounter with Kyoto's cultural heritage while contributing directly to its preservation for generations to come.

## Exclusive Private Tour of UNESCO World Heritage Site Nijo Castle:

- **Period:** October 1st, 2026 to March 31st, 2027 (limited to the first four groups during the program period)
- **Eligible Guests:** Guests staying in a Nijo Room, Nijo Suite or Presidential Suite
- **Capacity:** One group per day, with a maximum of eight guests
- **Time:** 4pm–5.15pm
- **Donation:** JPY 500,000 Cultural Property Preservation Donation (accommodation charges apply separately)
- **Reservations:** Please contact the hotel after making your accommodation reservation.
- **Reservation Deadline:** One month prior to the tour date.
- **Tour Details:** Special access to the interior of the Important Cultural Property Higashi Ote-mon Gate; Karamon Gate; Ninomaru-teien Garden, including areas not normally open to the public; and the National Treasure Ninomaru-goten Palace, including special access to the normally restricted Yon-no-Ma. A dedicated guide will accompany the tour.

\* At check-in, the hotel will provide guidance on the donation procedure. Guests are requested to make the donation directly to Nijo Castle; the hotel is unable to accept the donation on its behalf.

\* This tour is available to guests aged 13 and over.



Important Cultural Property  
“Higashi Otemon Gate”



Nijjo Suite

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## ABOUT HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO, a Luxury Collection Hotel & Spa:

HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO is the first property under the HOTEL THE MITSUI ultra-luxury hospitality brand. Located in the heart of Kyoto adjacent to the legendary Nijo Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the 160-room hotel features three restaurants, including the innovative TOKI; Thermal Spring Spa sourced from an on-site natural spring; and a modern tea ceremony alcove. Built on a 250-year-old historic site that was once the home of the executive branch of the Mitsui Family, the hotel presents an ambiance of refined sophistication and serves as a cultural gateway to discover Kyoto.

HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO was the first property in Japan to earn a Forbes Travel Guide Five Star rating in its opening year inspection and has retained that distinction for five consecutive years; in 2026, its Spa also achieved Five Star status and its commitment to sustainable practices was recognized with the VERIFIED™ Responsible Hospitality badge. In the same year, the hotel was honored as an inaugural recipient of the Condé Nast Traveler's Triple Crown. The property also stands as the only hotel in Kyoto to receive the Michelin Three Key distinction.

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HOTEL THE MITSUI HAKONE is scheduled to open in 2026 and will feature 126 rooms, each with its own natural hot spring.

