



# Life In Kyoto

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## The hidden good unknown place in Kyoto - Ichijoji

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One day, I got a message and a photo on the LINE app from my friend in Korea asking, “Are you living in such a beautiful place?”. The photo showed a scene of snow falling on Yasaka Street. I took a photo of the scene I can see from my window, and replied to the friend, “This is my town”. And my friend replied “Is this place really Kyoto?”.

The place where I live is called Ichijoji; it is in the Rakuhoku area of the city of Kyoto. I have lived here since I came to Kyoto in 2016. When thinking of Kyoto, I believe that many people first think of old temples or scenes from the Gion area. Before I came to Kyoto, my image of it was the same. The views of Kyoto which we see every year in the “Well, I will go to Kyoto” TV commercial for JR Tokai are quite beautiful, but I think they do not capture the whole of Kyoto. I have not lived in Kyoto for very long, but I think there are many nice places here which are still not well known. I would say Ichijoji is one of them.

On the Eizan Railway from Demachiyanaagi, you first pass Mototanaka and Chayama, before arriving at Ichijoji. After getting off the train, what catches your eye is the view of an easy-going residential area where you can feel warm and relaxed. Some people may think it is a common suburban living place, but lining the street running east and west from the station, many things can stimulate your curiosity. If you simply walk down this street, it takes only a few minutes, but if you walk slowly, enjoying it step by step, you can spend hours. There are many enjoyable things there, such as a simple, pretty cafe and restaurant, a stylish book store, and a quite unique variety shop. Although it is a common residential area, Ichijoji is a town where I can pass the time comfortably.



Author

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