



Series **My Favorite Kyoto**

## Walking in Kyoto - a view from the heavens

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If somebody asks me what my best memory about Kyoto is, I would reply that I had it not IN the city, but rather OVER it. I don't remember for sure when exactly this happened, most probably about seven or eight years ago.

I was in an airplane flying from Tokyo to some European city, and the route, for the reasons not very clear to me, was not made via the Sea of Japan and then through the continent and the north of Russia. This time, the flight was being performed from Tokyo to Western Japan, and then, via the Korean peninsula. I am writing about this so extensively, because at one point, while looking through the window, it came to my mind that what I could see was strangely familiar to me: a wide delta where two rivers were creating one, a bridge very close to it, mountains far in the north from this delta, several spots with numerous trees around them, and a very big green rectangle somewhere to the south-west from the delta.

While looking at this space, I realized that what I could see was actually Kyoto, the area close to Demachiyana station. All the places full of trees were shrines, while the big green rectangle must be Kyoto Gyoen (I always call it "Go-sho" - a former Imperial palace). At the same time it came to my mind that I could recognize this city from the air mainly due to the numerous everyday promenades and encounters that I had in its different parts: Arashiyama, Nishijin, Kami- and Shimogamo, the Kyoto Imperial Palace, Nishiki market and central Kyoto - just to name but a few.

This is actually something that I would like to recommend to everybody who is reading this essay: walk in Kyoto whenever you have time! It is a city beautiful under any weather conditions, and walking around Kyoto would definitely turn your stay in the city into an unforgettable experience. My special recommendation is walking along



Author

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