

Message From Southern Gionmachi

This area has been maintained in order to pass the storied and sophisticated landscape of this district to future generations, and to provide locals with an attractive place to live and work.

This is therefore not a theme park, but a place where people live their daily lives.

Please be considerate of those who live here, and refrain from nuisance behavior.

Please also remember that shrines and temples are sacred sites, not only for locals but for people in general.

In order to ensure that locals are able to live in comfort, and visitors are able to pray in peace, we have prohibited acts that violate public order and morality; trespassing into restricted areas as designated by the shrines and temples; the vandalizing of cultural properties; the use of fire; the taking of photos; eating and drinking; and more. Please be sure to comply with these rules.

【Nuisance behavior we would like you to refrain from】

★ A report by a resident may result in police officers being called to the scene.

Nuisance Behavior ①

Do not stop, touch, follow, or take unauthorized photos/videos of any geiko (regional term for geisha) or maiko (apprentice geisha) you see walking around the district.

⇒ The geiko and maiko are not mascot characters.

⇒ If you would like to see a Kyomai (traditional Kyoto-style dance), there are performances held daily at 6:00 P.M. or 7:00 P.M. at Gion Corner.

★ The act of obstructing someone's path or stalking is punishable by less than 30 days of detention, or a fine of less than 10,000 yen.

★ The act of pulling someone's hand or clothes is punishable by up to six months of imprisonment or a fine of up to 500,000 yen.

Nuisance Behavior ②

Do not enter nearby temples, shrines, or private property (places other than stores and roads) without permission, and refrain from damaging any property within these sites.

★ By law, trespassing is punishable by up to three years of imprisonment or a fine of up to 100,000 yen.

★ By law, damaging property is punishable by up to three years of imprisonment or a fine of up to 300,000 yen.

Nuisance Behavior ③

Do not block the road/sidewalk by loitering on the sidewalk, stopping to take photos, stepping out onto the road, etc.

⇒ This is not a pedestrian-only street.

⇒ Acts in which large groups of people loiter on the sidewalk, and acts that obstruct the passing of cars are a particularly serious inconvenience to residents in the area.

★ By law, acts that obstruct traffic are punishable by a fine of up to 50,000 yen.

Nuisance Behavior ④

Do not throw away garbage.

★ By an ordinance, the act is punishable by a fine of up to 30,000 yen.

Nuisance Behavior ⑤

Do not make loud noises.

⇒ This can be a serious nuisance to residents in the area.

【To all guides】

Many of your guests may be unfamiliar with local rules.

To ensure the comfort both of your guests and the local community, please be sure to inform/instruct the guests beforehand not to engage in these nuisance behaviors.

(Reference) Penal Provisions, etc.

1 Loitering on the sidewalks : Road Traffic Act

【Road Traffic Act】

Article 76 [omitted] (4) It is prohibited for any person to:

(ii) lie down, sit down, crouch, or stand on a road in a manner that obstructs traffic;

Article 120 (1) A person as referred to in one of the following items is subject to a fine of not more than 50,000 yen:

(10) [omitted] a person violating the provisions of Article 76 [Omitted]

2 Acts of stopping geiko and maiko: Petty Offense Law and/or Kyoto Prefecture Nuisance Prevention Ordinance

【Petty Offense Law】

Article 1 Any person who falls under any of the following items shall be punished by detention or fine*. [Omitted]

28. Any person who stands in the way of another person, or who crowds around another person and does not move away, or who follows another person in such a manner as to cause uneasiness or annoyance

※ Detention of one day or more but less than 30 days; fine of 1,000 yen or more but less than 10,000 yen (Penal Code)

【Kyoto Prefecture Nuisance Prevention Ordinance】

Article 3 No person shall engage in any of the following acts indiscriminately in a manner that causes anxiety or aversion in others in public places or vehicles.

(1) Touching a part of another person's body (including touching over the person's clothes) .

Article 10 Article 3 Any person who violates the provisions of Paragraph 1 is subject to an imprisonment of up to six months or a fine of up to 500,000 yen.

3 Littering: Ordinance Regarding Promotion of Kyoto City Beautification and Effective Use of Resources Related to Food and Beverage Containers

【Ordinance Regarding Promotion of Kyoto City Beautification and Effective Use of Resources Related to Food and Beverage Containers】

Article 7

No person shall discard beverage containers, cigarette butts, etc., indiscriminately.

Article 29

Any person who discards beverage containers, cigarette butts, etc., indiscriminately, in violation of the provisions of Article 7, in a Beautification Enforcement Area*, will be subject to a fine of up to 30,000 yen.

※ A part of southern Gionmachi has been designated a Beautification Enforcement Area.

4 Trespassing and damage: Penal Code and Petty Offense Law

【Penal Code】

Article 130 A person who, without just cause, breaks into a residence of another person or into the premises, building or vessel guarded by another person, or who refuses to leave such a place upon demand is punished by imprisonment for not more than 3 years or a fine of not more than 100,000 yen.

Article 260 A person who damages a building or vessel of another person is punished by imprisonment for not more than 5 years.

Article 261 A person who damages or injures property beyond what are prescribed under the preceding three Articles is punished by imprisonment for not more than 3 years, a fine of not more than 300,000 yen or a petty fine.

【Petty Offense Law】

Article 1 Any person who falls under any of the following items shall be punished by detention or fine*. [Omitted]

32 Any person who without justifiable reason entered into a place where entry is prohibited or into the fields of another person

※ Detention of one day or more but less than 30 days; fine of 1,000 yen or more but less than 10,000 yen (Penal Code)