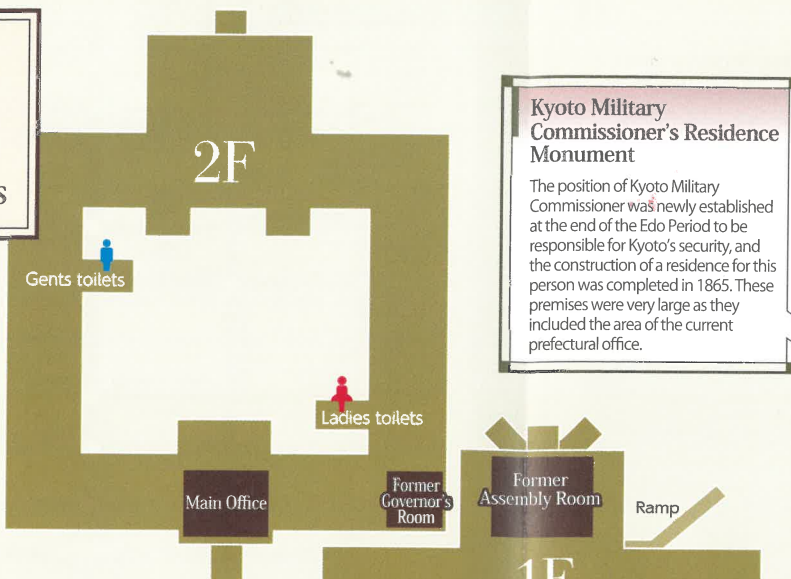


Former Main Building Highlights



Kyoto Military Commissioner's Residence Monument

The position of Kyoto Military Commissioner was newly established at the end of the Edo Period to be responsible for Kyoto's security, and the construction of a residence for this person was completed in 1865. These premises were very large as they included the area of the current prefectural office.

Gion Shidare-zakura

The 16th generation Sano Toemon, who is well known as the "Sakuramori (cherry guard)", along with his father, planted this weeping cherry tree, standing in the center of the courtyard, in the late 1950's. It was actually a seedling of the famous huge weeping cherry tree in Maruyama Park, so it can be considered its "grandchild."



Katamori-zakura (cherry tree)

This cherry tree is a very rare species that has characteristics of both the Oshima cherry tree and Yamazakura cherry tree.

The 16th generation of Sano Toemon, who has come to be known as the "Sakuramori (cherry guard)", named this tree Katamori-zakura after Matsudaira Katamori, the Kyoto Military Commissioner who used to be stationed on these premises during the late Edo period.

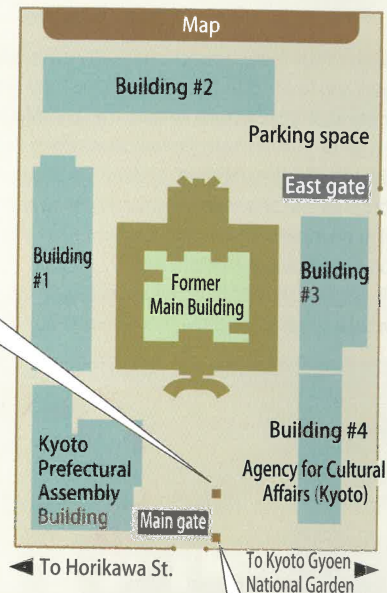
Stone columns of Gojo Bridge

Byakushin (Juniper)

The courtyard of the former Main Building was designed by the 7th generation Ogawa Jihe, and the layout of the building and the front garden (in front of the entrance) was printed in the Hinode Shimbun newspaper on January 9, 1905.

This Juniper, over 300 years old, was originally located in the grounds of a nearby temple, and was replanted here to commemorate the completion of the construction of this former main building.

Map



Monument commemorating Emperor Meiji's visit to Kyoto Prefectural Office

Emperor Meiji visited Kyoto Prefectural Office on January 29, 1887, during his stay in Kyoto for the 20th anniversary of Emperor Komei's passing.

Former Main Building Café "Salon de 1904"

"Salon de 1904" opened in the southeast corner of the Former Main Building of the Kyoto Prefectural Government, a structure designated as an Important Cultural Property, with views overlooking the elegant front garden.

The café restaurant features a retro and dignified atmosphere, furnished with antique furniture that were once used in the Former Main Building.

Closed days: No regular holidays

Opening hours: 8:00-17:00

TEL: 075-414-1444



Important Cultural Property

Former Main Building of the Kyoto Prefectural Office



Since 1904

Former Main Building

This brick building, completed on December 20, 1904, was used as the main building of Kyoto Prefectural Office up to 1971, and is still used now for offices and meetings. It is the oldest active governmental building in its original state in Japan, and was designated as an Important Cultural Property in 2004.

This Renaissance style structure features an elevated roof at the center with symmetrical wings on each side, reminiscent of Western palaces of the modern era. Some parts of the interior of the building showcase some intricate Japanese design techniques, giving the impression of artwork over architecture.



Former Governor's Room

This room is located at the southeast corner of the second floor, offering a magnificent view of Mt. Hiei through its east facing windows. This was used by 24 governors over 67 years, from 1905 to 1971. (From Shoichi Omori to Torazo Ninagawa).

This room and three other rooms (former dining room, former guest room, and former special guest room) are all fitted with fireplaces, and each of them boasts unique and intricate decorations. The fireplace in this former governor's room is made of marble and tiles, with a large mirror installed above. The design of this room is remarkably more elaborate compared to the other rooms, due to some outstanding features such as the dignified crown moldings and gorgeous latticed ceiling.

Main Office

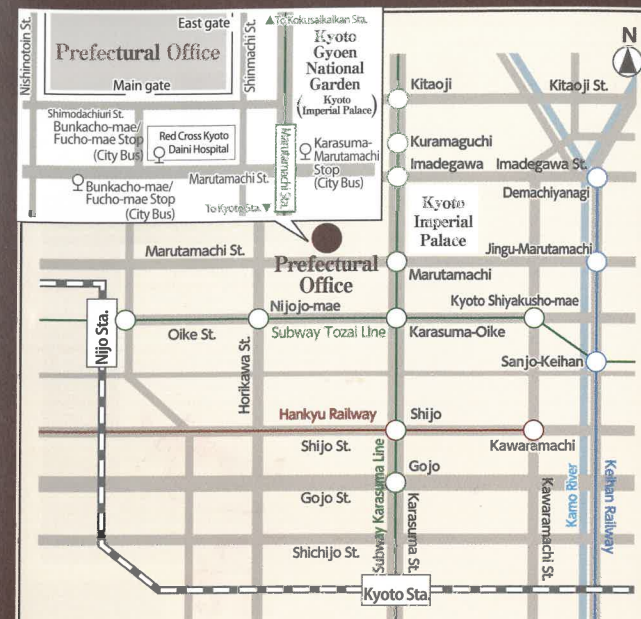
The Main Office room, a major highlight of this building, displays a coved, coffered and finely latticed ceiling, a noted and prestigious feature of Japanese style architectural design. The beautiful zelkova lined Kamanza Street can be viewed from the windows of this room, and it was used for a number of official events and ceremonies. These included the Cabinet meetings for the accession ceremonies for Emperor Taisho (November 1915) and Emperor Showa (November 1928), as the Home Ministry's temporary office was located here.

Yuri A. Gagarin, the first human to journey into outer space, visited this prefectural office in 1962 and was welcomed by the citizens from the balcony.



Former Assembly Room

In order to harmonize with the Main Building, this assembly room was designed to protrude on the north side. It was used to house the prefectural assembly from 1905 to 1969, and then employed as the information center for the prefectural administration until March, 2013. In order to mark the 110th anniversary of the former main building's construction, renovation works were started in December 2014. This renovation project was completed in March 2016, and the room's design once again echoes that of the original Meiji Period construction. The room has a high ceiling and plaster walls exhibiting various design features such as curved arches and cornice moldings. On the first floor, with the front facing south, the seat of the chairman takes pride of place in the center, with seats for the board members on both sides. Opposite and facing these are seats for 60 assembly members which are on sloping tiers and laid out in a fan shape. The second floor serves as a public gallery.



Subway

10 minutes' walk from Marutamachi Station.

Take Subway Karasuma Line from Kyoto Sta. to Marutamachi Sta.; or take Subway Tozai Line from Nijo Sta. to Karasuma-Oike Sta., transfer to Karasuma Line, and get off at Marutamachi Sta.

City Bus

5 minutes' walk from Bunkacho-mae/Fucho-mae Stop.

Take No.10 from Sanjo-Keihan Sta., or No. 93, 202, or 204 from Keihan Jingu-Marutamachi Sta.

Public viewing of the former Main Building of Kyoto Prefectural Office

[Open] Tuesdays to Fridays;
and 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays every month
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[Reservation] Unnecessary

[Cost] Free

[Inquiries] Former Main Building Information Center

TEL. 075-414-5432

Former Main Building of Kyoto Prefectural Office for hire

In order to offer opportunities for citizens to enjoy this unique location, the main office and the former assembly room can be made available for various private functions, such as weddings, for a fee. For inquiries, please contact the Prefectural Property Utilization Division.

[Prefectural Assets Utilization Division] TEL. 075-414-5435

Yabunouchi-cho, Nishiiru, Shinmachi, Shimodachiuri-dori, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto 602-8570