

World Heritage Sites in Kyoto

The inclusion of Kiyomizu Temple, the well-known target of any walk through the Sanneizaka Preservation District, as one of 17 sites newly designated by the UNESCO as World Heritage Sites in December of 1994 has definitely had positive effects in the preservation efforts of the city as a whole. Admittedly, all of the 14 sites directly in Kyoto and 3 sites immediately outside Kyoto had been declared 'important' national cultural properties before, the highest grade of recognition they can possibly receive on the national level. Nevertheless, this world-wide boost of recognition helps the city authorities, to enforce existing preservation regulations such as height restrictions and facade control in the aesthetic 'buffer-zones' surrounding those sites, now known generally as 'Aesthetic Areas', and to designate additional Ensemble Preservation Districts in the future in areas somehow connected with these World Heritage Sites.



Kinkakuji, one of the 17 World Heritage Site of Kyoto