

GOLDEN PAVILLION KINKAKU-JI



The most famous Buddhist temple in Japan is the Golden Pavillion, Kinkaku-ji, the golden sister. Ginkaku-ji has a rock and gravel Japanese garden while Kinkaku-ji has a gold-leaf adorned hall, both with beautiful lakes in front of it.

The image of the temple richly adorned in gold leaf reflects beautifully in the water of Kyokochi, the mirror pond. It is perhaps the most widely-recognized image of Kyoto. Seen reflected in the adjoining "mirror pond" with its small islands of rock and pine, Kinkaku-ji Temple, "The Golden Pavilion," is a breathtaking must-see.

The building's first purpose was to serve the retiring Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu (1358-1409) as a residence. The gold-leaf-adorned building was converted into a Zen temple shortly after his death. In an event that was later fictionalized by the renowned author Yukio Mishima, a 21-year-old monk burned Kinkaku-ji Temple down in 1950. The temple was rebuilt in 1955 and continues to function as a storehouse of sacred relics.

The temple's garden is also a scenic delight and contains in its grounds a charming teahouse

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