



## INTRODUCTION

This tour begins from just inside the Higashi Otomon gate. When entering the Ninomaru Palace, place your shoes in a plastic bag provided and carry them with you. Start each track after you reach the corresponding audio point, so begin track two after you reach location two on the guide map.

Nijo-Jo was constructed in 1603 by Tokugawa Ieyasu and was extended in 1626 by his grandson and third shogun, Iemitsu. The castle served as a symbol of Kyoto's occupation by outsiders whose main interest was to intimidate the Imperial court and Western Daimyo with its show of power and wealth. In this respect, Nijo Jo stands out among Kyoto's refined nature, architecture, and understated beauty. In many respects the Ninomaru Palace symbolises the Tokugawa social and political system and tells us much about how the Tokugawa ruled Japan. Visitors gain an appreciation of the power and wealth of the Tokugawa that provide many clues to their over 265 years of dynastic rule. Nijo Jo is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Hours:** Nijo-Jo ticket office opens at 08.45 and closes at 16.00. Ninomaru Palace opens at 09.00 till 16.00. Entrance fee: ¥600 Adults, ¥200 Children. Gates are closed at 17.00. Nijo-Jo is closed from December 26 to January 4 and every Tuesday in July, August, December and January (the next day in case of holiday). Access: 1 min. walk from Nijumae Sta., on the Tozai Line.