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DESTINATION OF THE MONTH

November is one of the best times to visit Japan. The weather is mild and dry, and the autumn colours are spectacular in Osaka and across the country.



BREATH TAKING BEAUTY

Autumn's colourful leaves are the equivalent of spring's cherry blossoms and, with myriad attractions for the whole family, Osaka is the perfect place to base yourself to experience the wonders of Japan.

November is a few months out of peak season, so there are less crowds than March and April, but the weather is still quite pleasant. Take a 45-minute drive from the city centre, straight to Meiji no Mori Minō Quasi National Park, for your first sighting of *koyo* (the falling of colourful autumnal leaves). Here, mountains reach 600 metres in height, and the famed Mino Waterfall stands in all its glory.

A 60-minute train ride from Osaka is Kyoto (once the capital of Japan for more than 1000 years). Not surprisingly, it is considered by many to be the most beautiful place in the world. Start at Tofuku-ji, a Buddhist temple that is overflowing with maples turning bright crimson. For more contrast, Nanzen-ji presents bright maples near the Sanmon gate against a carpet of moss. And, for something a little different, visit Kitano Tenmangū, where – for a small fee – you'll get to see the illumination of the shrine's garden with a cup of green tea and a snack.