

## Gion

Gion is an entertainment district beautifully lined with traditional town houses and restaurants, you will see encounter geiko and maiko, professional entertainers trained in traditional Japanese dance and music, including the playing the shamisen (like a three-stringed guitar) and singing. They can be seen wearing, beautiful, elaborate kimonos as they walk to and from appointments. Some Japanese

entertainment, like kabuki, is performed solely by men, but in Gion, all the entertainment is provided by women. After graduating from Jr. High School, girls enter a preparatory program to become maiko, apprentices of geiko. They learn skills such as dance, music, tea ceremony and flower arrangement to become the ideal traditional entertainer.

