

京都インバン

Kyoto Inban 印章店 Stamp shop



A specialist shop for hanko (stamps) carefully made by a craftsman. Original stamps finished in twenty minutes are popular gifts.

Kyoto Inban is conveniently located a short walk from the city's central Shijo Karasuma area, and since 1912, it has been making "hanko", the seals or stamps that are an integral part of everyday Japanese life. There are stamps you can buy here are called "Kyo-insho", or Kyoto stamps, which are designated by Kyoto Prefecture as a traditional craft. The stamps made by a highly-skilled Kyoto craftsman are finished by hand. They are durable and the stamp face where the letters are engraved is strikingly beautiful. There is a wide range of materials including black buffalo horn (kuro suigyuu), Dutch Buffalo horn (oranda suigyuu) and boxwood (hon-tsuge), and you can choose one to your liking. It takes about a day to finish, so if you order one at the start of your stay in Kyoto, you can pick it up without a hitch.

Inside the shop, there are many hanko on display that make great casual gifts. The "Koyuidana" series has twenty-four variations, and is especially popular with foreign visitors. A traditional Japanese pattern along with an associated kanji character is cut into the side of the hanko. Many tourists make original stamps that can be ready in twenty minutes. The most requested option is having their name, or the name of the person they are giving it to as a gift, translated into kanji characters. The shop's staff members have a deep knowledge of kanji meanings, so they can recommend characters to you. An experience workshop for stamp making is available on the second floor, so please try your hand as a souvenir of your trip.



↑ Hand-finished Kyo-insho stamps with beautifully-shaped characters. The above stamps use materials made from the horns of black buffalo, Dutch Buffalo and pure white Dutch Buffalo. Black buffalo 15mm Jitsu-in stamp, ¥26,800; Dutch Buffalo 15mm Jitsu-in stamp ¥35,800. \*All prices include tax.



↑ In the past, Kyoto was home to many stamp specialty shops, and craftsmen would devote their time to learning skills every day.



↑ Left: "Koyuidana" series stamps, ¥3,780 each. Each stamp has its own meaning. The check pattern with "雅" (miyabi) means graceful and elegant, while the cloud pattern with "風" (kaze) represents the ability to take action. Choose your favorite design and have your name engraved to create a unique gift. Right: "Oshare Hanko" stylish stamps: Machine-made, ¥3,960; Hand-finished, ¥5,060.



↑ The stamp is finished by hand. The difference between this and machine-made products are as clear as day. One by one, the skilled craftsman finishes each stamp with the greatest care.

京都インバン KYOTO INBAN Co., Ltd.



京都インバン 京都本店 Kyoto Inban Kyoto Main Shop

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443 Komusubidana-cho, Shinmachi-dori,  
Shijo-agaru, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto

TEL: 075-221-5601 (Japanese only)  
OPEN: Mon-Fri 9:00 to 18:00, Sat 9:00 to 16:00  
Closed 2nd & 4th Sat, Sun and national holidays  
Workshop closed Sat, Sun and national holidays  
Access: 10 min. from Kyoto Station by taxi; 5 min.  
walk from Shijo Station, Subway Karasuma Line; 4  
min. walk from Karasuma Station, Hankyu Kyoto Line.

MAP 6



Google MAP

京都インバン 京都桂川店 (イオンモール京都桂川3階)  
Kyoto Inban Kyoto Katsuragawa Shop  
(3F Aeon Mall Kyoto Katsuragawa)

JR桂川駅直結 Connected to JR Katsuragawa Station  
OPEN: 10:00 to 22:00

MAP 7



Google MAP



← Conveniently located for a casual visit during your trip. The second-floor workshop requires a reservation.