



Landmark #17  
**Kinkaku-ji**  
Japan



Kinkaku-ji literally means '**Temple of the Golden Pavilion**', and is a Zen Buddhist temple in **Kyoto**, Japan, whose upper two stories are **gilded**, that is, covered in gold leaf. Its style is unique, insofar as the first story is built in the residential style of the **Heian Period** (11<sup>th</sup> century), the second is reminiscent of the traditional **samurai abode**, whereas the third is based on **traditional Zen Buddhist style**.

The pavilion was built in **1398** by **Shogun Ashikaga**, and served as a flourishing center of the arts before becoming a **Rinzai Zen** temple in **1419**. Since then, it has served as a **shariden**, as it houses the relics of the Buddha (**Buddha's Ashes**). The gardens were designed during the **Muromachi Period** (1392-1573) – accordingly, they incorporate the natural elements outside of the garden as well as the structures within it into the overall design. The mountain behind the temple is also meant to be a part of the design, and so are the man-made islands in the pond.

Click on the Pictures for two **VIDEOS** on Kinkaku-ji