

# CLASSIC DRIVER

## Rally Nippon Tokyo-Kyoto 2009



The 2009 Rally Nippon saw some 60 rare classic cars leave Tokyo on 17 October. The 1000km UNESCO-supported route led past numerous World Heritage sites on its way to Kyoto, with much historical interest along the way.

Participants gathered early in the morning at **Tokyo's National Theatre**, in front of the Imperial Palace. More than 120 **Japanese** and international automobile enthusiasts took part, in 60 cars built before the end of 1969 – but there were also some far older models, such as a **1948 Roselli 1100 Sport** from Italy, and a **1929 Bugatti T35C**.







The four-day rally led the cars through the historic village of **Shirakawa-go** in **Gifu**, and past such locations in **Nara** as the **Heijo-kyo** ruins, **Yakushi Temple** and **Nara Park**. Then it was on to **Kyoto** and the **Toji Temple**, **Shimogamo Shrine** and **Tenryuji Temple**, before the journey finally ended at **Ninnaji Temple** at 3pm on 20 October.



In addition to the official **UNESCO World Heritage** sites (there are 14 in Kyoto alone), the rally visited temples, shrines, villages and regions which are not yet on the **UNESCO** list. The aim was for the classic cars to serve as '**Special Messengers for Future Heritage Sites**', helping to draw attention to places of cultural significance that deserve to be preserved for future generations. 'The classic car', explained the organisers, 'is a symbol of our technical heritage'. It's an interesting viewpoint – and one we might use to good effect in Europe.

There's further information on the **Nippon Rally** (currently, however, only in Japanese!) at [www.rallynippon.org](http://www.rallynippon.org). Those interested in the Japanese classical period and related events might also want to look at the website of the **Tokyo Concours d'Elegance** ([www.concours.jp/en](http://www.concours.jp/en)). Or click [HERE](#) to find a list of the **UNESCO World Heritage** sites in Japan.

*Text: [Jan Baedeker](#)*

*Photos: The Rally Nippon Foundation Kyoto*

---

**ClassicInside - The Classic Driver Newsletter**  
[Free Subscription!](#)  
**Gallery**



**Source URL:** <https://www.classicdriver.com/en/article/rally-nippon-tokyo-kyoto-2009>  
© Classic Driver. All rights reserved.