

Louis Vuitton to Go, a New Kyoto Hotel and More

T's roundup of people, places and things to know now.

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Stone steps leading to one of Aman Kyoto's guest pavilions. Aman

A New Kyoto Hotel, Complete With Its Own Forest

The Aman hotel group has long upheld the Japanese architectural principle that buildings should be in harmony with their natural environments, but that thinking is especially evident at [its latest location](#) — a secluded eight-acre garden-within-a-forest at the base of [Kyoto's](#) Mount Hidari Daimonji. “It’s all about the grounds,” says the designer, Justin Hill, which are accessed via an ancient copper gate and include a large main lawn, naturally occurring streams and moss-covered stone walkways surrounded by dense plots of Japanese maple and cedar trees. The land likely inspired members of the Rinpa school, an Edo-period art movement that encouraged a resurgence of indigenous techniques and motifs, and once belonged to a textile collector and amateur landscape designer. Now, it encompasses 11 slatted stained-cedar pavilions housing 24 rooms and two two-bedroom suites between them, though on a recent visit, Hill was pleased to find that the pavilions are difficult to photograph: “They almost disappear into the landscape,” he says.



A communal garden terrace. Aman

Inside, the structures allude to a classic ryokan, with tatami mats, orb-shaped lanterns, hinoki tubs and tokonoma, or wall niches, here used to display local pottery. Instead of paper screens (“We wanted to pay tribute to Japanese design, not mimic it,” says Hill), there are blond wood wall panels and sliding doors, as well as floor-to-ceiling windows that offer verdant views. The hotel restaurant serves *kaiseki*, seasonal multicourse meals, and guests can experience other local customs by soaking in the open-air onsen or venturing past the garden’s edge for meditative hikes known as *shinrin-yoku*, or forest bathing. — [AMELIA LESTER](#)