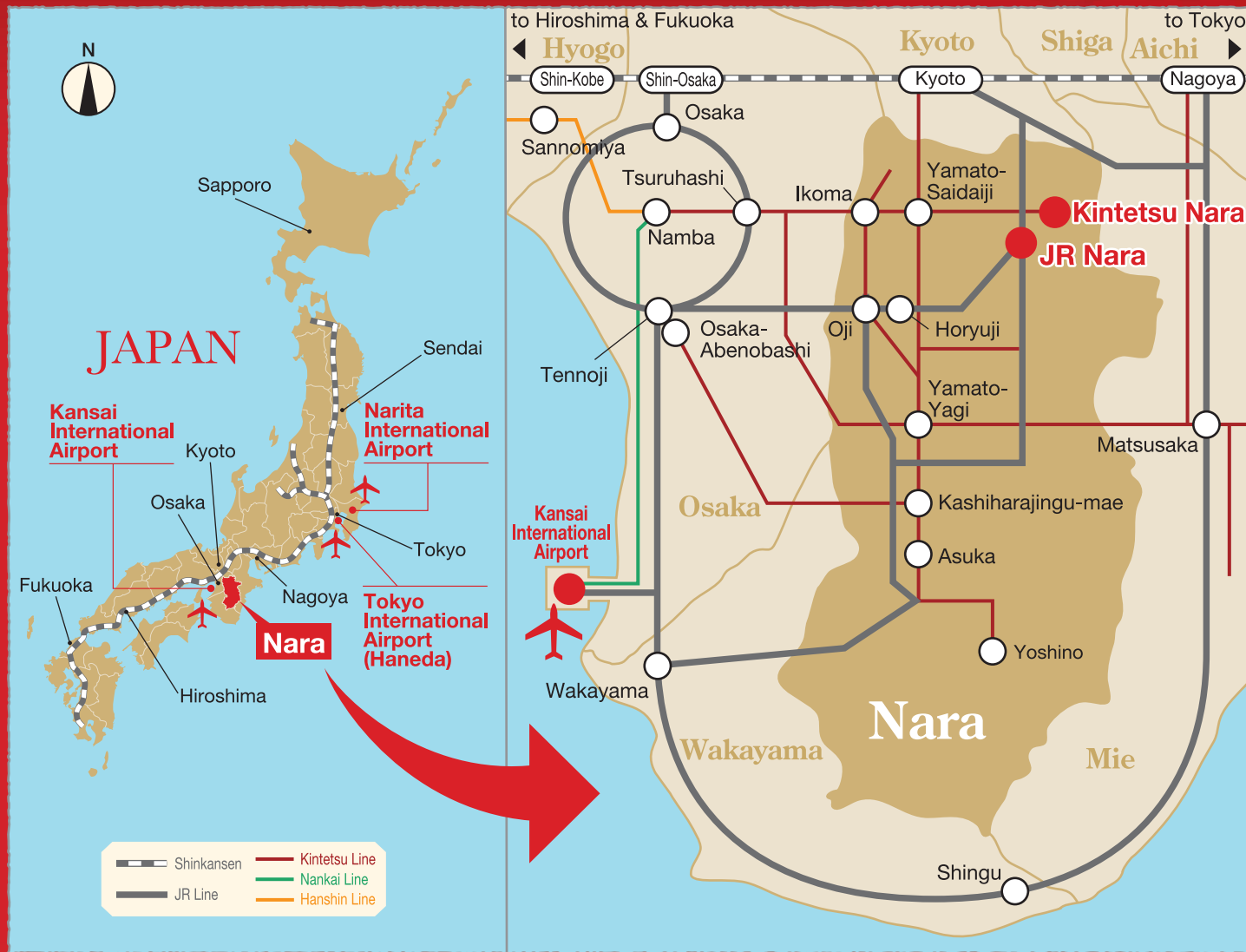


NARA MAP

奈良

The Eastern Terminus
of the Silk Road
NARA, JAPAN



Getting to Nara

Kansai International Airport	Limousine Bus 85min.	Kintetsu Nara	Limousine Bus 5min.	JR Nara	About 90min. total		
	Limousine Bus 65min.	Yamato-Yagi			About 65min. total		
	JR Limited Express 30min.	Tennoji	JR Yamatoji Rapid Service 30min.	JR Nara	About 60min. total		
	Nankai Limited Express 30min.	Namba	Kintetsu Rapid Express 40min.	Kintetsu Nara	About 70min. total		
Narita International Airport	JR Limited Express 30min.	Osaka-Abenobashi	Kintetsu Limited Express 45min.	Asuka	Kintetsu Limited Express 35min.	Yoshino	About 110min. total
	JR Limited Express 60min.	Tokyo	Shinkansen (Nozomi) 140min.	Kyoto	JR Rapid 45min.	JR Nara	About 245min. total
Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)	Tokyo Monorail Haneda Express 20min.	Hamamatsucho	JR Line 5min.	Tokyo	Kintetsu Express 45min.	Kintetsu Nara	About 210min. total
Kyoto	JR Rapid 45min.	JR Nara					About 45min. total
	Kintetsu Express 45min.	Kintetsu Nara					About 45min. total

Inquiry Contact Details

Kansai Tourist Information Center at Kansai International Airport
Tel.: +81-72-456-6025
Languages: Japanese, English, Chinese
Hours: 8:30-20:30 (April-October)
9:00-21:00 (November-March)

JR Nara Station Tourist Information Center
Tel.: +81-742-22-9821
Languages: Japanese, English
Hours: 9:00-17:00

Nara Prefecture Information Center
Tel.: +81-742-27-2003
Languages: Japanese, English
Hours: 10:00-17:00

Kintetsu Nara Station Tourist Information Center
Tel.: +81-742-24-4858
Languages: Japanese, English
Hours: 9:00-17:00

Nara City Tourist Center
Tel.: +81-742-22-5595
Languages: Japanese, English
Hours: 9:00-21:00
(English until 19:00)

Sarusa-ike Tourist Information Center
Tel.: +81-742-26-1991
Languages: Japanese, English
Hours: 9:00-17:00

Nara City Tourist Information Center
Tel.: +81-742-27-2223
Languages: Japanese, English
Hours: 9:00-21:00
(English until 19:00)

Horyuji i Center
Tel.: +81-745-74-6800
Languages: Japanese, English
Hours: 8:30-18:00
(English until 16:00)

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<http://www.pref.nara.jp/>

*Photos courtesy of: Nara Visitors Bureau, STUDIO38 *Travel times are approximate and for reference purposes only. *Listed entrance fares etc. for facilities are correct as of February, 2012. They are subject to change, so please confirm when planning and during your trip.



Nara & Singapore

One Other Great Buddha

Nara, Japan's capital up until the 8th century, is still the location of many shrines, temples, Buddhist statues, and treasures that delight visitors. Famous among them is the "Todaiji Temple Vairocana Buddha (the Great Buddha)." Actually, it turns out that there is a Great Buddha in Singapore that is about the same size as this Great Buddha. Could the statues themselves know about this?



Birushana Buddha (Great Buddha)

Both Have a Sitting Height of About 15m

Todaiji Temple's Great Buddha is about the same size as the Great Buddha of Sakya Muni Buddha Gaya Temple in Singapore's Little India. Coincidence, perhaps, but very intriguing. They say that it is good luck to crawl through the large hole in a pillar on the northeast side of Todaiji Temple's Great Buddha Hall. The hole is said to be the same size as one of the nostrils of the Great Buddha.

The Great Buddha of Sakya Muni Buddha Gaya Temple

Todaiji Temple



The World's Largest Bronze Buddha Statue: the "Great Buddha of Nara"

A large temple constructed at the behest of the Emperor Shomu in the mid-8th century, the Great Buddha Hall is one of the largest wooden structures in the world. The Vairocana Buddhist statue enshrined here is the world's largest bronze Buddha statue (estimated weight of 380t, height of 15m) and is commonly known as the "Great Buddha of Nara." There are other noteworthy sights such as the Great South Gate, Nigatsudo Hall, and Hokkedo Hall.

Shosoin Repository

The azekura log-cabin style repository for treasures is located to the northwest of Todaiji Temple. Cultural artefacts that were brought to Japan over the Silk Road from places such as Persia, India, and China in the 8th century are housed here. Some are put on display at the Shosoin Exhibition held every autumn at the Nara National Museum.

Zoshi-cho, Nara City ☎0742-26-2811 (Imperial Household Agency Shosoin Office)
Due to facilities construction work, the Shosoin Repository is closed to visitors and the outside is unavailable for viewing until 2014.
☎8min. walk from Imakoji stop on the bus bound for Aoyama Jutaku from JR/Kintetsu Nara Station

406-1 Zoshi-cho, Nara City ☎0742-22-5511 (Todaiji Temple), 0742-20-5511 (Todaiji Temple Museum)
Open year-round (Todaiji Temple Museum is sometimes temporarily closed when exhibitions are being renewed)
● Great Buddha Hall, Hokkedo Hall (Sangatsudo Hall), Ordination Hall / 7:30-17:30 (April-September), 7:30-17:00 (October), 8:00-16:30 (November-February), 8:00-17:00 (March)
Todaiji Temple Museum / 9:30- (Last entry 30 minutes before Todaiji Temple closing time)
● Great Buddha Hall, Hokkedo Hall (Sangatsudo Hall), Ordination Hall, Todaiji Temple Museum: ¥500 each, Great Buddha Hall & Todaiji Temple Museum: ¥800 combined
☎5min. walk from Daibutsuden Kasuga Taisha Mae stop on the City Loop Bus from JR/Kintetsu Nara Station, 20min. walk from Kintetsu Nara Station
The Hokkedo Hall (Sangatsudo Hall) is under reconstruction until the end of March 2013 and is closed to visitors.

Nara Park

A 5-minute Walk from the Station, You Are Greeted by 1,100 Wild Deer



Nara Park is the very face of the ancient capital. Covering a vast area of 660 hectares, it features architectural structures such as Todaiji Temple, Kofukuji Temple, Kasuga Taisha Shrine, the Nara National Museum, and Shosoin Repository that blend in well with the majestic and rich greenery of the park. The deer that wander around in herds act as the park mascots.

Zoshi-cho and locality, Nara City ☎0742-22-0375 (Nara Park Management Office)
☎5min. walk from Kintetsu Nara Station, 20min. walk from JR Nara Station

The Unique Layout Called "Yakushiji Style"



The unique layout of the Kondo (Main Hall) in the centre and the east and west pagodas on either side has earned the name "yakushiji style." As the Yakushi Triad enshrined in the Kondo were known as healing Buddhas, from times of old they gained popularity because they were relied on by those in need. The many cultural assets kept here make apparent the cultural influences that came to Japan via the Silk Road. (The East Pagoda is being dismantled and repaired between 2011 and 2018.)

World Heritage
Yakushiji Temple

457 Nishinkyō-cho, Nara City ☎0742-33-6001 Open year-round ☎8:30-17:00 (Last entry at 16:30)
● ¥500 (usual period) (¥800 when the Genjo Sanzo Complex is open for viewing) ☎Immediately from Kintetsu Nishinkyō Station

A Beautiful Mountain Temple Accentuated by Flowers of the Four Seasons

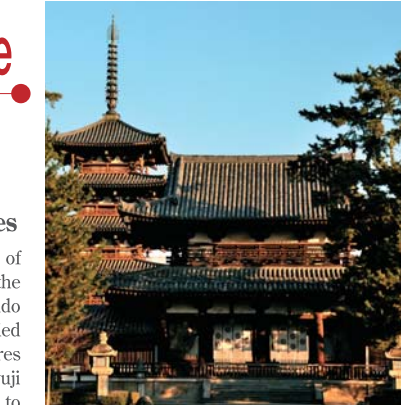
This majestic temple built on the mountainside of Mt. Hatsuse offers a spectacular view from the Main Hall that is reached after the 399 steps. Long known as the temple of flowers, it delights visitors with pleasurable glimpses of the four seasons in flowers such as cherries, peonies, and hydrangea, as well as autumnal hues and snowy winter scenery.

731-1 Hase, Sakurai City ☎0744-47-7001 Open year-round
☎8:30-17:00 (April-September), 9:00-16:30 (October-March) ● ¥500
☎15min. walk from Kintetsu Hasedera Station

Hasedera Temple

Horyuji Temple

The World's Oldest Wooden Structures and over 2,300 National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties



This temple was built at the behest of Prince Shotoku and Emperor Suiko at the beginning of the 7th century. Its Kondo (Main Hall) and Goju-no-to (Five-Storied Pagoda) are the oldest wooden structures in the world. Furthermore, Horyuji Temple was the first location in Japan to be designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The temple garners attention all over the world as a treasure trove of Buddhist culture.

1-1 Ikaruga-cho, Horyujisannai, Nara Prefecture ☎0745-75-2555
☎8:00-17:00 (February 22-November 3), 8:00-16:30 (November 4-February 21) ● ¥1,000
☎Immediately from the last stop of the bus bound for Horyujimon Mae from JR Horyuji Station, 5min. walk from Horyuji Mae stop on the bus bound for Horyuji or Oji Ekimae from Kintetsu Nara Station

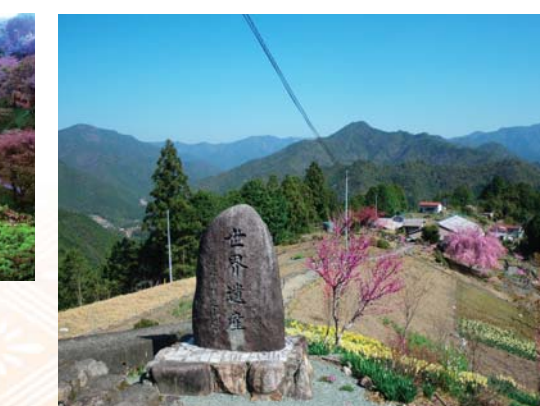
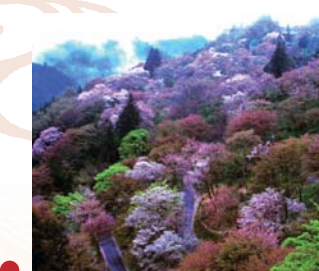


Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

World Heritage

An Untamed Pilgrimage Mecca Carved Out Harshly by Mother Nature

The Kii mountain range located in southern Nara consists of mountains almost 2,000m above sea level. As one of the oldest sacred lands in Japan, the bounty of nature that has made for such mountains has inspired awe in the Japanese since antiquity. Believed to be a place where the gods reside, it has given birth to Shugendo (mountain asceticism), a form of mountain faith unique to Japan that weds the worship of nature with Buddhism and other elements. Annual rainfall of over 4,000mm makes for lush forests and for 1,300 years the area has continued to be a pilgrimage mecca for many who seek ascetic training.



Sacred Sites of Yoshino & Omine
☎0746-32-3081 (Yoshino Town Hall) ☎0747-63-0999 (Tenkawa Village General Information Center)
Kumano Pilgrimage Routes, Kohechi Route
☎0746-62-0001 (Totsukawa Village Office) ☎0747-37-2101 (Nosegawa Village Office)

World Heritage

Kasuga Taisha Shrine

A Place to Pray for World Peace and Universal Happiness

This ancient shrine was constructed to protect Heijo-kyo at the base of Mt. Kasuga, which has from antiquity been worshipped as the mountain where a Shinto god descended. The vermilion structure looks stunning against the deep green and, in May, ubiquitous wisteria can be seen blossoming beautifully. The deer, which are considered to be the messengers of the god of Kasuga Taisha Shrine, wandering throughout the grounds are an impressive sight.



3,000 lanterns adorn the grounds, and when all are lit up twice a year for the lantern festival, they provide a breath-taking atmosphere.

160 Kasugano-cho, Nara City ☎0742-22-7788
● Main Shrine / 6:30-17:30 (April-October), 7:00-16:30 (November-March)
● Treasure Hall / 9:00-17:00 (Last entry at 16:30)
● Special visit to main shrine: ¥500, Treasure Hall: ¥400
☎Immediately from Kasugataisha Honden stop on the bus bound for Kasugataisha Honden from JR/Kintetsu Nara Station

CULTURE FOCUS

The Fragrance of the Malay Peninsula in Nara

Nara shares a connection to the Malay Peninsula, which has long been a centre for collecting fragrances. From the 7th and 8th century coffins of aristocrats in the Marukoyama Tumulus of Asuka Village, "kapur," a fragrance that traces back to the Malay Peninsula, was detected. And in 734, Empress Komyo donated Malay "clove" to Horyuji Temple. The container used, the "Celadon Glazed Jar with Four Handles" (a National Treasure), is famous as the oldest porcelain piece in the world with known historical origin.

Komainu Dogs That Guard Shrines and Temples

The Merlion, a combination of lion and fish, is the symbol of Singapore. Similar to this Merlion is the Komainu, a guardian creature seen at many shrines and temples. The Komainu is a mythical creature that is similar to both a lion and a dog. Pairs of Komainu stand on either side of the entrances to shrines and temples and are said to guard the sacred grounds.



Komainu

Merlion

