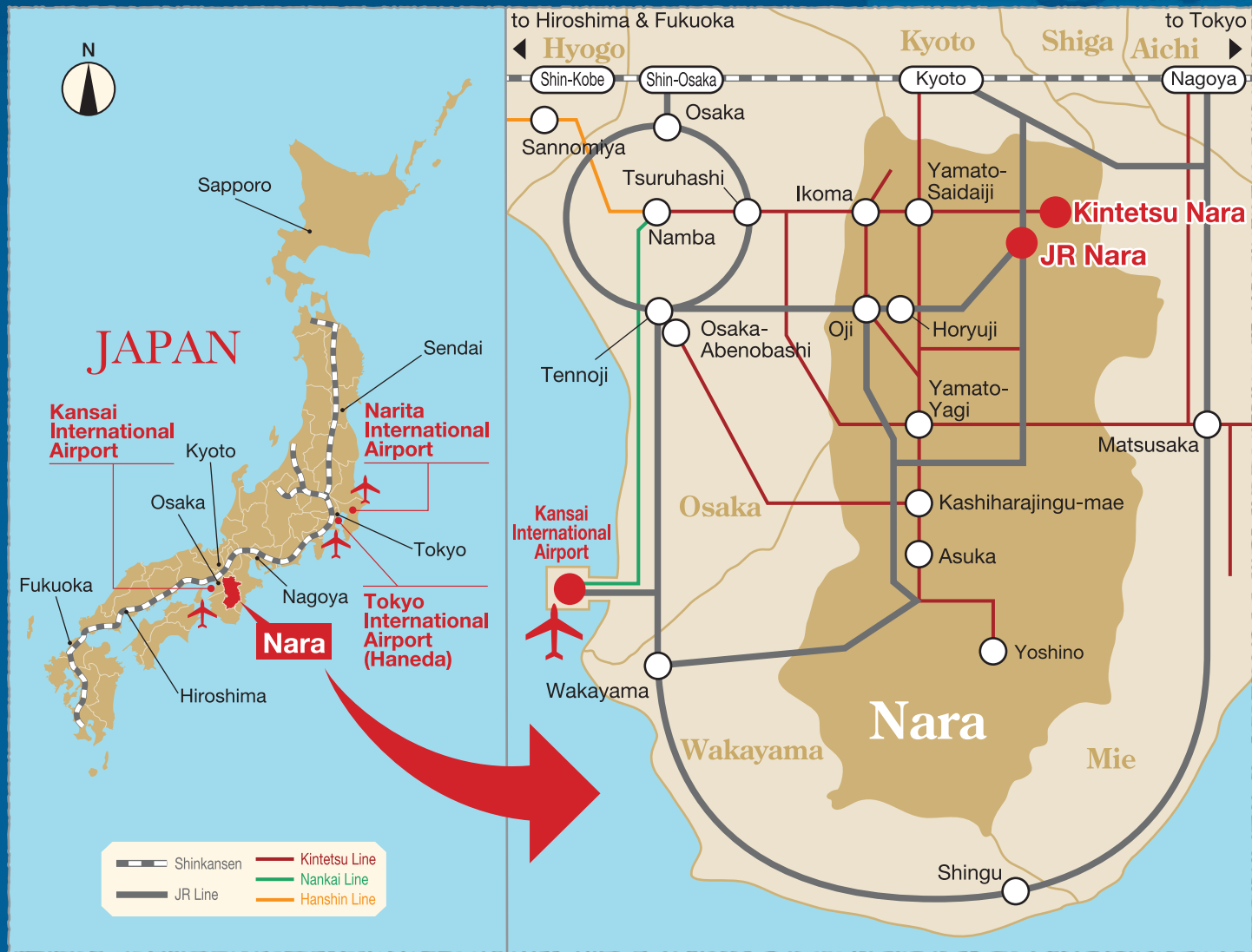


# NARA MAP



# 奈良

A Place Where Many Connections  
Between Japan and the UK Remain  
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)

**Sarusawa-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 & UK

## Visiting Ties to the UK

Japan's capital up until the 8th century, Nara delights visitors as the birthplace of Japanese culture.

Japan and the UK have enjoyed deep ties since the latter half of the 19th century, and in the ancient capital of Nara there are many footprints indicative of that.

See for yourself the various historical artefacts that connect the two countries, such as trusses that support the Great Buddha Hall at Todaiji Temple or tales of the female traveller who visited right after Japan opened up in the 19th century.

World Heritage

## 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.



Vairocana Buddha (Great Buddha)

### The British Made Trusses in the Great Buddha Hall

The current Todaiji Temple Great Buddha Hall underwent a major renovation in 1907. In order to reinforce the beams with the latest technology, the steel trusses of the British Sheraton Steelworks, the largest steel manufacturer at the time, were used. These continue to support the roof even now, over a century later.

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

### Nara Hotel

A dignified structure that was built from cypress and served as a state guest house, the hotel opened its doors for business in 1909. Its eclectic combination of eastern and western architectural design radiates classical elegance. The hotel has hosted famous guests including members of the British royal family, such as the young Edward VIII while he was still a prince, as well as Charlie Chaplin and Audrey Hepburn.



1096 Takebatake-cho, Nara City ☎0742-26-3300  
● Immediately from Nara Hotel stop on the bus bound for Tenri from JR/Kintetsu Nara Station

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 breathtaking 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

45 Noborijiri-cho, Nara City ☎0742-22-3818  
● Lord's Day Service & Holy Communion : Sunday 10:30  
● Evening Service: Sunday 17:00  
● 3min. walk from Kintetsu Nara Station

## Hasedera Temple

### 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.

### Isabella Bird

Isabella Bird, the great 19th century female traveller, visited Nara for three days while journeying from Kyoto to Ise Shrine, right after her famed travels to northern Japan. Amid the rains of late autumn, this travel took her over muddy roads as there were no trains yet. It is said that she marvelled at the grandeur of the natural beauty of mountain streams, and the appearance of Hasedera Temple which clung to the cliffs and hills. All the leaves among the trees had turned to their autumnal colours, and apparently were so beautiful that she lost track of time as she gazed out from the Main Hall of Hasedera Temple. She wrote that when leaving the temple she was overcome with a bittersweet sense of sorrow that she had not sensed anywhere else in Japan.

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



World Heritage

## Yakushiji Temple



### 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.)

457 Nishinokyo-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 Nishinokyo Station

World Heritage

## 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-Storeyed 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

World Heritage

## Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

### 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)

## The Nara Episcopal Church

### A Church You Might Mistake for a Temple

Constructed in 1930 by temple builders, the church was given a Japanese look by design in order to blend into the traditional scenery of the ancient capital. This is unusual for a church, and it has been designated as a Registered Tangible Cultural Property. It is decorated beautifully with lights near Christmas time.

