Visiting Ties to the UK
Japan’s capital until the 5th 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. Enjoy the various historical attractions that connect the two countries, such as shrines that support the Great Buddha Hall at Todaiji Temple or tales of the female traveler who visited Japan after it opened up in the 19th century.

Todaiji Temple
The World’s Largest Bronze Buddha Statue: the “Great Buddha of Nara”
A huge 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 Buddha statue enshrined here is the world’s largest bronze Buddha statue (estimated weight of 820 tons, height of 12 m) and is commonly known as the “Great Buddha of Nara.” There are other noteworthy sights such as the Great South Gate, Nigatsu Donju, and Haiden Hall.

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 an area of 600 hectares, it features architectural structures such as Todaiji Temple, Kofukuji Temple, Kasuga Taisha Shrine, Nara National Museum, and Shosoin Repository that boast well with the mounds and rich countryside of the park. The deer that wander around in herds are part of the park mascot.

Kasuga Taisha Shrine
A Place to Pray for World Peace andUniversal Happiness
This ancient shrine was constructed to protect the peace of the city of Nara, and the east and west pagodas on either side have earned the name “yakushi-ji style.” As the Yakushi Temple in the Hondo (Main Hall) and Gango-ji (Preserved 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.

The Nara Episcopal Church
A Church You Might Mistake for a Temple
Consecrated in 1959 by temple builders, the church was given a Japanese look in its design to blend in with the traditional atmosphere of the ancient capital. It is unusual for a church, and is designated as a Registered Tangible Cultural Property.

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 mountainous area almost 2,000m above sea level. As one of the oldest sacred sites in Japan, the beauty of nature that has been formed over the centuries has inspired awe and awe in the Japan’s peoples antipathy. Believed to be a place where the gods reside, it has been given to both mountain climbers and those who seek to find one’s faith.

Hasedera Temple
A Beautiful Mountain Temple Accentuated by Flowers of the Four Seasons
This mountain temple built on the mountainside of Mt. Rokkuro offers a spectacular view from the Main Hall that is reached after the 189 steps. Long known as the temple of flowers, it delights visitors with splendidly glowing flowers of the four seasons in flowers such as cherry trees, peonies, and hydrangeas, as well as autumnal leaves and snowy winter scenery.

Isabella Bird
Bird lovers, the great 19th century naturalist visited Nara for three days while journeying from Kyoto to the Little Rockies. Upon her arrival, she made a trip to Nara Park, where she was overwhelmed by the beauty of the landscape. In her diary, she wrote, “I shall never again see such beauty. The flowers were in full bloom...The birds were singing their sweet melodies...The air was fragrant with the scent of flowers...”}

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 Shihiti and Emperor Shomu at the beginning of the 8th century in the Kii Mountains. Horyuji and Gangoji (Preserved 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.