The Towers of “Frozen Music” Stand Grandly Over the Ancient Capital

NARA, JAPAN

Getting to Nara

Kansai International Airport

- Limited Express Bus 45min.
- Kintetsu Nara
- JR Nara
- About 90min., total

Tokyo

- JR Rapid 45min.
- Kintetsu Nara
- About 45min., total

Inquiry Contact Details

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

*Photos courtesy of Nara Prefectural Tourist Association"
Nara & USA

The Ancient Capital Adored by Many Cultural Figures

Nara is a historical city that was the capital of Japan until the 9th century. It has Japan’s largest number of structures that are National Treasures. Nara developed international fame as the eastern terminus of the Silk Road that connected the Orient with the Occident. Towers of ancient temples that Ernest Fenollosa regarded as "improving model" stand majestically over Nara, and was visited by Albert Einstein and Helen Keller. Breathe freely the air of the ancient capital that was adored by such important cultural figures.

Kasuga Taisha Shrine

A Place to Pray for World Peace and Universal Happiness

This shrine was constructed to protect Hieyama at the base of Mt. Kasuga, which has from antiquity been worshiped at the mountain as a place of god. Descended from the immense structure, the main shrine stands magnificently against the deep green forest. In May, the distinctive white-crowned pigeon can be seen blooming beautifully. The dove, which are considered to be the messengers of the god of Kasuga Taisha Shrine, wandering throughout the grounds are an impressive sight.

Nara Hotel

Built out of Cypress as a dignified looking state guest house, Nara Hotel opened its doors in 1939. It is close to famous spots such as Todaiji Temple and Kasuga Taisha Shrine, and the eclectic East/West architectural design radiates classical elegance. Helen Keller and Albert Einstein stayed here.

Nara Park

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

Nara Park is the only site of the ancient capital. Covering a vast area of 400 hectares, it features architectural masterpieces such as Todaiji Temple, Kibutsuji Temple, Kasuga Taisha Shrine, and other heritage sites. The zoo is home to over 1,000 wild deer, with the majestic red deer grove in the 5th Park. The deer that wander about here are as popular as the park premises.

Hozanji Temple

A Dynamic and Spectacular View from the Main Hall

Located on the slope of Mt. Inasa, Hozanji temple boasts an excellent view of the massive stone formation on its hilltop. The main hall features a unique structure that is hidden behind foliage, and from above, the temple is a dynamic and spectacular sight. It is said that Hozanji Temple was designed to be able to make a visit to the temple in 1094, the 25th year of the Heian period.

Imai Town

A Town Where You Can Get a Taste of Japan in the Medieval Period

Just one stop away from the town, you can take a walk through time. Imai Town is designated an important conservation district for its many traditional houses. Collecting your memories and enjoying the treasures of the past, this place is a trip back in time.

Hasedera Temple

A Beautiful Mountain Temple Accentuated by Flowers of the Four Seasons

This majestic temple is located on the mountainous grounds of Mt. Hiei, and offers a spectacular view from the Main Hall that is reached after the 300 steps. Long known as the temple of flowers, it refuges visitors with the pleasant smells of the four seasons in flowers such as cherry, peony, and hydrangea, as well as autumn leaves and snow-covered winter beauty.

Yakushiji Temple

The Unique Layout Called "Yakushiji Style"

The main hall of Yakushiji is the oldest in the country and the east and west pagodas on either side of it have earned the name "Yakushiji Style." Since the 7th century, it has been a pilgrimage destination and has maintained its popularity. The temple has an east and west pagoda and a bell tower, which are connected by a large hall in the middle. The Yakushiji Style is being dismantled and repaired between 2021 and 2034.

Fenollosa, Patron of the Japanese Arts

Ernest Fenollosa, a painter and Asian art historian from the USA, came to Japan in 1893 and made efforts to let the worldwide public know about the Japanese art. He also opened the Peralta Museum in Boston, which was interested in the arts of Japan, and visited the site of cultural heritage.

Yakushiji Temple East Pagoda

It is said that Ernest Fenollosa described the East Pagoda in "Four Jurors." "There is a characteristic beauty represented by the building of large and small scale. The Yakushiji Temple had been opened to the public, which was visited in 1885 by various museums in order to work on copying the Yakushiji Temple. This led to an interest in models for an improved appearance. East Kiyaosetsu lack 1,300 years ago.

Fenollosa on the Right, Fenollosa on the Left

Ernest Fenollosa, the American art historian, met with two scholars in 1894. One was a scholar from Harvard, and the other was a scholar from Yale University. They all developed an interest in the art and culture of Japan.

Horyuji Temple

The World’s Oldest Wooden Structures and Over 2,300 National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties

A temple located at the foothill of Mount Hiei, Horyuji temple is the oldest wooden structure in the world. This temple is the oldest wooden structure in the world and contains the oldest wooden structure in the world. It is also home to over 2,300 National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties.

Horyuji Temple

Discovering the Beauty of the Nara Kenmotsu

Horyuji temple is being renovated and expanded in 2016 and 2034. It is being dismantled and repaired between 2021 and 2034.