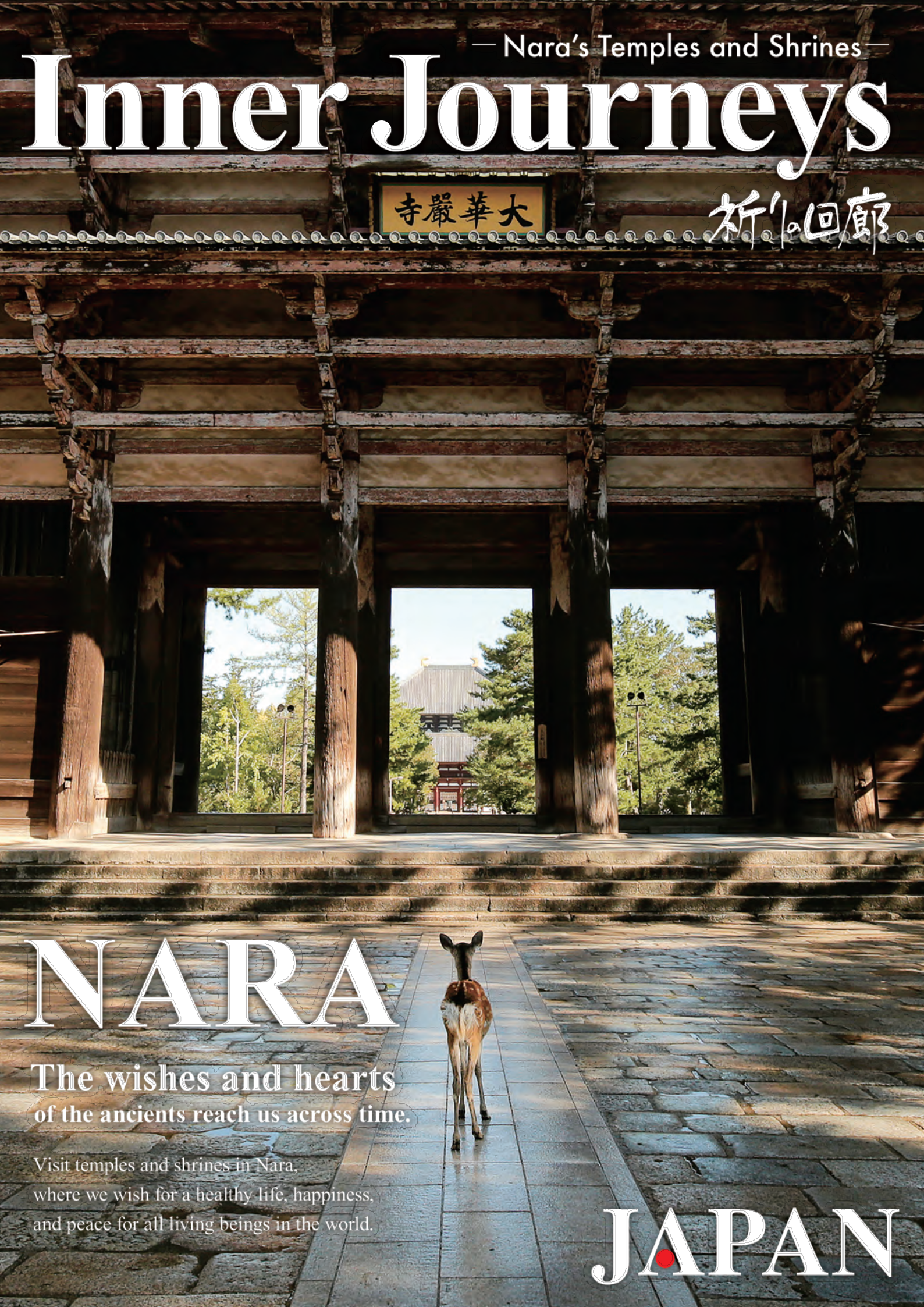
— Nara's Temples and Shrines —

Inner Journeys

祈りの回廊



NARA

The wishes and hearts
of the ancients reach us across time.

Visit temples and shrines in Nara,
where we wish for a healthy life, happiness,
and peace for all living beings in the world.

JAPAN



Fumon Sagawa
Chief Abbot Todaiji Temple

Born in Nara, in 1951. Completed Buddhist Studies at Ryukoku University Graduate School (Master's program) in 1975. Assumed the role of the 223rd Chief Abbot of Todaiji Temple on May 1st, 2019.

Open the Door for the Future Together through Learning and Realisation

Emperor Shomu commissioned the establishment of Todaiji Temple in 743, wishing for the prosperity of all living creatures in this world. "I have power and fortune, but this is not the reason for wishing to establish Todaiji Temple. I want to complete this temple with all people's effort", the emperor strongly hoped. So, we can say that this magnificent temple is "a temple for everyone".

The high priest Ganjin came to Japan in 753 from the Tang Dynasty of China accepting an invitation from Emperor Shomu. Ganjin brought significant change to Japan, for example, establishing a Kaidan and beginning to give Buddhist commandments to monks in Japan. Without him, Japan would have been a totally different country from what it is today. The Nara Period (710-794) was the time during which Japan learned all kinds of concepts from overseas, including philosophy, politics, educational systems, architecture, medical knowledge, music, dance and more, and developed them into uniquely Japanese forms.

Today, the whole world has been facing the unexpected circumstances brought about by COVID-19. Sadly, fake news confuses us and some people have become aggressive to others. This is probably because we are surrounded by too much information which makes it difficult for us to find the truth. What I believe to be important is that we should always try to look for the truth, to learn patiently, and to acquire genuine intelligence. We need to understand the roots of our knowledge because how we perceive things might change as we learn more.

At Todaiji Temple, we are doing what we can do now every day. For example, we started the Noon Prayer (*1) and a live streaming of our ceremony during which we prayed for the elimination of the pandemic. We hoped that our new challenges would reach people who had never previously paid attention to the teachings of Buddhism. We also thought it would be a good opportunity for those who can't go out as they can pray together with us virtually via their media screen. It is so gratifying that many people join us, regardless of which sect they belong to, and share the same hopes as one.

Due to the earthquake resistant renovation of the Kaidan-do Hall, the Four Divine Kings (National Treasures) were moved to our Todaiji Museum temporarily. At the museum, you can worship the Four Divine Kings as well as Shomen Kongo which is believed to ward off epidemics and to be the oldest example of this kind of Buddhist statue (*2).

For the moment, our priority is to keep the temple as a place for safely welcoming people. We are learning from the specialists how we can prevent infection. We take whatever necessary preventative actions that we can as the centre where people pray and hope. Temples must make efforts to find new solutions for the future as that is the very reason why Todaiji Temple was established in the Nara period. In those days, people suffered from natural disasters such as famine, drought, epidemics, and many other kinds of social unrest. Now the world is suffering from this novel virus and this is the time for us to take on our responsibility as a Buddhist temple which was born from people's prayers and hopes.

*1) Special prayers for the elimination of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people and temples, regardless of the sect and religion, have joined the prayer across the country.
*2) The special exhibition is being held and the closing date is not decided yet. The Four Divine Kings are exhibited until around 2023.



406-1 Zoshi-cho, Nara
0742-22-5511
Take a city circular bus from JR or Kintetsu Nara Station and get off at "Todaiji Daibutsuden / Kasugataisha-mae", and a 5-min. walk.

http://www.todaiji.or.jp/

A Path to the Prayer

Discover Temples and Shrines through Social Media

Travelling has become something very special in 2020 due to COVID-19. Many of us had no choice but to stay home and remain separated from our favourite places and people. In such unprecedented times, social media became one of the ways to help us connect to the world and find inner peace. Some temples and shrines in Nara have posted on social media about their traditional ceremonies and rituals, and shown beautiful seasonal flowers and gardens that comfort us. Their messages and pictures are their powerful prayers for a safe recovery from the pandemic, wishing to reach out every one of "us".
We sincerely hope that the whole world will get through this difficult time soon and we can travel around freely once again. A warm welcome awaits you in Nara, Japan's spiritual heartland.

Kasugataisha Shrine

@KASUGASHRINE
@Kasugataishashrine

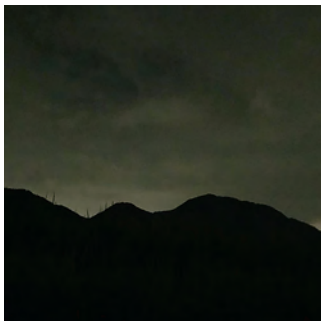
160 Kasugano-cho, Nara City
0742-22-7788
https://www.kasugataisha.or.jp/




Taimadera Temple Nakanobo

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Yoshino Jingu Shrine

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Hasedera Temple

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Hannyaji Temple

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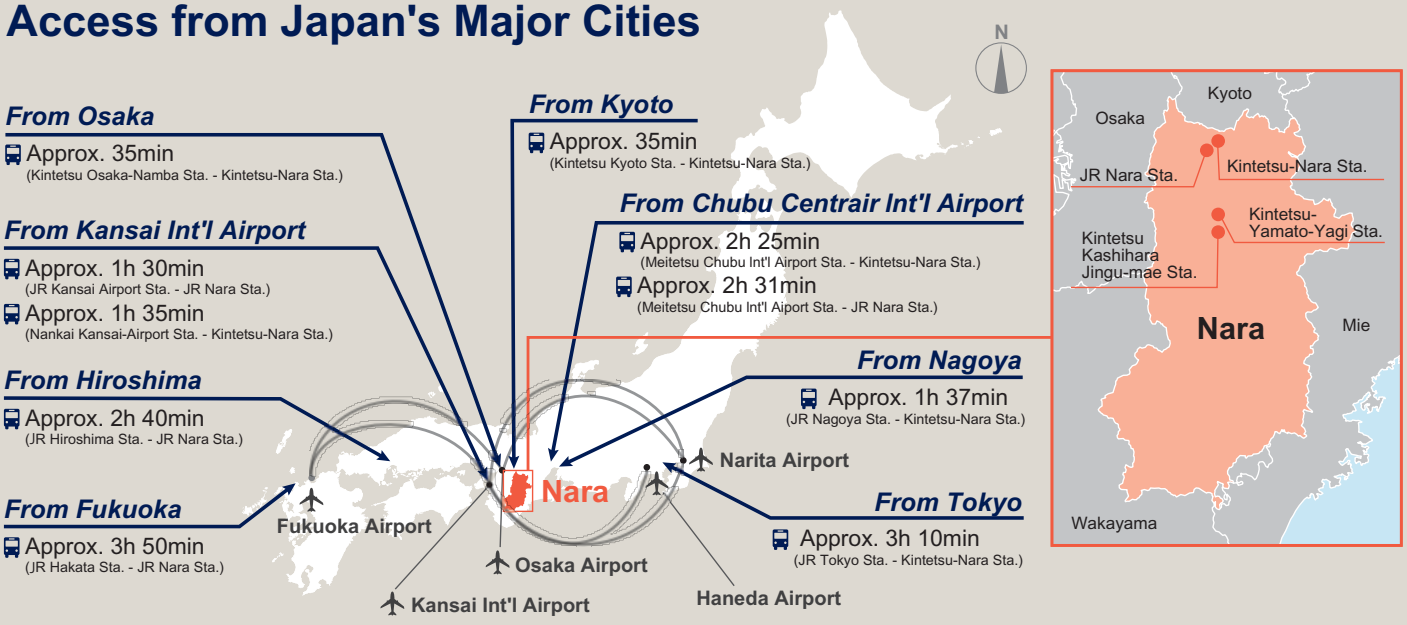

INNER
JOURNEYS

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Access from Japan's Major Cities



The NARA Visitor Center & Inn

Address:3 Ikeno-cho, Nara
Phone:0742-81-7461
(8:00-21:00)
https://www.sarusawa.nara.jp/



TOURIST INFO | FREE WIFI | FREE BAG STORE | MONEY EXCHANGE | PRAYER ROOM

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