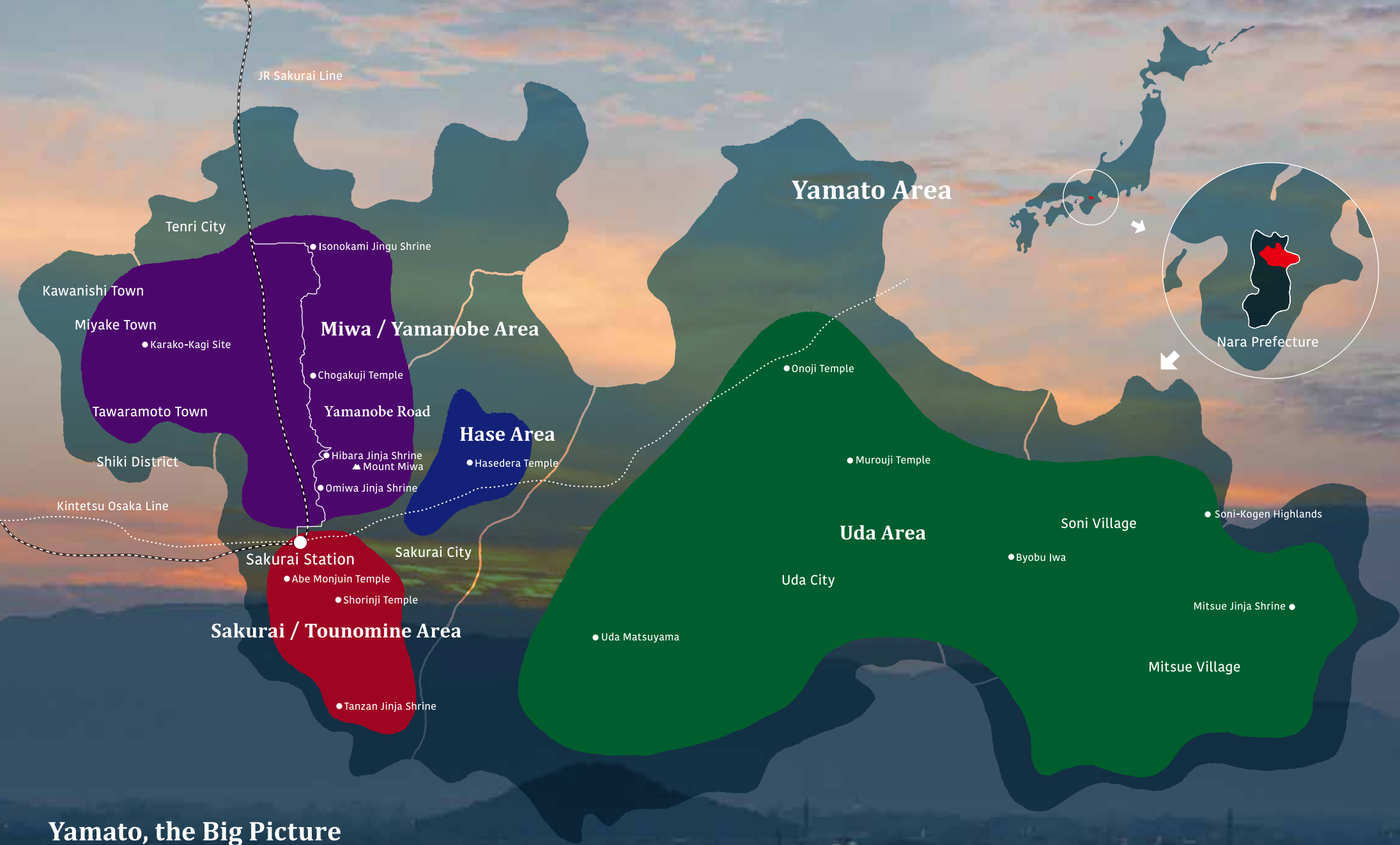




# YAMATO

## UNKNOWN ORIGIN

More than ten centuries ago, a capital of Japan existed here. Several generations of kings of the "Yamato Dynasty" ruled here and expanded their influence outward. Eventually, Yamato became a word meaning "the whole of Japan". The foundation of Japan was built here. This ancient capital - older than Kyoto or Nara - did not develop as other ancient capitals did, and thus was left largely untouched. Feel the unknown mystery of the history of Japan in this quiet, untraveled location.



## Yamato, the Big Picture

The heart of the Yamato area is Sakurai Station, found at the intersection of the Kintetsu Osaka line - running east to west - and the JR Sakurai line - running north to south. As the station is easy to get to from Osaka and Kyoto, you should plan out your travels with Sakurai Station as your starting point. Administratively, the area straddles Sakurai City; Tenri City; the towns of Kawanishi, Miyake, and Tawaramoto in Shiki District; Uda City; and the villages of Mitsue and Soni in Uda District. However, we'll be introducing Yamato as divided into four areas based on sightseeing and tourism facilities.

\*Details are current as of 2017 and may be subject to change.



## A walk in the ancients' shoes

### Yamanobe Road 山の辺の道

A road running north and south along the eastern edge of the Nara Basin, connecting Mount Miwa in Sakurai City and Mount Kasuga in Nara City.

It is said to be "the oldest road in Japan" because it is the oldest road to be mentioned in the Chronicles of Japan.

It is a road of about 10 km in length from Omiwa Jinja Shrine in Sakurai City to Isonokami Jingu Shrine in Tenri City, and is known as a particularly beautiful hiking course.

Mountains rise gently in the east, and the entire Nara Basin can be seen to the west.

Walking along a path through rice fields and orchards, visitors will come across a number of shrines and ancient burial mounds.

The scenery along the way is mentioned in many Waka (Japanese poems), and the landscape that impressed people of the past enough to write of it in poems still remains to this day.

#### (Tips on walking)

Most of the roads are limited to pedestrians, and cars are not allowed.

As hills are uncommon, you can safely walk without special gear.

There are drink vending machines along the way.

Although uncommon, there are also restaurants.

Due to their low numbers, we suggest you take along something to

eat and snack at locations with a good view.

Though the total distance is 16km, one day is not enough time to see the full route.

We recommend going from Sakurai station,

then walking along the Yamanobe Road to Yanagimoto station.

