

Practical Travel Guide - 507

NARA WALK

JNTO

Japan National Tourism Organization
日本政府観光局

In collaboration with
Nara City Tourist Information Center

Japan.
Endless
Discovery.

Nara (奈良), about 42 km south of Kyoto, was the old capital of Japan (710–784), and was the cradle of Japan’s arts, crafts and literature. Buddhism first flourished here under the strong patronage of successive Emperors. Walking through the city’s quiet streets is like strolling through the pages of history. Here, you can find peace of mind and spiritual contentment.

Access to Nara:

From	To	By	Approx. Travel time	Price
JR Kyoto Sta. (Kyoto)	JR Nara Sta.*	JR Nara Line Miyakoji Rapid service train	45min.	¥720
JR Osaka Sta.(Osaka)		JR Yamatoji Rapid service train	55min.	¥810
Kansai Int'l Airport		Airport Limousine Bus	95min.	¥2,100
		JR Ltd.Exp."HARUKA" & JR Yamatoji Rapid service train via Tennoji Sta.(Osaka)	95min.	¥2,930**
Kintetsu Kyoto Sta. (Kyoto)	Kintetsu-Nara Sta.*	Kintetsu Limited Express train	35min.	¥1,160***
Kintetsu Osaka-Namba Sta. (Osaka)		Kintetsu Kyoto Line Express service train	45min.	¥640
		Kintetsu Nara Line Rapid Express service train	35min.	¥570
		Kansai Int'l Airport	Airport Limousine Bus	85min.

*A 15 min. walk from JR Nara Sta. to Kintetsu Nara Sta.
**Fare + express charge for "HARUKA" (with seat reservation, normal season)
***Fare + express charge with seat reservation

Nara Park Walking Course:

JR Nara Sta. / Kintetsu-Nara Sta. — Sarusawa Pond — Kofukuji Temple — Nara National Museum — Todaiji Temple (Great Buddha Hall / Daibutsu-den) — Kasuga Taisha Shrine — Shin-Yakushiji Temple — Naramachi Old Town (Time required for walking: 5 hrs.)

Places of Interest:

=UNESCO’s World Heritage Site
Nara Park (奈良公園) is popularly known as Deer Park, since nearly 1,200 tame deer roam here. Many of the historical relics of Nara are conveniently located in or close to this finely wooded park.

Todaiji Temple (東大寺) is well known for the Daibutsu, 14.98 m-high copper statue of Buddha. The wooden hall which houses the Daibutsu is the world’s largest wooden structure. Open: 7:30–17:30 (Apr.–Oct.), 8:00–17:00 (Nov.–Mar.). Admission: ¥600.

Kasuga Taisha Shrine (春日大社) was founded in 768 and is one of the most famous Shinto shrines in Japan. The vermilion lacquered buildings form a beautiful contrast to the surrounding verdant groves.

Shin-yakushiji Temple (新薬師寺) was founded in 747 and the main hall dates from that time. It is chiefly famous for the beautiful 9th century carving of Yakushi-Nyorai on a circular base surrounded by ‘Twelve Divine Generals’ skillfully worked in clay. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥600.

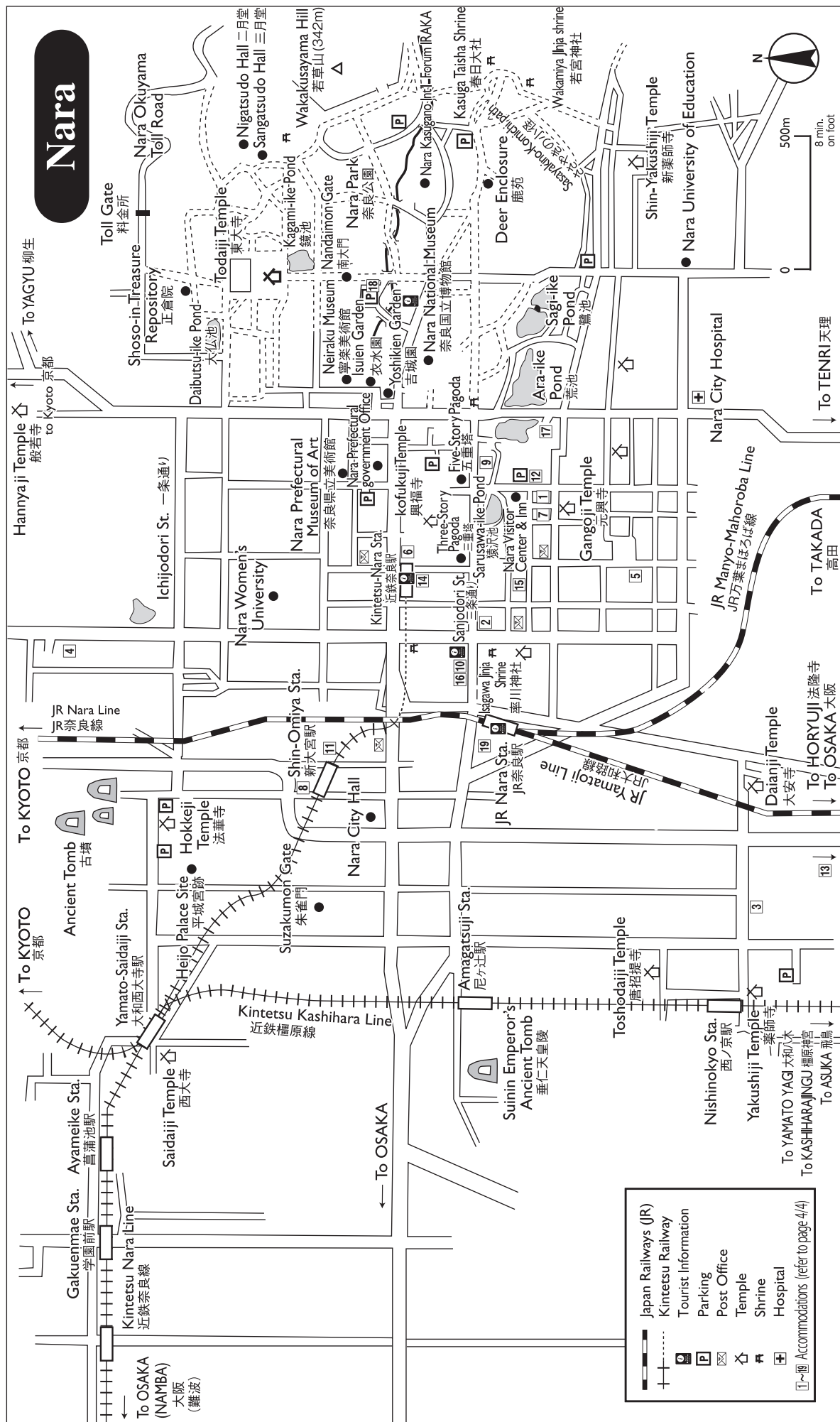
Nara National Museum (奈良国立博物館) exhibits a valuable collection of ancient works of art, particularly the selected masterpieces of Buddhist art. Open: 9:30–17:00, –20:00(Fri.,Sat.). Closed: Mon. & New Year Holiday. Admission: ¥520.

Sarusawa Pond (猿沢池), near the Kofuku-ji Temple, with the five-storied pagoda of the temple reflected on its surface, has long been known as one of the most popular sights in Nara.

Kofukuji Temple (興福寺) was founded in 710. At the height of its prosperity, the temple had as many as 175 buildings, but most of them were reduced to ashes during the passing of 1,300 years’ time. The principal buildings still existing are the Five-Storied Pagoda dating from 1426, the Eastern Main Hall (Tokondo Hall) from 1415 and the Three-Story Pagoda from early 13th century. The National Treasure Hall and Tokondo Hall are open from 9:00 to 17:00 (enter by 16:45). Admission: ¥700 (Treasure Hall), ¥300 (Tokondo Hall).

Wakakusayama Hill (若草山), height of 342 m, to the north of the Kasuga Taisha Shrine, is covered with grass, which is burnt every year on the night of fourth Sat. of January by fires lighted here and there at its foot. It is called “Yamayaki,” which means burning of dead grass on mountain slopes. Open: 9:00–17:00 (3rd Sat. of Mar.–2nd Sun. of Dec.). Admission: ¥150.

*See p. 4 for admission and opening times.



Nishinokyo & Horyu-ji Area:
JR Nara Sta. — (Bus a*) — Toshodaiji Temple — Yakushi-ji Temple — (Bus b*) — Horyuji Temple — Chugu-ji Temple — Horin-ji Temple — Hokiji Temple — (Bus c*) — Kintetsu-Nara Sta.

- * **Transportation (Nara Kotsu Bus 奈良交通バス):**
- a) 20 min. by bus from Kintetsu-Nara Sta. or 17 min. from JR Nara Sta. to Toshodaiji Temple (bus #63, #78 bound for Rokujo-yama) ¥270
 - b) 41 min. by bus from Yakushiji — Chusha-jo to Horyuji-mae (bus #98) ¥570
 - c) 57 min. by bus from Hokiji-mae to Kintetsu-Nara Sta. (bus #97) ¥700

Toshodaiji Temple ㊦ (唐招堤寺), a 8-min.walk from Kintetsu-Nishinokyo Sta. is the most valuable of the surviving structures of the 8th century. It was built in 759 by Ganjin, an illustrious Chinese priest of the Tang Dynasty. The chief object of worship in the Main Hall is a 3.3 m (11 ft.)-high dry lacquer statue of Birushana. Open: 8:30–17:00. Admission: ¥600.

Yakushiji Temple ㊦ (薬師寺) founded in 680, preserves many National Treasure as statues of Yakushi Sanzonzo and important cultural properties. It is admired for its 37.9 m (124ft.)-high Three-Storied East Pagoda which still retains its original form. (under restoration until 2020) Open: 8:30–17:00. Admission: ¥1,100 (Jan. 1–8, Mar. 1–Jun. 30, Aug. 13–15, Sep. 16–Nov. 30 when Genjosanzoin-Garan opens), ¥800 (when Genjosanzoin-Garan close).

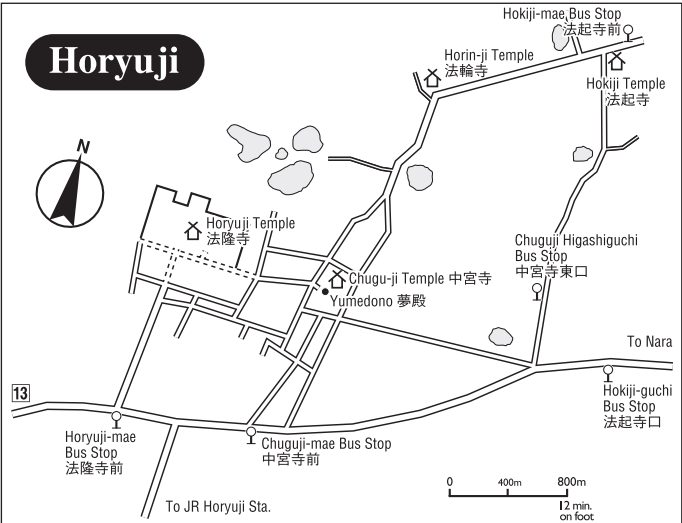
Horyuji Temple ㊦ (法隆寺), 13 min. by JR train from JR Nara Sta. to Horyuji Sta. and then 20 min. walk or 8 min. by bus, is one of the most magnificent repositories of the architectural, sculptural and pictorial art objects of Japan. The temple was founded in 607 by Prince Shotoku, the great protector of Buddhism. It comprises about fifty buildings and some of them have been ascertained as the oldest wooden structures extant in the world. The most noteworthy of the Horyu-ji buildings are the Nandaimon (South Main Gate), the Kondo (Main Hall), the Shoryoin (Hall of Prince Shotoku’s soul), the Five-Storied Pagoda, the Daikodo (Great Lecture Hall) and the Yumedono (Hall of Visions), a beautiful octagonal structure built in 739. All these buildings are registered as National Treasures. Open: 8:00–17:00 (Feb. 22–Nov. 3), –16:30 (Nov. 4–

Feb. 21). Admission: ¥1,500.

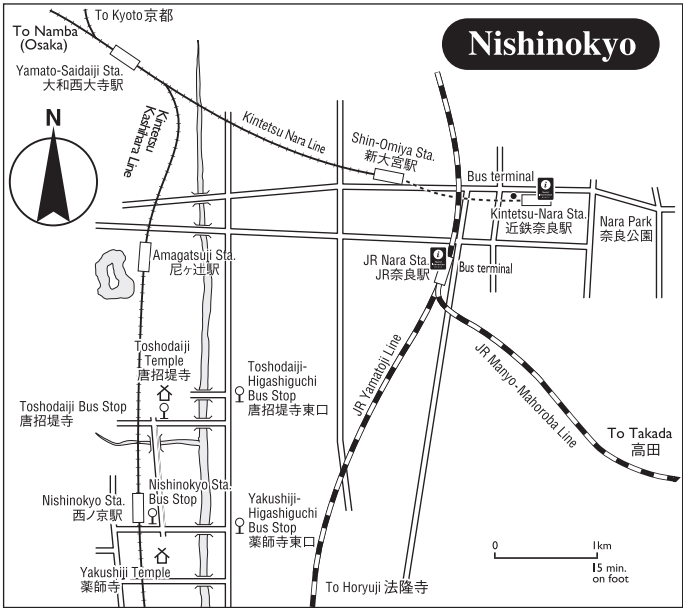
Chugu-ji Temple (中宮寺), a convent near the East Temple of Horyuji, is noted for its Nyoirin Kannon Goddess, a wooden Buddhist image of the 7th century. Open: 9:00–16:00 (Oct. 1–Mar. 20), –16:30 (Mar. 21–Sep. 30). Admission: ¥600.

Horin-ji Temple (法輪寺), northeast of the Horyuji Temple, is an ancient temple founded in 622. The main object of worship in the Kodo (Lecture Hall) is a seated wooden image of Yakushi-Nyorai. Open: 8:00–17:00 (Mar.–Nov.), –16:30 (Dec.–Feb.). Admission: ¥500.

Hokiji Temple ㊦ (法起寺), northeast of the Horyuji Temple, was founded in 638. The outstanding attraction of the Hokiji Temple is its Three-Storied Pagoda, said to date from 706 and generally considered the oldest example of its kind. Open: 8:30–17:00 (Feb. 22–Nov. 3), –16:30 (Nov. 4–Feb. 21). Admission: ¥300.



13 corresponds to that in the accommodation list on page 4/4



Accommodations: Accommodation numbers correspond to the map on page 2/4

Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
1 Furuichi Ryokan(R)	(0742)22-2440	(0742)23-7807	¥	11 Hotel Half Time(BH)	(0742)33-5656	(0742)33-5352	¥¥
2 Business Ryokan Hakuoh(R)	(0742)26-7891	(0742)26-7893	¥	12 Hotel Sunroute NARA(BH)	(0742)22-5151	(0742)27-3759	¥¥
3 Yamashiroya(M)	(0742)33-2983	(0742)33-3014	¥	13 Ukawayaya(R)	(0745)74-2136	(0745)74-2137	¥¥
4 Nara Youth Hostel(YH)	(0742)22-1334	(0742)22-1335	¥	14 People's Inn Hanakomichi(H)	(0742)26-2646	(0742)26-2647	¥¥
5 Ryokan Seikanso(R)	(0742)22-2670	(0742)22-2670	¥	15 Ryokan Tsubaki-so (R)	(0742)22-5330	(0742)27-3811	¥¥
6 Tenpyo Ryokan (R)	(0742)22-0551	(0742)22-0553	¥	16 Nara Washington Hotel Plaza (BH)	(0742)27-0410	(0742)27-0484	¥¥
7 Ryokan Matsumae (R)	(0742)22-3686	(0742)26-3927	¥	17 Nara Hotel(H)	(0742)26-3300	(0742)23-5252	¥¥¥
8 Toyoko Inn Nara Shin-Omiya Ekimae (BH)	(0742)36-1045	(0742)36-1046	¥	18 Kankaso(R)	(0742)26-1128	(0742)26-1301	¥¥¥
9 Cotton 100% (P)	(0742)22-7117	(0742)22-0706	¥	19 Hotel Nikko Nara (H)	(0742)35-8831	(0742)35-6868	¥¥¥
10 Hotel Fujita Nara(H)	(0742)23-8111	(0742)22-0255	¥¥				

Remarks:

H = Hotel
 BH = Buisness Hotel
 M = Minshuku (family-run inn)
 P = Pension
 YH = Youth Hostel
 R = Ryokan

Rate per person
 ¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
 ¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen
 ¥ = 8,000 yen or less
 *Standard basis rate
 (no meals, taxes included)

[Good to know] Admission and opening times at tourist attractions:

- Last entry to the most of attractions is 30 min. before the closing time.
- In general, if their weekly closing day (most are on Mon.) falls on a national holiday, they are open on the day and are closed on the following day after the holiday(s).
- Most are closed throughout / a part of New Year holiday period (especially Dec. 29–Jan. 3).
- Please visit the official website of each venue / your nearest tourist information center for the updates.

JNTO TIC (Tourist Information Center)

TIC of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its main services are providing travel information and free literature on Japan such as tourist spots, transportation, and suggesting tour itineraries, etc.

1F, Shin-Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
 100-0005 Tel. 03-3201-3331 (in Japan)
 Open daily from 9:00 to 18:00 (Closed on Jan. 1)
<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/tic/>



Goodwill Guide Groups offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JNTO and display the badge shown. As they are volunteers, there is no charge for their service. You are only expected to pay for their transportation, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

JNTO Website

<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/list-of-volunteer-guides/>



Japan Official Travel App

**TOURIST INFORMATION in the area****Nara City Tourist Information Center:**

Next to JR Nara Sta., 1082 Sanjyohonmachi, Nara City, Nara

Hours: 9:00–21:00

Tel. (0742)27-2223

To find

other Tourist Information Centers,
 visit <https://tic.jnto.go.jp/>



JNTO Website: <https://www.jnto.go.jp>

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of October 2019, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.

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