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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>Approx. Travel time</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JR Kyoto Sta. (Kyoto)</td>
<td>JR Nara Sta.*</td>
<td>JR Nara Line Miyakoji Rapid service train</td>
<td>45min.</td>
<td>¥720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JR Osaka Sta. (Osaka)</td>
<td></td>
<td>JR Yamatoji Rapid service train</td>
<td>55min.</td>
<td>¥810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansai Int’l Airport</td>
<td></td>
<td>Airport Limousine Bus</td>
<td>95min.</td>
<td>¥2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kintetsu Kyoto Sta. (Kyoto)</td>
<td>Kintetsu-Nara Sta.*</td>
<td>JR Ltd.Exp.&quot;HARUKA&quot; &amp; JR Yamatoji Rapid service train via Tennou Sta.(Osaka)</td>
<td>95min.</td>
<td>¥2,930**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kintetsu Osaka-Namba Sta. (Osaka)</td>
<td>Kintetsu-Nara Sta.*</td>
<td>Kintetsu Limited Express train</td>
<td>35min.</td>
<td>¥1,160***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kintetsu Osaka-Namba Sta. (Osaka)</td>
<td>Kintetsu-Nara Sta.*</td>
<td>Kintetsu Kyoto Line Express service train</td>
<td>45min.</td>
<td>¥640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kintetsu Osaka-Namba Sta. (Osaka)</td>
<td>Kintetsu-Nara Sta.*</td>
<td>Kintetsu Nara Line Rapid service train</td>
<td>35min.</td>
<td>¥570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansai Int’l Airport</td>
<td></td>
<td>Airport Limousine Bus</td>
<td>85min.</td>
<td>¥2,100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* 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:


Places of Interest:

Nara Park 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 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 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 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.

Sarusawa Pond, near the Kofukuji 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 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, 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 fire 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.

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.
Nishinokyo & Horyu-ji Area:
JR Nara Sta. — (Bus a*) — Toshodaiji Temple — Yakushi-ji Temple — (Bus b*) — Horyuji Temple — Chugu-ji Temple — Horin-ji Temple — Hokkai 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 Rokujyo-yama) ¥270
  b) 41 min. by bus from Yakushi-ji — Chusha-jo to Horyuji-mae (bus #98) ¥570
  c) 57 min. by bus from Horyuji-mae to Kintetsu-Nara Sta. (bus #97) ¥700

Toshodaiji Temple (唐招提寺), 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 Brusahana. Open: 8:30—17:00. Admission: ¥600.

Yakushi-ji Temple (薬師寺) founded in 680, preserves many National Treasures as statues of Yakushi Sanzono 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—Mar. 31, 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.

Hokkai Temple (法起寺), northeast of the Horyuji Temple, was founded in 638. The outstanding attraction of the Hokkai 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.
## Accommodations:
Accommodation numbers correspond to the map on page 2/4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of facilities</th>
<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Fax.</th>
<th>Room rate ($)</th>
<th>Name of facilities</th>
<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Fax.</th>
<th>Room rate ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Furuichi Ryokan (R)</td>
<td>(0742)22-2440</td>
<td>(0742)23-7807</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>11. Hotel Half Time (BH)</td>
<td>(0742)33-5656</td>
<td>(0742)33-5352</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Business Ryokan Hakuhoh (R)</td>
<td>(0742)26-7891</td>
<td>(0742)26-7893</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>12. Hotel Sunroute NARA (BH)</td>
<td>(0742)22-5151</td>
<td>(0742)27-3759</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Yamashiroya (M)</td>
<td>(0742)23-2983</td>
<td>(0742)33-3014</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>13. Ukaikawa (R)</td>
<td>(0745)74-2136</td>
<td>(0745)74-2137</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Ryokan Seikoan (R)</td>
<td>(0742)22-2670</td>
<td>(0742)22-2670</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>15. Ryokan Tsubaki-so (R)</td>
<td>(0742)22-3330</td>
<td>(0742)27-3811</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Ryokan Matsumae (R)</td>
<td>(0742)22-3686</td>
<td>(0742)26-3927</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>17. Nara Hotel (H)</td>
<td>(0742)26-3300</td>
<td>(0742)23-5252</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Cotton 100% (P)</td>
<td>(0742)22-7117</td>
<td>(0742)22-0706</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>19. Hotel Nikko Nara (H)</td>
<td>(0742)35-8831</td>
<td>(0742)35-6868</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Cotton Fujita Nara (H)</td>
<td>(0742)23-8111</td>
<td>(0742)22-0355</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Remarks:**
- H = Hotel
- BH = Business Hotel
- M = Minshuku (family-run inn)
- P = Pension
- YH = Youth Hostel
- R = Ryokan

- ¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
- ¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen
- ¥ = 8,000 yen or less

- Standard basis rate

- (no meals, taxes included)

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**[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.

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**JNTO TIC (Tourist Information Center)**

JNTO, Japan National Tourism Organization provides 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)

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**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

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**JNTO Website:** https://www.jnto.go.jp

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