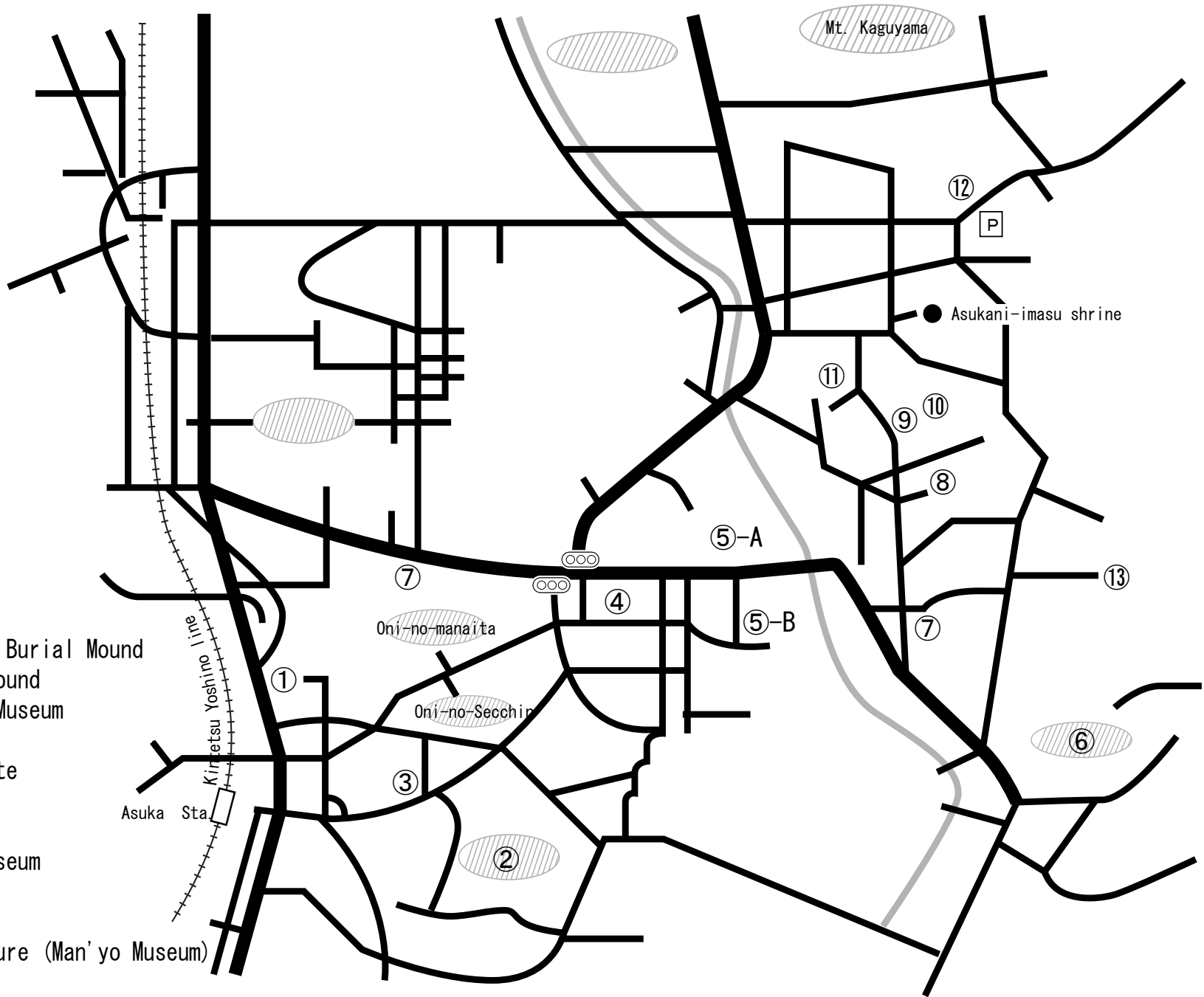


# Asuka Historical National Government Park



# Asuka Historical National Government Park

## – A Combination of Walking, Bus and Taxi

This course incorporates a combination of walking, bus and taxi.

[Access] Take the train from Kintetsu Nara Station to Asuka Station. This will require changing trains twice – at Yamato Saidaiji Station and Kashihara Jingu-mae Stations.

[Transportation in Asuka Village] The Kame-bus comes in handy and a one-day pass will set you back 650 yen. The Kame-bus runs from Kintetsu Asuka Station to the east entrance of Kintetsu Kashihara Jingu-mae Station through Asuka Village every 30 minutes. The numbered sightseeing spots on the map have bus stops.

② Takamatsuzuka Burial Mound and Wall Painting Museum [250 yen] (20 minutes walk or 3 minutes bus ride from Kintetsu Asuka Station) Since its excavation in 1972, this 7<sup>th</sup> century tomb has become famous for its beautiful wall paintings. Currently it is only possible to view the outside of the mound as the internal environment is strictly controlled by state of the art technology. However, in 1977 a Wall Painting Museum was constructed that displays faithful reproductions of the originals. ⇒ ③ Asuka Historical Park Museum [No Charge] (10 minutes walk from ②) The topographical map of Asuka on display is informative and useful for visitors to get their bearings. Vending machines for drinks and restrooms are also available. ⇒ ④ Kameishi (Tortoise Stone) [No charge] (25 minutes walk from ③) The front of this stone seems to resemble the face of a laughing tortoise. One of a number of enigmatic stones unearthed around Asuka. ⇒ ⑤ Kawaradera Temple Site (⑤-A) and Tachibanadera Temple (⑤-B) [300 yen] (10 minutes walk from ④) Tachibanadera Temple contains the Nimenseki Stone – carved with two human faces expressing good and evil. One of the aforementioned enigmatic stones. The Kawaradera Temple Site serves as a good place for lunch. ⇒ ⑥ Ishibutai Burial Mound [250 yen] (20 minutes walk or 3 minutes bus ride from ⑤) This burial mound has the largest side-entrance-style stone chamber in Japan. Who was laid in this chamber remains unknown. Don't miss the reproduction stone coffin nearby. Several Japanese-style restaurants are located nearby. Tired walkers can return to the east entrance of Kintetsu Kashihara Jingu-mae Station from here by bus.

–If you wish to continue the tour–

《Walking from Ishibutai Burial Mound》

⑦ Asuka Indigo Dyeing Museum [No charge] (10 minutes walk from ⑥) Ancient indigo-dyed works, Asuka earthen-bells and photographs of Asuka's scenery are exhibited in a traditional house near to the Asuka Village Tourists Information Center. Handmade soba noodles and teas are also available. If you wish to have a go at indigo-dyeing, it is possible but you will have to reserve in advance. Tie-dyeing of a handkerchief (50×50cm) costs 1,000 yen; Wax dyeing costs 1,500 yen; Bell-coloring costs 1,000 yen. Please allocate about an hour for the dyeing. You can go back to the east entrance of Kintetsu Kashihara Jingu-mae Station from here by bus.

If you wish to continue the tour of Asuka, you can walk to the ⑩ Complex of Man'yo Culture (Man'yo Museum) [600 yen] and ⑪ Asukadera Temple [300 yen]. This is about a 10-minute walk.

《Bus or taxi from Ishibutai Burial Mound》 Tired tourists can take a bus or taxi from the Ishibutai Burial Mound. ⑬ Okadera Temple [300 yen] (4 minutes taxi ride or 6 minutes bus ride from ⑥) This temple's main statue of warship is the 4.8-meter Nyoirin-kannon (Buddhist God of Mercy), the tallest sedentary Buddhist statue in Japan. The elevation of this temple lends it some fine views of Asuka. ⇒ ⑩ Complex of Man'yo Culture (Man'yo Museum) [600 yen] (10 minutes walk from ⑬) There are so many exhibits in this museum (including historical artifacts, reproductions of people's live in history and Japanese-style paintings based on the themes of the Man'yo-shu, an anthology of poetry edited in the 8<sup>th</sup> century) that you could spend a good half-day here. It's certainly a good place when it rains!

\* Try a Kaki (persimmon) cake at Cafe in Complex of Man'yo Culture. (600 yen)

\* All numbers above correspond with those on the map.

\* 1 km (about 0.6 mile) = Approximately 15 minutes on foot

[Cooperate Project by Nara Prefecture and Nara SGG Club]