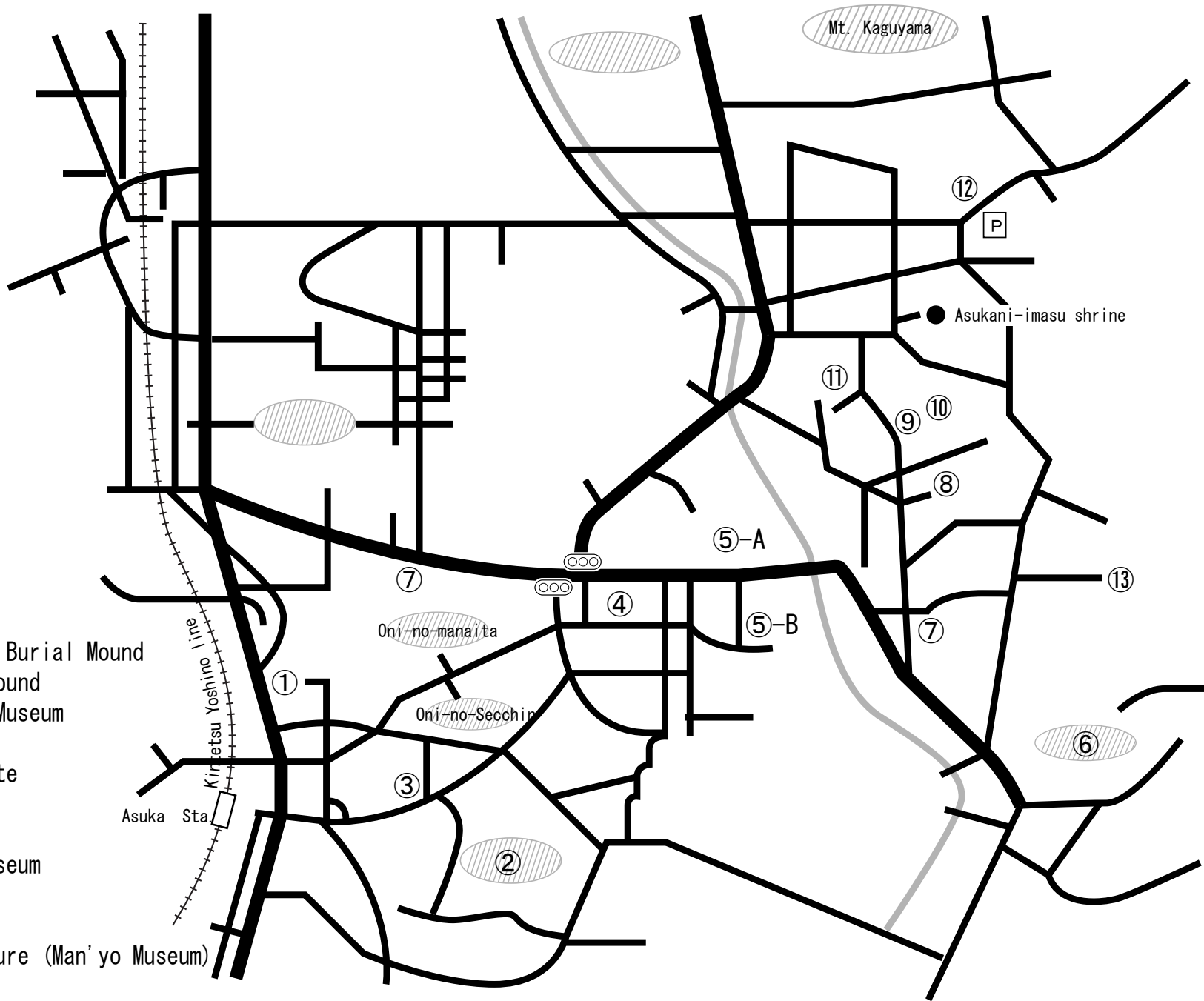


Asuka Historical National Government Park



- ① Kibitsu-hime-ookimihaka Burial Mound
- ② Takamatsuzuka Burial Mound
- ③ Asuka Historical Park Museum
- ④ Kame-ishi
- ⑤-A Kawaradera Temple Site
- ⑤-B Tachibanadera Temple
- ⑥ Ishibutai Burial Mound
- ⑦ Asuka Indigo Dyeing Museum
- ⑧ Sakafune-ishi (Stone)
- ⑨ Asuka Folk Museum
- ⑩ Complex of Man'yo Culture (Man'yo Museum)
- ⑪ Asukadera Temple
- ⑫ Asuka Historical Museum
- ⑬ Okadera Temple

Asuka Historical National Government Park – Hiking Course

[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)

② Takamatsuzuka Burial Mound and Wall Painting Museum [250 yen] (15 minutes from Kintetsu Asuka Station) Since its excavation in 1972, this 7th 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 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 Kame-ishi (Tortoise Stone) [No charge] (25 minutes from ③) This front of this stone seems 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 from ④) Tachibanadera Temple contains the Nimenseki Stone-carved 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 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. ⇒ ⑦ Asuka Indigo Dyeing Museum [No charge] (10 minutes from ⑥) Ancient indigo dyeing works, Asuka earth-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 (50cm×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. ⇒ ⑧ Sakafune-ishi (Stone) [No charge] (15 minutes from ⑦) This stone object lies amidst a bamboo thicket on a small hill. One of the mysterious stones of Asuka. ⇒ ⑨ Asuka Folk Museum [No charge] (10 minutes from ⑧) Here are displayed traditional tools used in everyday life collected in and around the Asuka area. They are displayed in an 18th century house relocated to its present site. ⇒ ⑩ Complex of Man'yo Culture (Man'yo Museum) [600 yen] (Next to ⑨) There are so many exhibits in this museum (including historical artifacts, reproductions of people's lives in history and Japanese-style paintings based on the themes of the Man'yo-shu, an anthology of poetry edited in the 8th century) that you could spend a good half-day here. It's certainly a good place to make use of when it rains! Tired walkers can take a bus from here to the east entrance of Kintetsu Kashihara Jingu-mae Station ⇒ ⑪ Asukadera Temple [300 yen] (7 minutes from ⑩) This temple was constructed as the first full-fledged Buddhist temple in Japan in the 6th century. Its sedentary statue of Buddha, called Asuka Daibutsu, dates back to the 7th century.

[Helpful Information]

<Transportation in Asuka Village> Kame-bus comes in handy and a one-day pass will set you back just 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. You can enjoy the beautiful scenery along the above course in each of the four seasons.

<Asuka Historical National Government Park> This park was developed by the Ministry of Construction in order to preserve and make optimum use of the environment and cultural heritage of Asuka, the political and cultural center of ancient Japan. This is the first case of its kind in Japan. Total area: 46.1 hectares.

* Try Kaki (persimmon) cake at the Cafe in the 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.