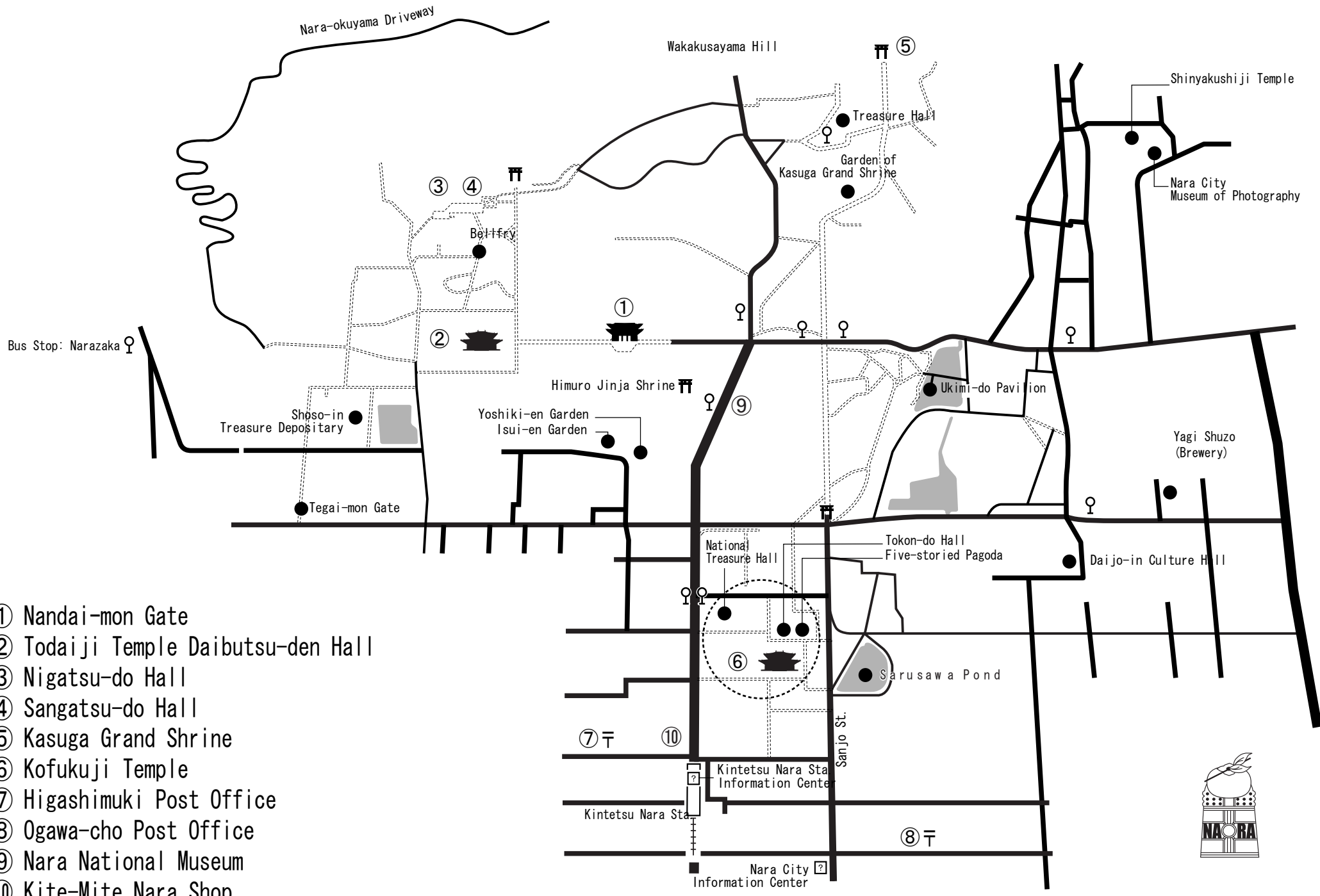


# Nara Park (Deer Park) and Its Surroundings (about 3 hours)



- ① Nandai-mon Gate
- ② Todaiji Temple Daibutsu-den Hall
- ③ Nigatsu-do Hall
- ④ Sangatsu-do Hall
- ⑤ Kasuga Grand Shrine
- ⑥ Kofukuji Temple
- ⑦ Higashimuki Post Office
- ⑧ Ogawa-cho Post Office
- ⑨ Nara National Museum
- ⑩ Kite-Mite Nara Shop



# Nara Park (Deer Park) and Its Surroundings (about 3 hours)

[Access] Take a bus from either JR or Kintetsu Nara Station to Daibutsuden-Kasuga-Taisha-mae. Buses run about every 10 minutes.

«Nara Park and Deer» Nara Park covers an area of 660 hectares and has an abundance of greenery. Wild deer roam freely throughout the park. Nara park boasts the following sightseeing spots:

[I] Todaiji Temple: ① Nandai-mon Gate This was reconstructed in late 12<sup>th</sup> century and contains Japan's largest pair of guardian deities, made in just 69 days. ⇒ ② Daibutsuden Hall (The Hall of the Great Buddha) [500 yen] This is the world's largest wooden structure and built by the Emperor Shomu in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. A pair of golden ornaments on the roof (known as Shibi in Japanese) were believed to protect the building from catching fires. Inside the Hall, the Great Buddha (Vairocana 15 meters high) is situated on a lotus pedestal. One of the pillars to the rear of the statue has a hole through it. Passing through the hole is supposed to bring you happiness. ⇒ Pindola: Situated outside the Hall of the Great Buddha, he is still believed to have miracle powers to relieve pain if you rub the corresponding part of his body.

[II] Todaiji Temple: ③ Nigatsu-do Hall [No charge] If you have time, walk along the quiet path behind the Hall of the Great Buddha to Nigatsu-do Hall. From Nigatsu-do, you can enjoy a fine panorama of Nara City on a fine day. ⇒ ④ Sangatsu-do Hall [500 yen] This is about 2-minute walk from Nigatsu-do Hall. For those with an interest in Buddhist statuary, there are a number of important national treasures within this Hall. For example, the Fukukensaku Kannon, the bodhisattvas of Nikko, and Gakko as well as a number of other must-sees.

[III] ⑤ Kasuga Grand Shrine [No charge. Although 500 yen for special visit] This is about a 15-minute walk from Sangatsu-do Hall. This shrine was built by the Fujiwaras, an aristocratic family who had huge political power from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. The shrine has about 1,000 hanging bronze lanterns and 2,000 stone lanterns. A huge 800-year old cedar tree pokes through the roof of a building in the main garden. The 600-year old wisteria also blooms wonderfully every year. ⇒ Treasure Hall [420 yen] This contains a lot of treasures connected to the Shrine and is recommended for those with an interest in such artifacts.

[IV] ⑥ Kofukuji Temple This is about a 20-minute walk from Kasuga Grand Shrine. It was built by the Fujiwaras in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. ⇒ The Five-storied Pagoda reconstructed in 1426, is a symbol of Nara Park, and at 50.1 meters, is Japan's second highest pagoda. ⇒ Tokon-do Hall [300 yen] This was reconstructed in 1415 and houses a triad of healing Buddhas. ⇒ National Treasure Hall [500 yen] A must-see for those with an interest in Buddhist imagery.

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

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