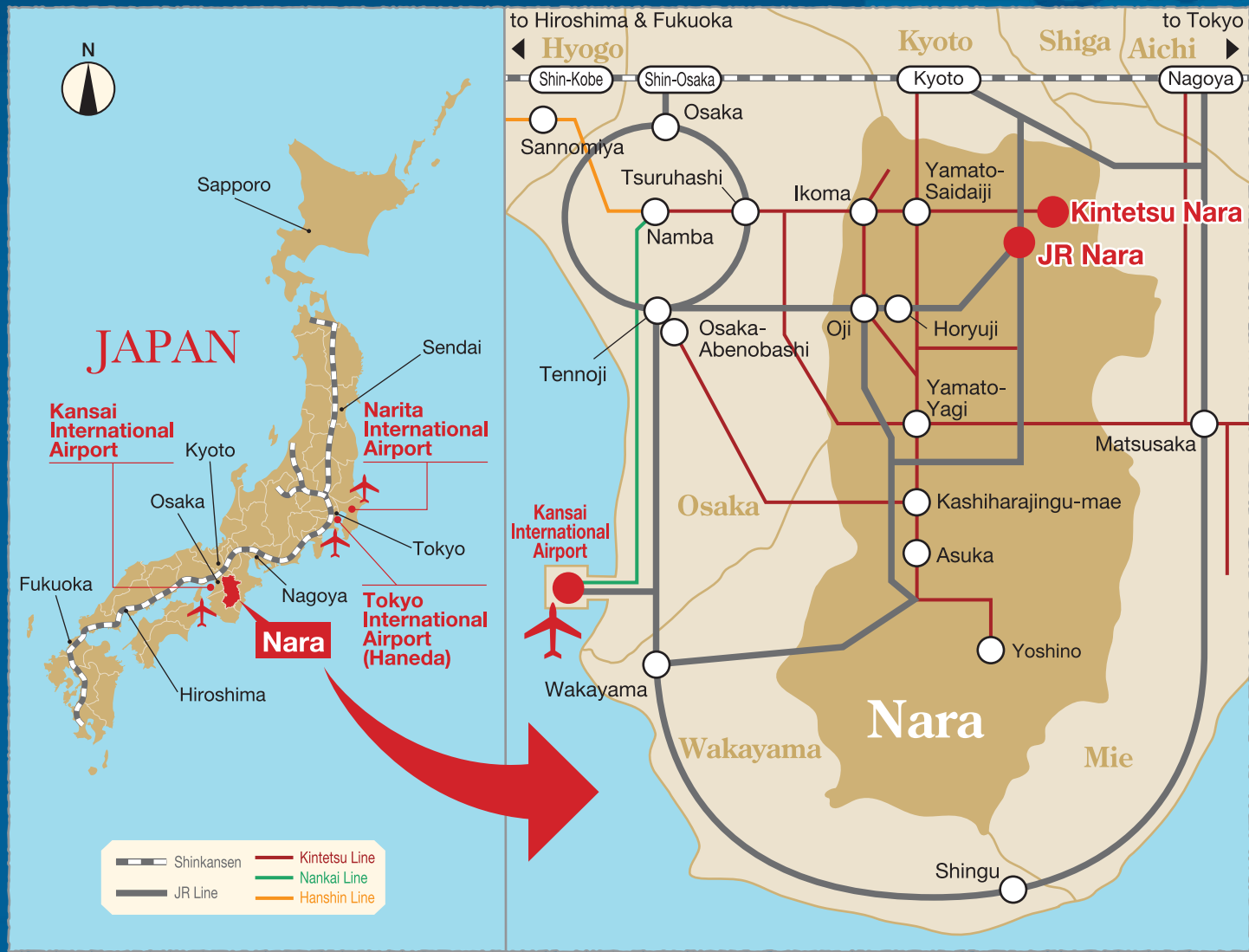


# NARA MAP



# 奈良

The Towers of "Frozen Music" Stand Grandly Over the Ancient Capital  
NARA, JAPAN



## Getting to Nara

Kansai International Airport	Limousine Bus 85min.	Kintetsu Nara	Limousine Bus 5min.	JR Nara	About 90min. total		
	Limousine Bus 65min.	Yamato-Yagi			About 65min. total		
	JR Limited Express 30min.	Tennoji	JR Yamatoji Rapid Service 30min.	JR Nara	About 60min. total		
	Nankai Limited Express 30min.	Namba	Kintetsu Rapid Express 40min.	Kintetsu Nara	About 70min. total		
Narita International Airport	JR Limited Express 30min.	Osaka-Abenobashi	Kintetsu Limited Express 45min.	Asuka	Kintetsu Limited Express 35min.	Yoshino	About 110min. total
	JR Limited Express 60min.	Tokyo	Shinkansen (Nozomi) 140min.	Kyoto	JR Rapid 45min.	JR Nara	About 245min. total
Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)	Tokyo Monorail Haneda Express 20min.	Hamamatsucho	JR Line 5min.	Tokyo	Kintetsu Express 45min.	Kintetsu Nara	About 210min. total
Kyoto	JR Rapid 45min.	JR Nara					About 45min. total
	Kintetsu Express 45min.	Kintetsu Nara					About 45min. total

## Inquiry Contact Details

**Kansai Tourist Information Center at Kansai International Airport**  
Tel.: +81-72-456-6025  
Languages: Japanese, English, Chinese  
Hours: 8:30-20:30 (April-October)  
9:00-21:00 (November-March)

**JR Nara Station Tourist Information Center**  
Tel.: +81-742-22-9821  
Languages: Japanese, English  
Hours: 9:00-17:00

**Nara Prefecture Information Center**  
Tel.: +81-742-27-2003  
Languages: Japanese, English  
Hours: 10:00-17:00

**Kintetsu Nara Station Tourist Information Center**  
Tel.: +81-742-24-4858  
Languages: Japanese, English  
Hours: 9:00-17:00

**Nara City Tourist Center**  
Tel.: +81-742-22-5595  
Languages: Japanese, English  
Hours: 9:00-21:00  
(English until 19:00)

**Sarusawa-ike Tourist Information Center**  
Tel.: +81-742-26-1991  
Languages: Japanese, English  
Hours: 9:00-17:00

**Nara City Tourist Information Center**  
Tel.: +81-742-27-2223  
Languages: Japanese, English  
Hours: 9:00-21:00  
(English until 19:00)

**Horyuji i Center**  
Tel.: +81-745-74-6800  
Languages: Japanese, English  
Hours: 8:30-18:00  
(English until 16:00)

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<http://www.pref.nara.jp/>

\*Photos courtesy of: Nara Visitors Bureau, STUDIO38 \*Travel times are approximate and for reference purposes only. \*Listed entrance fares etc. for facilities are correct as of February, 2012. They are subject to change, so please confirm when planning and during your trip.



# Nara & USA

## The Ancient Capital Adored by Many Cultural Figures

Nara is a historical city that was the capital of Japan up until the 8th century. It has Japan's largest number of structures that are National Treasures. Nara developed international fame as the eastern terminus of the Silk Road that connected the Orient with the Occident. Towers of ancient temples that Ernest Fenollosa rhapsodized as "frozen music" stand majestically over Nara, and was visited by Albert Einstein and Helen Keller. Breathe for yourself the air of the ancient capital that was adored by such important cultural figures.

### World Heritage Todaiji Temple



#### The World's Largest Bronze Buddha Statue: the "Great Buddha of Nara"

A large temple constructed at the behest of the Emperor Shomu in the mid-8th century, the Great Buddha Hall is one of the largest wooden structures in the world. The Vairocana Buddhist statue enshrined here is the world's largest bronze Buddha statue (estimated weight of 380t, height of 15m) and is commonly known as the "Great Buddha of Nara." There are other noteworthy sights such as the Great South Gate, Nigatsudo Hall, and Hokkedo Hall.



#### Ominugui Cleaning Ritual

Once a year, about 120 Buddhist priests and believers will all chant in unison and then engage in the ritual cleaning of the Great Buddha.

406-1 Zoshi-cho, Nara City ☎0742-22-5511 (Todaiji Temple), 0742-20-5511 (Todaiji Temple Museum) Open year-round (Todaiji Temple Museum is sometimes temporarily closed when exhibitions are being renewed)  
 ● Great Buddha Hall, Hokkedo Hall (Sangatsudo Hall), Ordination Hall / 7:30-17:30 (April-September), 7:30-17:00 (October), 8:00-16:30 (November-February), 8:00-17:00 (March) Todaiji Temple Museum / 9:30 - (Last entry 30 minutes before Todaiji Temple closing time)  
 ● Great Buddha Hall, Hokkedo Hall (Sangatsudo Hall), Ordination Hall, Todaiji Temple Museum: ¥500 each, Great Buddha Hall & Todaiji Temple Museum: ¥800 combined  
 🚌 5min. walk from Daibutsuden Kasuga Taisha Mae stop on the City Loop Bus from JR/Kintetsu Nara Station, 20min. walk from Kintetsu Nara Station The Hokkedo Hall (Sangatsudo Hall) is under reconstruction until the end of March 2013 and is closed to visitors.

### Hasedera Temple

#### A Beautiful Mountain Temple Accentuated by Flowers of the Four Seasons

This majestic temple built on the mountainside of Mt. Hatsuse offers a spectacular view from the Main Hall that is reached after the 399 steps. Long known as the temple of flowers, it delights visitors with pleasurable glimpses of the four seasons in flowers such as cherries, peonies, and hydrangea, as well as autumnal hues and snowy winter scenery.



731-1 Hase, Sakurai City ☎0744-47-7001 Open year-round  
 ● 8:30-17:00 (April-September), 9:00-16:30 (October-March) ☎¥500  
 🚌 15min. walk from Kintetsu Hasedera Station

### Fenollosa, Patron of the Japanese Arts

Ernest Fenollosa, a philosopher and Asian art historian from the USA, came to Japan in 1878 and made efforts at collecting the Japanese art that he saw being forsaken in Japan's march toward modernization. Having been responsible for the safekeeping of art objects at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Fenollosa is known for the debt owed to him by the world of Japanese art.

#### Jokyoji Temple

In 1888, Ernest Fenollosa gave a historic speech at Jokyoji Temple which appealed to the people of Nara, urging them to preserve their cultural heritage.



Jokyoji Temple (Kamisanjo-cho, Nara-shi)



#### Yakushiji Temple East Pagoda

It is said that Ernest Fenollosa described the East Pagoda as "frozen music." There is a rhythmical beauty engendered by the layering of large and small roofs. The West Pagoda that was long ago destroyed by fire was rebuilt in 1981 by virtue of donations collected via the method of copying sutras for Yakushiji Temple. The vivid use of color makes for an elegant appearance that harkens back 1,300 years ago.

### World Heritage Yakushiji Temple

#### The Unique Layout Called "Yakushiji Style"

The unique layout of the Kondo (Main Hall) in the center and the east and west pagodas on either side has earned the name "Yakushiji style." As the Yakushi Triad enshrined in the Kondo were known as healing Buddhas, from times of old they gained popularity because they were relied on by those in need. The many cultural assets kept here make apparent the cultural influences that came to Japan via the Silk Road. (The East Pagoda is being dismantled and repaired between 2011 and 2018.)

457 Nishinkyō-cho, Nara City ☎0742-33-6001 Open year-round  
 ● 8:30-17:00 (Last entry at 16:30)  
 ☎¥500 (usual period) (¥800 when the Genjo Sarizo Complex is open for viewing)  
 🚌 Immediately from Kintetsu Nishinkyō Station

### World Heritage Kasuga Taisha Shrine

#### A Place to Pray for World Peace and Universal Happiness

This ancient shrine was constructed to protect Heijo-kyo at the base of Mt. Kasuga, which has from antiquity been worshipped as the mountain where a Shinto god descended. The vermilion structure looks stunning against the deep green and, in May, ubiquitous wisteria can be seen blossoming beautifully. The deer, which are considered to be the messengers of the god of Kasuga Taisha Shrine, wandering throughout the grounds are an impressive sight.

160 Kasugano-cho, Nara City ☎0742-22-7788  
 ● Main Shrine / 6:30-17:30 (April-October), 7:00-16:30 (November-March)  
 Treasure Hall / 9:00-17:00 (Last entry at 16:30)  
 ● Special visit to main shrine: ¥500, Treasure Hall: ¥400  
 🚌 Immediately from Kasugataisha Honden stop on the bus bound for Kasugataisha Honden from JR/Kintetsu Nara Station



### Nara Hotel



Built out of cypress as a dignified looking state guest house, Nara Hotel opened its doors in 1909. It is close to famous spots such as Todaiji Temple and Kasuga Taisha Shrine, and the eclectic East-West architectural design radiates classical elegance. Helen Keller and actors Marlon Brando and Glenn Ford stayed here.

1096 Takebatake-cho, Nara City ☎0742-26-3300  
 🚌 Immediately from Nara Hotel stop on the bus bound for Tenri from JR/Kintetsu Nara Station

#### Albert Einstein

The American-made piano that was played by Albert Einstein is on display in the lobby of the Nara Hotel. This piano had long gone without a permanent home but was able to make its way back home in 2009, the centenary year of the Nara Hotel.



### Imai Town

#### A Town Where You Can Get a Taste of Japan in the Medieval Period

Just one step anywhere in the town can take you back on a journey through time. Imai Town is designated an important conservation district for groups of traditional buildings due to its preservation of the rich atmosphere of 17th-18th century Japan.



Imai-cho, Kashihara City, Nara Prefecture ☎0744-24-8719 (Imai Machinami Exchange Center "Hanairaka")  
 ● Visiting times vary depending on the site. Closed on Mondays (or the following day when Monday is a National Holiday, Imai Machinami Exchange Center "Hanairaka")  
 ● Admission varies depending on the site. 🚌 5min. walk from Kintetsu Kashihara Line Yagi-Nishiguchi Station, 10min. walk from JR Sakurai Line Unebi Station

### Nara Park

#### A 5-minute Walk from the Station, You Are Greeted by 1,100 Wild Deer

Nara Park is the very face of the ancient capital. Covering a vast area of 660 hectares, it features architectural structures such as Todaiji Temple, Kofukujii Temple, Kasuga Taisha Shrine, the Nara National Museum, and Shosoin Repository that blend in well with the majestic and rich greenery of the park. The deer that wander around in herds act as the park mascots.



Zoshi-cho and locality, Nara City  
 ☎0742-22-0375 (Nara Park Management Office)  
 🚌 5min. walk from Kintetsu Nara Station, 20min. walk from JR Nara Station

### Hozanji Temple

#### A Dynamic and Spectacular View from the Main Hall

Located on the slope of Mt. Ikoma, the main temple boasts a spectacular view of a massive stone formation as its backdrop. The Maitreya bodhisattva statue enshrined in the stone cavern makes for an exotic appearance. USA made locking devices were used in the guest hall that was built with an eclectic East-West architectural design on the temple grounds in 1884.



1-1 Monzen-cho, Ikoma City ☎0743-73-2006 Open year-round  
 ● 24h ☎Free admission  
 🚌 10min. walk from Hozanji Station on the Ikoma Cable Line from Kintetsu Ikoma Station

### World Heritage Horyuji Temple

#### The World's Oldest Wooden Structures and over 2,300 National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties

A temple constructed at the behest of the devout Buddhist Prince Shotoku and others in the early 7th century, it carries into the present many cultural properties, including the Saiin Garan (Western Precinct), the location of the world's oldest wooden structures. The Western Precinct consists of the Kondo (Main Hall) and the Goju-no-to (Five-Storeyed Pagoda), while the Eastern Precinct is organized around the Yumedono, the Hall of Visions. This was the first location in Japan to be designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

1-1 Ikaruga-cho, Horyujisannai, Nara Prefecture ☎0745-75-2555  
 ● 8:00-17:00 (February 22-November 3), 8:00-16:30 (November 4-February 21) ☎¥1,000  
 🚌 Immediately from the last stop of the bus bound for Horyujimon Mae from JR Horyuji Station, 5min. walk from Horyuji Mae stop on the bus bound for Horyuji or Oji Ekimae from Kintetsu Nara Station

#### Discovering the Beauty of the Kuze Kannon

Having been appointed to the Japanese government's national treasure research team, Ernest Fenollosa opened up the door of the Yumedono, the Hall of Visions, at Horyuji Temple. For about 1,000 years, Buddhist images guarded with absolute secrecy were found wrapped in cloth. Fenollosa untied the strings and found uncommon beauty in the gentle smile of the Kuze Kannon (Goddess of Mercy) (a life-size statue modeled after Prince Shotoku).

