

Recommended Sightseeing Routes



(Courtesy of Nara Pref. Visitors Bureau)

Nara, the ancient capital of medicine

Special feature



Nara's Three World Heritage Sites

1 Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area

Japan's first World Heritage Site, listed in Dec., 1993



Horyu-ji Temple
(Courtesy of Nara Pref. Tourism Promotion Division)



Hoki-ji Temple
(Courtesy of Mr. Tatsuhiko Yano)

2 Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

Listed in July, 2004

和歌山県、三重県に跨る参詣道



吉野大峯・金峯山寺



熊野三山・那智大滝
(和歌山県)



高野山・奥院
(和歌山県)

2 Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara

Listed in Dec., 1998



Todai-ji Temple



Kasuga-taisha Shrine



Kasugayama Primeval Forest



Kofuku-ji Templ



Gango-ji Temple



Yakushi-ji Temple



Toshodai-ji Temple



Heijo Palace site

Nara World No. 1s Route

① Horyu-ji Temple

The world's oldest wooden buildings!



World Heritage



Temple containing the largest number of Japanese National Treasures!!

From the words inscribed on the statue of Yakushi Nyorai (the Medicine Buddha) in the main hall, it is assumed that the temple was built in 607.

② Todai-ji Temple

The world's largest wooden building!

The head temple of the Kegon School of Buddhism



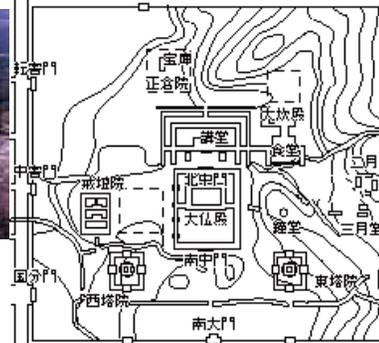
World Heritage

Until just before the completion of the Great Buddha statue, Todai-ji was known as Yamato Konkomyo-ji. The name Todai-ji “東大寺” means a temple (寺) at the east(東) of the capital of Heijo-kyo.

③ Mt. Yoshino



The world's no. 1 cherry blossom spot!



Nara Park Route

Our antlers can be used in medicine!

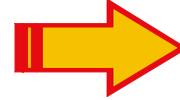


① Nara Park

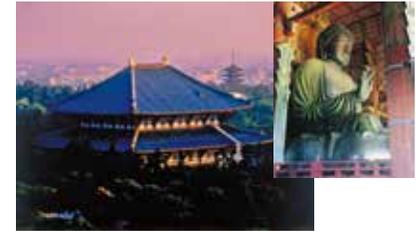


Our antlers can be used in medicine!

Taking a break...



Next to see is the Great Buddha at ② Todai-ji



(Courtesy of Nara Pref. Visitors Bureau)

The deer get up early here.



(Courtesy of Nara Pref. Visitors Bureau)

Shosoin

This used to be the treasure house of Todai-ji



The spectacular view from the

③ Nigatsudo Hall

Rokushin-gan is said to be linked to traditional medicines used at the Shuni-e ceremony.



The stage for the 1,300 year-old Shuni-e ceremony



(Courtesy of Nara Pref. Visitors Bureau/Mr. Akihiko Kimura)

The unmissable

⑥ Kofuku-ji Temple



(Courtesy of Tatsuhiko Yano)

⑤ Himuro-jinja Shrine



(Courtesy of Nara Pref. Visitors Bureau)

This shrine was built in the Nara Period to honor the god for ice storage and ice factories believed to reside in this area.



The shrine also contains the Man'yo Botanical Garden.



(Courtesy of Nara Pref. Visitors Bureau/Mr. Tatsuhiko Yano)

④ Kasuga-taisha a short walk away



(Courtesy of Nara Pref. Visitors Bureau)

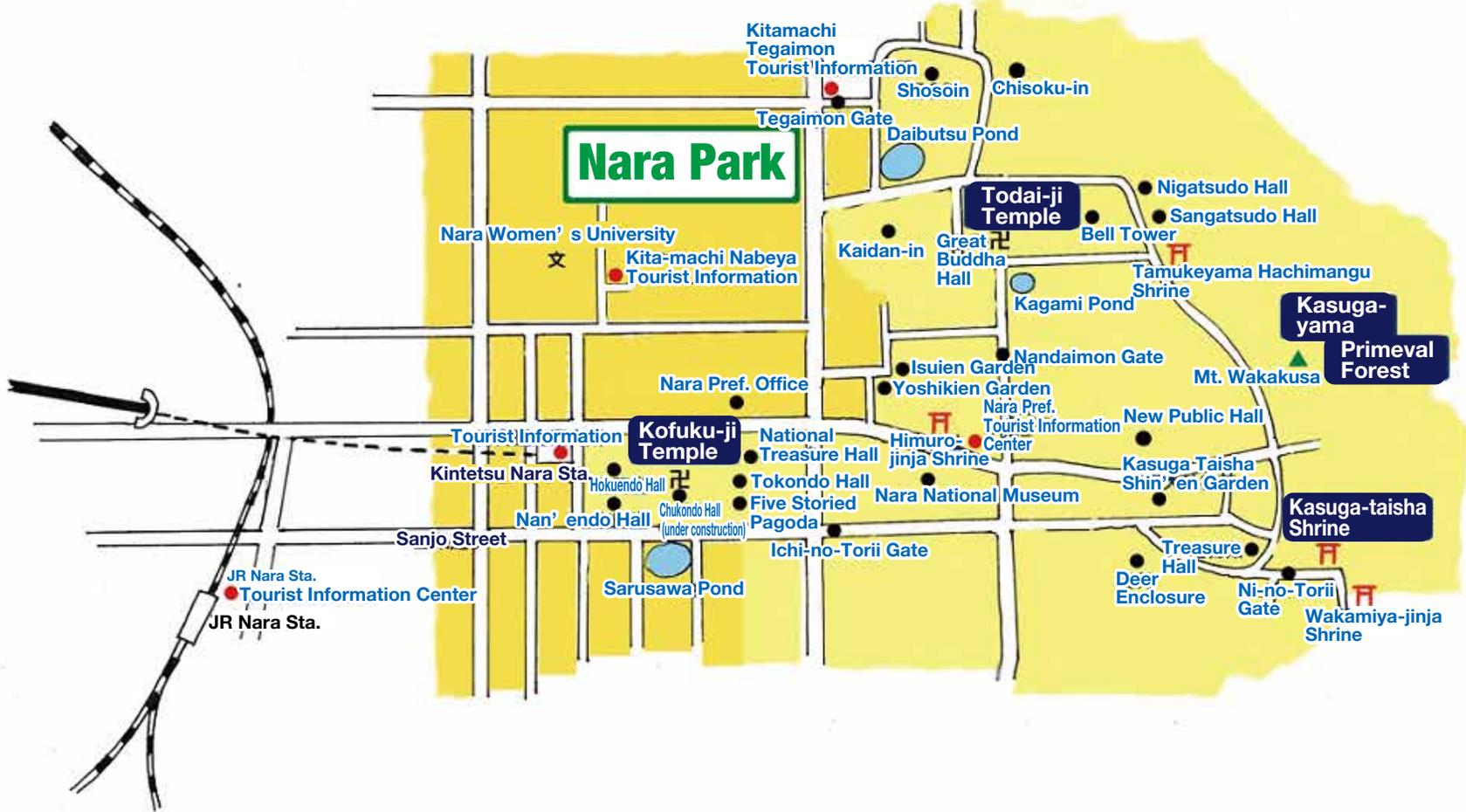


(Courtesy of Tatsuhiko Yano)



(Courtesy of Nara Pref. Visitors Bureau)

Nara Park Map



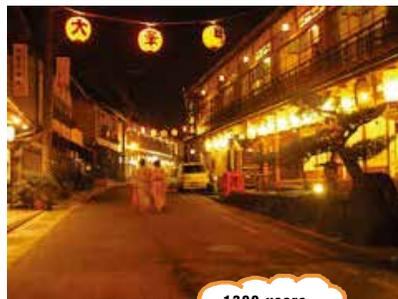
Tenkawa Route – the Sacred Land of Shugendo



The village of Dorogawa Onsen hot springs is located about 820m above sea level, near the Sanjo River flowing from Mt. Omine. Cool even in the summer time, it is known in Japan as “Kansai’s Karuizawa”, in reference to the Nagano resort town popular in the summer with residents of Tokyo. Renowned for its rustic Japanese atmosphere, the village holds about 20 inns, 13 souvenir shops, shops for Daranisuke-gan, and more. –from the “Mt. Omine Dorogawa Hot Spring Tourism Association”

Have you ever heard the sound of a trumpet shell?

Ominesan Ryusen-ji Temple

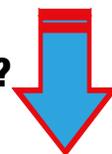


A nostalgic town

1300 years of history

How about “Daranisuke-gan” as a souvenir?

What’s nearby?



Good medicine tastes bitter!!

Tenkawa Benzaiten Shrine



The god of performing arts! Many artists and entertainers visit here to pray.

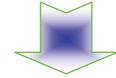
Ryusen-ji Temple was founded by En-no-Gyoja, who was also the founder of Omine-san-ji Temple. Ryusen-ji is the head temple of the Daigo sect of Shingonshu Buddhism, and is a must-visit temple for trainee ascetics of the Shugendo tradition.





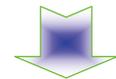
Menfudo limestone cave

A 5-minute tram ride takes you to the cave



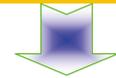
0.3km
3 minutes walk

Ryusen-ji Temple



0.1km
1 minute walk

Sanjo-ga-dake Historical Museum



Walk around Dorogawa

Famous local tofu

Daranisuke-gan

Tenkawa-Daibenzaitensha Shrine

8.7km
16 minutes by car

Shops serve grilled ayu or amago fish, and traditional rice crackers!

Mt. Yoshino History Route - More than just Cherry Blossoms

World Heritage!!

Kimpusen-ji is a temple of the Shugendo ascetic sect of Buddhism. Cherry blossoms in this area are renowned as the best in Japan, and the trees are considered sacred. The temple was founded by En-no-gyoja in the late 7th century. Stories tell us that En-no-gyoja carved the images of a deity, Kongo Zao Daigongen, into cherry trees and enshrined them in the Zao-do Halls at both the peak and the foot of the mountain.



The second largest wooden structure in Japan



Zaodo Hall of the mountain temple Kimpusen-ji

Mountains of cherry blossoms, preserved for over 1000 years!!



Kimpusen-ji Temple
Noten Daijin Ryuo-in



The famous three-legged frog statues!



"Fujii Daranisuke-gan" is the definitive Yoshino medicine. Made with En-no-Gyoja's secret formula for 300 years.

Plenty to see!!



An ascetic training hall!



Sakuramotobo training hall



Yoshimizu-jinja Shrine – The place where the Emperor Godaigo's Southern Dynasty came to an end

Two wooden-carved three-legged frogs are displayed at the "Daranisuke-hompo" shop (Fujii Risaburo Yakubo). The frog is a registered trademark of the shop.

Genealogy of the Southern and Northern Dynasties



The numbers ① - ⑩ shows the order of the Northern Dynasty Emperors.



Kintetsu Yoshino Station



1.5 k m 25 minutes walk
5 minutes by ropeway

Mt. Yoshino



0.6 k m 徒歩 9 分

Kimpusen-ji Temple



Noten-jinja Shrine

0.1 k m
10 minutes walk
(steep steps)



0.7 k m 10 minutes walk

Yoshimizu-jinja Shrine



0.7 k m 11 minutes walk

Sakuramoto



0.1 k m 2 minutes walk

Chikurin-in

Gose Imazumi Route – Home to the World’s Oldest Medicine Maker



Gose was a key production site for medicinal herbs. It is also home to Mt. Katsuragi, where En-no-Gyoja started his ascetic religious training in the Shugendo tradition.

The Sankogan Museum of Pharmacy houses various displays relating to medicine in the past. In addition, by learning about the medicine “Sankogan” with its 700 years of production, visitors can also discover the history of Nara’s unique household medicine distribution busi-

Open hours: 9:00–16:30, Monday-Friday, and 1st Saturday of each month

The Susuki Lantern Ceremony is designated as an Important Cultural Property by Nara Prefecture!



クスリ資料館
入館無料

Sankogan Museum of Pharmacy
Admission free

A town of spiritual heritage

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------|------|
| Date | July 16 | Admission | free |
| Place | Kamotsuba-jinja Shrine | | |

Kissho-ji Temple Tondo: One of Japan’s largest bonfires
An Intangible Cultural Property of Nara Prefecture



Kisshoso-ji Temple

Kisshoso-ji Temple was founded by En-no-Gyoja (En-no-Ozunu).

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------------|------|
| Date | January 14 | Admission | free |
|-------------|------------|------------------|------|

Tamura Yakuhin Medicinal Plant Garden



The garden consists of an experiment garden and a sample garden, the latter of which is open to the public. It has recently expanded from 7,000 m² to 8,449 m². In May, visitors can enjoy the beautiful Chinese peonies.

Still lots more to see!



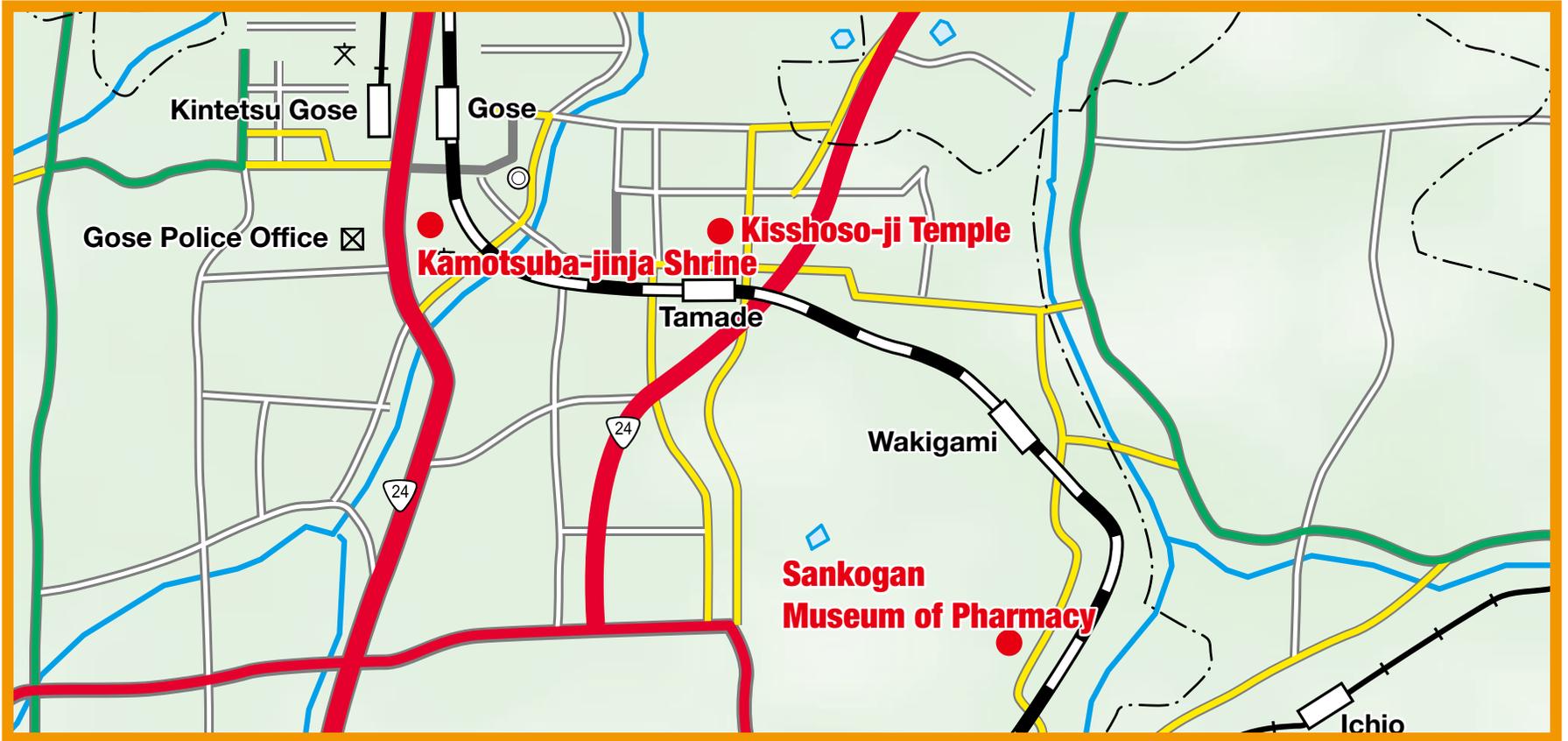
The “Tengu” – a long-nosed goblin – has been the symbol of Maruta Nakajima Seiyaku since 1689.



This signboard from the mid-Edo period reads “Someisan”, which was the main medicine produced by the Maruta Nakajima Seiyaku company, and known for its amazing healing effect.



- Opening months: April – October
Usually open from Monday – Friday;
10:00am – 4:00pm (except holidays)
- Closed months: November - March
- Visitors are kindly requested to call in advance.
TEL 0745-66-1521
FAX 0745-66-1840



Kintetsu Gose Station

0.5 k m
2 minutes walk

Kāmotsuba-jinja Shrine

1.6 k m
19 minutes walk

Kisshoso-ji Temple

0.4 k m
5 minutes walk

Tamade Station

1.5 k m
2 minutes by train

Wakigami Station

0.9 k m
12 minutes walk

**Sankogan
Museum of Pharmacy**

3.2 k m 40 minutes walk

Takatori Route – Center of the Capital City of Medicine Production

Tsubosaka-dera Temple



A famous temple long known for its statue of the Bodhisattva Kannon

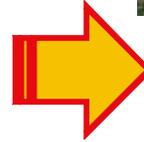


The temple's official name is Minami-Hokke-ji, and its main image of the 11-faced Kannon is believed to heal eye disease.

Takatori Castle



The castle in 1951



One of the three largest mountain castles in Japan!



Tosa Road



The gate of Kojima-ji Temple used to be the second gate of Takatori Castle



Tourist information "Musokan"



House of the chief retainer of the Takatori domain



The castle site: all that remains of warriors' dreams.



To the old road

Takatori Town Medicine Museum



mai-cho Route – Step back in time to Edo Period Japan

A step into Imai-cho feels like a step back into the Edo period. Of the area's 700 houses, 9 are listed as Important Cultural Properties, and nearly 70% retain the original architectural style from the Edo Period. The town thrived and centered around Shonen-ji temple, which was founded by Imai Hyobu in the early 16th century.



Cute ornaments on the roof!



Imai-cho Information Center Hana-Iraka
(Admission free)



Inside the Imai Machiya Hall
(Admission free)

Inside the Machiya Hall



Inside the former Kometani family home
(Admission free)



To the left is
"Daiku-suji-cho"
(Carpenters' town)



Shonen-ji Temple
Imai-cho developed around this temple.



The Kawai Brewery (Admission fee charged)



The Imanishi family home, built in 1650
(Admission fee charged)

This beautiful street reminds us of the town's heyday.



Uda-Matsuyama Route – See the Old Matsuyama Road

In the past the Matsuyama Road played an important role as a route to the Ise Grand Shrine. In addition, it was the main road used to bring in fish and salt from Ise and Kumano, along with exporting Uda paper, “Kudzu” (arrowroot), oil, and medicines.



● Former inn “Abura-ya” at Fuda-no-tsuji (famous for once lodging the philosopher Motoori Norinaga)

Pilgrimage to the Ise Grand Shrine had been popular since the Heian Period, and became even more so from the Muromachi to Edo Periods.



Takai Senbon Sugi: The oldest “ido-sugi” (cedar trees found by a well) in Japan

About “Matsuyama”

Ouda in Uda City was used as a hunting ground for the imperial court during the Asuka Period, and referred to as “Akino”. The Matsuyama area was part of Akino, and developed around the castle of the Akiyama Clan, which was one of Uda’s three great warrior families during the warring states period. Its quality water and cold climate make it an ideal place for brewing “sake” rice wine.



Kubo Brewery (founded in 1702)



Yoshimura Brewery

“Kusuri-no-Yakata” Medicine Museum



This building used to be home to the Hosokawa family, who became medicine traders in 1806, and sold the medicines “Ninjin Gozoen” and “Tenju-gan” from 1835. The daughter of the second-generation head of the family became the mother of Tomokichi, who founded Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. (currently Astellas Pharma Inc.).
Open from 10:00am, Admission: ¥300



Matsuyama West Gate

Morino Medicinal Plant Garden

Japan’s oldest medicinal plant garden



The garden was opened in 1729 by the lord of the Morino Clan, Tsutei. It is the oldest privately-owned medicinal plant garden in Japan, and was listed as a historic site by the national government in 1926. Around 250 varieties of medicinal plants grow in the garden. Admission: ¥300.

Support with Materials: Yamatoji Photo Stock Library

Date of Publication: September, 2016

Edited and Published by:



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