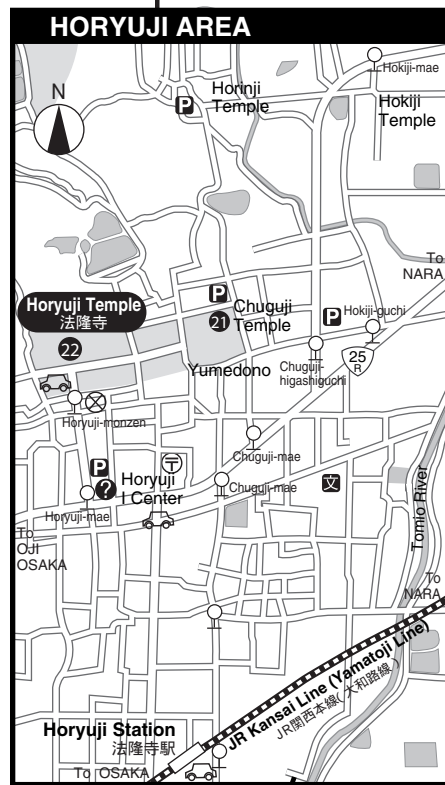
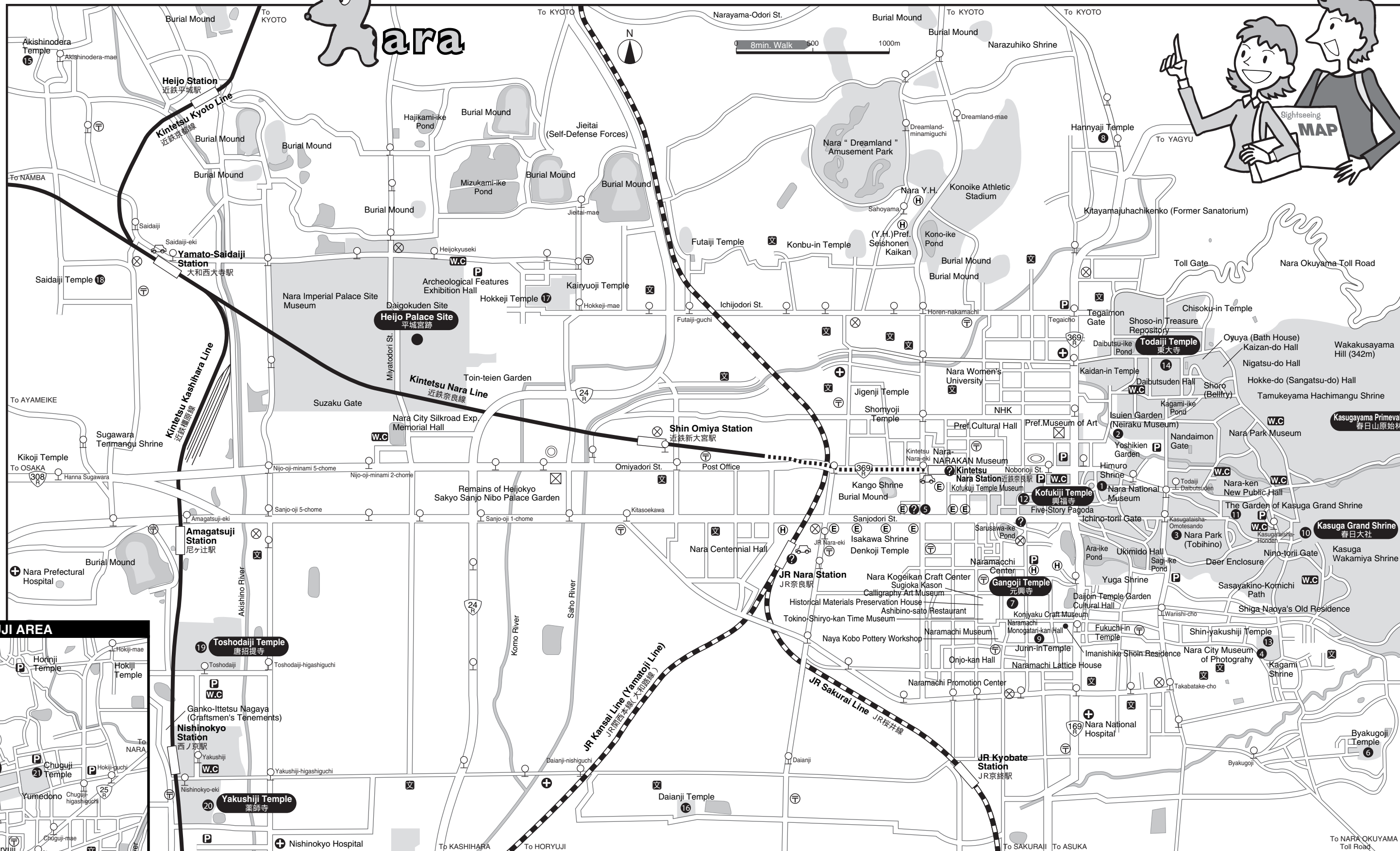
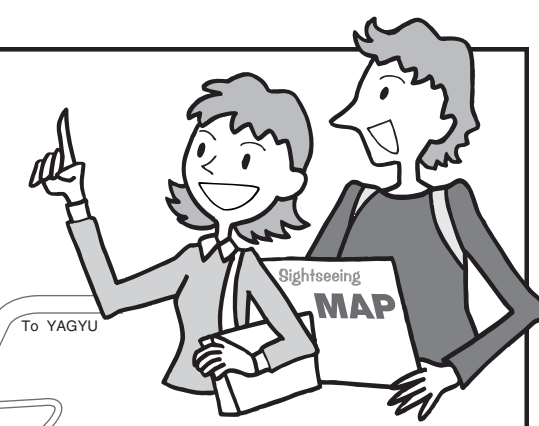
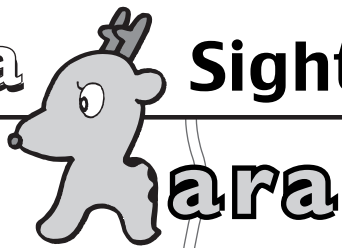


Welcome to Nara Sightseeing Map



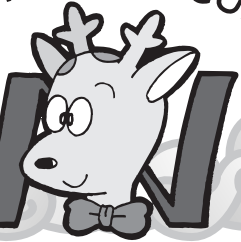
Legend		
📍 Tourist Information Center	🚔 Police Box	🎓 School
🚗 Taxi Stand	📮 Post Office	🏥 Hospital
🚏 Bus Stop	🏨 Hotel	🅇 Parking
🏛️ Nara Prefectural Government	🏦 Exchange (Bank)	🚻 Lavatory
🏛️ Nara City Hall	🚰 Water Tap	🚊 JR Line
🚓 Police Station	🚉 Kintetsu Line	

Telephone	
NARA CITY HALL.....	TEL.(0742)34-1111
NARA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT...	TEL.(0742)22-1101
NARA POLICE STATION.....	TEL.(0742)33-0110
NARA NATIONAL HOSPITAL.....	TEL.(0742)24-1251
NARA PREFECTURAL HOSPITAL.....	TEL.(0742)46-6001

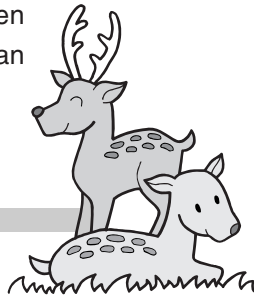
Nara City Homepage Address
http://www1.sphere.ne.jp/naracity/e/e_hp.html

Nara City Tourist Information Centers	
Nara City Tourist Information Center...	TEL.(0742)22-3900
Hours:9:00-21:00 (Closed for the year-end and new-year holidays)	
JR Nara Station.....	TEL.(0742)22-9821
Hours:9:00-17:00 (Closed for the year-end and new-year holidays)	
Kintetsu-Nara Station.....	TEL.(0742)24-4858
Hours:9:00-17:00 (Closed for the year-end and new-year holidays)	
Sarusawa Information.....	TEL.(0742)26-1991
Hours:9:00-17:00 (Closed for the year-end and new-year holidays)	

NARA CITY SIGHTSEEING GUIDE



Nara was the capital of Japan, called Heijokyo, from 710 to 784. It was considered the cradle of Japanese culture, arts, and crafts. Buddhism first flourished here under the strong patronage of successive emperors and empresses. Major cultural heritage in Nara have been Registered on the UNESCO's World Heritage List as an irreplaceable part of the cultural heritage of all humanity.



Sightseeing Spots

1 Nara National Museum (奈良国立博物館) 9:30 ~ 17:00

A museum, specializing in Buddhist arts, stands in Nara Park. The West Gallery, the original building, was opened in 1895, while the East Gallery was constructed in 1973. Apart from the regular exhibition of Buddhist relics such as sculptures, paintings, applied arts, calligraphy, and archaeological objects, there are also several special exhibitions throughout the year, such as the special exhibition of treasures from the Shoso-in Repository in fall.

2 Isuien Garden (依水園) 10:00 ~ 16:30

One of the only two Japanese gardens of its kind in the ancient capital city of Nara. The garden, which represents the acme of garden engineering of the Meiji period (1867-1912) has been designated by the nation as a scenic spot. With an area of 13,481m², the garden consists of the front yard on the west (right side) of the entrance and back yard to the east of the porch. It is a unique combination of two promenade-type gardens of distinctly different characteristics. This landscape garden makes use of the views of Wakakusayama Hill and Mt. Kasuga in the background. It is a vast garden covered with greenery, and the Neiraku Art Museum has been erected as an annex to the garden.



3 Nara Park (奈良公園) 9:00 ~ 17:00

A huge wasteland area was made into a park in 1880 and was designated as a scenic spot in 1922. It is in this park that famous temples and shrines designated as the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO, such as Kofukuiji Temple, Todaiji Temple and Kasuga Grand Shrine, are located. There is no doubt that such scenic spots, with their special integration of history and nature, are to be seen nowhere else. The tame deer, which are one of the symbols of Nara, present a pleasant scene of serenity.

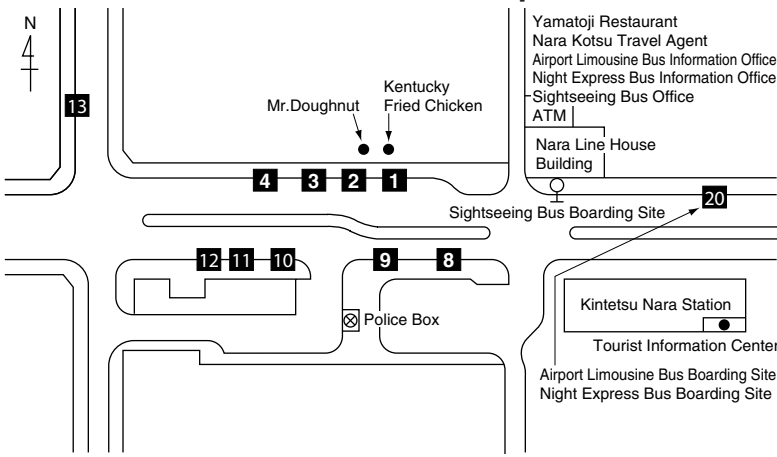
4 Nara City Museum of Photography (奈良市写真美術館) 9:30 ~ 17:00

The first museum of photography in western Japan. In addition to a permanent exhibition of masterpieces of the late Taikichi Irie, a photographer who took many pictures of objects in Nara, it occasionally organizes special exhibitions.

5 Nara City Tourist Center (奈良市観光センター) 9:00 ~ 21:00

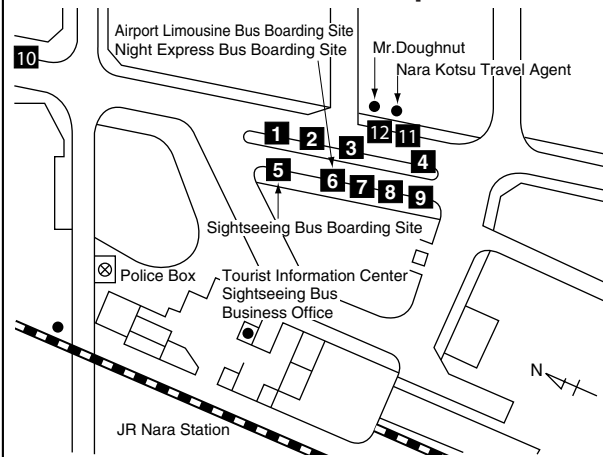
The Center is thoroughly furnished with information facilities that provide an introduction to fascinating aspects of the ancient city of Nara, including traditional craftwork, souvenirs, and exhibitions of cultural properties. The Center is offered as your sightseeing base for further understanding, and as a travel base for your convenience.

Kintetsu Nara Station Bus Stop Guide



- 1 ② City Loop Bus (Sotomawari Line)
- ⑥ City Nakajunkan Loop Line Bus (Sotomawari Line)
- ⑥⑦ ②③ Takabatake-cho (by way of Daibutsuden)
- ⑦⑦ ②③ Kasugataisha-honden (by way of Daibutsuden)
- 8 ②⑧ Horyuji-mae (by way of Toshodaiji-higashiguchi · Yakushiji-higashiguchi)
- ⑦ Horyuji-mae (by way of Toshodaiji-higashiguchi · Yakushiji-higashiguchi · Hokiji)
- ⑥ Oji-eki (by way of Horyuji)
- ③⑦ Rokujoyama (by way of Toshodaiji · Yakushiji)
- 10 ⑦⑨ ⑥⑦ ②⑧ Sharp-mae (by way of Daianji) ⑦① ⑧① ② Daianji
- ③③ - ④① - ④③ - ④④ Shiratsuchi-cho (by way of Daianji)
- 11 ⑫ ④④ Saidaiji-eki (by way of Hokkeji Heijokuseki) ⑬ ③③ Jieitai-mae (by way of Hokkeji)

JR Nara Station Bus Stop Guide



- 1 ② City Loop Bus (Sotomawari Line)
- ⑥⑦ ②③ Takabatake-cho (by way of Daibutsuden)
- ⑦⑦ ②③ Kasugataisha-honden (by way of Daibutsuden)
- 9 ⑫ ④④ Saidaiji-eki (by way of Hokkeji · Heijokuseki)
- ⑬ ③③ Jieitai-mae (by way of Hokkeji)
- 10 ③⑦ Rokujoyama (by way of Toshodaiji · Yakushiji)
- 12 ②⑧ Horyuji-mae (by way of Toshodaiji-higashiguchi · Yakushiji-higashiguchi)
- ⑦ Horyuji-mae (by way of Toshodaiji-higashiguchi · Yakushiji-higashiguchi · Hokiji)
- ⑥ Oji-eki (by way of Horyuji)
- ⑦⑨ ⑥⑦ ②⑧ Sharp-mae (by way of Daianji) ⑦① ⑧① ② Daianji
- ③③ - ④① - ④③ - ④④ Shiratsuchi-cho (by way of Daianji)

BY BUS

Destination	From	Bus Route No. (Bus Terminal)	Bus Stop	Time Required
Akishinodera Temple	Kintetsu - Saidaiji Station	72,74 (Oshikuma)	Akishinodara-mae	6 min.
Chuguji Nunnery	Kintetsu or JR - Nara Station	60 (Oji-eki)	Chuguji-mae	38 min.
Daianji Temple	Kintetsu or JR - Nara Station	52,97 (Horyuji)	Chuguji-mae	52 min.
Horyuji Temple	Kintetsu or JR - Nara Station	79,86,87,90 (Daianji)	Daianji	7 min.
Hokkeji Temple	Kintetsu or JR - Nara Station	60 (Oji-eki)	Horyuji-mae	39 min.
Toshodaiji Temple	Kintetsu or JR - Nara Station	52,97 (Horyuji)	Horyuji-mae	53 min.
Hokkeji Temple	Kintetsu or JR - Nara Station	12,140 (Saidaiji-eki)	Hokkeji-mae	14 min.
		13,15,131 (Jieitai-mae)		
Toshodaiji Temple	Kintetsu or JR - Nara Station	52,97,88,89 (Horyuji)	Toshodaiji-higashiguchi	17 min.
		63,70 (Rokujoyama)	Toshodaiji	19 min.
Yakushiji Temple	Kintetsu or JR - Nara Station	52,97,88,89 (Horyuji)	Yakushiji-higashiguchi	18 min.
		63,70 (Rokujoyama)	Yakushiji	20 min.

Temples and Shrines

6 Byakugoji Temple (白毫寺) 9:00 ~ 17:00

Founded in 715 by the priest Gonso. The site is said to have been a part of the villa of Shiki-no-miko, the seventh prince of Emperor Tenchi. The Temple was restored by the priest Eison in the Kamakura period (1192-1333). Even after the rise and fall of the temple's power, the Hondo (Main Hall) and the Miedo still remain. The city of Nara can be seen far off in the distance, as one passes through the main gate of the temple.

7 Gangoji Temple (元興寺) World Heritage Site 9:00 ~ 17:00

Originally founded by Sogano-Umako at Asuka (south of Nara) as the first Buddhist temple in Japan and was called Hokoji Temple. After the capital was transferred to Heijokyo (present-day Nara) in 710, it was moved to the present site in 718 and renamed as Gangoji Temple. The Gokurakubo Hall, originally used as a part of monks' dormitory, still remain. However, it was repaired and made over into the Gokurakubo Hondo (main hall) and the Zenshitsu (meditation hall) in 1244.

8 Hannyaji Temple (般若寺) 9:00 ~ 17:00

Said to have been founded in about 630 by the priest Ekan from Korea. Later in 735, Emperor Shomu built the pagoda and hall of this temple. The Hannyaji Temple has an abundance of various flowers blooming in each of the four seasons, some of which are yellow roses, hydrangea, and cosmos.

9 Jurin-in Temple (十輪院) 9:00 ~ 17:00

Said to have been founded in the early 8th century by Asano Nakai, son of the Right Minister Kibi-no-makibi at the wishes of Empress Gensho. The site of this temple was the former palace of Empress Gensho. The stone image (Jizo Bosatsu) in the stone chamber, (the Sekibutsugan), is the chief object of worship in this temple.

10 Kasuga Grand Shrine (春日大社) World Heritage Site 9:00 ~ 16:00

Generally believed to have been founded by the Fujiwara Family (the most powerful imperial court nobles in the 8th century), to their tutelary deity, after the capital was moved to Heijokyo (present-day Nara). The architectural style of the sanctuary is called the " Kasuga style ", because of the characteristic shape of its roof. The surrounding vermilion corridors, filled with bronze hanging lanterns, and surrounded by a thick, green grove, create an elegant atmosphere.

11 The Garden of Kasuga Taisha Shrine (春日大社神苑) 9:00 ~ 16:00

This is on the left side of the approach (about a ten-minute walk from the Ichi-no-torii gate) to the Kasuga Grand Shrine. It is a lovely garden with a pond in the center, covering an area of about 1.5 hectares. In this garden about 900 plants of 300 varieties are grown. These plants are mentioned in the Manyoshu (Myriad-Leaves collection), the oldest Japanese anthology, compiled by Otomo-no Yakamochi in the Nara period (645-794). the Gagaku (court music) and the Bugaku (court dance) are performed by the members of Kasuga Association for Early Performing Arts on May 5 and November 3 every year on a stage set up in the pond. Throughout the year the garden is bright with seasonal flowers.

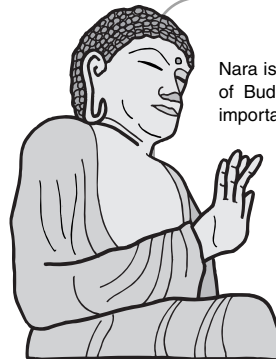
12 Kofukuiji Temple (興福寺) World Heritage Site 9:00 ~ 17:00

With the establishment of the new capital, Heijokyo, in 710, the Umayasaka Temple was moved from Asuka to its present site and was given its present name. In addition to the five-story pagoda, which is well known as a symbol of Nara, various buildings and historic Buddhist statues remind us of the long, impressive history of this temple.

13 Shin-yakushiji Temple (新薬師寺) 9:00 ~ 17:00

Founded in 747 by Empress Komyo with the prayer that her husband, Emperor Shomu, would recover from his illness. All the structures except the Hondo (Main Hall) were destroyed by fire during the Nara Period. The Main Hall and the several Buddhist statues housed here date back to the early 8th century, and are designated as National Treasures.

The Buddha Statues in Nara



Nara is also a treasure house of the Japanese art. Since the introduction of Buddhism to Japan in the 6th century, Buddha statues played an important role in the Japanese art and culture. The formative beauty of our country can be seen in historic changes from the youthful appearance of the Hakuho period (7th century), through the gorgeousness and maturity of the Tempyo period (8th century), the delicacy and grace of the Fujiwara period (12th century), and finally to the vigorousness and animation of the Kamakura period (13th century). If one stares at the face of the Buddha, one gets the feeling that the Buddha will begin talking at any moment. It is probably true that the passion, with which many people make wishes to the Buddha, is in the mind of the Buddha.

14 Todaiji Temple (東大寺) World Heritage Site 8:00 ~ 16:30

Founded by Emperor Shomu to enshrine the Great Image of Buddha (Vairocana Buddha) and as the General Head-temple of all provincial temples in Japan. It was completed in 752. Unfortunately, fire destroyed the edifice twice, and the present structure, which was rebuilt in 1692, was scaled down to two-thirds of the original size. Nevertheless, it is the largest wooden building in the world and the magnificent structure is sure to fill its visitors with awe.

15 Akishinodera Temple (秋篠寺) 9:30 ~ 16:30

Founded in about 770 by the bishop Zenshu in compliance with the wishes of Emperor Konin. The construction was completed in about 780. In 1135, however, almost all the buildings except the Kodo (lecture hall) were burnt down by war fires. The nicely balanced main hall, (designated as National Treasure), was rebuilt in the Kamakura Period (1192-1333).

16 Daianji Temple (大安寺) 8:00 ~ 17:00

Said to have been founded by Prince Shotoku as the Kumagori Shoja Temple. The temple was moved several times until it was finally set up at the present site after the capital transfer to Heijokyo (present-day Nara). All the original temple buildings were lost. In the temple festival held on January 23, worshippers can drink sacred alcohol called SASA-ZAKE which is served in bamboo cups and said to have miraculous power to prevent cancer.

17 Hokkeji Temple (Nunnery) (法華寺) 9:00 ~ 16:00

Founded in the 7th Century by Empress Komyo as the center of all national nunneries. The temple, which had been the residence of her father, Fujiwara Fuhito, was made into a convent. The principal object of worship is the Juichimen Kannon (an Eleven-faced Bodhisattva, a National Treasure) which is regarded as the image of Empress Komyo. The garden of this temple, with its atmosphere of tranquility and serenity, is open to the public twice a year in spring and fall.

18 Saidaiji Temple (西大寺) 8:30 ~ 16:30

Founded in 765 at the wish of Empress Shotoku. Since 846, its buildings have been repeatedly destroyed by fires. The existing buildings, the Hondo (main hall) and the Aizendo Hall, were rebuilt in the Edo period (1603-1867). Today, this temple is widely known its tea ceremony, in which an overly large-sized tools are used to serve tea.

19 Toshodaiji Temple (唐招提寺) World Heritage Site 8:30 ~ 16:30

Founded by the Chinese priest Ganjin in 759, as the head- quarters of the Ritsu Sect of Buddhism. This temple has handed down masterpieces of architecture and Buddhist statues in the 8th century.

20 Yakushiji Temple (薬師寺) World Heritage Site 8:30 ~ 17:00

Established by Emperor Tenmu in the Asuka area to pray for healing for the Empress. She later succeeded him to the throne under the name Empress Regnant Jito. Because of the capital transfer to the Heijokyo (present-day Nara), the temple was moved to the present site. However because of frequent ruinous fires, only the three-story East Pagoda is the original building remaining in the temple ground today. The Golden Hall (1976) and the three-story West Pagoda (1981) were reconstructed in the Showa period (1926-1989).

21 Chuguji Temple (Nunnery) (中宮寺) 9:00 ~ 16:00

Said to have been originated by Prince Shotoku in the 7th century to pray for the repose of his parents, the Imperial Princess Hashihito and the Emperor Yomei. The main objects of worship, such as the statue of Nyoirin Kannon Bodhisattva and the embroidery of Tenjukoku Mandara, have been well preserved since the foundation.

22 Horyuji Temple (法隆寺) World Heritage Site 8:00 ~ 16:30

Founded by Prince Shotoku in 607 and his aunt, Empress-Regent Suiko, in pursuance of the will of his father, Emperor Yomei. Burned down in 670, it was reconstructed in the 8th century. The five-story pagoda, Kondo (main hall) and other buildings have been well preserved, and are the oldest wooden structure in the world.

Nara City Tourist Information Centers

Nara City Tourist Information Center Tel.(0742)22-3900
Hours:9:00-21:00 (Closed for the year-end and new-year holidays)
JR Nara Station Tel.(0742)22-9821
Hours:9:00-17:00 (Closed for the year-end and new-year holidays)
Kintetsu-Nara Station Tel.(0742)24-4858
Hours:9:00-17:00 (Closed for the year-end and new-year holidays)
Sarusawa Information Tel.(0742)26-1991
Hours:9:00-17:00 (Closed for the year-end and new-year holidays)

Free Tours in English

Nara S.G.G.Club Tel.(0742)26-5595 Fax.(0742)22-5595
Nara Student Guide Tel.(0742)22-4753 Fax.(0742)26-1991
Nara YMCA Goodwill Guides .. Tel.(0742)45-5920 Fax.(0742)47-6459