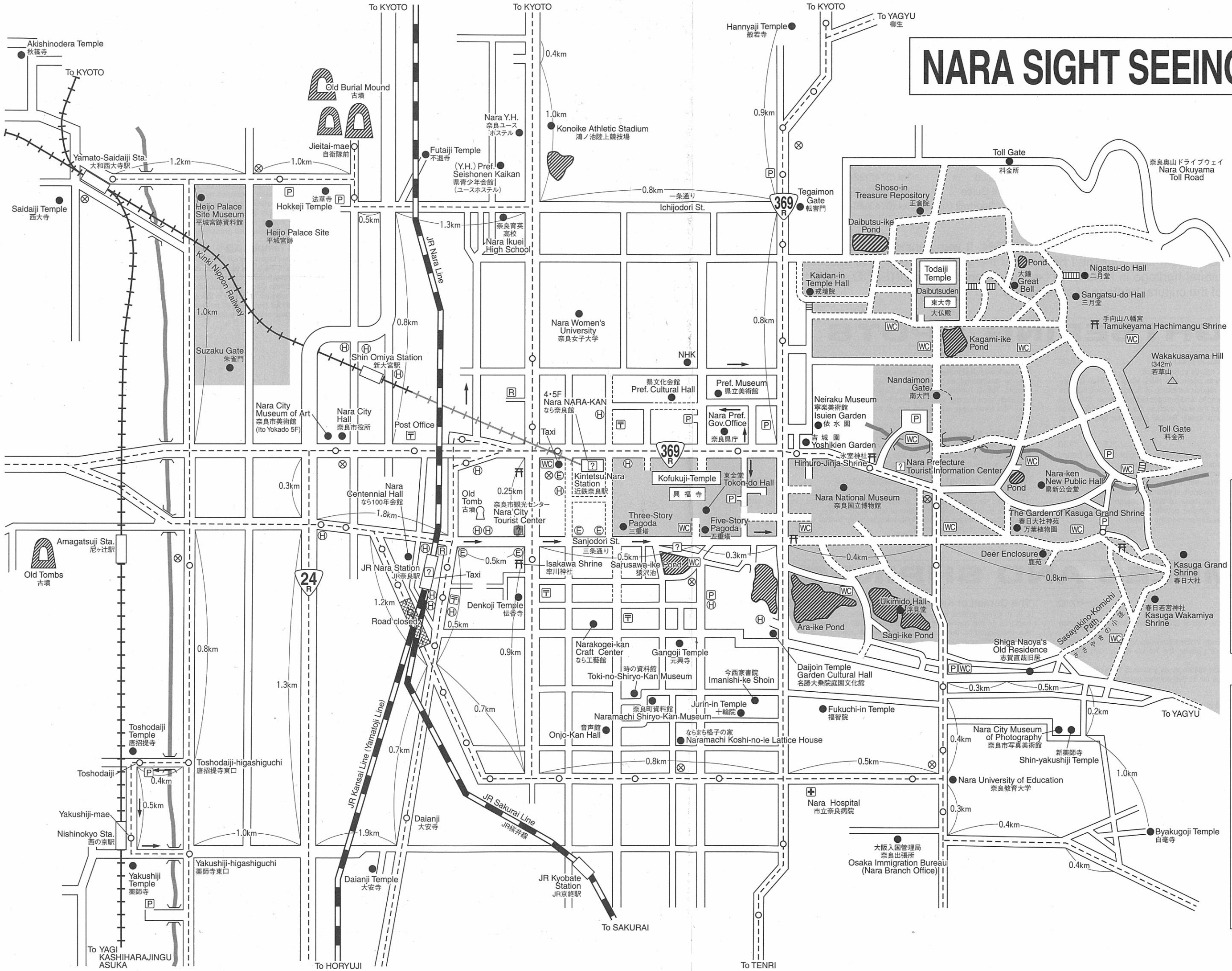


NARA SIGHT SEEING MAP



- LEGEND**
- Ⓜ Information
 - Ⓜ Police Box
 - Bus Stop
 - Ⓜ Exchange (Bank)
 - Ⓜ Hotel
 - Ⓜ RENT-A-CYCLE
 - Ⓜ JR Line
 - Ⓜ KINTETSU Line
 - Ⓜ Ancient Burial Mound
 - Ⓜ Post Office
 - Ⓜ Parking
 - Ⓜ Hospital
- 1km=0.62137 Miles

- Telephone**
- NARA CITY HALL (0742)34-1111
 - NARA CITY TOURIST CENTER (0742)22-3900
 - NARA PREFECTURAL OFFICE (0742)22-1101
 - NARA POLICE STATION (0742)33-0110
 - NARA HOSPITAL (0742)24-1251
 - NARA PREFECTURAL HOSPITAL (0742)46-6001

NARA

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)		
J R Nara Station	Tel:(0742)22-9821	
Hours:9:00-17:00 (Closed for year-end)		
Kintetsu-Nara Station	Tel:(0742)24-4858	
Hours:9:00-17:00 (Closed for year-end)		
Sarusawa Information	Tel:(0742)26-1991	
Hours:9:00-17:00 (Closed for year-end and new-year holidays)		

Free Tours in English

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

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

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 Todaiji Temple ground for two weeks in fall.

Isuien Garden (依水園)

9:30~16:30

The garden, which represents the acme of garden engineering of the Meiji period (1867-1912) has been designated as a scenic spot by the nation. 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.

Nara Park (奈良公園)

This park was designated as a scenic spot in 1922. In this park famous temples and shrines designated as the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO, such as Kofukuji Temple, Todaiji Temple and Kasuga Grand Shrine, are located. There is no doubt that such scenic spots, with their special history and nature, are to be seen nowhere else. The tame deer, which are one of the symbols of Nara, are roaming around park.

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.

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.

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

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 Man'yoshu the oldest Japanese anthology, compiled by Otomo-no Yakamochi in the Nara period (645-704), the Gagaku (court music) and Bugaku (court dance) are performed 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.

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

With the establishment of the new capital, Heijo-kyo, 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.

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 (710-784). The Main Hall and the several Buddhist statues housed here date back to the early 8th century, and are designated as National Treasures.

Todaiji Temple (東大寺) World Heritage Site

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 1709, 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. This temple's main gate is the Great South Gate. Inside this gate, two beva kings stand guard.

April~September 7:30~17:30 October 7:30~17:00
November~February 8:00~16:30 March 8:00~17:00

Akishinodera Temple (秋篠寺) 9:30~16:30

Founded in about 770 by the buddhist 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 a national treasure), was rebuilt in the Kamakura period (1192-1333). The temple is famous for its standing statue of Gigeiten.

Daianji Temple (大安寺) 9:00~17:00

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 Heijo-kyo (present-day Nara city). All the original temple buildings were lost. In the temple festival held on January 23, worshippers are served with sacred Japanese Sake called SASA-ZAKE in bamboo cup and which is said to have miraculous power to prevent cancer.

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

Founded in the 8th 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.

Ryosenji Temple (靈山寺) 10:00~16:00

Said to have been founded by buddhist Saints Bodaisenna and Gyoki in compliance with the wishes of Emperor Shomu. About 300 types of plants and over 100 kinds of roses are grown in the garden.

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 for the Ochamori tea ceremony, in which overly large-sized tea utensils are used to serve tea.



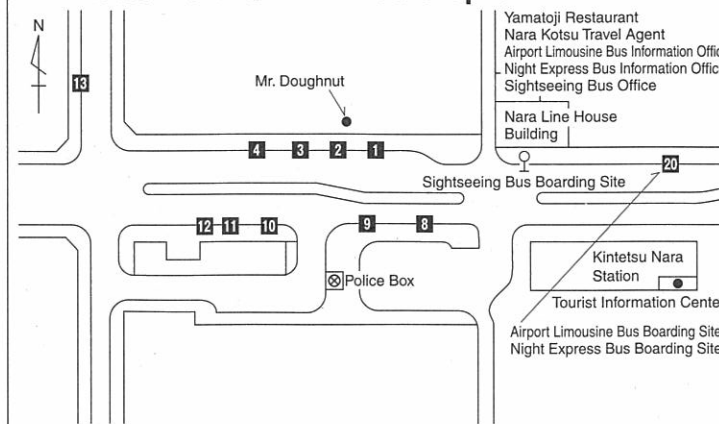
The Buddha Statues in Nara

Nara is also a treasure house of the Japanese arts. Since the introduction of Buddhism to Japan in the 6th century, Buddha statues have played an important role in the Japanese arts 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).

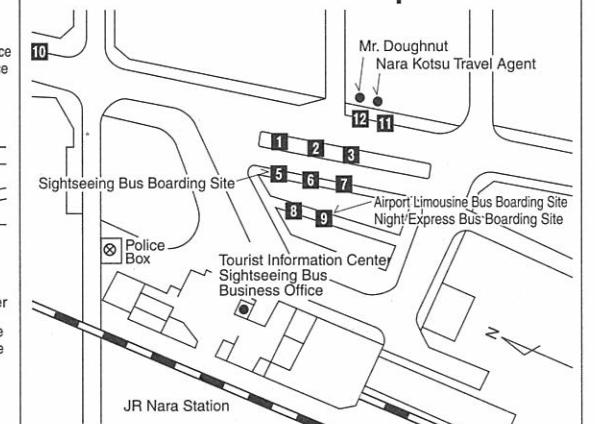
Looking at the face of the Buddha, you will get the feeling that the Buddha is about to talk to you at any moment.

Kintetsu Nara Station Bus Stop Guide



- 1 2 City Loop Line Bus (Sotomawari Line) (by way of Daibutsuden)
- 6 City Inner Loop Line Bus (Sotomawari Line) (by way of Daibutsuden)
- 7 Takabatake-cho (by way of Daibutsuden)
- 8 Kasugataisya-honden (by way of Daibutsuden)
- 9 Kintetsu Koriyama-Sta (by way of Toshodaiji-higashiguchi · Yakushiji-higashiguchi)
- 10 Horyuji-mae (by way of Toshodaiji-higashiguchi · Yakushiji-higashiguchi · Hokiji)
- 11 Rokujoyama (by way of Toshodaiji · yakushiji)
- 12 7 8 9 Sharp-mae (by way of Daianni) 8 Daianni
- 13 Shiratsuchi-cho (by way of Daianni)
- 14 13 Saidaiji-Sta (by way of Hokkeji Heijokuseki) 13 Koku-Jieitai (by way of Hokkeji)

JR Nara Station Bus Stop Guide



- 1 2 City Loop Line Bus (Sotomawari Line) (by way of Daibutsuden)
- 7 8 9 Kasugataisya-honden (by way of Daibutsuden)
- 12 14 Saidaiji-Sta (by way of Hokkeji Heijokuseki)
- 13 Koku-Jieitai (by way of Hokkeji)
- 10 Kintetsu Koriyama-Sta (by way of Toshodaiji-higashiguchi · Yakushiji-higashiguchi)
- 11 Horyuji-mae (by way of Toshodaiji-higashiguchi · Yakushiji-higashiguchi · Hokiji)
- 12 7 8 9 Sharp-mae (by way of Daianni) 8 Daianni
- 13 Shiratsuchi-cho (by way of Daianni)