

Walking Tour : Todaiji Temple ~ National Museum ~ Kofukuji Temple

Date : 23 May (Wed) 14:00 ~ 17:30 / Fee : 6,200 yen (per person)

Tour Guide : 3 people depending on the number of participants

*If the minimum number of participants “30 people” is not met, the tour will be cancelled.

Todaiji Temple

www.todaiji.or.jp/english/index.html

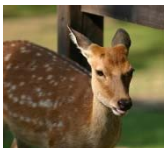


Todaiji is one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples and a landmark of Nara. The temple was constructed in 752 as the head temple of all provincial Buddhist temples of Japan and grew so powerful that the capital was moved from Nara to Nagaoka in 784 in order to lower the temple's influence on government affairs.

Todaiji's main hall, the Daibutsuden (Big Buddha Hall) is the world's largest wooden building, despite the fact that the present reconstruction of 1692 is only two thirds of the original temple hall's size. The massive building houses one of Japan's largest bronze statues of Buddha (Daibutsu). The 15 meters tall, seated Buddha represents Vairocana and is flanked by two Bodhisattvas.

Several smaller Buddhist statues and models of the former and current buildings are also on display in the Daibutsuden Hall. Another popular attraction is a pillar with a hole in its base that is the same size as the Daibutsu's nostril. It is said that those who can squeeze through this opening will be granted enlightenment in their next life.

Along the approach to Todaiji stands the Nandaimon Gate, a large wooden gate watched over by two fierce looking statues. Representing the Nio Guardian Kings, the statues are designated national treasures together with the gate itself. Temple visitors will also encounter some deer from the adjacent Nara Park, begging for shika senbei, special crackers for deer.



The Nara National Museum

https://www.narahaku.go.jp/english/index_e.html

The Nara National Museum, located in Nara Park, is an art museum which primarily displays Japanese Buddhist art. Established in 1889, the museum retains its original building and is joined by a new wing that is connected to the original building by an underground passage.

Both wings display the museum's permanent collection, which includes Buddhist statues, paintings, scrolls and ceremonial objects mainly from Japan. The new wing also houses temporary exhibitions.

=Special Exhibition=

Commemorating 1250 Years since the Founding

Kasuga Taisha: Centuries of Worship Revealed in Sacred Treasures

Itinerary

14:00	Departure from Nara Kasugano International Forum IRAKA
	~approx. 20 minutes walk~
14:20	Arrival at Todaiji Temple
15:20	Departure
	~approx. 10 minutes walk~
15:30	Arrival at Nara National Meuseum
17:00	Departure
	~approx. 10 minutes walk~
17:30	Return to a hotel by public transportation