

District". It is one of the greatest sightseeing areas in Kyoto because it is famous for its many shrines and temples, and Hanamachi with its cobbled stone streets.



Shijo-Dori, there's a famous tearhouse called Ichiriki-ten. Along with this store, the street is filled with old merchant houses, which adds to Kyoto's ancient atmosphere.

Pick Up Infomation

Visit Uji: The Town of Heian picture scrolls and Uji Tea

平安絵巻とお茶のまち 宇治を訪ねる



Uji Tea Sweets

Uji City has many world heritage sites from the glorious days of the Fujiwara family, such as Byodo-in Temple and Ujigami shrine. Uji-gawa River was loved by nobles during the Heian period for its beautiful mountains in the background. The area is designated as an important cultural landscape by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs.



Manpukuji Temple 萬福寺
Manpukuji Temple is the head temple of the Obaku sect, one of the Zen sects. This temple was founded by Ingen as a Chinese Zen temple. This temple offers Chinese Buddhist monks' cuisine, called "Fucha".



Ujigawa River Ukai (Cormorant Fishing) 宇治川 鵜飼

The Uji-bashi Bridge is considered to have been built in 646 by Doto, the monk of the Gangoji Temple. It was a key junction for transportation between Kyoto and Nara, and also led to many wars until the Sengoku period. Ukai (Cormorant Fishing) often takes place during the summer. It is an amazing experience to go cycling along this historical route.



Taihoan 対馬庵



Mimurotoji temple 三室戸寺
Mimurotoji temple is the 10th temple of the 33 Shikoku Kannon Pilgrimage. It is known for its beautiful flowers which you can enjoy throughout all four seasons.



Omotesando 表参道商店街 shopping street

When people think of Uji, they think of tea. Many teahouses line the street, as well as shops which sell sweets to go along with the tea. The street also has Uji's city run teahouse "Taihoan", and other teahouses that teach you how to pour tea in the best way possible, or let you try grinding tea leaves ("matchahiki").

Byodo-in Temple 平等院

Fujiwara-no-Michinaga, a powerful man in his days, inherited Betsugyo (villa) from the wife of Minamoto-no-Shigenobu, the sadaijin (Minister of the Left). Fujiwara-no-Yorimichi (son of Fujiwara-no-Michinaga) built the Buddhist temple called Byodo-in Temple in 1052. 1052 was the first year of "Mappo", the Latter Day of the Law in the Three Ages of Buddhism. The Jodo-shinko (the Pure Land faith), where people wished for reincarnation in paradise, was popular among all social classes. To mark the construction of Amida-do Hall (Ho-oh-do Hall) in Byodo-in Temple in 1053, a seated statue of Amida Nyorai created by Jocho, a Buddhist sculptor from the Heian period, was enshrined in the Hall. These historical buildings and statues, which were created about 1000 years ago, are designated as World Heritage sites. Due to ongoing repairs, the Ho-oh-do Hall, a national treasure, is not open for tours, but the Byodo-in Museum Hoshokan is open as usual.
※Repair period : Sept. 3, 2012 to March 31, 2014



Ujigami Shrine 宇治上神社
Ujigami Shrine is located at the foot of Mt.Asahi, on the eastern side of Ujigawa River. Both the Haiden (a hall of worship) and Honden (main hall) are designated as national treasures, and it is the oldest existing shrine architecture in Japan. The spring water that emerges within the shrine precinct is called Kirihara Mizu, and is one of the Seven Great Springs of Uji.



Site of Heijo Palace 平城宮跡

The site of Heijo Palace was the capital during the Nara Period. The First Daigokuden and Suzakumon-gate were restored, helping you imagine the beautiful scenery at that time in these vast grounds.



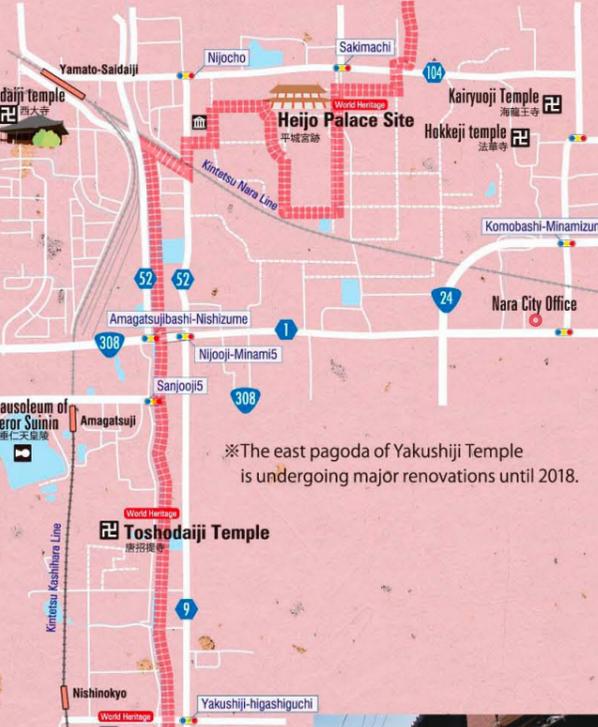
Gango-ji Temple Gokuraku-do(National Treasure) 元興寺 [国宝元興寺極楽堂]

Gangoji Temple is the predecessor of Hokoji Temple which was built by Soga-no-Umako in Asuka. Although it currently only has Gokuraku-bo Hondo (main hall) and Zenshitsu (room for Zen sitting meditation), most of the area nowadays called "Nara-machi" was originally included in the old precincts of Gangoji Temple.



Saidaiji Temple 西大寺

Saidaiji Temple is one of the seven great temples of Nara and was built in 765, following Emperor Shotoku's wishes to protect the nation's peace. Gilt copper statues of Shitenno (the four guardian kings) were also built with the temple. Saidaiji Temple is also famous for the Ochamori event, where guests have tea using a big tea bowl which is 30cm wide and weighs 6-7kg. Ochamori is held in January, April and October.



Pick Up Infomation

PHOTO:Nara City Tourist Association,Yamatobito

Visit Nara: いにしへの寧楽を訪ねる

The ancient center of Japan

As the end of the Silk Road, Nara was highly influenced by China (Tang Dynasty), and Buddhism-oriented Tenpyo culture also prospered. Although Nara is a quiet, peaceful area now, it flourished as the political, economical, and cultural center of Japan 1300 years ago. The peaceful atmosphere may make visitors feel nostalgic.



Todaiji temple 東大寺

Todaiji temple was constructed due to the wishes of Emperor Shomu to protect the nation. The Kon-do (Great Buddha) Hall was completed in 751, and the Great Buddha's official consecration ceremony (by means of inserting the eyes) into the statue, and thereby investing it with soul) took place the following year. The building of the Buddhist temple was a huge project requiring the strength of the whole nation.



Kofukuji temple 興福寺

As the Fujiwara clan's temple, Kofukuji temple flourished with the prosperity of Fujiwara clan. Many Buddhist sculpture masterpieces of the Tenpyo and Kamakura periods, such as the Ashura statue, are preserved in this temple.



Kasuga Taisha Shrine 春日大社

When the capital was moved to Heijo, Fujiwara-no-Fuhito enshrined deities of Kasuga Grand Shrine, which was a private deity of the Fujiwara family, in 710. Shrine buildings were built at the present location in 768 and the shrine was expanded to its current size in the Heian period. Visiting Kasuga Taisha shrine was popular among imperial families and court nobles, but became available to the samurai class and common people from the medieval era. Popularity grew even further and branch shrines of Kasuga Taisha Shrine can now be found all throughout Japan.

Nara-machi ならまち

The area around the old precincts of Gangoji Temple is called "Nara-machi" and traditional Japanese houses (machiya) line the narrow streets. Nara-machi is popular because there are many restaurants, variety stores and public cultural facilities inside the old machiya traditional houses.

