

Daikandajji Temple Ruins (4-G)

A state-sponsored temple constructed by the government, it was created from the end of the 7th century to the beginning of the 8th century. The former temple was destroyed by a great fire in 711 and not restored. Now only the dirt mounds remain.



Asuka Mizuochi Ruins (5-G)

Water clock ruins known as Japan's first clock. It is thought to have used the water flowing from Asuka River to measure time.

The Tomb of Soga no Iruka's Head (6-G)

Cutting through the Asukadera Temple grounds to the west, there stands a Gorinto (five-ringed tower). It was said that the severed head of Soga no Iruka, an influential person assassinated in the Asuka Itabuki Palace, came flying there, and in order to hold a memorial service for the attacking head it was buried there.

Asuka Village Gallery of Buried Cultural Properties (5-G)

Exhibition and introduction of artifacts, etc. of the ruins excavated by the Asuka Village Cultural Assets Division.

■Entry Fee: Free
■Closed: End of year and new year period
■Entry hours: 9:00-17:00



Asuka Historical Museum, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (5-H)

You can enjoy an easy-to-understand explanation of the history and culture of the Asuka area focusing mainly on the 6th and 7th centuries. This Museum exhibits artifacts related to Asuka, reconstruction models, etc.

■Entry Fee: 270 yen

■Closed: Every Monday (in the event that the Monday is a national holiday, the following weekday is closed.) and December 26 to January 3, except for special exhibition periods
■Entry hours: 9:00~16:30



Amakashiniimasu Shrine (5-F)

The ancient trial called "Kugatachi" was held here in 415 in an attempt to resolve conflict in the government. In this trial, parties put their hands in boiling water, and the person who wasn't scalded was correct.

Asukadera Temple (6-G)

Built from the end of the 6th century to the start of the 7th century with the prayer of Soga no Umako, it is Japan's oldest full-fledged Buddhist Temple. The copper Shakanoyori sedentary statue (Important Cultural Property) is the principle object of worship and is known by the popular name "Asuka Daibutsu".

■Entrance fee: 350 yen ■Closed: April 7-April 9
■Open hours: April 1 - September 30: 9:00~17:30; October 1-March 31: 9:00~17:00



Asuka Folklore Museum (6-H)

Introduction of history and annual events of Asuka Village, with exhibits of materials relating to lifestyles, everyday objects, folklore, etc.

■Entry Fee: Free
■Closed: Every Monday, end of year and new year period



Asukaniimasu Shrine (5-H)

At the "Onda Festival", held every year on the 1st Sunday of February, a performance of spousal harmony by a Tengu long-nosed goblin and Otafuku moon-faced woman draws much laughter. It is said to possess blessings of children, easy childbirth, and marriage.

Kawaharadera Temple Ruins (7-G)

It was established when it was constructed by Emperor Tenji to pray for his mother Empress Saimei's happiness in the afterlife. The inner gate ruins, etc. are maintained and remain today.

■Entrance fee: 300 yen ■Closed: Open all year, excluding cases of special circumstances
■Open hours: 9:00~17:00; please inquire regarding details on closed days and open hours.



Tortoise-shaped Stone Structure (6-H)

It is a stonework depicting the form of a humorous tortoise. Its head with round eyes serves as a water intake, and the water collected in the shell flows out from the tail which is carved into a drain. The ruins which unfold over the hilly region and include Tortoise-shaped Stone Structure are currently called "Sakafune Stone Ruins". It is also thought that there was some kind of ritual conducted here.



Kameishi (Tortoise Stone) (7-F)

With its cute expression like a gentle smile, this mysterious stonework is representative of Asuka. An animal like a tortoise is carved into a giant granite stone. It is not known why it was made, but the tortoise changes its direction from facing north to facing east and is presently facing southwest, and it is said that when the tortoise faces west, the entire Yamato Province would sink into a sea of mud.



Tachibanadera Temple (7-G)

Said to be the birthplace of Umayadonoji/Prince Shotoku Taishi, this is one of the 7 temples built by him. We know that it was built in 680 through fire records. There is also a stone which possesses two faces—one good and one evil.

■Entrance fee: 350 yen ■Closed: Open all year, excluding cases of special circumstances
■Open hours: 9:00~17:00



Sakafuneishi (6-H)

This mysterious stonework is representative of Asuka. The surface has been smoothed flat and on it are carved round, rounded-square, and elliptical depressions, all of which are connected by straight drains. It is named as such due to it being said that it was used for alcohol production, but its actual use is still unknown.



Asuka-ike Ruins (6-H)



Remains of a valuable integrated workshop from the formative period of the Japanese nation under the ritsuryo codes, from the mid-7th century to the early-8th century. Metal dolls, needles, and decorative items as well as glass and stones such as crystals, lacquer crafts, and tools relating to the manufacture of these have been excavated from the workshop area. Fuhonsen, said to be Japan's first copper currency, was also found.

Oni-no-Secchin/Manaita Tumulus (The Devil's Toilet/chopping board) (8-D)

It appears to be a mysterious stonework, but actually it is the Stone cover (toilet) and floor (chopping board) of a Hollowing out style side-opening style Stone chamber. It is thought to be a long flat-topped burial mound constructed in the mid-7th century. Based on the shape, there is a legend that the devil cooked passing travelers on the chopping board and used the toilet there.



Nimenseki (Two-faced Stone) (7-G)

Stonework with two faces—one good and one evil—found in the Tachibana-dera temple grounds. Comparing the good side with its pure face and the evil side with its largely warped face is a compelling mystery of this stonework.



Asukakyo-ato Enchi Ruins (6-G)

The remains of a garden pond contain a river dike with a steep slope of piled stones, and stones are spread across the bottom. On the south side of the pond, a 1.65m stone structure is installed as a water fountain.



Okadera Temple (7-I)

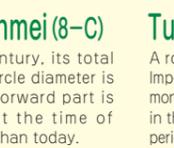
Its formal name is Ryugai-ji. There is a pond called Ryugai-ike which is said to have a dragon sealed within in the grounds. The principle object of worship is the Cintamani-cakra bodhisattva sedentary statue (Important Cultural Property), which is the largest earthen statue in Japan. In the spring, 3,000 rhododendrons color the grounds.

■Entrance fee: 300 yen ■Closed: Open all year, excluding cases of special circumstances
■Open hours: March 1-November 30: 8:00~17:00; December 1 - End of February: 8:00~16:30



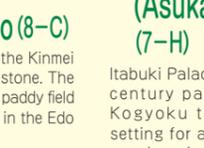
Mausoleum of Emperor Kinmei (8-C)

Built in the latter half of the 6th century, its total length is about 138m, its total rear circle diameter is about 73m, and the breadth of its forward part is 107m, but it is estimated that at the time of construction it was even much bigger than today.



Tumulus of Kibihime no Miko (8-C)

A round burial mound in the southwest of the Kinmei Imperial Mausoleum. Known for its monkey stone. The monkey stone which was excavated from the paddy field in the southern Kinmei Imperial Mausoleum in the Edo period is currently placed here.



Itabuki Palace Ruins (Asuka-kyo Ruins) (7-H)

Itabuki Palace was the mid-7th century palace of Empress Kogyoku that became the setting for a coup in 645. The remains of several palaces are found here.



Nanto Asuka Welcome Center and Inukai Man'yo Memorial Hall (7-H)

A hall which honors the late Takashi Inukai (Person of Cultural Merit), a famous Asuka villager who loved the "Manyoshu" poem anthology and Asuka village and worked toward conserving its scenery. It features an attached cafe where people can relax and view the book collection.

■Entry fee: Free ■Closed: Every Wednesday (when falling on a national holiday, the following day), end of year and new year period
■Entry hours: 10:00~17:00



Kengoshizuka Tumulus (8-B)

An octagonal mound whose exquisite stone burial chamber from which massive tuff was excavated is its highlight, and it is a joint burial site planned for the interment of 2 coffins at the time of construction. Based on the mound shape it is assumed to be the tomb of an emperor or similar person.



Saruishi (Monkey Stones)(8-C)

Stoneworks with faces which evoke a monkey whose age and reason of creation are unknown. Based on their features they have been given names of priests, men, women, and the Sannogongen deity, and are around 1m tall.



Mausoleum of Emperor Tenmu and Empress Jito (8-E)

Octagonal burial mound housing Emperor Tenmu and Empress Jito. It is said that there was lacquered wood coffin placed upon a gilt bronze catafalque and a gilt bronze outer container with a silver urn inside.

Ishibutai Tumulus (8-I)

An ancient tomb which is representative of the Asuka path with the largest stone huts in Japan. Constructed at the start of the 7th century, the embankment of the grave mound was detached at an early stage and giant side-hole type stone huts were exposed. There were about 30 exposed stones with an estimated total weight of around 2300t. It was designated as Special Historic Site of Japan in 1952.

■Entry Fee: 250 yen

■Closed: Open all year (excluding cases of special circumstances) ■Open hours: 8:30~17:00



Marukoyama Tumulus (9-A)



A polygonal tomb found in Mayumioka. There is also drainage equipment in the surroundings. The interior of the side-opening style stone burial chamber is painted with plaster, and a lacquered wood coffin, gilt bronze coffin fixtures with a flower pattern design, human bones, stones, etc. were discovered therein. Its scale and structure are both compared to Takamatsuzuka Tumulus.

Omiashi Shrine and The Hinokumadera Temple Ruins (10-D)

Hinokuma dera Temple is the house temple of Yamato no Ayauji, who came to Japan from the Asian mainland. Currently, the temple is in the precincts of Omiashi Shrine, which has a 13-story pagoda (important cultural asset) built in Heian Period.



Asuka Historical National Government Park Hall (8-D)



Asuka Historical National Government Park was separated into 5 areas—Iwaido Area, Ishibutai Area, Amakashinooka Area, Takamatsuzuka Surrounding Area, and Kitora Tumulus Area (planned to open in 2016) for the purpose of preserving the historical features and cultural assets of Asuka. In the Takamatsuzuka Surrounding Area there is the "Asuka Historical National Government Park Hall" which is the base of Asuka touring and introduces the history of the Asuka area and ways to enjoy the park.

■Entry Fee: Free ■Closed: December 29-January 3

■Entry hours: 9:30~17:00 (closes 16:30 between December and February)

Kitora Tumulus (11-D)

The Stone burial chamber includes drawings of the four Chinese gods (Black Tortoise, Vermilion Bird, White Tiger, Azure Dragon) and the 12 zodiac animals with human bodies. And in the Asuka Historical Museum and Asuka Village Gallery of Buried Cultural Properties you can see restored models. Designated as Special Historic Site in 2000.



Takamatsuzuka Tumulus (9-D)

In 1972, this round burial mound suddenly drew attention for its richly colored wall paintings such as a group of men and women, the four Chinese gods, constellations, etc. drawn in its stone burial chamber. Constructed from the end of the 7th century to the start of the 8th century, it was designated as Special Historic Site in 1973. Today the stone huts have been dismantled and carried out and the wall paintings (National Treasures) are currently being restored.

Takamatsuzuka Mural Museum (9-D)

Adjacent to the Takamatsuzuka Tumulus, it reproduces all of the valuable wall paintings (National Treasures) including the richly colored "Asuka Bijin (Asuka Beauties)" from the time when wall paintings were originally discovered. Monitors providing explanations in 3 languages. You can enjoy an easy-to-understand overall introduction of the ancient tomb.

■Entry Fee: 250 yen ■Closed: December 29-January 3 ■Entry hours: 9:00~17:00



Mausoleum of Emperor Monmu (9-E)

It is a round burial mound enshrining Emperor Monmu. However, most ancient tombs deemed imperial mausoleums are octagonal, and due to the fact that Emperor Monmu was cremated, it is thought that Nakaoyama Tumulus is perhaps more plausible.

Asuka Inabuchi Palace Ruins (9-H)

Ruins which were discovered about 400m to the south of the Ishibutai Tumulus. The discovery of roof tiles and the layout of the structures appear to indicate shrine remains, but the era of the remains are also said to suggest that it was the Asuka-no Kawabe-no Karimiya, temporary imperial palace.



Rent-a-cycle Information

Sat., Sun., and Holidays =1,000yen
weekdays Mon.-Fri. =900yen
this includes one day bicycle rental.



Asuka Navigation Website

Multi-lingual
<http://www.asukanavi.jp/>
Useful information for Asuka sightseeing such as accommodations, shops and restaurants



Facilities with the sticker offer phone-based interpreter service.



Mail to: michimo@michimo.jp
Comfortable tour of sightseeing spots
Seats for 2 and moves by electricity
Ultra-small size mobility
<http://michimo.jp>

Seasonal updates on Asuka
Facebook
Search for "Asuka-Navi"



Web portal for Asuka Village sightseeing
<http://asukamura.com>
Filled with the latest event and sightseeing info!