

# Asuka, the Spiritual Home of Japan

Experience the birthplace of Japan  
with the five senses

奈良県 明日香村  
Asuka Village, Nara Prefecture

# This is the birthplace of Japan, the place of origin.

Would you like to learn of the history and traditional culture of Japan? Would you like to see the most iconic scenery typical of Japan? You must visit Asuka Village, Nara Prefecture. Approx. 1400 years ago, Japan was born as a nation with its capital in Asuka. The name “Nippon,” the governmental structure, economy, and diplomacy started in this place. Asuka has a large number of ancient and historic sites with beautiful scenery that is considered the ancient memory of the Japanese people. Feel the wonder of ancient times in Asuka, where the entire village is a museum!

## Experience the birthplace of Japan with the five senses.

History of women in Asuka

### The birthplace of Japan

~Lives of women in Asuka~

The stories of five women who played important roles as Japan became a nation and who have been registered as part of the Japan Heritage.



JAPAN HERITAGE  
日本遺産



A

B

C

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3

Kintetsu Kashihara Line

● Mt. Miminashiyama

Miminashi

Kintetsu Osaka Line

Daifuku

Sakurai

Yaginishiguchi

Yamatoyagi

24

Unebi

165

JR Sakurai Line

Kaguyama

165

15

● Fujiwara Palace Site

Kashihara City

● Mt. Kaguyama

Sakurai City

● Mt. Unebiyama

Unebigoryomae

● Fujiwara Palace Site Suzakuoji Avenue

161

169

125

Kintetsu Yoshino Line

● Kashihara-jingu Shrine

125

Kashiharajingumae

206

124

207

Okadera

155

Amakashiinimasu-jinja Shrine

Asuka-dera Temple

● Asukaniimasu-jinja Shrine

Asukanosato Man-yobito

Nara Prefecture Complex of Man-yo Culture

Amakashi-no-Oka Area  
(Asuka Historical National Government Park)

Kawahara-dera Temple Site

● Sakafuneishi (Sake Trough Stone)

Asuka Palace Site

● Oka-dera Temple

● Asuka General Information Center  
"Asukabito-no-yakata"

Convenience store

Kameishi  
(Tortoise Stone)

Tachibana-dera Temple

● Asukakyo Kanko Kyokai

Takamatsuzuka Area  
(Asuka Historical National Government Park)

Asuka

Takamatsuzuka Mural Museum

● Takamatsuzuka Tumulus

Asuka-no-yumeichi Shop

Asuka Village

Kitora Tumulus Area  
(Asuka Historical National Government Park)

Kitora Tumulus Mural Experiential Museum  
Shijin no Yakata

● Kitora Tumulus

Takatori Town

Free Wi-Fi spots

JR

Kintetsu Railway

Rent-a-Cycle

Restaurant and café

Restroom

Free Parking Lot

Toll Parking Lot

Information center

## Ishibutai Tumulus

This tumulus was created in the early 7th century and has a horizontal stone chamber of the largest size in Japan. The total weight of the 30 large and small stones is approx. 2,300 tons. You can even enter the tumulus and watch it from inside!

●Address: 133 Shimasho ●Hours: 8:30-17:00  
●TEL: 0744-54-4577 ●Fee: 250 yen



Takamatsuzuka Mural Museum



## Takamatsuzuka Tumulus

The vividly colored mural in the stone chamber was drawn more than 1,300 years ago. In the Takamatsuzuka Mural Museum, you can see replicas of the stone chamber and the mural.

●Takamatsuzuka Mural Museum  
●Address: 439 Hirata ●Hours: 9:00-17:00  
●TEL: 0744-54-3340 ●Fee: 250 yen

In the Mural Museum, learn how ancient people lived and what they dreamed



# View the Japanese heritage sites

## Watch

Asuka Village, as the ancient capital, inherits a number of historic sites and native scenery and has been loved as the spiritual home of Japan.

## Kitora Tumulus Area (Asuka Historical National Government Park)

Famous for the mural of the world's oldest astronomical map, do not miss the Kitora Tumulus Mural Experiential Museum *Shijin no Yakata*, where you can learn about tumuli and murals.

●Kitora Tumulus Mural Experiential Museum *Shijin no Yakata*  
●Address: 67 Abeyama ●Hours: 9:30-17:00 (Closes at 16:30 from December to February)  
●Closed: Year-end and New Year ●TEL: 0744-54-5105 ●Fee: Free of charge



Kitora Tumulus Mural Experiential Museum *Shijin no Yakata*



Astronomical map painted on the ceiling rock



Parking Lot Wi-Fi Restroom Restaurant Map No.

## Sakafuneishi (Sake Trough Stone)

A mysterious stone structure surrounded by a bamboo grove. There is a theory that the carved dents and grooves were used in the production of sake. Sakafuneishi appears in the famous comic *The Three-Eyed One* by Osamu Tezuka.



●Address: Oka

C-4

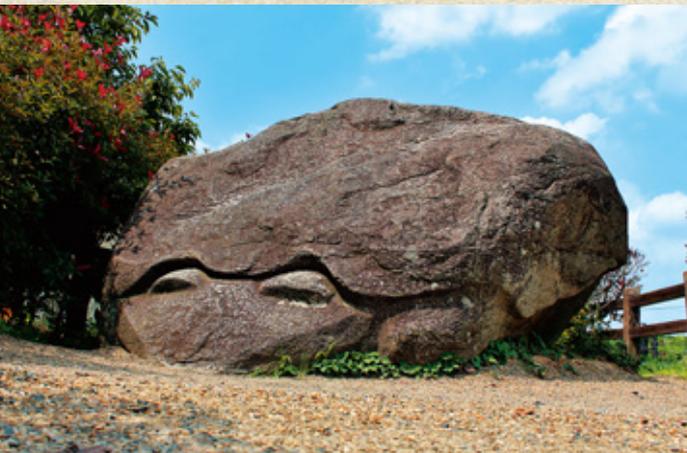


## Asuka Palace Site (Denasukaitabuki-no-miya Palace Site)

An imperial palace site from the seventh century where visitors can view a part of the restored architectural remains. The Isshi Incident, believed to be the first coup d'état in Japan, occurred in this place.

●Address: Oka

C-4



## Kameishi (Tortoise Stone)

One of the key mysterious stone structures established in Asuka Village; do not miss the lovely face of the tortoise carved into the granite!

●Address: 108 Kawahara

B-4

Asuka-dera Temple is compact and beautiful



## Oka-dera Temple

Dedicated to the statue of Nyoirin Kannon, the largest clay image in Japan. The space is filled with beautiful rhododendron flowers in spring and fantastic colored leaves in autumn.

●Address: 806 Oka ●Hours: 8:00–17:00 (Closes at 16:30 from December to February)  
●TEL: 0744-54-2007 ●Fee: 400 yen  
●URL: <http://www.okadera3307.com>

P C-4



## Tachibana-dera Temple

Believed to be the birthplace of Prince Shotoku, a famous public official in the Asuka period. Do not miss the 260 flower pictures on the ceiling!

●Address: 532 Tachibana ●Hours: 9:00–17:00  
●TEL: 0744-54-2026 ●Fee: 350 yen

P C-4



## Asuka-dera Temple

This is the oldest full-scale temple in Japan, dedicated to Asuka Daibutsu, which is also the oldest statue of Buddha in Japan. Photography is allowed!

●Address: 682 Asuka ●Hours: 9:00–17:15 (Closes at 16:45 from October to March) ●TEL: 0744-54-2126  
●Fee: 350 yen

P C-3

## ✓ CHECK

We are seeking to register the Asuka-Fujiwara:Archaeological Sites of Japan's Ancient Capitals and Related Properties on the World Heritage List.



In the Asuka-Fujiwara region, which extends from Asuka Village to Sakurari City and Kashihara City, Japan's capital was located from the sixth to the eighth century. The remains of palaces and temples are still buried underground.



Kawahara-dera Temple Site  
(Designated as a National Historic Site)



Fujiwara Palace Site



Feel

# Natural environment and traditional culture inherited by Asuka Village

Ideal pastoral scenery for cycling!



People in Asuka value traditional festivals and seasonal events.

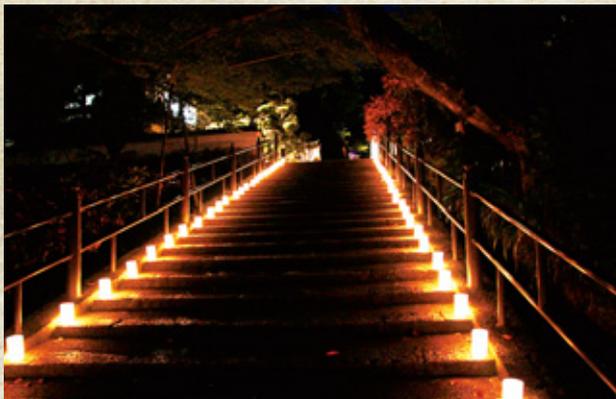


## Autumn events

Autumn is the season of festivals. The lighting event Asuka-Hikari-no-Kairo is worth a visit, where the ancient capital is wrapped in candlelight to the sounds of heroic Japanese drums.



Asuka Cultural Festival of Ancient Capital



Asuka-Hikari-no-Kairo

The attractions in Asuka include nostalgic pastoral views of red spider lilies and scarecrows along footpaths between rice fields and haystacks in rice fields. You can see Japanese-style life from the romantic ancient days whenever you visit Asuka in spring, summer, autumn, or winter.

## Ishibutai Tumulus and cherry blossoms

The gorgeous cherry blossoms that bloom around the Ishibutai Tumulus are a must see. The blossoms are illuminated at night and create a fantastic mood.





Stage



Driving away evil spirits

## Onda Matsuri Festival

This festival is held in the Asukaniimasu-jinja Shrine on the first Sunday of February. The day of the festival starts with an event that drives away evil spirits. This rare festival is famous for the play where masked actors pretend to be a married couple having sex and praying for the prosperity of descendants.

Enjoy fireworks at the summer festival



## Kaisanki Nodate

An open-air tea ceremony is held at the Oka-dera Temple on the anniversary of the temple foundation in October. The first 1,000 visitors are served matcha tea for free.

## Furusato Summer Festival

Fantastic fireworks are set off in the Historical Park. Foods from stands in the night market are all delicious! This summer festival is held on August 15.



## Kugatachi in the Amakashiniimasu-jinja Shrine

This ritual event is held on the first Sunday of April to commemorate the ancient trials where suspects were judged by putting their hands into boiling water. It was believed that innocent people would not burn, and liars would be scalded.



Three-storied Buddhist tower

### ✓ CHECK

#### Programs for experiencing ancient craftwork.

Reservation required

Fees required

\*On weekends and holidays, participation requests are received on the day of the event



#### Making comma-shaped beads

Carve and polish the stones to make the jewelry popular with ancient people. It would make a wonderful accessory!



#### Making Kaiju Budo Kyo (bronze mirror with the design of marine animals and vines)

Kaiju Budo Kyo became popular in the Chinese Tang Dynasty. Experience the authentic production process including pouring alloy into the molds!



#### Fabricating ancient glass

The first glass atelier in Japan was in Asuka Village. Visitors can make glass beads with the technique of that time and feel as if they were ancient artisans!

Five persons or more

- Shijin-no-yakata, the Kitora Tumulus Mural Experience Museum(Annex Experiential Learning Room)
- Address: 67 Abeyama ● Hours: 10:00–15:00 (Participation requests closed at 14:00) ● TEL: 0744-54-5105
- Dates: On weekends and holidays, in principle (\*Contact required in advance for planned course dates) ● Fee: 100–1,500 yen





## Stay

# Stay in private houses with local people

Access the portal via the QR code!



The indicated accommodation fee is an estimate for one person per night. For more details, check Asuka-Navigation.

The attraction of accommodations in Asuka is the opportunity to meet local people and participate in their lives. The experience of a slow and relaxing time is only available in Asuka. Do not miss this opportunity!

## Tomaryanse



Enjoy a homestay in a 200-year-old Japanese-style house with a tile roof. Chat and relax in a tranquil place surrounded by the natural environment.

●Address: 1526 Mayumi ●TEL: 0744-54-2516

From 4,500 yen **A-5**

### Also experience...



#### Local farming

On the private farm, experience (fee required) the harvesting of vegetables.

## B&B Asuka



An inn with the equipment of a petit hotel class located at the center of Asuka Village that provides extremely convenient access to various spots. Enjoy relaxing nights during your trip.

●Address: 55 Kawahara ●TEL: 0744-54-3810

(Breakfast only) From 6,700 yen **B-4**

### Focus on breakfast



#### Enjoy our wonderful breakfast

Have a great morning with coffee that is just milled and dripped and hand-made jam.

## Other accommodations



### Minshuku (private house)

Stay in a private house to enjoy the cozy, at-home atmosphere filled with a Japanese mood.

●TEL: 0744-54-3240 (Asukakyo Kanko Kyokai)

From 5,000 yen



### Iwaidoso (A Lodge in Asuka)

Iwaidoso is in a supreme location inside the Asuka Historical National Government Park. Tourists may only have meals in Iwaidoso.

●Address: 303 Iwaido ●TEL: 0744-54-3551

\*Reservations required for staying and dining

From 5,970 yen **C-4**

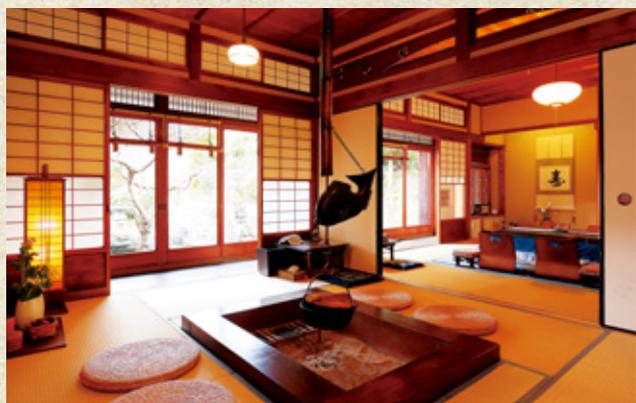


## Why are there no high-storied structures in Asuka Village?

That is because the entire village is protected as the spiritual home of Japan, which is regarded as a national treasure. The wonderful scenery in Asuka has not been preserved without substantial effort.



## Kotorian



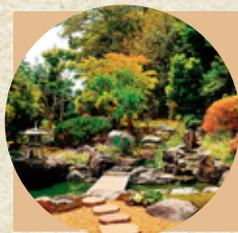
The old Japanese-style house accepts only one group of tourists per night. The ancient-style fireside and the cypress bath are wonderful!

●Address: 1473 Mayumi ●TEL: 0744-54-1055 \*Reservations required  
P Wi-Fi From 40,000 yen (four persons, one house) A-5

Relax and have a good time ...

### View of the elaborately designed garden

Enjoy walking around the pond, or simply sit and appreciate the view. The garden changes from season to season.



## Come to a healing pastoral village

Asuka Village is the place where Japanese history originated and, as such, is popular with tourists who want to learn of the history and those who want to cycle the area. Tourists include many Europeans. At Tomaryanse, we serve meals made from homemade vegetables and respond to the needs of vegetarians, vegans, and people with allergies. Have a healing time in the 200-year-old Japanese-style house with its display of many Japanese antiques surrounded by the natural environment.

Service in English is available!

Tomaryanse staff  
Ms. Eileen Steinman



## Experience the heartfelt satisfaction of the spiritual home of Japan

To provide tourists and guests with heartfelt satisfaction, we maintain a tranquil environment and interior. For this purpose, we refrain from accepting children under the age of 10 years. We receive many guests from the U.K. and the U.S.A., as well as tourists from Taiwan and Hong Kong. Most of our guests come to visit historic sites in Japan. Do not miss Asuka Village, which has many landscape preservation areas that are precious in Japan.

We also take care of the interior!

B&B Asuka owner  
Mr. Kazunori Kataoka



### Pension Asuka

A heartwarming, cozy pension proud of meals made from vegetables grown in Asuka Village. Close to the train station!

●Address: 17 Koshi ●TEL: 0744-54-3017  
P Wi-Fi From 5,700 yen A-4



### Homestay in a private house in Asuka

Experience the warm hospitality of a home and the local life of the village.

For more details, contact the Asuka New Tourism Committee  
●TEL: 0744-54-1525

P Wi-Fi From 7,800 yen



## 【 Ice cream / sherbet 】

Various flavors are available, containing ancient rice, fruits, and vegetables produced in Asuka. Have fun selecting from the wide variety of flavors♪



## 【 Udon 】

Udon is a representative noodle of Japan made from kneaded flour. In Asuka Village, there is a type of kitsune udon where super-large deep-fried tofu covers the udon noodles. Its taste and volume will certainly satisfy you!

For more details about restaurants, check Asuka-Navi!



Access the portal via the QR code!



Eat

# Traditional food and local specialty that can only be enjoyed in Asuka

Do not miss the foods that can only be enjoyed in Asuka, including dishes made from fresh vegetables and sweets from the fruits grown in Asuka Village, as well as ancient recipes that reproduce the meals of ancient people.

## 【 Juice 】

Taste juices made from locally grown seasonal fruits, such as Asuka Ruby (strawberries produced in Asuka Village) and early season mandarin oranges.



The rice itself is exquisite!



## 【 Ancient recipes 】

Experience the life of an ancient courtier by eating court dishes reproduced from recipes used 1,400 years ago, together with So, which is regarded as an ancient cheese made from milk.



## 【 Strawberry 】

Asuka Ruby, a variety of strawberry produced in Asuka, is characterized by its large size, sweetness, and fresh sour taste. Strawberry picking can be enjoyed from January to May. Strawberries that are picked with your hands taste even better!



CHECK

Reservation  
required

Fees  
required

### Strawberry picking



- Address: 14 locations in Asuka Village
  - Hours: 10:00 - 16:00
  - TEL: 0744-54-1115 (Asuka Strawberry Picking Park)
  - URL: <http://asukadeasobo.jp/>
- \* Call us for picking dates and details.



## 【 Curry 】

Curry rice is one of the most popular foods among Japanese people, and there are many recipes. In Asuka Village, there are versions where rice is served in the shape of a tumulus and where ancient rice is used.



## 【 Soba 】

Soba is another typical traditional noodle of Japan. Handmade soba noodles made from 100% buckwheat flour will attract you once you try them with their unique aroma and texture.

The surprising  
milk-based soup  
is super creamy!

## 【 Asuka Nabe 】



The mild, rich specialty hot pot of Asuka Village stews seasonal vegetables and chicken in soup made from milk and chicken stock.





## Shop

# A wide variety of Japanese sundries and special foods are available

For more details about the shops, check Asuka-Navil!

Craftworks with the design of a tumulus or a cultural property, as well as snacks made from local agricultural products, make ideal souvenirs of your trip and definitely please your families and friends!



Access the portal via the QR code!

## Tumulus goods

Fashionable items with the design of the Kitora Tumulus murals can be used every day. It would be cool to decorate your room with them!

Kitora Tumulus Shijin Handkerchief ↓



Asuka Omoide-do Mug cup →



← Asuka Omoide-do Shijin Clock



↑ Special notebooks and other stationery **C-3**

## Manyo Culture Center museum goods

Proprietary museum goods display the design of Japanese Manyo paintings, stationery with the museum logo, and other goods with authentic designs and quality.

## Glass craft

In Asuka Village, where the site of the first glass atelier in Japan was discovered, sophisticated glass dishes and accessories are available. Come and find items to your liking.

Café Kotodama **C-4** ↓



← Glass atelier "Sanpo" Glasses and other pieces **C-4**

## Processed foods

A wide variety of processed foods are available, including jams and dressings made from local fruits and vegetables, and curry roux, with care taken not only in taste but also in safety!

Dressings of seasonal vegetables grown in Asuka →



↓ Asuka Curry

← Jams containing whole fruits grown in Asuka



Three-colored rice containing ancient rice →



↑ Tokuboshi Shoyu (soy sauce)



↑ Ginger boiled in soy sauce

↑ Horoyoi Asuka (cake made with Japanese sake)



↑ Kitora Shijin Cookies

## Snacks

Snacks with colorful ideas, including rice crackers with the design of the oldest coin in Japan, and cookies also satisfy you with their taste!



← Fuhonsen Senbei

## Japanese food

Rice is the most typical Japanese food. Rice blended with ancient rice is very colorful when cooked. Ginger boiled in soy sauce is a secret hit product and goes ideally with rice.

Enjoy colorful souvenir shops

Organic vegetables are available



### Asukabito-no-yakata, the Asuka General Information Center

An information station located in front of Asuka Station, an entrance to Asuka Village, also has a souvenir shop.

- Address: 6 Koshi (in front of Kintetsu Asuka Sta.)
- Hours: 8:30-17:00 (Subject to change by season)
- Closed: Year-end and New Year
- TEL: 0744-54-3624



### Asukanosato Man-yobito

Next to the Nara Prefecture Complex of Man-yo Culture with a wide variety of items certified with the Asuka Brand.

- Address: 410 Oka
- Hours: 10:00-17:00
- Closed: Mondays, year-end, and New Year
- TEL: 0744-54-5456



### Asuka-no-yumeichi Shop

Sells specialties certified with the Asuka Brand and fresh vegetables and fruits produced in Asuka Village.

- Address: 154-3 Shimasho (to the west of the Ishibutai Tumulus)
- Hours: 10:00-16:00 (~17:00 on weekend/holidays)
- Closed: Year-end and New year
- TEL: 0744-54-9450



# Tips for sightseeing



## Free Wi-Fi service is available

### • Asuka Free Wi-Fi spots are established

In and around key sightseeing spots in Asuka Village, sixteen indoor and three outdoor Asuka Free Wi-Fi spots are established, convenient for checking e-mails and collecting sightseeing information!

\* For more details of the spots, see the map on page 3.

For more details about the Asuka Free Wi-Fi spots and the rental pocket Wi-Fi service, check the following:

### • For persons who travel around the Kansai region, the Kansai Free Wi-Fi service is convenient.

\* App download and authentication is required

<http://www.ntt-bp.net/kfw/en.html>



### • Rental pocket Wi-Fi is also available at tourist information centers in the village!



<http://english.asukamura.com/>



## Information site Asuka-Navi

Provides not only sightseeing information in Asuka, but also the information required while moving around the village (e.g. restrooms, rest places, bus stops).

Download  
Asuka-Navi



<http://www.asukanavi.jp/>



## Tourist portal site (English version) Exploring Asuka

Provides all the necessary information concerning Asuka from history to sightseeing spots, gourmet food, accommodations and shopping to lots of other activities!



<http://english.asukamura.com/>



## Convenient for moving around the village

### Rent-a-Cycle



Fees  
required

To efficiently visit many sightseeing spots, a bicycle is recommended. It is refreshing to cycle while watching the pastoral scenery!

- **Asuka Rent-a-Cycle**
- **Address:** 138-6 Misono
- **Hours:** 9:00 - 17:00
- **TEL:** 0744-54-3919
- **Fee:** 900 yen (1,000 yen on weekend/holidays)

### Kame Bus



Fees  
required

Aka Kame (Asuka Tour Bus) travels to popular spots. A one-day bus ticket is very reasonable!

- **TEL:** 0744-54-2001 (Asuka Village Office)
- **URL:** <http://english.asukamura.com/>



## Contact us for sightseeing information



### Asukabito-no-yakata, the Asuka General Information Center

Located right next to Kintetsu Asuka Station. Visit us immediately after arriving at the station, and collect information about the sights you will visit.

- **Address:** 6 Koshi
- **Hours:** 8:30-17:00
- **TEL:** 0744-54-3624

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### Asukakyo Kanko Kyokai

Arrangements for the rental ancient garment service, volunteer guides, accommodations in private houses, and other consultation services

- **Address:** 1220 Oka (1st floor, Asuka Village Tourist Hall)
- **Hours:** 8:30-17:00
- **TEL:** 0744-54-3240

C-4



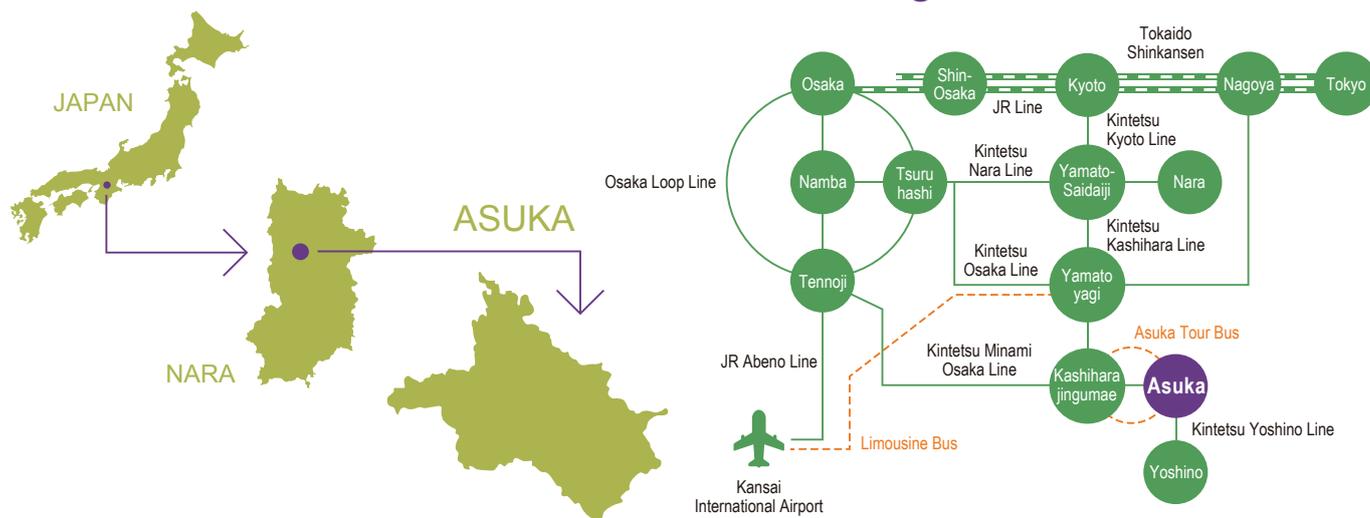
### Asuka Tourist Guides

To know the history of Asuka in depth, a guided tour is recommended.

- **TEL:** 0744-54-3240 (Asukakyo Kanko Kyokai)
- **Fee:** 3,000 yen per guide; requests are accepted for one tourist or more
- **URL:** <http://www.asukakyo.jp/>

Fees  
required

## Access to Asuka Village



### Access by train/bus

\*Names marked with an asterisk (\*) indicate train stations.

- **From Kansai International Airport, 1) approx. 1 hour 40 minutes; 2) approx. 1 hour 30 minutes**
  - 1) JR Kansai International Airport\* → JR Tennoji\* ... (Walk) ... Kintetsu Osaka Abenobashi\* → Kintetsu Asuka\*
  - 2) Take a bus at the Kansai International Airport Limousine Bus Stop > Kintetsu Yamatoyagi\* → Kintetsu Kashiharajingumae\*
- **Approx. 1 hour from Osaka**
  - 1) JR Osaka\* → JR Tsuruhashi\*... (Walk) ... Kintetsu Tsuruhashi\* → Kintetsu Yamatoyagi\* → Kintetsu Kashiharajingumae\* → Kintetsu Asuka\*
  - 2) JR Osaka\* → JR Tennoji\*... (Walk) ... Kintetsu Osaka Abenobashi\* → Kintetsu Asuka\*
- **Approx. 1 hour from Kyoto**  
JR Kyoto\* ... (Walk) ... Kintetsu Kyoto\* → Kintetsu Kashiharajingumae\* → Kintetsu Asuka\*
- **Approx. 2 hours from Nagoya**  
Kintetsu Nagoya\* → Kintetsu Yamatoyagi\* → Kintetsu Kashiharajingumae\* → Kintetsu Asuka\*
- **Approx. 4 hours from Tokyo**  
At JR Nagoya\* or JR Kyoto\*, change from Tokaido Shinkansen to Kintetsu Line

Travel a little farther from Osaka and Kyoto and stay in an old Japanese-style house to enjoy the countryside



### Access by car

- **Approx. 1 hour from the Osaka region**
- **Approx. 1 hour 30 minutes from the Kyoto region**
- **Approx. 2 hours 30 minutes from the Nagoya region**
- **Approx. 6 hours 30 minutes from the Tokyo region**



Take commemorative photos that are only available in Asuka Village!

Hold it a little away from your body to take a great picture



Place your hands at the center of the bottom side of this booklet!

When you find nice scenery in Asuka, take a picture to commemorate your trip! Stand against the scenery and hold this booklet with its cover and back cover extended, and you are an ancient Japanese!

### Rental service for ancient garments is also available



Reservation required

Fees required

Pretend to be a time traveler, while visiting tourist spots clad in ancient garments.

#### Asukakyo Kanko Kyokai

- **Address:** 1220 Oka (1st floor, Asuka Village Tourist Hall) C-4
- **TEL:** 0744-54-3240
- **Fee:** From 3,000 yen per garment piece

A-1 Map No.



**Asuka Village Office  
Industrial Promotion Section**

55 Oka, Asuka Village, Takaichi-gun,

Nara Prefecture 634-0111

Tel: 0744-54-2001

Published in March 2017