



# Toshodaiji Temple

## UNESCO heritage site in Nara

Period

Jan. 01, 2023 to Dec. 30, 2023 (Reservation required)

Place: the heart of Nara city

Language: English

Access : 60 minutes drive from central Kyoto.

15 minutes drive from Nara Station

Minimum number of participant 1 person

Available all the year

Time required : 60 to 90 minutes

Price : Free (We can arrange for an English-speaking volunteer guide who is familiar with Toshodaiji Temple.

Entrance fee : 1000 yen)

[Not Included in the price]

Transportation

[High lights]

- Deep dive into heritage sites
- Enjoy authentic buildings from the Nara Period, before the capital moved to Kyoto
- Enjoy autumn leaves, cherry blossoms, and lotus flowers in each season.
- See many national treasures of Buddha.



The Nara Period began with the Heijo-kyo Capital built by the Empress Genmyō in 8th century. The Nara period marked the completion of the Ritsuryō (law and ordinance) state, and the development of the land, the establishment of institutions, transportation to China and Korea, and the rise of Buddhism led to a great flowering of Japanese culture and art.

Toshodaiji was founded in the year 759 by Ganjin, a Chinese priest who was invited to Japan by the emperor in order to train priests and improve Japanese Buddhism. Ganjin's influence in the introduction of Buddhism to Japan was monumental, and his arrival and teaching at Toshodaiji (which roughly translates to "temple of the one invited from Tang China") were important stages in that process. Toshodaiji's main hall (kondo) was re-opened in late 2009 after being renovated over a period of almost ten years, during which the building was dismantled and reconstructed. The temple's lecture hall was originally an administrative building located in the Nara Imperial Palace and was later moved to Toshodaiji. Today, it is the only surviving building of the former palace. The Miedo stores a famous wooden statue of Ganjin which is displayed to the public only once a year for a few days around June 6, the anniversary of Ganjin's death. On the occasion of the 1250th anniversary of Ganjin's death in 2013, a replica of the statue was created that is now on permanent display to the public.

There are a number of small paths on the temple grounds that cut through thick overhanging foliage. Ganjin's grave is located at the end of one of these paths, and the surrounding nature gives the area an atmosphere of serenity. The temple also has a large bell from the Heian period, a chapel, sleeping quarters once used by monks in training, and a treasure house.



The Lecture Hall of Toshodaiji Temple is the only remaining structure of the palace architecture of the Heijo Palace, which was moved from the East Choshuden Hall of the Heijo Palace around 760. Like the main hall, the Lecture Hall underwent major repairs during the Kamakura (12-14C), Edo (17-19C), and Meiji (19-20C) periods, using the most advanced technology of the time

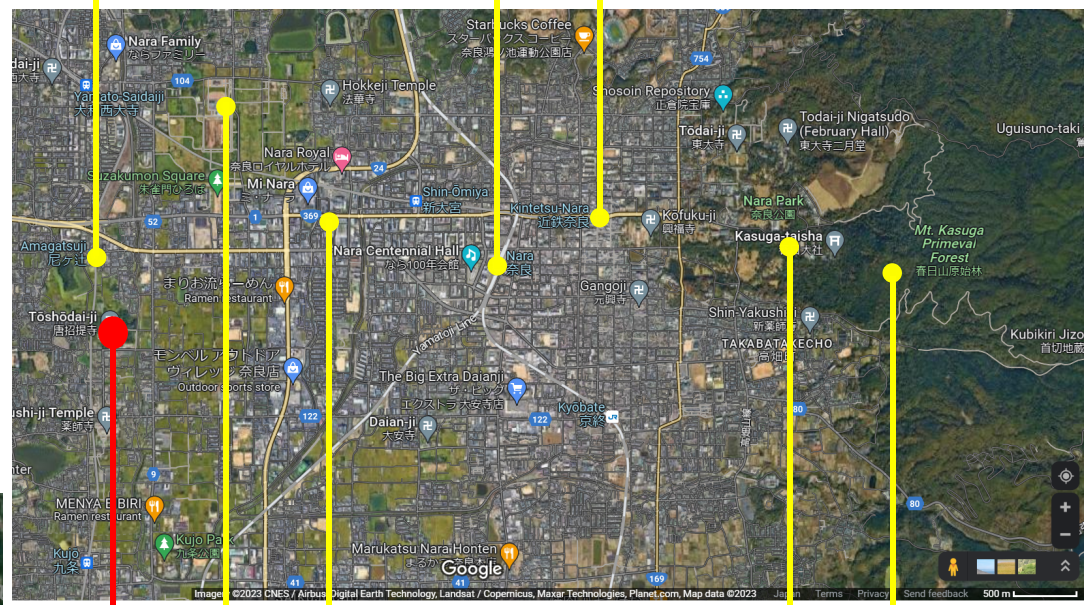


# Toshodaiji Temple

Amagatsuji Station(Kintetsu Line)

Nara Station(JR Line)

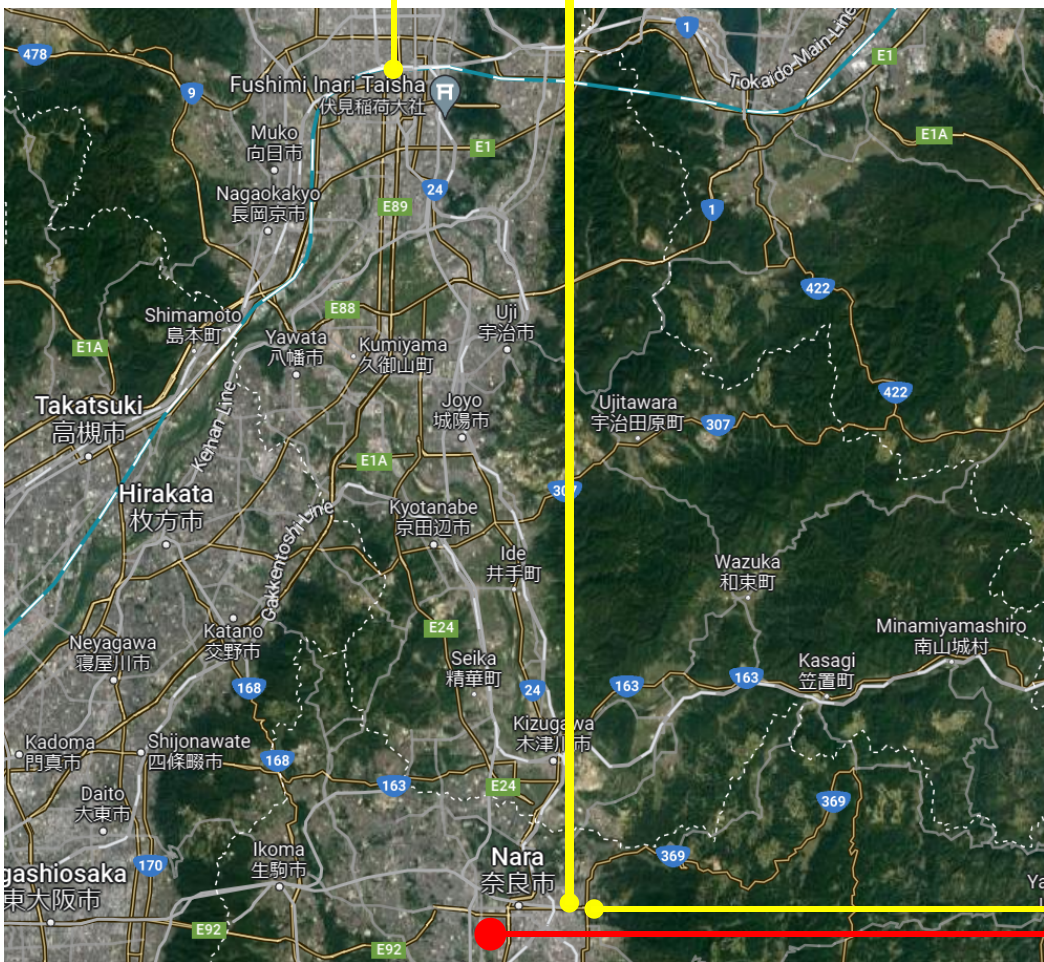
Nara Station(kintetsu Line)



Toshodaiji Temple  
 Heijo Palace Site  
 JW Marriott Hotel Nara  
 Kasuga Taisha Shrine  
 Kasuga primeval forest

Kyoto Station

Nara Station(kintetsu Line)



Kasuga Taisha Shrine  
 Toshodaiji Temple