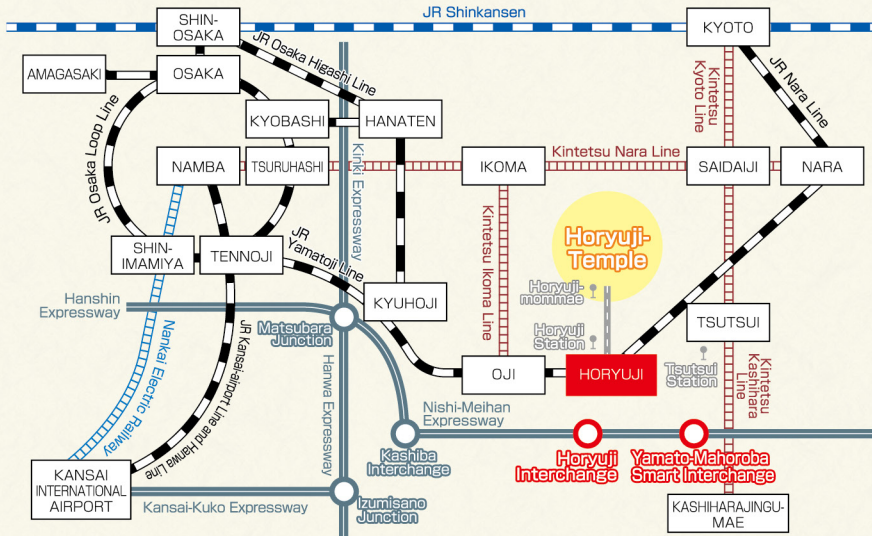


Getting to Ikaruga (the area surrounding Horyuji Temple)



- ◆ **From JR Shin-Osaka Station**
 JR Shin-Osaka Station → 4 minutes → JR Osaka Station → 39 minutes by Yamatoji Rapid Service → JR Horyuji Station
JR Kyoto Line, JR Osaka Loop Line and JR Yamatoji Line (Kansai Main Line)
- ◆ **From JR Shin-Osaka Station**
 JR Shin-Osaka Station → 35 minutes → JR Kyuhoji Station → 16 minutes by Yamatoji Rapid Service → JR Horyuji Station
JR Osaka Higashi Line, JR Yamatoji Line (Kansai Main Line), 50 minutes by Direct Rapid Service, JR Osaka Higashi Line and Yamatoji Line (Kansai Main Line)
- ◆ **From Kansai International Airport**
 JR Kansai-airport Station → 53 minutes by Kansai-Airport Rapid Service → JR Tennoji Station → 22 minutes by Yamatoji Rapid Service → JR Horyuji Station
JR Kansai-airport Line and Hanwa Line, JR Yamatoji Line (Kansai Main Line)
- ◆ **From JR Kyoto Station or Kintetsu Kyoto Station**
 JR Kyoto Station → 45 minutes by Miyakoji Rapid Service → JR Nara Station → 11 minutes by Yamatoji Rapid Service → JR Horyuji Station
JR Nara Line, JR Yamatoji Line (Kansai Main Line)
 Kintetsu Kyoto Station → 40 minutes by express train → Yamato-Saidaiji Station → 11 minutes → Tsutsui Station → 12 minutes → JR Horyuji Station
Kintetsu Kyoto Line, Kintetsu Kashihara Line, Nara Kotsu Bus bound for Oji Station (North)
- ◆ **From JR Horyuji Station to Horyuji Temple**
 JR Horyuji Station → 15 minutes on foot → Horyuji-momimae → 8 minutes by Nara Kotsu Bus bound for Horyuji-sando

Publisher: "World Cultural Heritage" Regional Partnership Council/Ikaruga Project Team

Horyuji i Center

<http://www4.kcn.ne.jp/~ikaru-i/>

- 1-8-25 Horyuji, Ikaruga-cho, Ikoma-gun, Nara (Map on Page 20)
 TEL:+81-745-74-6800 FAX:+81-745-75-9090
 ■Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. ★Open all year round
 ■Free admission (there is, however, a charge for exclusive use of the multipurpose hall.)
 ■Bicycle rental available
 ■Volunteer sightseeing guides available (Advance reservations required.)

JR Horyuji Station Tourist Information Center

■ Inside the Horyuji station building on the JR Yamatoji Line (Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Information valid as of March 2018. Changes may occur without warning, so please double check before departing.

IKARUGA

Nara Walking Map



©Askaen

Route 1 The romance of ancient times Three ancient pagodas route

This route is for fully enjoying the romance of history by touring temples and shrines centered on the three pagodas of Ikaruga.

Route 2 Fully enjoy mountain beauty Yakuyoke (warding off evil) route

This route is for hiking Mount Matsuo. From Horyuji Temple, you will head for Matsuo-dera Temple, the oldest site in Japan for warding off evil.

What kind of place is Ikaruga?

The village of Ikaruga is in northwest Nara Prefecture. It has long been an important transportation point. It is surrounded by nature and by the Yata Hills to the north, the Tatsuta-gawa River to the west, the Tomio-gawa River to the east and the Yamato-gawa River to the south. It is also known for the fact that Prince Shotoku built Horyuji Temple there during 7th century. Today it is easy to get to from Osaka.



Who was Prince Shotoku?

Prince Shotoku (574-622). During his life, Prince Shotoku was called Umayado no Miko. His father was Emperor Yomei and his mother was Empress Anahobe no Hashihito. He served as regent for Empress Suiko, his aunt. He aimed to make political preparations in Japan and abroad and establish a nation of centralized political rule centered on the emperor. In 603, he established the Twelve Level Cap and Rank System, and the following year he established a 17-article constitution and compiled a national history. In 607, Prince Shotoku dispatched Ono no Imoko to the Sui dynasty, and he worked to introduce the continent's advanced culture to Japan. He also authored the "Sangyo Gisho" ("Annotated Commentaries on the Three Sutras"), built many temples and otherwise advanced the rise of Buddhism.



Knowledge that will make Ikaruga more fun Ikaruga episodes

What is the origin of the name Ikaruga?

- Theory 1 — Because birds called the Ikaru, or Japanese grosbeak, flocked there.
- Theory 2 — Because a god called Ikarugaikashio no Mikoto is worshipped there ... among other stories.



There were once even more treasures in Horyuji Temple!

In 1878, more than 300 treasures were presented to the imperial household from Horyuji Temple. With some exceptions, they were given to the Tokyo National Museum after World War II. A special building was built to house them at the museum, and it was opened to the public as The Gallery of Horyuji Treasures.

The romance of ancient times! There's a tumulus, too



Above all Horyuji Temple

It is said that in 607, Empress Suiko and Prince Shotoku built Horyuji Temple in keeping with the dying wish of Emperor Yomei. The temple has the oldest extant wooden buildings in the world including its main hall and five-story pagoda, and many temple treasures that have been handed down. In 1993, it was registered as the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in Japan.



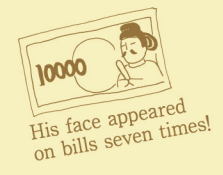
Lots of national treasures and important cultural properties!

Buddhist buildings representing every era since the latter half of the 6th century stand side by side at Horyuji Temple, and many treasures have been handed down there. There are 38 national treasures and more than 150 designated important cultural properties. There is no temple in Japan with more national treasures and important cultural properties.

It's more fun if you know them Episodes related to Prince Shotoku

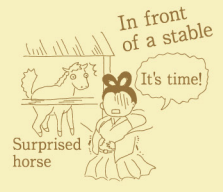
Japan's paper money

Prince Shotoku has appeared on the 100 yen bill four times, and once each on the 1,000 yen bill, the 5,000 yen bill and the 10,000 yen bill. Each represented a large sum of money when it was in circulation, and he appeared a total of seven times. It is even sometimes said that whenever Prince Shotoku appeared on a Japanese bill, the Japanese economy was powerful.



Called 'the Horse Stable Prince'

There is a legend that says Empress Anahobe no Hashihito, Prince Shotoku's mother, went into labor in front of the stable for imperial horses while making the rounds in the imperial palace, and gave birth to him without any pain. This episode closely resembles the story that Jesus Christ was born in front of a stable, and there is even a legend that says she got pregnant by dreaming of a golden monk, which makes their stories even more similar.



Japanese superhero

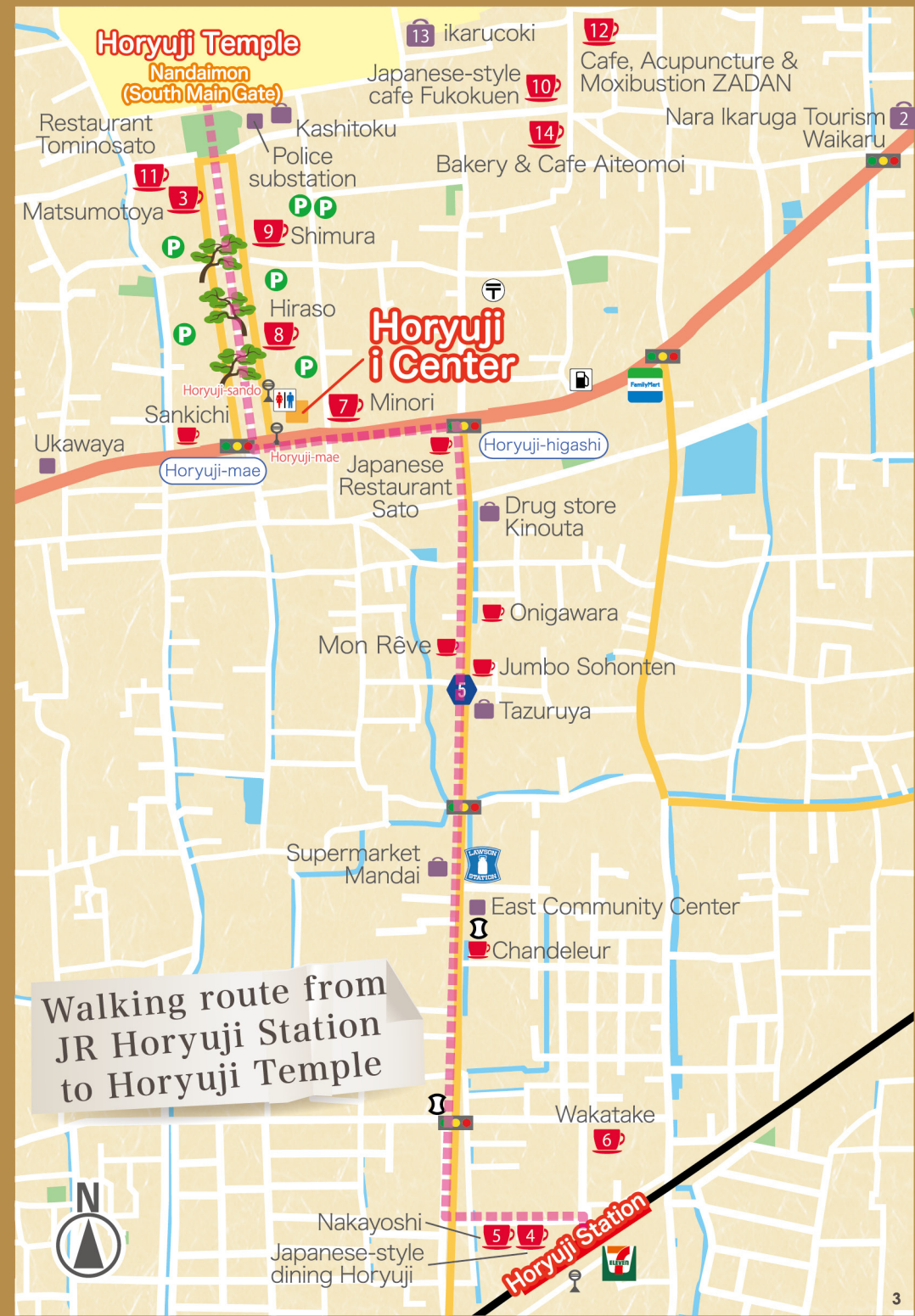
Prince Shotoku was a Japanese superhero in ancient times. There are many anecdotes about his superpowers, including that he was able to talk well from when he was a baby, and that in his prime he could listen to petitions from 10 people at once and reply appropriately. It is said that when he was 2, he faced east and chanted "namubutsu" and a bone of Buddha appeared in and fell from his left hand. When he was 3, Emperor Yomei asked him to choose between pine trees and peach trees, and he chose pine needles, which are a symbol of eternity.



Kurokoma, the prince's favorite horse

When the Prince was 27, he noticed Kurokoma among horses presented from various parts of Japan. Prince Shotoku's servant Choshimaru and Kurokoma worked for him from that moment forth without interruption. It is said that Prince Shotoku rode Kurokoma across the sky beyond Mount Fuji. When Prince Shotoku died, legend has it, Kurokoma stopped eating and died as if following his example. There is a statue of Kurokoma on display on the grounds of Horyuji Temple.





Walking route from
JR Horyuji Station
to Horyuji Temple

Highlight!

A haiku slab of Masaoka Shiki, who is famous for the haiku "If you eat a persimmon, the bell rings in Horyuji Temple."

Highlight!

A spot with a superb view from the West Round Hall!

Highlight!

This is a treasure hiding place called a fukuzo!

Highlight!

The scenery from the South Main Gate is like a framed picture!



Highlight!

The approach road (lined with pine trees) is magnificent and beautiful when you look back at it.

Highlight!

The (pine-tree-lined) approach road to the temple grounds is the best part!

Highlight!

Kuse Kannon, a Buddhist image normally withheld from public view, is enshrined here. You can see it in the spring from April 11 to May 18 and in the autumn from Oct. 22 to Nov. 22!

Just looking at it gets you excited!

Map of Horyuji Temple grounds and surroundings



Horyuji Temple

Highlights: South Main Gate, Western Precinct, Gallery of Temple Treasures and Eastern Precinct
Principal object of worship: Gautama Buddha at the main hall (a national treasure)

It is said that in 607, Empress Suiko and Prince Shotoku built Horyuji Temple in keeping with the dying wish of Emperor Yomei. It has the world's oldest wooden buildings and many temple treasures, and it was registered as Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993 under the name "Buddhist Monuments in the Horyuji Area."



Various brand-new technologies are used in Tokyo Skytree, which is a new radio tower, and a new technology called a "Center Column Vibration Control" was used in the construction of Tokyo Skytree. The technology incorporates the center column structure of five-story pagodas, which have never been toppled by an earthquake in Japan, a country of many quakes. A technology from 1,300 years ago is supporting the latest technology.

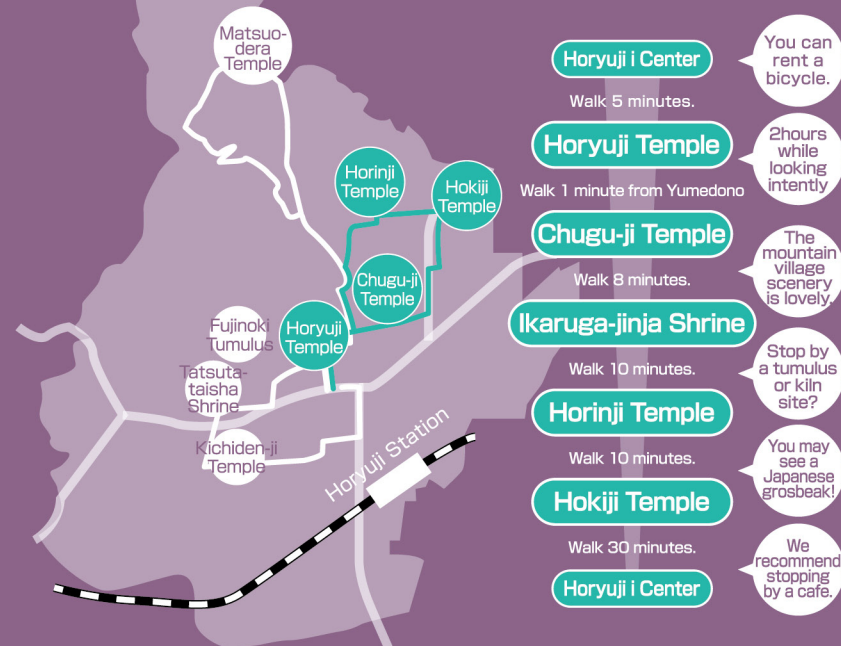
📍 1-1 Horyuji-sannai, Ikaruga-cho, Ikaruga-gun 📞 0745-75-2555 🕒 [Feb.22 to Nov.3] 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. [Nov.4 to Feb.21] 8a.m. to 4:30p.m.
🏠 (Western Precinct, Gallery of Temple Treasures and Eastern Precinct) 1,500 yen for adults and 750 yen for elementary school students
🚻 None 🚺 Restrooms available

Route 1

The romance of ancient times Three ancient pagodas route

This route is for fully enjoying the romance of history by touring temples and shrines centered on the three towers of Ikaruga. The three towers are the five-story pagoda of Horyuji Temple, the three-story pagoda of Hokiji Temple and the three-story pagoda of Horinji Temple, all in the village of Ikaruga.

Time required
4 hours
(3 hours by bicycle)



How to have fun on the three ancient pagodas route

Rent a bicycle



In the Horinji Temple and Hokiji Temple area, things may seem close but they are actually quite far when walking, so we recommend a bicycle. The mountain village scenery is beautiful! There is a series of gentle slopes. (See Page 17 for bicycle rental information!)

Find things you like



If you read up just a little in advance, you will have more fun looking at Buddhist statues and buildings! Check out the tidbits on pages 2 and 15. Why not look for a Buddha to call your own one, you will want to meet over and over again?

It's a good idea to request a tour guide



Precisely because this area has a concentration of temples with historical and cultural value, being shown around by a guide will really help you to learn about them! You will be surprised at how knowledgeable the guides are! (Reservations must be made a week in advance. See Page 17.)

When you take a break, do it Japanese style!



One of the appealing aspects of this route is that it is dotted with Japanese-style cafes and casual tea rooms. This is a tour of temples and shrines of historical significance, so enjoy the lingering memories in a cafe full of Japanese ambiance!



Horinji Temple

Here's the cool part!

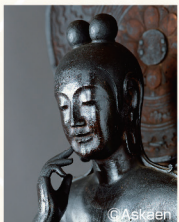
This is a romantic temple with a connection to the stars where you can get a 360-degree view of precious Buddha statues unobstructed by glass or netting. Every year, on April 15 only, a statue of Myoken (the North Star bodhisattva) that is normally withheld from public view and a ceiling mandala depicting stars are opened to the public.



Chugu-ji Temple

Here's the cool part!

The statue of a bodhisattva in the half-lotus position is simply beautiful! You'll want to sit and talk forever. The main hall looks like it is floating in water, creating an elegant ambience.



Horyuji Temple

Here's the cool part!

The things you'll see on the grounds are all Japanese treasures! National treasures and important cultural properties are on parade! The temple has been cared for painstakingly as a sacred place for more than 1,300 years. You'll experience a beautiful Buddhist world that has transcended eras.

You can visit the West Round Hall at the top of the stone steps. For free! You can see a seated statue of Bhaiṣajyaguru, a national treasure.

Many shops outside the temple gate close at 4-5 p.m., so do your shopping early!

Horinji Temple

Three-story pagoda

The ruins of a well reportedly dug by Prince Shotoku.

Akazomenoi Well

The distant view of Okanohara is beautiful.

Spot for taking photos of Horinji Temple's three-story pagoda

There is a folktale about Mamako Jizo causing a mean stepmother to mend her ways.

Gokuraku-ji Temple and group of stone Buddhist images Mamako Jizo

Hokiji Temple

Three-story pagoda

Spot for taking photos of Hokiji Temple's three-story pagoda

Hokiji Temple

Here's the cool part!

Among the three pagodas of Ikaruga, this one blends into the surrounding scenery the best and shows various aspects. It is a national treasure.



Chugu-ji Temple

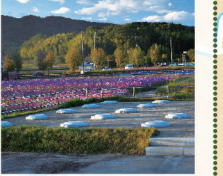
One of the three Jizo of Ikaruga. It is said that you will live a long life if you worship this Jizo.

The pagoda and main temple structure from the time of Chugu-ji Temple's construction were excavated!

Historical landmark Chugu-ji Temple Ruins

Here's the cool part!

The current Chugu-ji Temple is located next to the eastern precinct of Horyuji Temple to the northeast, but the one built in the first half of the 7th century was at the site of the Chugu-ji Temple Ruins. The name chugu, which means in the middle of the palaces, is said to come from the fact that it was located in the middle of three palaces related to Prince Shotoku: Ikaruga Palace, Okamoto Palace and Ashigaki Palace. From an excavation survey we know that a pagoda was located south of the dirt mound and a main temple structure stood north of it. The site is a park today.



Horyuji Temple

Kudara Kannon Hall (Gallery of Temple Treasures)

Saiendo (West Round Hall)

Five-story pagoda

Chumon (Central Gate)

Nandaiimon (South Main Gate)

Hondo (Eastern Precinct)

Yumedono

東大門 (East Gate)

Japanese-style cafe Fukokuen

Bakery & Cafe Aiteomoi

Horyuji i Center

Three ancient pagodas route highlights

Horinji Temple

Highlights: Three-story pagoda, Buddha statues
Principal object of worship: Seated statue of Bhaisajyaguru (an important cultural property)



Horinji Temple has a three-story pagoda, one of the three towers of Ikaruga. Prince Yamashiro is said to have built it in the first half of the 7th century with a wish for his father, Prince Shotoku, to recover from illness. At the temple you can see up close Buddha statues that are important cultural properties.

📍 1570 Mii, Ikaruga-cho, Ikoma-gun
☎ 0745-75-2686 🕒 [Mar.1 to Nov.30] 8a.m. to 5p.m. [Dec.1 to Feb.28] 8a.m. to 4:30p.m.
💰 500 yen for adults, 400 yen for junior high school and high school students, and 200 yen for elementary school students 🚻 Available (free), 10 spaces 🚽 Restrooms available

Hokiji Temple

Highlights: Three-story pagoda (a national treasure)
Principal object of worship: Standing statue of eleven-faced goddess of mercy (an important cultural property)



Hokiji Temple has the oldest extant three-story pagoda (from the Asuka period), one of the three towers of Ikaruga. It's a designated national treasure. It harmonizes beautifully with the surrounding scenery, including the setting sun and a field of cosmos in autumn.

📍 1873 Okamoto, Ikaruga-cho, Ikoma-gun ☎ 0745-75-5559
🕒 [Feb. 22 to Nov. 3] 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. [Nov. 4 to Feb. 21] 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
💰 300 yen for adults and 200 yen for elementary school students 🚻 None 🚽 Restrooms available

Chugu-ji Temple

Highlights: Main hall, statue of a bodhisattva in the half-lotus position, Kerria japonica flowers
Principal object of worship: Statue of a bodhisattva in the half-lotus position (a national treasure)



Chugu-ji Temple is the oldest convent in Japan. It was built for Empress Anahobe no Hashihito, the mother of Prince Shotoku. The principal object of worship is the beautiful statue from the Asuka period that is known for its archaic smile. The Kerria japonica flowers on the grounds are in full bloom around April.

📍 1-1-2 Horyuji-kita, Ikaruga-cho, Ikoma-gun ☎ 0745-75-2106
🕒 [Mar. 21 to Sep. 30] 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. [Oct. 1 to Mar. 20] 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
💰 600 yen for junior high school age and up, and 300 yen for elementary school students 🚻 None 🚽 No restroom available

Ikaruga-jinja Shrine

Highlight: Autumn festival (October)
Main enshrined deity: Sugawara no Michizane



Ikaruga-jinja Shrine contains the four tutelary shrines protecting Horyuji Temple, and guards the temple from the northeastern direction. In the Heian period, the high priest of Horyuji Temple was a descendent of Duke Sugawara no Michizane, so the duke was enshrined in the temple grounds, and was later moved to his current location.

📍 1-11 Horyuji-kita, Ikaruga-cho, Ikoma-gun
🕒 Open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
💰 Free admission
🚻 Available (free), 5 spaces 🚽 No restroom available

Route 2

Fully enjoy mountain beauty Yakuyoke(warding off evil) route

This route is for hiking Mount Matsuo. From Horyuji Temple, you will head for Matsuo-dera Temple, the oldest site in Japan for warding off evil.

Time required
2 hours



What kind of custom is yakuyoke!?

Warding off evil or bad luck is a Japanese custom from time immemorial. What kind of custom is it?

Fundamentally, it refers to having a prayer said to avoid calamities and live a life without major problems. It is often done during one of a person's yakudoshi, or unlucky years (unlucky ages), but some consider evil something that builds up during daily life and say yakuyoke should be done even when you are not at an unlucky age to remove it. By acquiring the providence and blessings you pray for, you avoid acquiring bad luck. Yakuyoke is generally done at temples and shrines, and it seems to frequently be done between New Year's Day and Setsubun (the day before the beginning of spring).



Hiking route to Yata-dera Temple

Matsuo-dera Temple

From behind the three-story pagoda, head north (the right branch) and you will arrive at Kunimidai Viewing Platform.

Enter from the south and you'll see Minamisomon (the southern main gate)



This is a gorgeous gate said to have been created in 1862. Its carvings of a wind god and a lightning god are beautiful.

A sign says "Beware of boars!"

Branch toward Nananagari-michi Trail

It's easy to slip around here so be careful!

Past the 10th cho, there is an old guidepost. You can read the letters for "Myoken" on it if you read Japanese.

Fork. Take the path that leads upward.

Renko-ji Temple

You'll sometimes see mountain bikers. It's quite hard to ride here with a regular bicycle such as a rental bike.

123

Matsuo-dera Temple

Here's the cool part!

Ward off evil with a prayer!

Throughout the year, visitors, including those in their unlucky years (at unlucky ages), can have a prayer said to ward off evil. The prayer fees start at 5,000 yen per child and 10,000 yen per adult. (After you pay the fee, you can have prayers said for you for free for one year as many times as you like!)

Ward off evil by ringing a bell!

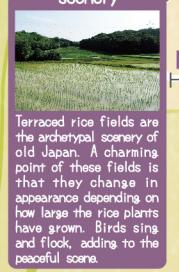
The bell in the bell tower on the temple grounds is known as the "yakuyoke bell," and visitors can freely ring it throughout the year. (Once per day!)

Go around a mini sacred ground to ward off evil!

Saikokusanjusansho refers to 33 temples in the Kinki area and Gifu Prefecture with statues of Kannon. If you visit the Kannon statues at all of them, it is said, all the sins you committed in the present world will be washed away and you can be reborn in paradise. Around Matsuo-dera Temple's Shinreiseki no Oiwa rock, there are stone Buddha statues with the names of each of the temples chiseled on them. If you find and visit them all, you might get some benefit.

Pay attention to the fork. Proceed on the trail that leads upward.

From this point on the mountain paths are not paved.



Terraced rice fields are the archetypal scenery of old Japan. A charming point of these fields is that they change in appearance depending on how large the rice plants have grown. Birds sing and flock, adding to the peaceful scene.

This path is a cycling road. (Cars may not enter.)

Horyuji Temple

Horyuji Temple is beautiful when seen from high ground on the north side.

Fureai Koryu Iki Iki no Sato

Traditional rammed-earth wall

Horyuji Center

Horyuji-mae

Horyuji-higashi

Flowers you can see at Matsuo-dera Temple



Japanese iris (around April to May) On the temple grounds



Roses (May 15 to June 5) In the flower garden



Rhododendron indicum (around May-June) In the flower garden



Rhododendron ponticum (around April-May) On the temple grounds



Casa Blanca lily (around July) On the temple grounds

How many meters is 1 cho?

The character 丁 (cho) is written on guideposts. 1 cho is about 109 meters, and it takes 2 to 3 minutes to walk 1 cho up a slope.
 1 cho = 60 ken = 109.1 m
 1 ken = 6 shaku = 1.8 m
 1 shaku = 10 sun = 30.3 cm
 1 sun = 3 cm
 Note: Shaku here refers to kanejaku.

How to enjoy the Yakuyoke (warding off evil) route

The oldest sacred ground for warding off evil

Matsuo-dera Temple, which has existed for about 1,300 years, is the oldest sacred ground for warding off evil. Every day you can receive all kinds of prayers for warding off evil. If you pay to have a prayer said for you once, you can then have this done for a year for free!

Easy hiking!

The path from the direction of Horyuji Temple up Mount Matsuo is an easy hiking course. Walk through the peaceful forest while enjoying the historical landmarks and get some exercise. There are some slippery spots, so wear appropriate footwear.

Also recommended for people who like flowers

There is a flower garden on the grounds of Matsuo-dera Temple where roses from various parts of the world grow. It is open to the public from May 15 to June 5. In July, flowerpots filled with Casa Blanca lilies are placed out in the temple grounds. They are a pleasant sight.

The unusual atmosphere of a mountain temple

Of course it has precious Buddha statues and architecture, but Matsuo-dera Temple is truly a mountain temple with its rough, austere Shinreiseki no Oiwa rock and its Mount Matsuo spring water! Breathe its miraculous ambiance in deep!

Matsuo-dera Temple

【見所】本堂・神霊石の大岩・十三重の塔・三重塔・お花畑
【本尊】十一面千手千眼観世音菩薩(厄除け観音)



It is said that Prince Toneri, the son of Emperor Tenmu, built Matsuo-dera Temple in 718 with a wish to ward off evil when he was 42 years old (an unlucky age) and a wish for the completion of the history book "Nihon Shoki," of which he was supervising editor. The temple is Japan's oldest sacred ground for warding off evil. Prayers to ward off evil are performed every day in the inner sanctum of the main hall, which is designated by the Japanese government as an important cultural property. It has multiple Buddhist images normally withheld from public view but with special display periods, but its Daikokuten (a nationally designated important cultural property from the Kamakura period) can be viewed all year round. The Daikokuten is said to be the creation of the priest Kukai. At the temple, visitors can try meditating and copying sutras. The current main hall of the temple was rebuilt in the Muromachi period and is a national important cultural property. The principal object of worship, a thousand-armed goddess of mercy (a yakuyoke kannon, a prefecturally designated cultural property, from the Kamakura period), is normally hidden from public view, but it is put on public display once a year on Nov. 3.

📍 683 Yamada-cho, Yamatokoriyama City ☎ 0743-53-5023 🕒 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 🅐 Available (free, 100 spaces for standard size cars)
🅑 Free to enter the grounds, 300 yen to visit the Shichifukujindo 🚻 Restrooms available

Farther afield

Yata-dera Temple

Highlights: Two-storied pagoda (an important cultural property), decorative ceiling painting of the main hall
Principal object of worship: Amitabha Tathagata statue measuring one jo and six shaku (an important cultural property)



In the Yata Hills, which include Mount Matsuo, a promenade has been built and it has become a popular hiking course for going to Yata-dera Temple, which is famous for hydrangeas and Jizo statues. There are about 10,000 hydrangea plants growing in the temple compound, and about 60 varieties have been planted there. (The hydrangea garden is open June 1 to July 10.)

📍 3549 Yata-cho, Yamatokoriyama City
☎ 0743-53-1445 🕒 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
🅑 Free to enter the temple compound, 500 yen for adults and 200 yen for elementary school students to enter the hydrangea garden
🅐 A private parking lot unaffiliated with the temple is available 🚻 Restrooms available

Jiko-in Temple



Jiko-in Temple was built in 1663 by Sadamasa Iwaminokami Katagiri (Sekishu), at the time the second generation daimyo of the Koizumi Domain, as an ancestral temple of his father, Sadataka Katagiri, the first generation daimyo. It is a temple of the Rinza school of Buddhism. Priest Gyokushu, the 185th head of Daitokuji Temple, was welcomed as the head priest. Rather than calling it a temple with a peaceful appearance, it would be more accurate to say it was built to give the entire compound the appearance of a tea ceremony room.

📍 865 Koizumi-cho, Yamatokoriyama City ☎ 0743-53-3004 🕒 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
🅑 Individuals (elementary school age and up) 1,000yen, groups (of 30 or more) 950yen per person. Includes being served green tea. 🅐 Available 🚻 Restrooms available

Nara Ikaruga Tourism Waikaru



At this new tourism base in Ikaruga, which opened in 2019, you can sign up for various workshops, experiences and buggy (lightweight car) tours. Bicycle rental available.

📍 1-6-30 Horyuji-higashi, Ikaruga-cho, Ikoma-gun
☎ 0745-75-8055 🕒 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Closed on Wednesdays)
🅑 Free admission
🅐 Available 🚻 Restrooms available

Discover your favorite Buddhist statue

538 to 645

Blossoming
Asuka culture

Famous examples!
Horyuji Temple
Asuka-dera Temple

Prolific!
Kuratsukuri
no
Tori



Kudara Kannon statue
Horyuji Temple (a national treasure)

Slender, supple and beautifully proportioned!
Elegant and tranquil, it has a sacred
aura when viewed from any angle



Statue of Shaka (Sakyamuni) triad
Horyuji Temple (a national treasure)

Horyuji Temple's main attraction
Made by Tori, Japan's first Buddhist image maker



Statue of a bodhisattva in the half-lotus position
Horyuji Temple (a national treasure)

Extreme elegance!
One of the world's three great smiles
(The other two are the Great Sphinx of Giza
and the Mona Lisa.)

Tendencies in Buddhist statues of this time

- Thin bodies and curved backs
 - The pattern and flow of the garments have bilateral symmetry
 - Long, rectangular faces with the corners of the mouth rising in an apparent smile
- Also... Kuse Kannon statue (Horyuji Temple, normally withheld from public view),
Bhaisajyaguru statue (Horyuji Temple), standing statue of Kokuzo Bosatsu (Horiiji Temple), etc.

645 to 710

Hakuho culture

Famous example!
Yakushi-ji
Temple



Yumetagai Kannon statue
Horyuji Temple (a national treasure)

A short Buddha, 87.3 cm tall,
that turns nightmares into lucky dreams.
Its kind face is soothing.

Tendencies in Buddhist statues of this time

- Nearly round faces
- Horizontal mouths
- Cool eyes

710 to 794

Tenpyo culture

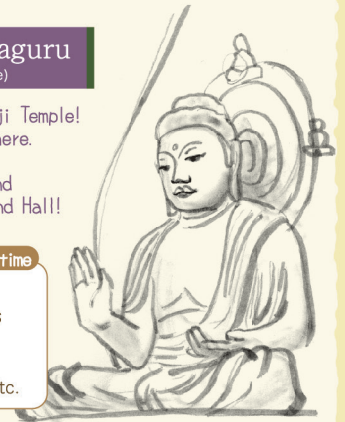
Famous example!
The Great Buddha
of
Todaiji Temple

Seated statue of Bhaisajyaguru
Horyuji Temple (a national treasure)

The largest Buddhist statue at Horyuji Temple!
But somehow it has a friendly atmosphere.
It's a national treasure,
and you can see it for free year round
beyond a wire screen in the West Round Hall!

Tendencies in Buddhist statues of this time

- Rounder faces
 - Plump earlobes
 - Almond-shaped eyes with long slits
 - Dignified expressions
- Also ...The guardian god statues at
the Central Gate of Horyu-ji, etc.



891 to 1185

Kokufu culture

Famous example!
Uji Byodo-in
Temple



Standing statue of eleven-faced Kannon Buddhisattva
Horiiji Temple (an important cultural property)

Large eyes, thick eyebrows and lips
Powerful face with sharp eyes.
Statue 4 meters high.

Tendencies in Buddhist statues of this time

- Straight posture
 - Almond-shaped eyes with long slits
 - Small noses
 - Lips stick out in an arched shape
- Also ...Statue of Prince Shotoku
(Horyuji Temple, normally withheld
from public view), etc.

1185 to 1333

Samurai culture

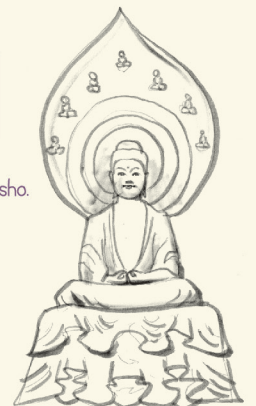
Prolific!
Unkei
and
Kaikei

Seated statue of Amitabha Tathagata
Horyuji Temple (a national treasure)

Created for Prince Shotoku's mother.
A retrospective work by Unkei's child Kosho.

Tendencies in Buddhist statues of this time

- Rounded shoulders.
- Became more photographic.
- Eyes made of crystal appear



Ikaruga specialty
Tatsuta-age

This dish is created by marinating meat or fish in soy sauce, coating it in katakuriko (dogtooth violet starch) and deep-frying it. The name comes from the Tatsuta-gawa River! So the Tatsuta-age Project is now underway, and you can eat freshly fried Tatsuta-age at several places around town!



Ikaruga-cho's mascot character
Pago-chan

This is Ikaruga-cho's mascot character. It was inspired by the haiku "If you eat a persimmon, the bell rings in Horyuji Temple." The name comes from "pagoda." Pago-chan novelty items on sale now!



'Kakikueba'
persimmon-shaped potpourri pouches

Handmade potpourri pouches filled with "Ikaruga classic lavender" make a great souvenir or gift for back home!

Persimmon-leaf sushi

Eat in or take out the traditional Nara dish persimmon-leaf sushi! We recommend the beautifully arranged lunch set!



Persimmon
soft-serve
ice cream

This soft-serve ice cream blended with persimmon paste has a Japanese flavor. You can eat it on the souvenir shop street in front of Horyuji Temple!



1 Horyuji i Center

1-8-25 Horyuji, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-74-6800

Closed Open all year round
Hours 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.



The tourism portal for "the village of Ikaruga." It's located at the intersection of the pine tree lined street in front of the gate to Horyuji Temple and a national highway. It has a tourism guidance section, an exhibition space, a cafe, breastfeeding facilities, a multipurpose restroom and other facilities. It also sells Pago-chan novelty items. Make it the base for your trip.

Bicycle rental

1 hour or less	200 yen
For each additional hour	200 yen
1 day (5 hours or more)	1,000 yen
2 days	1,600 yen

Parking available
(subcompact and standard-sized cars 500 yen per use)

Free admission to the center.
There is a fee for use of the multipurpose hall.
Tour guide reservations taken
Note: Make a reservation at least a week in advance using a telephone or the center's website.

3 Matsumotoya

1-6-4 Horyuji, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-75-2449

Closed Irregular holidays
Hours 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

A restaurant, cafe and souvenir shop in front of the gate to Horyuji Temple. Be sure to stop in to buy something to remember your trip by.

Recommendation
Persimmon udon noodles served on a woven bamboo tray — 690 yen

4 Japanese-style dining
Horyuji

7-7-4 Okidome, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-75-3988

Closed Mondays
Hours 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. (midnight)

This restaurant has everything from gently flavored obanzai cuisine to deep-fried foods, chazuke and fresh seafood.

Recommendation
Chicken thigh tatsuta-age — 580 yen (tax included)

5 Nakayoshi

7-7-3 Okidome, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-74-0843

Closed Wednesdays
Hours 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Enjoy at reasonable prices authentic Japanese food made by a skilled chef experienced in the cuisine of traditional Kyoto restaurants.

Recommendation
Banquet course (10 dishes) — 3,500 yen

6 Wakatake

7-3-38 Okidome, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-74-1848

Closed Wednesdays
Hours 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

This Western-style restaurant prides itself on its large portions and homemade food. Feel free to drop in with a group or by yourself.

Recommendation
Fried shrimp set — 1,350 yen

2 Nara Ikaruga Tourism
Waikaru

1-6-30 Horyuji-higashi, Ikaruga-cho,
Ikoma-gun
Phone: 0745-75-8055

Closed Wednesdays
Hours 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



At this new tourism base in Ikaruga, which opened in 2019, you can sign up for various workshops, experiences and buggy (lightweight car) tours. Bicycle rental available.



7 Minori

1-8-40 Horyuji, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-74-5544

Closed Wednesdays and 3rd Tuesday of the month
Hours 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. / 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

This restaurant has an ample menu featuring, in addition to home-made udon noodles, soba, rice bowls and set meals.

Recommendation
Minori udon noodles — 800 yen

8 Hiraso Horyuji location

1-8-40 Horyuji, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-75-1110

Closed Open all year round
Hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The persimmon-leaf sushi of Hiraso, a 150-year-old restaurant. Buy it to go or eat in.

Recommendation
Persimmon-leaf sushi (8 pieces of mackerel sushi) — 1,089 yen

9 Shimura

1-5-30 Horyuji, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-75-3202

Closed Open all year round
Hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This restaurant in front of the gate to Horyuji Temple has a full menu ranging from standards to original dishes.

Recommendation
Japanese apricot udon noodles (with apricot mochi) — starting at 600 yen

10 Japanese-style cafe Fukokuen

2-2-35 Horyuji, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-44-8787

Closed Tuesdays and Wednesday (Open when Tuesday or Wednesday falls on a holiday)
Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Enjoy this relaxed space in the remodeled former residence of Harufusa Kitabatake.

Recommendation
Mahoroba lunch — 1,200 yen (tax included)

11 Restaurant Tominosato

1-6-33 Horyuji, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-75-2918

Closed Open all year round
Hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This establishment not only serves meals in the restaurant, but also sells souvenirs. Group-only seating available.

Recommendation
Sweet potato rice soup set meal — 1,300 yen

12 Cafe, Acupuncture & Moxibustion ZADAN

2-3-16 Horyuji, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-74-5797

Closed Thursdays
Hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Fridays)

In the tasteful interior of this establishment built 65 years ago, enjoy the specialty coffee the proprietor prides himself on.

Recommendation
Coffee of the day — 480 yen (tax included)

13 Mahoroba Station ikarucoki

2-1-25 Horyuji, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-44-9380

Closed Thursdays (Open when Thursday falls on a holiday)
Hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A shop specializing in products from Nara Prefecture located in a renovated private home near the East Gate of Horyuji Temple that was built 80 years ago.

Recommendation
Cafe, general goods and free Internet

14 Bakery & Cafe Aiteomoi

2-9-10 Horyuji, Ikaruga-cho
Phone: 0745-75-9977

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays (Open when Monday or Tuesday falls on a holiday)
Hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Take your time having breakfast, a lunch of bread, or just a beverage in this cafe with a nostalgic ambiance.

Recommendation
Tatsuta-age burger — 280 yen

Page of experiences to make Ikaruga more fun

Special experiences at nearby temples

Goshuin notebook making

Why not make your own goshuin notebook at a temple far from the hustle and bustle. (Goshuin are seal stamps given to visitors to Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. These notebooks are used to collect them.) Enjoy some quiet time.



Kichiden-ji Temple

1-1-23 Koyoshida, Ikaruga-cho, Ikoma-gun, Nara
Phone: 0745-74-2651
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Available

By reservation (minimum of 4 people)
May be unavailable because of events or temple affairs at various times throughout the year.

Charge

3,500yen (Includes temple admission, goshuin fee and materials.)

Time required

90 minutes

Content

Goshuin making, a visit to the main hall, and a Buddhist sermon

Tea ceremony experience

Everyone will be served green tea in a seat in the drawing room, which is an important cultural property.



Jiko-in Temple

865 Koizumi-cho, Yamatokoriyama City, Nara
Phone: 0743-53-3004
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Available

Not by reservation, but please contact the temple in advance if you will be coming by chartered bus.

Charge

1,000 yen

Time required

40 minutes

(includes time spent being served green tea)

Content

Temple visit, being served green tea