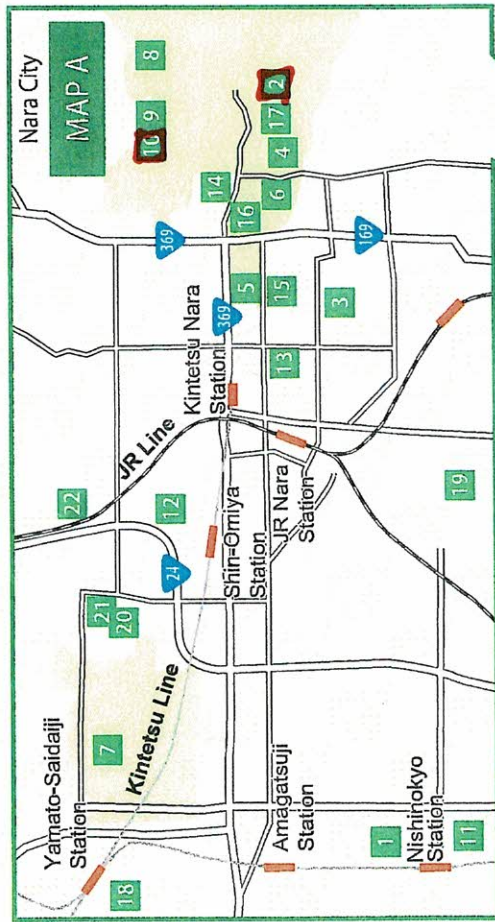


Map of Nara



- MAP A**
- 1 Toshodai-ji Temple
 - 2 Kasuga-Taisha Shrine
 - 3 Around Naramachi
 - 4 Gango-ji Temple Gokuraku-bo
 - 5 Nara Park • Tobuhino/Tobihino
 - 6 Around Kofuku-ji Temple • Sarusawa Pond
 - 7 Nara Park
 - 8 Nara Palace Site (Heijo Palace Site)
 - 9 Mt. Wakakusa
 - 10 Todai-ji Temple Nigatsudo Hall
- MAP B**
- 1 Kinpusen-ji Temple (Yoshino-cho)
 - 2 Around Isonokami-jingu Shrine • Yamanobeno-michi (Tenri City)
 - 3 Horyu-ji Temple (Ikaruga-cho)
 - 4 Koriyama Castle (Yamato-Koriyama City)
 - 5 Fujiwara Palace Site (Kashihara City)
 - 6 Tanzan-jinja Shrine (Sakurai City)
 - 7 Hase-dera Temple (Sakurai City)

History of Nara

<p>Ancient Times ~ the late 6th c.</p>	<p>Powerful families lived throughout the Nara Basin and enshrined their gods. When the Great Kings of these families died, they were buried in a tomb (<i>kofun</i>). There still remain huge <i>kofuns</i> with a total length exceeding 200m, such as Hashihaka Kofun in Sakurai City.</p>
<p>Asuka Period the late 6th c. ~ the early 8th c.</p>	<p>Toward the end of the 6th century, Asuka region became a center of politics and culture. Buddhism came from China and the first temple in Japan was constructed. In Horyu-ji Temple, built in the early 7th century in Ikaruga-cho, you can still find Buddhist statues that were brought to Japan in those days.</p>
<p>Nara Period the early 8th c. ~ the end of 8th c.</p>	<p>In 710, the capital city Heijo-kyo was constructed in the north of the Nara Basin, following the capital of Tang Dynasty China (Chang'an) as its model. The capital had faith in both Shinto and Buddhism. Through interactions with Asian countries such as China and those on the Korean Peninsula, an international culture was cultivated in the city. There still remain many prominent crafts and documents of those days in Shosoin, reminding you of this rich culture in those days.</p>
<p>Medieval to Early Modern Ages the end of 8th c. ~ the middle of 19th c.</p>	<p>The capital was transferred to Heian-kyo of Kyoto in 794. During a turbulent age, shrines and temples were also severely damaged, but they recovered and then prospered nearly to the extent of the capital. At the same time, Japanese culture, <i>noh</i> and the tea ceremony, began in Nara. It then spread and developed among the samurai society. Some common but resourceful people built flourishing towns such as Naramachi and Imai-cho in Kashihara City.</p>
<p>Modern Ages the middle of 19th c. ~ today</p>	<p>Around the middle of the 19th century, Japan was transformed from a samurai society to a modern nation. Under the influence of the edicts ordering the separation of Shinto and Buddhism, the power of some Nara's temples was temporary lost and there were even those that were abolished. However, many of them recovered later, and after Nara Exhibitions were held to display the treasures of Shosoin, a movement to protect these cultural properties appeared.</p>