



URBAN
ADVENTURES
BEST. DAY. EVER.

Tour Name

The Essence of Nara: Big Buddha, Bambi and Backstreets

Tour City

Kyoto

Tour Snapshot

Explore the ancient capital of Japan with us and discover a peaceful city, brimming with dazzling temples, shrines, imperial tombs and *machiya* houses built in the traditional style. We'll meet divine deer roaming the streets, grab some tasty street food, chat with locals about living and working here and show you our favourite hidden gems in the alleys of the old city. All this at your own pace, without the hassle or the crowds of a typical day in Kyoto. What are you waiting for?!

Highlights

- Get up close to the fabled, holy deer of Nara
- Explore Buddhist temples that once held enough power to influence the emperor himself
- Stroll the beautiful backstreets of old town and discover handicraft havens, quirky shops and traditional *machiya* houses
- Watch the turtles going about their daily lives at picturesque *Sarusawa* pond
- Taste some of the best street food in the city

Inclusions: Local English-speaking guide, local snacks and entrance fees for all the sites mentioned.

Exclusions: Additional food and drink, souvenirs and personal shopping, tips/gratuities for your guide

Schedule details

- Duration: 3.5 to 4 hours

- Meeting point:

At the fountain in front of the exit at Kintetsu Nara station. From the train platform go through the east gates to street level, via the staircase, where you'll see the fountain with a statue of a monk, on your right-hand side.

View on [Google Maps](#).

- Find the exact meeting point with what3words: [///solar.vanilla.book](https://solar.vanilla.book)

- Starting time: 9.00 AM

- Ending point:

The intersection of Sanjo dori street and Higashimuki Shopping Arcade.

Full Itinerary

After meeting your tour guide, we'll head straight to one of Nara's top historical sites and one of the largest wooden buildings in the world, the Todaiji temple. Its famous centerpiece is the 15-metre bronze statue of the Great Buddha, *Vairocana*.

On our way to and from the temple you will be greeted by the super-friendly deer of Nara. The deer are seen as heavenly animals and as such are the divine protectors of the ancient capital, living in perfect harmony with the local population.

Our next stop is the second of the seven great temples of Nara, *Kofukuji*. Although much has been lost throughout the ages, this proud and powerful temple has stood against the tides of time and kept a great degree of its power, even after the capital of Japan moved to Kyoto and most of its contemporaries lost their influence.

The path then takes us south towards the heart of the old town but we'll make a brief stop at the *Sarusawa* pond first. A tranquil stretch of water, well known for its turtles and the pretty scenery surrounding it, if you are staying in Nara for longer, this is a

perfect spot for a romantic evening walk.

Finally, our journey will take us into the quiet alleys and backstreets of Nara-machi, the well preserved former merchants district where we will be able to see and experience traditional arts and crafts unique to Nara.

We always say that the best way to experience a city is through its food, so our penultimate stop will be to sample some of our favourite local delights, giving you a flavour of our beloved city.

The last stop on our journey will take us to a shopping street beset with an exciting array of colourful and diverse shops, perfect for souvenir hunting and that exceptional gift for someone special back home.

Both the JR Nara station and the Kintetsu station are within comfortable walking distance from the finishing point of the tour. Your guide will be happy to help you with directions to your hotel or to provide a restaurant recommendation for lunch. Don't forget to ask for more hints and tips on what else there is to do in Nara during your time here.

Additional information

Inclusions: Local English-speaking guide, local snacks and entrance fees for all the sites mentioned.

Exclusions: Additional food and drink, souvenirs and personal shopping, tips/gratuities for your guide

Dress standard: As we will be visiting religious temples and shrines, modest dress is required.

Your Trip: For your Urban Adventure you will be in a small group of a maximum of 12 people.

Confirmation of booking: If you have your voucher, your booking is confirmed. We'll see you at the start point. Get in touch if you have any concerns or require more information via the email address or phone number (business hours only) on your voucher.

Closure of sites: Some of the places we will visit in Nara-machi will vary on each tour as they have irregular opening and closing days. In case of unexpected closure of the Todaiji temple, we will either reschedule or cancel the tour. If we have to cancel for such a reason, you will be refunded in full.

Child Policy: Children between the ages of 6 and 11 inclusively are permitted on this tour at the rate listed above. Please select 'child' above when booking. Children below the age of 6 are not permitted on this tour.

Dietary Notes

We can accommodate some dietary restrictions. Please notify us in advance if you have any dietary requests. You can do so in the 'additional information' box at checkout or by emailing us at info@kyotourbanadventures. The snacks included on the tour are not substantial so if your dietary requirements cannot be met, we'll provide a liquid refreshment instead.

Local contact

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