

## Walking Tour 3: Todai-ji Temple => Heijo Palace => Hokkeji Temple

Shrine Date: September 18 (Wed) 13:00 - 17:15

Fee: About 2,000~3,000 yen

(Include admission fees to several temples)

### 【Todai-ji Temple】



No visit to Nara is complete without seeing Todai-ji Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The main hall of this temple complex, first constructed in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century is one of the largest wooden structures in the world and contains the world's largest bronze statue of the Buddha, weighing 500 tons. The view upon passing through the massive temple gates is truly majestic, and with the complex's extensive gardens and museum, there is much to explore.

HP : <http://www.todaiji.or.jp/english/index.html>

### 【Heijo Palace】



The extensive open space of lawn seen between Saidaiji Station and Shin-Omiya Station on the Kintetsu Line is the Heijo Palace, the center of Heijo-kyo Capital, which lasted for 74 years over the 7 successive reigns. The Palace was located in the northernmost area of the central Heijo-kyo Capital and, with an extended area toward the east, it had a total area of about 120 hectares. Containing the Daigoku-den and the Chodo-in for formal ceremonies, the Dairi as an emperors' residence, the To-in, and government offices with 8 ministries and 100 agencies, the Palace is considered to have been surrounded by mud walls and moats with a total of 12 gates, 3 gates being built in each direction. A continuous excavation has been carried out by the Nara National Cultural Properties Research Institute since the 34th year of Showa(1959).

HP: <http://heijo-kyo.com/en/>

### 【Hokkeji Temple】



Hokkeji was founded by Empress Komyo (701-760) as the head of a state convent system (kokubun nijji) following the establishment of a state temple complex with Todaiji at the center by her husband Emperor Shomu (101-756). Built on the site of her father, Fujiwara Fuhito's (659-720) mansion, the grounds were first converted into a temple to pray for his repose. For over 1250 years, Hokkeji has served as a temple palace for nuns preserving Empress Komyo's strong dedication to religious life and has transmitted the spiritual essence of the deeply devout empress.

HP : <http://www.hokkeji-nara.jp/en>