Sights of Nara-kōen

Many of Nara’s most-important sites are located around Nara-kōen (奈良公園), a fine park occupying much of the eastern city.

**Start** Kintetsu Nara Station
**Distance** 5km
**Duration** 4 hours

1. On entering the park you’ll be greeted by Nara-kōen’s deer hoping for *shika-sembei* (deer biscuits; ¥150), sold by vendors.

2. Isui-en, Nara’s prettiest strolling garden, offers some peaceful respite.

3. Admire the Niō guardians at the massively impressive southern gate of Tōdai-ji Nandai-mon before exploring Tōdai-ji.

4. Climb the steps to Nigatsu-dō & Sangatsu-dō, viewing the graceful curves of the Daibutsuden and the Nara plain.

5. Explore Kasuga Taisha, Nara’s grandest Shintō shrine, with many smaller shrines within.

6. Admire the heights of the Five-Storey Pagoda, Japan’s second-tallest, dating from 1426.

7. Stroll through the grounds of Kōfuku-ji, another of Nara’s World Heritage Sites, passing between the Nannen-dō and Hokuen-dō halls.

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**Classic Photo** A close-up of one of Nara-kōen’s famously tame deer.

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**Take a Break...**
Take tea in Isui-en’s garden.