

Asukadera Temple and Ohmiwa Jinja Shrine



Asukadera Temple



*Asuka Great Buddha (Important Cultural Property)
The statue of Buddha Tathagata (designated as an Important Cultural Property) is the oldest Buddhist statue of Japan in the Asuka period when it was founded. It was about 3m high and was made with 15t of copper and 30kg of gold.

◆ **Asuka Temple** was the first full-scale Buddhist temple in Japan that was founded by Soga Umako, a powerful clan in the era of the Empress Suiko in 596. The scale of Asuka Temple was 20 times larger than what we can see today. Craftsmen from the ancient Korean kingdom were invited to help in constructing the first tiled Buddhist temple and pagoda. Being the first capital in Japan for around 100 years, Asuka culture flourished based on the close communication between ancient China and Korea. It is regarded as the origin of Japanese culture.



Ohmiwa Jinja Shrine



◆ **The Omiwa jinja Shrine** is said to be Japan's oldest shrine. The entire Mount Miwa is considered as The God itself. Thus it is quite unusual that worship of god should be carried out by facing the mountain instead of the main shrine. It is said the spirit of Omononushi who was worshipped as a nature spirit who provided good weather and bountiful harvests was associated with Mount Miwa. Mount Miwa is not simply a rest place that gives you refreshing power, but it is a holy place that has long been adored as a divine object of worship since ancient times. It is said that the spirit of god does not allow cut down of trees or glasses with an axe since ancient time so old trees such as cypress, pine and cedar are grown along the road leading to the shrine.



◆ Visitors are able to experience the special traditional Japanese praying only for the attendees of this conference.

Tour point!

