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Nagoya, the largest city in the Chubu region of central Honshu, got its start as a castle town in 1610. It has continued to grow and develop ever since, holding on to its rich samurai past while growing into one of the world’s leading centers of the automobile industry.
An Ancient City Within Easy Reach of Tokyo

Kamakura: A City Where History Lives On

Just an hour from Tokyo by train, Kamakura is an ancient city with a wealth of historic monuments and temples. With its abundant nature and rich sense of history, Kamakura offers endless discoveries to charm Japanese and foreign visitors alike.

The dance pavilion at Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine. (C)Kamakura City Tourist Association

Horseback archery at Tsurugaoka Hachimangu shrine. (C)Kamakura City Tourist Association

Autumn leaves at Kamakuragu shrine. (C)Kamakura City Tourist Association

Hato sabure cookies. (C)Toshimaya co., ltd.

The Kamakura Daibutsu at Kotokuin. (C)Kamakura City Tourist Association
Rich in history, and home to Japan’s first permanent capital, Nara Prefecture is known as the spiritual home of the Japanese. In 2010, special events are being held to mark 1,300 years since the capital moved to Nara.

People gather in the main event area during celebrations to mark 1300 years since Nara became the capital. (C)Association for Commemorative Events of the 1300th Anniversary of Nara Heijo-kyo Capital

Kaki-no-ha zushi. (C)kakinozushi

Mikasa-yaki. (C)Kogetsu

An image of Nara. (C)Nara City Tourist Association

Nara Park. (C)Nara City Tourist Association
The Islands of the Seto Inland Sea
Nature and Modern Art in Japan’s First National Park

Bounded by Honshu, Kyushu, and Shikoku, the Seto Inland Sea was designated Japan’s first national park in 1934. More than 700 islands offer stunning natural scenery and delicious seafood, as well as everything from traditional ways of life to cutting-edge modern art and architecture.