

## Inabuchi Tanada in NARA

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Kyoto and Nara are ancient capitals of Japan.

In Asuka Village, Nara Prefecture, there are historic buildings, such as Asuka Temple, which houses Japan's oldest Buddhist statues, and Ishibutai Kofun (Ishibutai Tumulus), which has one of Japan's largest stone chambers.

In Asuka Village, you can also enjoy a beautiful landscape of Tanada (terraced rice fields), which changes its appearance according to the seasons.

English website of Asuka Village (<https://asukamura.jp/english/index.html>)



### **“Reflecting on memories and unknown things” is a mental state which Japanese people consider as the most valuable.**

There is a flower called red spider lily. Its flower language is “I think only of you.”

When you were even a little away from your beloved ones, haven't you found yourself absorbed in thinking about them?

Inabuchi Tanada, where these flowers grow wild in large clusters and are in bloom in September, is located in Asuka Village, Nara Prefecture. The village was the political and cultural center of ancient Japan.

In this place, you can see the Asuka River running by, “Tobi Ishi (stepping stones),” which serves as a bridge between lovers and was featured in Manyoshu (the oldest collection of Japanese ancient poems; compiled sometime after 759), canola flowers blooming in spring, and fireflies lighting up the night sky in summer, and you can enjoy a landscape with a hint of mystical beauty. You will have a glimpse of an extraordinary world that coexists with the scenic landscape.

What love awaits you in Inabuchi Tanada, which also brings a hint of ancient romance?

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### **Inabuchi Tanada, based on knowledge brought by talented people**



Japanese missions to Sui China and Tang China, and others brought back a wide range of cultures, knowledge and techniques, which were accumulated in Asuka, where it is said that land was cleared to establish Tanada in Inabuchi in the Heian to Muromachi periods (794 to 1573) after the capital was moved. The design of Tanada is ingenious in utilizing, and sometimes changing, the flow of the Asuka River and over 300 fields were established on gently inclined planes. It can be said that this beautiful landscape was created in the course of development of Japan led by many intellectuals and engineers. The central part of ancient Japan was the northern area of Inabuchi Tanada, which has been called Asuka (or remote Asuka). The current Asuka Village was formed as a result of 10 villages merging over time.

Also, canola flowers blossom in the spring, while rice fields are bountiful in gold with red and yellow spider lilies in full bloom in early autumn, creating a beautiful landscape in Inabuchi Tanada.



### **Bridge of “passion” spanning the Asuka River**

Let's imagine briefly what it was like in ancient Japan.

Before Japan became a developed country, no streetlights were available and the moonlight was the only light at night. The village was silent, there were no televisions and all you wanted to do was see your lover who lived across the river.

“I will cross the Asuka River tomorrow again. Unlike the stepping stones being away from each other, my heart is close to you”

This is a translation of a poem recorded in Manyoshu. In the era when no mobile phones were available, just crossing a river in the darkness of night to see someone was not an easy task. The poem conveys a sad feeling that the time of being unable to see a lover feels like forever.

In Inabuchi Tanada, there are stepping stones featured in the poem and a monument inscribed with the poem.

Let's have a look at another poem. “Like mist hanging over the Asuka River, my feelings for the capital city are not likely to disappear”

The poem conveys a feeling of longing for the previously prosperous capital city. Inabuchi Tanada was something like the central part of Japan, and unlike now, people lived an inconvenient life, reflecting on memories and unknown things. How about visiting this place while imagining the lives of people of that era?

### Inabuchi Tanada in NARA

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<Information for gourmets>

### Asuka Pot Dish



Asuka Pot Dish is known as a local specialty of Nara Prefecture and can be considered the original milk pot! As its name suggests, the dish seems to have been created in the Asuka period (592-710). It is said that the dish began with a pot meal that a Buddhist monk who visited Japan from Tang China prepared using goat milk to ward off the cold. The dish is healthy using plenty of chicken and vegetables, and the mildness of the milky taste makes you unable to stop eating! You can eat the dish both in Asuka Village and around Nara Station! We would love you to try it at least once when you visit Nara!