In March 1972, the Takamatsuzuka Kofun was excavated by the Kashihara Archaeological Research Institute. The wall paintings were designated to national treasures, and the crypt was tightly sealed to preserve the wall paintings. The Takamatsuzuka Mural Hall was constructed to exhibit the reproduction of the paintings closed to the public. In here, visitors can see copies of wall paintings in excavated condition, in partially restored and in fully restored states, along with the full-sized replica of the crypt and burial goods. The Mural Hall was built by a part of the fund raised by the memorial stump including donations.

**ADMISSION PRICES**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>INDIVIDUAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADULT</td>
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<td>CHILDREN</td>
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**OPENING HOURS**

9:00am~5:00pm
(last admission 4:30pm)

**CLOSED**

29 December ~ 3 January (next year)

**VISITING INFORMATION**

- Approximate walking time from the Kintetsu Asuka St. will be about 15 minutes
- Rent-a-cycle is available at the Kintetsu Asuka St. (5 minutes)
- You cannot drive your car into the Mural Hall
- Asuka General Information Bureau in front of the Kintetsu Asuka St. is providing suitable advice for Asuka tour

Ancient Capital Asuka Preservation Foundation

439 Hirata, Asuka village, Takeiichi gun
Nara prefecture 634-0144 JAPAN
TEL FAX (0744) 54-3340
Reproduction of "Beauty of Asuka"

- **Four Guardian Spirits**
  The four spirit deities guarding the four directions (shishin) were also frequently drawn on the walls of fresco-bearing tumulus graves in China and Korea. The names of these spirits are Seiryu (blue dragon) in the east, Byakko (white tiger) in the west, Suzaku (red bird) in the south, and Genbu (black snake-tortoise) in the north.

- **People in the Frescoes**
  The male shown in the frescoes hold in their hands sunshades (kinugasa), chairs, and pouches containing awards and bows, and also have pouches hang around their necks. The females carry round fans (sashiba), fly swatters, Buddhist-related staffs of authority (nyo) etc. Figures of both sexes depict handomely attired attendants.

- **Replica of grave goods**
  Reproduction of excavated grave goods are on display

- **STAR CHARTS**
  The ceiling of the crypt is dotted with small bits of gold leaf, which are in turn jointed in various patterns by reddish umbilical lines in such a way as to represent star charts with twenty-eight constellations.

**Chronological chart of Asuka Period**

- 538 Introduction of Buddhism
- 574 Birth of Prince Shotoku
- 588 Construction of Asuka-dera
- 592 Soga-no-Umako responsible for killing emperor Sushun
- 600 First embassy to Sui China, sending of army to Silla
- 604 Prince Shotoku completes "17 Article Constitution"
- 630 First embassy to Tang China
- 645 Beginning of Taika Reforms
- Naka-no-Oe defeats Soga
- 668 Prince Naka-no-Oe officially assume throne (Tenji Tenno)
- 670 Household registers are made
- 672 Prince Omma (Tenmu Tenno) defeats Prince Otomo
- 681 Decision to begin codification of ritsuryo legal system and to compile a national history
- 689 Establishment of Asuka Kiyomihara-ryo legal code
- 694 Fujiwara-no-miya
- 701 Establishment of Taiho-ryo
- 710 Transfer the capital to Heijo