

**Project for Experiencing  
Japanese Culture /Japanese  
Elementary School Life  
at an Old Schoolhouse**

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**Council for Utano-Uda Regional  
Development  
@ World Maple Park 'Hirara'**

# Uda City, Nara Prefecture

Uda City is situated in the Yamato Plateau in the northeastern Nara Prefecture. The population of the city is about 32000. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 Uda City was created from the unification of the towns of Ouda, Utano, Haibara and the village of Muro.

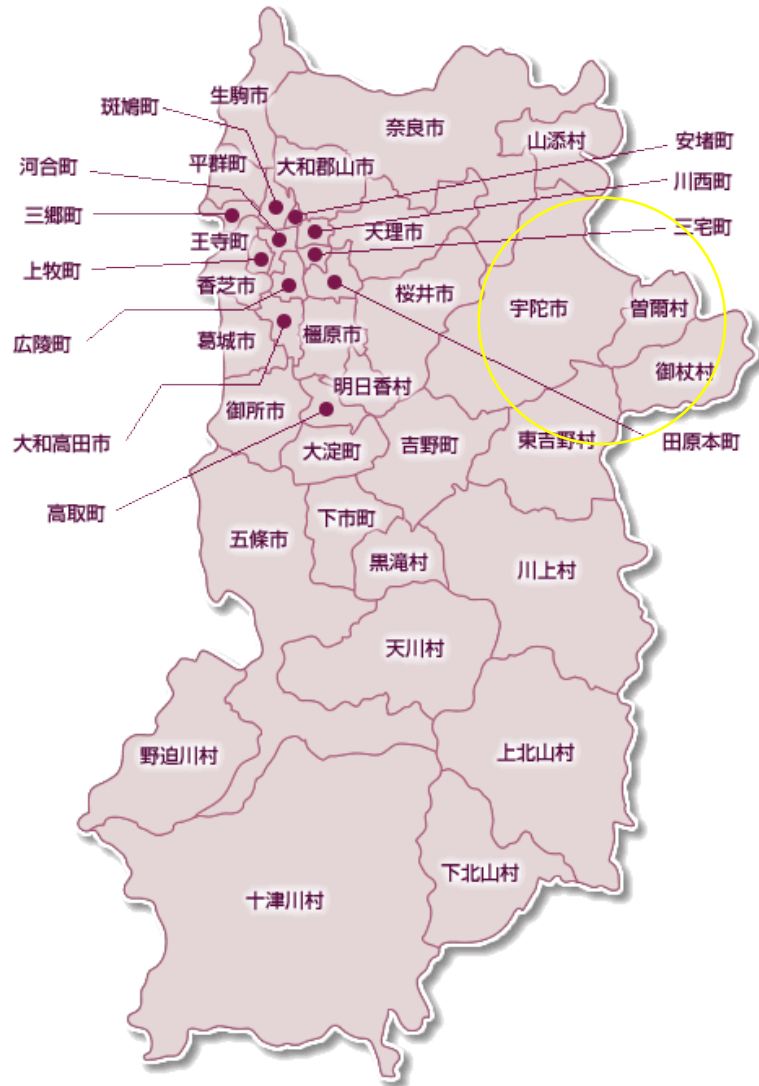
Uda is a very historic city, whose name has existed since the Manyo era (8<sup>th</sup> century). Uda has many cultural heritage sites including Muro-ji Temple, and there still remains a quaint historic atmosphere of the old castle town, and a post-station town for Ise Pilgrimage Road. Regarding the transportation, Uda is easily accessible from Japan's major cities; there are three train stations (Kintetsu Osaka Line) connected to Kyoto, Osaka, Nagoya, and Ise. If you come to Uda City by car, the nearest interchange is Hari (Meihan Expressway), which is just an hour drive from Osaka Matsubara Junction.

As situated in the Yamato Plateau, and also near the source of Yamato River and Yodo River, Uda is blessed with a richness of nature, clear water and fresh air. You can see the beauty of nature throughout the year: cherry blossoms are in abundance in various places in spring, iris and crepe myrtle bloom in summer, autumn leaves bring color to the mountains, and snow covers five-storied pagoda beautifully at Muro-ji Temple in winter.

(Cited from the official website of Uda City)

Introduce Japanese culture from Uta to the world!

# The Project for Experiencing Japanese Culture/Elementary School Life at an Old Schoolhouse @World Maple Park 'Hirara'



## World Maple Park 'Hirara' (former Uta Elementary School)

The former Uta Elementary School, which had been built in 1935 and closed in March 2006, was renovated into the World Maple Park, where 3000 maple trees with 1200 different species from around the world grow in the school yard. This is the only 'Maple Botanical Garden' in Japan where you can see a variety of maple trees throughout the year. The schoolhouse remains unchanged and now it is used as a café restaurant, and an event space.

Experience Japanese traditional culture/ elementary school life.

Interact with locals regardless of age or nationality.

Vitalize the region by conveying the appeal of Uda City to the world.

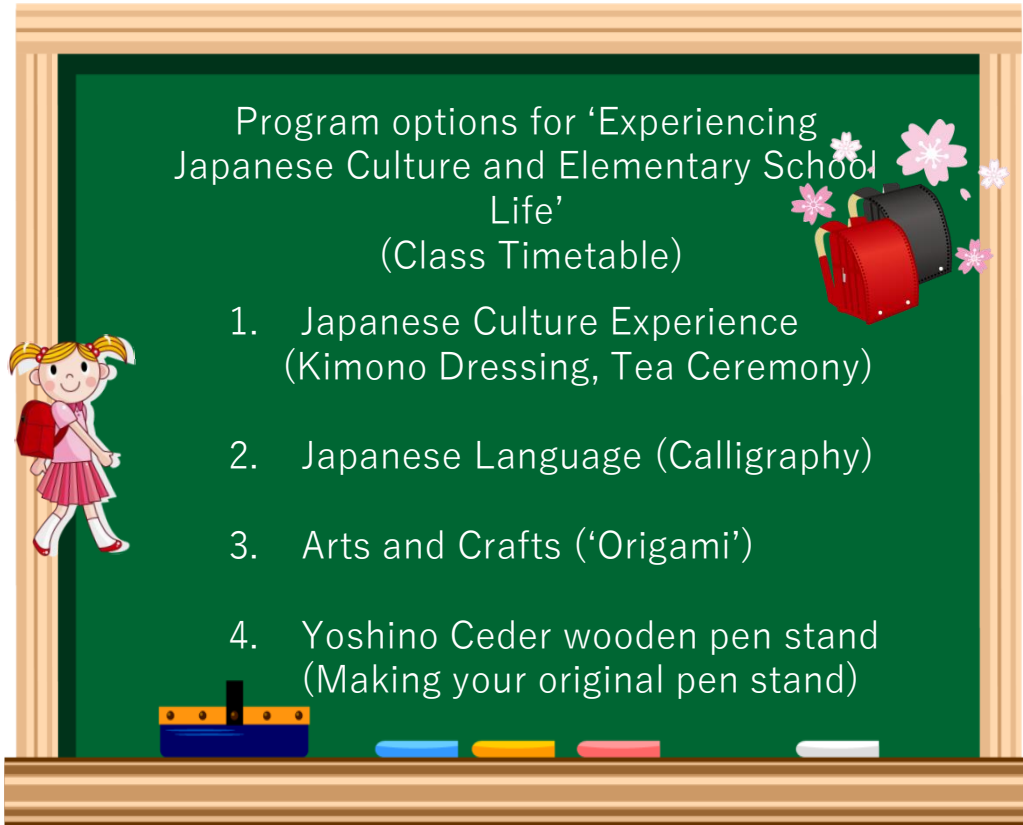
Introduce Japanese culture from Utano to the world!

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# Experience Programs

We offer four program options for 'Experiencing Japanese Culture and Elementary School Life'. In the 'Elementary School Life Experience', you can carry a traditional Japanese school bag called 'Randoseru' (a leather backpack). This will make you feel like a kid again!



Program options for 'Experiencing Japanese Culture and Elementary School Life'  
(Class Timetable)

1. Japanese Culture Experience (Kimono Dressing, Tea Ceremony)
2. Japanese Language (Calligraphy)
3. Arts and Crafts ('Origami')
4. Yoshino Cedar wooden pen stand (Making your original pen stand)



## 1. Japanese Culture Experience (Kimono Dressing)

Day: Wednesday, Friday

Class Size: 3 -15 people

Required Time : 20 minutes for dressing/person

2-hour walking tour at the World Maple Park (The only maple garden in Japan) and Uta Mikumari Shrine (whose main shrine building was built in 1320 and has been designated as a national treasure.)



## 2. Japanese Culture Experience (Tea Ceremony)

Day: Wednesday, Friday

Class size: 3-15 people

Required Time: 1 hour

Up to 3 people can try kimono dressing experience as well.

# Experience Programs



## 2. Japanese Language (Calligraphy)

Day: Tuesday-Sunday  
(This facility is closed on Monday. If a public holiday falls on a Monday it is closed on Tuesday.)  
Class size: 4-20 people  
Required time: 1 hour



## 3. Arts and Crafts ('Origami')

Day: Tuesday-Sunday  
(This facility is closed on Monday. If a public holiday falls on a Monday it is closed on Tuesday.)  
Class size: 4-20 people  
Required time: 1 hour



## 4. Yoshino Cedar Pen stand

Day: Tuesday-Sunday  
(This facility is closed on Monday. If a public holiday falls on a Monday it is closed on Tuesday.)  
Class size: under 20 people  
Required time: 1 hour

**Any combination of programs is available according to your budget and length of your stay at this park.**

**Please feel free to contact us.**

## Experience Programs

Traditional Japanese school meal can be offered for lunch. (Advance reservation required.)



(Let us know if you have any food allergies.)

-This lunch features 'Koppe-pan', a signature roll of an old bakery established in 1946.



### <History of school lunch in Japan>

Japan's school lunch program originally started in 1889 at a private elementary school in Yamagata Prefecture,. This program was extended to all elementary schools in Japan in 1952. School lunch has become a culture that is unique to Japan.

### <Contact Us>

DMC Japan / KNT-CT Global Travel CO., LTD.  
Sumitomo-shoji Kanda-Izumi-cho Bldg., 13F, 1-13, Kanda-  
Izumi-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 101-0024, Japan  
Tel: +81 3 6891 9200 | Fax: +81 3 6891 9205

dmcjapan@or.knt.co.jp  
<http://www.dmcjapan-knt.com/>