

Garden Locations

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Tokyo Metropolitan Gardens

Designated Administrator Public Interest Incorporated Foundation Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

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- Kyu-Iwasaki-tei Gardens
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<http://teien.tokyo-park.or.jp/en/index.html>

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1 Hama-rikyu Gardens

Special Place of Scenic Beauty and Special Historic Site



No trip to Japan would be complete without a visit to Hama-rikyu Gardens, an oasis in the heart of Tokyo's busy, skyscraper district.

The Edo period is alive and well inside the garden's walls with more than 60 acres of natural beauty and 300 years' worth of history to enjoy.

For many people the heart of the gardens is its saltwater pond, whose tide rises and falls along with the sea levels of the Tokyo bay. The gardens originally had four tea houses around its pond which were frequented by shoguns and imperial court nobles: The Matsu tea house - a faithful reconstruction of the original -, the Nakajima tea house which was restored in 1983, the Tsubame tea house that was restored in 2015 and the Taka tea house which was restored in 2018.

Each season in the gardens sees a different assortment of flowers come into bloom. Plum blossoms flower in early March, shortly followed by cherry blossoms in late March and mid April. From late November to early December the maple, ginkgo and wax trees show their true colours.

English volunteer tour guides are available on Saturday and Monday mornings. Visitors can also board a water bus from the



Nakajima tea house

Cross the Ostutai bridge to Nakajima, the island with its own tea house. Here you can enjoy one of the finest garden views with a cup of powdered green tea and Japanese sweets.



300-year-old pine

Planted as part of the renovations made to the gardens by the sixth Shogun Ienobu, this black pine is one of the largest and oldest pine trees in Tokyo.

🏠 1-1 HAMA-RIKYU TEIEN, CHUO-KU, TOKYO
☎ 03-3541-0200
🚶 TOEI OEDO LINE, SHIODOME STA./TSUKIJI-SHIJO STA. (7 MIN. WALK)
¥ ADMISSION: GENERAL: ¥300 OVER 65: ¥150
🕒 9:00~17:00 (ENTRY TILL 16:30) CLOSED 12/29~1/1



2 Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens

Place of Scenic Beauty

Kyu-Shiba-rikyu is regarded by many as being one of the most beautiful gardens in Tokyo, and it's one of only two surviving Edo period clan gardens in the capital. It is a classic Japanese strolling garden, within walking distance of Hama-rikyu Gardens and Tokyo Tower. While the nearby Hama-rikyu is over five times its size, Kyu-Shiba-rikyu can be enjoyed in a shorter time and at a more relaxed pace.

The garden is centred around its freshwater pond which can be crossed using Nakajima island, connected on one side by a wooden bridge, and on the other by an impressive stone embankment, modeled after the famous Suti causeway in Lake Seiko, eastern China. The centre of the island is the perfect place to pause, reflect and feel at one with nature.

Kyu-Shiba-rikyu is filled with man-made hills which give excellent views of the environs, the highest hill Oyama however provides a full, panoramic view. Cherry blossom enthusiasts should make their way down to the gardens from early April, while for those in search of brilliant autumnal colours, the end of November is the best time to visit



Seiko-no-tsutsumi

This steadfast embankment known as Seiko no tsutsumi in Japanese can be comfortably crossed, unlike the original in China which is 2 km long.



Wisteria Trellis

The aromatic wisteria trellis greets visitors upon their entrance to the gardens. The plant comes into bloom from late April to early May each year.

🏠 1-4-1 KAIGAN, MINATO-KU, TOKYO
☎ 03-3434-4029
🚶 JR YAMANOTE LINE, HAMAMATSUCHO STA. NORTH EXIT (1 MIN. WALK)
¥ GENERAL: ¥150 OVER 65: ¥70
🕒 9:00~17:00 (ENTRY TILL 16:30) CLOSED 12/29~1/1

3 Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens

Special Historic Site and Special Place of Scenic Beauty



A large surviving Edo period clan garden in Tokyo with one of the most beautifully-preserved landscapes. Construction of the garden was started by the feudal lord Tokugawa Yorifusa back in 1629, and completed in the hands of its successive owner Tokugawa Mitsukuni with the help of a Confucian scholar from China.

This Chinese influence is keenly felt throughout the garden and gives Korakuen its own unique ambience. Some elements have been imported from Chinese gardens —such as the full moon bridge— others take direct inspiration from real locations, such as the Seiko embankment which was modelled after a causeway in Western China.

Unlike many, typically flat promenade style gardens Korakuen is a garden of many hills and levels with winding paths that lead to extraordinary views. The garden is centred on a large pond, but has many stone pathways which lead off to groves, fields or scenic spots which visitors can enjoy in almost perfect calm. Mid-March to early April is the best time to visit for plum and cherry blossom viewing, while in November the garden enjoys many visitors who have come to see its colourful autumnal leaves.



Engetsu-kyo

The arch of this magnificent full moon bridge completes the appearance of a full circle in its reflection.



Tsutenkyo

This vermilion bridge is for many the most recognizable sight within Korakuen, and from above it offers a marvellous view of the embankment and the surrounding area.

🏠 1-6-6 KORAKU, BUNKYO-KU, TOKYO
☎ 03-3811-3015
🚶 TOEI OEDO LINE, IIDABASHI STA. EXIT C3 (3 MIN. WALK)
¥ GENERAL: ¥300 OVER 65: ¥150
🕒 9:00~17:00 (ENTRY TILL 16:30) CLOSED 12/29~1/1

4 Rikugien Gardens

Special Place of Scenic Beauty



There's poetry in the air in this enchanting Edo style garden, whose name was taken from the six types of classic Japanese *waka* poetry. Rikugien was established in the Genroku era by Yoshiyasu Yanagisawa on land given to him by the fifth Shogun Tokugawa Tsunayoshi. Strolling around a garden of such beauty you can easily imagine yourself walking in the footsteps of the dignitaries and artisans of the Edo period.

32 of its original 88 stone markers remain throughout the grounds to indicate viewpoints of special beauty or interest. The central island, *Naka-no-shima* is very much the centre point of many of these views, but Rikugien's most memorable views are of its wonderfully **picturesque bridges**. The highest point in the garden at 35 metres tall is the *Fujishiro-toge* hill, which offers the best uninterrupted view of the landscape.

A variety of flowers bloom in the garden all year round. **Cherry blossom season** toward the end of March is an especially popular period, and in late November/early December Rikugien attracts a large number of visitors to see its famous autumn foliage and evening illuminations.



Fukiage tea house

Here visitors can enjoy traditional Japanese sweets and a cup of powdered green tea, whilst gazing out at the pond from one of the best views of the garden.



Takimi tea house

This former tea house is now an arbour which sits next to an inlet and a rock pool. Take a moment here to relax, and let the sound of the water from the cascade wash over you.

📍 6-16-3 HON-KOMAGOME, BUNKYO-KU, TOKYO
☎ 03-3941-2222
🚶 JR YAMANOTE/NAMBOKU LINES, KOMAGOME STA. (7 MIN. WALK)
¥ GENERAL: ¥300 OVER 65: ¥150
🕒 9:00~17:00 (ENTRY TILL 16:30) CLOSED 12/29~1/1



5 Kyu-Iwasaki-tei Gardens

Important Cultural Property

This exquisite garden and estate from the Meiji era is the former mansion of the Iwasaki clan, the founders of the Mitsubishi group. With many grand buildings in Tokyo lost due to fire, earthquakes and war, these beautifully preserved grounds have rightfully been designated a national cultural heritage site.

Gardens have existed on these grounds since the Edo period, but it wasn't until 1896 that a full number of residences were completed for its new owner Hisaya Iwasaki, son of Mitsubishi founder Yataro Iwasaki. The estate contains both Japanese and Western-style buildings side by side, the latter designed by renowned British architect Josiah Conder.

The largest of the remaining buildings in the magnificent **Western residence**. The interior is decorated in the delightful Jacobean style, and features beautiful coffered wood ceilings and tile designs on its fireplaces. The single-story **Japanese residence** — built in the *Shoin* style — can be reached directly from the Western residence. In here visitors enjoy sweets, cups of powdered green Japanese tea, and can see artwork from masterful Meiji era painter Gaho Hashimoto. This residence leads on to the gardens, which contain original stone pathways, stone lanterns and the Josiah Conder-designed billiard room.



Veranda

The garden can be freely explored on foot, however the most impressive and expansive view of the garden is from the second floor of the Western mansion.



Billiard room

This wooden cabin was built in the style of a Swiss mountain lodge, a style rarely seen in Japan. Visitors can admire its delicate wood works and restored *Kinkarakami* wallpaper (Japanese leather paper.)

📍 1-3-45 IKENOHATA, TAITO-KU, TOKYO
☎ 03-3823-8340
🚶 CHIYODA LINE, YUSHIMA STA. EXIT 1 (3 MIN. WALK)
¥ GENERAL: ¥400 OVER 65: ¥200
🕒 9:00~17:00 (ENTRY TILL 16:30) CLOSED 12/29~1/1

6 Mukojima-Hyakkaen Gardens

Place of Scenic Beauty and Historic Site



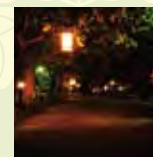
As the only surviving flower garden from the Edo period, this garden holds a special place in Japanese history. Frequenting by Shoguns and dignitaries alike and captured in *Ukiyo-e* paintings, it became an Edo-era tourist spot. Mukojima-Hyakkaen Gardens began at a time when all aspects of Japanese society were flourishing. The garden's master Sahara Kiku-u (an antique dealer) established the garden in the period 1804-1830, choosing a name to recall "a garden that is always in bloom throughout the four seasons".

The present day garden has maintained all of its magnificence and contains more varieties of flower than it did in its Edo heyday, with hundreds of flowers, numerous vine and **wisteria trellises**, and a picturesque pond at the far side of the garden. In a nod to the great literature of the Edo period, the garden is decorated with **29 stone monuments** inscribed with nature-themed haiku and classical poetry. Visits to the garden can be combined with day trips to the **Tokyo Sky Tree**, as Mukojima-Hyakkaen is only 2 stops away from the tower by the Tobu Skytree Line.



Hagi tunnel

This remarkable bamboo woven tunnel is covered with the bush clover plant, known in Japanese as *hagi*. It comes into bloom in late September.



Traditional events

Experience traditions handed down from the Edo period such as events dedicated to harvest moon viewing and the arrival of autumn insects.

📍 3-18-3 HIGASHI-MUKOJIMA, SUMIDA-KU, TOKYO
☎ 03-3611-8705
🚶 TOBU SKYTREE LINE, HIGASHI-MUKOJIMA STA. (8 MIN. WALK)
¥ GENERAL: ¥150 OVER 65: ¥70
🕒 9:00~17:00 (ENTRY TILL 16:30) CLOSED 12/29~1/3

7 Kiyosumi Gardens

Place of Scenic Beauty designated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government



A garden of timeless beauty filled with history, wildlife and exquisite stones. Formerly the grounds of feudal lord Kuze Yamatonokami's mansion in the Edo period, Mitsubishi founder Yataro Iwasaki purchased this area and made the beautiful 'Fukagawa Shinboku' garden in the early Meiji period. Iwasaki made a special effort to bring in rocks with beautiful colour and texture from all over Japan to complete the stepping stone pathways — known as *Iso-watari* — in the pond.

These pathways set Kiyosumi aside from other gardens, as they allow visitors the unique experience of stepping across the pond; with carp and herons all within touching distance. The garden contains two buildings which are both currently used as assembly halls: *Taisho Kinenkan* and the magnificent **Ryotei pavilion** which hovers over the far side of the pond. Built as a Sukiya-style teahouse, it was originally constructed in 1909 as a guesthouse for a visiting nobleman and is one of the garden's main focal points.

The garden suffered extensive damage during the Great Kanto earthquake and Second World War, but still remains one of the finest examples of a Meiji era strolling garden.



Ryotei pavilion

Though not available to enter at short notice, the pavilion can be rented out and the view from the platform is second to none.



Fuji-san

While this man-made hill can't be climbed, visitors can enjoy the azalea covered mound when it comes into bloom in May.

🏠 3-3-9 KIYOSUMI, KOTO-KU, TOKYO
☎ 03-3641-5892
🚶 TOEI OEDO/HANZOMON LINES, KIYOSUMI-SHIRAKAWA STA. (3 MIN. WALK)
¥ GENERAL: ¥150 OVER 65: ¥70
🕒 9:00~17:00 (ENTRY TILL 16:30) CLOSED 12/29~1/1



8 Kyu-Furukawa Gardens

Place of Scenic Beauty

Enjoy the full splendour of both a terrace-style **rose garden** and an exquisite Taisho era garden in the same location, the former Furukawa residence in Kita ward. Rarely do Eastern and Western gardens sit side by side, making Kyu-Furukawa a unique place for visitors to experience.

Back in the Meiji era the grounds belonged to Mutsu Munemitsu, a prominent diplomat and politician. The property was later passed on to the Furukawa family where third generation Toranosuke Furukawa enlisted the help of British architect Josiah Conder to design the **Western-style mansion** and garden, while the esteemed master Ogawa Jihei from Kyoto was asked to create the Japanese garden.

The stately Western-style residence is eminently visible from the garden entrance. From there visitors can begin their grand descent through the spectacular scenery of the rose and azalea gardens. This leads on to the **Japanese garden**, which is centred on its pond *Shinji-ike*, created in the shape of the Chinese character for heart (心). Around the pond there is a 10 metre high waterfall *Otaki*, a symbolic 'dry' waterfall, a stone pagoda and numerous grandiose stone lanterns. To catch the spring roses in full bloom visit the garden from mid-May to late June and to see the gorgeous autumn leaves and autumn roses visit the garden from mid-October to early December.



Western-style building

The building now houses the Otani Art Museum Foundation. Entry into the house requires special permission, which can be obtained by sending a self-addressed postcard to the gardens.



Viewing platform on Musashino Hill

This viewing platform offers a view of both gardens that's guaranteed to take your breath away.

🏠 1-27-39 NISHIGAHARA, KITA-KU, TOKYO
☎ 03-3910-0394
🚶 NAMBOKU LINE, NISHIGAHARA STA. (7 MIN. WALK)
¥ GENERAL: ¥150 OVER 65: ¥70
🕒 9:00~17:00 (ENTRY TILL 16:30) CLOSED 12/29~1/1

9 Tonogayato Gardens

Place of Scenic Beauty



Located in Kokubunji on the West side of the city, these gardens are something of a well-kept secret, far away from the hustle and bustle of central Tokyo. A villa was first built on these grounds in the Taisho era for its original owner, a magnate by the name of Teijo Eguchi. But it wasn't until 1934 that its successive owner Hikoyata Iwasaki completed the western-style residence, the **Koyo tea ceremony building** and the layout as we see it today.

With the pond sitting off to the left of the grounds, the layout of the gardens may seem a little off-centre; but this was done to take advantage of the slope from the Musashino valley. The *Koyo* pavilion is perfectly positioned at the top of this plateau, with unmissable views of the **Jirobenten pond** and surrounding area.

From here visitors can progress around the gardens in a clockwise direction taking in the waterfall, the natural spring, the **bamboo grove**, and a feast of flora. Tonogayato's seasonal delights include the blooming wisteria trellis in late April, and the tunnel of bush clover plants in mid-September.



Koyo pavilion view

The view from the pavilion is magical all year round, but at its most photogenic in late November when the maple trees reach the peak of their Autumn colours.



Main residence

The former second house of the Iwasaki clan is now partially dedicated as an exhibition room to documenting their history, with information boards, timelines photographs, and a detailed family tree.

🏠 2-16 MINAMI-CHO, KOKUBUNJI-SHI, TOKYO
☎ 042-324-7991
🚶 JR CHUO LINE, KOKUBUNJI STA. SOUTH EXIT (2 MIN. WALK)
¥ GENERAL: ¥150 OVER 65: ¥70
🕒 9:00~17:00 (ENTRY TILL 16:30) CLOSED 12/29~1/1