



A deep ravine still remains in O-edo (Tokyo)

In the early Edo Period, in 1629, the founder of the Mito Tokugawa family, Yorifusa, maintained a separate Edo residence, the garden of which was completed during the reign of the second clan ruler, Mitsukuni. This garden features a central pond and hills, making it perfect for a stroll. When Mitsukuni set about constructing the garden, he incorporated some concepts of the Chinese Confucian scholar Shushunsi of the Ming dynasty, including a garden reproduction of Seiko Lake (China), a "Full Moon Bridge" and other features with cultural origins in China.

The name of the garden, "Korakuen," came from a Chinese text in Hanchuen's "Gakuyoro-ki" admired by Mitsukuni which said that there is "a need for those in power to worry about maintaining power first and then enjoy power later." Thus, the name Korakuen, meaning "the garden for enjoying power later on," was chosen.

Under the terms of the Law for Preservation of Cultural Assets, Koishikawa Korakuen has been designated an important historical asset and site of special historical significance. This double designation has been given only to such important sites as Koishikawa Korakuen, Hama Detached Palace, Kinkakuji, etc.

Park location: 1-6-6 Koraku, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-0004

Area: 70,847.17m²

Inauguration as a garden: April 3, 1938

Hours: Open from 9:00 to 17:00 (Entry until 16:30)

Closed: Year-end holidays (December 29 to January 1)

Entrance fee: ¥300 (Persons 65 and over: ¥150)

(No charge for primary school children or younger, and junior high school students living or attending school in Tokyo)

Related facilities: Kantoku-tei

Western-style rooms: 1 (40 persons); 3 (15 persons)

Japanese-style rooms: 1 (20 persons); 1 (10 persons)

Contact: Koishikawa Korakuen garden Office Tel: 03-3811-3015

Access: Toei O-edo Line, Iidabashi Sta. (2 minutes on foot)

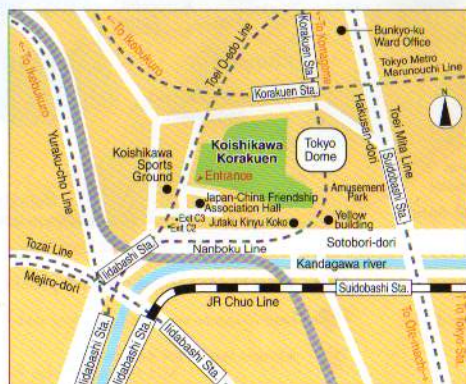
JR Sobu Line, Iidabashi Sta. (8 minutes on foot)

Tokyo Metro Tozai Line/Yuraku-cho Line/Namboku Line, Iidabashi Sta. (8 minutes on foot)

*No parking available

小石川後樂園

Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens



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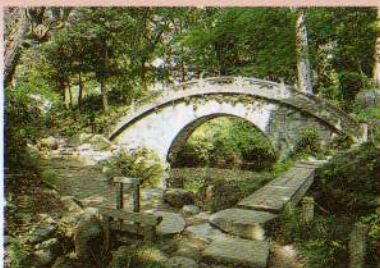
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小石川後樂園

Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens



A famous garden connected with Mito Komon



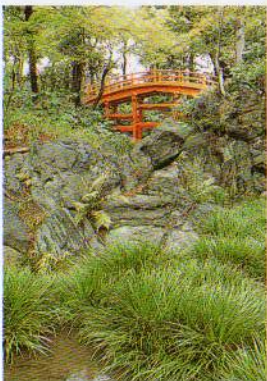
Engetsu-kyo (Full Moon Bridge)

The reflection of the bridge in the pond produces a full circle with the appearance of a full moon. The design of this bridge is said to have been created by the Confucian scholar, Shu shunsi of the Ming dynasty. It has important historical significance because, along with the Tokujin-do, it has survived in its original form and provides a glimpse of the early Edo Period.



Tokujin-do

When Mitsukuni was 18 years of age, he read the "Hakui Retsuden" story from the Chinese historical work called "Shiki" and, thoroughly impressed, decided to enshrine his wooden statue in this temple.



Tsutenkyo

The red leaves of mid-November set off the vermilion color of this bridge.

Weeping Cherry

This weeping cherry tree is approximately 60 years old and when in bloom, adds a very beautiful touch to the garden.



Guide Service Meeting Place
 Volunteer guides are available on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays to lead visitors around the gardens starting at 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. There is no charge for this service. (Japanese only)

Flower Calendar

- Japanese apricot (*Prunus mume*): Early February to late February
- Cherry blossom (*Prunus*): Late March to mid-April
- Wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*): Late April
- Azalea (*Rhododendron*): Late April to mid-June
- Rabbit-ear iris (*Iris laevigata*): Early May to mid-May
- Iris (*Iris ensata*): Early June to mid-June
- Water lily (*Nymphaea*): May to September
- Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*): Late July to mid-August
- Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*): Mid-November to late November

Home page: Home page updated with the latest information; <http://www.tokyo-park.or.jp>



Bairin (Ume grove)

Mitsukuni loved ume blossoms (*Prunus mume*) so much that he named this grove "Bairin" (The Home of ume). Including red ume and white ume, there are 20 different types of blooming ume trees in the grove.



Iris

In the latter part of June, irises occupying a plot of about 1,000m² (660 plants) are in bloom. When the ume trees are in bloom, they give the garden the appearance of an idyllic country scene.



Naitei (Inner garden)

This is the area of the garden where the Mito Clan maintained a "shoin"-style guesthouse. In the past, this area was separated from the pond part of the garden as a separate garden by the use of a Chinese-style gate.

EVENTS

- Bamboo Craft Sessions (May)
- Rice Paddy Planting (May)
- Tanabata Festival (July)
- Rice harvesting (September)
- Warabotchi Class (November)
- Snow-ropes Put on Pines (December to February)
- Ume Blossom Festival (February)

*Events and guide service in the garden are subject to cancellation due to bad weather.