

This garden is one of a pair of feudal era clan gardens surviving in Edo (modern-day Tokyo). The other is Koishikawa Korakuen Garden. The Shiba Detached Palace Garden is a classic, strolling, spring-fed garden pond-centered garden featuring rock and land formations. The land on which the garden is located was originally under the shallows of Edo Bay, but from 1655 to 1658, this area was reclaimed and in 1678, came to be used for the official residence of Okubo Tadatomo, an official of the ruling Tokugawa Shogunate. When Okubo built his samurai style residence, he brought garden designers from his clan fief in the Odawara area to Edo to build the garden that became known as "Rakujuen." This residence passed through the hands of several persons and finally, during the final years of the Tokugawa Shogunate, it became the official residence of the Kishu branch of the Tokugawa family. In the 4th year of the Meiji Period (1871), it became the residence of the Arisugawa-no-miya family. It was purchased by the Imperial Household Agency in 1875 and became the Shiba Detached Palace. In the Great Kanto Earthquake that occurred on September 1, 1923, the ensuing fires consumed the building and virtually all the trees. In January 1924, as part of the commemorations of the beginning of the reign of the Showa Emperor, the property was given to the City of Tokyo. The garden was restored and the grounds were opened to the public in April of the same year. In June 1979, the garden was officially designated by the national government as a place of scenic beauty and special historic interest.

旧芝離宮恩賜庭園 Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens

Date of inauguration as a park: April 20, 1924

Area: 43,070.53m²

Main plants: Japanese Black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*), camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*), azalea (*Rhododendron indicum*), machilus thunbergii (*Machilus thunbergii*), iris (*Iris ensata*), balloonflower (*Platycodon grandiflorus*), clavagellaceae (*Crinum latifolium*), wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*), Leopard plant (*Farfugium japonicum*), and spider lilies (*Lycoris radiata*)

Wild birds: Resident birds: Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Spot-billed duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)

Migrating birds: Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) etc.

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

Closed: Year-end holidays (December 29 to January 3)

Entrance fee: ¥150 (Persons 65 and over: ¥70)

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

*20% discount for groups of 20 persons or more

Related facilities: Japanese archery range (9:00 to 16:00: ¥140/hour).

*Equipment not provided. No instruction personnel available.

*For more details, please contact the office.

Park location: 1-4-1 Kaigan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0022

Contact: Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Garden Office

Tel: 03-3434-4029

Access: JR Hamamatsu-cho Sta. North Exit (1 minute on foot)

Toei Asakusa Line/O-Edo Line, Daimon Sta. (5 minutes on foot) A-09, E-20

Yuri-kamome Line, Takeshiba Sta. (10 minutes on foot)

*No parking available



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The Scenic Park

Kyu Shiba ri kyū on shi tei en

旧芝離宮恩賜庭園

Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens





Snow-viewing Stone lantern



Garden pond



Seiko Lake Embankment



Oyama Hill



The island of Nakajima viewed from the Yatsuhashi Bridge



Sensui

The central feature of this garden is the pond (approximately 9,000m²). In former times, seawater was brought in to fill it, but it is now a freshwater pond. There are two small islands in the pond, Nakajima and Ukishima, which symbolize the ocean and lakes. There is also a sandy beach-like area (Suhama) in one corner of the pond.

Seiko-no-tsutsumi

This part of the garden was designed and built to be reminiscent of Seiko Lake (Xi Hu) in Hangzhou (today's Zhejiang), China. The rock configurations on Nakajima near the end of embankment were put in place during the early period when the garden was known as Raku-juen.

Nakajima

This island in the pond can be described the visual focal point of the garden. In China, the real Saiko Lake was a place inhabited by holy men and Reizan, a nearby sacred mountain, was said to have mythical powers to prevent aging and bring about immortality. Its form, recreated with stones, is located on Nakajima.

Oyama

"Oyama" is the highest of the various garden hills and provides a good vantage point to look down on the garden. Oyama is connected to other hills on its right and left and the overall effect of this garden hill chain is best viewed from the opposite side of the pond.

Karetaki

Using rock materials, a "waterless waterfall" was created as part of the design. The symbolic path of the flow of the water from this dry waterfall also functions as a footpath for viewing the garden and adds to the enjoyment of the visual image rendered with stone.

Tabu-no-ki (*Machilus thunbergii*)

Tabu-no-ki grows in warm coastal areas. The branches of these trees grow into a hemispheric shape resembling a bowl turned upside down. They can be viewed here in the Kyu-Shiba-rikyu and in the grounds of the Hama-rikyu.

Wisteria Trellis

There is a large wisteria trellis at the entrance to the gardens. Around the beginning of May, large clusters of these lavender blossoms hang down from the trellis and the aroma of wisteria wafts through the air.



FLOWER CALENDAR

SPRING Wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*), azalea (*Rhododendron indicum*), spiraea (*Spiraea thunbergii*), cherry blossom (*Prunus*)

SUMMER Iris (*Iris ensata*), balloonflower (*Platycodon grandiflorus*), Crinum (*Crinum asiaticum*)

FALL Red leaves (dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Winged spindle tree (*Euonymus alatus*), wax tree (*Rhus succedanea*), maple (*Acer palmatum*), zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*), Cherry blossom (*Prunus*), Spider lilies (*Lycoris radiata*), Leopard plant (*Farfugium japonicum*)

WINTER Japanese apricot (*Prunus mume*), narcissus (*Narcissus*)



A STROLL THROUGH EDO