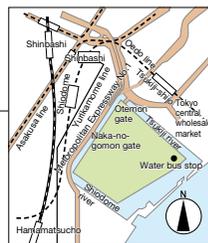


07

Hama-rikyu Gardens

Administrator ■ Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

- Location Hama-Rikyu Teien, Chuo Ward
- Contact Information Hama-rikyu Gardens Administration Office tel: 03-3541-0200 (1-1 Hama-rikyu Teien, Chuo-ku 104-0046)
- Transport Otomon gate: 7-minute walk from Shiodome (Oedo line, Yurikamome line) or Tsukiji-shijo (Oedo line).
12-minute walk from Shinbashi (JR Yamanote line, Asakusa line, Ginza line).
Naka-no-gomon gate: 5-minute walk from Shiodome (Oedo line, Yurikamome line). 15-minute walk from Hamamatsu-cho (JR Yamanote line).
Tokyo Mizube Cruising Line: (Asakusa (Nitenmon) ↔ Ryogoku ↔ Hamarikyu ↔ Odaiba Marine Park) or Water-bus for Asakusa via Hinode-sanbashi pier. Toll parking facilities available (Available to tour buses and handicapped passengers)
*Extra fee is charged to use the water bus dock of Tokyo Mizube Line..
- Closed December 29 to January 1
- Open 9 am to 4:30 pm (gates close at 5 pm)
- Admission General: 300 yen, Seniors 65 and older: 150 yen (Primary school and younger children / Jr. high school students living or studying in Tokyo: Free)
- Free days Greenery Day (May 4), Tokyo Citizens Day (October 1)
Parking (For tour busses and disabled visitors) Privately operated toll parking lots are also available.



This typical Edo era feudal lord's garden features a tidal pond and two duck hunting grounds. Functioning as an outer fort for Edo castle, the gardens even today retain a castle wall structure. As the pond is a tidal pond, its features change with the tide. This was often incorporated in ocean-side gardens.

Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens, Kiyosumi Gardens, and Kyu-Yasuda Gardens all had tidal ponds in the past. But Hama-rikyu Gardens are the only ones to still use seawater, among the gardens that exist from the Edo period. The gardens are separated into two main sections: the south gardens centering on the feudal lord's garden and the simple north gardens built after the Meiji era on the remains of a mansion.

This once reed-covered area was a hawking ground for the shogun's family until the Kansei period of 1624 to 1644. The first person to build a mansion here was fourth shogun Ietsuna's younger brother Tsunashige Matsudaira, chancellor of Kofu. Tsunashige received the land as a gift from the shogun in 1654. He then reclaimed land from the sea to build a villa known as the Kofuhama mansion. With Tsunashige's son Tsunatoyo (later Ienobu) became the sixth shogun, the mansion became the property of the shogun's family. The name was changed then to Hama palace.

Over the years, various shoguns built gardens and made improvements. The current form of the gardens was completed in about the time of the 11th shogun, Ienari.

After the Meiji Restoration, the gardens became a detached palace for the imperial family, with the name being changed to Hama-rikyu (Hama detached palace) then. The scenery of that time has changed dramatically with the destruction of buildings and trees such as the teahouse and gate in the Great Kanto Earthquake and bombings of World War II.

The gardens were donated to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government on November 3, 1945. After development work, they were opened as fee-based gardens on April 1, 1946. The gardens were designated a scenic and historic spot under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in December 1948. And in November 1952, the area including the surrounding waters (32.4-hectare area) was designated a national special scenic and historic spot.

Shiouri no Ike Pond

The water in the pond is seawater. Locks are opened and closed according to the rise and fall of sea levels on Tokyo Bay, adjusting the flow of water in and out of the pond. The pond is home to marine fish such as the flathead grey mullet. Crabs and wharf roaches with barnacles can be found crawling on the rocks around the shore. Birds such as white and grey herons are also seen dancing across the water.



Tidal pond and Nakajima-no-Ochaya on the middle island

Duck hunting grounds

There are two duck hunting grounds here, Koshindo and Shinzenza. The former was built in 1778, the latter in 1791. The ponds and woods of the hunting grounds are surrounded by a three-meter embankment densely planted with evergreens and bamboo. That way, ducks could be isolated from the outside and rest easily. Numerous narrow trenches are dug along the pond. Peering from blinds, hunters would use bait such as grasses and seeds and some decoy domestic ducks to lure the ducks into the trenches. They would wait for chance to scoop up the birds with a net from the shadows of the embankment.



Blinds in the Koshindo duck hunting ground and narrow trenches

Opened / April 1, 1946 Area / 250,215.72 m² Trees / Tall trees: 6,100, Shrubs: 28,500 m², Grass: 38,900 m²

Main plants / Japanese apricot, black pine, cherry (sato-zakura), crape myrtle, persea, Japanese wax tree, wisteria, acer palmatum, hydrangea, satsuki azalea, camellia, cosmos, rape blossoms, Japanese iris, peony

Facilities / Gathering halls (Hobai-tei, island tea house)

Duck mound

This burial mound was built on November 5, 1935 to appease the spirits of ducks that were hunted in the gardens.

Otsutaibashi bridge & island teahouse

Otsutaibashi bridge connects the shore of the tidal pond with an island in the middle. The island holds a teahouse; and the reflection of the bridge and teahouse on the water are spectacular. Once having a view of the far-off Boso peninsula, it was used to get away from the heat of summer nights, and to watch the moon. The present-day teahouse was reconstructed in 1983, and one can enjoy green tea and sweets here (charges apply for food and beverages).



Shioirino Ike Pond and Ochaya (from left to right: Nakajimano Ochaya, Takano Ochaya, and Matsuno Ochaya)

Gardens guide

Volunteers will guide you on the history and highlights of the gardens. Tours are held at 11 am and 2 pm Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. (No charge)

Matsuno Ochaya, Tsubameno Ochaya, Takano Ochaya

These are teahouses built during the 11th Tokugawa Shogun lenari regime. Though they'd been burnt in wars, after research on the remains of the foundation stones, Matsuno Ochaya was restored in 2010, Tsubameno Ochaya in 2014, and Takano Ochaya in 2017. The restoration work, faithful to historical documents, revived a landscape that brings back its old days. (More information on the restoration of Takano Ochaya on page 106.)

Three-hundred-year pine

This pine tree was planted by the sixth shogun, Ienobu, to commemorate the major renovation of the gardens. The thick branches spread out low, creating an imposing view.



Three-hundred-year pine

