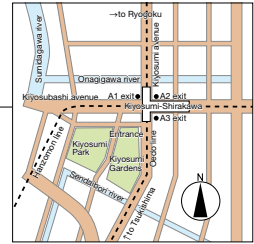


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Kiyosumi Gardens

Administrator ■ Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

- Location Kiyosumi 2/ 3-chome, Koto Ward
- Contact Information Kiyosumi Gardens Administration Office tel: 03-3641-5892 (3-3-9 Kiyosumi, Koto-ku 135-0024)
- Transport 3-minute walk from A3 exit of Kiyosumi-Shirakawa (Oedo line, Hanzomon line)
- Closed December 29 to January 1
- Open 9 am to 4:30 pm (gates close at 5 pm)
- Admission General: 150 yen, Seniors 65 and older: 70 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)



Kiyosumi Gardens are a type of Japanese garden with woods and paths around a pond that features artificial hills and a dry garden. That technique was first used in the gardens of feudal lords, and passed down to Meiji era gardening. It gained its modern matured form through Kiyosumi Gardens.

This area is said to have been the site of the mansion of wealthy Edo era merchant Bunzaemon Kinokuniya. It became the villa of Kuzeyama-to-no-kami, lord of Shimousanokuni Sekiyado in the Kyoho era (1716-1736). The gardens were probably formed to some extent at that time.

In 1878, Mitsubishi founder Yataro Iwasaki bought the dilapidated residence. He planned a garden that would be a site for his employees' recreation and to invite dignitaries. "Fukagawa Shimbokuen," as it was called, was completed for the most part in 1880. Work on the gardens continued after Yataro's death. A large pond using water drawn from the Sumidagawa River was created, and famous stones from around Japan were arranged. With that, a form of Japanese garden representative of the Meiji era was completed.

The gardens suffered heavy damage in the fires after the Great Kanto Earthquake. While not designed for that purpose, they served as an evacuation area after the earthquake, saving the lives of many people. The Iwasaki family saw the benefits of such gardens in disaster prevention, donating the east half that had little damage (the current gardens) to Tokyo City in 1924. The city developed that as a park that opened in July 1932.

The site adjacent to the west side of the gardens was added and opened in 1977 as a park. That area has features such as a grassy field and teahouse. It also has 20 cherry trees, making it a popular place for cherry blossom viewing in the spring. The garden part was designated a scenic spot by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government on March 31, 1979.

Pond

Three islands are situated on this wide pond, the main attraction of the gardens with its islands, sukiya-style building, and trees reflecting on the water. Water used to be drawn from the Sumidawaga River, and the scenery was said to have differed slightly by the tide. Today, water is supplied by rainwater.



Teahouse behind the stepping stones

Stepping stones

Stones that can be walked on have been set in the water near the shore of the pond. Their placement is such that the scenery changes with each step you take in addition to providing a wide view of the pond.

Famous stones

Some of the main types are Izuiso, Iyoao, Kishuao, Ikoma, Izu-shikine, Sadoakadama, Bichu granite, and Sanuki granite stones. Numerous other cobblestones and the aforementioned stepping stones are located throughout the gardens. One could almost call this a stone garden. Those stones were brought from quarries across Japan's by the Iwasaki family on its own steamships.

Mt. Fuji

This is the highest artificial hill in the garden. Before the great Kanto Earthquake, instead of planting trees near the hilltop, several rows of bushes such as satsuki azaleas and azaleas were planted to render the image of clouds floating above Mt. Fuji.

Opened / July 24, 1932 Area / 81,091.27 m² Gardens / 37,434.32 m² Open park / 43,656.95 m²

Trees / Tall trees: 4,100, Shrubs: 10,600, Grass: 3,000 m²

Main plants / Black pine, Cherry Trees (Prunus Campanulata, Prunus Serrulata, etc.), hydrangea, azalea, Japanese iris

Facilities / Gathering hall (Ryotei, Taisho-kinenkan), Children's playground, Open Park (Kiyosumi Park)



View from Mt. Fuji

Taisho-kinenkan

This is the funeral hall where Emperor Taisho's funeral was held, relocated to the gardens. The original burned down in World War II, so materials from Empress Teimei's funeral hall was used to reconstruct it in 1953. It was completely renovated in April 1989. The hall can be rented for assembly meetings.



Open-walled teahouse used for gatherings

Bird Watching

Kiyosumi Gardens are well known for the wild birds that visit the park due to its proximity to rivers and the sea. Spot-billed duck, oriental turtle doves, brownheaded bulbuls, azure-winged magpies, white-cheeked starlings, great tit, gray heron and great cormorant make their home here year round. Little terns and barn swallow can be seen in the summer. And little egrets, mallard ducks, common teals, bull-headed shrikes, eurasian wigeon, dusky thrushes and Japanese white-eyes visit in winter.

Kiyosumi Gardens Flower Calendar

January-February	Camellia, Japanese apricot, Adonis ramosa, Daffodil
March-April	Bell-flowered cherry & sato-zakura cherry, azalea, Japanese andromeda, Japanese cornel, thunberg's meadowsweet
May-June	Satsuki Azalea, Flower Iris, Hydrangea
July-August	Crape myrtle, Chinese chaste tree
September-October	Japanese bush clover, red spider lily, Japanese anemone
November-December	Sasanqua, leopard plant

Gardens guide

Volunteers will guide you on the history and highlights of the gardens.

Available every Saturday, Sunday, and holidays at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (free).

* Guide may be canceled due to weather conditions. Contact the service center for the availability of guides on the day of your visit.

