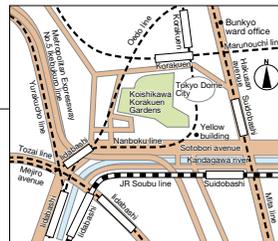


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Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens



Administrator ■ Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

- Location Koraku 1-chome, Bunkyo Ward
- Contact Information Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens Administration Office, tel: 03-3811-3015 (1-6-6 Koraku, Bunkyo-ku 112-0004)
- Transport 3-minute walk from C3 exit of Iidabashi (Oedo line). 8-minute walk from east exit of Iidabashi (JR Sobu line, Tozai line, Yurakucho line, Nanboku line). 8-minute walk from Koraku exit of Korakuen (Marunouchi line, Nanboku 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)



Construction on these gardens started in 1629 by Yorifusa, founder of the Mito Tokugawa family, as the gardens for his Edo mansion. They were completed in the lifetime of his successor, Mitsukuni, who named the gardens "Korakuen" based on advice from Ming China Confucian Shu Shunsui.

This site is at the end of the Koishikawa terrace, incorporating the Kanda water supply. The gardens are composed of artificial hills and ponds circled by paths.

The gardens were constructed based on Mitsukuni's Confucian ideas. A strong Chinese influence can be seen in the various sceneries named after famous Chinese locations.

Korakuen was designated a special historical site and special scenic spot in March 1952 under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.

Large pond

This pond is the central feature of the gardens' landscape. It has two islands. Horaijima and Chikubujima, creating lake scenery



Pond representing Biwa Lake

modeled after Biwa Lake. It is said that people used to play in boats on the pond.

Shorozan hill

Ruscus bamboo covers the entire round hill and its surroundings. The hill was named Shorozan by Edo period's Confucian Razan Hayashi because it resembled Mt. Lushan in China (Rozan is the Japanese pronunciation of Lushan). You can look down onto the gardens from the peak.

Oigawa

This is the best-known river scenery for the gardens. The name comes from Oigawa river, which runs through Kyoto Arashiyama. In the past water was drawn from Kanda waterworks using a water mill.

West Lake embankment

This is a recreation of in West Lake (Xi Hu) in Hangzhou (modern-day Zhejiang) China. The rock embankment running straight downstream on Oikawa River is a structure along with Engetsukyō bridge in this park that has a special place in the history of Japanese gardens. This structure can be seen in another Metropolitan garden, Kyū-Shiba-rikyū Gardens.

Tokujindo temple

The name Tokujindo comes from which Confucius read of Bo Yi and Shu Qi; "Seek ren and attain it" (Jin is the Japanese pronunciation of Ren, and Toku is the pronunciation of attain).

Opened / April 3, 1938 Area / 70,847.17 m² Trees / Tall trees: 3,000, Shrubs: 20,600 m² Grass: 1,300 m²

Main plants / Acer palmatum, Japanese apricot, black pine, cherry (weeping cherry, winter cherry), castanopsis, persea, Japanese camellia, satsuki azalea, shibataea kumasaca, lotus, Japanese iris

Events: Rice planting (May), Flower Iris Festival (June), Scarecrow Making Workshop (September), Rice harvesting (October), Japanese Maple Festival (November to December), Japanese Plum Festival (February to March)

Facilities / Gathering hall (Kantokutei)

Engetsukyo bridge

Ming China Confucian Shu Shunsui is said to have designed this stone bridge. The bridge combined with its reflection in the water look like a full moon, which is why it was given this name.

Rice paddies

The landscape takes a dramatic change at the north end of the gardens. A pastoral setting with plum forests, rice paddies, irises, and wisteria trellises is created. This is the only Metropolitan park with rice paddies. They were developed by Mitsukuni to show the labors of farmers to the wife of his son Tsunaeda. Every year since 1975, primary school students from Bunkyo Ward where the park is located plant rice in May and harvest it in September.

Inner garden

This was once the site of the Mito Clan library, once separated from the back garden that held the large pond by a Chinese-style gate. In the Edo era this inner garden was called "Uchi-no-Oniwa," a Japanese garden centered on a pond. It is said that this garden retains its original form.

Gardens guide

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

Available every Saturday, Sunday, Monday, 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.

Kuhachiya

This thatched-roof building stands at the edge of the pine forest.



Japanese irises and Kuhachiya

Single pine tree

Found on the embankment on the west side of the pond, this Japanese red pine is considered to be the Pine of Karasaki, which is one of the eight views of Omi located by Lake Biwa.

Japanese apricot forest

As there are such sayings as, "If one puts efforts into studying, the plum trees will bloom." In a historical allusion, Japanese plum trees are also called "kobun-boku" or trees that like literature and learning. Tokugawa Mitsukuni liked plum trees and used "Bairi (home of plums)" as his pen name for reading haiku.

