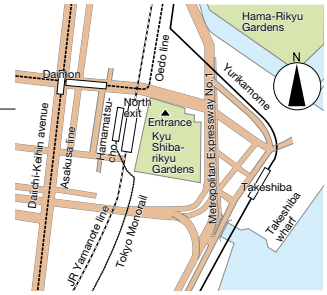


02

Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens

Administrator ■ Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

- Location Kaigan 1-chome, Minato Ward
- Contact Information Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens Administration Office tel: 03-3434-4029 (1-4-1 Kaigan, Minato-ku 105-0022)
- Transport 1-minute walk from the North Exit of Hamamatsucho (JR Yamanote line, Keihin-Tohoku line, Tokyo Monorail)
3-minute walk from B2 exit of Daimon (Oedo line, Asakusa 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
- Free days Greenery Day (May 4), Tokyo Citizens Day (October 1)



This is an Edo era feudal lord's garden that survives today along with Koshikawa Korakuen Gardens. It is a typical Japanese garden with a pond surrounded by a path, featuring superb ground and stone work.

The area used to be part of the bay, but it was reclaimed in around 1655 to 1658. It became the residence of Tadamoto Okubo, a high level official, in 1678.

In constructing his house, Tadamoto called a master gardener from his homeland of Odawara, naming the garden "Rakujuen."

Ownership of the land passed between various people over the years. Eventually, it was the garden mansion of the Kishu-Tokugawa family at the end of the Edo era. It became the property of noble Arisugawa-no-miya family in 1871, and was purchased by the Imperial Household Ministry in 1875. The property was known as the Shiba detached palace (rikyu) from that time. The buildings and many of the trees burned down in the fires following the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake.

With their donation to Tokyo City in January of the following year to commemorate the Crown Prince's (Showa Emperor) wedding, the gardens were restored and development was carried out. The gardens opened to the public that April. They were designated a place of scenic beauty and historic interest in June 1979.

Pond

The pond is an integral part of this garden. This pond was once a tidal pond that drew in ocean water. When the tide ebbed, one could walk from the middle island to the floating island, and as the tide ebbed and flowed, it caused the beach and island landscape to change dramatically. Unfortunately, it is no longer possible to bring in salt water, so it has become a fresh water pond.

West Lake bridge

The lake is modeled after the West Lake in Hangzhou (modern-day Zhejiang) China, and the stone bridge after the scenic Su Ti causeway located also in the West Lake. In ancient times, the bridge was prized as an inspiration for poems and paintings.



West Lake bridge

Middle island

This island in the center of the pond maintains a garden scenery. It represents Penglai Mountain, said in Chinese legend to be the home of immortals. The bridge's stone arrangement dates back to when the garden was referred to as Rakujuen.



Rocky shore and snow-view stone lantern

Opened / April 20, 1924 Area / 43,175.36 m² Open park / 1,139.96 m² Trees / Tall trees: 1,900, Shrubs: 3,400 m², Grass: 5,500 m²

Main plants / Black pine, Japanese zelkova, camphor, cherry, persea, hydrangea, azalea, wisteria

Facilities / Archery range (Japanese archery), Children's playground

Archery Ground (Japanese Archery) 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fees / ¥140/hour, please bring your own equipment, closed on Monday mornings for maintenance (if holiday, then the next day on Tuesdays)

Perseas

These warm coastal trees form hemispherical crowns when grown. Many of those large trees can be seen here and at Hamamatsu-rikyu Gardens.

Wisteria trellis and seasonal flowers

A large wisteria trellis is situated near the park entrance. At the end of April, large vines of violet flowers hang from that, emitting their pleasant fragrances.

Other seasonal flowers can also be found in the park. Those include Japanese apricot, cherry, hydrangea, Japanese iris, Chinese bellflower, and Japanese bush clover.



Wisteria trellis



View from the large hill

Large hill

The view from the largest manmade hill in the gardens is amazing. The variations in the line formed by artificial hills to the left and right forms a pleasant view from the opposite shore of the pond.

Dry waterfall

A rock formation resembles a waterfall in a mountain gorge. The bottom of the "stream" is a path from which one can enjoy the variations in garden scenery.

Gardens guide

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

Available every Saturday and Sunday at 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.

