

Rambling in Edo atmosphere

This garden is one of the oldest gardens of daimyo (feudal lords) that have survived to the present, along with Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens. It represents a typical example of "kaiyu-style (circuit style) pond-centered garden, featuring excellent rock and land formations. This site used to be under the shallows of Edo Bay, but the land was reclaimed from the sea from 1655 to 1658, and in 1678, it came to be used as the official Edo residence of Okubo Tadatomo, Roju (top rank of Tokugawa Shogunate). In building the residence, Tadatomo invited a garden architect from his clan fief, Odawara for garden making, and gave the name "Rakuju-en" to the garden.

After several ownership, the garden became Shiba residence of Kishu-Tokugawa branch family in last days of the shogunate. In 1871, it became the residence of the Arisugawa-no-miya family, to be bought up by the Imperial Household Agency in 1875. The next year, it became Shiba-rikyu (Shiba Detached Palace). While virtually all the trees and buildings were lost by big fire that ensued the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, the garden was bestowed to the Tokyo City in 1924 in commemoration of the wedding of Emperor Showa in January of the following year, 1924. After restoration and upgrading work, it was opened to the public as "Kyu-Shiba-rikyu -Onshi-Gardens". In June 1979, the garden was designated as the Place of Scenic Beauty of the country as Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens (designated name as a cultural heritage).



Seiko-no-tsutsumi

This is a stone made embankment that was designed in reminiscence of the same in Seiko Lake in Hangzhou (Present province of Hangzhou). The stone formation of Nakajima survived from the days when the garden was called "Rakuju-en".

Nakajima

This islet in the center of the pond is a focal point of the garden view. Its stone formation followed after the image of Reizan in China, legendary mountain of eternal youth and immortality where hsiens used to inhabit.



Arbor and red leaved succedanea



Karetaki

"Waterless waterfall" that reminds viewers of a waterfall falling in the midst of deep mountain gorge. The supposed riverbed serves as a passage that gives pleasure of changing views around.

Oyama

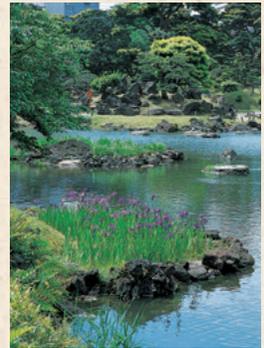
The highest man-made hill in the garden which provides magnificent view of the garden. A contrast of 2 hills on its right and left, as well as variety of extending ridge lines seen from the other shore of the pond give profound and quiet tastes of viewing.



View from Oyama

Dai-Sensui

This pond is the central feature of the garden, with approximately 9,000 m² of extension. In former days, it was a shio-iri-no-ike (salt water pond) drawing in the sea water of Tokyo Bay, but it is now a freshwater pond. Two islets, Nakajima and Ukishima are arranged in the pond to create an image of sea and lake with a beach-like area (Sunahama) at a shore.



Yukimi-no-toro (Snow-viewing lantern)

Wisteria Trellis

Near the entrance to the gardens, there is a large wisteria trellis. Around early May, large clusters of the lavender blossoms hang down, emanating aromatic odor.



Passable routes for wheel chairs

0m 30m