

Practical Travel Guide - 808

JAPANESE GARDENS



The classic Japanese garden is an artificial garden that reproduces natural scenic beauty in a heightened intensity. Its charm lies in its subtle, highly sophisticated layout in a limited space. The aim of Japanese landscape gardening, which has a long history of development, is to create a scenic composition by arranging rocks, trees, shrubs and running water in such a way as to create the sweep of a vast landscape.

Japanese gardens are usually referred to as the “hill garden” (“tsukiyama”) and the “waterless stream garden” (“karesansui”). The hill garden features a hill usually combined with a pond and a stream. It can be viewed from various vantage points, as you stroll along the paths, or appreciate it from within a house to which it is attached. Fine specimens of this style are the gardens of Tenryuji Temple and Saihoji Temple, both in Kyoto. In the dry landscape garden, rocks and sands form the main elements, the sea being symbolized not by water but by a layer of sand

with furrows suggestive of the rippling movement, and waterfalls by an arrangement of rocks. Examples of this style are the gardens of Ryoanji Temple and Daitokuji Temple, also in Kyoto.

With the introduction of the tea ceremony in the 14th century, the *chaniwa* (garden attached to the tea-ceremony house) came to be designed and laid out. Actually, it is not a garden but a narrow path leading up to the *chashitsu* (tearoom proper). The aim of the designer of this style was to create a feeling of solitude and detachment from the world. A tea garden is mainly featured by the placement of stepping stones.

* Listed in this leaflet are principal Japanese gardens in Kyoto, Tokyo and other areas.

* Most of the tea gardens are not open to the public.

* The gardens are mostly closed from Dec. 28 to Jan. 4.

* Ticket windows are usually closed 30 min. or 1 hr. before closing time.

Kyoto

Note: Numbers correspond to those on PAGE 2/6 the map of Gardens in Kyoto.

Gardens of Imperial Palaces and Villas:

⑪ **Kyoto Imperial Palace** (京都御所): Stroll garden designed by Kobori Enshu (1579–1647). Located almost in the center of the city, this huge park-like compound includes several palace buildings. It was also the location of many fine residences belonging to the ranking noble court families. These residences were torn down and a massive park, with lawns and over 9,000 trees, was created. Today, this extensive park area is a highly popular recreation and relaxation zone. Addr.: Kyoto Gyoen-nai, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto. 10-min. walk from Marutamachi Sta.

⑫ **Sento Palace** (仙洞御所): Stroll garden designed by Kobori Enshu. Addr.: Kyoto Gyoen-nai, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto, (in the Kyoto Old Imperial Palace compound). Near Marutamachi Subway Sta. Guided tours (in Japanese) are available.

⑧ **Katsura Imperial Villa** (桂離宮): A typical stroll garden laid out in the 17th century. This garden is renowned as an outstanding example of Japanese landscape gardening.

Addr.: Misono, Katsura Saikyo-ku, Kyoto. 20-min. walk from Katsura Sta. on Hankyu Dentetsu Line; or reached from Katsura-Rikyu-mae Bus Stop. Guided tours (in Japanese) are available.

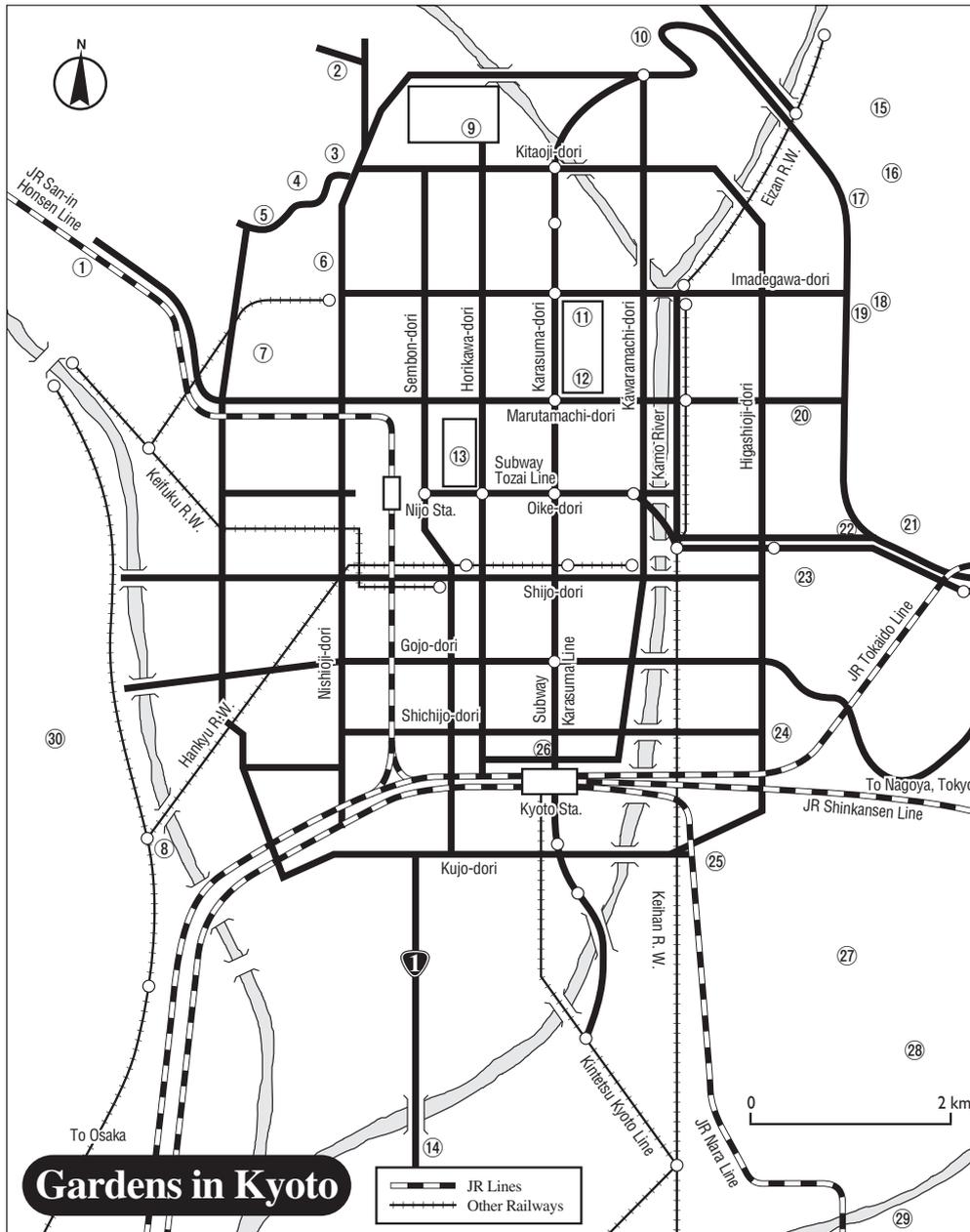
⑮ **Shugakuin Imperial Villa** (修学院離宮): Stroll garden laid out in the 17th century. This garden is characterized by a complete unification of nature and garden. Addr.: Shugakuin, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto. 15-min. walk from Shugakuin-Rikyu-michi Bus Stop or Shugakuin Sta. on Eizan Dentetsu Line. Guided tours (in Japanese) are available.

Note: How to Apply for Admission

Kyoto Old Imperial Palace Garden: Reservations are required for the inner palace area in advance (at least 30 minutes before the tour time) at the Kyoto office of the Imperial Household Agency. English guide tours are available. Closed: Sat., Sun. and national holidays. For more information, call 075-211-1215.

For more information, see http://sankan.kunaicho.go.jp/order/index_EN.html

Gardens of Sento Palace, Katsura Imperial Villa and Shugakuin Imperial Villa: You must apply in person for permission at least one day before your intended day of visit at the Kyoto Imperial Household Agency. Bring your passport or Alien Registration Card to the Agency Office. Visitors must be over 18 years or older. For more information, see http://sankan.kunaicho.go.jp/order/index_EN.html



Gardens in Kyoto

- ① Tenryuji Temple 天龍寺
- ② Koetsuji Temple 光悦寺
- ③ Kinkakuji Temple 金閣寺
- ④ Ryoanji Temple 龍安寺
- ⑤ Ninnaji Temple 仁和寺
- ⑥ Tojiin Temple 等持院
- ⑦ Myoshinji Temple 妙心寺
- ⑧ Katsura Imperial Villa 桂離宮
- ⑨ Daitokuji Temple 大徳寺
- ⑩ Entsuji Temple 円通寺
- ⑪ Kyoto Imperial Palace 京都御所
- ⑫ Sento Palace 仙洞御所
- ⑬ Nijo Castle 二条城
- ⑭ Jonangu Shrine 城南宮
- ⑮ Shugakuin Imperial Villa 修学院離宮
- ⑯ Manshuin Temple 曼殊院
- ⑰ Shisendo Temple 詩仙堂
- ⑱ Ginkakuji Temple 銀閣寺
- ⑲ Hakusasonso Villa 白沙村荘
- ⑳ Heian Shrine 平安神宮
- ㉑ Nanzenji Temple 南禅寺
- ㉒ Murin-an Villa 無鄰菴
- ㉓ Shoren-in Temple 青蓮院
- ㉔ Chishakuin Temple 智積院
- ㉕ Tofukuji Temple 東福寺
- ㉖ Tourist Information Center
- ㉗ Kajuji Temple 勧修寺
- ㉘ Daigoji Samboin Temple 醍醐寺三寶院
- ㉙ Byodoin Temple 平等院
- ㉚ Saihoji Temple 西芳寺

Bus Tours in Kyoto

The time-saving and convenient way to see the Japanese gardens in Kyoto is to join one of the tours operated daily. Reservation is required.

Course	Time required	Fare	Operated by
Nijo Castle–Kinkakuji temple–Kyoto Imperial Palace–(Higashi Honganji)–Kyoto Handicraft Center (Lunch)–Heian Shrine–Sanjusangendo Hall–Kiyomizudera temple	10 hrs. 30 min.	¥11,600	Sunrise Tours. (075) 341-1413. Tour with an English-speaking guide. On Sat., Sun., national holidays and some other days when Kyoto Old Imperial Palace is closed, the tour will visit Nishi Honganji, instead. On Tue. in Jan., Jul., Aug & Dec. when Nijo Castle is closed, the tour visit Ryoanji temple, or Daitokuji temple, instead.
Kinkakuji–Kiyomizudera–Arashiyama–Heian Shrine	6 hrs. 30 min.–7 hrs. 30 min.	¥6,170 (Top deck: ¥6,700)	Keihan Bus/Kyoto City Bus (075) 672-2100
※Kyoto Imperial Palace–Daitokuji Hombō–Daisen-in(Lunch)–Sennyuji	5 – 6 hrs.	¥7,300	Tour with a Japanese-speaking guide ※Reserve a seat by phone or internet 1 day before your intended day. Weekdays only.

Other Gardens in Kyoto (in alphabetical order)

- ⑲ **Byodoin Temple** (平等院): Originally a pond garden for boating laid out in the 11th century. The construction of the temple and its garden was intended to recreate the Buddhist paradise in this world. Addr.: 116, Renge, Uji, Kyoto. 40 min. by train from Keihan-Sanjo to Uji on Keihan-Uji Line, or 30 min. by train from Kyoto Sta. to Uji Sta. on JR Nara Line. Open: 8:30–17:30. Admission: ¥600.
- ⑳ **Chishakuin Temple** (智積院): Landscape garden for viewing from within a building, designed by Sen-no-Rikyu (1522–1591), the great ceremonial tea master of the Momoyama Period. The garden retains a vestige of its former glory. Addr.: Higashiyama Shichijo, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto. Near Higashiyama Shichijo Bus Stop. Open: 9:00–16:00. Admission: ¥500.
- ㉑ **Daigoji Samboin Temple** (醍醐寺三宝院): Landscape garden for viewing from within a building, laid out in the 16th century. It is one of the finest examples showing the legendary fortuitous crane, tortoise and isle of eternal youth using stones and spring ponds of the type in the Momoyama Period. Addr.: 22 Higashi Ojicho, Daigo, Fushimi-ku, Kyoto. 15-min. walk from Subway Daigo Sta. on Tozai Line. Open: 9:00–17:00 (–16:00 1st Sun. of Dec.–Feb.). Admission: ¥600.
- ⑨ **Daitokuji-Daisen-in Temple** (大徳寺大仙院): Dry landscape garden built in the 16th century. This garden is famed as a masterpiece of gardening developed for Zen temples. When you open the sliding paper doors, you will see the garden creating a panoramic scene resembling the landscape paintings you can find on sliding partition doors or folding screens in traditional Japanese homes. It represents the mental state of a Zen Buddhist priest going through ascetic practices in a natural surrounding. Addr.: Daitokujicho, Murasakino, Kita-ku, Kyoto, (in the Daitokuji Temple compound). Near Daitokuji-mae Bus Stop. Open: 9:00–16:30. Admission: ¥400.
- ⑨ **Daitokuji Hojo (Chief Abbot's Chamber)** (大徳寺方丈): Dry landscape garden constructed in the 17th century, designed by Kobori Enshu (1579–1647). The east garden depicts the image of Buddha's disciples practicing zazen meditation. This garden is only open to persons who join the Garden Tour operated daily. (See Garden Tours in Kyoto on Page 2.) Addr.: Daitokujicho, Murasakino, Kita-ku, Kyoto. Individuals must join the tour to enter.
- ⑩ **Entsuji Temple** (円通寺): Dry landscape garden constructed in the 17th century. The garden utilizes the distant view of Mt. Hiei for its backdrop. Addr.: Hataedacho, Iwakura, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto. Near Entsuji-michi Bus Stop, or 15-min. walk from Midoroga-ike Bus Stop. Open: 10:00–16:00. Admission: ¥500.
- ⑱ **Ginkakuji Temple (Silver Pavilion)** (銀閣寺): Stroll garden combined with a dry garden built in the 15th century. The layout was influenced by the thought of Zen Buddhism. The Ginsadan of sand waves in front of the silver pavilion and the Kogetsudai with its piles of sand are beautiful. Addr.: 2 Ginkakujicho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto. Near Ginkakuji-michi Bus Stop. Open: 8:30–17:00 (9:00–16:30 Dec.–Feb.). Admission: ¥500.
- ⑲ **Hakusasonso Villa** (白沙村荘): Stroll garden built in 1915 by Hashimoto Kansetsu, a famous contemporary Japanese-style painter. Addr.: 37 Jodoji-ishibashicho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, on the way to Ginkakuji Temple. Near Ginkakuji-michi Bus Stop. Open: 10:00–17:00. Admission: ¥800.
- ⑳ **Heian Shrine** (平安神宮): Stroll garden constructed in 1895. This garden is well-known for its weeping cherry trees, maple trees, azaleas, irises and waterlilies. Characterized by the bridges crossing over the spring pond Taiheikaku and Garyokyo (stepping stones). Addr.: Nishi-Tennocho, Okazaki, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto. Near Bijutsukan-mae Bus Stop. Open: 8:30–17:30 (–16:30 Nov.–Feb., –17:00 Mar. 1–14 and Oct., –17:30 Mar. 15–Sep.). Admission: ¥600.
- ⑭ **Jonangu Shrine** (城南宮): Four different types of gardens representing the respective styles of the Heian, Muromachi, Momoyama and Heisei periods (from the 10th century. to the present). Addr.: 7 Toba Rikyuchō, Nakajima, Fushimi-ku, Kyoto. Near Jonangu Bus Stop. 15-min. walk from Takeda Sta. on Subway Line or Kintetsu Line. Open: 9:00–16:30. Admission: ¥500.
- ㉑ **Kajuji Temple** (勤修寺): Strolling garden and also a dry landscape garden in front of the study hall. The stroll-type garden was originally built in the 10th century. Addr.: Niodocho, Kajuji, Yamashina-ku, Kyoto. 20 min. by bus to Kajuji Bus Stop from Yamashina Sta. (next to Kyoto Sta.) on Subway Ono Sta. and 6-min. walk. Open: 9:00–16:00. Admission: ¥400.
- ③ **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)** (金閣寺): Landscape garden for strolling around the pond to enjoy the changing view of the Gold Pavilion. Residence of the 3rd Ashikaga Shogun Yoshimitsu constructed in the 14th century. Addr.: 1 Kinkakujicho, Kita-ku, Kyoto. Near Kinkakuji-mae Bus Stop. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥400.
- ② **Koetsuji Temple** (光悦寺): Tea garden with three tea houses, reconstructed in 1915. The temple and garden were originally built as the residence of Hon-ami Koetsu (1558–1637), a noted artist in the 17th century. This garden is famous for its attractive bamboo fences. Addr.: 29 Koetsujicho, Takagamine, Kita-ku, Kyoto. 3-min. walk from Genkoan-mae Bus Stop. Open: 8:00–17:00. Closed: Nov. 10–13. Admission: ¥300.

- ⑩ **Manshuin Temple** (曼殊院): Dry garden constructed in the 17th century. The washbasin with owls engraved on all four sides is a rarity. The low balustrade on the open veranda of the Ko-shoin (small study) represents a rudder, and it will take you towards the Horai (isle of eternal youth) Stone deep inside the garden. A composition of a painting seems created as you, upon a boat, watch the Tsuru and Kame Islands upon the sea. Addr.: 42 Takenouchicho, Ichijoji, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto. 15-min. walk from Ichijoji-Shimizucho Bus Stop. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥600.
- ⑫ **Murin-an Villa** (無鄰菴): Landscape garden with richly flowing waterfall drawn from Lake Biwa which incorporates the distant view of Higashiyama Hill in its design, laid out in 1895. Addr.: Kusagawacho, Nanzenji, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto. Near Jingu-michi Bus Stop. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥400.
- ⑦ **Myoshinji-Keishun-in Temple** (妙心寺桂春院): Combination of dry landscape garden, tea garden and landscape garden for strolling constructed by the famous India ink painter, Kano Motonobu, in the 17th century. Addr.: 64 Myoshinjicho, Hanazono, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto, (in the Myoshinji Temple compound). Near Myoshinji-Kitamon-mae Bus Stop. Open: 9:00–17:00 (9:00–16:30 in winter). Admission: ¥400.
- ⑧ **Myoshinji-Taizo-in Temple** (妙心寺退蔵院): Picturesque dry garden constructed by the famous India ink painter, Kano Motonobu, in the 15th century. Addr.: Myoshinjicho, Hanazono, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto, (in the Myoshinji Temple compound). Near Myoshinji-mae Bus Stop. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥500.
- ⑪ **Nanzenji Hojo (Chief Abbot's Chamber)** (南禅寺方丈): Dry garden constructed in the 17th century. by Kobori Enshu (1579–1647). A samurai general and master of tea ceremony who also demonstrated his versatility in architecture and gardening. One of the typical gardens of Zen temples. An arrangement of garden rocks called “The crossing of tiger cubs,” depicting a scene where the mother tiger leads its cubs across the river. Addr.: Fukuchicho, Nanzenji, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, (in the Nanzenji Temple compound). 5-min. walk from Hoshojicho Bus Stop. Open: 8:40–17:00 (–16:30 Dec.–Feb.). Admission: ¥500.
- ⑬ **Nanzenji-Konchiin Temple** (南禅寺金地院): Dry garden constructed in the 17th century. by Kobori Enshu. A special nationally designated site for its scenic beauty. One of the most celebrated gardens in Kyoto. Addr.: Fukuchicho, Nanzenji, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, (in the Nanzenji Temple compound). 5-min. walk from Hoshojicho Bus Stop. Open: 8:30–17:00 (–16:30 Dec.–Feb.). Admission: ¥400.
- ⑭ **Nanzenji-Nanzen-in Temple** (南禅寺南禅院): Landscape garden for viewing from within a building, constructed in the 14th century. by Muso-Kokushi (1275–1351), a distinguished Zen priest. Its seclusive mood merging into the mountain landscape in the background attracts the visitor. Addr.: Fukuchicho, Nanzenji, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, (in the Nanzenji Temple compound). 5-min. walk from Hoshojicho Bus Stop. Open: 8:40–17:00 (–16:30 Dec.–Feb.). Admission: ¥300.
- ⑤ **Ninnaji Temple** (仁和寺): Landscape garden for viewing from within a building and for strolling laid out in the 17th century. A style of gardening reminiscent of the splendor and luxury of Genroku culture. It flourishes with viewers of the “Otafuku cherry blossoms” in mid-Apr. Addr.: Ouchi, Omuro, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto. Near Ninnaji Bus Stop. Open: 9:00–17:00 (–16:30 Dec.–Feb.). Admission: ¥500.
- ⑬ **Ninomaru Garden of Nijo Castle** (二条城二の丸庭園): Landscape garden for strolling and viewing from within a building, constructed in the 17th century. A garden designed for welcoming the Emperor's visit. Addr.: Nijojocho, Nijodori Horikawa Nishiiru Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto. Near Nijojo Bus Stop. Open: 8:45–16:00. Closed: Tue. of Jan., Jul., Aug. and Dec. Admission: ¥600.
- ④ **Ryoanji Temple** (龍安寺): Dry garden constructed in the 15th century. Noted for stone arrangements in a rectangular space of white sand. A world cultural heritage site. With the ultimate beauty in its simplest form, removing everything that is unnecessary, you are able to actually experience the thoughts of Zen Buddhism, facing the garden and rejecting any superfluous explanations. Addr.: Goryonoshitamachi, Ryoanji, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto. Near Ryoanji-michi Bus Stop. Open: 8:00–17:00 (Mar.–Nov.); 8:30–16:30 (Dec.–Feb.). Admission: ¥500.
- ⑩ **Saihoji Temple** (西芳寺): Famous as a moss temple. A world cultural heritage site. It consists of upper and lower layers of arranged rockwork, the spring pond garden on the flat ground and the dry landscape on the mountainside, creating a world of “yugen” (quiet beauty or the subtle and the profound) with its 100 or so different kinds of moss and tree groves. A landscape garden in the go-round style or boating style. Reservations are required to visit. Addr.: 56 Kamigaya-cho, Matsuo, Nishigyo-ku, Kyoto 615. 15-min. walk from Kami-Katsura Sta. on Hankyu Arashiyama Line.
Note: How to Apply for Admission
Apply by mail from one week to 2 months ahead of the date of your intended visit. (Application must reach the temple at least one week before your visit.) Reception is from 2 months before the day you want to see it to a week before which is the closing date. On a return postcard, please write in date, time, representative's address, name and number of people. Sightseeing time is one and a half hours, but depending on that day's religious event, time for sightseeing differs. Cost is more than ¥3,000. Apply to: Sanpaikakari, 56 Matsuo-Jingatani-cho, Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto 615-8286. Tel: 075-391-3631
- ⑪ **Shisendo Temple** (詩仙堂): Stroll garden with running water “yari-mizu,” laid out in the 17th century. by Ishikawa Jozan (1583–1672) a poet, scholar and the designer of the “sozu” or “shishi-odoshi.” The occasional tapping sound of “sozu” reverberates in the tranquility of the Chinese style garden, creating a refined atmosphere. Noted for the beauty of azaleas in spring and tinted foliage in autumn. Addr.: Monguchicho, Ichijoji, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto. 10-min. walk from Ichijoji-Sagarimatsu Bus Stop. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥500.

- ⑳ **Shoren-in Temple** (青蓮院): Stroll gardens constructed by Soami & Kobori Enshu in the 16th century. The straight-line shaped washbasin donated by Toyotomi Hideyoshi is a rare masterpiece. Addr.: Sanjobocho, Awataguchi, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto. 5-min. walk from Jingu-michi Bus Stop. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥500.
- ① **Tenryuji Temple** (天龍寺): Landscape garden for strolling and viewing from within a building constructed in the 14th century. The main motifs of this garden, which almost seems as though it were a landscape drawing in Indian ink, are Ryumon Falls and a stone bridge. A landscape of mountains, rivers and the ocean is presented with a pond and the above two in the center. Ryumon is a rapid current ravine which lies on the border of China's Yungxian and Wanxian. There is a 3-tier waterfall that even fish can't go up, but there's a legend that if fish could go up the waterfall, they would become dragons. This represents the process of a zen priest attaining enlightenment after strict practice. The stone bridge is a symbol of the first step into the state of enlightenment. Addr.: Susukinobabacho, Saga Tenryuji, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto. 2-min. walk from Arashiyama Sta. on Keifuku Dentetsu Line. Open: 8:30–17:30 (–17:00 Oct. 21–Mar. 20). Admission: ¥500.
- ㉕ **Tofukuji-Fundain Temple** (東福寺芬陀院): Dry landscape garden laid out in the 15th century. by Sesshu (1420–1506), a famous painter. The Kame-ishi or Tortoise Stone placed in the moss-covered garden surrounded by bamboo seems almost as if it were living and about to move. Addr.: Hommachi, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto, (in the Tofukuji Temple compound). 10-min. walk from JR (or Keihan) Tofukuji Sta. Open: 9:00–17:00 (Apr.–Nov.), –16:30 (Dec.–Mar.). Admission: ¥300.
- ㉖ **Tofukuji Hojo (Chief Abbot's Chamber)** (東福寺方丈): Dry gardens in four different types rebuilt in 1939. The north garden is famous for the moss and square stones creating an Ichimatsu checkered design. The coloring of leaves are exquisitely beautiful viewed from the roofed passage called Tsuutenkyo. Addr.: Hommachi, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto, (in the Tofukuji Temple compound). 10-min. walk from JR (or Keihan) Tofukuji Sta. Open: 9:00–16:00 (Apr.–Oct.), 8:30–16:00 (Nov.), 9:00–15:30 (Dec.–Mar.). Admission: ¥400.
- ㉗ **Tofukuji-Kaisando Temple** (東福寺開山堂): Pond garden and dry garden, both constructed in the 18th century. The left side of the narrow passage from the entrance is an ichimatsu patterned dry landscape in the Zen Buddhist style. On the right is a pond garden in the Chikuzan fashioned samurai household study style. The two combined create an exquisite taste. Addr.: Hommachi, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto. 10-min. walk from JR (or Keihan) Tofukuji Sta. Open: 9:00–16:00 (Apr.–Oct.), 8:30–16:00 (Nov.), 9:00–15:30 (Dec.–Mar.). Admission: ¥400.
- ⑥ **Tojiin Temple** (等持院): The family temple of successive Ashikaga Shogun generals. The west garden with its Fuyochi Pond is of a multifarious composition, with its trimmed hedges and dried-up waterfall work set against Kinugasayama and Ishibashi Bridge. Stroll garden constructed in the 14th c. Fuyochi Pond was built in the 18th century. Addr.: 63 Kitacho, Tojiin, Kita-ku, Kyoto. Near Tojiin-mae Bus Stop. Open: 8:00–17:00. Admission: ¥500.

Tokyo

Hama Detached Palace Garden (浜離宮恩賜庭園): Strolling garden constructed in the 17th century. It is unique among Tokyo gardens in having a tidal pond that empties into Tokyo Bay. Addr.: Hamarikyū-Teien, Chuo-ku, Tokyo. 15-min. walk from Shimbashi Sta. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥300.

Kiyosumi Garden (清澄庭園): Strolling garden laid out in the 19th century. It is celebrated for the rocks collected from all parts of Japan. Addr.: Kiyosumi, Koto-ku, Tokyo. 3-min. walk from Kiyosumi-Shirakawa Subway Sta. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥150

Koishikawa Korakuen Garden (小石川後樂園): Strolling garden constructed in the 17th century. has four special features: 1. The basic structure is traditional. 2. Its subtheme is the duplication of famous sites around Japan. 3. The Chinese gardening style is incorporated. 4. It was the first to create a Tsukiyama in the shape of Mt. Fuji. Addr.: 1 Koraku, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo. 7-min. walk from Korakuen Subway Sta. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥300.

Rikugien Garden (六義園): Strolling garden constructed in the 18th century. A garden created in the Edo period under the supervision of Yanagisawa Yoshiyasu, a former "kosho" (page) promoted to the highest rank ever as feudal lord. Being fond of waka poetry and Confucian teachings, he selected 88 scenes from his favorite poems and incorporated them in his gardening. The main motifs are the town's prosperity in the Dokutsu-iwa (Cave Rock) and the prosperity of Imotoseyama Hill. The premises include a large pond with an island and a hill covered with a dense grove of trees. Addr.: Honkomagome, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo. 8-min. walk from Komagome Sta. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥300.

Kyu-Shiba Detached Palace Garden (旧芝離宮恩賜庭園): Strolling garden constructed in the 17th century. One can command a bird's-eye view of the whole garden from the observatory of the Sekai Boeki Center Building nearby. Addr.: Kaigan, Minato-ku, Tokyo. Next to Hamamatsucho Sta. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥150.

Higashi Gyoen Garden (東御苑): Part of the Imperial Palace open to the public. Different flowers can be enjoyed each season. Addr.: 1-1 Chiyoda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo. Close to Takebashi Sta. on Subway Tozai Line. Open: 9:00–17:00 (Apr. 15–Aug.), 9:00–16:30 (Mar.–Apr. 14, Sep.–Oct.), 9:00–16:00 (Nov.–Feb.). Closed: Mon., Fri., and days with special Imperial occasions. Admission: Free.

Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden (新宿御苑): One of Tokyo's largest and most popular parks for strolling and admiring the flowering shrubs and foliage. It is particularly splendid during the cherry blossom season. Addr.: 11 Naitocho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo. 1-min. walk from Shinjuku Gyoenmae Sta. on Subway Marunouchi Line. Open: 9:00–16:30. Closed: Mon. Admission: ¥200.

Other Districts

Mito

Kairakuen (偕楽園): Strolling garden laid out in 1842. It is noted for its Japanese apricot trees which bloom in late Feb. to mid-Mar. The view from Kobun-tei, which extends across the garden, adjoining Lake Senba, Mt. Tsukuba, Sakuragawa River and the ridges of Mt. Maruyama, is said to be an imitation of Sai-ko Lake in China. Addr.: Tokiwacho, Mito, Ibaraki. 15 min. by bus from Mito Sta. on Joban Line to Kairakuen-mae Bus Stop. Open: 7:00–18:00 (Oct. 1–Feb. 19); 6:00–19:00 (Feb. 20–Sep. 30). Admission to the park: Free. Admission to the Kobuntei: ¥190. Open: 9:00–16:30 (Oct. 1–Feb. 19); 9:00–17:00 (Feb. 20–Sep. 30).
http://www.koen.pref.ibaraki.jp/foreign_language/en/index.html

Yokohama

Sankeien (三溪園): Strolling garden built by Hara Tomitaro (1868-1939), a business tycoon of Yokohama. It contains many historic buildings which have been brought from many parts of the country. Different flowers can be enjoyed each season—lotus, iris, plum, azalea and so on. Addr.: 58-1, Hommoku-Sannotani, Naka-ku, Yokohama. 5-min. walk from Hommoku-Sankeien-mae Bus Stop. Open: 9:00–17:00. Closed: Dec. 29–Dec. 31. Admission: ¥500.

Nagoya

Ninomaru Garden of Nagoya Castle (名古屋城二の丸庭園): Dry garden for strolling constructed in the 17th century. Four tea rooms or teahouses are dispersed in the garden, connected by stepping stone paths and with stone lanterns in between. Addr.: Hommaru, Naka-ku, Nagoya. 5-min. walk from Shiyakusho-mae Subway Sta. Open: 9:00–16:30 (Entrance to the donjon until 16:00). Closed: 29 Dec.–1 Jan. Admission: ¥500.
http://www.nagoyajo.city.nagoya.jp/13_english/index.html

Kanazawa

Kenrokuen (兼六園): Strolling garden constructed in the 19th century. It is one of the three most beautiful landscape gardens in Japan along with Kairakuen in Mito and Korakuen in Okayama. The special features are the two-legged yukimi-doro or Kotojido (snow-viewing lantern) and the “yuki-duri” scene, where ropes are stretched from the top branches to the lower branches of trees to protect them from breaking from the weight of the snow and help them grow in a natural manner. The excellent skills and designs of the master artisan work can be found elsewhere in the arts and crafts of the garden. Addr.: 1 Kenrokumachi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa Pref. Near Kenrokuen-shita or Dewa-machi Bus Stop. (15 min. by bus from Kanazawa Sta.). Open: 7:00–18:00 (Mar.–Oct. 15), 8:00–17:00 (Oct. 16–Feb.). Admission: ¥300.

Okayama

Korakuen (後楽園): Strolling garden constructed in the 17th century. Visitors can see sacred cranes and can be enjoyed different flowers each seasons. There are various structures like tea-ceremony room of Edo era. Addr.: 1-5, Korakuen, Okayama Near Korakuen-ekimae bus stop or 25 min. walk from Okayama Sta. Open: 7:30–18:00 (Mar. 20–Sep.), 8:00–17:00 (Oct.–Mar. 19). Admission: ¥400.

Shimane

Adachi Museum of Art (足立美術館): The museum is famous not only for its collection of contemporary Japanese paintings but also for its gardens. The garden has been ranked as the finest garden in Japan by America's Journal of Japanese Gardening for 7 years in a row. The six gardens, with about 165,000 square meters in total, show you various sceneries by season. Addr.: 320, Furukawa-cho, Yasugi-shi, Shimane Pref. 20min. From Yasugi Sta. on JR Sanin Honsen Line, take a bus for Hirose and get off at Saginoyu Onsen-mae bus stop. Open: 9:00–17:30 (Apr.–Sep.), 9:00–17:00 (Oct.–Mar.) Daily. Admission: Main gallery (Japanese Art & garden): ¥2,200.
<http://www.adachi-museum.or.jp/e/index.html>

Kagawa

Ritsurin Garden (栗林公園): It is admired as one of the masterpieces of Japanese landscape gardening. Covering 75 ha. of land, it is skillfully laid out to harmonize with the surrounding pine-covered hills. Visitors can enjoy a variety of scenery throughout the four seasons. Addr.: 1-20-16, Ritsurincho, Takamatsu, Kagawa Pref. 15 min. by bus from Takamatsu Sta. (¥230). Open: 7:00–17:00 (Dec. & Jan.), 7:00–17:30 (Feb.), 6:30–18:00 (Mar.), 5:30–18:30 (Apr., May & Sep.), 5:30–19:00 (Jun., Jul. & Aug.), 6:00–17:00 (Nov.). Admission: ¥400.
http://www.pref.kagawa.lg.jp/ritsurin/index_e.html

Tourist Information Center (TIC)

TIC of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its main services are providing travel information and free literature on Japan, suggesting tour itineraries, and handling reservations requests for “Welcome Inns” or low-priced accommodation facilities that welcome foreign visitors to Japan.

10th Fl., Tokyo Kotsu Kaikan Bldg., 2-10-1, Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0006 Tel. 03-3201-3331

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(Only telephone service is available on Jan. 1st)

* TIC is supposed to move by the end of 2011. Please check our website (www.jnto.go.jp) for the latest information.



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<http://www.itcj.jp>

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