

Practical Travel Guide - 812

# ENJOYING BONSAI and HORTICULTURE



日本政府観光局 (JNTO)  
Japan National Tourism Organization

JNTO Website : <http://www.jnto.go.jp>



## What is BONSAI ?

Bonsai is one of Japan's most traditional cultural arts originating in the Kamakura Period (12th century). With trees, flowers, grass and stones in a small pot or tray, it expresses the beauty and spaciousness of a natural landscape. Its object is to create these landscapes as beautifully as nature, and sometimes using wire or by cutting branches so that any kind of plant can grow healthy in pots. Accordingly, Bonsai is said to be a "Never-completed Art" enabling one to pursue the pleasure of everlasting nurturing.



## BONSAI IN TOKYO & VICINITY

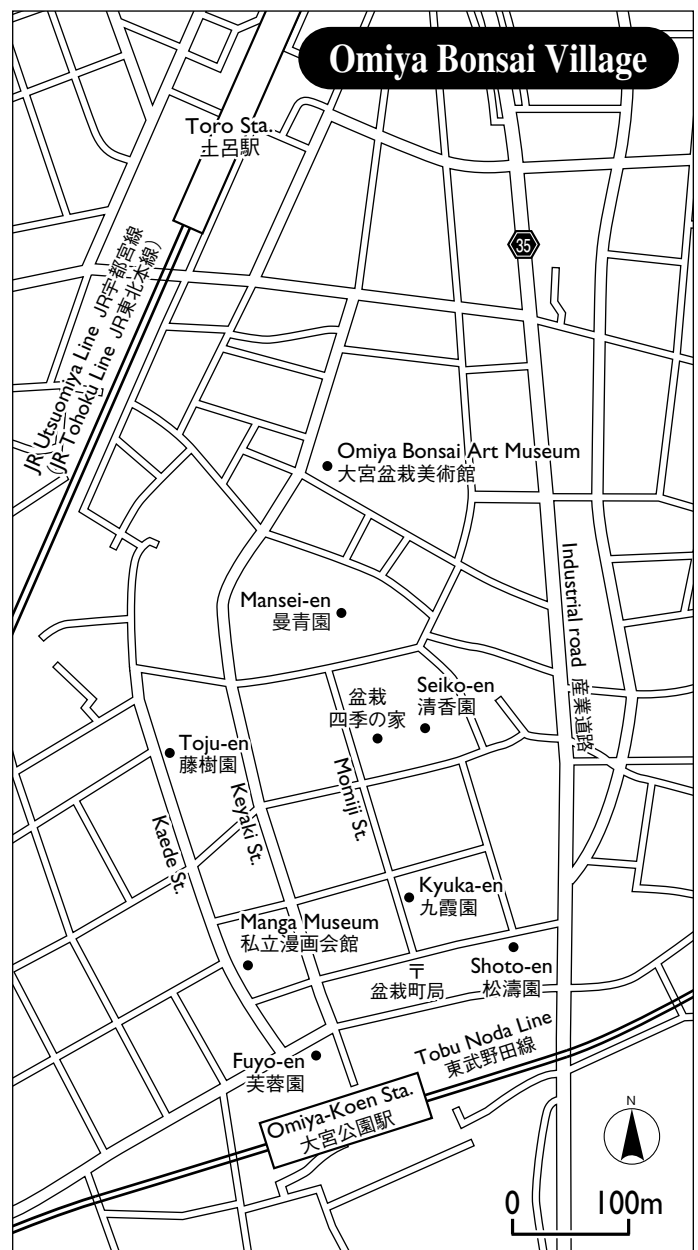
Throughout year:

**Omiya Bonsai Village** (大宮盆栽村), 5-min. walk from Omiya-Koen Sta. on Tobu Noda Line (50 min. from Tokyo Sta. change at Omiya Sta.), is a small area consisting of a dozen Bonsai gardens with hundreds of thousands of pots including more than 500-year-old trees. Most of them are closed on Thursdays. There is a free rest house "Shiki no Ie" (Four Seasons House). Open: 9:00–17:00. Closed: Thu. & New Year's holidays. Tel: 048-664-1636. The annual 'Bonsai Festival' is held there from May 3–5.

\* **Fuyo-en** (芙蓉園): Tel. 048-666-2400, in particular houses "**Zoki Bonsai**" (雑木盆栽) (Bonsai using deciduous trees). **Shoto-en** (松涛園): Tel. 048-652-1033, focuses on pots & other tools for culturing bonsai. **Kyuka-en** (九霞園): Tel. 048-663-0423, features many original bonsai made without using wire supports. **Toju-en** (藤樹園). Tel. 048-663-3899, specially features "**Shohaku Bonsai**" (松柏盆栽) (Bonsai with evergreen needle-leaved trees). **Mansei-en** (蔓青園): Tel. 048-663-2636, features almost all types of bonsai in its large garden. **Seiko-en** (清香園): Tel. 048-663-3931, features special bonsai made of various kinds of trees. **Kyuka-en**;

**The Omiya Bonsai Art Museum** (大宮盆栽美術館), 5-min. walk from Toro Sta. on JR Utsunomiya Line or 10-min. walk from Omiya-Koen Sta. on Tobu Noda Line, displays bonsai as well as bonsai pots, Suiseki stones, pictures, and historical materials related to bonsai. Open: 9:00–16:30 (Mar.–Oct.) –16:00 (Nov.–Feb.). Enter 30 min. before closing time. Closed: Thu., the New Year's holidays, and when exhibits are being prepared. Admission: ¥300. Tel: 048-780-2091.

URL: <http://www.bonsai-art-museum.jp/english/index.php>



**Showa Kinen Park, Bonsai-En** (昭和記念公園盆栽苑), 2-min. walk from Nishi-Tachikawa Sta. on JR Oume Line or 15-min. walk from Tachikawa Sta. on JR Chuo Line.(40 min. from Shinjuku Sta.). Bonsai-En is in the Japanese garden area in the park. Mainly 61 excellent bonsai pots are exhibited. Open: 9:30–17:00 (Mar.–Oct.) –16:30(Nov.–Feb.). Enter 30 min. before closing time. Closed: Dec. 31, Jan. 1, 4th Mon. & Tue. on Feb. Admission: ¥400 for adults, ¥80 for children (park entrance fee)

**Shunka-en BONSAI Museum** (春花園BONSAI美術館), 7-min. ride by taxi from Koiwa Sta. (20 min. from Tokyo Sta.) on JR Sobu Line or Mizue Sta. on subway Shinjuku Line. It also has a tea ceremony room and Japanese garden. Open: 10:00–17:00. Closed: Mon. Admission: ¥800 (including tea). Tel: 03-3670-8622. URL: <http://www.kunio-kobayashi.com/english/index.html>

**Ginza Uchiku-Ann** (銀座雨竹庵), 7-min. walk from Ginza Sta. on subway Ginza or Hibiya Line, is a bonsai specialty shop housing various types of bonsai. Open: 11:00–19:00 (Mon.–Fri.) –18:00 (Sat., Sun. & national holidays). Closed: Year-end, the New Year's holidays. URL: <http://www.bonsai-s-cube.com/>

Special exhibitions:

**Kokufu Bonsai-ten** (国風盆栽展) is the biggest annual bonsai event in Japan held in Feb. by **Nippon Bonsai Association** (日本盆栽協会, Tel: 03-3821-3059) at **Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum** (東京都美術館). (in Ueno Park, 7-min. walk from JR Ueno Sta. \*Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum is closed until 2012 due to reconstruction.) You can enjoy approx. 300 bonsai works from all over Japan. Admission: ¥1,000

**Spring Bonsai Festival** (立春盆栽大市), An annual Bonsai market held in Feb. at **Ueno Green Club** (上野グリーンクラブ, Tel: 03-5685-5656) (3-min. walk from Nezu Sta. on subway Chiyoda Line) with the same schedule as Spring Bonsai Festival where about 300 bonsai garden owners from all over Japan open stalls to sell their works. The festival schedule is linked with Kokufu Bonsai-ten. Shuttle buses are available between each events. You can also enjoy visiting various exhibitions and buying bonsai, miniature bonsai & bonsai pots throughout the year at **Ueno Green Club**. Open daily 9:00–17:00.

**Shuga-ten** (秋雅展), is an annual exhibition held at **Ueno Green Club** (上野グリーンクラブ, Tel: 03-5685-5656) (3-min. walk from Nezu Sta. on subway Chiyoda Line) by **AJSBA** (All Japan Shohin-Bonsai Association, 全日本小品盆栽協会, Tel: 046-269-9891) in early Nov. Many bonsai owners from all over Japan participate in this event. You can also buy bonsai at the sales corner. Admission: ¥600

**Japan Flower & Garden Show** (日本フラワー&ガーデンショウ), is an annual event held on the weekend of Mar. All kinds of flower-related items such as flowers, pots, bulbs, seedlings, products made from flowers and flower motif products, are to be exhibited & sold. About 70,000 visitors attend every year.

## BONSAI IN KANSAI AREA

### Osaka (大阪)

Throughout year:

**Urabe Yoshō-en Store** (浦部養庄園), 5-min. by taxi from Ikeda Sta. on Hankyu Takarazuka Line (20-min. ride from Osaka), houses more than 5,000 Bonsai pots. Tel: 072-751-3813. Open: 9:00–18:00. Closed: the New Year's holidays. URL: <http://www.yoshoen.com/index2.html>

**Vert Moi** (ヴェールモア), 1-min. walk from Abiko Sta. on JR Hanwa Line (20-min. ride from Osaka), particularly houses bonsai of wild flowers & wild grasses. Tel: 06-6691-3618. Open: 9:00-17:00. Closed: Wed., & the New Year's holidays.

Special exhibition:

**Shunga-ten** (春雅展), is an annual exhibition held at **"Mizu no Yakata" in Flower Expo Memorial Park** (花博記念公園鶴見緑地内水の館) by **AJSBA** (All Japan Shohin-Bonsai Association, 全日本小品盆栽協会, Tel: 046-269-9891) in late-Mar. 10-min. walk from Tsurumiryokuchi Sta. on subway Nagahori Line (20-min. ride from Osaka Sta.). More than 100 bonsai owners participate in. You can also buy bonsai at the sales corner. Admission: Free.

### Kyoto (京都)

Throughout year:

**Koju-en** (広樹園), 5-min. by taxi from JR Kyoto Sta., houses many kinds of trees like pine, plum, maple as well as gardenias. Open: 9:00–16:00. Tel: 075-691-5296. URL: <http://www.remus.dti.ne.jp/~masumi-t/0index.html>

**Shosei-en** (松清園), 3-min. by taxi from Misasagi Sta. (10-min. walk) on subway Tozai Line (15-min. ride from Kyoto), features both bonsai & miniature bonsai. Open: 9:00–17:00. Tel: 075-581-3014.

Special exhibitions:

**Gafu-ten** (雅風展), is an annual exhibition held at **Miyako-Messe** (京都市勧業館みやこめッセ) in early Jan. by **AJSBA** (All Japan Shohin-Bonsai Association, 全日本小品盆栽協会, Tel: 046-691-5488). 8-min. walk from Higashiyama Sta. on subway Tozai Line or 15-min. by bus from JR Kyoto Sta. to Kyoto Kaikan-mae Bus Stop. Particularly miniature bonsai & medium-size bonsai are exhibited. You can also buy bonsai at the sales corner. Admission: ¥800.

**Taikan-ten** (日本盆栽大観展), is the biggest annual bonsai exposition in the Kansai (west Japan) area held at **Miyako-Messe** (京都市勧業館みやこめッセ) in Nov. 8-min. walk from Higashiyama Sta. on subway Tozai Line or 15-min. by bus from JR Kyoto Sta. to Kyoto Kaikan-mae Bus Stop. About 180 bonsai owners from all over Japan participate in this event. You can also buy bonsai at the sales corner. Admission: ¥800.

## BONSAI IN SHIKOKU

### Kagawa (香川)

**Kinashi Bonsai Village, Kagawa Prefecture** (香川県高松市鬼無町), around Kinashi Sta., 7-min. walk from Takamatsu on JR Yoson Line, is the biggest bonsai village in Japan well-known for its 250-year-old history of Bonsai, especially that of pine trees. It holds an 80% share of the domestic market pine-tree bonsai and features about 270 bonsai gardens throughout the village. The annual **Kinashi Bonsai-Gardening Festival** (きなし盆栽植木まつり) is held in late-Oct. at **Ueki Bonsai Center** (鬼無町植木盆栽センター), a 10-min. walk from Kinashi Sta., with 50,000 pots. Also held every 5th, 15th and 25th of every month, is a sale and exhibit market. Tel: 087-882-4091. URL: <http://www.kinashi-bonsai.com/>



## **TOURIST INFORMATION**

**(Visit Japan Information Network)**

### **Omiya Station Tourist Information Center:**

Omiya Station, 630, Nishiki-cho, Omiya-ku, Saitama City,  
Saitama Pref. Tel. (048)644-1144  
10:00 – 18:30; Closed on Dec. 29 – Jan. 3

### **Odakyu Sightseeing Service Center:**

1-1-3, Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo Tel. (03)5321-7887  
8:00 – 18:00

### **Asakusa Cultural and Sightseeing Center:**

2-19-10, Kaminarimon, Taito-ku, Tokyo Tel. (03)3842-5566  
9:30 – 20:00 (English spoken: 10:00 – 17:00)

### **Osaka Visitors' Information Center Shin-Osaka:**

3rd fl., JR Shin-Osaka Station, 5-16-1 Nishi-nakajima,  
Yodogawa-ku, Osaka City, Osaka Pref. Tel. (06)6305-3311  
9:00 – 18:00; Closed on Dec. 31 – Jan. 3

### **Osaka Visitors' Information Center Umeda:**

JR Osaka Station 1st fl. North Central Gate, 3-1-1 Umeda, Kita-  
ku, Osaka City, Osaka pref. Tel. (06)6345-2189  
8:00 – 20:00; Closed on Dec. 31 – Jan.3

### **Kansai Tourist Information Center:**

Kansai International Airport Passenger Terminal Bldg., Osaka  
Pref. Tel. (072)456-6025

### **Kyoto Tourist Information Center (Kyo Navi):**

2nd fl., Kyoto Station Bldg., Shiokoji-sagaru, Karasuma-dori,  
Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto City, Kyoto Pref. Tel. (075)343-0548  
8:30 – 19:00

### **Kyoto Handicraft Center:**

21, Shogoin Entomi-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto City, Kyoto Pref.  
Tel. (075)761-8001  
10:00 – 19:00; Closed on Jan. 1 – 3

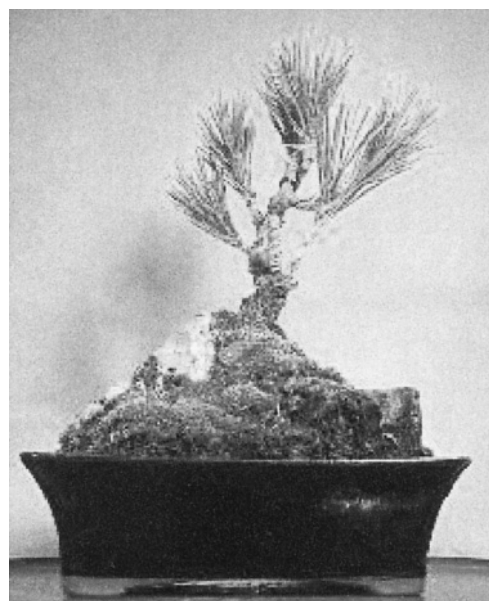
### **Takamatsu Tourist Information:**

Beside JR Takamatsu Station, 1-16, Hamano-cho, Takamatsu  
City, Kagawa Pref. Tel. (087)851-2009  
9:00 – 18:00; Closed on Dec. 30 – Jan. 3

## **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 such as tourist spots, transportation, and accommodation, etc, and suggesting tour itineraries.

1st Fl., Shin Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
100-0005 Tel. 03-3201-3331  
Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed: Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>)



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