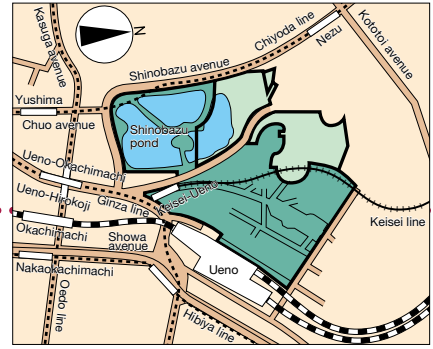


Culturally blessed forest known for its cherry blossoms and Shinobazu Pond

# Ueno Park



- Location** ● Ueno-Koen, Ikenohata 3-chome, Taito Ward
- Contact information** ● Ueno Park Administration Office tel: 03-3828-5644 (5-20 Ueno-Koen, Taito-ku 110-0007)
- Transport** ● 2-minute walk from Ueno (JR Yamanote line, Ginza line, Hibiya line).  
5-minute walk from Ueno-Okachimachi (Oedo line). 1-minute walk from Keisei-Ueno (Keisei line).  
Toll parking facilities available.



Ueno Park is one of Japan's first parks. It was established by Cabinet decree in 1873 along with Shiba, Asakusa, Fukagawa, and Asukayama Parks.

This area was once the grounds of Toezan Kaneiji Temple during the Edo era. After the Meiji Restoration, the land became government property. It was eventually donated to Tokyo City by imperial grant after a period under administration by the Imperial Household Ministry.

At first, the park consisted of the Kaneiji Temple mausoleum, Toshogu Shrine, and the cherry trees within the temple ground. The museums and zoo built later transformed it into a park with a more cultural feel.

Opened	October 19, 1873
Area	538,506.96 m <sup>2</sup>
Trees	Tall trees: 8,800, shubs: 24,800m <sup>2</sup>
Main plants	Ginkgo, camphor, Japanese zelkova, cherry (bell-flowered cherry, someiyoshino, yama-zakura, sato-zakura), lotus
Events	Cherry blossom festival (April), Azalea exhibit (June), Edo summer cool evening festival (July), seedling sale (March & November), dolls memorial service (September at Kiyomizudo), Shogitai memorial service (May), flower laying in commemoration of General Grant's visit to Japan (May)
Facilities	baseball field / athletic field, boat dock, outdoor stage, children's playground

**Cherry trees** ● There is a famous haiku poem by Basho Matsuo, "Cloud of blossoms. Is that the bell from Ueno, or Asakusa?" The "cloud of blossoms" is without a doubt the cherry blossoms in full bloom. Ueno's hills became famous for their cherry blossoms in the Kanei era of 1624 to 1644. This was thanks to the priest Tenkai of Kaneiji Temple planting cherry trees at various places around the hills.

Today, there are about 800 cherry trees in the park itself. That figure goes up to around 1,200 trees when including the zoo, Kiyomizudo, Toshogu Shrine, and other areas.

**Visits by migratory birds** ● In winter, ducks and other migratory birds pay a visit to Shinobazu Pond from as far away as Siberia and Alaska. Those birds resting their wings after their long journey provide a heartwarming site for visitors to the park.

**Suribachiyama** ● The small hill known as Suribachiyama stands at almost the center of the park, next to the administration office. This is an ancient burial mound from the Yayoi period of early Japan. Many ginkgo, Japanese zelkova, and other large trees dot the area around the hill today.



Sakura street with cherry blossoms in full bloom



Lotus plants at Shinobazu Pond

**Lotus** ● Shinobazu Pond is covered with lotus plants. This is the largest concentration of lotus in all of Tokyo. In July through August, they sprout their great, elegant flowers.

**Fountain** ● Ueno Park's fountain surpasses even the large fountain in Hibiya Park, making it one of the main attractions of the park. Lit up at night, it provides an aspect different from its daytime face.

### Statue of Takamori Saigo ●

The statue of Takamori Saigo is almost inseparable from the image of the hills of Ueno – so much that it has become a symbol for the park. It is a common destination for sightseers in Tokyo as well as a meeting place in the park.



**Promenade of artists** ● Every year, works of art created by graduates and former students of the Tokyo University of the Arts, located next to the park, are selected for their appropriateness to the park and exhibited outdoors. Every item exhibited blends in with the scenery at Ueno, and projects a cultural atmosphere.

### Shiki Masaoka Memorial Baseball Field ●

The park's baseball field has undergone a major renovation. On August 1, 2006 it was reopened as Shiki Masaoka Memorial Baseball Field, named after the famous haiku poet.

