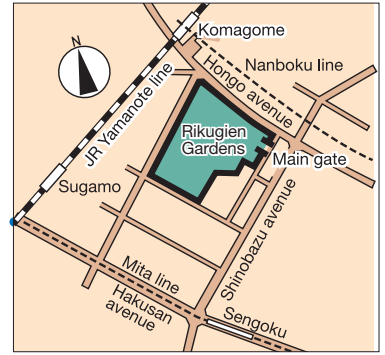


Bright Japanese gardens with artificial hills and a broad pond

# Rikugien Gardens



Location ●	Honkomagome 6-chome, Bunkyo Ward	
Contact Information ●	Rikugien Gardens Administration Office tel: 03-3941-2222 (6-16-3 Honkomagome, Bunkyo-ku 113-0021)	
Transport ●	7-minute walk from Komagome (JR Yamanote line, Nanboku line). 10-minute walk from Sengoku (Mita line).	
Closed ●	December 29 to January 1	
Open ●	9 am to 4:30 pm (gates close at 5 pm)	
Admission ●	General: 300 yen, Seniors 65 and older: 150 yen (Primary school and younger children / Jr. high school students living or studying in Tokyo: Free)	
Free days ●	Greenery Day (May 4), Tokyo Citizens Day (October 1)	

Rikugien was constructed by Yoshiyasu Yanagisawa on this land given to him by the fifth shogun Tsunayoshi Tokugawa. Yoshiyasu spent seven years from the time he was granted the land in 1695 constructing a garden with paths around artificial hills and a pond. As it was a flat part of Musashino, he had to dig a pond, build up hills, and bring in water from the Senkawa water supply to fill the pond.

Rikugien reflects the depth of Yoshiyasu's literary knowledge to form a detailed, tranquil Japanese garden themed based on his interest in poetry.

The name Rikugien comes from shi no rikugi (six tenets of poetry) – airs, straightforward narrative, explicit comparisons, implied comparisons, odes, and hymns – in “Mao Shi,” a collection of Chinese poetry which Ki no Tsurayuki and many others used as rokutai (six tenets of poetry) of Japanese poetry in “Kokin Wakashu.”

Woods encircle the pond with an island in the middle. Scenery in the garden employs scenery such as Wakanoura in Kishiu (present-day Wakayama) and areas nearby and from ancient Chinese stories. Scenes in the park are given names from those texts.

After the Meiji Restoration, the gardens became the property of the Iwasaki family, founders of Mitsubishi. They were donated to Tokyo City in 1938 and opened to the public. And in March 31, 1953 they became a nationally designated scenic spot.

Opened	October 16, 1938
Area	87,809.41 m <sup>2</sup>
Trees	Tall trees: 5,600, shrubs: 30,400 m <sup>2</sup>
Main plants	Camphor, Japanese zelkova, cherry (weeping cherry, someiyoshino), castanopsis, southern magnolia, pine, cornel, maple, satsuki azalea, azalea
Facilities	Gathering hall (Shinsen-tei), tea room (Gishun-tei)

**Deshio no Minato harbor ●** A beautifully curved shoreline of the large pond named after an ancient Japanese poem “A crane cry sadly as the moon tide washes the shores of Wakanoura.”

**Nakanoshima ●** There are two hills built on the central island. The two hills represent men and women and wishes of good relationship and prosperity of the descendents. The only bridge to the island is Tadunohashi Bridge. \*Nakanoshima is off limits.limits.



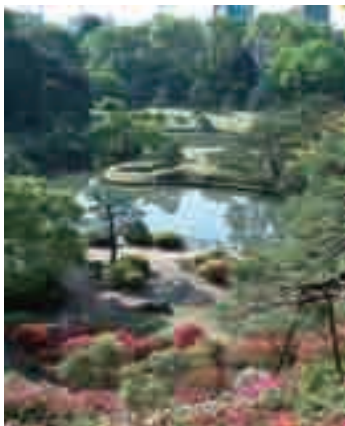
Nakanoshima

**Tamamo no Iso shore ●** Arranged stones with small pine on it in front of the Tamamo no Iso is Horajima, which is named after a place where immortal hermits are thought to live in the ancient Chinese text. It is thought to be built at the time of the Iwasaki family. The long and thin stone at the left side is Garyoseki.

**Waterfall-view teahouse ●** There are around the teahouse is called Kinokawakami, which is upper stream of Kinokawa river. A stream flows through rocks and is the only place where sound of water can be enjoyed. The waterfall used to be fed by the Sengawa water supply.

**Fukiage Pine ●** A Japanese red pine which was planted from the building stages of the park. It is also mentioned in “Rikugienki” in Yoshiyasu's journal “Rakushido Nenroku.”

**Fujishiro pass** ● This is about 35 meters high and the highest artificial hill in the park. It is an imitation of Fujishirotoke (Fujishiro no Misaka) in present day Kainan City, The view of the garden is a sight to see. Colorful azalea will color the scenery during end of April to early May.



The spectacular view from Fujishiro pass

### Sasakani no michi path ●

A path named after a poem "My beloved is to come tonight. The spider's sure movement seems to foretell it" by Sotoori hime, known as the three masters of Japanese poetry. A wish of eternity, to last for a long time even it may be thin like a spider's web, is expressed.



Weeping cherry tree

### Weeping cherry ●

You can see this cherry after passing through the gate in the gardens after entering from the main gate. It was planted in 1955 but grew large as other older trees. The best time to watch is slightly early than the someiyoshino. The garden is opened night during the season and the cherry is lighted up.

**Azalea** ● In the Edo period, there was Somei Gardener, which sold someiyoshino, right next to the Rikugien. In the Ganroku period, azalea sold by them also created a gardening boom in Edo. Most popular of those were Honkirishima, a modified *Rhododendron obtusum*. There are other rare old species of azalea in Rikugien. Iwasaki family which owned Rikugien during the Meiji period also had close ties with azalea. Azalea with history and various species will start to bloom from middle of April. The Tsutsuji teahouse is a thatched teahouse built during the Iwasaki family period and is a rare building which azalea is used for pillars and joist.

### Rikugien Gardens Flower Calendar

Many of the plants and trees in the gardens have flowers. The following are some of the typical flowers by season.

January	Winter sweet
February	Japanese cornel, Japanese apricot, camellia
March	Camellia, kobushi magnolia, weeping cherry
April	Azalea, Japanese kerria, someiyoshino cherry
May	Cornel, storax
June	Southern magnolia, hydrangea, satsuki azalea
July	Crape myrtle
September	Japanese bush clover
November	Sasanqua, tea plant, maple
– December	

### Changing leaves of autumn ●

Beginning with the Japanese wax tree in October, the changing of leaves begin. During late November to early December is the best time to see maples and paints the garden vividly. The autumn leaves will be light up to create translunar night for watching the leaves.

