

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, Namboku line). 10-minute walk from Sengoku (Mita line).	
Closed ●	December 29 to January 1	
Open ●	9 am to 5 pm (Entry until 4:30 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 classifications 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 garden 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 ²
Trees	Tall trees: 5,600, shrubs: 30,400 m ²
Main plants	Camphor, Japanese zelkova, cherry (weeping cherry, someiyoshino), castanopsis, southern magnolia, pine, hydrangea, 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 cries sadly as the moon rides and 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 descendants. The only bridge to the island is Tazunohashi Bridge.
* Nakanoshima is off limits.



Nakanoshima

Horaijima ●

Arranged stones in front of the Tamamo no Iso is Horaijima, 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 is a place 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 ● Japanese red pine which was planted from the building stages of the garden.

Fujishiro pass ● This is about 35 meters high and the highest artificial hill in the garden. 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 from the 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 ● 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 as large as other older trees. The best time to see is slightly earlier than the someiyoshino. The garden is opened night during the season and the cherry is lighted up.



Weeping cherry tree

Azalea ● In the Edo period, there were Somei Gardeners, who sold someiyoshino, right next to the Rikugien. In the Genroku 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 a family which owned Rikugien during t close ties with azalea. Azalea with histor start to bloom in the middle of April.

The Tsutsuji teahouse is a thatched Iwasaki family period and is a rare built for pillars and joist.

Gardens guide

Volunteers will guide you on the history and highlits of the gardens. (No charge)

<Japanese> Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays (Twice a day from 11am and 2pm)

<English> The first and third Sunday of each month (Twice a day from 11am and 2pm)

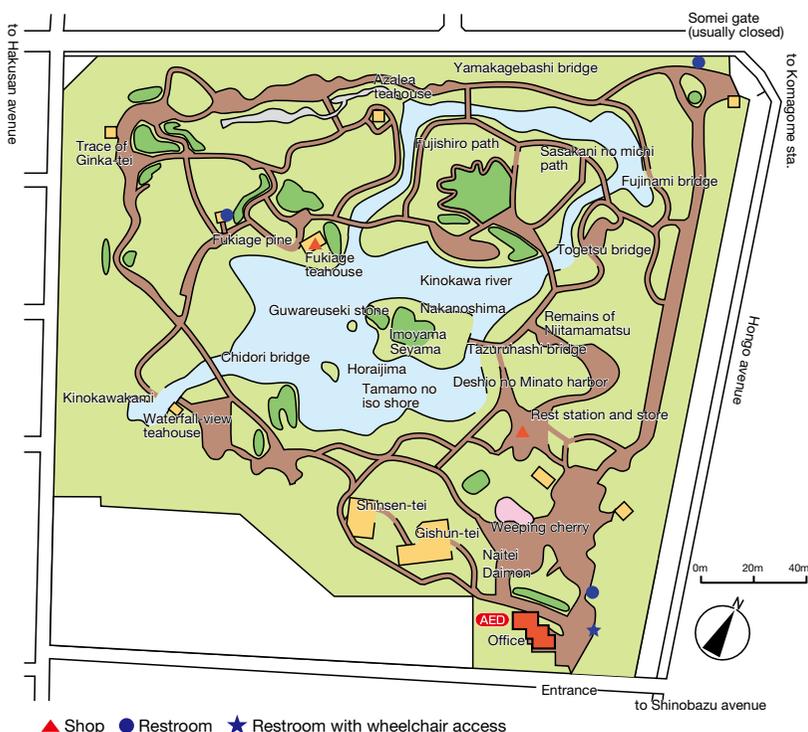
Rikugien Gardens Flower Calendar

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	Kobushi magnolia, weeping cherry
April	Azalea, Japanese kerria, someiyoshino cherry
May	Cornel, storax
June	Hydrangea, satsuki azalea
July	Crape myrtle
September	Japanese bush clover
November	Sasanqua, tea plant, maple
- December	

* The readings of place names and the Japanese poem are based on the Yoshiyasu's journal "Rakushido Nenroku."

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



▲ Shop ● Restroom ★ Restroom with wheelchair access