

East Gardens of the Imperial Palace



The East Gardens of the Imperial Palace were created as part of the renovation project of the Imperial Palace grounds. The project was authorised by a cabinet decision in 1960. The Gardens are located in the eastern part of the Imperial Palace grounds and occupy main quarters of the former Edo Castle. The gardens cover 210,000 square meters and have been open to the public since 1 October 1968.

[Opening hours]

- From 1 March to 14 April
9:00a.m.-4:30p.m.(entry up to 4:00p.m.)
- From 15 April to 31 August
9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.(entry up to 4:30p.m.)
- From 1 September to 31 October
9:00a.m.-4:30p.m.(entry up to 4:00p.m.)
- From 1 November to the end of February
9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.(entry up to 3:30p.m.)

[Closures]

- On Mondays and Fridays (except for most of the National Holidays)
- From 28 December to 3 January
- In unavoidable circumstances

[Entrances]

The Ote-mon Gate, Hirakawa-mon Gate and Kitahanebashi-mon Gate.

The Composition of the Gardens

The Gardens offer opportunities for visitors to appreciate a wide variety of trees and flowers in four seasons.

Honmaru Area

The wide expanse of lawn lies at the center of the Honmaru Area. The remains of the main tower of the Edo castle, gardens of roses, bamboos, cherry blossoms, tea trees, orchards of classical species and others encircle the lawn.

10 Classical species orchards

At the suggestion of His Majesty, planted here have been some fruit trees of old-fashioned species once popular in Japan till the latter half of the 19th century but now hardly seen. They include Japanese pear, peach, plum, citrus fruit, persimmon and Japanese apple.



Oshibafu



Classical species orchards



Rose garden

11 Wild Grass Island

A variety of mainly native wild grasses were planted.

12 Oshibafu (Lawn)

Here, in November 1990, H.M. the Emperor held the Daijōsai enthronement rite (the first harvest festival of the reign).

16 Rose garden

Roses were transplanted from the residential quarter of the Imperial Palace following the suggestion by the Emperor.

19 Bamboo grove

Thirteen species of bamboo of Japanese and Chinese origins were transplanted again on the idea of the Emperor.

18 Cherry Blossoms Island

The East Gardens boast more than thirty species of cherry blossoms, half of which can be seen on the island.



Bamboo grove



Tokagakudo Concert Hall



Teishudai



Fujimi-yagura

Ninomaru Area

This area features a Japanese garden, woodland grove and trees representing Japan's 47 prefectures.

29 Bairin-zaka Slope (Plum-grove Slope)

The grove features more than fifty plum trees of various kinds.

32 Ninomaru Grove

The grove was created following the suggestion by the Emperor Showa as an area reminiscent of woodlands which had been disappearing in and around Tokyo. The current Emperor saw to it that a brook ran through the grove, which was enlarged in 2002.

35 Ninomaru Garden

The Ninomaru Garden is a garden based on a 18th century garden map. A pond can be found today in nearly the same position as the original garden attributed to Kobori Enshu.

36 Iris garden

84 species of irises have been introduced from the famous Iris garden in Meiji Jingu.



Ninomaru Grove



Ninomaru Garden



Suwano-chaya Tea House

Sannomaru Area

This area features the Sannomaru Shozokan (The Museum of the Imperial Collections) and a resting place.

Sannomaru Shozokan

The collection of art pieces owned and inherited by the Imperial Family was donated to the Japanese government in 1989. The collection is displayed in turn on various themes.



Ote-mon Gate



Sannomaru Shozokan

(Memo and commemoration stamp column)

◻ Detailed guidance of the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace "East Gardens of the Imperial Palace Self-guide Book" (JPY700) is available for purchase at kiosks in the Gardens.

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Information and photos: the Imperial Household Agency

East Gardens of the Imperial Palace Guide Map



- 1 Ota-mon Gate
- 2 Sannomaru Shozokan (The Museum of the Imperial Collections)
- 3 Resting place with kiosk
- 4 Doshin-bansho Guardhouse
- 5 Hyakunin-bansho Guardhouse
- 6 Honmaru Entrance
- 7 O-bansho Guardhouse
- 8 Fujimi-yagura (Mt. Fuji-viewing tower)
- 9 Remains of the Chujaku-mon mon bridge
- 10 Classical species orchards
- 11 Wild Grass Island
- 12 Honmaru Oshibafu (Lawn)
- 13 Site of Matsuno-o-roka Corridor
- 14 Tea garden
- 15 Fujimi-tamon Defence-house
- 16 Rose garden
- 17 Ishimuro (Stone cellar)
- 18 Cherry Blossom Island
- 19 Bamboo grove
- 20 Tenshudai (Remains of the main tower)
- 21 Kitahanebashi-mon Gate
- 22 Tokagakudo Concert Hall
- 23 Site of Ohoku
- 24 Resting place with kiosk
- 25 Lookout
- 26 Shiomi-zaka Slope (Tide-view Slope)
- 27 Gakubu (Music Department)
- 28 Shoryobu (Archives and Mausolea Department)
- 29 Balin-zaka Slope (Plum-grove slope)
- 30 Hirakawa-mon Gate
- 31 Resting place
- 32 Ninomaru Grove
- 33 Trees representing Japan's 47 prefectures
- 34 Suwano-chaya Tea House
- 35 Ninomaru Garden
- 36 Iris garden
- R Rest Room