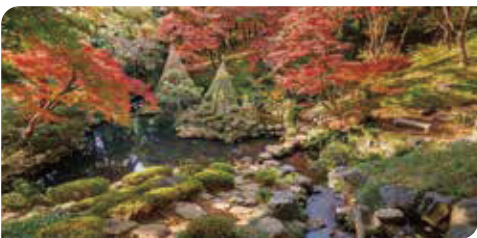


Special Place of Scenic Beauty and Special Historic Site are the highest designations that can be conferred upon places of especially great value among Japanese cultural assets. There are just nine locations in Japan that have received both designations, and Hama-rikyu Gardens and Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens are among them. Alongside the temples Kinkaku-ji and Ginkaku-ji in Kyoto and the Itsukushima Shinto Shrine in Hiroshima Prefecture, they are well recognised as highly valuable historical and academic assets that are representative of Japanese culture.

Nine Metropolitan Gardens



Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens --- Place of Scenic Beauty

One of Tokyo's gardens originally established by a feudal lord in the early stages of the Edo Shogunate in the seventeenth century. With their *kaiyu-shiki* design, with water features centred on a pond for strolling around, the gardens are distinctive for their beautiful stone arrangements and scenery. Constructed by high-ranking shogunate official Okubo Tadamoto in 1678, the gardens passed from one owner to another and served as an imperial residence for a time before being opened to the public in 1924.

Mukojima-Hyakkaen Gardens --- Place of Scenic Beauty and Historic Site

Sahara Kikuu, a wealthy antiques dealer of the late Edo period, opened Mukojima-Hyakkaen in the early nineteenth century as a private flower garden created with the help of some leading literary figures of Edo. Bringing together the flowering plants that provided inspiration in Japanese classical literature, they are a treasured place to enjoy the flowers of each season, and renowned for the literary-inspired aesthetics that distinguish them from the gardens created by feudal lords.

Kiyosumi Gardens --- Place of Scenic Beauty designated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government

The gardens were created in the *kaiyu-shiki* style, centred on a pond for strolling around, with trees and water features, a design typical of the Edo period. They were established in the late nineteenth century by Iwasaki Yataro, founder of the Mitsubishi business conglomerate, and completed as modern Japanese gardens distinctive for the famous stones gathered from around Japan and the large central pond. During the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake, they served as an evacuation point, saving many lives.

Kyu-Furukawa Gardens --- Place of Scenic Beauty

Kyu-Furukawa Gardens are renowned as a blend of Japanese and Western styles, a skilful juxtaposition of Western-style buildings and gardens with Japanese gardens. The Western-style building and gardens were designed by British architect Josiah Conder, while the Japanese gardens were the work of prominent late-nineteenth century landscape designer Ogawa Jihei VII. Even today these precious gardens still convey the spirit of the early Taisho period around the early 1910s.

Kyu-Iwasaki-tei Gardens --- Important Cultural Property

The gardens were built in 1896 as the primary residence of business conglomerate Mitsubishi's third president, Iwasaki Hisaya. While there were originally as many as 20 buildings within the grounds, only three now remain: the Western-style residence and billiards room constructed by Josiah Conder and the Japanese-style residence. They are a key example of gardens that juxtapose Western and Japanese styles.

Tonogayato Gardens --- Place of Scenic Beauty

Tonogayato Gardens are *kaiyu-shiki* style gardens, centred on a pond for strolling around, which also incorporate water elements and trees. They make clever use of a natural spring and the Musashino plateau's varied topography, and offer charmingly diverse views progressing from the lawn area to the spring-fed pond. Created as a private villa in 1913, they later became a second residence of Mitsubishi founders the Iwasaki family. A local campaign to protect them led to their public opening as a metropolitan garden in 1974.



Let's explore the nine Tokyo gardens!

Discovering the Beauty of Japanese Gardens in Tokyo

The Metropolitan Gardens and Matcha Experiences



Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

The Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association contributes to the comfort and charm of the Tokyo metropolitan area by maintaining and operating metropolitan parks, gardens and cemeteries as well as river facilities. In addition to enriching Tokyo with flowers and greenery, the Association seeks to ensure that the gardens are enjoyed by all, by maintaining and operating them on a day-to-day basis and hosting seasonal events or other such activities to communicate the charms of Tokyo.



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Enjoy a matcha experience with
beautiful seasonal garden views.

at Tokyo

Tokyo has **nine metropolitan gardens**, each with its own unique history and charm. Whether they are gardens created by feudal lords in the seventeenth century or a hillside retreat with features highlighting the four seasons, these gardens provide a close encounter with traditional Japanese scenic beauty. These metropolitan gardens, which present themselves so differently from season to season, are also an oasis of calm and respite in the heart of bustling Tokyo life. The three gardens showcased here—Hama-rikyu, Koishikawa Korakuen, and Rikugien,

all gardens originally established by feudal lords—also offer **matcha experiences** within their grounds. Savouring matcha and traditional sweets while taking in the beauty of the gardens is a special opportunity to experience the traditional culture and *omotenashi*—the spirit of selfless hospitality—that are so unique to Japan. We invite you to delight in the nine metropolitan gardens as new highlights of a visit to Tokyo.



Nakajima-no-ochaya Teahouse at Hama-rikyu Gardens --- Special Place of Scenic Beauty and Special Historic Site

Hama-rikyu Gardens have a long history with close ties to the shogun's family during the Edo period (1603-1868). The gardens' main features are the Shioiri-no-ike, a tidal pond ever shifting in appearance as the water level ebbs and flows with the tides of Tokyo Bay, and two ponds that were formerly used for a traditional style of duck hunting. With their backdrop of high-rise buildings,

the gardens encapsulate the unique nature of Tokyo as a blend of past and present. The Nakajima-no-ochaya, the teahouse perched on Shioiri-no-ike's main islet, offers a serene experience of Japan's traditional culture by allowing visitors to enjoy matcha and traditional sweets while taking in the gardens.

Hama-rikyu Gardens

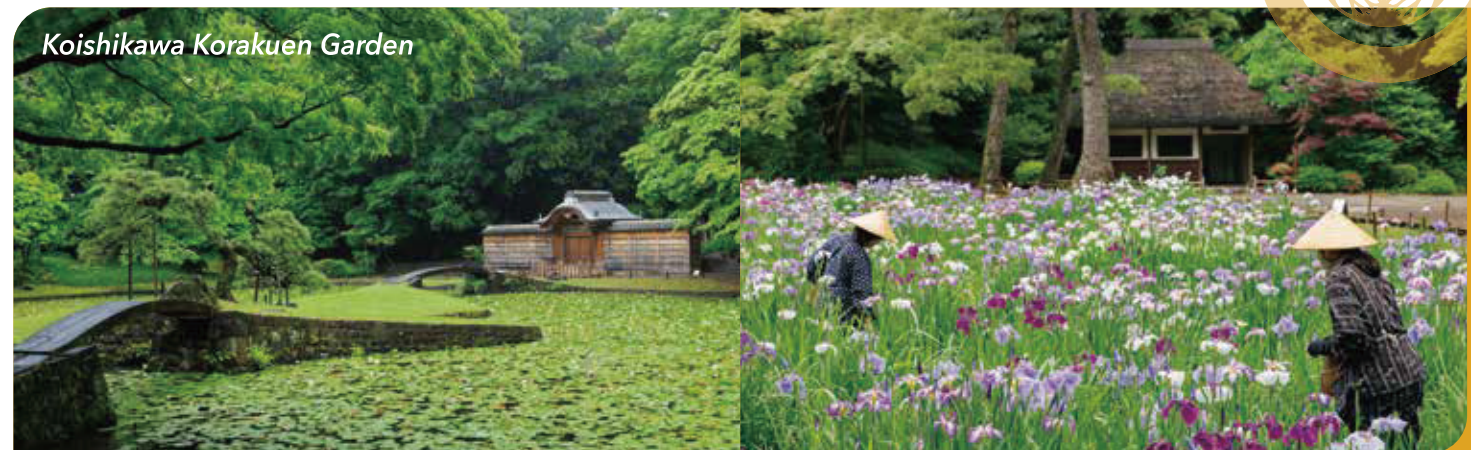


Kantoku-tei Teahouse at Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens --- Special Place of Scenic Beauty and Special Historic Site

Dating back to the initial years of the Edo Shogunate in the early seventeenth century, Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens are among the Tokyo metropolitan area's oldest gardens. Each visit to the gardens offers new discoveries, thanks to their distinctive design that incorporates Chinese concepts and representations of scenic spots from across Japan.

The gardens present the charms of nature across the four seasons. With their rich natural beauty and history, they are renowned as representative examples of the culture of Japanese gardens.

Koishikawa Korakuen Garden



Fukiage-Chaya Teahouse at Rikugien Gardens --- Special Place of Scenic Beauty

Rikugien Gardens convey the world of Japan's classical waka poetry in their kaiyu-shiki design centred on a pond for strolling around, along with man-made hills and the use of water features and trees, styles typical of the Edo period. The scenic pond, the slight elevations of the man-made hills, and the elegant footpaths showcase the beauty of each season.

The cascading cherry blossoms in spring and the autumn foliage are particular highlights that attract many visitors from both in and outside Japan. These special gardens are an oasis of calm in the heart of the city where visitors can directly experience Japanese aesthetics and harmony with nature.

Rikugien Garden

