









Aoyama Cemetery

[Aoyama Cemetery – Japan’s First Public Cemetery with 140 Years of History]

Established and run by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Aoyama Cemetery is located in the Minami Aoyama area in Minato Ward. Within the total land area of 260,000 square meters are cherry tree-lined boulevards and many huge red pine trees, forming what one may call an “urban forest”. The cemetery’s 14,000 tombs are the final resting places of 126,000 departed souls.

During the Edo Era, directly preceding modern-day Japan, funerals and burials were officiated by temples licensed by the Tokugawa Shogunate. The Meiji Government reformed the system and built Japan’s first public cemetery on the former estate of the Aoyama family of the Gujo Clan, which held high offices in the Tokugawa Shogunate. It is said that this is how this part of Tokyo came to be called Aoyama. For over 140 years, the cemetery with its serene atmosphere has dutifully watched over the souls that rest here, even though dramatic changes have taken place in the surrounding areas.

In addition to the towering trees which have witnessed the growth of Tokyo, Aoyama Cemetery is home to many people who have left their mark on Tokyo or on Japan’s modern history. Also found here are sections dedicated to the Metropolitan Police Board and the Foreign Section, preserving their own historical characteristics.

-  Water service
-  Toilet
-  Store
-  Parking area
-  Open space
-  Automated External Defibrillator
-  Acupuncture and moxibustion yard
-  Guide plate

