

How to Spend Time in Rikugien Garden

“The 88 Views of Rikugien”

The garden has 88 beauty spots, such as the wide sea and the mountains. You can enjoy them while walking along the paths. (It takes about 1 hour to see all.)



“Take a walk in Kimono”

Strolling the paths wearing kimono or Yukata (summer kimono). We occasionally hold events at which you can try *Happi. *traditional gardeners' coat



“Guided Tour in English”

We offer a guided tour in English to introduce the highlights of the garden. It is free of charge, and takes about 1 hour.

*The tour starts at 11am and 2pm on the first and third Sundays of each month.



“Edo-daikagura”

Edo-daikagura is one of traditional Japanese performing arts. It has a history of over 400 years.

The performers show us various acrobatics, such as juggling, spinning a teacup on an umbrella and more!

*Held irregularly

“Matcha at Tea-house”

How about having Matcha (powdered green tea) at Fukiage-chaya tea-house with nice views? *You cannot see the process of making tea. Matcha with Wagashi ¥510 Iced Matcha is available in summer. 【Open】9 am - 5 pm (L.O. 4:30 pm)



“Breath-taking Garden at Night”

Though you can enjoy the garden through the year, we definitely recommend you to visit us in spring and autumn. Weeping cherry trees in spring and colored leaves in autumn are lit up at night. They look different between daytime and nighttime.



“Rest”

Listening to the sound of water, sitting on a bench, reading a book, viewing the scenery... Have a relaxing time in your own way.

*No smoking, drinking and mats



“Craftmanship”

Stone lanterns, various bridges, fences and washbasins were all made by hand.

See the technical skills handed down from generation to generation.

“Beauty of Trees”

Appreciate the pine trees of which the gardeners take good care, and the shapes of the trees trimmed in natural forms as they grow. The allotment of the garden is also a remarkable point.



Rikugien Garden

【Address】6-16-3 Hon-komagome, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo

【Tel】03-3941-2222

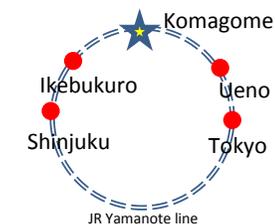
【Access】JR Yamanote line “Komagome Sta. (JY10)” South Exit, 7 min. walking.

【Admission Fee】Adult ¥300 / Aged 65 and more ¥150 / “En-musubi” discount ticket with Kyu Furukawa Gardens ¥400

【Open】9 am – 5 pm (Entry until 4:30 pm)

【HP】<http://teien.tokyo-park.or.jp/en/rikugien/index.html>

【Twitter】@ParksTeien



“Easily Accessible”

Rikugien garden is in Komagome which is on Yamanote line. It takes about 10 min. from Ikebukuro and Ueno, about 15 min. from Shinjuku and Tokyo. Great access to other sightseeing spots! Stop by during your Tokyo trip.

How to Taste Japanese Gardens

Rikugien Garden, which is one of Japanese “*daimyo gardens”, was built in the Edo period. In the garden, circulating walking paths are provided around the central pond for enjoying views of the garden (it is called “Kaiyu style”). It can be said that daimyo garden is the compilation of the Japanese garden’s history.

To make visitors feel the garden bigger, many techniques are being used. Pine trees were planted along the pond to look like a shore, winding paths are provided so not to see into the garden well, made hills and boundary shorelines of the pond. Because of these techniques, we can see various scenes in the garden.

*feudal lords

Another feature of the daimyo gardens is “comparison”. The flow of the pond is used to resemble rivers and sea, and rocks stand for islands or animals. These comparisons enable us to enjoy sceneries as beautiful paintings at each point while taking a journey from the sea to the mountains.

In addition, the original characteristic of Rikugien garden is that the garden is based on classic Japanese poetry “Waka” and classical literature of Japan and China.

Incorporating sceneries of faraway places and sights into the garden, which appear in Waka and literary works written by men of other days, enables us to touch the world of literature, and travel Japan and other countries without visiting there. Rikugien garden is the only one that expresses Japanese literature and Japan’s sense of beauty.



“Comparison” in Japanese gardens

- water of pond • • representation of river and sea
- pebbles • • water or beach in the dry landscape
- rocks • • symbolizing mountains, birds, humans and Buddha
- *Rocks are placed in standing or laid down posture and combined together as design to express the native religion of Japan that believes gods’ spirits dwell in natural objects, or lucky charms originated from Buddhist.



Essential Trees

- pine tree • • As pine trees grow at shores, many pine trees were planted around ponds that depict the sea in Japanese gardens. This is the most important tree for daimyo gardens.
- maple tree • • This is a typical tree of mountain. People like their pretty colored leaves in autumn since long ago.



Waka of Naka-no-shima (islet in the pond)

• Comparison • • “yin and yang stone” symbolizes male and female is placed in Naka-no-shima to pray for the prosperity of descendants.

• Waka • • 「 妹背山 中に生たる 玉ざさの 一夜のへだて さもぞ露けき 」

Imoseyama / nakani oitaru / tamazasa no / ichiyo no hedate / samozo tsuyukeki”

Imoseyama / overgrown between / switch canes / the interval of a night / like wet with dew

This waka describes the sadness of a man and a woman who can’t see each other. In this waka, 2 manmade hills stand for a man and a woman, and a rock between the hills is switch canes. The expression of matchmaking was general topic in waka in ancient Japan. The stories of waka are expressed by the techniques of making gardens.

What is Waka?

“Waka” is a generic name for classic Japanese poetry. Tanka is a form of lyric poem which consists 31 morae, arranged in 5 lines, of 5/7/5/7/7 morae respectively.

One of the characteristics of Japanese is making one word have more than one meaning. That enables various expression even if it is written with a small number of characters.

Poems show their poets feelings through depicting nature.

