



# Rikugien Garden

~ A scenic urban oasis ~  
(Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo)



Yataro Iwasaki Hisaya Iwasaki  
Photos courtesy of Mitsubishi Archives

Rikugien Garden, located in a leading educational district of Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, is a famous Daimyo (feudal lord) garden from the Edo era, which was created in 1702 by Yoshiyasu Yanagisawa, a sobayonin (personal chamberlain) of the fifth Shogun, Tsunayoshi Tokugawa. Rikugien Garden is a circuit-style, hill-and-pond garden that replicated views of the Sea of Wakanoura and its vicinities in Kishu (now Wakayama), which are mentioned in the Manyoshu (the Anthology of Myriad Leaves) and the Kokin Wakashu (A Collection of Ancient and Modern Japanese Poetry).

This garden, which had been used frequently till the end of the Edo period, was left devastated after the Meiji Restoration. Later, Yataro Iwasaki, the founder of Mitsubishi, acquired the garden and restored it to its original condition. After the death of Yataro, the

management of the garden was taken over by Yanosuke, the second President of Mitsubishi (Yataro's younger brother) and Hisaya, the third President (Yataro's eldest son). While working hard to maintain and improve the sophisticated garden, Hisaya thought he should make it a citizen's oasis. As a result, he donated the garden to Tokyo city in 1938. Opened to the public, Rikugien Garden was designated as a national special place of scenic beauty in 1953. Rikugien Garden is one of the few remaining Daimyo gardens. When strolling around the garden, with trees growing thick around a large pond, visitors can feel that their eyes and heart are soothed by fantastic views of the scenic beauty and flowers blooming in each of four seasons. Located near Rikugien Garden is the Toyo Bunko, another place associated with Mitsubishi. You are recommended to visit these two places at the same time.

## Recommended Viewing Points in Rikugien Garden



### Beautiful flowers blooming in each of four seasons

After passing through Naitei-Daimon (the entrance to the garden), you will be welcomed by the famous weeping cherry trees and other beautiful flowers blooming in each of the four seasons. Also, you can enjoy attractive events such as night viewing of illuminated weeping cherry trees and maple trees. You are also recommended to stroll the garden with the help of a volunteer guide.

~ Flowers you can see in Rikugien Garden ~

<b>Spring</b> Cherry trees (weeping cherry trees, Someiyoshino), azaleas, Satsuki azaleas, etc.	<b>Summer</b> Evergreen magnolias, golden rain trees, bush clovers, hydrangeas, etc.
<b>Fall</b> Colored leaves (Japanese wax trees, maple trees), etc.	<b>Winter</b> Japanese allspices, camellias, plum trees, etc.

### Landscape of the garden seen from tea houses

There are several tea houses in the garden, and the views seen from the tea houses are so beautiful you will forget being in downtown Tokyo. From Takimi Chaya, you can see a mountain stream spouting a spray of water in a forest darkness, even in the daytime. In November, Tsutsuji Chaya will be surrounded by colored leaves. At Fukiage Chaya, you can enjoy shopping for tea and other souvenirs while viewing the pond located at the center of the garden and Nakanoshima in the pond.



Takimi Chaya Tsutsuji Chaya

#### Access

Location: 6-16-3, Honkomagome, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo  
 Phone: 03-3941-2222 (Rikugien Garden Service Center)  
 Transportation: Seven-minute walk from Komagome Station (South Exit of the JR Yamanote Line or Exit 2 of the Tokyo Metro Namboku Line) to the front gate of Rikugien Garden. Ten-minute walk from Sengoku Station (Exit A3 of the Toei Mita Line).

\* Parking space not available

Please visit the website for the admission, opening hours, and other details.