

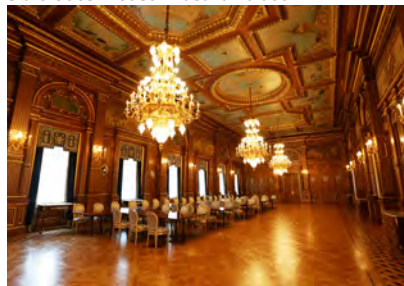


## A Journey through Time Recalling Gardens

Minato City is home to some of the most outstanding gardens in Japan. Their story has moved along two major streams. One sprang from the daimyo gardens of Edo period. During that period, the area of Minato City was crowded with daimyo residences. There were also daimyo who ordered gardens be constructed on vast grounds to their *kamiyashiki* (a mansion that served both as a residence and a branch office in Edo for the feudal lord) lined up near the Edo Castle. The origin of the present-day Kyu-Shiba-Rikyu Gardens (see page 12) is such daimyo gardens. On the grounds of these gardens was standing the *kamiyashiki* of the Okubo clan, the lords of Odawara Domain where they had the Rakujuen Gardens be constructed. The surroundings at that time were a coastal area filled up with land and an elaborate garden featuring scenery that changed according to the tide with seawater drawn into the pond. On the grounds of present-day Hinokicho Park (see page 13) was standing the *shimoyashiki* of the Mori clan (Choshu Domain) that shielded the famous daimyo gardens of Shimizuen. Today, this place doesn't exist anymore, yet you can enjoy the nostalgic atmosphere.

The other trend mentioned is the gardens dating from modern times. There are many imperial villas and main residences throughout Minato City, such as Kyu Shiba Rikyu Garden, Former Asaka-no-miya Residence (see page 14, present-day Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum), Former Arisugawa-no-miya Residence (see page 14, present-day Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park), and Akasaka Palace. In addition, there is also the garden within the main residence of the Iwasaki family (Mitsubishi zaibatsu) - an emblematic zaibatsu of the modern times (see page 13). This garden was built by Ogawa Jihei VII, also known as "Ueji," a first-class landscape gardener of that time, and is representative for the modern Japanese gardening. Today, it has become the garden of the International House of Japan, although its former shape has barely changed. The Mountain Stream built within the Shiba Park (see page 12) was designed by Yasuhei Nagaoka, a pioneer of modern parks administration. It might be a good idea to take time to relax in a tranquil space away from the city bustle.

State Guest House Akasaka Palace



You can visit by applying in advance. For details, please visit the Cabinet Office home page (<https://www.geihinkan.go.jp/en/akasaka/>) or call the telephone service directly at 03-5728-7788.

Shinjuku City

State Guest House  
Akasaka Palace

Akasaka Palace and surroundings

Akasaka Mitsuke Sta.

Shibuya City

Gaienmae Sta.

Aoyama-itchome Sta.

Akasaka Sacas  
Akasaka Sta.

Tameike-sanno Sta.

Chiyoda City

S = 1:24,000



Omote-sando Sta.

Aoyama Cemetery

Nogizaka Sta.

Toronomon Hills

Shimbashi Sta.

Shimbashi Sta.

10

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Minami-Aoyama 2

Minami-Aoyama 1

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Akasaka 5

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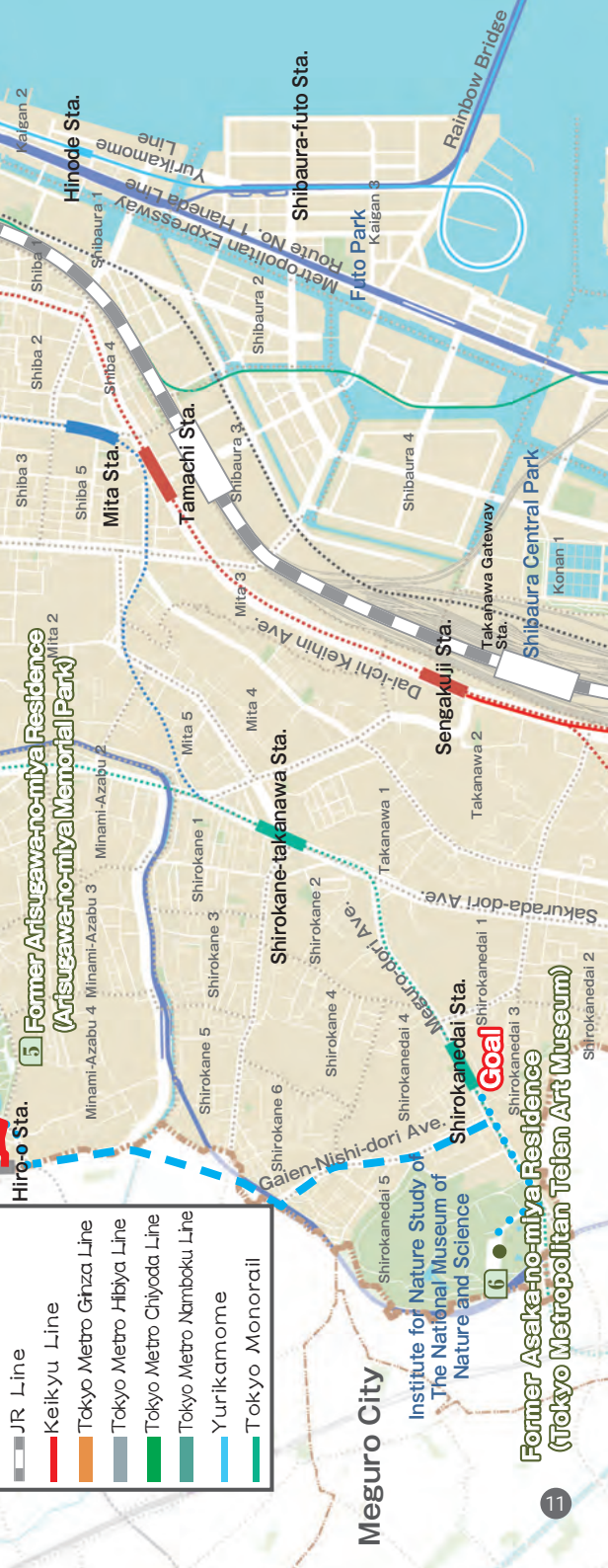
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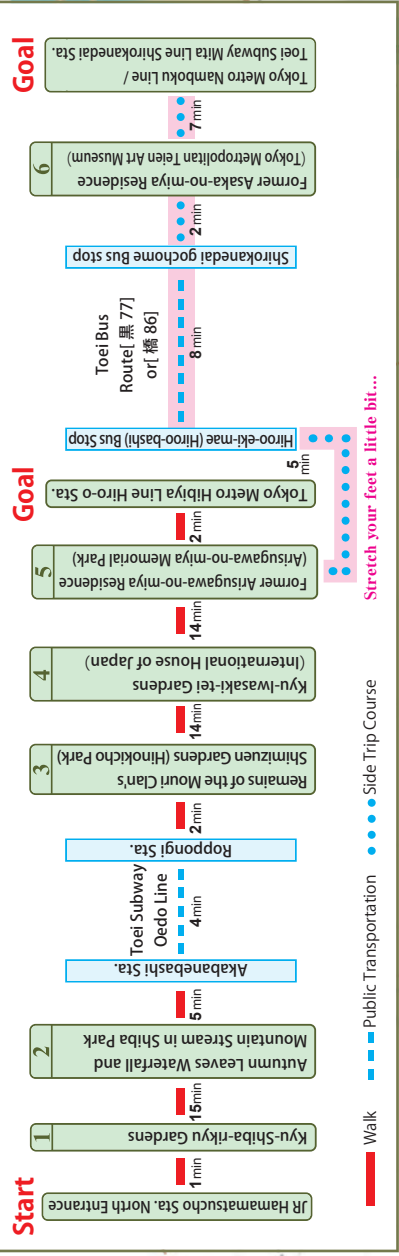
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## Route / Required time



Shinagawa City

## Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens

course ①

1-4 Kaigan



This daimyo garden has its roots in the yard built within the residence of Lord Okubo Tadatomo of the Odawara Domain (Sagami Province). This area was filled in during the Meireki period (1655-58) and then given to Tadatomo in 1678. On this new land, he had a circuit style garden built in 1686, which he named "Rakujuen Gardens." He made use of its coastal location and managed to arrange the scenery in such a way that it changes according to the tide with seawater drawn into the pond. This place has an elaborate plan featuring rare rocks artistically arranged around the pond and creating a view inspired by the West Lake in China.

After successively being owned by the clans of Hotta, Shimizu and Kishu-Tokugawa, as well as by Prince Taruhito of Arisu-no-miya (1871), the Imperial Household Ministry purchased it in 1875 and it thus became a detached palace the following year, 1876. In 1924, on the occasion of Crown Prince Hirohito's (later, Emperor Showa) wedding anniversary, Tokyo was granted the Kyu-Shiba-Rikyu Gardens, which opened to the public on April 20.

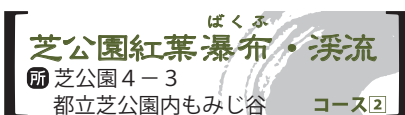
National Heritage Site

Opening Hours: 9am to 5pm (admission until 4:30pm)  
Closed: Dec. 29 to Jan. 1  
Fare: ¥150 (adult/child), ¥70 (seniors +65)  
Contact: 03-3434-4029



## Autumn Leaves Waterfall and Mountain Stream in Shiba Park course ②

Momiji-dani (inside the Metropolitan Shiba Park), 4-3 Shibakoen



Nagaoka Yasuhei (1842-1925) designed and built this garden in 1905. He was a landscape gardener who played an active part in the modernization of Tokyo Prefecture and urban parks during the Meiji and Taisho period. Born in 1842 to the lord of Omura Domain in Hizen Province, Yasuhei followed Masataka Kusumoto who was his senior in the same hometown, and moved to Tokyo in 1870. Five years later, Kusumoto became the governor of Tokyo Prefecture and appointed Yasuhei, who had been dispatched to Niigata Prefecture, to Tokyo's civil engineering office. From there on, Yasuhei started managing the public parks and tree-lined streets within Tokyo Prefecture. Later on, he was transferred to the Park Division of Tokyo City where he was appointed as a temporary employee and continued to engage in park designing and administration. Including the designing of a waterfall in Asakusa Park, and the renovation of Asukayama Park and Mukojima-Hyakkaen Gardens, there are more than 40 parks and gardens that were handled by Yasuhei. In the waterfall he designed in 1984 in the Metropolitan Shiba Park, he managed to deliver a level of reproduction extremely close to the original.



## Remains of the Mouri Clan's Shimizuen Gardens (Hinokicho Park)

9-7 Akasaka

course ③



In this place was standing during the Edo period the *shimoyashiki* of the Mouri clan of Choshu Domain (also known as Hinoki Residence). Usually, the daimyo and head of a feudal clan lived in *kamiyashiki*, while he used his *shimoyashiki* to store goods or as a second house. This villa served temporarily as the main residence for the feudal lord and succeeding heirs of the Choshu Domain. Its grounds were once embellished by an outstanding garden called "Shimizuen." Although entering the Inarisha Shrine worshiped here was restricted to merchants on pilgrimage and daimyo coming to sightsee its gardens, it appears that access was generally permitted.

Entering the Meiji period, the grounds hosted a military station for the 1st Infantry Regiment, 1st Division. After the war, the Japanese Defense Agency occupied most of the site. The remaining surface has developed into a park known as the Hinokicho Park. In 2000, the Japan Defense Agency (now Ministry of Defense) moved its headquarters to Ichigaya, and the old site was transformed into today's Tokyo Midtown (Commercial Complex) causing significant changes in the landscape of the park, which was also renovated.



## Kyu-Iwasaki-tei Gardens (International House of Japan)

5-11-16 Roppongi

course ④



In 1929, Iwasaki Koyata (1879-1945), the 4th head of the Mitsubishi *zaibatsu*, had this garden built on the grounds of the Toriizaka Villa of the Iwasaki clan. It was designed by Jihe Ogawa VII (1860-1933), a landscape gardener from Kyoto. Jihe Ogawa VII was a landscape gardener and a pioneer of modern Japanese gardening. Among his work, today stands the Heian-jingu Shrine, Maruyama Park, Murin-an Villa and Gardens (a second residence of Aritomo Yamagata), Seifu-so Villa (a second residence of Kinmochi Saionji), Furukawa Gardens, as well as many other outstanding gardens laid out at the request of *zaibatsu*, including the Sumitomo, Mitsui and Iwasaki families. He also contributed to the landscaping of the Kyoto Imperial Gardens, Shugakuin Imperial Villa, Katsura Imperial Villa, Nijo Castle, Nanzenji Temple, Myoshinji Temple, Shoren-in Temple, Ninnaji Temple and so on. With trees planted along the southern side facing a precipice and the eastern side facing Torii-zaka Slope, this garden is a Japanese *chisen kaiyu* style garden having a pond placed in its center. The original shape from the time of its construction has been preserved almost entirely intact.

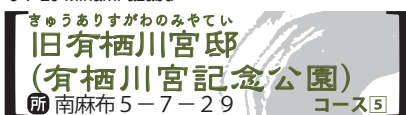
City Heritage Site



## Former Arisugawa-no-miya Residence (Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park)

5-7-29 Minami-azabu

course ⑤



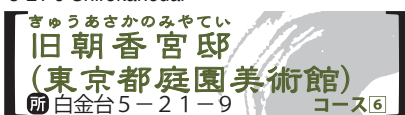
On this site during the Edo period, the *shimoyashiki* of the Nambu clan of Morioka Domain (Mutsu Province). In 1896, it became the residence of Prince Takehito (House of Arisugawa-no-miya) and it was also used as a home by his mother, Mori Noriko. The area of the premise exceeding 20,000 *tsubo* features an undulating terrain with a shelving basin towards the western side, and rising near the eastern side of the high ground. After the Arisugawa family lineage died out along with the death of Prince Takehito in 1913, its religious services were passed to the House of Takamatsu. Eventually, this house granted the city of Tokyo the Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park, which opened to the public on January 15, 1934. The park includes a bronze statue (erected in 1903) of Prince Taruhito once standing in front of the main gate of former General Staff Office Building in Miyakezaka, and it is also home to Tokyo Metropolitan Library.



## Former Asaka-no-miya Residence (Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum)

5-21-9 Shirokanedai

course ⑥



Built in 1933 as the main residence for Prince Yasuhiko (House of Asaka-no-miya, 1887-1981), this is a fine example of Japanese Art Deco architecture. In 1906, Prince Yasuhiko, who was the 8th son of Kuni-no-miya Imperial Prince Tomohiko, established it as the Asaka-no-miya family's residence. During his stay in France, the Asaka-no-miya showed a strong interest in and affinity for the Art Deco style, which happened to be very popular in that time. Accordingly, he commissioned the French artist Henri Rapin the design of a part of his main residence. Also, he used many imported materials from overseas including France to decorate its interiors.

After the war, the building served as the Official Residence of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as the State Guest House. In 1983, it opened as the Museum of Art.

National Heritage Site

