

# Welcome to the Imperial Palace

Pre-registration or registration on the day of one's visit (ticket required) Tour on a first-come basis, numbered tickets will be issued <https://sankan.kunaicho.go.jp/english/about/koukyo.html>

## Guided Tour of the Imperial Palace

(About 2.2km, 1 hour on foot, paved road : The Palace can be viewed from the outside.)

	the morning tour	the afternoon tour
(For walk-in) Numbered tickets will be distributed	9:00 a.m.	12:30 p.m.
Registration starts	9:30 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
Tour starts-Tour ends	10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.	1:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.

\*Please be sure to arrive at least 10 minutes before the start time.

- There is a limit to the number of people.
- Participants will be asked to present a valid form of identification, such as passports, residence cards, or driver's license.
- Photocopies of IDs are not accepted.

Numbered tickets distributed  
**Kikyo-mon (Gate)**

Access :

- From JR Line Tokyo Station Marunouchi Central Exit : 15 minute walk
- From subway Chiyoda Line Nijubashi-mae Station Exit 6 : 10 minute walk
- From subway Mita Line Otemachi Station Exit D2 : 10 minute walk

\*In addition to the above, there are days when the Palace is closed or not open to the public. Check the website for more details. <https://sankan.kunaicho.go.jp/index.html>

The Free Audio Guide app ►   
iOS / Android

## Attention \*Please be sure to read this information in advance.

No Drone zone  
No Open Flame  
Keep off the flower bed  
Do not climb.



### ● Baggage inspection is conducted at the entrance gate.

Alcohol, drones, knives, dangerous items, etc. are not allowed.

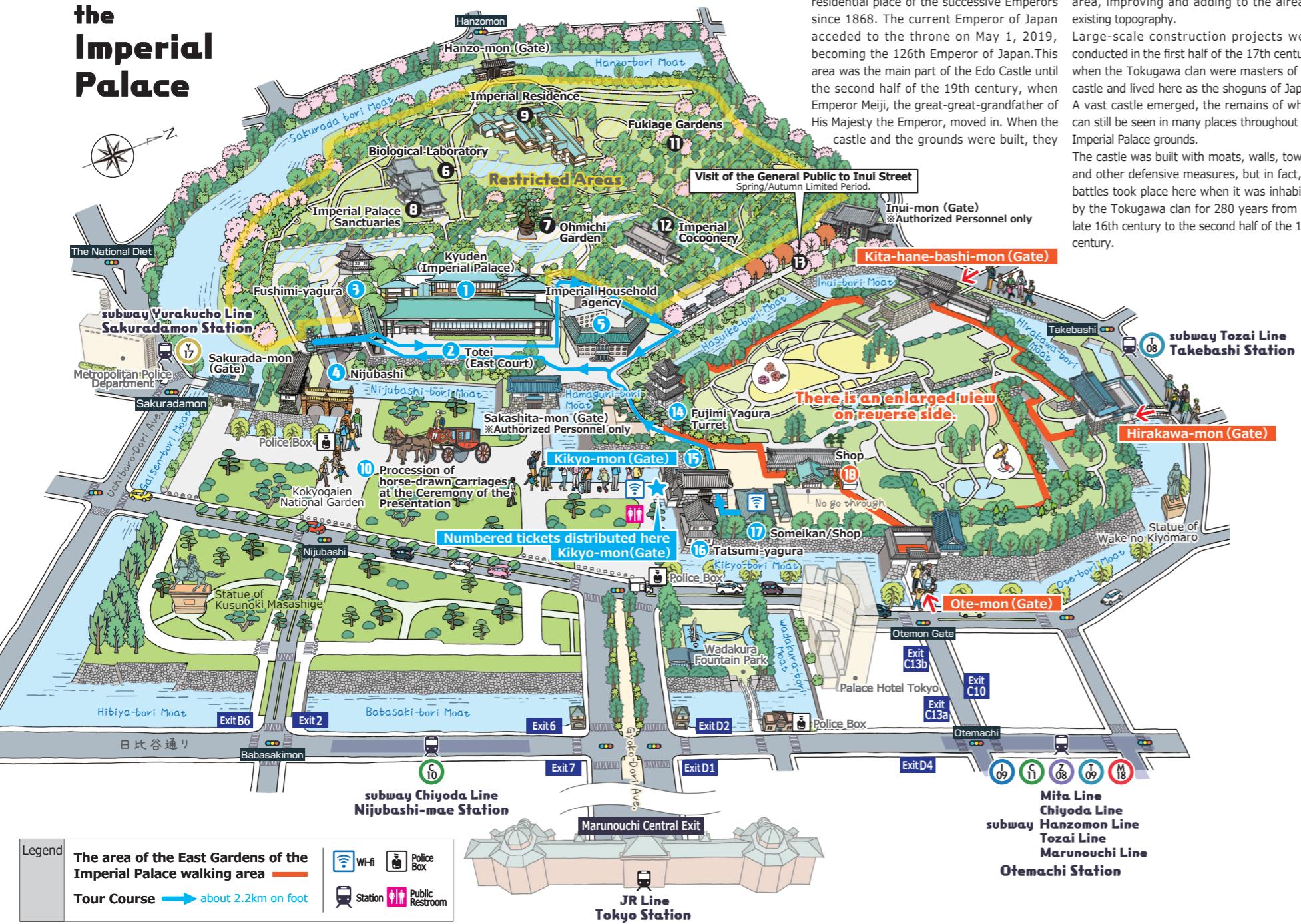
### ● Minimize your baggage. Depositing it in a coin locker at a train station is recommended.

There are small coin lockers inside Kikyo-mon (Gate) for the exclusive use of guided tour of the Imperial Palace (There are no coin lockers at the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace.)

### ● Souvenirs and beverages are sold. Meals are not sold.

- No trash cans are provided. Please take your trash with you.
- No car or bicycle parks are available for public use at the Imperial Palace. Please use the public transportation.
- Do not climb trees or stone walls. Engaging in a dangerous or disturbing activity is prohibited.
- Animals (excluding assistance dogs for persons with disabilities) are not allowed to enter the Imperial Palace.

## MAP of the Imperial Palace



## The imperial palace

The Imperial Palace has served as the residential place of the successive Emperors since 1868. The current Emperor of Japan acceded to the throne on May 1, 2019, becoming the 126th Emperor of Japan. This area was the main part of the Edo Castle until the second half of the 19th century, when Emperor Meiji, the great-great-grandfather of His Majesty the Emperor, moved in. When the castle and the grounds were built, they

followed the lines of the natural features of the area, improving and adding to the already existing topography.

Large-scale construction projects were conducted in the first half of the 17th century, when the Tokugawa clan were masters of the castle and lived here as the shoguns of Japan. A vast castle emerged, the remains of which can still be seen in many places throughout the Imperial Palace grounds.

The castle was built with moats, walls, towers and other defensive measures, but in fact, no battles took place here when it was inhabited by the Tokugawa clan for 280 years from the late 16th century to the second half of the 19th century.

### 1 Kyuden (Imperial Palace)

The Imperial Palace has traditional Japanese architectural beauty and a large roof, pillars and beams. The palace is a steel-framed two story building with an underground floor and an inclined roof with long overhanging eaves. The palace was completed in October in 1968 and was used starting in April of the following year. This is where His Majesty the Emperor performs his official public duties. Also, various activities are held in the Imperial Palace. Some of these activities are the New Year greeting, Imperial investiture, Ceremony of the Presentation of Credentials, Ceremony of Imperial Conferment of Decoration, luncheons, dinners and audiences.



### 7 Ohmichi Garden

The Ohmichi Garden holds about 90 types and about 500 plants. Of these, about 300 plants of the 500 are mainly a year Bonsai are used. Large size Bonsai plants are put in a main entrance and porches on the occasion of receiving a state guest and celebrating the Emperor's Birthday. On the other side, we can see plants Bonsai on average size at the gallery of the Imperial Palace, the Imperial residence and residences of the Imperial families.



### 8 Imperial Palace Sanctuaries

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress faithfully observe the time-honored traditions and rites of the Imperial Court, and continually pray for the prosperity of the people of Japan at numerous ceremonies and events held throughout the year.



### 9 Imperial Residence

The Imperial Residence is the living quarter of their Majesties the Emperor and Empress and Her Imperial Highness Princess Aiko, and hosts events.



### 10 Procession of horse-drawn carriage at the Ceremony of the Presentation

His Majesty the Emperor frequently holds ceremonies in the palace in which newly arriving foreign ambassadors present to the Emperor the credentials entrusted to them by their heads of state. For the ceremony, the new ambassador and his or her retinue are delivered from Tokyo station to the palace in either a motorcade or horse-drawn carriages dispatched by His majesty. The operational schedule is announced on the Imperial Household Agency website. You can see it in the outer gardens of the Imperial Palace.



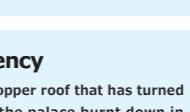
### 4 Nijubashi

The bridge was made of wood during the Edo Period, but since they were physically unable to build a single bridge of such height, they first built a bridge lower down, then built upon that bridge to bring the final construction of the structure as a whole to the necessary height. That is why the bridge is still known as the Nijubashi, or double-level bridge.



### 5 Imperial Household agency

This building, completed in 1935, has a copper roof that has turned green from oxidation. Unfortunately, the palace burnt down in 1945 during the bombing raids of the Second World War, so for a little more than two decades, until the current palace complex was built in 1968, the third floor of the Imperial Household Agency building served as the temporary palace.



### 6 Biological Laboratory

His Majesty has followed in the footsteps of His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus in honoring the tradition started by his grandfather Emperor Showa of planting and harvesting rice, which is the staple crop in Japan's agricultural traditions. Every year, His Majesty sows rice seeds in spring, transplants the seedlings in early summer, and harvests the rice in the autumn on the rice paddies beside the Biological Laboratory.



### 11 Fukiage Gardens

We manage the site to nurture a diverse ecology. A biological survey of the Imperial Palace (conducted in 2000) identified 3,638 species of animals and 1,366 species of plants.



### 12 Imperial Cocoonery

Her Majesty has taken on the tradition of Imperial sericulture from Her Majesty the Empress Emerita. At the Momijiyama Imperial Cocoonery, various works for different stages of sericulture are carried out. Her Majesty raises various varieties of domesticated silkworms, including the c variety, which is indigenous to Japan. Silkworms are also raised outdoors.



### 13 Visit of the General Public to Inui Street

It is open to the public every year during cherry blossom season in the spring and foliage season in the fall.

\* 14 - 18 Next page.