

Kyoto Imperial Palace
(No application required, and the admission fee is free)



Shishinden



Enquiries: Kyoto Office
TEL. 075-211-1215

The Kyoto Imperial Palace had been used as the residence of Emperors for more than 540 years since 1331 until the capital moved to Tokyo in 1869. The architectural styles of the ancient palace are revived in the main buildings such as the Shishinden, the Seiryoden, and the Kogoshō. (Tour route: 1 km, approx. 50 minutes)

Kyoto Sento Imperial Palace
(Application required, but the admission fee is free)



Kitaike (North Pond)



Enquiries: Kyoto Office
TEL. 075-211-1215

The garden, built for Emperor Emeritus Gomizuno-o in the early 17th century, is centered around the North Pond and South Pond, which are connected by a canal. There are also tea houses and other structures that remain. (Tour route: 1 km, approx. 60 minutes)

Katsura Imperial Villa
(Application required, and the admission fee charged)



Shoin



Enquiries: Kyoto Office
TEL. 075-211-1215

This Imperial villa, built in the 17th century by Prince Toshihito and Prince Toshitada of the 1st and 2nd generations of the Hachijo-no-miya Imperial Family, is celebrated as a masterpiece of Japanese landscape gardening. (Tour route: 1 km with some ups and downs, approx. 60 minutes)

Shugakuin Imperial Villa
(Application required, but the admission fee is free)



Yokuryuchi (Pond in the Upper Villa)



Enquiries: Kyoto Office
TEL. 075-211-1215

This Imperial villa was built for Emperor Emeritus Gomizuno-o in the mid 17th century. Consisting of Upper, Middle, and Lower Villas, it is renowned as a masterpiece for its landscape gardening method called "Shakkei" (borrowed landscapes) which incorporates the surrounding landscapes into the garden design. (Tour route: 3 km with some ups and downs, approx. 80 minutes)

Shosoin Repository (heritage viewing) (Admission free)



Shosoin Repository

Enquiries: Office of the Shosoin Treasure-house
TEL. 0742-26-2811




The *Shosoin* preserves many objects called *Shosoin* Treasures. Some of them were dedicated to *Todayji Daibutsu* as the remembrances of Emperor *Shomu* in the year 756. These treasures are valuable for the world

since they are the 8th century cultural properties. The repository *Shoso*, which is sometimes called "*Azokura*", is also well-known throughout the world, which was designated as a World Heritage by UNESCO in 1998.

- Open:**
- From Monday to Friday 10:00a.m.-3:00p.m.
- Closed:**
- Saturday, Sunday and National Holidays
 - From December 28 to January 4
 - For unavoidable circumstances due to Imperial Court functions and other occasions.



General Information on the Visits to the Imperial Palace in Tokyo and Kyoto

Imperial Palace (The tours conducted twice a day at 10:00am and at 1:30pm)	Imperial Palace (No application required, and the admission fee is free)	Kyoto Sento Imperial Palace, Katsura Imperial Villa, Shugakuin Imperial Villa
Maximum capacity for application	No limits	Check the details using the QR code below
Requirements for visitors	No requirements	 Kyoto Sento Imperial palace  Katsura Imperial Villa  Shugakuin Imperial Villa
Days to visit	Every day except for the following: • Sunday, Monday, National Holidays (Open when the holiday falls on Saturday) • Afternoons from July 1 to September 30 • Year-end holidays (December 28-January 4) and days when certain events are taking place.	
How to apply	Walk-in registration • Numbered admission tickets will be handed out on a first come first serve basis at the Kiyomon Gate of the Imperial Palace from 9:00am for morning tour and from 12:30pm for afternoon tour. • Valid identification (passport for foreign travellers) must be presented. Advance application Application can be made in either of the following ways from the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of the desired visit date. • Online application: (https://sankan.kunaicho.go.jp/english/index.html) and, secondly, bring the list of visitors directly to the office at least one day before the reserved visit date. (Sending the list via email at least 7 days beforehand can be acceptable, too.)	
Contact desk	Imperial Palace Tour Office 03-5223-8071 8:45am-noon, 1:00pm-5:00pm (Only on days indicated above 1-Days to visit) The Imperial Household Agency Visiting Guide: https://sankan.kunaicho.go.jp/english/index.html	Kyoto office: Imperial Household Agency 075-211-1215 8:40am-5:00pm

Guide to participate in Public Events at the Imperial Palace and to visit the Palace and other Establishments



- Visit of the General Public to the Palace for the New Year Greeting
- Visit of the General Public to the Palace for His Majesty's Birthday
- Ceremony of the Utakai Hajime (Imperial New Year 's Poetry Reading)
- Autumn Gagaku Recital
- The Imperial Palace
- The East Gardens of the Imperial Palace
- The Museum of the Imperial Collections, Sannomaru Shozokan
- Kyoto Imperial Palace
- Kyoto Sento Imperial Palace
- Katsura Imperial Villa
- Shugakuin Imperial Villa
- Shosoin Repository (heritage viewing)

Visit of the General Public to the Palace for the New Year Greeting for His Majesty's Birthday

Enquiries:General Affairs Division
TEL.03-3213-1111



At the Imperial Palace each year on January 2 and February 23, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress receive the greetings from the people. Their Majesties appear with other adult members of the Imperial Family on the Imperial Palace balcony. On the occasion of

the Emperor's Birthday, the Greeting Book is open for the well-wishers from the afternoon in front of the Imperial Household Agency Building.

New Year Greeting

Date: January 2
Entrance: Main Gate (Nijubashi)
Exit: Sakashita-mon Gate, Kikyo-mon Gate, Ote-mon Gate, Inui-mon Gate.

His Majesty's Birthday

Date: February 23
Entrance: Main Gate (Nijubashi)
Exit: Sakashita-mon Gate, Kikyo-mon Gate, Ote-mon Gate, Hirakawa-mon Gate, Kitahanebashi-mon Gate.

Signing of the Greeting Book

Place: At the front of the Imperial Household Agency Building, the Imperial Palace.
Entrance: Sakashita-mon Gate
Exit: Kikyo-mon Gate, Ote-mon Gate, Hirakawa-mon Gate, Kitahanebashi-mon Gate.

For further details: Please refer to the Imperial Household Agency Website
<https://www.kunaicho.go.jp/eindex.html>

Submission of Poems for the Ceremony of the *Utakai Hajime* (Imperial New Year's Poetry Reading)

Enquiries:Board of the Ceremonies
TEL.03-3213-1111



Every year in January, on the day of the Ceremony of the *Utakai Hajime*, the theme for the following year's ceremony and details for submission of poems are announced.

-Submissions should be a previously unpublished *tanka* poem, based on the theme for the year and are limited to one entry per person.

-In case of submissions from abroad, you may use any kind of paper (its size should be 24cm long and 33cm wide) and it is not necessary for you to use a writing brush.

-The period of submission for poems for the Ceremony of the *Utakai Hajime* is from the day the theme is announced until September 30.

Autumn *Gagaku* Recital (Application is necessary, Admission free)

Enquiries:Board of the Ceremonies
TEL.03-3213-1111



Kangen (wind and strings)



Bugaku (classical dance and Music)

Every year at the end of October or the beginning of November the Music Department of the Imperial Household holds a *Gagaku* recital. The dates, repertoire and details for applying for tickets to the recital are announced at the beginning of July.

*Tickets are limited to one per applicant and should the number of applications exceed ticket numbers, a lottery to decide ticket allocation will be drawn.

The Imperial Palace (Application is necessary, Admission free)

Enquiries:Imperial Palace Tour Office
TEL.03-5223-8071



Fujimi-yagura (Mt.Fuji-view Keep)



Kyuden Totei Plaza



Fushimi-yagura Keep

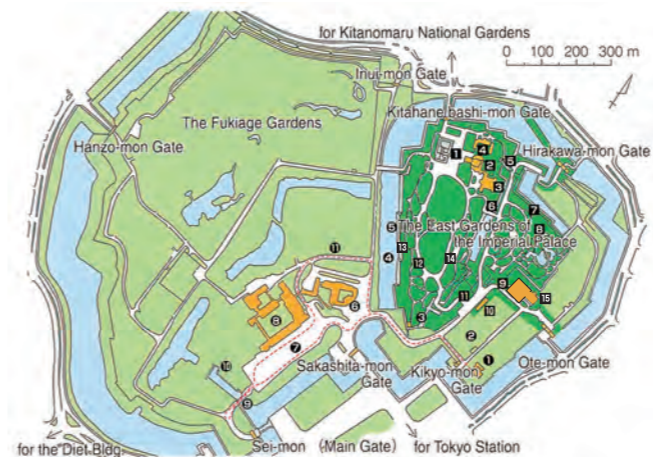


Yamashita-dori Street

After entering the Kikyo-mon Gate, you will be briefed on safety tips in the resthouse followed by the guided tour through the East Courtyard of the Imperial Palace, the Iron Bridge of the Main Gate (Nijubashi) and other view points.

Map of the Imperial Palace Grounds

(Tour course;) Tour takes approx. 75 mins.



Buildings can be seen during the tour

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| ① Someikan (Visitors' House) | ⑦ Kyuden Totei Plaza |
| ② The former Privy Council Bldg. | ⑧ Kyuden (The Imperial Palace) |
| ③ Fujimi-yagura (Mt.Fuji-view keep) | ⑨ Seimon-tetsu-bashi Bridge (Niju-bashi) |
| ④ Hasuikebori (Lotus Moat) | ⑩ Fushimi-yagura Keep |
| ⑤ Fujimi-tamon Defence House | ⑪ Yamashita-dori Street (The Imperial Household Agency Bldg.) |
| ⑥ Kunaicho Chosha | |

Buildings in the East Gardens

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|--|--|
| ① Tenshudai (Remains of the main tower) | ⑨ Doshin-bansho Guardhouse |
| ② Tokagakudo Concert Hall | ⑩ Hyakunin-bansho Guardhouse |
| ③ Gakubu Chosha (Music Department Bldg.) | ⑪ O-bansho Guardhouse |
| ④ Shoryobu Chosha (Archives and Mausolea Department Bldg.) | ⑫ Site of Matsuno-o-roka Corridor |
| ⑤ Bairin-zaka Slope | ⑬ Fujimi-tamon Defence House |
| ⑥ Shiomi-zaka Slope | ⑭ Scale Model of the Edo Castle Keep |
| ⑦ Prefectural Tree Emblems | ⑮ The Museum of the Imperial Collections, Sannomaru Shozokan |
| ⑧ Suwano-chaya Tea House | |

The East Gardens of the Imperial Palace

Enquiries:Intendant's office
TEL.03-3213-1111
(Admission free)



The building of the garden adjacent to the Imperial Residence began in 1961 as a part of the construction of the Imperial Palace complex. The 210,000 square meters garden was completed in September 1968, and has been open to the public since October 1 of the same year, except when it is used for court function.

Open:

From March 1 to April 14 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. (entry up to 4:30 p.m.)
From April 15 to the end of August 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. (entry up to 5:30 p.m.)
From September 1 to the end of September 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. (entry up to 4:30 p.m.)
From October 1 to the end of October 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. (entry up to 4:00 p.m.)
From November 1 to the end of February 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (entry up to 3:30 p.m.)

Closed:

The Garden is closed on the following days and occasions.

- Every Monday and Friday(open on National Holiday except the Emperor's Birthday, February 23)
- From December 28 to January 3
- Due to Imperial Court functions or other occasions.

Entrance and exit gates

Ote-mon Gate, Hirakawa-mon Gate and Kitahanebashi-mon Gate.

The Museum of the Imperial Collections, Sannomaru Shozokan

Enquiries : 050-5541-8600 (Hello Dial)



The Museum of the Imperial Collections, Sannomaru Shozokan, is an institution located in the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, which manages, researches and displays the collection of paintings, calligraphy, decorative arts and other art forms handed down by the Imperial Household.

Hours

9:30a.m.-5:00p.m. (Last admission 4:30p.m.)

Closed

Mondays, year-end & new-year holidays, and during rotations. (If Monday is a holiday, the Museum will be open on that Monday and closed on the following weekday.) Subject to change.

Admission

Adults: ¥ 1,000 University students: ¥ 500
• Free admission for high school students, visitors under 18, and visitors aged 70 years or more.
• Visitors with disabilities, along with one assistant, will be admitted for free without a booking. Please show valid ID or documentation.
The museum will be temporarily closed from May 7, 2025. Full reopening is scheduled for autumn 2026.