# Welcome to the Imperial Palace

Free of charge

| | S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guided Tour of the Imperial Palace | × | × | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| The East Gardens of the Imperial Palace | ● | × | ● | ● | ● | × | ● |

*In addition to the above, there are days when the Palace is closed or not open to the public. Check the website for more detailes. *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.
- **As the number of coin lockers within the Imperial Palace is limited. Please leave your large items such as suitcases in coin lockers near train stations to help alleviate congestion.**
- **Souvenirs and beverages are available for purchase. Light meals are also available at the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace.**
- 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 (exclusing assistance dogs for persons with disabilities) are not allowed to enter 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.)

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

Advance reservations not required / The Palace is outside the area covered and cannot be seen.

## The East Gardens of the Imperial Palace

(You are free to stroll through the area that is open to the public.)

- **Please check the calender.** ***https://www.kunaicho.go.jp/e-event/higashigyoen02.html***
- ***9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.* or *4:30p.m.* or *5:00p.m.* or 6:00p.m.**
  ***The closing time varies depending on the season. Visitors are admitted until 30 minutes before closing.**

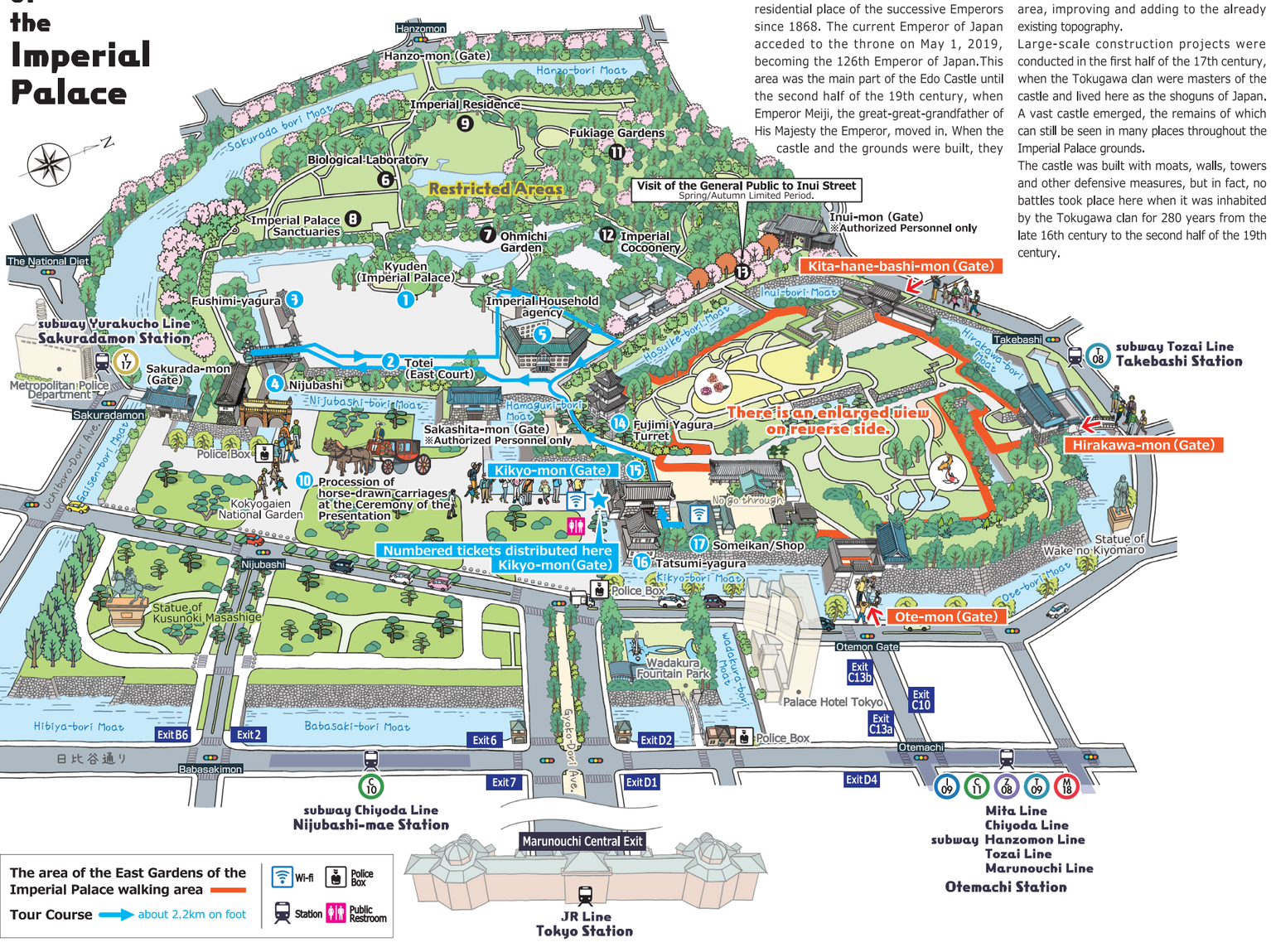
Entrance and exit gate

- *Ote-mon (Gate)*
- *Hirakawa-mon (Gate)*
- *Kita-hane-bashi-mon (Gate)*

***The Palace (exterior only) can be seen on the guided tour.**

You cannot pass through the garden from the East Gardens to the Kikyo-mon (Gate), the entrance to the guided tour of the Imperial Palace, so please leave the garden first and then turn around to go to the Kikyo-mon (Gate).

# MAP of the Imperial Palace




Legend

- The area of the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace walking area
- Tour Course → about 2.2km on foot
- Wi-fi / Police Box / Station / Public Restroom

## 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.

### ② Totei (East Court)

The Totei (East Court in front of the Imperial palace) is used for public celebrations, such as the New Year and the Emperor's Birthday. Beneath the garden is a car park that can accommodate up to 120 vehicles.

### ③ Fushimi-yagura



It is said to be the most beautiful tower remaining from the former Edo Castle. It is thought to have been moved here from the Fushimi Castle Kyoto, which was dismantled in the 17th century.

### 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 oxidisation. 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



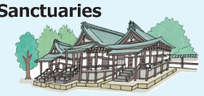
His Majesty has followed in the footsteps of His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus in honoring the tradition started by his grandfather Emperor Showa of planting and harvesting rice, which is the staple crop in Japan' s agricultural traditions. Every year, His Majesty sows rice seeds in spring, transplants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

### 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 Bonsais 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 hourse-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.

### 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

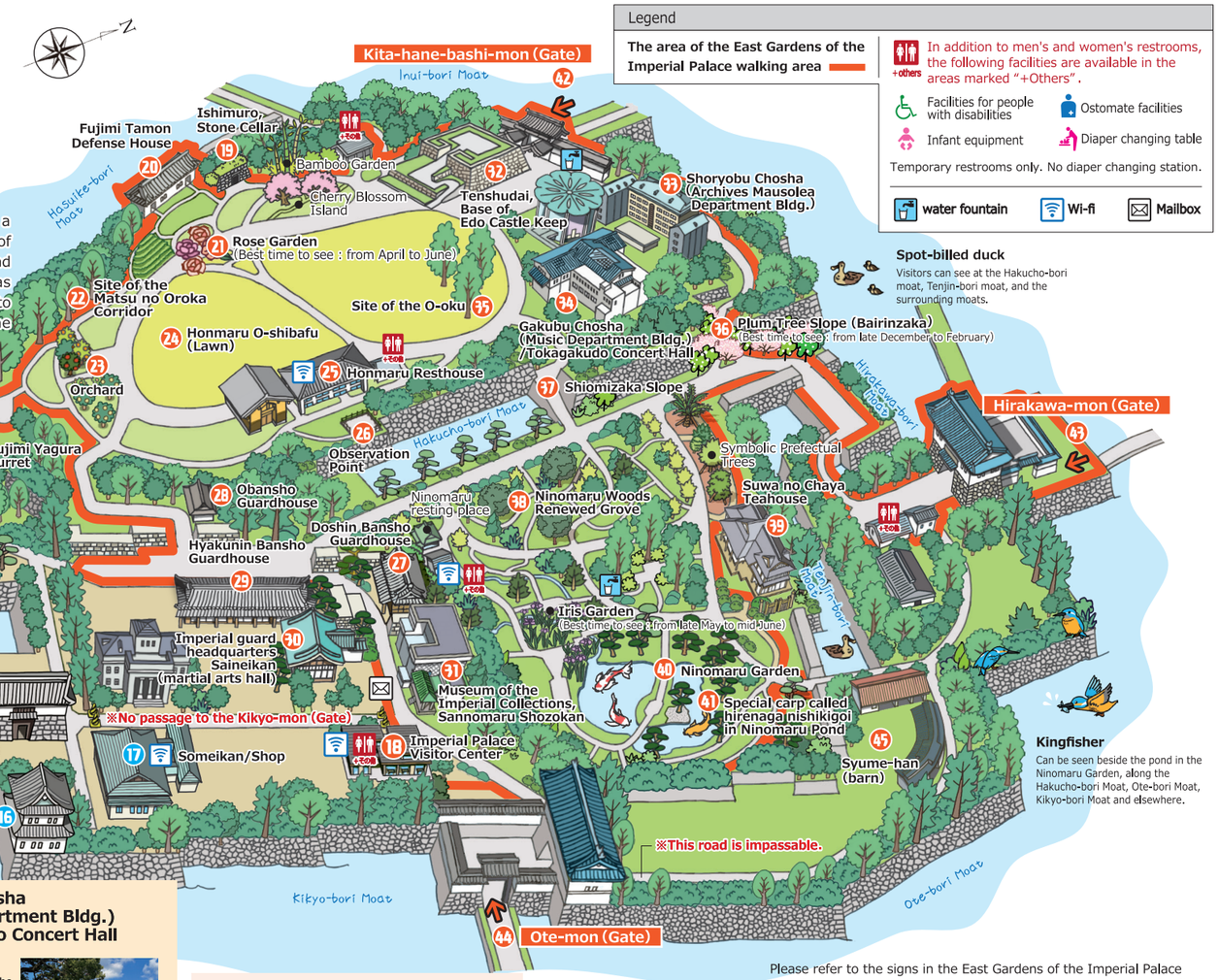
It is open to the public every year during cherry blossom season in the spring and foliage season in the fall.

※ ⑭ – ⑰ Next page.

# Enlarged view of the Imperial Palace Garden

## The East Gardens of the Imperial Palace

The East Garden of the Imperial Palace is a garden in the Imperial Palace, the residence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and the central part of the former Edo Castle was developed as a garden from Showa 36(1961)to Showa 43 (1968) , and has been open to the public since October of the same year.




### Legend

The area of the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace walking area

In addition to men's and women's restrooms, the following facilities are available in the areas marked "+Others".

- Facilities for people with disabilities
- Ostomate facilities
- Infant equipment
- Diaper changing table

Temporary restrooms only. No diaper changing station.

water fountain · Wi-fi · Mailbox

**Spot-billed duck**
Visitors can see at the Hakucho-bori moat, Tenjin-bori moat, and the surrounding moats.

**Kingfisher**
Can be seen beside the pond in the Ninomaru Garden, along the Hakucho-bori Moat, Ote-bori Moat, Kikyo-bori Moat and elsewhere.

Please refer to the signs in the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace and Imperial Palaces Guide The official app. (in Japanese and English)

### 14 Fujimi Yagura Turret



Yagura turrets were built at strategic corners of the castle for the wide firing arcs they provided.Yagura served as defensive turrets in wartime and as weapon stores in peacetime. Edo Castle once had many yagura towers. The Fujimi Yagura is located on the southern corner of the honmaru main compound of Edo Castle, and probably dates from 1659, after the 1657 Great Fire of Meireki destroyed much of Edo, including the castle. Towering 16 metres above a 15-metre-high rampart, it became the symbol of Edo Castle after the loss of the main keep tower. The name "Fujimi" derives from the view of Mount Fuji, 100 kilometres away, which was once enjoyed from this yagura.

### 15 Kikyo-mon (Gate)

Kikyo-mon was built during the time of the Tokugawa shogunate. It is currently used as a gate for tour participants, an entrance for vehicles entering the palace on business, and for other matters.

### 16 Tatsumi-yagura



This is the only surviving sumiyagura (corner turret) in Edo Castle. Sumiyagura were built at the corner of the castle for surveillance and defense. This two-story high keep is also called the Sakurada tatsumi double yagura or simply the tatsumi yagura.

### 17 Someikan/shop

Visitors' house. Souvenirs are sold. There are beverage vending machines. Meals are not sold. No trash cans are provided. Please take your trash with you.

### 18 Imperial Palace Visitor Center

The center features a cafe, a shop, rest areas, and exhibition spaces.
The displays here introduce the history and culture of the Imperial Family and the Imperial Palace, as well as the traditional heritage and natural beauty of Japan's regions.

### 19 Ishimuro, Stone Cellar



The exact purpose of this 20-square-metre stone cellar is not known. It is thought to have been a secret escape route for when the castle came under attack, or perhaps was used to protect valuable articles and documents from frequent fires.

### 20 Fujimi Tamon Defense House



Believed to date from 1659, this tamon is the only one of the tamon in this area of the castle that survives. The Fujimi Tamon was so named because you could once see Mount Fuji from here. It was also called the "Gokyusoku Tamon", because of its proximity to the shogun's daytime quarters (Gokyusoku) and might have served a special purpose. (Visitors can see the interior. )

### 21 Rose Garden



The rose garden was established in 1996 at the suggestion of His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus.
Most of the roses, originally presented to the Showa Emperor who had cultivated them in the Fukiage Gardens of the Imperial Palace, were transplanted here from the Fukiage Gardens.

### 22 Site of the Matsu no Oroka Corridor



The corridor was approximately 55 metres in length and 4 metres wide, and linked the large Formal Reception Room to the Shiro-shoin, the shogun's reception room. This was the stage for the Ako Jiken, a famous incident that is the basis for the Chushingura, a subject perennially popular in Japanese theatre, puppetry, fiction, and film.

### 23 Orchard

All of the fruits growing in this orchard are of old varieties that were cultivated for food a long time ago. It was the idea of His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus to create the orchard on the site of Edo Castle so that visitors could see what kinds of fruit were popular during the Edo Period (1603-1868).

### 24 Honmaru O-shibafu (Lawn)



This is the Honmaru, once the heart of the Tokugawa shogunate's Edo Castle. In terms of area, it is 13 hectares or 32 acres in size. Between the 17th century and the second half of the 18th century, a vast palace stood here, more than 33,000 square metres in area. It was home to the shoguns and operated as the administrative centre of the Shogunate.

### 25 Honmaru Resthouse

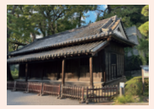


Souvenirs are sold. There are beverage vending machines. Meals are not sold. No trash cans are provided. Please take your trash with you.
A restored model of the castle tower of Edo Castle is open to the public in a separate building.

### 26 Observation Point

This area is an observation point.When this place was the Tokugawa shogunate's Edo Castle, there was a three-storey tower here called the Dai-dokoro-mae-yagura, which simply meant "tower in front of the kitchen". As an observation point, it now gives an excellent view of the Ninomaru area and the buildings in Otemachi.

### 27 Doshin Bansho Guardhouse



This guardhouse is one of three that survives from the Tokugawa Shogunate (1603–1867). It was manned by low-ranking samurai known as doshin, or constables, hence its name. Their job was to check visitors to the castle, and to keep watch over the retinues of the feudal lords as they waited for their masters to return from inside the honmaru complex. There are three different types of crests to be seen on the roof tiles. The triple hollyhock design is the family crest of the Tokugawa. In addition, there are Imperial chrysanthemum crests and the whorl of three commas of the mitsudomoe. The mitsudomoe crest dates back to the end of the Heian Period (794–1185), and was also used toward off fires, since it represents water.

### 28 Obansho Guardhouse

Obansho were guardhouses built at the strategically important gates of Edo Castle. This particular Obansho, is located near the back of the Naka no Mon, and was the final checkpoint for people going into the honmaru main compound of Edo Castle. Because of its important location, it was garrisoned by samurai of relatively high rank.

### 29 Hyakunin Bansho Guardhouse



This is the largest of three guardhouses that have survived from the Edo period (1603–1867). Located between the San no Mon and Naka no Mon gates, this guardhouse controlled access to the honmaru main compound of Edo Castle. The name means "100-Man Guardhouse". The 45-metre-long building was manned day and night by four shifts of samurai, each consisting of one hundred low-ranking doshin samurai and twenty higher-ranking yoriki samurai.

### 30 Imperial guardheadquarters Saineikan (martial arts hall)

The martial arts hall was built by order of Emperor Meiji. After its reconstruction and relocation, the current building was constructed in 1933. You can hear the voices of people engaged in martial arts.

### 31 Museum of the Imperial Collections, Sannomaru Shozokan

For details, please see https://shozokan.nich.go.jp/



### 32 Tenshudai, Base of Edo Castle Keep



This was the site of the keep of Edo Castle. The keep tower was the tallest ever built in Japan. After the 1657 Great Fire of Meireki destroyed the third tower to stand on this site, the fourth shogun Tokugawa Ietsuna (1641–1680) immediately began work on a replacement, completing this foundation by 1657. Construction of the keep itself was abandoned when Ietsuna's uncle pointed out that a stable and peaceful Japan no longer needed such an enormous, awe-inspiring structure. The foundation for the unbuilt tower consists of two rectangles.

### 33 Shoryobu Chosha (Archives and Mausolea Department Bldg.)



Shoryobu Chosha is the Archives and Mausolea Department. This department is a part of the Imperial Household Agency, and it is dedicated to the storage of old texts, compilations of the history of the Imperial Family, and to the maintenance and study of the tombs of the past Emperors and members of the Imperial Family.

### 34 Gakubu Chosha (Music Department Bldg.) /Tokagakudo Concert Hall





Music department (Gakubu)is in charge of the preservation and performance, and enactment of the Gagaku(ancient court dance and misic classed as an Important National Cultural Property)as well as the performance of western-style music when a State Banquet is held at the Imperial Palace.
Designed to evoke the shape of a clematis flower, this octagonal hall was built in 1966 to mark the sixtieth birthday of Empress Kojun(1903–2000), the consort of Emperor Showa (1901–1989).
Its name, which means "Peach Blossom Hall", refers to the peach emblem of Empress Kojun.

### 35 Site of the O-oku

During the Tokugawa shogunate, the Honmaru was home to a vast complex of buildings. This particular area was the innermost part of the complex, and the Japanese word for "deep" or "inside" was used to name it the O-oku. This area was occupied by only women, including the shogun's consort.

### 36 Plum Tree Slope (Bairinzaka)



The plum trees on this slope that leads from the ninomaru second compound of Edo Castle to the honmaru main compound were planted before the East Gardens opened to the public in 1968. It is thought that plum trees had been planted here by Ota Dokan(1432–1486), the fifteenth -century warlord who built the first castle on this site.

### 37 Shiomizaka Slope



This slope was built to connect the ninomaru second and honmaru main compounds of Edo Castle. It led up to the Shiomizakamon Gate.
Shiomizaka means "Slope Overlooking the Sea", since when the castle was built it fronted onto the sea. Now, the area from the front of the palace past Tokyo Station and out to Tokyo Bay is all reclaimed land.

### 38 Ninomaru Woods /Renewed Grove

This wood was created by Emperor Showa (1901–1989)between 1983 and 1985 in response to the destruction of the woodlands in Musashino in western Tokyo. The Renewed Grove was developed in 2002 at the suggestion of His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus, who thought it might be a good idea to enlarge the Ninomaru Grove.

### 39 Suwa no Chaya Teahouse



This teahouse was built by order of Emperor Meiji(1852–1912) in 1912, in the Fukiage Gardens in the western part of the Imperial Palace grounds. The teahouse was moved here to the Ninomaru Garden in 1968 to add a note of elegance to the East Gardens when they were opened to the public. The name Suwa Teahouse refers to the Shinto deity Suwa, to whom there was a small shrine near the teahouse's original location. (Visitors can not see the interior.)

### 40 Ninomaru Garden

The Ninomaru Garden is part of the ninomaru second compound of Edo Castle. This area was once the location of the palace for the shogun's heir. The current garden was created in 1964, modeled after a garden from the mid-eighteenth century. It is a chisen kaiyugarden, a stroll garden centered around a pond.

### 41 Special carp called hirenaga nishikigoi in Ninomaru Pondt



The carp (a hybrid of the Indonesian long fin carp and Nishikigoi carp) were released by Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita. The hybrid was created at the suggestion of His Majesty.

### 42 Kita-hane-bashi-mon (Gate)

This gate would have been an important part of the defence of the Edo Castle, as it controlled access to the rear of the Honmaru, where the shogun lived and governed the nation. The bridge connected to this gate could be lifted when needed to stop enemies from penetrating the Honmaru's defences.

### 43 Hirakawa-mon (Gate)

The Hirakawa-mon(Gate) was used by ladies'maid servants and castle officials. It is composed of a small gate with a further, larger gate at right angles, creating an enclosed space. This is a common castle gate defensive feature that forces intruders to turn at right angles once inside, slowing them down, and allows the castle defenders to shoot down on the invaders from all sides.

### 44 Ote-mon (Gate)

During the Tokugawa Shogunate (1603–1867), the Otemon Gate served as the main gate of Edo Castle, and it was used by the shogun and feudal lords. It consists of two gates, one small and one large, set at right angles. This was a device to slow down the momentum of attackers, and to trap the enemy in an enclosed space where they could be fired on from the larger gate's upper story. Restored in 1967.

### 45 Syume-han (barn)



The Syume-han(team) raises and trains horses to pull carriages and for riding. The team manages the carriage procession during a ceremony for presentation of one's credentials and it preserves ancient horsemanship (pennant streaming and ancient Japanese polo)
(※Authorized personnel only)

Indicate Remaining from the Edo period · Current

The scenery Before the Opening of the Gardens
https://www.kunaicho.go.jp/event/higashigyoen/pdf/zuroku.pdf