

Tidal pond with water drawn from Tokyo Bay

Hama-rikyu Gardens



Location	Hama-Rikyū Teien, Chuo Ward
Contact Information	Hama-rikyū Gardens Administration Office tel: 03-3541-0200 (1-1 Hama-rikyū Teien, Chuo-ku 104-0046)
Transport	Otemon gate: 7-minute walk from Shiodome (Oedo line, Yurikamome line) or Tsukiji-shijo (Oedo line). 12-minute walk from Shinbashi (JR line, Asakusa line, Ginza line). Naka-no-gomon gate: 5-minute walk from Shiodome (Oedo line, Yurikamome line). 15-minute walk from Hamamatsu-cho (JR line). Tokyo Mizube Cruising Line: (Ryogoku→Hamariyuku→Odaiba-kaihlin-koern) or Water-bus for Asakusa via Hinode-sanbashi pier.
Closed	December 29 to January 1
Open	9 am to 4:30 pm (gates close at 5 pm)
Admission	General: 300 yen, Seniors 65 and older: 150 yen (Primary school and younger children / Jr. high school students living or studying in Tokyo: Free)
Free days	Greenery Day (May 4), Tokyo Citizens' Day (October 1). Parking (For tour busses and disabled visitors) Privately operated toll parking lots are also available.

This typical Edo era feudal lord's garden features a tidal pond and two duck hunting grounds. Functioning as an outer fort for Edo castle, the gardens even today retain a castle wall structure. As the pond is a tidal pond, its features change with the tide. This was often incorporated in ocean-side gardens.

Kyu Shiba-rikyu Gardens, Kiyosumi Gardens, and Kyu Yasuda Gardens all had tidal ponds in the past. But Hama-rikyu Gardens are the only ones to still use seawater. The gardens are separated into two main sections: the south gardens centering on the feudal lord's garden and the simple north gardens built after the Meiji era on the remains of a mansion.

This once reed-covered area was a hawking ground for the shogun's family until the Kan'ei period of 1624 to 1644. The first person to build a mansion here was fourth shogun Ietsuna's younger brother Tsunashige Matsudaira, chancellor of Kofu. Tsunashige received the land as a gift from the shogun in 1654. He then reclaimed land from the sea to build a villa known as the Kofuhama mansion. With Tsunashige's son Tsunatoyo (later Ienobu) became the sixth shogun, the mansion became the property of the shogun's family. The name was changed then to Hama palace.

Over the years, various shoguns built gardens and made improvements. The current form of the gardens was completed in about the time of the 11th shogun, Ienari.

After the Meiji Restoration, the gardens became a detached palace for the imperial family, with the name being changed to Hama-rikyu (Hama detached palace) then. The scenery of that

Opened	April 1, 1946
Area	250,215.72 m ²
Trees	Tall trees: 6,100 Shrubs: 28,500 m ² Grass: 38,900 m ²
Main plants	Japanese apricot, black pine, cherry (sato-zakura), crape myrtle, persea, Japanese wax tree, wisteria, acer palmatum, hydrangea, satsuki azalea, camellia, cosmos, rape blossoms, Japanese iris, peony
Facilities	Gathering halls (Hobai-tei, island tea house)

time has changed dramatically with the destruction of buildings and trees such as the teahouse and gate in the Great Kanto Earthquake and bombings of World War II.

The gardens were donated to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government on November 3, 1945. After development work, they were opened as fee-based gardens on April 1, 1946. The gardens were designated a scenic and historic spot under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties in December 1948. And in November 1952, the area including the surrounding waters (32.4-hectare area) was designated a national special scenic and historic spot.

Tidal pond The water in the pond is seawater. Locks are opened and closed according to the rise and fall of sea levels on Tokyo Bay, adjusting the flow of water in and out of the pond. Saltwater fish such as flathead mullet, Japanese seabass, goby, and eel live in the pond. Crabs and wharf roaches with barnacles can be found crawling on the rocks around the shore. Birds such as white and grey herons are also seen dancing across the water.



Pines covered in snow and the island teahouse (winter scenery)

Duck hunting grounds There are two duck hunting grounds here, Koshindo and Shinsenza. The former was built in 1778, the later in 1791. The ponds and woods of the hunting grounds are surrounded by a three-meter embankment densely planted with evergreens and bamboo. That way, ducks could be isolated from the outside and rest easily. Numerous narrow trenches are dug along the pond. Peering from blinds, hunters would use bait such as grasses and seeds to lure the ducks into the trenches. They would wait for chance to the scoop up the birds with a net from the shadows of the embankment.

Duck mound This burial mound was built on November 5, 1935 to appease the spirits of ducks that were hunted in the gardens.

Otsutaibashi bridge & island teahouse

Otsutaibashi bridge connects the shore of the tidal pond with an island in the middle. The island holds a teahouse; and the reflection of the bridge and teahouse on the water are spectacular. Once having a view of the far-off Boso peninsula, it was used to get away from the heat of summer nights, and to watch the moon. The present-day teahouse was reconstructed in 1983, and one can enjoy green tea and sweets here (charges apply for food and beverages).

Three-hundred-year pine

This pine tree was planted by the sixth shogun, Ienobu, to commemorate the major renovation of the gardens. The thick branches spread out low, creating an imposing view.

Peony garden and flower field

About 500 plants of 20 varieties of peony are planted in the peony garden. Colorful flowers compete for visitors' attention in the spring.

The flower field is abloom with flowers according to the season. Rape blossoms are featured in spring, with orange cosmos and cosmos blooming in autumn.



Full bloom in mid April



Otsutaibashi bridge & island teahouse on the tidal pond



Three-hundred-year pine

Gardens guide

Volunteers will guide you on the history and highlights of the gardens. Tours are held at 11 am and 2 pm Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. (No charge)

