

An elegant flourish of Edo period culture in downtown Hiroshima

名勝 広島 景園

Beautiful Shukkeien Garden

Shukkeien Garden, Hiroshima Prefecture

Calligraphy by: Kazuyuki Morii

About the garden

Construction of Shukkeien was begun in 1620, the year following Asano Nagaakira's installation as Daimyō (feudal lord) of Hiroshima. It was built by his principal retainer, Ueda Sōko, a famous master of the tea ceremony, as the garden of Nagaakira's villa. Its name (literally "shrink-scenery garden") expresses the idea of collecting and miniaturizing many scenic views, and according to tradition it is a miniaturized landscape modeled on Xihu (West Lake) in Hangzhou, China.

In the center of Shukkeien is Takuei Pond, containing more than 10 islets large and small. Around its circumference mountains, valleys, bridges, tea cottages and arbors are skilfully arranged, all connected by a path by which one can stroll around the entire garden.

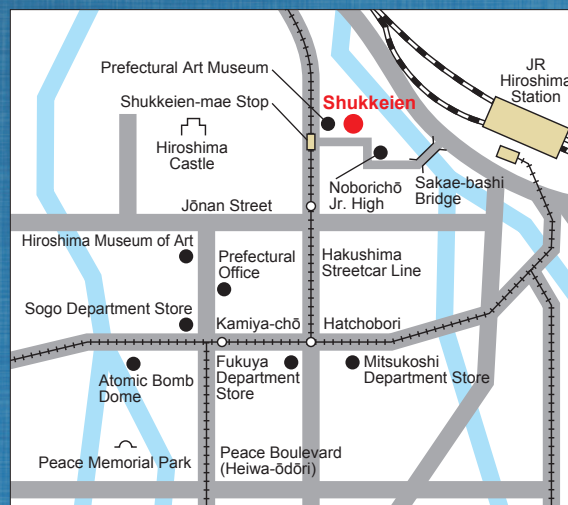
Gardens of this type are known as circular -tour gardens. They first appeared in the Muromachi Era (1336-1568); in the early Edo Era (1600-1867) they culminated in their classical form, to which pattern conform the main gardens of most daimyō. In order to make the land allotted to Shukkeien seem many times larger than its actual size, every part is rich in variety : here a remote mountain and solitary valley, here a broad seashore; blended with the moods of the seasons are a concentrated spectacle and a diversity that truly make the garden worthy of its name.

The bridge which spans the center of the pond, Kokō-kyō (lit. "straddling rainbow bridge"), was first built differently, then demolished and redone in its present form at the order of Shigeakira, seventh lord of the clan, by a famous Kyoto builder. It evinces a free command of bold and novel technique reminiscent of both Engetsubashi in the Korakuen of Koishikawa in Tokyo and Chitosebashi at Kyoto's Shūgakuin Detached Palace.

The Seifūkan is near the center of the garden. It is built in the sukiyazukuri tea-cottage style, as befits Shukkeien; the roof is shingled. The west side is done in the elegant shoinzukuri writing-chamber style, and in the east wall is set a lyre-shaped katōmado window. This cottage was especially beloved by many generations of daimyō of the Asano clan.

In 1945 the garden was destroyed by the atomic bomb, but the Hiroshima Prefectural Board of Education instituted repairs to restore its scenery to its condition prior to the bombing; the Seifūkan, Meigetsutei and other structures were also restored. Now about 250,000 visitors come to Shukkeien each year; it has become a very popular sightseeing spot.

Memorial Stamp



○Located approximately 900 meters from JR Hiroshima Station

○Also accessible via bus and streetcar at Shukkeien-mae Stop

Shukkeien Garden, Hiroshima Prefecture

2-11 Kaminobori-chō, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0014

TEL (082) 221 - 3620 / FAX (082) 221 - 0515

Guide Map

Prefectural Art Museum

Opening Hours

9:00 – 17:00
*Extended hours on Fridays

Closed

Closed on Mondays and during the Year-End and New Year Holidays

*However, the museum remains open on Mondays during special exhibition periods and when a national holiday falls on or is observed on a Monday

Admission (Museum Collection)

General: 510 yen
Students (University): 310 yen
Students (High School and Below): Free
Seniors (Age 65 and Older): Free
*Admission varies for special exhibitions and is charged on a per-exhibition basis

Shukkeien Garden

Opening Hours

(April through September) 9:00 – 18:00
(October through March) 9:00 – 17:00
*Special nighttime hours available in spring and autumn

Closed

December 29 through December 31

Admission

General: 260 yen
Students (High School and University): 150 yen
Students (Elementary and Junior High): 100 yen
Seniors (Age 65 and Older): Free



Peak Seasons

Plum Blossoms
(Late January to Early March)

Cherry Blossoms
(Late March to Early April)
Nighttime Illumination Event

Peach Blossoms
(Late March to Early April)
Nighttime Illumination Event

Autumn Leaves
(Early to Late November)



Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum Significant Works



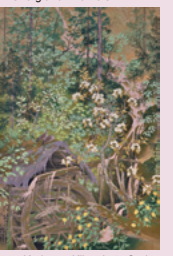
Feininger, Lyonel; Evening at the Seashore



Figures of Horse in Kakiemon-Style, Overglaze Enamels



Ai-mitsu; Self-portrait Wearing a Cap



Kodama, Kibo; Late Spring

Walking Courses

A Leisurely Stroll
(Typically 40 minutes)

B Short Stroll
(20 minutes)

Wheelchair-Accessible Routes

Recommended Photo Spots

Museum Underground Parking Area	Maximum vehicle height 1.7 m	Capacity 67 (passenger vehicles)
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Shukkeien Entrance and Exit	Shukkeien Parking Area (Near Front Gate)	Maximum ehicle height n/a	Capacity 29 (passenger vehicles), 3 (tour buses)
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- 3F • Special Exhibition Galleries
- Tea Room
- 2F • Collection Galleries
- 1F • Café
- Restaurant
- B1 • Kenmin Gallery (Rental gallery)