

Stop and rest a while after your walk.  
Enjoy meals and select souvenirs!

## Nanko Rest House

This restaurant serves meals ( lunch only ) and provides rest areas for visitors that carry unique Imperial Palace souvenirs.



### Yonoju Edo picnic lunchbox

( Four-layer stacked lunch mostly containing boiled or stewed dishes )  
( Must be ordered in advance )

A stacked lunchbox featuring Edo-period dishes made with ingredients produced near Tokyo.



### Ichijusansai Gozen daily lunch special

Traditional Japanese-style meal ( one soup and three side dishes )



### Kokyogaian Dorayaki

Sweet, elegant-tasting *dorayaki*, a delicacy consisting of plentiful sweet bean paste sandwiched between baked buns. The paste in this *dorayaki* is produced in Hokkaido's Tokachi region.



### Kokyogaian Chrysanthemum-Shaped Monaka Bean-Jam Wafers

Made with azuki beans produced in the Tokachi region of Hokkaido, which is famous for them. These wafers are made using a traditional method passed down through generations in a noble Japanese family.

<b>Rest House</b> <b>Opening hours</b> 8:30AM-5:00PM ( Lunch 11:00AM-2:00PM ) <b>Closures</b> From December 29 through January 1 <b>Enquiries</b> Tel: 03-3231-0878	<b>Store</b> <b>Opening hours</b> 8:30AM-4:00PM <b>Closures</b> Open everyday <b>Enquiries</b> Tel: 03-3211-1056
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## Japanese Sweet Parlor Kusunoki

In the Outer Gardens of the Imperial Palace, there is the iconic equestrian statue of Kusunoki Masashige, rising amid the black pine forest and vast green lawns. Adjacent to it, you will find the "Kusunoki Tea House."



### Premium Uji Matcha Soft

The "Premium Uji Matcha Soft Serve," crafted with Uji matcha "Tenkei" selected by Japan's highest-ranked tea master, Kyogyo Suda



<b>Japanese Sweet Parlor Kusunoki</b> <b>Business Hours</b> 9:00AM-4:00PM <b>Regular Holiday</b> None (except for the New Year's holiday)
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## Kitanomaru Rest House

At CAFÉ 33, you can enjoy a rich lineup of authentic Italian flavors, including home-made sandwiches, Pizza Altaglio, which originated in Rome, and tarts made with seasonal fruits.



Pizza Altaglio is CAFÉ 33's signature menu, made with homemade dough and baked daily at the facility's store.



<b>Kitanomaru Rest House</b> <b>Opening hours</b> 9:00AM-5:00PM <b>Closures</b> Open everyday ( Same as Kitanomaru Garden ) <b>Enquiries</b> Tel: 03-3214-3730
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### Enquiries

### The National Gardens Association

( Kokyogaian Branch Office )

1-1 kokyo-gaien, chiyoda-ku, Tokyo Tel: 03-3231-5509

The Imperial Household Agency, Ministry of the Environment  
Kokyo Gaien Kanri Jimusho

2025.03



# The four seasons at the Imperial Palace

Kokyogaian National Garden offer a delightful experience of every season.  
Get to know the charms of every time of year.



## Spring

Admire the flowers in full bloom at Chidorigafuchi, Tokyo's leading cherry-blossom viewing spot, and other places around town.



Chidorigafuchi is a famous spot to enjoy the spring cherry blossoms near the Imperial Palace. Every year between late March and early April, about two hundred cherry trees burst into gorgeous pale-white flowers here. The embankment near Sakurada-bori Moat becomes a stage for colorful flowers such as adorable tiny yellow rape blossoms and Japanese radish flowers with pale purple and white petals. Delight in the charming scenery!

In April, visitors can enjoy Kurume azalea in Ninomaru Park at the East Garden of the Imperial Palace and nearby thickets, as well as iris flowers in Ninomaru Garden in late May. In the castle moat, you will see turtles sunning on their bellies while toads swim and cry out to one another. There are also active, jumping Butterfly Koi ( carp ) in a pond in Ninomaru Garden at the East Garden. The carps are a special breed requested by the reigning emperor.



## Summer

Colorful weeping willow trees and hydrangea herald the beginnings of summer.



Lush weeping willow trees grow along the castle moat beside the plaza at the Imperial Palace. In June, you can enjoy the flowers in Hydrangea Park near the Honmaru Fujimi-tamon Watch Tower in the East Garden of the Imperial Palace, and also in the groves that spread out to the south of the keep. The Showa Emperor was represented by young bamboo, and there are about thirteen bamboo varieties, including golden bamboo and turtle-back bamboo, that were carefully collected and tended during the Showa period.

In summer, a variety of butterflies, mantises, lizards and other creatures appear on the castle grounds, and you can always hear the buzz of cicadas in high summer. The Palace is visited by many migrant birds as well, including swallows. If you are lucky, you may see another visitor, the narcissus flycatcher.



## Autumn

The perfect season for a stroll through the Imperial Palace. Enjoy colorful autumn foliage in Kitanomaru Garden as you escape the hustle and bustle of the capital city.



Autumn is the season for colorful leaves in Kitanomaru Garden. There is so much natural beauty to enjoy here that you'll hardly believe you're in the heart of Tokyo.

Step outside of the urban hustle and bustle and into a canopy of scarlet maple leaves. The plaza near the East Garden of the Imperial Palace features a spectacular view of 2000 Japanese black pines. Pine trees are also planted in a pattern on a huge mound at Sakurada-bori Moat. The pines are green throughout the year, but are best enjoyed in fall thanks to the delightful temperatures this time of year. Late in the autumn, groups of migrant tufted ducks arrive at Babasaki-bori Moat and Sakurada-bori Moat. The moat is transformed into a bird sanctuary in the fall—a temporary home for black-headed gulls, mallard ducks, northern shovellers, and more.



## Winter

The best season for wild birds  
See narcissus and plum blossoms on the famous Bairinzaka slope.



In winter, the ginkgo trees turn bright yellow along Gyoko-dori Street. See the ginkgo trees that survived the Great Kanto earthquake in 1923 and the devastating fires that followed, as well as the large ginkgo trees planted in a line in front of the Nippon Budokan. In December, narcissus flowers bloom on the mound along the Hanzo-bori moat. In January, the Honmaru ( castle keep ) at the East Garden of the Imperial Palace and the Ninomaru ( outer citadel ) are enveloped in the fragrant aroma of wintersweet flowers. In February, the plum flowers all bloom at once on the Bairinzaka slope. Towards the end of the month, you can see pretty pheasant's eye ( Adonis ramosa ) blooms. Kitanomaru Garden is a seasonal home for migrant birds in winter, and provides them with fruit such as soapberry, sandalwood, and Chinese matrimony vine. Winter is the best season for wild bird watching, with black-backed wagtails, Japanese white-eyes, and many others cruising along the water.

# Nature walk map

Kokyogaian National Garden and  
the East Gardens of  
the Imperial Palace and  
Kitanomaru Garden

National Gardens Association



Use the QR code to easily  
access the convenient  
and user-friendly  
Kokyogaian walking app.





# Flower calendar of Kokyogaien National Garden

Kokyogaien National Garden features a wide variety of plants, flowers, and trees. Take a stroll as you delight in the beauty nature has to offer.



**Visit Spot**  
**A :** Kokyogaien National Garden  
**B :** East Gardens of the Imperial Palace  
**C :** Kitanomaru Garden  
Note: Scenery varies with changing weather conditions.

## Spring from March through May

**A/C** Flowering crab apple



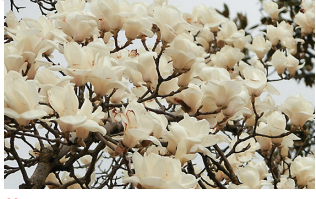
**A/C** Flowering dogwood



**C** Reeves spirea



**C** Lily magnolia



**C** paper bush



## Summer from June through August

**A/C** Gardenia



**B** Hydrangea



**C** Crape myrtle



**C** Evergreen magnolia



**C** St. John's wort



## Fall from September through November

**A/B** Flowering quince



**A** Spanish dagger



**A/B/C** Japanese silver leaf



**B/C** Silvergrass



**B** Toad lily



## Winter from December through February

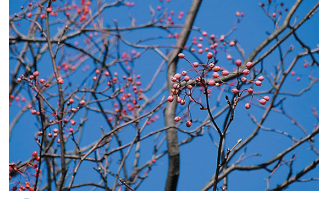
**A/C** Narcissus



**B** Wintersweet



**C** Sorbus alnifolia



**C** Japanese witch hazel



**C** Asiatic dogwood



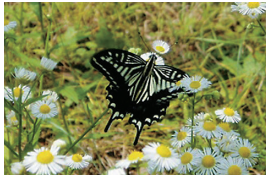
## Life in Kokyogaien National Garden and Kitanomaru Garden

Wild birds and a variety of other living creatures can be seen in the surrounding areas.

**Kingfisher**



**Asian Swallowtail**



**White-eye**



**Common Bluebottle**



**Heron**



**Common Skimmer**



**Varied tit**



**Stag beetle**



**Black-headed gull**



**Japanese five-lined skink**



**Notes:**  
1: Photos are provided by the National Gardens Association Kokyogaien Branch Office. Explanations are given based on *Kokyo no Shiki and Hana Monogatari* (Flowers in four seasons at the Imperial Palace), Tadashi Heima.  
2: Information on the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace refers to the Imperial Household Agency website.

