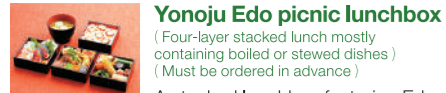


Stop and rest a while after your walk.
Enjoy meals and select souvenirs!

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)



Kokyogaien 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.



Kokyogaien 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.

Rest House	Store
Opening hours 8:30AM-5:00PM (Lunch 11:00AM-2:00PM)	Opening hours 8:30AM-4:00PM
Closures From December 29 through January 1	Closures Open everyday
Enquiries Tel: 03-3231-0878	Enquiries Tel: 03-3211-1056

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."



"Gold Leaf Vanilla" Soft-Serve Ice Cream

The soft serve ice cream made with carefully selected gold leaf is very popular.

Japanese Sweet Parlor Kusunoki
Business Hours 9:00AM-4:00PM
Regular Holiday None (except for the New Year's holiday)

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.

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

Enquiries

The National Gardens Association

(Kokyogaien 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

2023.07

The four seasons at the Imperial Palace

Kokyogaien 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

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

National Gardens Association




Flower calendar of Kogyogaien National Garden


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


Nature walk map


Visit Spot
A : Kogyogaien 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

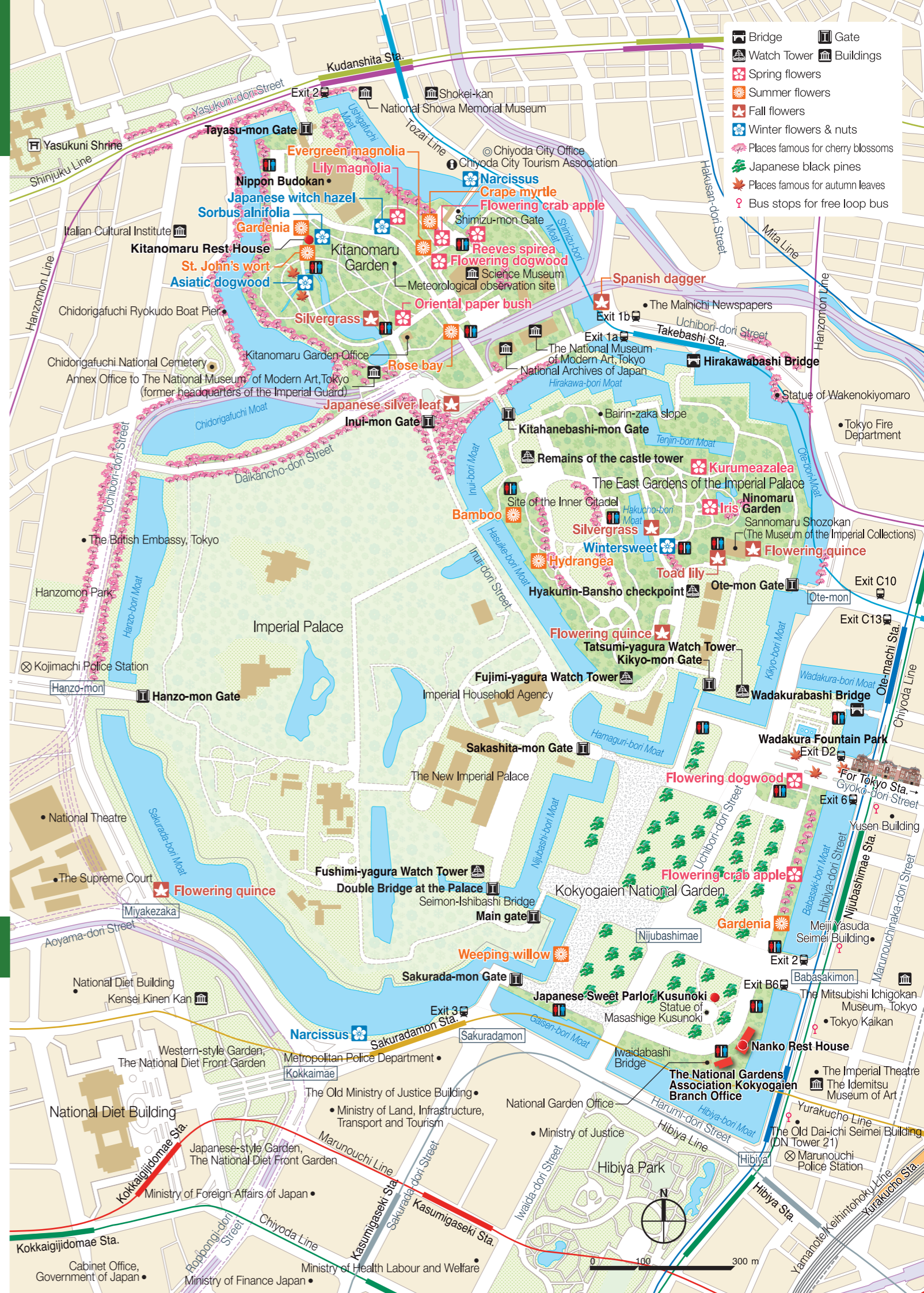
A/C Narcissus


B Wintersweet


C Sorbus alnifolia


C Japanese witch hazel


C Asiatic dogwood




Life in Kogyogaien National Garden and Kitanomaru Garden

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

Kingfisher 	White-eye 	Heron 	Varied tit 	Black-headed gull 
Asian Swallowtail 	Common Bluebottle 	Common Skimmer 	Stag beetle 	Japanese five-lined skink 

Notes:
 1: Photos are provided by the National Gardens Association Kogyogaien 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.