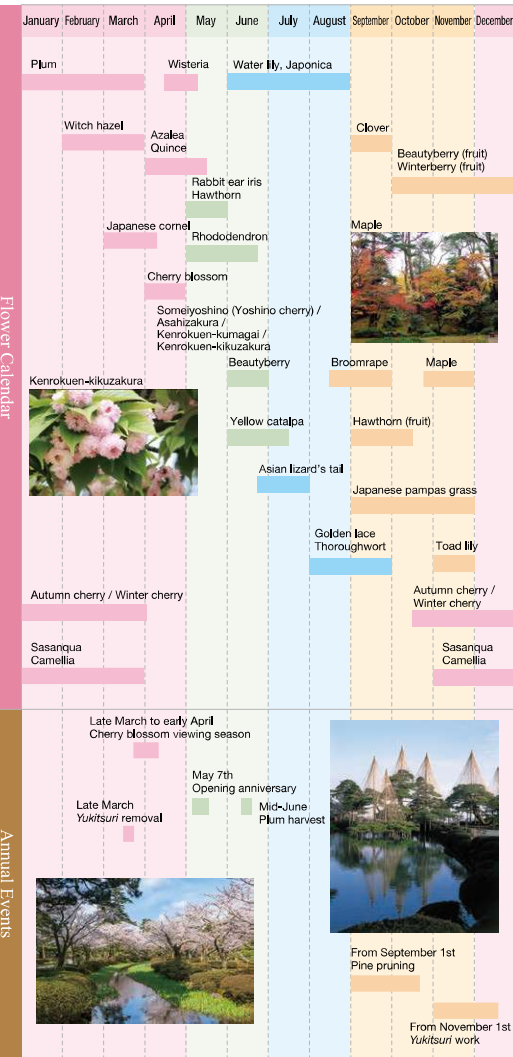


## Kenrokuen seasonal schedule



## Special Place of Scenic Beauty Kenrokuen Garden

**Hours** March 1st - October 15th: 7:00am to 6:00pm (Admission until 5:30pm)  
October 16th - end of February: 8:00am to 5:00pm (Admission until 4:30pm)  
\*The garden is illuminated open at night during cherry blossom viewing season and autumn foliage season.

**Entrance fee**

Individuals  
 • Adults (18 years and older) 320 yen • Children (6 years old to under 18 years old) 100 yen  
 \*Free for ages 65 and over

Groups  
 • Adults (18 years and older) 250 yen • Children (6 years old to under 18 years old) 80 yen  
 \*30 or more paying visitors

## Shigure-tei Teahouse

Reproduction of an Edo period residence

**Hours** 9:00am to 4:30pm (Admission until 4:00pm)  
\*Closed from December 29th to January 3rd.

\*Enjoy original Japanese sweets and Matcha while gazing at the garden. (Fee applies)



- By bus**
- Take the bus from JR Kanazawa Station East Exit, get off at "Kenrokuen-shita / Kanazawa Castle" and enter through Katsura-zaka entrance.
  - Take the bus from JR Kanazawa Station East Exit, get off at "Hirotsuka / 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art" and enter through Mayumi-zaka entrance.
- By taxi**
- Approx. 4km (10 min.) from JR Kanazawa Station
- By car**
- Approx. 30 min. from Hokuriku Expressway Kanazawa Nishi IC
  - Approx. 20 min. from Hokuriku Expressway Kanazawa Morimoto IC

There is no parking lot within the garden. Please use a nearby paid parking lot. Parking for people with disabilities is available at the adjacent Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Traditional Arts and Crafts. Please contact the museum in advance if you wish to use it. Tel: 076-262-2020

Ishikawa Prefecture Kanazawa Castle /  
Kenrokuen Garden Management Office  
1-1 Marunouchi, Kanazawa City Tel: 076-234-3800

### Kenrokuen Garden Digital Archives

View old postcards and photographs of Kenrokuen Garden, along with footage of garden maintenance work, such as *yuki-tsuri* (supporting branches with ropes to protect them from heavy snow). Enjoy strolling through the garden while comparing its past and present appearances.



Kenrokuen Website

## Special Place of Scenic Beauty

# Kenrokuen Garden



Ishikawa Prefecture Kanazawa Castle /  
Kenrokuen Garden Management Office

## History

Kenrokuen is a strolling-style landscape garden with the characteristics of a typical landscape garden of the Edo period.

In 1676, the fifth lord of Kaga Domain, Maeda Tsunanori, moved his garden house to the castle site, built a rest house called "Renchu-ochin," and started to landscape a garden called "Renchu (lotus pond) Garden" in the surrounding area. This was the beginning of Kenrokuen Garden.

In 1822, the 12th lord of the domain, Narinaga, built Takezawa Villa, a retreat on Chitosedai Plateau to the southeast of the castle. He created a winding stream using water sourced from the Tatsumi water channel, and various stone bridges. In this year, the garden was given the name "Kenrokuen."

Two years after Takezawa Villa was completed, Narinaga passed away, and the 13th lord, Nariyasu, demolished the villa, dug out Kasumiga-ike Pond and created new winding streams harmonized with the existing Renchi Garden. The basic composition of the majestic strolling garden that we see today was completed.

After the abolition of feudal domains, Kenrokuen Garden was opened to the public on May 7, 1874. On March 8, 1922, it was designated as a Place of Scenic Beauty. On March 20, 1985, it was designated as a Special Place of Scenic Beauty.

### Origin of the garden name

The name comes from a passage describing Koen Garden (lake garden) in the Chinese classic "Fakuyo-Meienki" (Fakuyo outstanding gardens). It says that although it is difficult to combine all six excellent elements in a single garden, it has been achieved in this garden.

"A garden cannot combine all six excellent elements. If there is spaciousness, seclusion will be diminished. If artifice dominates, it will lack antiquity. If there are many watercourses, it will lack commanding views. Koen Garden is the only garden that combines these six elements."

<b>Spaciousness</b>	Spacious areas	↔	<b>Seclusion</b>	Secluded and quiet
<b>Artifice</b>	Human skills are involved	↔	<b>Antiquity</b>	Able to feel nature from ancient times
<b>Watercourses</b>	Abundant water supply through streams, ponds and waterfalls	↔	<b>Panoramas</b>	Commanding fine views

Kenrokuen Garden values these six elements.

### What are the most special of the six elements?

#### Watercourses: Tatsumi water channel, which still exists today

A large fire prompted Toshitsune, the third lord of the domain, to build the Tatsumi water channel in 1632 as a water source for Kanazawa Castle's fire prevention and to fill the moat.

In order to bring water up to the castle (altitude 50m), a tunnel and open channel were built from 11km upstream of the Sai River, along the slope of the plateau, and the water was drawn in.

The Tatsumi water channel still flows through a tunnel remaining since the Edo period, bringing clean water to Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa Castle, and the city of Kanazawa.

#### Artifice: Human skills that created the garden with six elements

Ponds, streams, famous trees, mountain views integrated with the garden, a valley in the mountains that suddenly appears, etc. were all considered and created by human skills. Other types of human skills are the skills of Kenrokuen's gardeners, who have been caring for the garden for a long time, refining its beauty while making use of techniques passed down from generation to generation at Kenrokuen, and the skills of the workers who manage and weed the beautiful moss.

## Wishing for peace and the prosperity of Kaga Clan

It is said that this garden was constructed based on Shenxian thought (ancient Chinese folk belief in the existence of mountain wizards). Islands in Kasumiga-ike Pond and Hisago Pond represent Shenxian islands, in which wizards are said to live with the elixir of life. In addition, the garden makes us feel the clan lord's desire for longevity and eternal prosperity through its items.



**1 Kotoji Lantern**

The appearance as if it puts its legs softly into Kasumiga-ike Pond is beautiful. The lantern was given this name because its legs look like the bridge of a koto (Japanese harp). This lantern and Rainbow bridge, which is also shaped like a koto, are the representative views of the garden.



**2 Karasaki Pine**

The 13th feudal lord, Nariyasu, obtained the seed from the Karasaki Shrine, near Lake Biwa. This black pine's branches are in an exquisite shape, reminding us of a flying crane. The scenery of the tree with *yukitsuri* (ropes protecting the branches from heavy snow) is a seasonal feature of the garden.



**3 Kasumiga-ike Pond**

This is the largest pond, located in the center of the garden. There is Horai Island, which represents a Shenxian island, and there are scenic spots such as the Kotoji Lantern, Karasaki Pine, Sazaeyama Hill and Oyashirazu Cliff. You can enjoy the scenery while strolling around. Turtle-like Horai Island and Karasaki Pine, like a crane spreading its wings to fly, represent longevity and auspicious creatures.



**4 Ganko Bridge**

This bridge depicts geese flying in a row into the evening sky. Because each of the 11 red *tomuro* (granite) stones are shaped like a turtle's shell, it is also known as the "turtle shell bridge." It is believed that those who cross this bridge will live a long life. *Tomuro* stones are stones made from a small volcano to the east of Kanazawa.

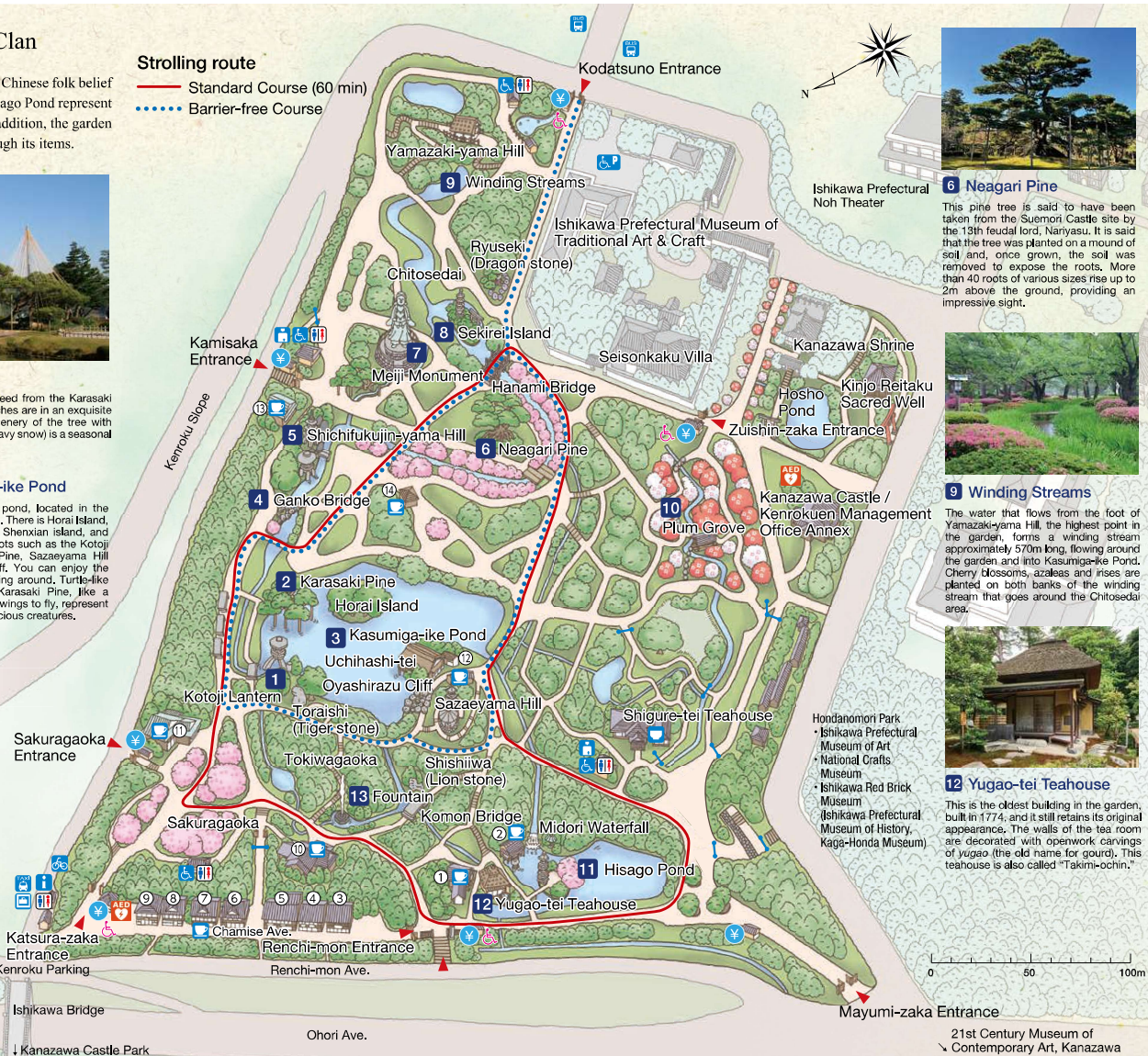


**5 Shichifukujin-yama Hill**

Stones representing the *shichifukujin* (seven good fortune gods) worshiped in Japan since the Edo period are placed here. This garden was created by the 12th feudal lord, Narinaga, to view from his study, Shichifukujin-yama Hill, the flowing water and natural background scenery of Mt. Utatsu create a beautiful scene.

### Strolling route

- Standard Course (60 min)
- ..... Barrier-free Course



**6 Neagari Pine**

This pine tree is said to have been taken from the Suemori Castle site by the 13th feudal lord, Nariyasu. It is said that the tree was planted on a mound of soil and, once grown, the soil was removed to expose the roots. More than 40 roots of various sizes rise up to 2m above the ground, providing an impressive sight.



**7 Meiji Monument**

The monument featuring a statue of Yamato Takeru (a legendary hero), was built in 1880 to comfort the spirits of local soldiers who died in the Seinan War. The height of the bronze statue is 5.5m, and it is said to be the first non-Buddhist bronze statue built in Japan.



**8 Sekirei Island**

On this island there are yin-yang stones, pine trees and a pagoda, which represent life's three major events: birth, marriage and death, respectively. The island name is said to have been given by the 13th feudal lord, Nariyasu, after the wagtail bird, which has long been a symbol for the perpetuation of one's descendants.



**9 Winding Streams**

The water that flows from the foot of Yamazaki-yama Hill, the highest point in the garden, forms a winding stream approximately 570m long, flowing around the garden and into Kasumiga-ike Pond. Cherry blossoms, azaleas and rises are planted on both banks of the winding stream that goes around the Chitosedai area.



**10 Plum Grove**

In 1968, the nationwide famous plum trees were collected from Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, Yushima Tenjin Shrine and Mito Kairakuen Garden and so on, as the Meiji Centennial Commemoration project. They start blooming in January, and are their best from February to March.



**11 Hisago Pond and Midori Waterfall**

The area around Hisago Pond was once called Renchi (lotus pond) Garden, and it is said that the creation of Kenrokuen Garden began here. The pond's shape resembles a gourd ("Hisago" in Japanese). Midori Waterfall is 6.6m high and 1.6m wide, and falls into Hisago Pond. It is said that the 11th feudal lord, Harunaga, who worked to restore Renchi Garden, had the waterfall recreated many times to achieve his desired sound.



**12 Yugao-tei Teahouse**

This is the oldest building in the garden, built in 1774, and it still retains its original appearance. The walls of the tea room are decorated with openwork carvings of *yugao* (the old name for gourd). This teahouse is also called "Takimi-ochin."



**13 Fountain**

Its water comes from Kasumiga-ike Pond, and it works by natural pressure caused by the difference in elevation of the two ponds. It rises to approx. 3.5m high.

¥ Tall gate	Route bus	Available for CUSTOMATE users	▲ Visitor entrance
Information booth	Taxi	Teahouse	♿ Wheelchair rental
Restroom	Bicycle parking area	Shop & light meals	AED
Accessible restroom	Parking lot for the disabled	Coin lockers	⚡ No entry for unauthorized persons

Chamise (Shop & light meals):			
① Miyoshi-an	② Miyoshi-an (Floating house)	③ Shiroyama-tei	④ Shimizu-tei
⑤ Sutsumi-tei	⑥ Gallery&Cafe Touzan	⑦ Mansai-tei	⑧ Horai-do
⑨ Kenjo-tei	⑩ Kenroku-tei	⑪ Kikan-tei	⑫ Uchihashi-tei
⑬ Kotokubi	⑭ Syusse-chaya (Stall)		