

㉔ **Hobi-u** / Phoenix-tail Mound These cycads were sent as a gift from Shimazu, the feudal lord of southern Kyushu, and they are thought to be more than 300 years old. The name derives from their similarity in shape to the mythical phoenix (Natural Monument of Kagawa).

㉕ **Kikugetsu-tei** This traditional Japanese sukiya-style teahouse dates back well over three centuries, and it was used by successive generations of feudal lords. The origin of the name derives from a line in an old Chinese poem: "When I scoop up the water, I hold the moon in my hands."



This is the central building of the whole garden, and the view of the South Pond, as seen from the rooms of this teahouse, is a magnificent scene that can be experienced nowhere else.

㉖ **Neagari Goyo-matsu** / Five-Needle Pine with Raised Roots It was originally a bonsai tree sent from the 11th Tokugawa Shogun in 1833. [Photo]



㉗ **Shofuda** This landscaped hill is built of many stones piled together, using a technique developed around the year 1400. It is said that this was the oldest landscaped area in the garden. [Photo]



㉘ **Nanko** / South Pond The unified landscape centering on this 7,900 m<sup>2</sup> pond is constructed so that you can enjoy the changing scenery while walking around or riding on a wasen boat. It is the place in the garden in which the most effort has been taken to create a rich sense of artistry. [Cover photo]

㉙ **Fugan** / Maple Tree Shore There are 70 maple trees around here. In late November, the trees create a vividly colorful atmosphere.

㉚ **Engetsukyo** / Crescent Moon Bridge This is the biggest wooden bridge in this garden. Its name derives from the imagery of a crescent moon reflected on a pond's surface. [Cover photo]

㉛ **Fukiage** / Water Spout This spot is the garden's water source. Since Ritsurin Garden used to be a riverbed 400 years ago, there is a lot of underground water and this particular water source never dries up.

㉜ **Hiraiho** This tall landscaped hill located at the east end of the South Pond has been sculpted to resemble Mt. Fuji. It commands one of the finest views in this garden. [Cover photo]

㉝ **Korihe-e Kuju no To** This nine-story pagoda was made by Kita Rihee, a ceramicist who was invited by the first Takamatsu feudal lord from Kyoto in the 17th century.

㉞ **Kobusha** During the feudal era, this wide lawn area was used for such things as training in horsemanship and archery.

㉟ **Fuyo-ho** From the top of this hill, you can enjoy the beautiful view of the North Pond, with Mt. Shiun in the background, two small islands to right and left, and the red Bairinkyo Bridge in the middle.

㊱ **Fuyo-sho** / Lotus Pond During the summer, about 1,000 lotuses can be seen in bloom covering the pond's surface.

㊲ **Gun'o-chi** At 7,930 m<sup>2</sup>, this is the largest pond in the whole garden and was used for hunting ducks during the feudal era.

㊳ **Hanashobu-en** / Iris Garden Built in 1970, there are around 4,000 irises grown in this garden. You can see the flowers blooming from the end of May until the middle of June.

㊴ **Kamoba** The North Garden used to be the grounds for the feudal lord to hunt ducks. These duck hunting facilities were restored in 1993 and exist today as the largest duck hunting ground in Japan. [Photo]



## Ritsurin Garden Information

Total Area: Approximately 75 hectares  
 Garden Area: Approximately 16 hectares  
 March 16, 1875 Opened to the public as a prefectural garden  
 March 31, 1953 Designated as a National Place of Special Scenic Beauty  
 March 2009 Earned the highest rating of three stars from the Michelin Green Guide Japan

Open:	Year-round		
Admission:	Adult	¥410	Group (20 or more) ¥320
	Child	¥170	¥140
One Year Passport:	¥2,570 (for one person)		
	¥5,140 (for three people)		
Admission is free on January 1st and March 16th (opening anniversary).			
Hours:	January	7am-5pm	February 7am-5:30pm
	March	6:30am-6pm	April 5:30am-6:30pm
	May	5:30am-6:30pm	June 5:30am-7pm
	July	5:30am-7pm	August 5:30am-7pm
	September	5:30am-6:30pm	October 6am-5:30pm
	November	6:30am-5pm	December 7am-5pm

Two prefectural pay-parking lots and other private parking lots are available nearby. Luggage storage lockers are available at the East Gate and the North Gate. Wheelchairs, baby strollers and walkers for the elderly are available for free at both gates. Multi-lingual Guides (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, French, German and Spanish) are available for rent ¥200; ¥1,000 deposit (given back when unit is returned). Volunteer Guides: Guides will show you around the garden and will give you explanations about episodes and stories free of charge.

## Ritsurin Garden Tourism Office

1-20-16 Ritsurin-cho Takamatsu, Kagawa 760-0073 JAPAN  
 Phone: 087-833-7411 Fax: 087-833-7420 Website: ritsuringarden.jp



7 min. by car from JR Takamatsu Sta. / 20 min. walk from JR Ritsurin Sta. / 3 min. walk from JR Ritsurinkoen Kitaguchi Sta. / 10 min. walk from Kotoden Ritsurinkoen Sta. / 1 min. walk from Ritsurinkoen-mae Bus Stop / 1 min. from Ritsurinkoen-mae Highway Bus Stop / 30 min. by car from Takamatsu Airport / 20 min. by car from Takamatsu-Nishi IC / 15 min. by car from Takamatsu-Chuo IC

## Special Place of Scenic Beauty

# Ritsurin Garden 栗林公園

Ritsurin Garden is a superb cultural asset that conveys the characteristics of the daimyo strolling gardens that were typically seen in the 17th and 18th century.

A daimyo strolling garden is a type of traditional Japanese garden in which ponds and hills are expertly constructed over a vast tract of land, and you can enjoy the garden's space as you leisurely walk around inside.



㊵ **Sanuki Mingeikan** / Folk Craft Museum There are approximately 1,000 pieces of folk craft on display, including pottery, woodcrafts and lacquer ware, all used in daily life.

㊶ **Shoko Shoreikan** / Commerce and Industry Promotion Hall This building was originally constructed as the Kagawa Prefectural Museum in 1899. The name of the building was changed as Shoko Shoreikan in 1938. It offers a great view from the balcony on second floor.



㊷ **Oteue-no-matsu** / Royal-Family-Planted Pine Trees Four of these pines were planted by the Japanese royal family in 1914 and 1923. The center tree was planted in 1922 by Edward VIII (UK), when he was the crown prince.

㊸ **Tsurukame-matsu** / Crane and Turtle Pine Tree A fluttering crane appears to be standing on the back of a turtle. There are 1,400 pine trees in the garden and 1,000 of them are tended by gardeners, but this is the most precious one.



㊹ **Neagari-kashi** / Oak with Raised Roots Around 1910, an oak grew up, setting its roots down through the hollow in an old pine tree trunk. Afterwards, the pine tree died and rotted away, leaving the evergreen oak's roots in this shape. (Natural Monument of Kagawa)

㊺ **Hakomatsu** / Box Pine Trees The box-like shape of these trees, one of Ritsurin Garden's unique and defining characteristics, has been preserved through the accumulation of over 300 years of careful tending and pruning. [Photo]



㊻ **Hyakka-en Ato** This area served as a flower garden, then as an herbal garden during the 18th century. Today, you can find 100 plum trees here. You can enjoy the beautiful plum flowers from February through March.

㊼ **Hokko** / North Pond With 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> in surface area, this is the second largest pond in the South Garden. There are two islets called Zensho (Front Island) and Kousho (Back Island).

㊽ **Mikaeri-jishi** / Looking Back Lion There are many precious rocks in the garden and some of them are with unique names. Mikaeri-jishi is one of them and to the left of it there is another such rock, Botan-ishi, or Peony Rock.



㊾ **Higurashi-tei** This thatched-roof teahouse was built in 1898. There are pathways on both sides serving as Roji, or teahouse gardens.

㊿ **Seiko** / West Pond Here, you can enjoy the simple, rustic scenery of the natural face of Mt. Shiun, the Ritsurin Garden's beautiful backdrop.

㉑ **Sekiheki** / Red Cliff This cliff was named after a famous scenic site in China.

㉒ **Kyu Higurashi-tei** This teahouse, built around 1700 and called Higurashi-tei, was removed to a location outside of the garden in the late 19th century. When it was returned to the garden in 1945, there already stood a new teahouse with the name Higurashi-tei, so its name was changed to Kyu Higurashi-tei (Kyu means "former"). It is a very precious building that conveys the charm of a daimyo-style teahouse of the 17th century.



㉓ **Okedoi-no-taki** / Basin and Pipe Waterfall It is said that whenever the feudal lord would pass by this point, water in buckets would be hauled by servant to halfway up Mt. Shiun and then released to create a man-made waterfall.



- ① Sanuki Mingeikan
- ② Shoko Shoreikan
- ③ Oteue-no-matsu
- ④ Tsurukame-matsu
- ⑤ Neagari-kashi
- ⑥ Hakomatsu
- ⑦ Hyakka-en Ato
- ⑧ Hokko
- ⑨ Mikaeri-jishi
- ⑩ Higurashi-tei
- ⑪ Seiko
- ⑫ Sekiheki
- ⑬ Kyu Higurashi-tei
- ⑭ Okedoi-no-taki
- ⑮ Hobi-u

- ⑯ Kikugetsu-tei
- ⑰ Neagari Goyo-matsu
- ⑱ Shofuda
- ⑲ Nanko
- ⑳ Fugan
- ㉑ Engetsukyo
- ㉒ Fukiage
- ㉓ Hiraiho
- ㉔ Korihe-e Kuju no To
- ㉕ Kobusha
- ㉖ Fuyo-ho
- ㉗ Fuyo-sho
- ㉘ Gun'o-chi
- ㉙ Hanashobu-en
- ㉚ Kamoba

- South Garden Recommended Course (Required time: 60 min.)
- North Garden Recommended Course (Required time: 40 min.)
- Impassable for wheelchairs
- Alternate route for wheelchairs



### The History of Ritsurin Garden

With Mt. Shiun in the background, the area of Ritsurin Garden's South Pond was constructed as a daimyo garden during the middle of the 1620s by Takatoshi Ikoma, who ruled Sanuki (old name of Kagawa) at the time. Then Yorishige Matsudaira inherited the garden after being appointed as the new daimyo, or feudal lord, of the Takamatsu Domain in 1642.

The garden was then repaired and expanded by successive generations of lords of the Matsudaira Family, until its completion more than one hundred years later in 1745. From that time until 1870, Ritsurin Garden was used as the Matsudaira Family's villa, during a period that spanned 228 years and 11 successive generations.

Ritsurin Garden became open to the public on March 16, 1875 and designated as a "National Place of Special Scenic Beauty" in 1953. In 2009, the French tourist guide Michelin Green Guide Japan ranked the garden with its highest rating of three stars.

With a long history and beautiful scenery created by well-cared pine trees, Ritsurin Garden is widely known as one of the best traditional gardens in Japan.

**Kikugetsu-tei \*** Enjoy some ceremonial tea in Japanese traditional teahouses.  
 Hours: 9am - 4:30pm  
 Fee: Per Adult 700 yen, Per Child 500 yen (*Maccha*, powered green tea)  
 Per Adult 500 yen, Per Child 400 yen (*Sencha*, infused green tea)

**Higurashi-tei \***  
 Hours: 9am - 4:30pm (Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays only)  
 Fee: 500 yen  
 \*With reservations, lunch is available in the spring and autumn.

**Shoko Shoreikan (Commerce and Industry Promotion Hall)**  
 Renovated and reopened in August 2015, the building consists of a large banquet hall, a cafe, display areas for handicrafts as well as a rest area with furniture created by a Japanese-American woodworker, George Nakashima.  
 Garden Cafe Ritsurin (087-813-0870)

**Sanuki Mingeikan (Folk Craft Museum)**  
 Comprised of the New Folk Craft Museum, the Furniture Museum, the Roof Tile Museum, and the Old Folk Craft Museum, there are about 1,000 items on display.  
 Hours: 8:30am - 5pm

**Ritsurin Ann (Regional Products Shop)**  
 Hours: 9am - garden's closing time

**Light meals & Drinks**  
 Hanazono-tei (087-831-5255)  
 Satsuki-tei (087-833-6775)  
 Fukiage-tei & Komatsu-tei (0120-153044)

**Japanese Boat Ride in the South Pond**  
 Fare: Adult ¥610 Child ¥300  
 Boat service: from 9am to 1 hour before the gate closing (No service from noon to 1pm on weekdays)  
 Boat tickets are available at the East Gate Ticket Counter.



- Number plate locations  
You can find your present location by matching the number on the number plate to the number on the map.
- Restaurant
- Coffee house
- Japanese Tea House
- Souvenir Shop
- Car Parking
- Bicycle Parking
- Smoking Area
- AED
- Restroom
- Wheelchair Accessible Restroom
- Diaper-changing Room
- Nursing Room
- Western-style Toilet
- Ostomate Toilet

To Kotoden Ritsurin-koen Station (500m)  
 JR Ritsurin Station (1,000m) ↓

