

Takamatsu

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H Hotel Areaone Takamatsu

F Shikoku Kisen Ferry Company
小豆島行高速艇切符売場

1 Shopping Arcades
Marugame-machi Dori

2 Ritsurin (Kastanjebos) Garden

Backing onto Mount Shiun-zan to the west, whose wooded peak forms a natural backdrop to the vista, this stroll garden (kaiyu) extends over an area of 16ha (75ha, including the mountain. Designed in 1625 by Ikoma Takatoshi, the feudal lord of the province, it was enlarged and embellished over a period of 100 years until 1745, by five generations of the Matsudaira, who inherited the fiefdom. Sandy paths wind their way among a string of ponds full of colored carp; small valleys alternate with low hills in an undulating landscape. Lakes are dotted with islands studded with strangely shaped rocks and artistically distorted black pines, whose twisted branches suggest dragons, or cranes in flight. The park contains some 160 types of trees and flowers that change with the seasons: camellias, plum trees, and magnolias in winter; cherry trees, wisteria, and rhododendrons in spring; iris, lilies, and lotus in summer; desmodiums and maple trees in the Fall. This harmonious blend of panoramas, landscapes, and buildings is a masterpiece of the art of the Japanese garden.

During the Edo Period (1615–1867), power was won and consolidated by the Tokugawa clan, who became the Shoguns, and moved the capital to Edo, which became Tokyo. During this time, Japan, except for the port of Nagasaki, was virtually closed to foreigners, and Japanese were not allowed to travel to any country except China or the Netherlands. The Emperor remained in Kyoto as a figurehead leader, with authority only over cultural and religious affairs. While the political center of Japan was now Tokyo, Kyoto remained the cultural capital, the center for religion and art. The Shoguns provided the Emperors with little power, but with generous subsidies for building gardens.

The Edo period saw the widespread use of a new kind of Japanese architecture, called Sukiya-zukuri, which means literally "building according to chosen taste". The term first appeared at the end of the 16th century referring to isolated tea houses. It originally applied to the simple country houses of samurai warriors and Buddhist monks, but in the Edo period it was used in every kind of building, from houses to palaces.

The Sukiya style was used in the most famous garden of the period, the Katsura Imperial Villa in Kyoto. The buildings were built in a very simple, undecorated style, a prototype for future Japanese architecture. They opened up onto the garden, so that the garden seemed entirely part of the building. Whether the visitor was inside or outside of the building, he always had a feeling he was in the center of nature. The garden buildings were arranged so that were always seen from a diagonal, rather than straight on. This arrangement had the poetic name ganko, which meant literally "a formation of wild geese in flight."

Most of the gardens of the Edo Period were either promenade gardens or dry rock zen gardens, and they were usually much larger than earlier gardens. The promenade gardens of the period made extensive use of borrowing of scenery ("shakkei"). Vistas of distant mountains are integrated in the design of the garden; or, even better, building the garden on the side of a mountain and using the different elevations to attain views over landscapes outside the garden. Edo promenade gardens were often composed of a series of meisho, or "famous views", similar to postcards. These could be imitations of famous natural landscapes, like Mount Fuji, or scenes from Taoist or Buddhist legends, or landscapes illustrating verses of poetry. Unlike zen gardens, they were designed to portray nature as it appeared, not the internal rules of nature.

1 Ingang Oost

2 Ticket office

3 Fuyoho

Uitkijkpunt over Nantei oftewel het zuidelijk deel van de tuin. Nantei is a typically Japanese rambling (onsamenhangend) garden for strolling in the style of Kobori Enshu. Kobori Masakazu (1579 - 1647), better known as Kobori Enshū, was a notable Japanese artist and aristocrat in the reign of Tokugawa Ieyasu. In 1604, Kobori received as inheritance a 12,000-koku fief in Ōmi Province at Komuro. He excelled in the arts of painting, poetry, flower arrangement, and garden design. Harmonious arrangement of greenery, rocks and water created by unrestrained but refined use of Japanese artistic techniques of gardening. Graceful and aesthetic appearance of teahouses, arbors and bowers. Brilliant colors of carps in the water and unforgettable fragrance and atmosphere of seasonal flowers, which add to the beauty described as 'One step ,one scenery'. These are Nantei.

Kobori though was known best as a master of the tea ceremony. His style soon on became known as "Enshū-ryū". In light of Kobori's ability, he was tasked with teaching the 3rd Tokugawa shogun, Tokugawa Iemitsu the ways of tea ceremony. In this role, he designed many tea houses.

4 Hiraiho

Uitkijkpunt

5 Engetsukyo

This is the largest of the 15 bridges in the park. The reflection of it on the water resembling a crescent gave the bridge this appellation and when you see the elegantly curved half circle of the bridge you take it for granted.

6 Nanko

De zuidelijke vijver.

7 Kikugetsutei

This is the largest of the teahouses in the park. The appellation of the house, which literally means moon scooping house, comes from the lines of a verse by A Chinese poet of the Tang era: I scoop up some water in my hand and find the moon there to greet me.

Higurashitei

meaning a tea house at sunset

9 Seiko

Westelijke vijver

10 Fuyo numa

Lotusvijver gelegen in het noordelijke deel van het park oftewel Hokutei. Contrary to the southern part of the park called Nantei, the Hokutei opens another world of beauty centering on Fuyonuma Pond with mysterious lotus flowers open in early summer and Gunohchi Pond where feudal

lords practiced duck hunting. Every step you take reveals scenery of different taste from Nantei

11 Gunohchi

Eendenvijver, waar de feudale heren hun jachttechnieken oefenden.

12 Sanukimingeikan

Many Folkcraft works which have been manufactured by hand in the traditional method and daily life utensils useful for the life in this prefecture are collected and displayed in this museum.

13

Shokoshoreikan

This building was newly erected in 1899 where Hinokigoten Palace, a rest house for feudal lords, used to be. In this building lacquer-ware peculiar to this area and other special products are displayed.

14

Hyakkoku matsu

Carefully cultivated black pine trees; their branches, twigs, and needles are elaborately trimmed into geometrical shapes and figures.