

Practical Travel Guide - 812

ENJOYING BONSAI and HORTICULTURE



日本政府観光局 (JNTO)
Japan National Tourism Organization

JNTO Website : <http://www.jnto.go.jp>



What is BONSAI ?

Bonsai is one of Japan's most traditional cultural arts originating in the Kamakura Period (12th century). With trees, flowers, grass and stones in a small pot or tray, it expresses the beauty and spaciousness of a natural landscape. Its object is to create these landscapes as beautifully as nature, and sometimes using wire or by cutting branches so that any kind of plant can grow healthy in pots. Accordingly, Bonsai is said to be a "Never-completed Art" enabling one to pursue the pleasure of everlasting nurturing.



TOKYO & VICINITY

Omiya Bonsai Village (大宮盆栽村), 5-min. walk from Omiya-Koen Sta. on Tobu Noda Line (50 min. from Tokyo Sta. change at Omiya Sta.), is a small area consisting of a dozen Bonsai gardens with hundreds of thousands of pots including more than 500-year-old trees. There is a free rest house "Shiki no Ie" (Four Seasons House). Hours: 9:00–17:00 (depend on gardens) Closed: Thu. & New Year's holidays Tel: 048-664-1636 The annual 'Bonsai Festival' is held there from May 3–5.

Fuyo-en (芙蓉園): In particular houses "Zoki Bonsai" (雑木盆栽) (Bonsai using deciduous trees) Tel. 048-666-2400

Shoto-en (松涛園): Focuses on pots & other tools for culturing bonsai. Tel. 048-652-1033

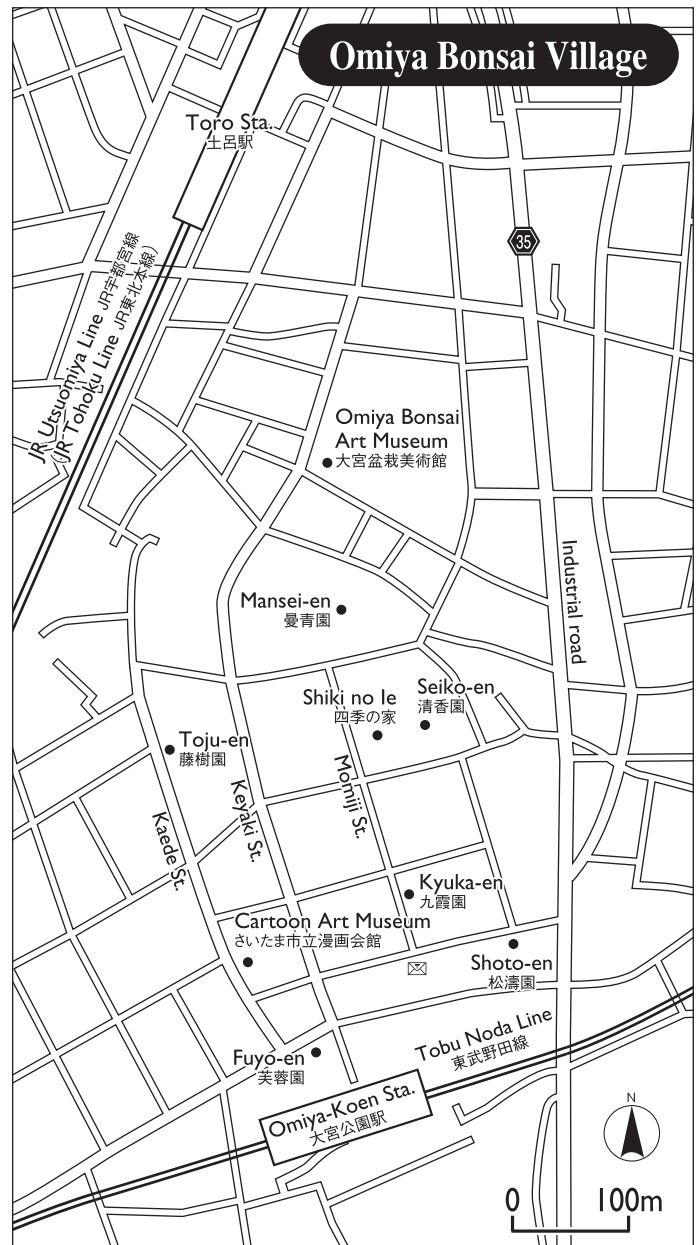
Kyuka-en (九霞園): Features many original bonsai made without using wire supports. Tel. 048-663-0423

Toju-en (藤樹園): Specially features "Shohaku Bonsai" (松柏盆栽) (Bonsai with evergreen needle-leaved trees) Tel. 048-663-3899

Mansei-en (蔓青園): Features almost all types of bonsai in its large garden. Tel. 048-663-2636

Seiko-en (清香園): Features special bonsai made of various kinds of trees. Tel. 048-663-3931

The Omiya Bonsai Art Museum, Saitama (大宮盆栽美術館), 5-min. walk from Toro Sta. on JR Utsunomiya Line or 10-min. walk from Omiya-Koen Sta. on Tobu Noda Line, displays bonsai as well as bonsai pots, Suiseki stones, pictures, and historical materials related to bonsai. Address: 2-24-3 Toro-cho, Kita-ku, Saitama City, Saitama Hours: 9:00–16:30 (Mar.–Oct.), –16:00 (Nov.–Feb.) Enter 30 min. before closing time Closed: Thu., New Year's holidays & maintenance periods Admission: ¥300 URL: <http://www.bonsai-art-museum.jp/english/index.php>



Showa Kinen Park, Bonsai Garden (昭和記念公園盆栽苑), 2-min. walk from Nishi-Tachikawa Sta. on JR Oume Line or 15-min. walk from Tachikawa Sta. on JR Chuo Line. (40 min. from Shinjuku Sta.). Bonsai Garden is in the Japanese garden area in the park. Mainly more than 60 excellent bonsai pots are exhibited. Address: 3173 Midori-cho, Tachikawa City, Tokyo Hours: 9:30–17:00 (Mar.–Oct.), –16:30 (Nov.–Feb.) Enter 30 min. before closing time Closed: Dec. 31, Jan. 1, 4th Mon. & Tue. on Feb. Admission: ¥410 for adults, ¥80 for children (park entrance fee)
URL: <http://www.showakinenpark.go.jp/english/index.htm>

Shunka-en BONSAI Museum (春花園BONSAI美術館), 7-min. ride by taxi from Koiwa Sta. (20 min. from Tokyo Sta.) on JR Sobu Line, or Mizue Sta. on Subway Shinjuku Line. It also has a tea ceremony room and Japanese garden. Address: 1-29-16 Nihori, Edogawa-ku, Tokyo Hours: 10:00–17:00 Closed: Mon. (except national holidays) Admission: ¥800 (including tea)
URL: <http://www.kunio-kobayashi.com/english/index.html>

Ginza Uchiku-Ann (銀座雨竹庵), 5-min. walk from Ginza Sta. on Subway Ginza or Hibiya Line, is a bonsai specialty shop housing various types of bonsai. Address: Ginshichi BLD, 7-9-10 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo Hours: 11:00–19:00 (Mon.–Fri.), –18:00 (Sat., Sun. & national holidays) Closed: New Year's holidays
URL: <http://www.bonsai-uchikutei.com/g/en.html>

Kokufu Bonsai-ten (国風盆栽展) is the biggest annual bonsai event in Japan held in Feb. by Nippon Bonsai Association (Tel: 03-3821-3059) at Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum. You can enjoy approx. 300 bonsai works from all over Japan. Admission: ¥1,000

Risshun Bonsai Oichi/Spring Bonsai Festival (立春盆栽大市), An annual Bonsai market held in Feb. at Ueno Green Club (Tel: 03-5685-5656, 3-min. walk from Nezu Sta. on Subway Chiyoda Line) where about 300 bonsai garden owners from all over Japan open stalls to sell their works. The festival schedule is linked with Kokufu Bonsai-ten. Shuttle buses are available between each events. You can also enjoy visiting various exhibitions and buying bonsai, miniature bonsai & bonsai pots throughout the year at Ueno Green Club. Hours: 9:00–17:00 Closed: Wed.

Shuga-ten (秋雅展), is an annual exhibition held at Ueno Green Club (Tel: 03-5685-5656, 3-min. walk from Nezu Sta. on subway Chiyoda Line) by AJSBA (All Japan Shohin-Bonsai Association Tel: 046-269-9891) in early Nov. Many bonsai owners from all over Japan participate in this event. You can also buy bonsai at the sales corner. Admission: ¥600

Japan Flower & Garden Show (日本フラワー&ガーデンショウ), is an annual event held on the weekend of Mar. at Makuhari Messe. All kinds of flower-related items such as flowers, pots, bulbs, seedlings, products made from flowers and flower motif products, are to be exhibited & sold. About 70,000 visitors attend every year.

KANSAI AREA

Osaka (大阪)

Yosho-en (養庄園), 5-min. by taxi from Ikeda Sta. on Hankyu Takarazuka Line (20-min. ride from Osaka Sta.) houses more than 5,000 Bonsai pots. Address: 347-1 Kibecho, Ikeda City Hours: 9:00–18:00 Closed: New Year's holidays

URL: <http://www.yoshoen.com/index2.html>

Vert Moi (ヴェールモア), 1-min. walk from Abiko Sta. on JR Hanwa Line (20-min. ride from Osaka Sta.) particularly houses bonsai of wild flowers & wild grasses. Address: 3-8-6 Abiko, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka City Tel: 06-6691-3618 Hours: 9:00–17:00 Closed: Wed. & New Year's holidays

Shunga-ten (春雅展), is an annual exhibition held at "Mizu no Yakata" in Flower Expo Memorial Park, 10-min. walk from Tsurumiryokuchi Sta. on subway Nagahori Line (20-min. ride from Osaka Sta.) by AJSBA (All Japan Shohin-Bonsai Association Tel: 046-269-9891) in late-Mar. More than 100 bonsai owners participate in. You can also buy bonsai at the sales corner. Admission: Free

Kyoto (京都)

Koju-en (広樹園), 5-min. by taxi from JR Kyoto Sta., houses many kinds of trees like pine, plum, maple as well as gardenias. Address: 19, Karahashiisono-cho, Minami-ku, Kyoto City Tel: 075-691-5296 Hours: 9:00–17:00

Oomizo Shosei-en (松清園), 10-min. walk from Misasagi Sta. on Subway Tozai Line (15-min. ride from Kyoto Sta.), features both bonsai & miniature bonsai. Address: 28-1 Hinookatsutsumidori-cho, Yamashina-ku, Kyoto City Tel: 075-581-3014 Hours: 9:00–17:00

Gafu-ten (雅風展), is an annual exhibition held at Miyakomesse in early Jan. by AJSBA (All Japan Shohin-Bonsai Association Tel: 046-269-9891) 8-min. walk from Higashiyama Sta. on Subway Tozai Line or 15-min. by bus from JR Kyoto Sta. to Okazaki Koen/Bijutsukan, Heian Jingu-mae Bus Stop. Particularly miniature bonsai & medium-size bonsai are exhibited. You can also buy bonsai at the sales corner. Admission: ¥800

Nippon Bonsai Taikan-ten (日本盆栽大観展), is the biggest annual bonsai exposition in the Kansai (west Japan) area held at Miyakomesse in Nov. 8-min. walk from Higashiyama Sta. on Subway Tozai Line or 15-min. by bus from JR Kyoto Sta. to Okazaki Koen/Bijutsukan, Heian Jingu-mae Bus Stop. About 180 bonsai owners from all over Japan participate in this event. You can also buy bonsai at the sales corner Admission: ¥800

SHIKOKU

Kagawa (香川)

Kinashi Bonsai Village (鬼無町), around Kinashi Sta., 7-min. walk from Takamatsu Sta. on JR Yoson Line, is the biggest bonsai village in Japan well-known for its 250-year-old history of Bonsai, especially that of pine trees. It holds an 80% share of the domestic market pine-tree bonsai and features about 270 bonsai gardens throughout the village. The annual **Kinashi Bonsai-Gardening Festival** (きなし盆栽植木まつり) is held in late-Oct. at **Ueki Bonsai Center**, a 10-min. walk from Kinashi Sta., with 50,000 pots. Also held every 5th, 15th and 25th of every month (except Jan. 5 & Jul. 5–Sep. 5), is a sale and exhibit market. URL: <http://www.kinashi-bonsai.com/english>



TOURIST INFORMATION

(Visit Japan Information Network)

Saitama Shintoshin Tourist Information Center (JR Saitama Shintoshin Sta.):

2 Kamiochiai, Chuo-ku, Saitama City, Saitama
Hours: 10:00–18:30 Tel. (048)600-0070
Closed: New Year's holidays

JR EAST Travel Service Center

(Tokyo Sta. Marunouchi North Exit):
1-9-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Hours: 7:30–20:30

Tobu Sightseeing Service Center (Asakusa Sta.):

1-4-1 Hanakawado, Taito-ku, Tokyo Tel. (03)3841-2871
Hours: 7:45–17:00 Closed: Dec. 30–Jan. 3

Keikyu Tourist Information Center

(Haneda Airport International Terminal Sta.):
2-6-5 Hanedakuko, Ota-ku, Tokyo Tel. (03)5708-3057
Hours: 7:00–22:00

Osaka Visitors' Information Center Umeda (JR Osaka Sta.):

1F North Central Gate, 3-1-1 Umeda, Kita-ku, Osaka City, Osaka
Hours: 8:00–20:00 Closed: Dec. 31 – Jan. 3

Kansai Tourist Information Center (Kansai International Airport):

Passenger Terminal Bldg. 1F, Tajiri-cho, Sennan-gun, Osaka
Hours: 7:00–20:30 Tel. (072)456-6025

Kyoto Tourist Information Center (Kyoto Sta.):

2F Kyoto Station Bldg. Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto City, Kyoto
Hours: 8:30–19:00 Tel. (075)343-0548

Kyoto Handicraft Center Tourist Information Counter:

21, Entomi-cho, Shogoin, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto City, Kyoto
Hours: 10:00–18:00 Tel. (075)761-7000

Takamatsu City Tourist Information (JR Takamatsu Sta.):

1-16 Hamano-cho, Takamatsu City, Kagawa
Hours: 9:00–18:00 Closed: Dec. 30–Jan. 3 Tel. (087)851-2009

Tourist Information Center (TIC)

TIC of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its main services are providing travel information and free literature on Japan such as tourist spots, transportation, and suggesting tour itineraries, etc.

1st Fl., Shin Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
100-0005 Tel. 03-3201-3331
Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed: Jan. 1st)
<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/travel/guide/tic.html>



Goodwill Guide Groups offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JNTO and display the badge shown. As they are volunteers, there is no charge for their service. You are only expected to pay for their transportation, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

JNTO Website

www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/travel/guide/guideservice.html

Note: Transportation expenses, admission fees and other charges may change due to the increase in the consumption tax rate to 8% from April 2014.

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges, which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of June 2014, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.

© 2014 Japan National Tourism Organization. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.