

Discover Your Favorite Giant Trees!

Koishikawa Botanical Garden

Enjoy a walk through the giant urban trees in the oldest botanical garden in Japan.



Koishikawa Botanical Garden is Japan's first botanical garden.

You can spot impressive giant trees and unique plants with historical backgrounds, among roughly 4,000 plant species cultivated in the spacious garden.

The garden is a popular place for those who are interested in plants and gardens. Take a walk and relax, viewing the giant trees and seasonal flowers blooming in this verdant, tranquil urban oasis.



University Museum, Koishikawa Branch, University of Tokyo

[Access]

- 10 minutes' walk from Hakusan Sta. (Toei Mita Line (Subway))
- 15 minutes' walk from Myogadani Sta. (Tokyo Metro Marunouchi Line (Subway))
- 3 minutes' walk from Hakusan 2 Bus Stop (Toei Bus; Otsuka Sta.-Ueno Park Line)

[Admission]

- Adults (high school students or older): ¥400
- Junior high/elementary students: ¥130
- Infants: free

1 Survived even a firebomb strike Himalayan Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*)

Although these trees are called Deodar Cedar or Himalayan Cedar, they actually belong to the Pinaceae family and produce many large cones. During World War II, a firebomb hit one of the trees, and the upper part of the trunk burned down. Because of this incident, the tree is split from the lower part of the trunk. Viewing the branches that have grown from the split, you will be impressed by its powerful drive to survive.



Trunk girth : 388 cm
Height : 22 m
Est. age : 95 years and 110 years

2 The huge 300-year-old tree Camphor Trees (*Cinnamomum camphora*)

You will find this enormous tree standing among the great variety of camellias planted in the camellia garden. This tree, estimated to be over 300 years old, and one of the oldest in the garden, is known as a spiritual site. Enjoy the magnificent shape of the tree as it stretches forth its branches. The botanical garden allows its trees grow with minimum pruning.



Trunk girth : 592 cm
Height : 21 m
Est. age : Over 300 years

3 The symbolic Ginkgo tree from which zoospore was discovered Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)

This is the world-famous giant ginkgo tree, through the study of which a botanist first discovered the existence of sperm in seed plants. The tree was once called the Ginkgo of Saw Blade Scars because there is a story that it was almost cut down, and until the early Showa era, saw blade scars were seen on its trunk.



Trunk girth : 490 cm
Height : 22 m
Est. age : 300 years

4 Named by the Emperor Taisho Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

This gigantic tulip tree is considered to be planted, for the first time in Japan, by Mr. Keisuke Ito, in the early Meiji era. It is said that the later Emperor Taisho named it as a tulip Tree when he visited the garden in 1890 as the Crown Prince.



Trunk girth : 491 cm
Height : 29 m as the Crown Prince
Est. age : 93 years

5 Rare to grow this large Chinese Fringe Flower (*Loropetalum chinense*)

The Chinese fringe flower grows naturally in only limited regions of Japan, and is listed as an Endangered (EN) in the Red list published by Ministry of the Environment. It is commonly used as a hedge, but this particular tree is unique for its unusual size. You can enjoy its small white flowers, blooming like those of a weeping cherry tree, from the middle of April to the beginning of May.



Trunk girth : 303 cm
Height : 13 m
Est. age : Unknown

Historical background of the Koishikawa Botanical Garden

The official name of the garden is the Botanical Gardens of the Graduate School of Science in the University of Tokyo. The garden is an educational and research facility belonging to the University of Tokyo, but is open to the public. It originated in the Koishikawa Medicinal Herb Garden, established by the Tokugawa Shogunate. The former clinic, opened in the herb garden in 1723, became well-known because of Shugoro Yamamoto's short story collection, "Akahige Shinryotan", and Akira Kurosawa's film, "Red Beard".

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It takes roughly 60 min. to tour the Garden.

You can enjoy a walk through the giant trees in this verdant, tranquil urban oasis.

Nmed by the Emperor Taisho

Tulip Tree

Trunk girth: 491 cm
Height: 29 m
Est. age: Unknown
Location: West side of the giant tree avenue

The huge 300-year-old tree

Camphor Trees

Trunk girth: 592 cm
Height: 21 m
Est. age: Over 300 years
Location: Camellia Garden

Rare to grow this large

Chinese Fringe Flower

Trunk girth: 303 cm
Height: 13 m
Est. age: 93 years
Location: Follow the path westward from the Tulip Tree

The symbolic Ginkgo tree from which zoospore was discovered

Ginkgo

Trunk girth: 490 cm
Height: 22 m
Est. age: 300 years
Location: Near the restroom in the west side of the open greenhouse

Survived even a firebomb strike

Himalayan Cedar

Trunk girth: 388 cm
Height: 22 m
Est. age: 95 years and 110 years
Location: North side of Main Building



- 1 Himalayan Cedar
↓ 5min
- 2 Camphor Trees
↓ 1min
- 3 Ginkgo
↓ 5min
- 4 Tulip Tree
↓ 3min
- 5 Chinese Fringe Flower

Newton's Apple tree and Mendel's Grapevine

You can find descendants of "Newton's apple tree" and "Mendel's grapevine" in the garden. Both plants bear fruit. How do they taste?



Main Building

The main building, built in 1939, is an elegant two-story reinforced concrete building with a clock tower and spiral staircase. It was designed by architect Yoshikazu Uchida, whose works include the famous Yasuda Auditorium and many other buildings of the University of Tokyo.



* The main building is not open to the public.