

## Discover Your Favorite Giant Trees!

# Around Mito station/ Kairakuen Garden (Ibaraki prefecture)

Enjoy a tour of giant trees and historical sites of Mito which is the turf of Gosanke, the three families of Tokugawa Shogun.

Mito has been flourished as a river port of Nakagawa River, and it was a key base called “Doorway of Water transportation”. Mito branch of Tokugawa clan’s notable achievements remain as a historical legacy such as of Tokugawa Mitsukuni, the second feudal lord of Mito Domain, who is known for compiling a Japanese history book ‘Dainihonshi’, and the ninth feudal lord Tokugawa Nariaki.

The following introduces three walking trails for observing giant trees: 1. Mito castle ruins where Mito branch of Tokugawa clan resided; 2. Japan’s largest clan school Kodokan Mito Han School (equivalent to a university in the Edo period) which was established in 1841 by Tokugawa Nariaki; 3. Kairakuen Garden built in 1842 as a park for everyone to relax and enjoy.



### 【Access】

To JR Mito Sta.

- By train: 74 mins by limited express train on JR Joban Line
- Highway bus: 110 mins from Yaesu south gate of Tokyo Sta.  
290 mins from JR Sendai Sta. (via Nihonmatsu)  
From JR Mito Sta. to Kairakuen Garden
- 20 mins by bus from North exit of JR Mito Sta. (bound for Kairakuen)

\* Terminal No.4 (Ibaraki Kotsu) or No.6 (Kanto railway) bus stops

\* Please check bus companies’ timetable before boarding, as the number of services are limited.

### 【Admission】

Adults: ¥300; Primary/ junior high school students & seniors (70 and over): ¥150

**1** Suda-jii, a species of Chinquapin – watching over the history of Mito since the Sengoku period (mid-15th century)

## Suda-jii, a species of Chinquapin (*Castanopsis sieboldii*)

This giant Suda-jii, a species of Chinquapin stands in the former Shokokan inside Mito castle established by Tokugawa Mitsukuni as a historical research institute to compile ‘Dainihonshi (Great history of Japan)’. The place is now Mito Daini junior high school. It is a historically important tree which is said to have existed since the Sengoku period (mid-15th century), and designated as a natural treasure by Mito city.



Trunk girth : 430cm / 330cm Height : Approx. 20m  
Est. age : 400 years  
Location : 2-11-2 Sannomaru, Mito city, Ibaraki prefecture

**4** A spiritual place since the ancient times  
**Japanese Cedar**  
(*Cryptomeria japonica*)

The place where Taro cedar grows had an abundant spring water since long time ago, and the clear groundwater remains cool even during summer. The spring water was named ‘Togyokusen’ and known as a spiritual place along with Taro cedar since the ancient times. In the past, five giant cedars stood near Taro cedar, but now only this one remains.



Trunk girth : 570cm Height : Approx. 25m Est. age : 800 years  
Location : Kairakuen Garden 1-3-3 Tokiwa-cho, Mito city, Ibaraki prefecture

**2** Camphor trees in an old samurai residence  
**Camphor Laurel**  
(*Cinnamomum camphora*)

Kodokan was established under the spirit of ‘Stabilize people’s spirit through education and revive the country with education as its foundation’. Kodokan contributed to the capacity development of the youth for 31 years since its establishment in 1841. Two camphor trees stand between ‘Kanameishi kahi monument’ with Nariaki’s own handwriting. The camphor tree on the right is estimated to be around 300 years of age which has stood in the Samurai residence since before Kodokan was built.



Trunk girth : 460cm Height : Approx. 25m  
Est. age : 300 years  
Location : 1-6-29 Sannomaru, Mito city, Ibaraki prefecture

**5** A historical tree standing secretly beside Togyokusen-spring  
**Bamboo-leaf oak**  
(*Quercus myrsinifolia*)

Bamboo-leaf oak is a tree with a relatively small tree trunk despite its height, and grows well even in the shade. Its hard and durable timber was widely used for making armors and agricultural tools. They were planted in the north Kanto region as a hedge to protect houses from severe winter monsoons. One may walk past without noticing them, but this bamboo-leaf oak can be counted as one of the hidden historical trees in Kairakuen.



Trunk girth : 360cm Height : 10m Est. age : unknown  
Location : Kairakuen Garden 1-3-3 Tokiwa-cho, Mito city, Ibaraki prefecture

**3** Winter blooming sweet cherry blossoms  
**Cherry blossoms**

Winter blooming cherry blossoms start to bloom a bit at a time from autumn to winter and they are in full bloom in the spring. It is touching to see small single layered sakura flowers blooming under the cold winter sky. The original tree was transplanted from Kume residence of a Mito feudal lord. This cherry blossom tree is said to be one of the trees grafted from the original tree.



Trunk girth : 260cm Height : 4.5m Est. age : unknown  
Location : Kairakuen Garden 1-3-3 Tokiwa-cho, Mito city, Ibaraki prefecture

### What is the Survey on Giant Trees?

The Ministry of the Environment has been conducting the Survey on Giant Trees since 1988 as part of the Basic Survey on Natural Environment Conservation. It targets trees whose trunk girth is 300 cm or more and reach the height of 130 m from the ground.

For the information of giant trees, please check the Giant Tree Database.

<https://kyoju.biodic.go.jp/>



### National Giant Trees and Forests Association

If you are interested in giant trees, check out the National Giant Trees and Forests Association!

The association carries out the activities related to giant trees, such as observation tours of giant trees, publication of the newsletter “Giant Trees and forests” and the organization of the National Forum on Giant Trees.

<http://www.kyoju.com/>



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## Around Mito station/ Kairakuen

(Ibaraki prefecture)

A tour of giant trees and Mito's city, the turf of the Gosanke, the three families of Tokugawa Shogun.

Kairakuen

3 Cherry blossoms

4 Japanese Cedar

5 Bamboo-leaf oak



20 mins by bus  
(Approx. 3 km)

Mito Station

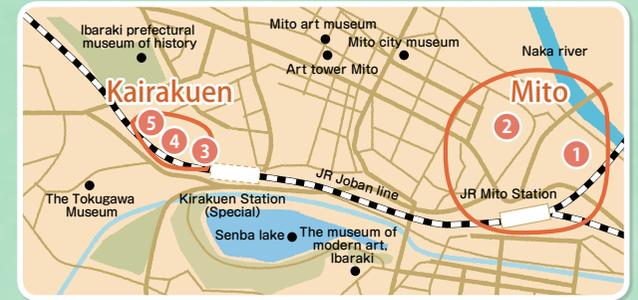
Approx. 12 min walk (900m)

1 Suda-jii, a species of Chinquapin

Approx. 8 min walk (650m)

2 Camphor Laurel

Approx. 15 min walk (1000m)



A historical tree standing secretly beside Togyokusen-spring

### Bamboo-leaf oak

(*Quercus myrsinifolia*)

Trunk girth : 360cm Height : 10m  
Est. age : unknown

A spiritual place since the ancient times

### Japanese Cedar

(*Cryptomeria japonica*)

Trunk girth : 570cm Height : Approx. 25m  
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Winter blooming sweet cherry blossoms

### Cherry blossoms

Trunk girth : 260cm Height : 4.5m  
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Camphor trees in an old samurai residence

### Camphor Laurel

(*Cinnamomum camphora*)

Trunk girth : 460cm Height : Approx. 25m  
Est. age : 300 years

Suda-jii, a species of Chinquapin – watching over the history of Mito since the Sengoku period (mid-15th century)

### Suda-jii, a species of Chinquapin

(*Castanopsis sieboldii*)  
Trunk girth : 430cm/330cm Height : Approx. 20m  
Est. age : 400 years



### [ Senba Lake ]

Senba Lake is popular among residents of Mito city as a recreation area. It is a gourd-shaped lake with 3km circumference. You can enjoy seasonal flowers alongside watching waterfowl. The area surrounding Kairakuen and Senba Lake is set out as a park which has an area of 300ha in total, to be the 2nd-biggest urban park in the world, only next to the Central Park in New York City!

