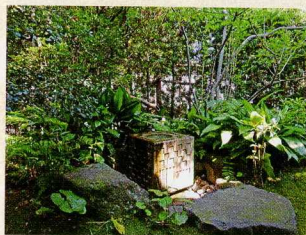


Kitakyushu Kokura Castle Japanese Garden

The Kitakyushu Kokura Castle Japanese Garden is a cultural facility which was restored from *Goyusho*, the recreational villa of Daimyo Ogasawara, to a feudal garden and a shoin of the Edo period, and has now been transformed into a complex with tearooms and exhibition halls.



Following the Hosokawa clan who rebuilt Kokura castle, the Ogasawara clan served as the lord of the castle for 234 years, and was one of the influential Daimyos for the Tokugawa shogunate government, and also the leader of all the Ogasawara clans throughout the country. Today the clan is known as the main family of "Ogasawara-ryu reiho", the etiquette of Ogasawara School, and the Hatamoto Ogasawara clan is also the same one.

Reihou is Japanese etiquette, a part of traditional Japanese culture, treasuring "a considerate heart" and "a hospitable heart". On serving to introduce these hearts and the history of Reihou, this garden will hand down the traditional living culture with Reihou to future generations.

Finally, like a city garden located in a forest of buildings, the garden is a major tourist attraction where visitors can enjoy Kokura Castle, along with an Edo atmosphere. With a sip of Macha tea, you can take a rest in quiet peace, amid the scents of nature and culture.

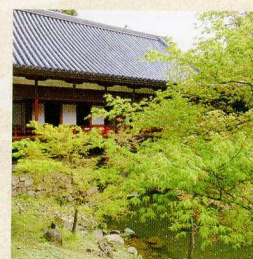
The History of Kokura Castle Japanese Garden

- In 1600, Tadaoki Hosokawa arrived in Buzen Province.
- In 1602, after reconstructing Kokura Castle for 7 years from this year, Hosokawa took up residence then. During the Hosokawa reign period, it served as the residence of Okinaga Matsui, who was the chief retainer of the Hosokawa clan.
- In 1632, the Ogasawara clan arrived to replace the Hosokawa clan. At that time, Kokura Castle serves as the leisure home of daimyos, throwing tea gatherings and so on.
- In 1798, the 5th daimyo Tadimitsu Ogasawara built a garden with a pond in the center.
- In 1866, the Choshu War destroyed almost the entire area, except of the Castle and the stone arrangement of the pond.
- In the early years of Meiji, an official residence of the military camp was built.
- In 1994, an excavation was carried out.
- In 1996, the construction work started. The site was reconstructed as a shoin, which is the style of the mansions of the samurai in the Edo period, by *miya-daikus*, Japanese carpenters for Japanese shrines and temples, from Kyoto and Nara.
- In 1998, the garden reopened on September 29 as the Kitakyushu Kokura Castle Japanese Garden

— The Four Seasons of Kokura Castle Japanese Garden —



Spring



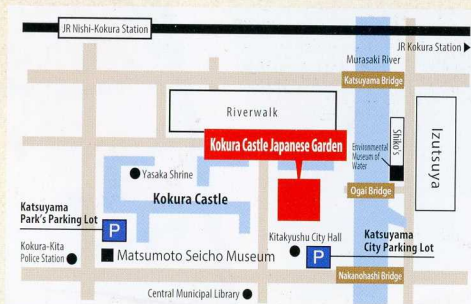
Summer



Autumn



Winter



Transport ● 20 min. on foot from JR Kokura Station ● 10 min. on foot from JR Nishi-Kokura Station

Opening Hours 9:00 - 18:00 (9:00 - 17:00 for November-March)
Last entry 30 minutes before closing

Parking Price Katsuyama Park's Parking Lot Cars ¥200 for the first hour, then ¥150 for each additional 30 min.
Katsuyama City Parking Lot Cars ¥150 for each additional 30 min.

Admission

Division	Kokura Castle Japanese Garden	3 Facility Pass (Kokura Castle Japanese Garden, Kokura Castle & Matsumoto Seicho Memorial Museum)
Adult	¥350	¥700
Middle & High School Student	¥200	¥400
Elementary School Student	¥100	¥250

(20% off regular admission for groups of more than 30, but no group discount for 3 Facility Pass.)

Kitakyushu Kokura Castle Japanese Garden

1-2 Jonai, Kokurakita-ku, Kitakyushu City, 803-0813

TEL (093) 582-2747 FAX (093) 562-5265

<https://www.kokura-castle.jp/kokura-garden/>



Facebook

Kitakyushu Kokura Castle Japanese Garden



1 Tea Ceremony (Chair Seating)



Kokura Castle Japanese Garden offers a bowl of matcha tea, or green tea, with a seasonal *wagashi*, Japanese confectionery, in *ryureiseki*.

On Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, you can watch *temae*, tea-making procedures, and experience an authentic style of tea ceremony.

It's also a perfect way to take a break after touring the area.



Tea Ceremony Opening Hours: 10:00 - 16:00

Price: all year ¥800

Shoin Special Seat ¥1,000

Closed: 28 Dec. to 31 Dec.

*Please note that it may be closed even when the event is held like tea ceremony, etc.

The *ryurei* is a style of tea ceremony using tables and chairs. While the World fair was held in Kyoto, *Seichu Gengensai*, the 11th generation of Urasenke, proposed it for foreign guests to enjoy tea ceremony.



2 Permanent Exhibition Hall



Designed for the themes of "giving" and "taste", the permanent exhibit hall introduces the history of *reihou*, Japanese etiquette, that is a part of the traditional culture of Japan.



3 Special Exhibition Hall



In Kokura Castle Japanese Garden, it holds special exhibitions approximately four times a year. For details of the schedule, please visit the official website for Kokura Castle Japanese Garden, or view the 'Exhibitions & Event Information'.



4 Library



Since there are publications relating to the art of the tea ceremony & manners, you can use it as a reference room.



5 Shoin Hall (Japanese Audience Hall)



The shoin is a wooden building constructed by *Shoin-zukuri*, a style of Japanese residential architecture. It consists of four main spaces: *Jyodan no ma*, *Ichi no ma*, *Ni no ma*, and *Toritsugi no ma*. *Ichi no ma* and *Ni no ma*, each with 18 tatami mats, can be used as an independent room by using vertical rectangular panels. In addition, since it follows *Kake-zukuri*, the traditional overhang style (the part of the wide outer hallway is built out above a pond), you can enjoy a panoramic view of the garden.



6 Garden (Pond-Stroll Garden)

This garden is a genuine *Chisen Kaiyushiki* style garden, which gives you a variety of views while walking around a pond. Its surface is lower than the surrounding ground, the distinguishing design marking the pond, so it is named a "peeping pond". It is also known as a "floating garden" because of a floating view from the wide outer hallway of the shoin.

