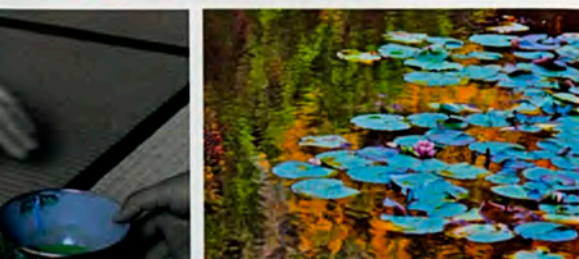




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ABOUT US

Seattle Japanese Garden is operated in a partnership between Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Arboretum Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that supports the garden through cultural programming, community outreach and fundraising.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

We welcome photographers to enjoy shooting in the garden. To preserve a tranquil experience for all visitors, we only allow monopod usage during regular hours. Portrait photography and changes of outfits are not allowed. To gain access to special shooting hours including permits to use tripods/additional equipment, please consider a Photography Membership. Details can be found on www.seattlejapanesegarden.org.

DONOR AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Affordable access to this special garden experience would not be possible without the gifts and volunteer hours contributed by our community of supporters. To make a donation or inquire about volunteering, please visit the ticket booth or our website at www.seattlejapanesegarden.org.

For current operating hours, admission fees and annual pass information, please call the ticket booth at 206.684.4725 or visit seattlejapanesegarden.org

Cover photo: Dan Williams. Interior photos clockwise from top right: Annika Utkesm, Shardak Musafiri, Eric Norman, David Okrent, Rumi Tsuchihashi, Riley Sawyer, Galen Ogden. Map illustration: Sanae Ishida.

 SEATTLE JAPANESE GARDEN

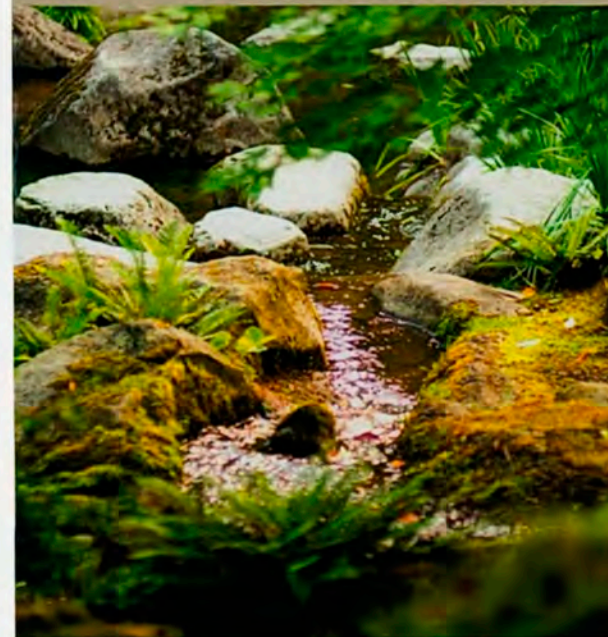
www.seattlejapanesegarden.org

1075 Lake Washington Boulevard East

Seattle, WA 98112



 SEATTLE JAPANESE GARDEN



SELF-GUIDED TOUR



Open to the public since 1960, Seattle Japanese Garden is one of the finest Japanese-style gardens

outside of Japan, a tranquil sanctuary tucked within a vast arboretum in a fast-growing city.

Gardens in Japan have long been regarded as an important art form that's essential to life. This 3.5-acre garden features a style developed in the late-16th to early-17th centuries, known as stroll gardens. Following a winding path around a central pond, stroll gardens invite visitors to journey through the varied landscapes of Japan – mountains, forests, waterfalls, rivers, lakes, islands and the sea. Along the journey, varied landscapes are hidden and then revealed.

Renowned landscape designer Juki Iida planned the Seattle Japanese Garden faithful to the principle of *shinzensa*, the essence of nature. He used both traditional Japanese plant materials and Pacific Northwest natives that have spread gracefully over time. Iida also famously travelled to the Cascades to scout for and select a large number of granite rocks to install near the waterfall. With each passing season, the elements he specified long ago combine to reveal new colors, shapes and fragrances.

The winding path and benches invite us to view the garden slowly and mindfully, in all of its detail – stones, water, lanterns, bridges, buildings, plants and animals. Change is often subtle, yet constant, and every visit refreshingly unique.

シアトル日本庭園へようこそ。Welcome to Seattle Japanese Garden.

A stroll through the garden is a journey through the varied landscapes of Japan.

1 OPEN WOODLAND/MIXED FOREST

As we pass over the entry stone and through the gate, we enter an area of graceful Japanese maples and mixed evergreens. The curved path screens the garden ahead from our view, an effect called *mie-gakure*.

A groundcover of moss evokes scenes of ancient Japanese forests. Plants traditionally used in Japan—pines, camellias and bamboo—are in harmony with plants of the Northwest—firs, cedars, rhododendrons. East of the path is the dry streambed (*kare sansui*) flowing through open woodlands. A Kasuga-style lantern, found at entrances to Shinto shrines, marks a divergence in the path.

2 POND/ShORELINE

The pond's cloudy green waters reflect the land and sky. An earthen bridge (*dobashi*) and a plank bridge (*yatsuhashi*) span it. In season, visitors stand on the *yatsuhashi* and the moon-viewing platform (*tsukimi-dai*) to feed the koi fish.

A rocky cape with a lantern projects into the pond. Wind-blown pines and iris beds line its shore. The pond's water lilies are beautiful flowers emerging from the mud below.

The pines on Turtle Island represent Japanese cranes. Like turtles, cranes symbolize longevity.

3 VILLAGE/HARBOR AREA

Entered from the east by way of a wisteria arbor that flowers profusely in mid-spring, the northern end of the garden represents a port village with a cut-stone dock. This human presence is revealed by the formal paths and steps of angular cut stone, and by the signal light that illuminates the harbor.

4 NORTH HILL

A seven-foot stone wall behind the port town represents the foothills of the mountains. On top of the wall are sculpted azaleas suggesting ocean waves or a mountain range. Above the village wall, benches invite visitors to rest and enjoy the expansive view of the garden.

High on the pine-covered knoll is the Kobe Lantern, a gift from the citizens of Kobe, Japan, one of Seattle's Sister Cities.



5 ORCHARD

Above the western shore of the pond is the orchard, planted with flowering cherries that bloom in April. This area of the garden represents autumn in Japan, the time of harvest.

Above the orchard is the *azumaya*, a shelter for rest and reflection, and for viewing the garden and the borrowed scenery (*shakkei*) of the Arboretum beyond. Some of Japan's beloved "seven flowers of autumn" grow in the bed adjacent to the *azumaya*.

6 TEA GARDEN

The Tea Garden (*roji*) is a tranquil retreat inspired by a mountain landscape, and set apart from the rest of the garden by a mixed hedge of boxwood, cedar, pieris and evergreen huckleberry. The *roji*, meaning "dewy ground," consists of two gardens notable for their many shades of green.

The outer garden contains the waiting station (*machiai*) for guests attending a tea ceremony. The inner garden surrounds the teahouse, named "Arbor of the Murmuring Pines" (*Shoseian*).

7 MOUNTAIN

In Japan, rocky, forested mountains dominate the landscape. Swift streams and rivers rush down their slopes, cascading from waterfalls. The garden's waterfall, with its imposing 8-ton-boulder, becomes a stream flowing over rocks and downhill into the central pond. Water, stones and plants, three crucial elements of Japanese gardens, converge here with dramatic effect.

In the forest above stands an 11-storied pagoda, representing monasteries in the mountains of Japan.

茶道 The Japanese Tea Ceremony

Practiced in Japan for centuries, the art of tea ceremony—also called *Chado* or *The Way of Tea*—is imbued with harmony, respect, purity and tranquility. 16th-century master Sen no Rikyu refined *Chado*, and the *Wabi-Sabi* aesthetic of simplicity and humility he taught had widespread artistic influence, including on the architecture of tea gardens.

Our *Shoseian Teahouse* offers visitors an unparalleled opportunity to experience tea ceremony in a traditional *roji* garden setting. Schedules are listed on our website at seattlejapanesegarden.org