

Japanese Landscape Garden

Picturesque Garden

Many *Daimyo gardens* were designated to portray attractive views of famous picturesque sceneries, such as Mt. Fuji. (Hirai-ho and Fuyo-ho in red Nos. 5 and 6 in a map). They are similar to the English landscape garden in terms of imitating natural views inspired from paintings, poetry and literature. Unlike Zen garden created in Kyoto, they were basically made for pleasure of feudal lords.



Stourhead garden (UK)



Ritsurin garden

The garden around South lake shows idealized landscapes at anywhere you want to see as like as Stourhead garden in UK.

Components of Daimyo garden

Daimyo gardens were usually so large to stroll through at leisure, or to ship on the lake for pleasure. Pine trees were often planted for topiaries because the evergreen reminds people of a long life. *Daimyo-gardens* often comprised Zen

garden and its derivative, tea garden because Zen and tea ceremony were used to regulate the warrior's mind during Warring States. Having tea ceremony in the tea garden was the courtesy custom of well-refined feudal lords. They also held competitions of horseback archery of which skills were important at war.



Sekiheki (Red Wall) 3

Many sites and constructions were named after Chinese literature, as like Chinoiserie in Europe. This is an example of Chinese name.

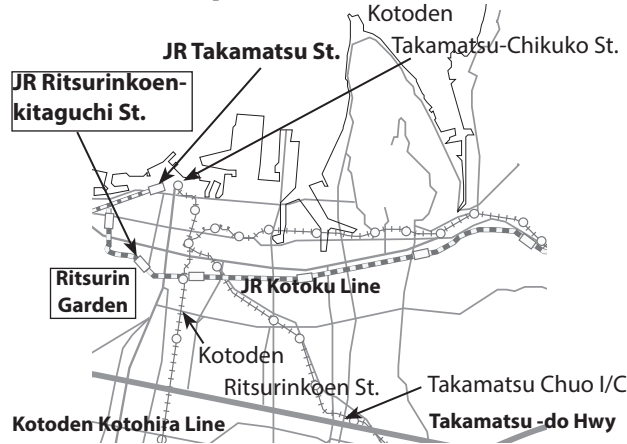


South lake

Daimyo garden

After Tokugawa shogunate consolidated the power to whole Japan, feudal lords (*Daimyo*) were in rush to have the promenade gardens (landscape gardens in the go-round style) at their villas, called *Daimyo garden*. Ritsurin garden was one of the most famous *Daimyo gardens*, and was completed in construction in the 18th century by feudal lords of Sanuki province. The garden surrounding South lake was older than that of North lake, and drew picturesque sceneries (Photo in cover).

Access map



From JR Takamatsu St. to JR Ritsurinkoen-kitaguchi St. - 7 min. by train

From JR Ritsurinkoen-kitaguchi St. - 5 min. by a walk

From Takamatsu Chuo Highway I/C - 20 min. by car



Shikoku Gakuin University,
Kukai Cafe 2

(四国学院大学 空海カフェ2)

1-2-3 Bunkyo-cho, Zentsuji, Kagawa 760-8505

<http://shigakuweb.jimdo.com>

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Enjoy Setouchi Outing No.6

栗林公園

Ritsurin Garden

Day Out 1



6. Explore Daimyo Garden 1



5 Picturesque view from Hirai-Ho



6 Perspective view from Fuyo-Ho



Illust. of Ritsurin Garden

Discover Japanese Landscape

Garden for strolling

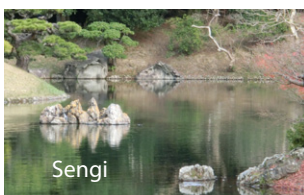


1 Teahouses 1 2

There are large teahouses on the lake shore, and two small ones in woods (Details are in the No.2 leaflet of Ritsurin garden).

2 Island of eternal youth

A Rock in the lake called Sengi is regarded as an island of eternal youth (Mt. Horai) in Chinese myth. As like Utopia, the paradise is believed to be an island.



Sengi

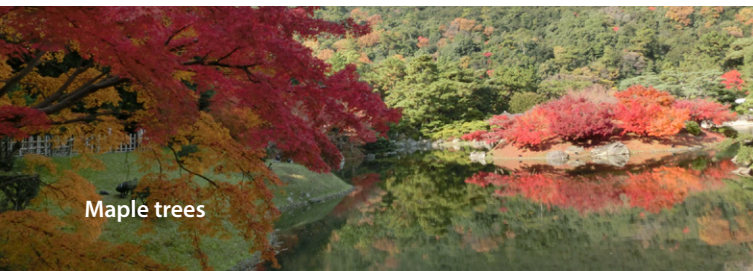


3 Arch bridge

An arch bridge called Engetsukyo represents the bridge between this and afterworld. This is a great viewpoint to overlook South lake.

4 Water source

This has been feeding the vast garden pond. The winding stream was made for having a poetry party on the banks.



Maple trees

This is an outline map. Details are on a map printed by Ritsurin Garden.

Hours : sunrise - sunset

Admission

Adult: 410yen

Kid: 170yen



7 Archery and riding

There used to be an archery and equestrian halls. A match of "Yabusame", a type of mounted archery was held here to keep up archery skills of warriors.

Daimyo gardens were basically designed for strolling to enjoy picturesque sceneries. Small Zen garden and tea garden were built to prove that the owner was a good warrior of refinement. The small gardens were good for fixed-point viewing from the teahouses.

Garden for fixed-point viewing



4 Islands with stones

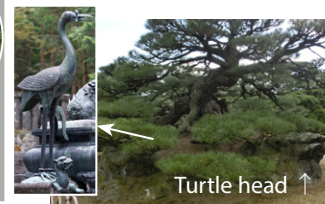
Some watersides of lakes and ponds are surrounded by rock work. These stones represent the precipitous cliffs of promontories which reminds warriors of full of difficulties. Such a sight was provided from a tea room of Kikugetsu-tei (photo above).



5 Rock garden

This rock garden was the oldest and might be the origin of Ritsurin garden. The rock garden is said to represent Mt. Potalaka (Fudaraku in Japanese) which is one of Buddhism Utopia, where the mythical dwelling of the bodhisattva Avalokitesvara.

Watch artistic pine trees!



Turtle head ↑

A Crane-Turtle pine

The pine represents a crane spreading her wings on a turtle's back made of 110 stones. They are symbolic of youth and longevity.

B Box-shaped pines

Its marvelous appearance is the result of meticulous pruning for countless years. Look at topiary art work of pine leaves.

