

Teahouses in gardens

Tea ceremony

The traditional tea garden called *Roji* is supposed to inspire the guests to meditation to prepare themselves to the tea ceremony. The guests wait for master's call at covered arbor of outer garden. They then pass through the gate into inner garden, where they wash their hands before entering the teahouse. It looks like a secluded hermitage. The path is elaborately kept moist and green.



Large teahouse (Kikugetsu-tei) Small teahouse (Higurashi-tei)
Small teahouse is standing in the tea garden called *Roji* (right). Larger one for tea gathering is in open garden (left).

Two teahouses

Teahouses are broadly classified into small and big rooms according to their floor size. The smaller one is for the traditional tea ceremony, where the specific type of equipment and decoration can be used, scroll alcove, sunken hearth, and small square door so on. The large

tea room is more practical and big enough to accommodate a number of guests. Many of them are often *shoin* style (a type of audience hall), and are not limited to use for tea ceremony. As the large tea room is standing in open and large garden, the guests having tea ceremony enjoy a great view from the big room (photo B in cover).



1 Kikugetsu-tei

This teahouse possesses a small tea room where guests enjoy nice view from the window. Compare with Higurashi-tei.

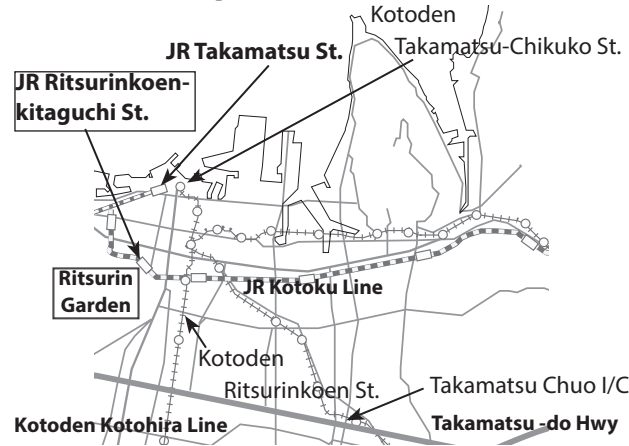


The large teahouse (Kikugetsu-tei)

Tea gardens

Having the Japanese tea ceremony was indispensable for well-refined feudal lords. They usually built tea houses in their own gardens. In Ritsurin garden, there are two teahouses, larger one (Kikugetsu-tei: photo A in cover) and smaller one (Higurashi-tei). The smaller one was more traditional and standing in the tea garden called *Roji*. We can appreciate *Wabi* (simplicity), a kind of aesthetics derived from Zen Buddhism, through having tea ceremony at the tea garden.

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



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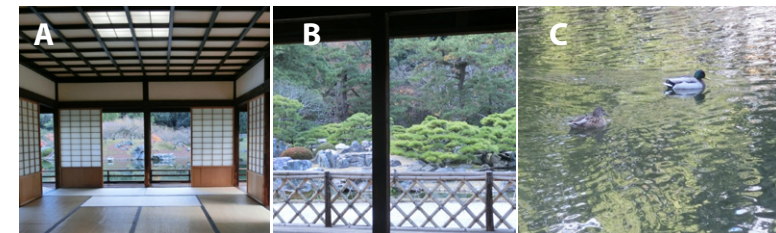
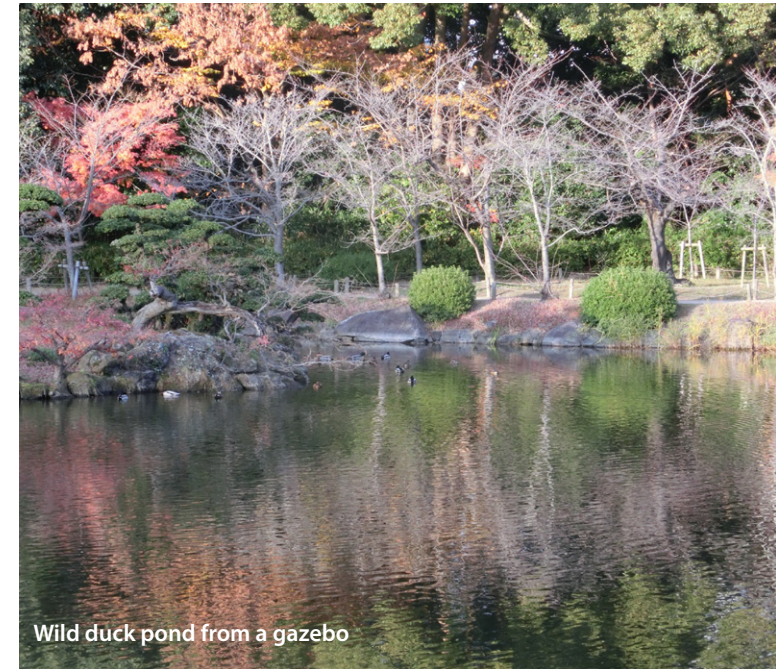


栗林公園

Ritsurin Garden Day Out 2



7. Explore Daimyo Garden 2





The small teahouse is standing in woods.

Discover Japanese Aesthetics

1 Garden for tea ceremony



Entrance of teahouse

A small door (crawling-in entrance) originally requires visitors bending low to pass through and symbolically secludes people from the outer world.

Approach to teahouse

The small teahouse appears to be a secluded hermitage in the mountains. The path of rocks is leading guests to the teahouse.



Tearoom

All materials used here are intentionally simple and rustic. There is usually an alcove holding a scroll of calligraphy or brush painting.



View from tearoom

Windows are generally small and covered with Japanese paper (*Washi*), which allows natural light to filter in.



Traditional tea garden (Higurashi-tei)



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

Hours : sunrise - sunset
Admission
 Adult: 410yen
 Kid: 170yen



Wild duck pond

Northern part of Ritsurin garden used to be a duck hunting field. Falconry was popular mostly in Edo period, but was taken over by the decoy using ducks in the last years of the Edo. The duck hunting field is currently a paradise of wild ducks.

Garden for hunting



2 Gazebo

This stone gazebo was the place to find out how ducks flocked to this pond, and to check the ducks for hunting. This gazebo still provides us with the great view of wild duck paradise (photo in cover).



4 Duck hunt moat

This is the site which used to be a duck hunting moat for decoy duck. Domestic duck was used to lure wild duck into a decoy. When they came into the moat, people spread out the net. There were two inspection holes at the end of the moat.

Enjoy flower gardens!

1 Lotus flower



Lotus flowers coming out from muddy waters represent purity of mind and are planted as a symbol of Buddha's mercy.

3 Iris flower

Wide varieties of Japanese Iris were bred from a wild species in Edo period. The flower is often used for a symbol of a beautiful lady.

