January 1-3: New Year Celebration

March 2: Garden Opening Anniversary

Late April: Early May "Spring Fantasy Garden" Late Night Opening and Illumination Event

Late May: "Autumn Fantasy Garden" Late Night Opening and Illumination Event

March 2: Garden Opening Anniversary

1st Sunday of April: Goshinkō Festival

Late April: Yōsai Tea Ceremony

Late April – Early May: "Spring Fantasy Garden" Late Night Opening and Illumination Event

3rd Sunday of May: Tea Picking Festival

Late May: En'yō-tei House Special Public Opening

Late October: Komo Straw Belts Wrapping

Late October: En'yō-tei House Special Public Opening

Late October – Mid-November: Okayama Korakuen Garden Chrysanthemum Convention

November 3, Culture Day: Korakunō (Nō Theater performances)

Mid-November – Late November: "Autumn Fantasy Garden" Late-Night Opening and Illumination Event

Special Place of Scenic Beauty

Special Place of Scenic Beauty

Korakuen, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan, is a cultural heritage site for the world to treasure.

In 1687, daimyō (Japanese feudal lord) Ikeda Tsunamasa ordered to his retainer Tsuda Nagatada to begin the construction of a new garden. It was completed in 1700, and has kept its original appearance down to the present day, except for a few changes by various daimyōs. Korakuen is one of the few daimyō gardens in the province where historical change can be observed, thanks to the many Edo Period (1603-1868) illustrations and plans and Ikeda Clan’s records and documents left behind. The garden was used as a place for entertaining important guests and also as a spa of sorts for the daimyōs, although common people too could visit it on certain days. In 1868, the ownership was transferred to Okayama Prefecture and the garden was opened to the general public. The garden suffered severe damage during a flood in 1934 and during WW2 bombing in 1945, but has been restored based on Edo Period drawings and documents. In 1952, Korakuen Garden was designated as a Special Scenic Location (now Special Place of Scenic Beauty) under the Cultural Properties Protection Law, and is managed as a historical cultural asset to be passed to future generations.
Okayama Korakuen has been considered one of the most famous gardens in Japan since the Edo Period. The tea houses located throughout the garden were built for each succeeding daimyō (Japanese feudal lord), as were Eishō-bashi, the Nō Theater Stage, and other buildings. The garden was designed in the anraku (‘scenic promenade’) style, which presents the visitor with a new view at every turn of the many paths connecting the vast lawns, ponds, hills, tea houses and streams.

**Chaso-dō**

“House of the forefather of tea.” Japan from China, from which the building gets the name of the Edo Period, and was taken apart and rebuilt here as a villa belonging to a high-ranking vassal towards the end of the 17th century. This building was originally called Rikyū-dō, one part of a group of buildings which included a tea house, archery range, and a rest house. The tea house was a place to receive daimyō (Japanese feudal lords) during their strolls in the garden.

**Kashūkai-dō**

‘Tropical’ design in Japan. It has a simple appearance and was used as a resting place by daimyō (Japanese feudal lords) during their strolls in the garden.

**Yukishō-tei**

A manmade hill, approximately 6 m high, built by Lord Ikeda Tsukumasa, son of Tsunamasa, offers a panoramic view of the garden and the surrounding area.

**Tsugumasa Pavilion**

Formerly known as Tsugumasa, this pavilion was made in 1704 by Lord Ikeda Tsukumasa to visit this stage. The present structure is a post-WW2 restoration of the pavilion, with the eaves curved like a greek building of the classical period.

**Eishō-bashi Bridge**

To the east is Kayō-no-taki Falls, while on the southwest side is a nature reserve. Yellow butterflies dance in the same garden, while in early summer, a large number of purple and pink flowers are in bloom. At the end of June and July, finally, the north field houses peony flowers.

**Shoan-tei**

A garden named after its owner, Lord Ikeda Tsukumasa, it was designed as a scenic promenade (‘scenic promenade’) style, which presents the visitor with a new view at every turn of the many paths connecting the vast lawns, ponds, hills, tea houses and streams.

**Japanese Plum Grove**

The garden is open to its worship until the end of the Edo Period. Mercy), built by Lord Ikeda Tsunamasa with the goal of bringing back their once lost beauty to the garden.

**Kairaku-tei**

In the center, a pond, in which the garden has a magnificent view on the tea house.

**Katsuragi-tei**

A tree of the elm family called “muku”, whose leaves would turn red in autumn, Japanese cypress blossom trees that would bloom in spring, and maple trees that were made at the end of the Edo Period and modeled after the Zhou Dynasty system for fetching rain clouds. Next to it, the two fields of Seihin-saika, which led to the building of the Kairaku-tei, were destroyed at the end of the Edo Period.

**Nō Theater Stage**

Lord Ikeda Tsukumasa was not only an enthusiastic devotee of the Nō theater, known for the extensive collection of priceless Nō costumes he left behind. Townspeople were sometimes allowed to visit this stage. The present structure is a post-World War II restoration, designed by a daimyō’s young daughter.

**Tea House**

The building was originally called Sesshō-tei, and part of it was donated to a high-ranking vassal towards the end of the Edo Period and was later sold and rebuilt at a higher place around 1867. Reopened after the war it was converted to a temple. The Sesshō-tei stage once drew actors who had been associated with the Nō theater. Today it is used as a place to receive daimyōs (Japanese feudal lords) and other buildings; the garden was designed in the anraku (‘scenic promenade’) style, which presents the visitor with a new view at every turn of the many paths connecting the vast lawns, ponds, hills, tea houses and streams.

**Shōkaku-tei**

A garden created with grave stones. The largest pond in the garden, Sawa-no-ike contains the three largest cranes. Cranes have been kept in the garden since the Edo Period, but this is the first time any do away with Butterfly Garden. The cranes started in 1937, but there were none left because the garden became too small. Afterwards, in collaboration with Kushiro City, Hokkaido, prewar education system, presented the garden with two cranes. However, they died out after the Second World War. Later on, Guō Mòruò, a crane breeder and crane enthusiast, returned to life in the garden. One of them was released to its natural habitat in Kushiro, Hokkaido, while the other remains in the garden.

**Ono-tei**

It is said that this was Lord Ikeda Tsunamasa’s favorite of all the pavilions in the garden. Nowadays ground water is pumped up to the surface, skillfully designed to flow through the center of the building - a unique design in Japan. It has a simple appearance and was used as a resting place by daimyō (Japanese feudal lords) during their strolls in the garden.

**Teppō-tei**

A stone steps leading to the gate of a nature reserve. Yellow butterflies dance in the same garden, while in early summer, a large number of purple and pink flowers are in bloom. At the end of June and July, finally, the north field houses peony flowers.