Teahouses of the Tokyo National Museum

Because it is Japan’s oldest museum, one might already consider a visit to the Tokyo National Museum. Located in Ueno Park, it is comprised of six buildings and a garden. The teahouses are located in the garden, which is open in the spring and autumn.

Built on the premises of the Kan’ei-ji temple after large parts of it were destroyed during the Boshin War, the Museum opened for the first time in 1882. Although it’s not clear if a garden was originally located on this part of the temple grounds, we know that parts of the present garden were once a cemetery. Rare trees and wildflowers within the garden are remnants of a research facility of the Ueno zoo. There are five teahouses on the grounds of the Museum, each with a unique history and style. They can be booked for special occasions such as tea ceremonies or poem-reciting events.