



Stone lantern in the middle garden. Next to a cascading waterfall, a narrow stone path winds up the hill.
石燈籠
Ishi-dōrō

Stone lanterns in the Imperial Gardens of Kyoto - Part 3

石燈籠

Shūgaku-in Rikyū

Shūgaku-in Rikyū is an exception among Kyoto's imperial gardens. There is not only one garden on its grounds, but three separate gardens. The gardens are connected by gravel paths, which lead through vegetable patches and rice fields. It also never was the official residence of a member of the imperial family – Emperor Gomizuno-o (1596-1680) had built these gardens as a private retreat in the outskirts of Kyoto, on the foot of the Higashiyama, the eastern hills. Additionally, this garden may be the best example of the use of “borrowed landscape”- Shakkei (借景) in Japan.



The lower garden pond with a bright red maple tree. Between the branches, on the small island, you can make out an unusually shaped stone lantern.