



## Tokyo Imperial Palace Ninomaru Gardens

### 東御苑の二の丸庭園

The history of the Imperial Palace's East Gardens begins with the third Tokugawa shogun Iemitsu.

#### History

He established the central government in Edo and asked Kobori Enshō for a garden design in the Ninomaru 二の丸 - Second Compound of the Edo castle, where he built his second palace, the Ninomaru Goten around the area of today's grove. It was assembled with a teahouse and other pleasure buildings.

However, the area was repeatedly destroyed by fire. During the reign of the ninth shogun, Tokugawa Ieshige, plans of the garden were drawn which survived until today.

These plans were used to reconstruct the garden in the 1960's.

During the Showa period there was a palace for the daughters of the Emperor Hirohito around the pond, named Kuretake-ryū (呉竹寮).

However, all buildings from mid Meiji to Showa period were removed when today's garden was built.

The works on the garden we can see these days began in 1961 when the Imperial Palace was relocated to the Fukiage Bailey.

It was finished in 1968 and is since then open to the public.

Between 1968 and today however, some changes were made. For example a wide lawn area was remodeled to a small forest.

The main structure of the pond and the surroundings remained like before.

**Tokugawa Iemitsu**

徳川家光  
1604 - 1651

**Tokugawa Ieshige**

徳川家重  
1712 - 1761