



SEATTLE JAPANESE GARDEN

MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: When is the best time to visit during Spring?

A: Rhododendrons begin blooming in mid-March, followed by Azaleas April through early May. The colorful fuchsia azaleas that adorn the north rock wall are generally in full bloom between late-April early May.

Q: Are the cherry blossoms in bloom yet?

A: Our garden has plum trees that bloom mid-March, and Kwanzan cherry trees that bloom in late-April. If you're interested in seeing the well-known Yoshino cherry trees in bloom, please note that our garden does not feature this specimen. We invite you to enjoy Yoshino cherry blossoms along Azalea Way in the Washington Park Arboretum (on the east side of Lake Washington Boulevard), and on the University of Washington campus quad a mile north of the garden. Both locations are accessible free of charge.

Q: I want to see the wisteria arbor in full bloom. When I should I plan my visit?

A: The wisteria arbor is generally in bloom early May. To find out the latest status, subscribe to our mailing list at seattlejapanesegarden.com and you'll receive regular updates. We also post photos of what's in bloom to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Q: When is the best time to visit during the Fall?

A: Fall color gradually begins in mid-September, deepening over the following five weeks into late-October. Please note that the timing varies widely from year to year; please consider subscribing to our mailing list to receive updates directly in your inbox. We also post photos of fall color in the garden to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Q: How can we find out exactly when things are peak season?

A: The best way to find out is to subscribe to our mailing list at seattlejapanesegarden.com. We also update our Facebook and Instagram pages regularly with photos.

Q: We are thinking of visiting this weekend, how are the Spring/Fall colors?

A: Please subscribe to our mailing list at seattlejapanesegarden.com to stay up-to-date with the latest seasonal changes inside the garden, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Please keep in mind that blooms and colors can be difficult to predict; each visit to the garden is a unique experience. We invite visitors to become members and return often, so they can appreciate the newness of each season with every visit!



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Q: What are your hours of operation? When are your seasonal closures?

A: The most up-to-date information can be found on seattlejapanesegarden.com/location-and-hours/ The garden closes for seasonal maintenance between December and February.

Q: Does the Japanese Garden accept memberships from other botanical gardens for entry?

A: Unfortunately no, our garden does not currently have reciprocal access arrangements with other botanical gardens in North America. We've received requests from many visitors to participate in a reciprocal program; please know we are looking into this possibility for the future.

Q: When are the public tours?

A: Public tours are available April through October daily at 12:30 p.m. Some additional tours are scheduled during special events. Please note that on occasion, tours are canceled due to unavailability of volunteer guides that day.

Q: How do I book a private tour?

A: We offer private tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. They can be requested with a minimum of three weeks advance notice. Please use the request form on our website at seattlejapanesegarden.org/garden-tours and a staff member will get back to you.

Q: We're interested in a tea ceremony. Do I need reservations for that?

A: Seattle Japanese Garden is one of the few gardens in North America where guests can experience a traditional Japanese tea ceremony—called *Chanoyu*—in a teahouse surrounded by a roji garden. Guests are invited to receive tea on select weekends and summer weekdays. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$7 youth and include tea and sweets (note: garden entry is a separate fee). Reservations are required. For more information, please visit seattlejapanesegarden.org/tea-ceremony/ or call the ticket booth at (206) 684-4725.

Q: Do you allow dogs in the garden?

A: Dogs and other animals are not allowed in the garden, with the exception of certified service animals. Leashed dogs are welcome to enjoy the Washington Park Arboretum public gardens located on the east side of Lake Washington Boulevard.

Q: Do you allow strollers in the garden?

A: Yes, we allow strollers in the garden. Please note that all of the paths accessible by stroller are lined with gravel. On busy weekends and event days, we occasionally ask for strollers to be parked in a designated location to keep the paths clear and for all to enjoy their visit.



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Q: Is the garden wheelchair accessible? And do you have wheelchairs available on-site?

A: The garden is partially accessible via an ADA approved gravel path. Although there are some areas of the garden that feature stepping stones and bridges that wheelchairs will not be able to navigate, the visibility from the ADA path is excellent and most areas of the garden can be enjoyed from there. Please note that we do not have wheelchairs available on-site.

Q: Is there a place to eat at the garden?

A: To preserve the refined experience of the garden, only water is allowed inside the garden during regular operating hours. We ask visitors to enjoy their coffee, tea, and snacks in the courtyard before entering the gates. There are many wonderful eateries within walking distance of the Japanese Garden on Madison Ave. E. Please inquire at the ticket booth for specific recommendations.

Q: Who owns, manages, and maintains the Garden?

A: Seattle Japanese Garden is one of the few municipally owned public Japanese gardens in North America. The site is managed and maintained by Seattle Parks and Recreation, and operated in a cooperative agreement with the Arboretum Foundation, a non-profit 501(c) 3 partner that provides the programming, marketing, and fundraising support to the garden.

Q: Do you do private rentals?

A: The garden grounds are not available for private rentals of any type, including weddings. The Tateuchi Community Room, located in the gatehouse, has a maximum capacity of 49 occupants and is available to rent. It requires a minimum booking of two hours and the fees start at \$35 an hour plus an application fee. Other restrictions apply. For more information, please visit the [Seattle Parks and Recreation website](http://seattle.gov/parks/reserve/event-space-rentals/japanese-garden-meeting-room) at seattle.gov/parks/reserve/event-space-rentals/japanese-garden-meeting-room or call the ticket booth at (206) 684-4725.

Q: We want to get married at the Japanese Garden. Can you help us?

A: In order to preserve the integrity of the garden, Seattle Japanese Garden is not made available for weddings or private events of any kind. We recommend you consider the beautiful Kubota Garden in South Seattle as an alternative. You can find more information on outdoor weddings at Kubota Garden on the Seattle Parks and Recreation website at seattle.gov/parks/reserve/outdoor-ceremony-reservations (Please note that a brief pilot program to allow weddings at Seattle Japanese Garden ended in 2013, and is no longer in effect.)



Q: We'd like to schedule a professional portrait session in the garden. Can you help us?

A: In order to preserve the integrity of the garden, Seattle Japanese Garden is not made available for professional portrait sessions at this time. We recommend you consider the beautiful Kubota Garden in South Seattle as an alternative. Kubota Garden is located at 9817 55th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118, phone (206) 725-5060.

Q: I'm interested in volunteering at the garden. What kind of volunteer opportunities do you have?

A: Seattle Japanese Garden relies on a dedicated group of volunteers in order to offer tours, staff special events, and meet the rigorous maintenance needs of the garden. We also welcome administrative support on a limited basis. To be matched with a volunteer opportunity that best suits your interests and availability, please reach out to us via the volunteer page on our website at seattlejapanesegarden.org/get-involved/