

Collection Guide

With our collection guide, you can listen to explanations of our exhibitions from your own smartphone. These are available in English, Japanese, Chinese (traditional and simplified) and Korean.
*Not available for all items.

Museum Shop

In-house publications, such as photo journals, cotton hand towels and bonsai post cards are on sale at the museum shop along with other original bonsai merchandise.

Photo Area

The Lobby, the Bonsai Garden and the Terrace are designated photo areas. Visitors to the museum are invited to make memories of their visits.

Exhibition Room

The museum holds special exhibitions of the art and history of bonsai and the Omiya Bonsai Village.
*During the curating and changing of exhibitions, this room is closed.

Access

Take the JR Utsunomiya, **Shonan-Shinjuku**, or **Ueno-Tokyo** lines to Toro Station. Only local trains stop at Toro Station. Be aware that rapid trains will pass Toro without stopping. The trip from Shinjuku station will take about 35 minutes and from Tokyo station 40.

Access by train

- 5 minutes walk from the East Exit of Toro station on the JR Utsunomiya Line
- 10 minutes walk from Omiya-Koen station on the TOBU URBAN PARK Line (Noda Line)

Access by car

- About 6 km from the Shintoshin-nishi exit on the Metropolitan Expressway Saitama Shintoshin Route
- About 9 km from the Iwatsuki exit on the Tohoku Expressway Parking spaces for 39 cars (up to 2 hours free parking), spaces for 3 busses (¥ 880), 2 handicap spaces (free parking)

Take a walk from Omiya park...
Recommended walking route (45 minutes): Start from Omiya Station via Hikawa Shrine, then stroll through Omiya Park and the Omiya Bonsai Village to reach the museum.

The Omiya Bonsai Art Museum, Saitama

2-24-3 Toro-cho, Kita Ward, Saitama City, Saitama, 331-0804 Japan
TEL +81-(0)48-780-2091 FAX +81-(0)48-668-2323
<https://www.bonsai-art-museum.jp>



ENGLISH



さいたま市

大宮盆栽美術館

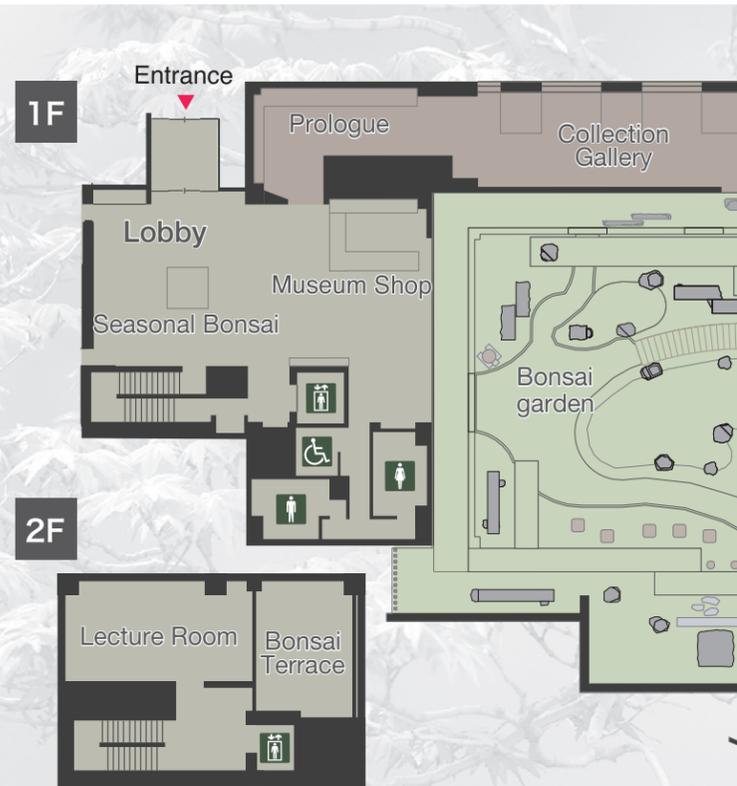
The Omiya Bonsai Art Museum, Saitama



Admission
Adults : 310 yen (200 yen)
High school, University students and persons over 65 : 150 yen (100 yen)
Elementary school and junior high school students : 100 yen (50 yen)
*Admission is half price for a person with a disability certificate and accompanying person.
*Figures in parentheses are individual fees for groups of 20 or more visitors.

Hours
9:00-16:30 during March-October
9:00-16:00 during November-February
*Last admission 30 minutes before closing

Closed Thursdays (except on National Holidays)
Closed from December 29 - January 3.
*Temporary closures during exhibition preparation.



Welcome to the Omiya Bonsai Art Museum, Saitama

Bonsai, literally meaning “plantings in a container,” is one of the traditional cultural arts that represent Japan.

The Omiya Bonsai Art Museum, Saitama, opened in March of 2010, is the first public bonsai art museum. The mission of this museum is to conduct research on the culture that fostered the bonsai tradition. We also want to spread knowledge about bonsai and bonsai culture to many people so that bonsai becomes more well-known.

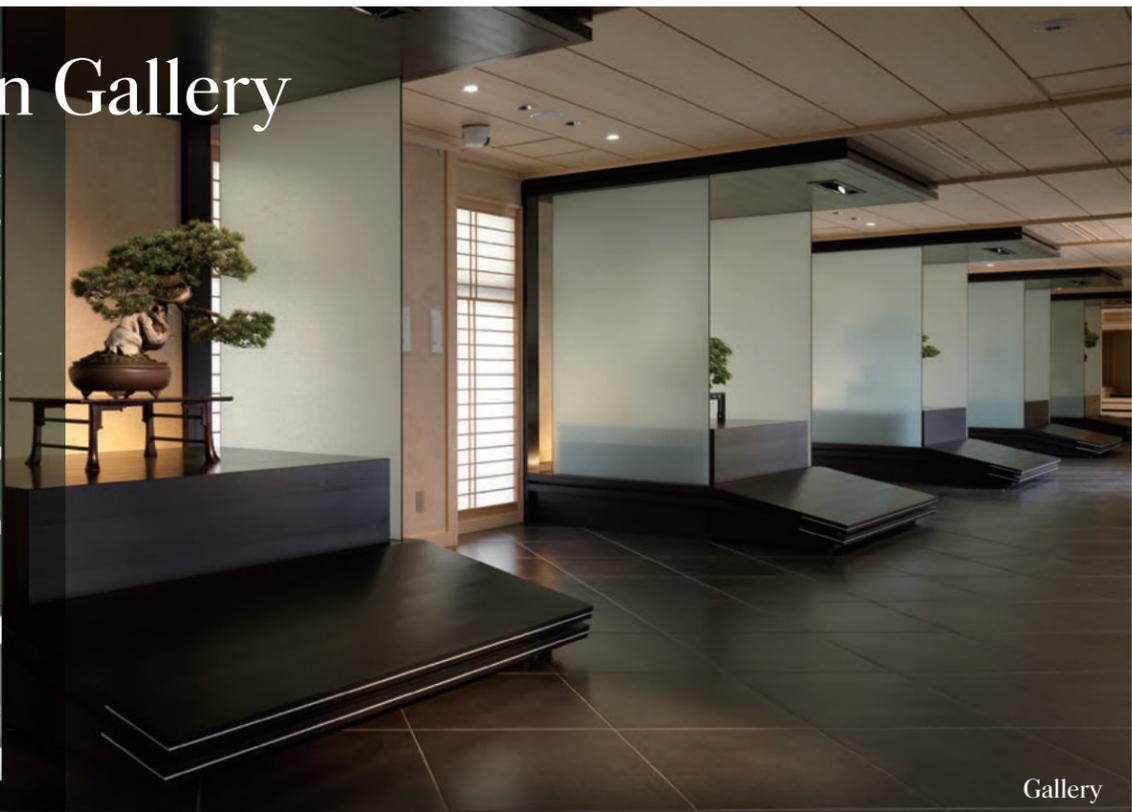
Not only can you enjoy the over 120 masterpiece bonsai on display, but the museum has also systematically collected *bonki* (bonsai pots), *suiseki* stones, pictures, and historical/folkloric materials for display to the public. Made of a collaborative effort between man and nature, bonsai is truly a living art. Come and enjoy the beauty of this art at your own pace.

About the Omiya Bonsai Village

The Omiya Bonsai Village is located within a few minutes walk from our museum (Bonsai Cho, Kita Ward, Saitama City). Long ago, gardeners living in the Bunkyo ward of Tokyo took care of the gardens of feudal lords and samurai. In the Meiji period some of these gardeners began to specialize in bonsai. After the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, a group of bonsai gardeners immigrated to this area in search of land suitable for growing bonsai. In 1925 Omiya Bonsai Village was established as a self-governed community of bonsai gardeners. At its height, in 1930, around 30 bonsai gardens were a part of the community. Even now Omiya Bonsai Village is known for its bonsai masterpieces attracting enthusiasts not only from Japan, but from around the world.

Collection Gallery

The Collection Gallery acts as a prologue to the world of bonsai, introducing elements essential to bonsai culture such as bonsai, bonki (bonsai pots), suiseki stones, art and historical and folkloric materials. There are also panels explaining how to appreciate bonsai. Next, in the Main Gallery, along with panels explaining the basics of bonsai, around five bonsai are on display, along with panels explaining the art of bonsai. Bonsai, suiseki stones, and hanging scrolls are exhibited. The exhibits are selected according to the season and change on a weekly basis.



Gallery

Zashiki-kazari (Indoor Display)



At the end of the Collection Gallery are three zashiki-kazari displays where bonsai, suiseki stones, and hanging scrolls are exhibited. What items are exhibited will change depending on the style of the room and the current season. The rooms have been made based on the three traditional styles of *shin, gyo and so*.



Ezo-matsu (Ezo Spruce), named "Todoroki"

Bonsai Garden

In the Bonsai Garden, usually around 60 bonsai are on display. Some bonsai can be viewed from all angles, so you can enjoy their different views from both the front and back. One of the largest bonsai in this museum named *Chiyo-no-matsu* (a Japanese white pine) is placed on a turntable which optimizes exposure of different parts of the tree to the sun. You may also take in a complete view of the Bonsai Garden above from the Terrace located on the second floor of the main building.



The Four Seasons of Bonsai

Zoki (deciduous) and *kusamono* (grass) bonsai display a variety of appearances throughout the year, such as blooming with flowers or changing the color of their leaves from lush green to red. There are also some that bear impressive fruit and some that show off a refined form after they lose their leaves to reveal their delicate branches in the winter.

春 Spring



Japanese Apricot (Omoi-no-mama)



Japanese Cherry (Kan-zakura)

夏 Summer



Japanese Wisteria



Japanese White Pine named "Shiraito-no-taki"

秋 Autumn



Japanese Maple named "Musashi-ga-oka"



Korean Hornbeam

冬 Winter



Japanese Zelkova



Chinese Quince