

The name Kantokan was derived from the old Chinese legend titled “The Love of Kanto”

The kanto tree is a tree that bears fruit, namely Japanese crabapple or wild Japanese pear, but at the Shibata's Garden, it has been traditionally known as the Japanese bayberry tree. This tree is famous for the poem “Kanto” that appears in the ancient Chinese collection of poetry “Shijing.” The poem goes: “The Duke of Zhou traveled throughout the country, listening to people's complaints under the kanto trees and settling their disputes. The people thought of the Duke's benevolence and good governance of servitude, and they did not cut down the kanto trees for fear of spoiling them.” Based on this poem, the people's respect and love for their rulers came to be called the “love of the kanto.”

Gon'emon Shibata built Kantokan to welcome the feudal lord of the Obama domain, and it is thought that he did this to honor him for his support in developing Ichinono Village, and also to show his love and compassion for the villagers as the village headman who governed the village.



There is a share cycle port in the parking lot of Shibata's Garden!
It is about 3.7 km from Tsuruga Station.

Opening hours 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed days Every Wednesday (or the following day if Wednesday is a public holiday)
Year-end and New Year's holiday (from December 29th to January 3rd of the following year)

Admission fee [Individuals] 200 yen for adults, 100 yen for junior high school students and younger
[Groups] 150 yen for adults, 50 yen for junior high school students and younger
(Groups must consist of 20 or more people per visit)



*Free for children under 4 years old, people with disabilities and their caregivers
(limited to one caregiver per person with a disability)

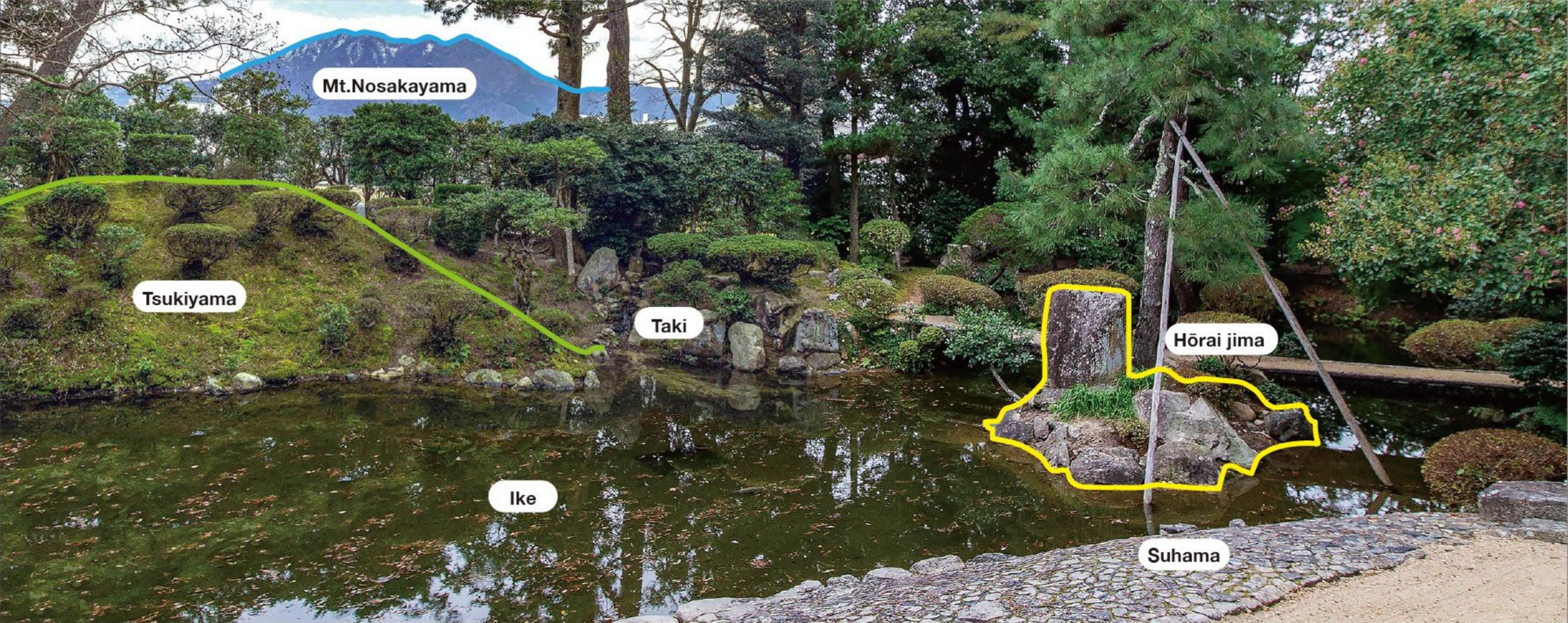


National Site of Scenic Beauty
Shibata's Garden



Shibata's Garden was built in the Edo period by Gon'emon Shibata, a wealthy farmer who lived in the area, to welcome the feudal lord of the Obama domain.

When you look out over the garden from the study named Kantokan, you can enjoy the magnificent view of Mt. Nosakayama, also known as Tsuruga Fuji, and the changing scenery of the four seasons.



Overview of Shibata's Garden

Shibata's Garden was created together with the shoin building (study hall), also known as Kantokan. The layout of the trees and stones in the garden was meticulously calculated so that the garden would look most beautiful when viewed from the rooms of the building.

The large mountain that can be seen in the foreground is Mt. Nosakayama. The garden was designed based around the scenery of this mountain, and the trees in the garden form a frame around the Mt. Nosakayama. Across the "Ike" (pond) is a "Tsukiyama" (artificial hill). It is a mountain with a stately shape similar to that of Mt. Nosakayama, and the fact that this Tsukiyama is in the foreground makes Mt. Nosakayama in the background appear even larger. Next to it is a "Taki" (waterfall), and the stones around it are arranged like a rugged rocky mountain, which is in contrast to the gentle ridgeline of the Tsukiyama.

In this way, Shibata's Garden embodies an ideal natural landscape.

What is the Hōrai jima?

In the pond there is an island called Hōrai jima.

The large, flat stone on the island represents the wings of a crane, which is said to live for 1,000 years. The long, thin stone next to it represents the neck and head of the crane.

At the water's edge below, there are stones that jut out from the island, and these represent the head and feet of a turtle, which is said to live for 10,000 years. In other words, the Hōrai jima is a combination of a crane riding on a turtle, which is considered to be a good omen, and embodies the wish that those who see it will enjoy a long life.

