



MORIKAMI

MUSEUM AND JAPANESE GARDENS

Visitors' Guide

MUSEUM

GARDENS

CULTURE

CUISINE



GET THE MOST MORIKAMI

There's so much to see at Morikami, and our ever-changing exhibits and gardens mean there's always something new to see, too. We hope you'll come visit us again and again, but if you just have one day, scan this QR code or visit www.morikami.org/day to find out how to make the most of your time with us.





History

WHY A MUSEUM OF JAPANESE CULTURE IN SOUTH FLORIDA?

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens celebrates a more than century-old connection between Japan and South Florida. In the early 1900s, a group of young Japanese farmers arrived in what is now northern Boca Raton and formed an agricultural colony they called Yamato, an ancient name for Japan.



The colony's farming endeavors were ultimately unsustainable, however, and almost all members of the original colony returned to Japan. In the mid 1970s, one of the remaining settlers, George Sukeji Morikami, then in his 80s, donated his land to Palm Beach County with the wish for it to become a park to preserve the memory of the Yamato Colony.





Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens' 1977 opening realized this dream. Today, visitors enjoy 16 acres of authentic Japanese gardens, rotating exhibitions of Japanese art in the museum's galleries, an authentic tea house, museum store, award-winning café, and year-round cultural programming. Morikami remains the nation's only museum dedicated to Japanese living culture, and its gardens are recognized among the finest outside Japan.

www.morikami.org/history



Museum

GALLERIES

The museum's galleries host rotating exhibitions of Japanese art and artifacts and feature items from the museum's own outstanding collection.

TEA HOUSE

The Seishin-an Tea House is designed to promote harmony, respect, purity and tranquility. On select Saturdays, visitors are invited to observe the peace and quietude of a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.



SCAN HERE FOR A GLIMPSE
INTO TEA CEREMONY!

MUSEUM STORE

Morikami's Museum Store offers a constantly evolving product assortment from Japan, throughout Asia, as well as the U.S. These unique gift items include books, costume and fine jewelry, ceramics, apparel, tea and Japanese snacks. Just want to visit the Museum Store?

You're welcome to come in and shop without paying museum admission, or, shop the Museum Store anytime online.

www.morikami.org/shop



SCAN HERE TO
SHOP NOW!





CORNELL CAFÉ

The Cornell Café, voted one of the nation's top three museum dining destinations by the Food Network, offers a colorful Pan-Asian menu and a panoramic garden view from its open-air terrace.

www.morikami.org/cafe

LIBRARY

The museum's (non-lending) Donald B. Gordon research library houses 7,000+ volumes on all topics Japanese.



YAMATO ISLAND

Yamato Island is the site of the museum's original building, the Yamato-kan, which houses the permanent exhibits *Japan Through the Eyes of a Child* and *The Yamato Colony: Pioneering Japanese in Florida*. Visitors also enjoy Turtle Island, Morikami's signature koi pond, and our premier bonsai collection.

GROUP TOURS

Groups of 15 or more may reserve a docent-led tour of the museum and gardens in advance of their visit.

www.morikami.org/groups

Roji-en: Garden of the Drops of Dew

THE GEORGE D. AND HARRIET W. CORNELL JAPANESE GARDENS



Morikami's rustic nature trail resembles an old and forgotten Florida. Observe slash pines, scrub, saw palm (Florida's state tree), and multiple snags, or dead pine that have become home to local wildlife. Keep an eye out for bobcats and rare gopher tortoises!

Hotei, our resident god of happiness, is intentionally placed to appear as an unexpected surprise for visitors walking from the South Gate before they reach the Yamato-kan bridge.

MAP SCALE 100 FT 200 FT 300 FT

1 Chie no Wa Wisdom Ring

Our Wisdom Ring is a replica of a 500-year-old stone lantern that has become a symbol of Miyazu, Delray Beach's sister city in Japan. The original Wisdom Ring, or Chie no Wa in Japanese, stands at a temple dedicated to the Buddhist deity of wisdom, Monju. This replica was donated by citizens of Miyazu to commemorate Morikami Museum's 20th anniversary in 1997.

2 James and Hazel Gates Woodruff Memorial Bridge

This bridge marks the entrance to the Japanese gardens and was erected in memory of Mrs. Woodruff, a lover of Japanese gardens, by her husband, a U.S. Naval commander and Pearl Harbor veteran. The structure symbolizes the link between Japan and Florida that Morikami provides.

3 Shinden Garden

(Heian Period, c. 9th – 12th centuries)

The Japanese nobility of this era adapted Chinese garden design ideals that featured lakes and islands and emphasized informality and appreciation of nature. Such gardens were usually viewed from a boat.

4 Kodai-mon

The Kodai-mon or "Ancient Gate" was constructed out of Japanese cypress by Tokyo craftsmen skilled in centuries-old carpentry techniques and design. The gate takes its inspiration from the entrances of the large mansions of high-ranking samurai during the Edo Period (1600 – 1868).

5 Bamboo Grove

Listen for the unmistakable sound of bamboo stalks knocking against each other in the breeze.

6 Paradise Garden

(Kamakura and early Muromachi Periods, 13th – 14th centuries)

A representation of the Pure Land, or Buddhist heaven, such gardens were the first intended for strolling, rather than being viewed by boat.

7 Shishi Odoshi

The Shishi Odoshi or "Deer Chaser" consists of a swinging bamboo arm that collects water and once filled, strikes a rock basin below. The distinct sound of bamboo striking stone is meant to startle animals that have wandered into the garden.

8 Early Rock Garden

(Early Muromachi Period, 14th century)

Such gardens were often inspired by Chinese landscape paintings in ink that depicted water cascading from distant peaks into the sea or a lake.

9 Karesansui Late Rock Garden

(Muromachi Period, 15th – 16th centuries)

Karesansui means “dry landscape.” In this gardening style, rocks, rather than plants, take primary focus and are arranged in a bed of raked gravel. This style was perfected at Zen Buddhist temples. This garden was dedicated by the Homer and Martha Gudelsky Family Foundation.

10 Hiraniwa Flat Garden

(Edo Period, 17th – 18th centuries)

Evolving out of late rock gardens, flat gardens make more liberal use of plant material and often visually incorporate outside elements through a design technique called “borrowed scenery” (*shakkei*).

11 Modern Romantic Garden

(Meiji Period, late 19th – early 20th centuries)

The design of the Modern Romantic Garden invokes the naturalist trend of the Meiji Period in its openness, both in terms of space and the garden designer's choice of plants. The long-legged *kotoji* lantern mimics the form of the movable bridges of the *koto*, a Japanese stringed instrument. This garden was dedicated by the Kohnken Family Foundation.

12 Contemplation Pavilion

This secluded, elevated enclosure provides no intentional view, unlike the majority of the gardens' benches and rest areas.

13 Nelson Family Memorial Garden

Originally designed by Norman Nelson and named Koro-en (Garden of Sparkling Dew), this garden memorializes Norman and sons Dan and Bob Nelson, all of whom tended Morikami's landscaping and bonsai during the museum's early years. This memorial garden is the site of Morikami's Peace Pole, inscribed with the words, “May peace reign in the world.”

14 Nan-mon

Nan-mon, or the “South Gate,” serves as the exit from the historical gardens. Its rounded cypress posts and beams contrast with the squared supports of the Kodai-mon, or “Ancient Gate.”

15 Do-bashi

This packed earth and bamboo bridge crosses a shallow creek of pine cones, which, like the pebbles in our rock gardens, are meant to invoke rushing water.

16 Morikami Memorial

A traditional gravestone for George Sukeji Morikami, the namesake of Morikami Park, was erected in 1989 as a gift from the people of Miyazu, Mr. Morikami's hometown. The adjacent marker memorializes Jo Sakai and Mitsusaburo Oki, founders of the Yamato Colony.

17 Yamato Island

The site of the Yamato-kan, the original Morikami Museum building, this island represents a modern garden that emphasizes the relationship between interior and exterior spaces. The building houses the exhibitions *Japan Through the Eyes of a Child* and *The Yamato Colony: Pioneering Japanese in Florida*. The island is also the site of Morikami's premier bonsai collection.

18 Ishidoro Stone Lantern

Erected in 1681 in memory of the fourth Tokugawa shogun, Ietsuna, the lantern made its way from Kan'eiji temple in Tokyo to a shipbuilder in Kure, Japan; a ship-owner in West Palm Beach; and the South Florida Science Museum before finding a permanent home here in 1977.

19 Tsukubai

These water basins, originally placed in tea gardens to allow guests to ritually purify themselves, serve as focal points in many gardens today.

20 Morikami Bonsai Collection

Bonsai, literally, “tray-planting,” are trees or groupings of trees artistically-shaped and cultivated in a container. The Morikami's collection, showcased in the Dr. Ron and Arlene Kessler Walk, is one of three to be named a World Bonsai Friendship Federation (WBFF) Cooperation Center, a designation reserved for the world's best public bonsai exhibits.

21 Allen S. Austin Memorial Waterfall and Koi Feeding Area

Colorful koi (carp) gather here for feeding. These ornamental, collectible fish are prized for their distinct red, orange and white coloring. All of Morikami's koi have been generously donated by members as well as local koi enthusiasts.

22 Kameshima, Turtle Island

In East Asian lore, turtles are said to live 10,000 years. Islands representing them as emblems of longevity are common features of Japanese gardens, but few islands bear so striking a resemblance to the turtle as ours.

23 Challenger Memorial Lantern

This lantern is dedicated to the seven Challenger astronauts, including Ellison Onizuka, the first person of Asian ancestry to travel in space.

24 Rocky Point

Characteristic of the garden designer's style, this peninsula offers a captivating panoramic view.

25 Morikami Falls

This dramatic and powerful waterfall combines massive boulders and flowing water in a composition of dynamic tensions. Morikami Falls was dedicated by JM Family Enterprises, Inc. and Southeast Toyota Distributors, LLC.





"Strolling through a pine forest or bamboo grove, viewing the rock formations, arrangements of plants, and cascading waterfalls, pausing to ponder the quiet surface of the lake and shoreline – little by little we are encouraged to lay aside the chaos of a troubled world and gently nurture the capacity within to hear a more harmonious, universal rhythm... This is the tremendous power the Japanese gardens at Morikami Park hold for us."

—Hoichi Kurisu, Master Garden Designer of Roji-en

Discover More with TourOn!

Morikami's FREE museum and garden tour for smart phones takes you from the Wisdom Ring to Morikami Falls and back inside to the Tea House and galleries, in images, audio and exclusive Morikami content.



Visit www.morikami.org/tour or
SCAN HERE TO START YOUR TOUR!

ABOUT ROJI-EN

By its very name, Roji-en, the Garden of the Drops of Dew, celebrates both ephemeral beauty and the cycles of regeneration that define the world around us, all evoked by a single dew drop. Here in Roji-en, designer Hoichi Kurisu strove to create a garden complex for the new millennium. Its six distinct gardens are inspired by, but are not replicas of, famous gardens in Japan. There is no single way to interpret the garden. While we provide some historical, technical and aesthetic explanations for elements of the garden, we hope that such information will enhance, not overshadow, your experience.

www.morikami.org/gardens

BOTANICAL VS. JAPANESE GARDENS

Visitors often ask why they cannot find signage to identify the various plants, trees and flowers in Roji-en. In a botanical garden, specific types of plants are cultivated and considered part of a collection, similar to the artwork in Morikami's collection. Our garden, however, is a Japanese garden, not a botanical one. The visitor's experience here is meant to be a restorative one, free from the potential distraction of signs and labels beyond the bare minimum to guide guests through the garden. Visitors who want to know more about the plant species in Roji-en will find helpful resources in Morikami's library.



Keeping the Peace

We thank you for respecting the following guidelines to make your visit a safe and enjoyable one.

Keep it clean

Dispose of unwanted items in trash receptacles placed throughout the garden.

Lights out

Smoking is not permitted in the museum building or gardens.

Look but don't touch

Remain on the designated path.

Watch your step

Morikami cannot be responsible for accidents on or off designated pathways.

For kids of all ages

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. While the garden is full of rocks to climb and places to explore, we ask that you respect and preserve the gardens for everyone's enjoyment.



JOIN

Join the Morikami Family and cultivate your own experience. Membership offers exclusive benefits like free museum admission, members-only events and discounts at the Museum Store and the Cornell Café.

www.morikami.org/join



VOLUNTEER

Morikami's volunteer program allows those with a passion for Japanese art and culture to support the organization's daily operations.

www.morikami.org/volunteer



GIVE

Morikami depends on your generosity to introduce visitors to the rich and unique culture of Japan. Your tax-deductible contributions support exhibits, educational programs, and the maintenance of our Japanese gardens.

www.morikami.org/give



Cultural Offerings at Morikami

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Morikami offers a variety of educational programs for all ages, providing informative and unique experiences to learn about Japanese culture. Our classes and workshops, taught by experienced instructors, include the art of bonsai, flower arrangement (*ikebana*), Japanese tea ceremony (*sado*), taiko drumming, sushi making and Japanese language, to name a few. In addition, we offer family programs, cultural demonstrations, educational outreach and a speaker series featuring topics related to all things Japan.

ANNUAL FESTIVALS

From heart-pounding taiko drum performances to evening garden strolls, Morikami offers a culturally rich and exciting calendar of annual events. Thousands of guests join us three times a year to celebrate Lantern Festival, Hatsume and Oshogatsu – a New Year's Celebration, while Morikami's Sushi & Stroll series invites guests to experience the gardens at sunset on select Friday evenings all summer long.





Photo by marlonphoto.com

Your Special Occasion at Morikami

From a sunset wedding ceremony overlooking the lake to cocktails and dinner on the terrace with garden views, from a corporate presentation in the theater to a special anniversary celebration, Morikami provides a stunning location for your unique event.

www.morikami.org/myevent



Photo by Captured Photography



Photo by Vision Fresh Photography



Photo by Captured Photography

www.morikami.org

ACCESSIBILITY AND SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens is wheelchair accessible in accordance with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

- A push button is available to automatically open the main entrance door.
- The garden path has been treated to improve surface stability.
- Park benches are located throughout the gardens for all visitors' comfort.
- Handicapped parking is located near the museum's main entrance.
- A limited number of wheelchairs are available for visitors' use at no charge.
- Ramp access to the gardens is located at the south end of the Cornell Café.
- Pets are prohibited; only service animals are permitted.

PHOTOGRAPHY AT MORIKAMI

Personal photography is permitted during regular operating hours. Photographers may only carry a small camera bag and collapsible tri-pod. Any additional photography equipment as well as wardrobe changes are prohibited. Private and/or commercial photography sessions must be scheduled in advance with our Facility Rentals department.

www.morikami.org/photography

HOURS

Museum and Gardens: Tues. - Sun. 10am - 5pm

Cornell Café: Tues. - Sun. 11am - 3pm

Closed Mondays and major holidays.

Hours subject to change for special events.

QUESTIONS? CALL 561-495-0233

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AAM ACCREDITATION Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens is proud to have the accreditation of the American Association of Museums. The AAM accreditation is a recognized seal of approval that recognizes a museum's commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement.