

Plum Tree Slope (Bairinzaka)

The plum trees on this slope that leads from the *ninomaru* second compound of Edo Castle to the *bonmaru* main compound were planted before the East Gardens opened to the public in 1968. It is thought that plum trees had been planted here by Ota Dokan (1432–1486), the fifteenth-century warlord who built the first castle on this site. Dokan's castle included a Tenjin shrine. Tenjin shrines enshrine Sugawara no Michizane (845–903), a famous poet-scholar and politician who loved plum blossoms, and traditionally have plum trees in their grounds.