

Shinjuku Gyoen covers about 145 acres (a little under 60 hectares), on a roughly east-to-west axis. Three gates (Shinjuku, Okido, and Sendagaya) allow entry into the park, which contains four major gardens. From east to west these are the Formal Garden, the Landscape Garden, the Japanese Traditional Garden, and the Mother and Child Woods. The Chinese-style Taiwan Pavilion provides a magnificent view of the Japanese Traditional Garden, which has two Japanese tea houses. There are several ponds in the park, and areas devoted to Himalayan cedars, roses, cherry trees that bloom in the spring, and beautifully colored leaves in the autumn. The greenhouse at the north side of the garden houses a wide collection of rare and endangered species of plants from around the Japanese islands, tropical plants from around the world, and also a collection of ornamental orchids whose origins go back to the imperial greenhouses of a century ago. The Old Imperial Rest House west of the greenhouse offers a glimpse of imperial life from over a hundred years ago.