

Sengan-en Map

(→ Recommended Route)



01 Site of Reverberatory Furnace



Discover the roots of Japanese industry. Samurai used pictures from a Dutch textbook and combined traditional Japanese craftsmanship with western knowledge to build a working structure 20 metres high which was used to melt iron and produce cannon.

03 Shoko Shuseikan Museum



Learn about the 800 year history and culture of the influential Shimadzu clan and their efforts to modernise Japan in the late 1800s. The museum is housed in the former Shuseikan Machinery Factory, the oldest stone built western factory building in Japan, built in 1865.

02 The House



Enjoy unparalleled views of the garden from the veranda and find out how royal guests were welcomed in the main reception room at the house lived in by Prince Shimadzu Tadayoshi. The house is a unique example of a residence combining both traditional Japanese, Chinese and western elements in its design.

04 Shimadzu Satsuma Kiriko Glassworks



See how Satsuma Kiriko crystal glass is made at the glassworks. Get a close up view of our master craftsmen at work skillfully blowing and cutting glass to produce this famous local craft product. See the finished products in the neighbouring gallery shop, set in an important Cultural Property built in European style in 1909.

10 Main Gate



This gate was built in 1895 as the new entrance to the gardens. The gate is made of camphor wood and is constructed in the Yukuijin style. The gate features the crests of the Shimadzu family under the gable roof and Chinese guardian lions at each corner of the roof to ward off evil.

12 Tin Gate



This is the original main gate to the gardens, and features a roof made of Kagoshima tin. The lord would visit Sengan-en by boat and would moor up at a jetty at the bottom of the slope leading to this gate. Only the lord and his first son were allowed to use this gate, and all other family members had to use another entrance nearby.

14 Crane Lantern



Resembling a crane spreading its wings, this lantern was the first gas light in Japan. Shimadzu Nariakira conducted an experiment here with gas lighting in 1857. Unfortunately Nariakira died soon after and the project was abandoned, with the first gas lights coming to Yokohama some 15 years later.

19 Oniwa Shrine



Pray for your wishes to come true at Sengan-en's luckiest shrine. Good luck, marital bliss, success in school, safety when travelling, and success in business are just a few of the benefits provided by the 13 different gods enshrined here.