



Sengan-en

Explore the sprawling traditional gardens and the majestic house lived in and loved by the lords of the Shimadzu clan. Sengan-en was built in 1658 by Shimadzu Mitsuhsa, inspired by the majestic views of active volcano Sakurajima and Kinko Bay. Chinese influences can be seen in many places around the gardens, showing Kagoshima to be Japan’s southern gateway to the outside world. Sengan-en was visited by not only dignitaries from all over Japan, but also royalty from overseas including Edward VIII of the UK and Nicholas II of Russia. With traditional cultural events held year round, and spectacular changes in each season, Sengan-en truly is one of Japan’s greatest stately homes.

The House

Slip back into the past and discover the lifestyle lived by the influential Shimadzu family.

Take a stroll around the house and explore the rooms lived in by the Shimadzu family. See how Prince Shimadzu Tadayoshi lived at the end of the 19th century, and learn how important dignitaries were welcomed at Sengan-en.



Open	9:30～17:00 (Last entry 16:50)	
Price	Adult	¥ 600
	Child(7-15)	¥ 300
Entrance	Please show your ticket at the house entrance	

[Guide Map](#)



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Sengan-en
Shoko Shuseikan

English

Events

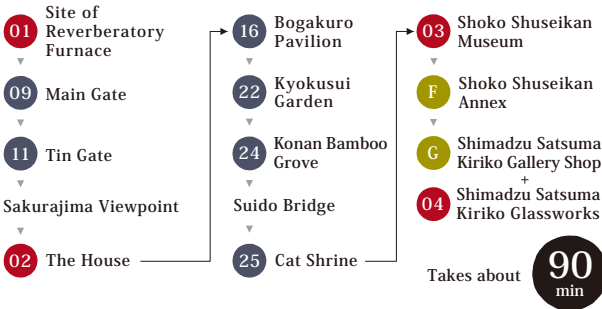
Enjoy traditional cultural events in each season

	Spring	Satsuma Hina Matsuri Nagashi Bina Kyokusui no En Poetry Recital
	Summer	May Streamers Summer Irises Display Morning Glories Display
	Autumn	Chrysanthemum Festival Jimmyo-sai Beauty Festival Kusajishi-shiki Traditional Archery
	Winter	Kadomatsu New Year’s Decorations Winter Peonies Display

Recommended Route

● For first time visitors (Follow the RED route → on the map)

Sengan-en is very large, covering over 12 acres! If you’re not sure where to go, follow our recommended route for first time visitors.



Sengan-en
Shoko Shuseikan

9700-1 Yoshino-cho, Kagoshima City, 892-0871
TEL.099-247-1551 <http://www.senganen.jp>



World Heritage Site

Japan was the only country in Asia able to replicate the industrial revolution in the late 1800s, and the story of why this was possible is told at the Shoko Shuseikan Museum, just outside Sengan-en. Follow the course of the Shimadzu family over 800 years, and see how the international relations they forged led to the development of industrialization in modern Japan.

The museum is housed in Japan’s oldest remaining stone factory, built in 1865. Sengan-en and the Shoko Shuseikan were inscribed as part of the “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining” UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 2015.

Restaurants

The finest local cuisine and amazing views of active volcano Sakurajima



D Ohkatei

The best of Kagoshima cuisine curated by our head chef, using only the finest local ingredients. Enjoy a spectacular view of the gardens and Sakurajima beyond in the luxurious surroundings of our flagship restaurant.

Open.
11:00～15:30

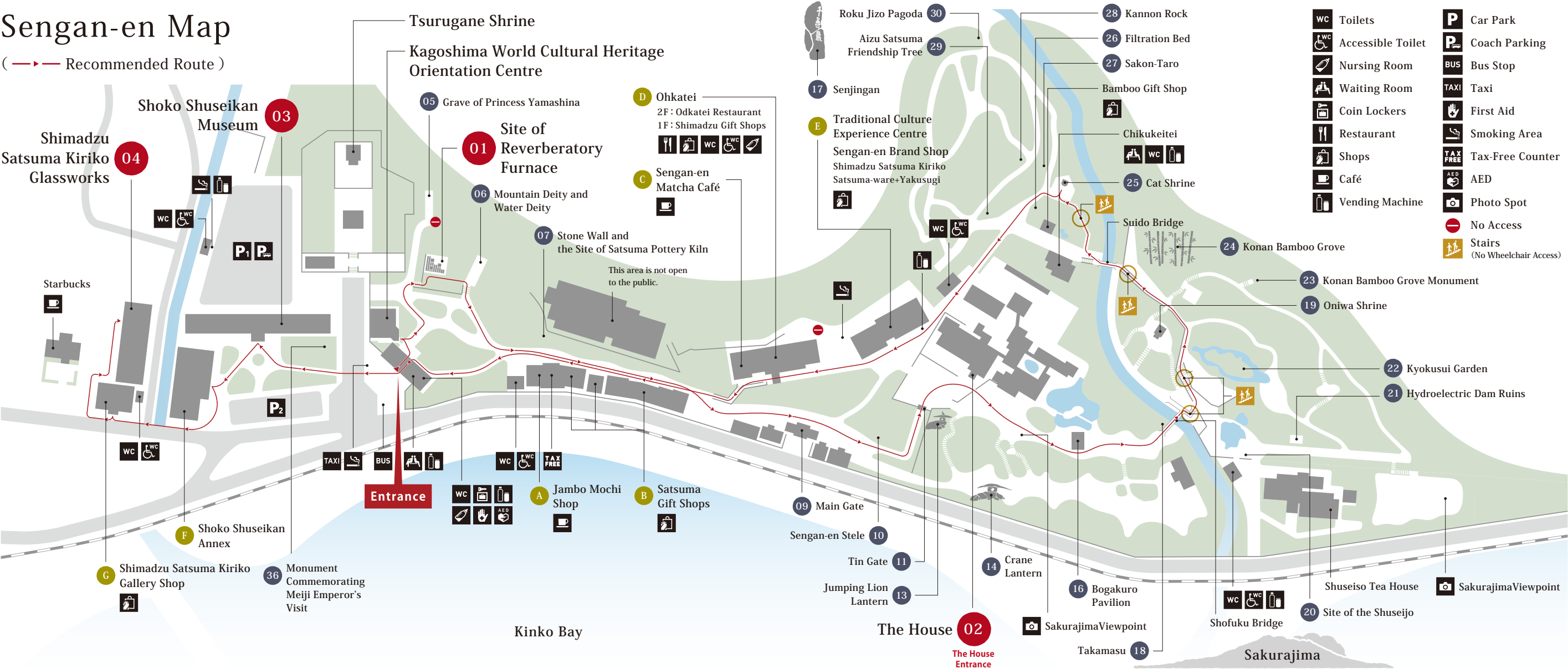
A Jambo mochi

Jambo mochi, bite-sized pieces of mochi rice cake on a pair of skewers, has been a favourite of Kagoshima people for over 150 years. Why not try this simple traditional Kagoshima specialty?



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



Learn how Satsuma Kiriko crystal glass is made at the glassworks. Get a close-up view of our master craftsmen at work blowing and cutting glass then see the finished products in the neighbouring gallery shop.

Opening times | 9:00-16:30 | Break times | 10:00-10:15, 12:00-13:00, 15:00-15:15 | Closed on | Mondays, Third Sunday of each month

09 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 Yakuimon 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.

11 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.