

ADELAIDE HIMEJI GARDEN

Garden of imagination



Please

Avoid damaging the features and plants

Do not walk on the gravelled areas (particularly the Sea of Sand)

No weddings can be held in this garden



Adelaide Himeji Garden Peppermint Park/Wita Wirra (Park 18)

Open from 8.00am, seven (7) days a week

Closing Times

January: 8.30pm

February: 8.00pm

March to 1st Sunday of April: 7.30pm

1st Sunday of April to 1st Sunday of October: 5.30pm

Remainder of October: 7.30pm

November: 8.00pm

December: 8.30pm

For further information contact:

City of Adelaide Council Customer Centre

P: (08) 8203 7203

E: city@cityofadelaide.com.au

The Garden

The Adelaide Himeji Garden contains features which are of profound religious significance to the Japanese people. It contains features designed to recall the beauty of nature.

The Garden blends two classic styles. The first is the 'senzui' (lake and mountain garden), where water and the imagination create images of vastness and grandeur. The second is the 'kare senzui' (dry garden), where rocks and sand evoke the presence of water, even the sea itself.

Himeji

On 19 April 1982, Adelaide and the ancient Japanese City of Himeji became Sister Cities. Himeji is located 650 km west of Tokyo and 8,050km from Adelaide. With a population of more than 535,000, it is a major port and centre of industry.

Guided Tours of the Garden

To book a tour, please contact the Park Lands Ranger on (08) 8203 7203. Please note that a minimum of ten people per tour is required.

Further reading on the art of the Japanese Garden:

Davidson, A.K. (n.d.), *The Art of Zen Gardens*

J.P. Tarcher Inc., Los Angeles

Slawson, D.A. (1987), *Secret Teachings in the Art of Japanese Gardens*. Kodansha International Ltd., Tokyo.



Plan of the Garden

1. Gatehouse Mon

Gardens are places for contemplation and provide a holy place for many Japanese people. Thus, the garden's gate is modelled on a temple. Nearby is a water bowl (Chozubachi) so visitors may purify themselves by washing their hands and mouth. By kneeling to use the bowl the visitor adopts a humble attitude, appropriate for the appreciation of the grandeur of nature.

2. Okunoin Lantern Okunoin doro

Made of granite, this splendid lantern was presented by the City of Himeji. The Japanese inscription reads: For the friendship of the two cities.

3. The Lake S'ensui

As the heart of the garden, the lake's form is based on the character 'shin', which means 'heart' or 'soul'. The calm water suggests purity and tranquillity of the heart, which Buddhists believe is necessary if you are to achieve enlightenment: the ultimate happiness. Water flows into the lake from a small waterfall which recalls the wild mountain torrents of Japan.

4. Lantern Misakidoro

There are many types of lantern. This one, on its peninsula of white stones, is a water-viewing lantern.

5. Pine Trees Matsu

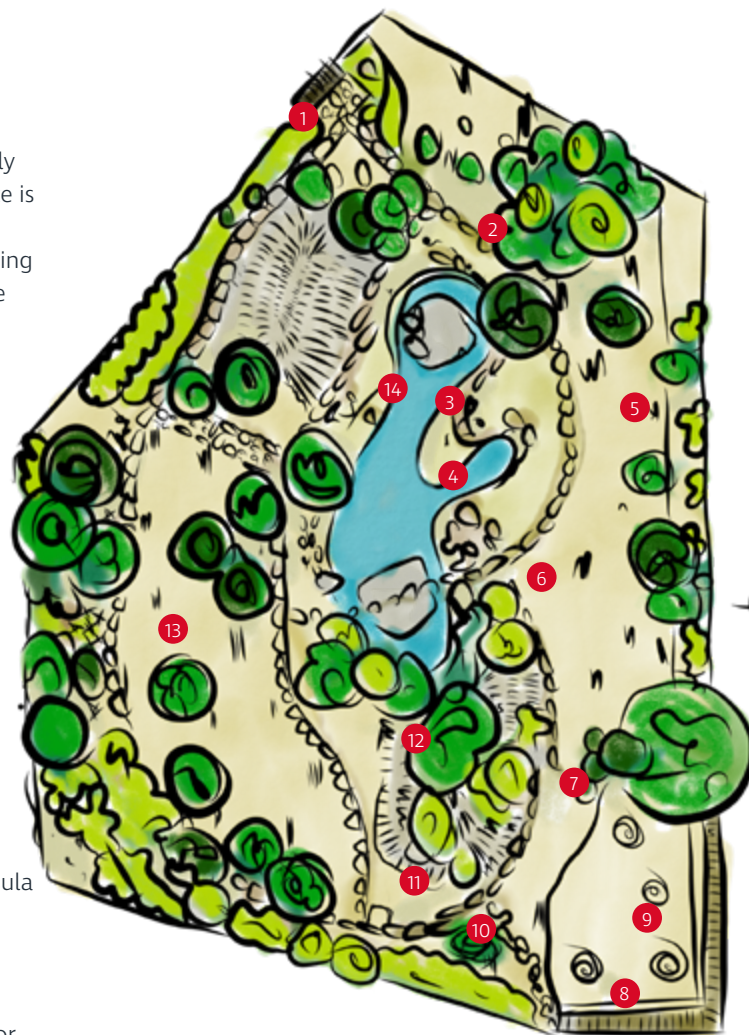
The Black Pine, *Pinus thunbergii*, is one of the most important trees of Japan. Its refusal to shed its leaves for the winter cold symbolises courage in adversity, with its long life symbolising immortality.

6. Milestone Michishirube

Inscribed in Japanese with the name 'Himeji', the milestone shows the distance to Adelaide's Sister City. In Japan, such milestones often take the forms of lanterns.

7. Deer Scarer Shishi-odoshi

Originally developed by farmers as a means of scaring off deer and wild boar, the large bamboo tube fills with water until horizontal and then empties causing one end to hit a rock with a 'clack'.



8. Teahouse Chasitu

The Tea Ceremony originated in the late 13th century and aims to create serenity and calm in the hearts of its participants. The elegant plainness of the Teahouse has always contributed to this ceremony. Built of classic materials (timber and thatch), the Teahouse is represented by an open pavilion, like the porch of a Zen temple.

9. Sea of Sand Kare-senzui

The rocks and raked sand, though small in extent, invite the viewer to imagine the vastness of the sea with its islands and continents. As Buddha said, "With our thoughts we create the world."

10. Cherry Tree Sakura

The Sakura was a generous gift in 2025 from the Japanese Society of Adelaide in celebration of their 40th anniversary year. Sakura are associated with the arrival of renewed life in spring and provide for hanami the traditional practice of gathering to view cherry blossoms.

11. Well Ido

Originally, the well provided pure water for the Tea Ceremony.

12. Mountain Tsukiyama

The mound suggests a mountain, the bold height of which balances the lowliness of the lake in the harmony of Yin and Yang. In the oldest gardens, the mountain is Mt. Sumeru, the centre of the Buddhist universe.

13. Stepping Stones Tobishi

The stones of the garden path are of precast concrete. The placement of these stones is designed so that the visitor walks slowly to admire the garden. Important viewing points are marked by larger overlapping stones called 'label stones' (yaku-ishi).

14. Perspective Stones Stupa

These provide the perspective (or anchor) points from which to appreciate the entire scene. Can you find any others? Sit or stand quietly at this point.

- Relax. Breathe deeply.
- Look. Listen. Imagine.
- What do you see?
- What natural features are suggested?

Please note: The design of the garden may be subject to change.

Look back at the garden and see which natural elements coincide with features seen in nature.

- Look closely. Be open-minded. Look for directional cues.
- Where does this scene naturally lead your eyes?
- Do the plants suggest other natural features?
- How does the Garden differ from yours?
- Could you imagine a Japanese-style Australian native garden?

cityofadelaide.com.au/himeji-garden