

Fushimi Inari-taisha



Japanese Architecture in Pictures

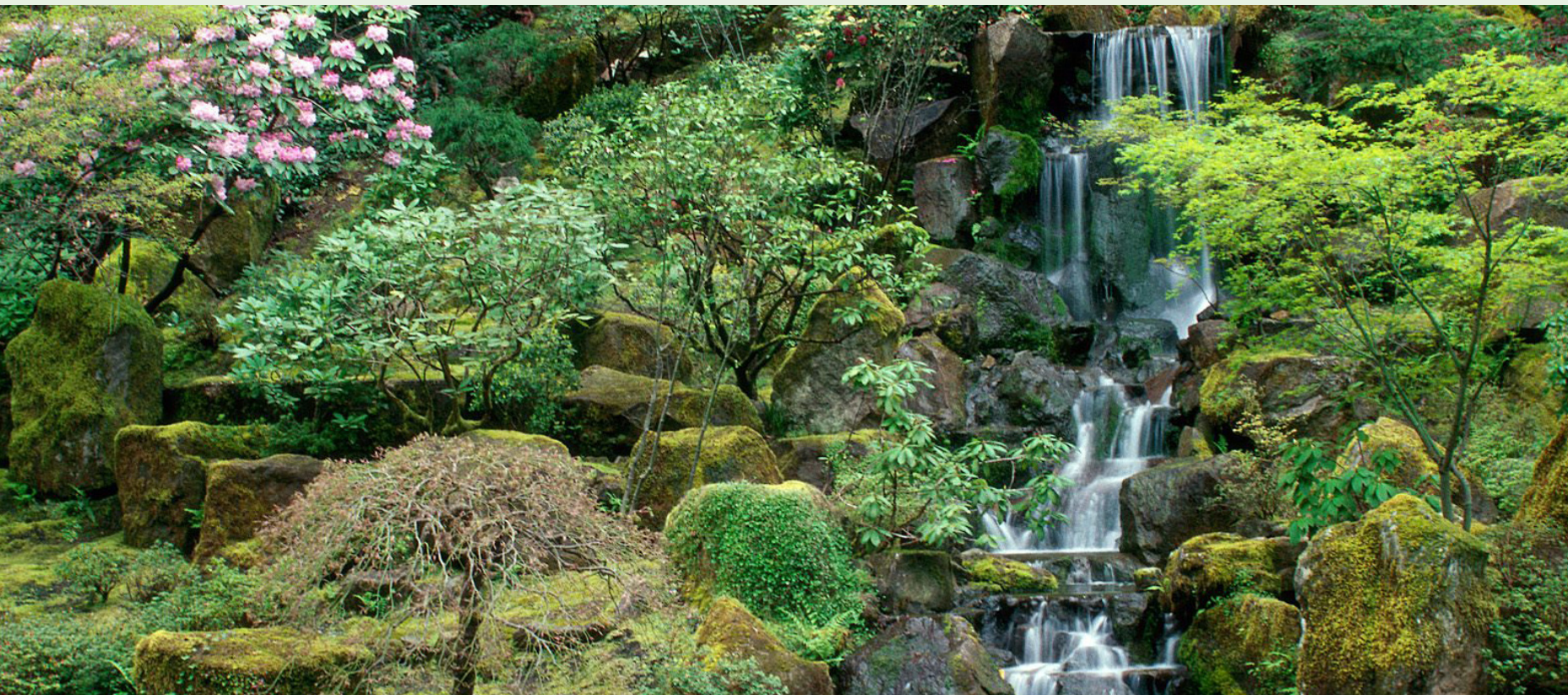
“Recommended for those
believing in spirits of the forest”

Fushimi Inari Taisha was founded in the 8th century by the Hata family and is the head shrine of no less than 30,000 Inari Shrines nationwide.

The sancturay is composed of several buildings, including the Sakura-mon Gate and Go-Honden Shrin followed by a 4km tunnel made of thousands of red torii gates making their way through the woods.

Statues of menacing kitsune (foxes), said to have the magic power to take possession of human spirits, alternate with torii gates. The fox is however reverred to as the god of harvest (rice and cereals), and is often seen carrying a key in his mouth, which is for the rice granary. Foxes are said to love rice balls rolled in fried tofu, which are called for that reason “o-inari-san.” They can be purchased in about any sushi shops. Visiting Fushimi Inari Taisha in the late afternoon as the sun sets can be a thrilling experience. It is recommended for those believing in “spirits of the forest.”

Naka Shinen' Garden



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“Stroll-style landscape gardens are designated as a national scenic”

The Shinen consists of four gardens which surround the main shrine buildings on the south, west, middle, and east. With a total area of approximately 33,000 square meters, these stroll-style landscape gardens are designated as a national scenic spot representative of Meiji-era (1868-1912) garden design.

The four gardens are Nishi Shin'en, Minami Shin'en, Higashi Shin'en and finally Naka Shin'en. It is located in the middle of the other three gardens visitors who pass through the cluster of trees behind the shrine's main buildings will find a beautiful garden called Naka Shin'en. this garden, as well as the Nishi Shin'en, was constructed in 1895. It contains the Soryu-ike pond which features the Garyu-kyo, a walkway consisting of stone pillars which once served as foundation stones for the girders of Sanjo Ohashi and Gojo Ohashi, famous bridges in the center of the city of Kyoto. The pond is surrounded by an exquisite expanse of rabbit-ear irises.