

To reach the lake and the Japanese Friendship Garden follow the main path through the garden past the Glasshouse. Turn right when you see the lake and the red bridge. The walk is about 900 metres each way.

To turn this walk into a circuit trip simply return via the creek-side pathway.



More information about the Japanese Friendship Garden and other garden areas and walks in the botanic garden can be found on the website.



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The Friends of the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden

With acknowledgement to the Traditional Custodians,
the Gumbaynggirr people and their elders.

THE LAKE AND JAPANESE GARDEN



The Japanese Friendship Garden is a tranquil place to reflect and relax. In the pavilions are seats and tables to rest or enjoy a picnic amidst the serenity of the lake and its wildlife.

This garden is designed as a microcosm of the natural world. A place to escape the bustle of everyday life. This reflects the belief of Japanese people that gardens should be places to relax, meditate, and reflect. Carefully placed rocks in the garden represent mountains or islands, and bridges lead the eye to other features and perspectives of the world beyond.

The Japanese Friendship Garden was designed and built with the help of friends from the botanic garden in the city of Sasebo, located at the southern tip of Japan. Sasebo is a sister city of Coffs Harbour with a similar subtropical climate.



Behind the lakeside pavilion is an open-sided traditional Japanese contemplation room. Nearby is a Karesanui or rock garden - a place to reflect. The design embraces the Japanese principles of 'Wabi', emphasizing simplicity and naturalism, with 'Sabi' the material side of life with glimpses to the world outside.



One way to enter this garden is via the zigzag bridge. This is designed to prevent evil spirits from following.

All the paths in the garden are curved, as evil spirits can only travel in a straight line. This is believed to bring peace and safety to those visiting.



The nearby spiral labyrinth made from living plants is a favourite place for children to explore and play.

The garden is home to more than 170 plants, including Japanese maples, Sasanqua Camellias, cypress, and juniper. The island in the lake features Baby Panda Bamboo and the tall Golden Bamboo.



Pause a while on the deck over the edge of the lake to catch a glimpse of a turtle coming up for air, or an eel gliding by. Enjoy watching the waterbirds feeding and resting by the lake. Please do not feed the birds – they need a natural diet to stay healthy.



Murray Turtle (Emydura macquarii)



Left: Pacific Black Duck with a distinctive dark line through the eye.



Right: Dusky Moorhen with a red and yellow tipped beak.