

# Komabano Park and Komabano Nature Club



Komabano Park is located in a convenient place near Shibuya. Komabano Nature Club reproduces and preserves the nature of hills and woods of the suburbs of metropolitan Tokyo. You can join the club anytime. So why not get in touch with the nature while still living in the city?

To utilize the former site of the faculty of agriculture of Tokyo University of Education (now University of Tsukuba), Komabano Nature Club started in the park in 1986.

Since then, Komabano Nature Club has been keeping in touch with the nature through its various activities. The club has a wide range of activities to offer, from nature watching throughout the year in the four seasons, harvesting crops such as tea, wild strawberries and seven spring herbs (*haruno nanakusa*), to the maintenance of hedges. Activities such as leaf mold making, wood cutting and charcoal making are also available. These activities are supported by a good

number of local volunteers.

The facility of Komabano Nature Club is open between 10:00 and 15:00 of the 1st and 3rd Sunday every month. The operating language of the club is Japanese. You are welcome to these activities only by registration at Komabano Nature Observation House in the park.

#### Komabano Nature Observation House

Place: 2-19-70 Komaba Meguro-ku 1 min. from Komaba-Todaimae station of Keio Inokashira Line.  
Tel: 03-3485-1754 (Japanese only)

## An Architectural Masterpiece Tour



Meguro City Office Complex / photo taken by Ryota Atarashi

You must be familiar with Meguro City Office Complex, where you do various administrative formalities. This building, which was completed in 1966, used to house the headquarters of now-defunct Chiyoda Mutual Life Insurance Company. Are you aware that it is a masterpiece designed by Togo MURANO, a most prominent Japanese architect? A tour to fully enjoy the rare and precious architecture is organized in April and May every year.

Magnificent aluminum eaves that look like spread wings over the façade at the south entrance, a beautiful gently-winding staircase that epitomizes Togo MURANO who was once dubbed a "staircase magician," spacious

views from windows with vertical lattices along a connecting corridor, all impresses viewers with fineness of spacious design. The building, which was completed in the very middle of the post-war high growth period, with beautiful combination of water and greenery in a large space, has due respect to humanity.

A tour guide will explain not only the architecture itself but also Japanese culture referring to, for example, why a former life insurance company building had a Japanese tea room. Why not observe, sitting on tatami mats at the Japanese tea room, a sliding door framed by thin crosspieces. On opening the door, a beautiful traditional garden with a pond would overwhelm you.

For tour information, please contact:

**Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo**  
Place: 2-4-36, Meguro, Meguro-ku, Tokyo  
Tel: 03-3714-1201 (Japanese only)  
Mail: [mamat-event@mamat.jp](mailto:mamat-event@mamat.jp)  
URL: <https://mamat.jp>

**Planned FY2020 tour schedule:**

May 9, Saturday, 2020 14:00-16:00  
May 29, Friday, 2020 14:00-16:00



Stairs / photos taken by Ryota Atarashi