

Emergency Contact Information

Hospitals

● Naha & Southern Region of Okinawa Main Island

Nanbu Medical Center & Child Medical Center | Nanbu Tokushukai Hospital
☎098-888-0123 | ☎098-998-3221

Tomishiro Chuo Hospital
☎098-850-3811

● Central Region of Okinawa Main Island

Chubu Tokushukai Hospital | University of the Ryukyus Hospital | Makiminato Chuo Hospital
☎098-932-1110 | ☎098-895-3331 | ☎098-877-0575

Urasoe Sogo Hospital
☎098-878-0231

● Northern Region of Okinawa Main Island

Hokubu-Chiku Ishikai Hospital
☎0980-54-1111

● Miyako Island

Okinawa Miyako Hospital
☎0980-72-3151

*See the following website for a guide to using medical institutions in Japan
http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/essential/emergency/mi_guide.html



Problems & Accidents

Local police department ☎110 | Ambulance ☎119 | Maritime emergency ☎118
Okinawa Prefectural Police Headquarters ☎098-862-0110
10th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters ☎098-867-0118

Embassies & Consulates

Office of the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Singapore-Osaka :
3-77 Oimatsu-cho, Sakai-ku, Sakai City, Osaka ☎072-223-6911
Embassy of Malaysia, Tokyo : 20-16 Nanpeidai-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo ☎03-3476-3840
Australian Consulate-General Fukuoka :
7th Floor, Tenjin Twin Building, 1-6-8 Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka ☎092-734-5055
Office of the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Thailand-Naha :
1-35 Shuri Sakiyama-cho, Naha City, Okinawa ☎098-885-1534
U.S. Consulate General Naha : 2-1-1 Toyama, Urasoe City, Okinawa ☎098-876-4211
Office of the Honorary Consul of Canada-Fukuoka :
Inside Kyushu Electric Power Co., INC., 2-1-81 Watanabe-dori, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka ☎092-726-6348
Office of the Honorary Consul of New Zealand-Fukuoka :
5th Floor, Fukuoka Building, Inside Nishi-Nippon Railroad Co., Ltd., 1-11-17 Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka ☎092-734-1554

Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau

2nd Floor, Okinawa Industry Support Center,
1831-1 Oroku, Naha City, Okinawa
☎+81-98-859-6125

Singapore Office

1 North Bridge Road #22-09 High Street Centre, Singapore
☎065-6694-6408

Okinawa Educational Travel Website

<http://edu.visitokinawa.jp/en>

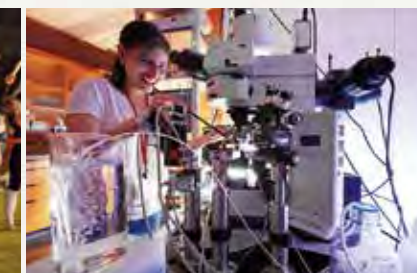


English

J A P A N OKINAWA

Learn, Experience, Create

Guide to Educational Travel in Okinawa



- Cultural Experiences
- Advanced Technology
- Homestay
- School Exchange
- Marine Biology
- Earth Science



Learn, Experience, Create

Guide to Educational Travel in

OKINAWA



Educational Travel in Okinawa Develops the Life Skills

Learn, Experience and Create a Future in Okinawa

In addition to the warm mild climate and rich natural environment only found in southern islands, Okinawa, which rises south of the Japanese archipelago, has many attractions including its history and traditional culture, which have undergone unique transitions. It is also an extraordinary place for studying peace as many battle sites remain along with the availability of other experiences only obtainable in Okinawa.

Why not have a worthwhile experience learning in close rapport with students of the same generation and the people of Okinawa?

Why is Okinawa a special destination for educational travel?

1 Precious natural environment
acclaimed worldwide

Ocean water with world-class clarity is here in Okinawa along with verdant forests abounding in biodiversity where many rare creatures live, and a rich natural environment still remains today.

2 Close to other Asian countries
Geographical superiority

Shanghai, Taipei, Hong Kong, Seoul and other major Asian cities are located within a radius of 1,500km from the prefectural capital Naha. Access to Okinawa is very convenient as it is the closest region of Japan to other Asian countries.

3 Nine world heritage sites
interspersed around the prefecture

Shuri Castle and other castle remains as well as places of scenic beauty have been inscribed on the World Heritage List as "Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu" in 2000.

4 No.1 destination
for high school excursions in Japan

With its distinctive history, culture and nature, Okinawa is also a place where peace may be studied, and Okinawa has garnered tremendous support from teachers and students in Japan as a destination for school excursions.

*Japan School Excursion Association
2015 Data Book "Annual Report on Educational Travel"

5 Unique history and culture
unlike anything found on mainland Japan

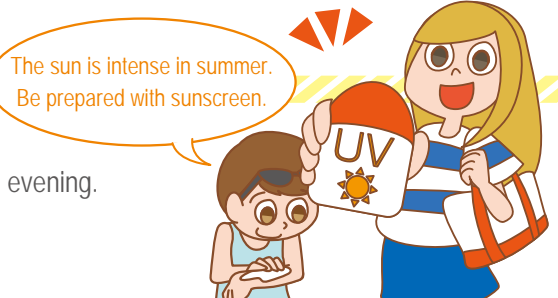
Okinawa was formerly an independent country known as the Ryukyu Kingdom. It has a distinctive history, which included flourishing trade with other Asian countries and a period of administration under the United States.

What is Okinawa Like?

Countries and regions differ in many ways, such as their climate and customs. Here is some basic information you should know before you travel to Okinawa.

What is the Climate Like?

Okinawa is comparatively warm throughout the year, but there can be some big differences in temperature between morning and evening. Let's take a look at what sort of clothing is best for the time of year when you're traveling.



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Appropriate Clothing	 【Sweater and long sleeves】 The strong seasonal breezes make it feel colder than it really is. Be sure to bring a light jacket.	 【Sweater and long sleeves】 Evenings are still chilly. Carry a spring coat or something to put on when the temperature drops.	 【Long sleeves】 It feels like the height of spring, but you'll need long sleeves at night.	 【Light long-sleeve shirt or short sleeves】 The most pleasant time of the year. Perfect for short sleeves and jeans.	 【Short sleeves】 Hot and humid most of the time. Try short sleeves and shorts.	 【Short sleeves】 You'll need protection against the sun. Put on a light shirt and sunglasses.
Sunrise Sunset	↑07:18 ↓18:03	↑07:02 ↓18:25	↑06:33 ↓18:41	↑06:01 ↓18:56	↑05:40 ↓19:12	↑05:37 ↓19:24
Temperature	High 23.5°C Low 10.6°C Avg. 16.8°C	High 24.1°C Low 11.7°C Avg. 17.9°C	High 26.1°C Low 12.0°C Avg. 18.4°C	High 27.2°C Low 14.0°C Avg. 20.9°C	High 30.1°C Low 17.3°C Avg. 23.6°C	High 32.5°C Low 20.4°C Avg. 26.9°C
Rainfall	66.0mm	227.0mm	185.0mm	100.5mm	354.5mm	397.5mm
Ocean Water Temperature	Avg. 21.3°C	Avg. 20.7°C	Avg. 21.4°C	Avg. 22.8°C	Avg. 23.5°C	Avg. 26.6°C
Typhoons	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.8
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Appropriate Clothing	 【Short sleeves】 Take precautions against the sun with a light shirt and sunglasses. Watch out for typhoons.	 【Short sleeves】 Hat, sunglasses and light long sleeve shirt for sun protection.	 【Short sleeves】 The hottest time of the year has passed, but you can still enjoy the beach and swimming. You'll need sunglasses, though.	 【Long or short sleeves】 You'll need a light cardigan to put on in the morning and evening.	 【Long sleeves】 Light cardigan or similar fall wear.	 【Long sleeves】 Winter is warm compared to mainland Japan. Sweatshirt and jeans weather.
Sunrise Sunset	↑05:49 ↓19:22	↑06:04 ↓19:01	↑06:17 ↓18:28	↑06:31 ↓17:57	↑06:51 ↓17:38	↑07:12 ↓17:42
Temperature	High 33.9°C Low 23.8°C Avg. 29.3°C	High 33.1°C Low 23.9°C Avg. 28.7°C	High 33.3°C Low 25.0°C Avg. 28.8°C	High 32.0°C Low 20.7°C Avg. 25.4°C	High 28.4°C Low 17.4°C Avg. 22.6°C	High 24.6°C Low 12.0°C Avg. 17.6°C
Rainfall	494.0mm	229.0mm	95.5mm	269.0mm	49.5mm	117.0mm
Ocean Water Temperature	Avg. 28.5°C	Avg. 29.2°C	Avg. 27.8°C	Avg. 27.0°C	Avg. 25.5°C	Avg. 23.8°C
Typhoons	1.4	2.0	1.8	1.4	0.0	0.0

*Sunrise and sunset are average times as measured on the 20th of each month in Naha City. <National Astronomical Observatory of Japan>
*Highs, lows, average temperature and rainfall are measurements taken in Naha City in 2014. The number of typhoons is the average from 2005 to 2014 in Naha City.<Japan Meteorological Agency>
*2015 data is used for the ocean water temperature. <11th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters>
*About the number of approaching typhoons: This refers to the number of typhoons in the vicinity whose center passes within 300km of a weather observation station in either Naha, Nago, Kume Island, Miyako Island, Ishigaki Island, Iriomote Island, Yonaguni Island or Minami-Daito Island.

What are the Customs and Culture of Okinawa?

Unique traditional practices tied to the land have remained strong in Okinawa with its particular history. If you know some of these, your trip to Okinawa will definitely be more enjoyable.

Try conversing with Okinawan people in Okinawan language

Okinawan people (*Uchinanchu*) are very open and friendly. Start off a fun trip to Okinawa by greeting people with "*haisai!*" (hello).
*Women say "*haitai*" instead of "*haisai*"



Okinawa's guardian deity *shisa* are placed here and there all around the islands

In Okinawa, you will often see a pair of figures, which look somewhat like lions, placed on a roof or in front of a gate to the building. This legendary animal was originally brought to Okinawa from China and is used to ward off evil.



Be sure not to trespass on important sites in local communities

In Okinawa, communities have built up in a particular way, and sacred sites and battle sites can be found in urban and residential areas. Be sure to respect such sites and ask before entering them.



What Sort of Cuisine and Foods Can be Found in Okinawa?

Using ingredients grown in southern latitudes as a base, Okinawan cuisine has developed in a unique way influenced by Japan, China and America. The names of dishes are often in the Okinawan language, so, if you're not sure, please ask someone at the shop.



Okinawa Soba
This dish starts with noodles, which are made the same way as Chinese noodles, and then adds a broth, prepared from dried bonito flakes and pork bones, with chunks of pork meat.



Goya Champuru
This dish is a staple of any family meal and made by stir frying bitter melon (goya) and tofu made from soybeans.



Tebichi
This dish of simmered pig's feet is softened so that they are easy to eat. It can also be used as a topping for Okinawa soba.



Sea Grapes (Umi-budo)
This seaweed grown in the seas around Okinawa has a faint salty taste and a unique crunchy texture that pops inside your mouth.



Imai-yu (Fresh Local Fish)
Imai-yu is the Okinawan word for fresh fish. These colorful tropical fish are delicious to eat.



Shima Yasai (Local Vegetables)
These traditional vegetables are known among the Okinawan people as the source of longevity. These are rare in other prefectures and not a staple of diets outside Okinawa.



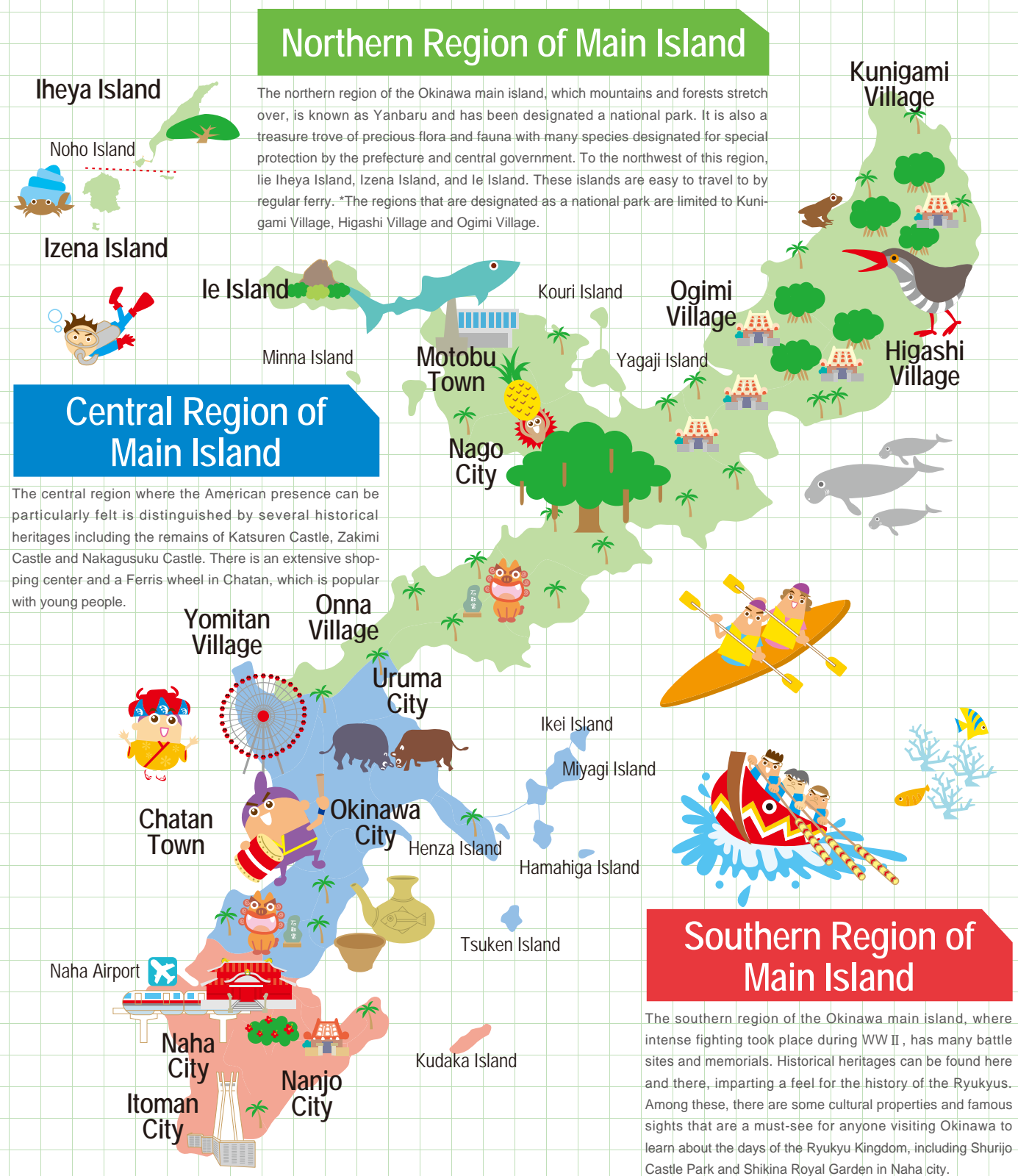
Taco Rice
A twist has been added to tacos, a Mexican dish, to provide a full meal, topped with meat, cheese, lettuce and tomatoes.



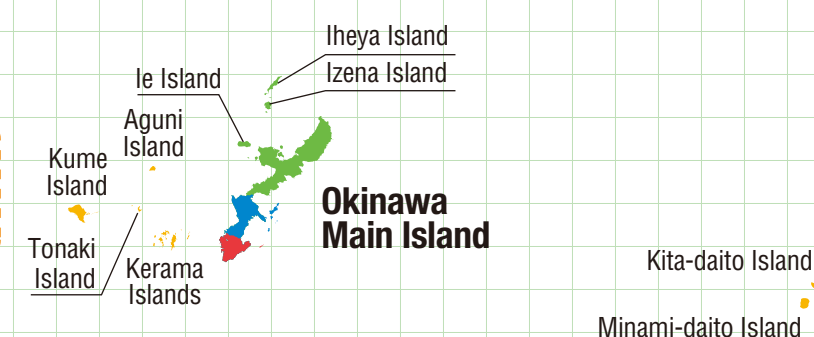
Sata Andagi
Sugar, flour, eggs and other ingredients are mixed and kneaded into small clumps which are deep-fried to produce this traditional sweet. It's a must-have snack in Okinawa.

Guide to Okinawa Main Island and Outlying Islands

Okinawa Prefecture, which is located on the southwestern tip of Japan, belongs to the Southwest Islands chain arching between Kyushu and Taiwan. Its extensive sea area stretches approximately 1000 km east to west and 400 km north to south, and is interspersed with over 160 Islands small and large. There are 41 municipalities, including Naha City where the prefectural office is located. Okinawa is linked to major cities in Asia within a 1,500 km radius. Here is a guide to the Okinawa main island, which is the center of Okinawa and might also be called the gateway to the south of Japan, and the four principal outlying island groups.

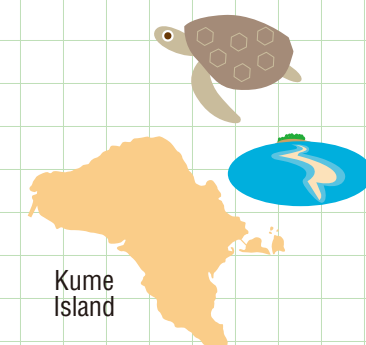


Map of the Whole Okinawa Prefecture



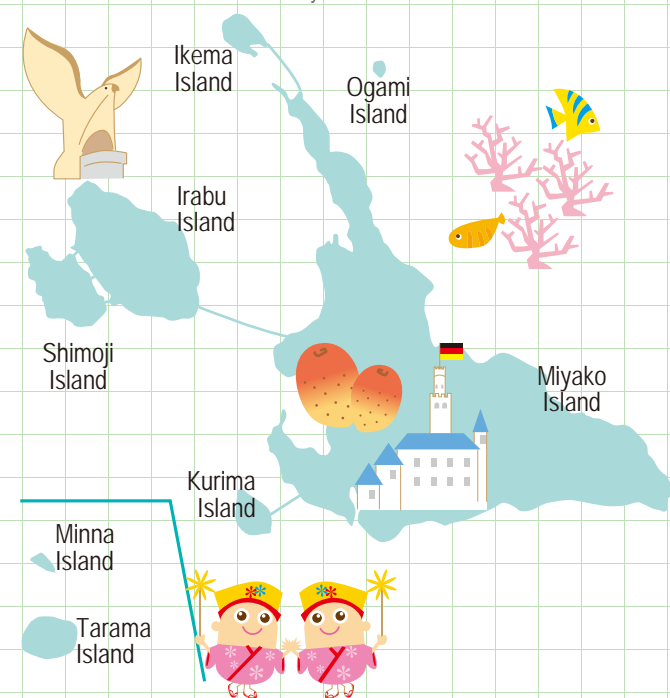
Kume Island Area

Kume Island is located in the East China Sea, approximately 100 km west of Naha city. The entire island has been designated a prefectural nature park. In the northwestern part of the island, the mountain streams and wetlands around Mount Uegusuku are protected under the Ramsar Convention.



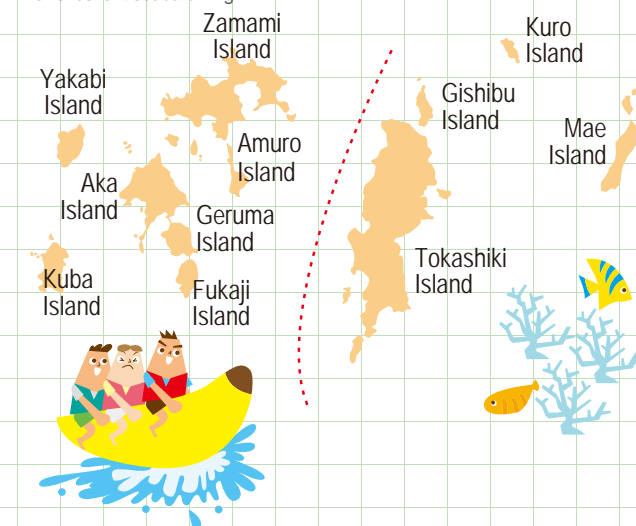
Miyako Island Area

Miyako Island is known as the Eco-Island for its promotion of locally produced and consumed energy, including advanced efforts to use renewable energy. There is a lot of beautiful nature to see including Yonaha Maehama Beach, which has been ranked No. 1 on a popular travel information website three years in a row.



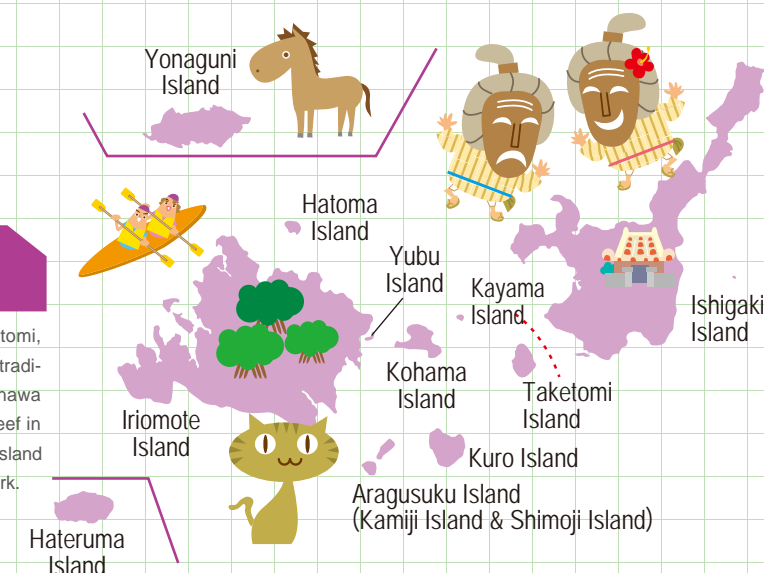
Kerama Islands Area

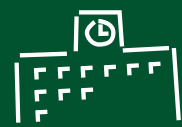
The Kerama Islands are mainly comprised of four inhabited islands: Tokashiki, Zamami, Aka and Geruma. The area was designated a national park in 2014. It has some of the most transparent seas in the world, which make for excellent scuba diving.



Yaeyama Islands Area

In the Yaeyama Islands comprised of Ishigaki, Iriomote, Taketomi, Yonaguni and other islands, abundant nature and a distinctive traditional culture are alive that are different from those on the Okinawa main island. The sea area which comprises the largest coral reef in Japan known as the Sekisei shoko coral reef, a part of Ishigaki Island and all of Iriomote Island, have been designated as a national park.





School Exchange

Experience school life through classes and club activities

Both hosts and visitors enjoy the time spent learning about different cultures and values as well as understanding more about each other.

Okinawa School Exchange Highlights

1 Experience Okinawa's extraordinary nature and culture

Karate, traditional performing arts and other extracurricular activities strengthen exchange within the context of Okinawa's world-renowned culture and nature.

2 Exchange through club activities

Students interact with each other through sports, culture, performing arts, music or many other activities.

3 "Icharibachode" Spirit

Visiting students are cordially welcomed in the Okinawa traditional spirit of *ichariba choodee*, meaning that "once we meet, we are brothers and sisters."



Visit to an Okinawan School A Program Example

8:15- 8:45	Short homeroom
8:50-10:00	Class in English (to learn about Okinawan culture)
10:10-11:20	Karate class
11:30-12:40	Japanese conversation class
12:40-13:40	Lunch
13:40-14:50	Student shadowing (Visiting students accompany their host school's students and take part in their classes)
15:00-16:10	Tea ceremony
16:20-16:30	Short homeroom

*From the exchange program between Okinawa Shogaku Senior High School (Japan) and Kaohsiung Municipal Sanmin Vocational High School of Home Economics and Commerce and Kaohsiung Municipal Girls' Senior High School (Taiwan) in July 2016



Japanese conversation class



Karate class



Tea ceremony

Handmade presents



Saying goodbye



Homeroom



Interview with Host School

Q What sort of programs helped enhance exchange between the students of both schools?

The karate class during P.E. was a lot of fun for the students as it got them practicing the Katas together. The cultural exchanges were good for helping students understand each other better. Also, outside of class, the students went to the beach where they had a BBQ, played volleyball and had fun playing at the sea.

Q What sort of change did you see in the students after the school visits?

The students brightened up. Also, Taiwan became more familiar to them. The schools in Taiwan sent their appreciation and invited us to visit them during summer vacation. The students have been contacting each other ever since.

Mr. Uza, teacher at Okinawa Shogaku Senior High School



Let's transcend language boundaries by interacting with each other through activities outside the classroom

Students make unforgettable memories with Okinawan students

School exchanges are also beneficial for practicing Japanese

Friendships continue even after returning home

Let's meet again!



Kirakira Beach in Nishihara Town



First karate experience



Students taking part in a Japanese language class



School Exchange



Improving communication skills and learning Through a Variety of Exchanges and Experiences

Interacting with others who have different cultural and historical backgrounds and thinking together to create something are indeed a very precious time when young people can develop the skills which are necessary for living in the global community.



Taiwan's Nanyang Primary School and Ishigaki Municipal Ishigaki No. 2 Middle School hold a music festival



Welcome ceremony for a Korean high school funded by the Japan-Korea Cultural Foundation



Visiting students are welcomed with dances and Sanshin music at a ceremony. Taiwanese students also perform a dance.



Welcome Ceremony

Students are greeted in grand style with fun performances

The exchange begins with a welcome ceremony. After the school principal and a student representative give welcome speeches, commemorative gifts are exchanged, photos taken, and students also begin to relax.

Viewing & Participating in Classes

Students interact with each other in actual classes

Visiting students do not just watch classes in session but also they participate and actually experience the subjects. The students have fun communicating through gestures and English.



High school students from Kaohsiung give a presentation about their country. The students also exchanged souvenirs.



Experiencing Club Activities

Exchanges overcome language barriers

Sports and other physical activities help overcome language barriers and lessen the divide.



Handball game between Hong Kong's Chinese Y.M.C.A. College and Okinawa's Maehara High School

Cultural Experiences

Learning about Japan through cross-cultural experiences

Young people improve their international understanding by experiencing Sanshin performances and other aspects of Okinawan culture as well as Japanese culture, including tea ceremony in a Japanese-style room.



Students visiting as part of a program funded by the Japan-Korea Cultural Foundation, which promotes exchange between Japan and Korea.



Students develop even closer ties when they share a meal together



Exchanges During Lunch

Learning about different food cultures

Students get to actually experience a different dietary culture while establishing friendships as they enjoy local dishes together.



Homestay During Exchange in Okinawa

Chance to experience Okinawan life up close and personal
Students can enjoy a homestay with a family running a farm or other business. By helping the host family and enjoying meals together at the dinner table, students develop greater sense of different cultures and people while having fun at the same time.

Make your second home here in Okinawa!



Comments from a host family

Initially, we didn't know how it would go, but the students were bright and sincere, which made for a good mood. Writing Chinese characters helped us overcome the language barrier. We all cried at the farewell ceremony.
(Ogimi Marugoto Tourism Association)

Comments from a visiting school

We have wonderful memories from the visit. We hope to come and see you again soon, and want more foreign people to learn about Ogimi Village's charm.
(Lanyu High School, Taiwan)

Homestay Highlights

1 Family businesses vary by community

- Depending on the community, students will get a chance to help families engaged in farming, fishing, and other businesses.

2 Opportunity to experience traditional culture

- Students also have the opportunity to experience performing arts and traditional crafts that show the Okinawan spirit.

3 Top priority given to camaraderie

- No more than around five students are assigned to each family.
- Students welcomed like members of the family.

4 Reliable support system

- Only government-approved families participate in the program.
- Emergency contact system.

Traditional Culture



Exchanges of Okinawan culture popular since long ago

Homestay exchanges foster an understanding of other communities through opportunities to try eisa dancing, Sanshin and other musical instruments, which are traditional parts of each Okinawan family's culture.



Cooking Okinawan Traditional Dishes



Students help prepare the morning and evening meals and learn about Okinawan ingredients

Students experience a taste of Okinawan soba, goya champuru and other typical home-cooked meals, and have the chance to make sata-andagi and other sweets. They learn how meals are influenced by the different community environments.

Farming Experience



Helping out fosters a sense of accomplishment and gratitude for nature's blessings

Students not only learn Okinawan-style farming techniques, but also gain a sense of accomplishment from putting in a good day's work with nature.



Welcome & Farewell Ceremonies



Chura-Mura Yomitan Farewell Ceremony

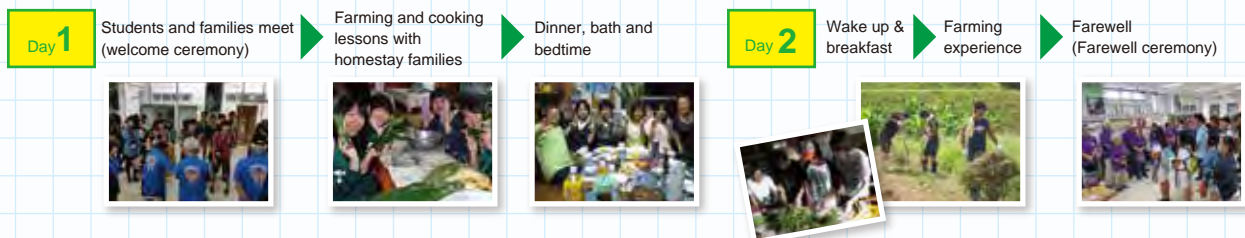


Students and host families overcome language barriers to build family-like bonds

Although everyone might be nervous at first, they gradually open up as they spend time with each other and are full of gratitude when they have to say good-bye.

Basic Okinawan Homestay Program

(Ex. of program from Ogimi Marugoto Tourism Association "Igimi Minpaku")



Facility Visits

Learn about Okinawa's unique history, culture, industry, nature and peace at tourist attractions.



Exotic charm with vestiges of the Ryukyu Kingdom not found in Japan



History & Culture

For roughly 450 years from the 15th to the 19th centuries, Okinawa was an independent country known as the Ryukyu Kingdom, a highly prosperous base for trade among China, Japan and Southeast Asian nations. Ryukyuan culture, which developed independently with influences from other countries, lives on today in Okinawa's food, crafts and performing arts.



Ryukyu Kingdom historic sites inscribed as UNESCO World Heritages

The Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu, a total of nine sites including Shurijo Castle, were inscribed as World Heritage Sites in 2000.

1

World Heritage

Shurijo Castle Park

Shurijo Castle Park includes Shurijo Castle where the ancient Ryukyuan Kings lived and many other historical sites associated with the Ryukyu Kingdom. Here, visitors can experience Ryukyuan history and culture as well as the unique architectural style.

Capacity 1500 people	Required Time 90 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese), Korean
		Languages Available
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 1-2 Kinjo-cho, Naha City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-886-2020

2

Fukushu-En Park

Fukushu-En Park encompasses a total area of 8500 m². The ancient Chinese scenery and structures express traditional Chinese methods, and the seasonal trees and flowers are arranged in a pattern evocative of the four seasons.

Capacity 300 people	Required Time 30 - 60 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese), Korean, Spanish
		Languages Available
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 2-29-19 Kume, Naha City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-869-5384

3

Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum

The Okinawa Prefectural Museum offers exhibits showing Okinawa's nature, history, culture and other aspects. The Art Museum principally displays works by artists having a connection with Okinawa. There is even a section where visitors may try on dyed fabrics.

Capacity 100 people	Required Time 30 - 60 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese), Korean, Spanish
		Languages Available
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 3-1-1 Omoromachi, Naha City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-941-8200

4

National Important Cultural Property

The Nakamura House

This residence was constructed in the traditional Okinawan architectural style in the mid-18th century. It is a very valuable structure representative of a prewar house and has been preserved in its original state.

Capacity 40 people	Required Time 20 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese), Korean
		Languages Not available
		Wheelchair Access Not available

Address / 106 Oshiro, Kitanakagusuku Village, Okinawa ☎+81-98-935-3500 (The Nakamura House Souvenir Shop)

5

Yomitan Pottery Village

Many traditional Okinawan pottery workshops have been established in Yomitan Pottery Village. Visitors may purchase their favorite pottery works and tour the kiln.

Capacity No limits inside the village (capacity differs depending on pottery studio)	Required Time 60 - 90 min.	Accepts Visitors capacity differs depending on pottery studio capacity differs depending on pottery studio Available in public restrooms. (Depends on the workshops for other restrooms)
		Languages Available
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 2653-1 Zakimi, Yomitan Village, Okinawa ☎+81-98-958-6494 (Yomitan Village Tourism Association)

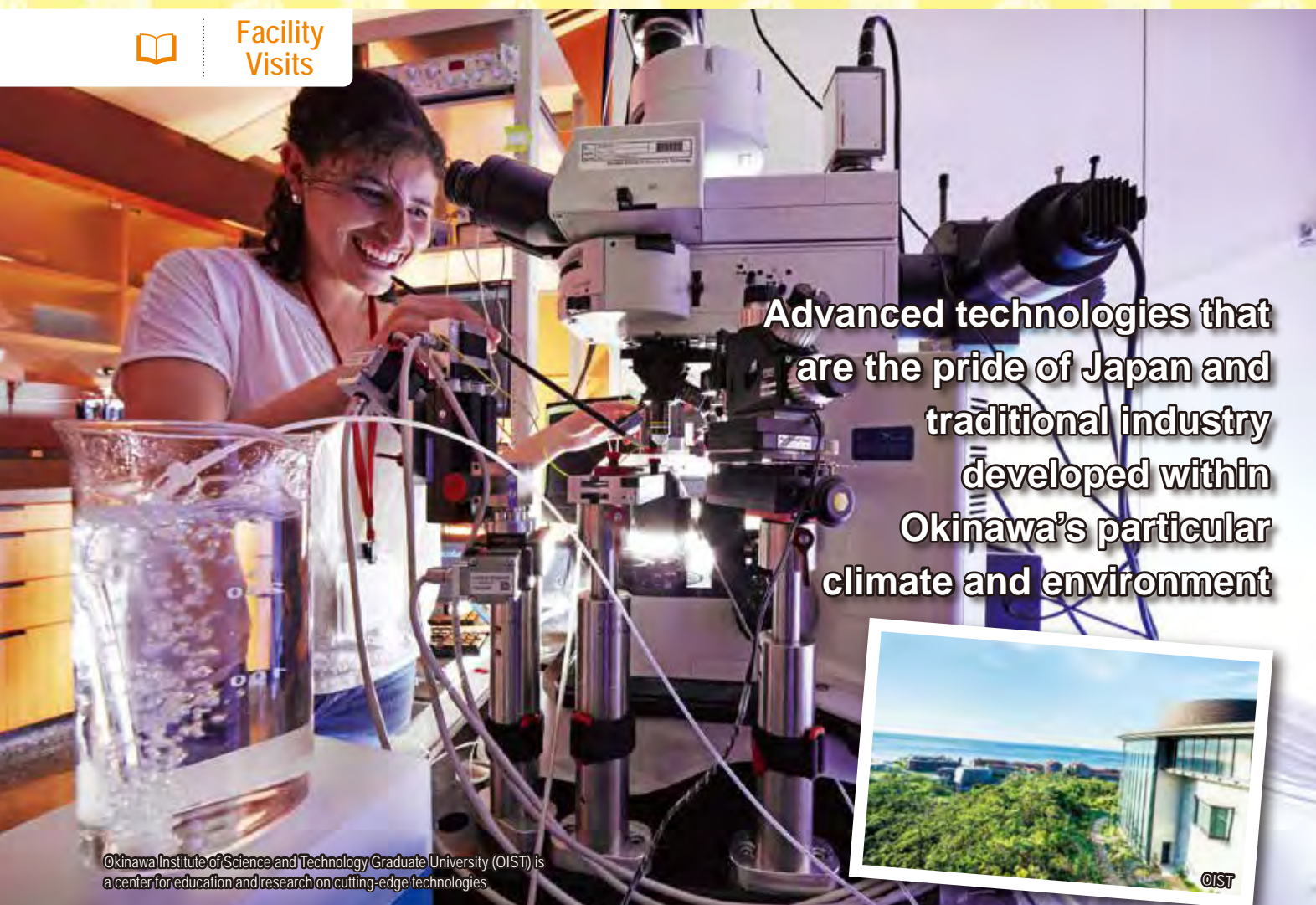
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Taketomi Island Visitor Center Taketomi Yugafu-kan

The facility uses video, exhibits and sound to show how traditional culture, performing arts and people's lives developed within the bountiful nature of Taketomi Island and Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park.

Capacity 80 people	Required Time 30 - 60 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round (Closed during typhoons) English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese), Korean
		Languages Available
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / Taketomi, Taketomi Town, Okinawa ☎+81-980-85-2488(NPO Takidhun)



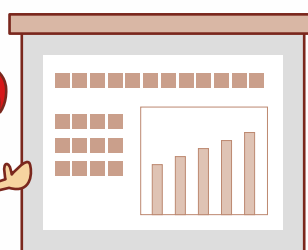
Advanced technologies that are the pride of Japan and traditional industry developed within Okinawa's particular climate and environment



Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST) is a center for education and research on cutting-edge technologies

Industry

There's a lot of industries on this small island!



Okinawa Prefecture has a flourishing fishing industry that benefits from the bounty of the beautiful sea as well as agriculture that makes use of the temperate climate. These products are shipped throughout Okinawa and all around Japan. Okinawa has companies and universities that serve as centers for research and development, allowing people access to cutting-edge technologies.



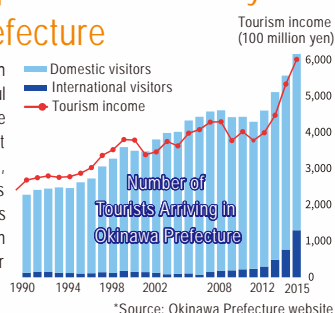
Wind turbine on Miyako Island



Okinawa Tracking and Communication Station (JAXA)

Tourism supports the economy of Okinawa Prefecture

Okinawa Prefecture, which is enveloped by the beautiful sea, has developed into one of Japan's leading resort areas. In the recent years, Okinawa Prefecture has seen an increase in travelers from other countries and an increase in demand for interpretation.



Hotel Staff

Hotel staff respond to a variety of guests' needs and help make their stay comfortable.



Aquatic Activity Staff

Staff working on the beaches and helping with marine activities are on the front line making sure their guests are safe.



Interpreters & Tour Guides

Interpreters and tour guides show visitors from Japan and other countries around tourist sites, presenting them in an interesting and enjoyable fashion.



7



Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST)

OIST offers five-year graduate study programs for pursuing education and research on technologies at world-class levels. Tours of the facility, which is surrounded by greenery and enjoys a view of the East China Sea are available. There is also a café open to the public.

Capacity	Required Time	Accepts Visitors	All Year Round
80 people (Negotiable)	60 - 90 min.	Languages	English
		Wheelchair Access	Available

Address / 1919-1 Tancha, Onna Village, Okinawa ☎+81-98-966-2184 (Campus Visit)

9



Trim Recycling Factory

At this plant, waste glass is used as raw material for manufacturing an artificial pumice known as Supersol, which has completely different properties than those of glass. Visitors learn about this technology, which has attracted attention worldwide.

Capacity	Required Time	Accepts Visitors	All Year Round
120 people	60 min.	Languages	English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai
		Wheelchair Access	Not available

Address / 1763-1 Aragusuku, Yaese Town, Okinawa ☎+81-98-998-6023

11



Nuchi-Masu Sightseeing and Salt Manufacturing Factory (Nuchi-Una)

While viewing the salt production room, visitors have a chance to see how salt is made using the world's first manufacturing method. Visitors will also enjoy the spectacular scenery of Miyagi Island, in addition to shopping and dining.

Capacity	Required Time	Accepts Visitors	All Year Round (Closed during typhoons)
30 - 35 people	10 - 15 min.	Languages	English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese)
		Wheelchair Access	Available

Address / 2768 Miyagi, Yonashiro, Uruma City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-983-1140

8



Okinawa Tracking and Communication Station (JAXA)

JAXA is a facility that tracks and controls satellites. Models and videos show how satellites and parabolic antennas function. Visitors will enjoy learning about space development.

Capacity	Required Time	Accepts Visitors	All Year Round
90 people	30 - 60 min.	Languages	English
		Wheelchair Access	Available

Address / 1712 Afuso Kinrabaru, Onna Village, Okinawa ☎+81-98-967-8211

10



Okinawa Prefecture Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Demonstration Facility

Visitors may tour the facility where testing is conducted to generate electricity using deep-sea water. They will also learn about the particular characteristics of deep-sea water as well as its uses and applications.

Capacity	Required Time	Accepts Visitors	All Year Round
20 people (More people possible if divided into groups)	20 - 60 min.	Languages	English
		Wheelchair Access	Partly available

Address / 500-1 Maja, Kumejima Town, Okinawa ☎+81-98-896-8655

12



Miyakojima Next Generation Energy Park

While touring multiple facilities on the island constructed to protect the natural environment and locally produce and consume energy, visitors learn about the underground dam and the process of wind and solar power generation.

Capacity	Required Time	Accepts Visitors	All Year Round
40 people (One bus)	3 hours	Languages	Interpreter required
		Wheelchair Access	Not available in the solar power generation facility

Address / Various areas on Miyako Island ☎+81-980-75-4380 (Miyako Island Tourism Club)



Blue coral seas and forests inhabited by rare creatures



Precious mangrove forests

Great banyan tree in the Valley of Gangala

Nature



Colorful coral inhabit the beautiful waters, which are also some of the clearest anywhere in the world. In the forests of this subtropical oceanic climate, you can encounter precious flora and fauna that you would not be able to see in mainland Japan. National parks have been designated in the Yanbaru area (2016), which stretches over three villages Kunigami, Higashi and Ogimi in the northern region of the main island, the Kerama Islands (2014) and the Iriomote-Ishigaki area (1972).



Okinawa actively works to preserve the coral

Looking to have Amami-Oshima, Tokunoshima Island, the Northern Part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island added to the UNESCO World Heritage List

The Japanese government is seeking to have Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Yanbaru in the northern region of the Okinawa main island and Iriomote Island registered as UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site. Yanbaru has many rare species, including the Okinawa rail and Pryer's woodpecker, living in its dynamic forest with a rich diverse plant life. In addition, all seven species of mangroves native to Japan are distributed on Iriomote Island, and the indigenous Iriomote cat has been designated an endangered species.



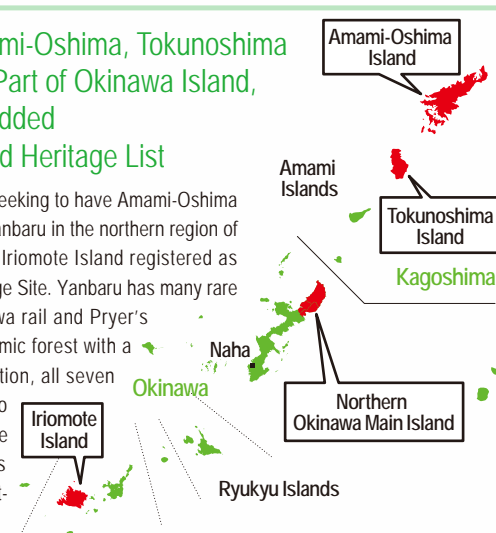
Yanbaru forest with its diverse ecosystem



The Okinawa rail is a protected species in Japan which is only found in the northern region of the Okinawa main island



It is estimated that there are only about 100 Iriomote cats still living



13



Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium

The concept of Churaumi Aquarium at Ocean Expo Park is "encountering the Okinawa sea." It is one of the world's largest aquarium and the first in the world to successfully breed several whale sharks and manta rays.

—	Required Time 90 - 120 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese), Korean
		Wheelchair Accessible Available

Address / 424 Ishikawa, Motobu Town, Okinawa ☎+81-980-48-3748

15



Yambaru Wildlife Conservation Center Ufugi Nature Museum

The Yambaru Wildlife Conservation Center's Ufugi Nature Museum has displays of stuffed animals and shows videos to present in an easy-to-understand manner the ecosystem and precious wildlife of the Yanbaru area in the northern region of the Okinawa main island.

Capacity 50 people	Required Time 45 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese), Korean
		Wheelchair Accessible Available

Address / 263-1 Hiji, Kunigami Village, Okinawa ☎+81-980-50-1025

17



Sea Turtle Museum of Kumejima

While observing sea turtles as well as newly born baby turtles swimming around slowly and gracefully, visitors learn about the ecology and current state of sea turtles, which are in danger of extinction.

Capacity 30 people	Required Time 10 - 30 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English
		Wheelchair Accessible Available

Address / 170 Ou, Kumejima Town, Okinawa ☎+81-98-985-7513

14



GODAC (Global Oceanographic Data Center) / JAMSTEC

JAMSTEC's Global Oceanographic Data Center offers free tours to help people improve their understanding of ocean science and technology. Visitors enjoy learning about the deep-sea and coral reefs through videos and experiments.

Capacity 120 people	Required Time 60 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages Interpreter required
		Wheelchair Accessible Available

Address / 224-3 Toyohara, Nago City, Okinawa ☎+81-980-50-0111

16



Valley of Gangala

The Valley of Gangala was created when a limestone cave, which had formed over hundreds of thousands of years, collapsed. Experts guide visitors through the mystical forest in this rich natural environment.

Capacity 24 people	Required Time 80 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese), Korean
		Wheelchair Accessible Not available

Address / 202 Maekawa, Tamagusuku, Nanjo City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-948-4192

18



Ishigakijima Astronomical Observatory

At the Ishigakijima Astronomical Observatory, visitors can enjoy 4D2U (four-dimensional digital universe), which makes use of the Murikabushi telescope, the largest in Kyushu and Okinawa, to view heavenly bodies and space in three dimensions.

Capacity 30 people	Required Time 30 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages Interpreter required
		Wheelchair Accessible Available

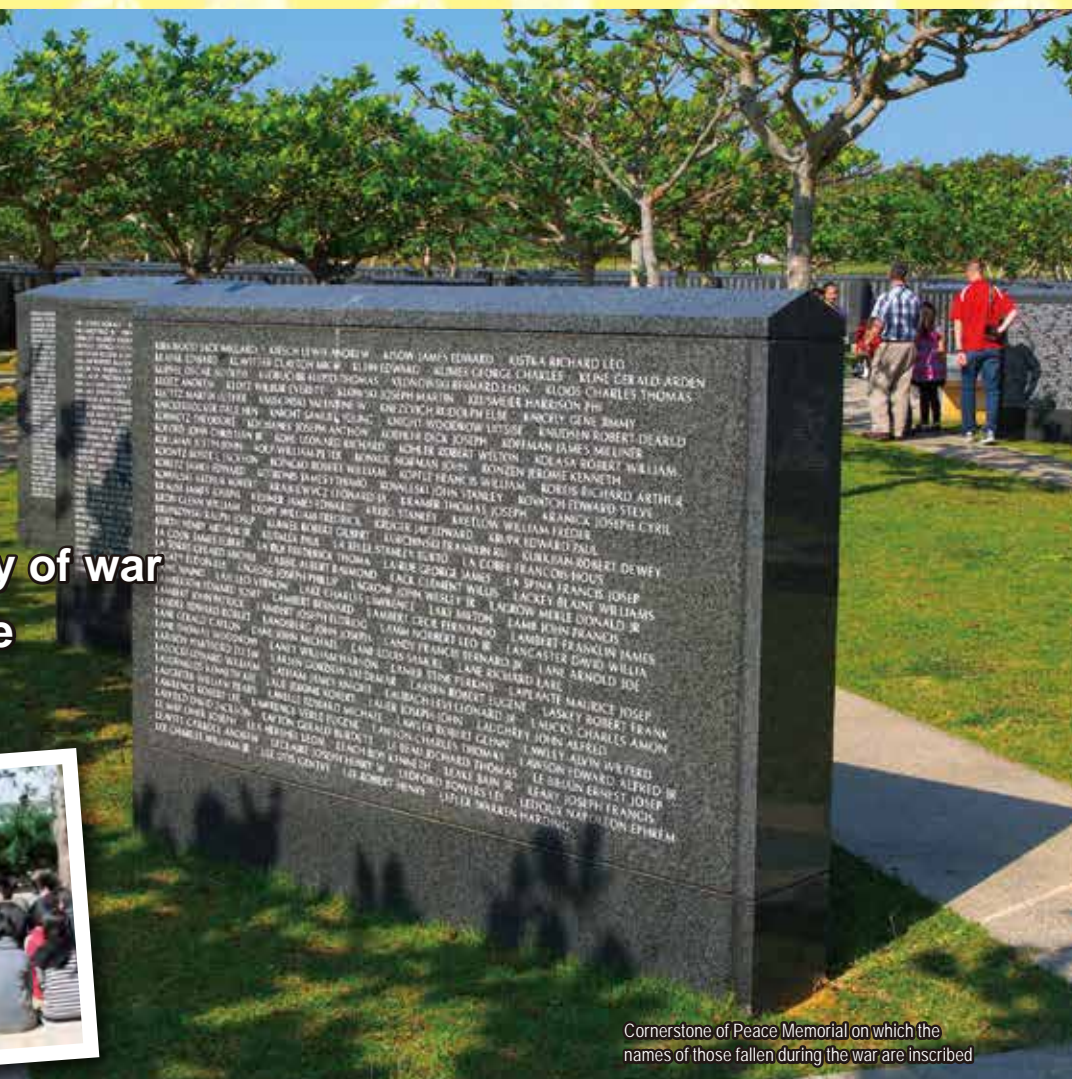
Address / 1024-1 Arakawa, Ishigaki City, Okinawa ☎+81-980-88-0013



Sharing the misery of war and value of peace



Visitors listening carefully to the words of
a someone who experienced the war firsthand



Cornerstone of Peace Memorial on which the
names of those fallen during the war are inscribed

Peace

So that we never allow
the tragedy of war to happen again



During World War II roughly 70 years ago, so many people died in Okinawa Prefecture that one-fourth of its precious population was lost. Particularly in the southern region of the main island where the Japanese military was headquartered, fierce fighting embroiled local residents during the battle's final stages. Even today, many caves where people sought shelter from the fighting, memorial monuments as well as battle sites still remain. These are now used to teach people about peace.



The Okinawa Peace Hall,
symbol of respect for the war dead



Cave in which people took shelter to
escape the ravages of war

Cornerstone of Peace Memorial on which 240,000 names are inscribed

In the Peace Memorial Park plaza, a monument has been erected in a prayer for world peace and souls of the war dead. The names of the people who died during the Battle of Okinawa is inscribed on the Cornerstone of Peace Memorial, regardless of nationality or whether or not they were soldier or civilian. The number of people fallen during the war includes 149,425 from Okinawa Prefecture, 77,417 from other prefectures, and 14,572 from other countries (as of June 2016).



Plaza where the Cornerstone of
Peace Memorial stands

19



Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum

The Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum commemorates victims of the war and works to communicate to future generations historical lessons painfully learned from the Battle of Okinawa. The museum has displays showing testimony given by people who experienced the fighting as well as numerous actual items and documents.

No set limits

Required Time
45 min.

Accepts Visitors All Year Round
Languages English, Chinese (Traditional), Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Spanish, others
Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 614-1 Mabuni, Itoman City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-997-3844

21



Tsushima-maru Memorial Museum

The Tsushima-maru Memorial Museum provides an overview of the sinking of the Tsushima-maru, which was used to evacuate schoolchildren. The museum works to communicate the value of peace through this tragedy in which 1,482 people, including many children, lost their lives.

Capacity
80 - 100 people

Required Time
40 min.

Accepts Visitors All Year Round
Languages English, Chinese (Traditional), Chinese (Simplified), Korean
Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 1-25-37 Wakasa, Naha City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-941-3515

23



Okinawa City Street Corner Data Hall

Organized around the theme of "considering the postwar history and culture of Okinawa City," the Okinawa City Street Corner Data Hall displays objects and scenes showing Okinawa spanning an interval from ranging from the middle of the war through the postwar period.

Capacity
30 people

Required Time
15 - 60 min.

Accepts Visitors All Year Round
Languages English
Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 1-17-17 Chuo, Okinawa City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-929-2922

20



Himeyuri Peace Museum

The Himeyuri students or "Lily Corps" were mobilized to serve as nurses during the Battle of Okinawa. Visitors to the museum learn about war and peace through the experiences of these girls who were in their teens at the time of the fighting.

Capacity
400 people

Required Time
30 - 60 min.

Accepts Visitors All Year Round
Languages English, Chinese (Traditional), Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Spanish
Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 671-1 Ihara, Itoman City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-997-2100

22



Kakazu Heights Park

The Observatory Park has a sweeping view of Futenma base. It was also the site of fierce fighting during the Battle of Okinawa, vestiges of which still remain today.

Capacity
200 - 400 people

Required Time
30 min.

Accepts Visitors All Year Round
Languages English
Wheelchair Access Available (Not available at the observation deck)

Address / 1-5 Kakazu, Ginowan City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-897-2751 (Hagoromo Park Management)

24



The Former Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters

The command bunker, which a Japanese Navy advance team built during World War II at the time of the Battle of Okinawa, has been opened to the public, including the commander's office. There is also a free museum on the grounds, displaying personal effects and letters which have been retrieved.

Capacity
150 people

Required Time
40 min.

Accepts Visitors All Year Round
Languages English, Chinese (Traditional), Chinese (Simplified), Korean
Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 236 Tomigusuku, Tomigusuku City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-850-4055

Okinawa



Educational Travel

Activities

A full complement of programs allows students to experience nature, culture and industry as found nowhere else but in Okinawa.

Feeling close to nature's bounty provides a chance to think about environmental issues



Precious nature still remains in Okinawa's seas and forests. Be careful not to unnecessarily touch animals or plants during activities.

Nature

COLUMN



Working to restore coral reefs

Coral reefs are home to a variety of creatures. Of the approximately 400 species of coral in Japan, over 380 inhabit the seas around Okinawa. Reclamation of coastal waters and rise in ocean temperatures in recent years pose a serious threat to coral reefs. Projects are actively underway to preserve and regenerate coral through cultivation and other means.



Glass-bottom Boat, Underwater Observatory

At the only underwater observatory on the Okinawa main island, you don't have to get wet to see tropical fish in action. Another popular activity is a promenade over the sea in a whale-shaped glass bottom boat.

Capacity 36 people per glass-bottom boat, 24 people inside underwater observation tower	Required Time 90 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round (Maybe cancelled due to the weather or sea conditions)
		Languages English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese), Korean Available
		Wheelchair Accessible Available

Address / 1744-1 Kise, Nago City, Okinawa ☎+81-980-52-3379



Beach Trekking (Ino observations)

Students observe *inoh* (coastal shallows enclosed by coral reefs) where a variety of rare creatures live to learn about the ecosystem of the beautiful sea and environmental issues.

Capacity 20 - 60 people	Required Time 2 - 2.5 hours	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages Interpreter required
		Wheelchair Accessible Not available

Address / 524 Yamada, Onna Village, Okinawa ☎+81-98-964-1616

27



Whale Watching

Zamami Village Whale Watching Association

From December to April every year, the whale watching tour offers people the opportunity to see humpback whales that have returned to the waters around Zamami Island.

Capacity 40 people	Required Time 2 hours	Accepts Visitors 27th Dec. to 5th Apr. English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese), Korean
		Languages Available
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 1 Zamami, Zamami Village, Okinawa ☎+81-98-896-4141

29



Cave Exploring

Okinawa World Culture Kingdom Gyokusendo

Visitors explore a limestone cave, which formed over 300,000 years and is designated as a natural monument. With a special "southern island cave exploration" plan, tours are also offered to go into the closed areas.

Capacity 25 people (Groups of over 25 people must be divided into separate groups)	Required Time 2.5 hours	Accepts Visitors All Year Round English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese), Korean Not available
		Languages Not available
		Wheelchair Access Not available

Address / 1336 Maekawa, Tamagusuku, Nanjo City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-949-7421

28



Coral Seedling Planting

Gala Aoi Umi

At Gala Aoi Umi, visitors have the chance to prune coral branches and plant coral seedlings set in artificial bedrock. They can also try their hand at making salt and take it home with them. The facility also has a café on the grounds.

Capacity 20 - 40 people	Required Time 40 - 60 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese), Korean Available (Excludes a part of the Sango Batake (coral field))
		Languages Available
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 915 Takashiho, Yomitan Village, Okinawa ☎+81-98-958-3940

30



Designated
as a natural
protection
area

Nakama River Cruise, Others

Hirata Tourism

A leisurely boat cruise takes visitors along the Nakama River on Iriomote Island where the largest mangrove forest in Japan can be found. Trekking and canoeing along the Urauchi River are also popular.

Capacity 60 people per group	Required Time 60 - 70 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round English, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Korean Available
		Languages Available
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / Inside the Ishigaki Port Remote Island Terminal, 1 Misaki, Ishigaki City, Okinawa ☎+81-980-82-6711

31



Mangrove Crab Fishing

Miyako Island Tourism Association

Guided by crab fishermen who know all the inlets around Irapu Island, visitors can take a tour on which they bring up crab pots set along the tidal flats and mangrove forest.

Capacity 10 - 80 people	Required Time 90 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese), Korean Not available
		Languages Interpreter required
		Wheelchair Access Not available

Address / 2F, 187 Nishizato, Hirara, Miyakojima City, Okinawa ☎+81-980-73-1881

32



Marine Activities

SEASIR

Visitors are invited to experience snorkeling, sea kayaking or some of the many other activities. Safety measures and multilingual support services are provided so that visitors can enjoy these activities safely.

Capacity 100 people	Required Time 3.5 hours (May differ depending on the program or ocean conditions)	Accepts Visitors Oct. - Jun. English, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Korean Available for some programs (please confirm beforehand)
		Languages Available
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 2-2-9 Minatomachi, Naha City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-866-4519



Experience

Culture



Fascinating unique culture
carefully handed down
since ancient times



COLUMN

Eisa, richly influenced by each community

Eisa is a dance to honor the souls of ancestors and pray for good health, well-being and prosperity of each home in the community during the Bon festival according to the lunar calendar in Okinawa. The performers wear colorful costumes and dance dynamically while beating drums. Performances are different in each community and have been carefully handed down over the ages by the community youth groups. There are also many places where visitors can watch eisa performed for tourists throughout the year.



Take a Walk with a Naha Machi Mai Guide

Naha City Tourist Information

Local guides well-versed in Okinawa's history and culture show visitors the streets of Naha, using a variety of courses that include Makishi Public Market, Shujijo Castle and other such areas.

Capacity 300 people (Differs depending on the course)	Required Time 60 -120 min. (Differs depending on the course)	Accepts Visitors Confirmation required
		Languages Interpreter required
		Wheelchair Access Available for some courses

Address / 3F Tenbusu Naha, 3-2-10 Makishi, Naha City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-860-5780



Traditional Culture Experience

Ryukyu Mura

At Ryukyu Mura, the streets are lined with old-fashioned traditional houses, and visitors have a chance to learn about Okinawan culture, including watching eisa and Ryukyuan dance performances as well as trying their hand at making crafts.

Capacity Eisa dance 40 people Shisa painting 100 people, others	Required Time Eisa dance 30 min. Shisa painting 100 min., etc.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese), Korean
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 1130 Yamada, Onna Village, Okinawa ☎+81-98-965-1234



Eisa Dance

Okinawa City Tourism Association

People can experience authentic eisa in the city that is home to eisa, Okinawa City. Visitors experience Okinawa's traditional performing arts firsthand. Prepare sport wear and take part!

Capacity 300 people	Required Time 60 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese), Korean
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 3-1-4-2 Chuo, Okinawa City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-939-4845 (Koza Information Center)



Karate Experience

Okinawa Traditional Karatedo Kobudo International Karate Study Centre

At Murasaki Mura in Yomitan Village, there is a dojo where visitors can experience traditional Okinawan karate. Reservations are accepted in advance, which will allow you to learn about the three main karate styles in Okinawa.

Capacity 20 people	Required Time 60 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 1020-1 Takashiho, Yomitan Village, Okinawa ☎+81-98-958-1111



Experiencing Island Lifestyle

Kumejima Town Tourism Association

The Association offers a variety of hands-on programs so that students can interact with Kume Islanders while walking through the Nibuchi forest, exploring the Yajiyaa caves, learning to play Sanshin, or even making snacks.

Capacity 20 people	Required Time 2 hours	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English
		Wheelchair Access Not Available

Address / Tourism Information Center "I-fu" 160-57 Higa, Kumejima Town, Okinawa ☎+81-98-851-7973



Ryukyuan Dance

Uruma City Tourism Association

Participants can experience traditional Ryukyu dances handed down since the days of the Ryukyu Kingdom. As an instructor teaches you the particular hand and finger movements, you can learn a dance called Chijuyaa.

Capacity From 30 people	Required Time 2 hours	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages Interpreter required
		Wheelchair Access Not available

Address / 4 Yonashiro Yahira, Uruma City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-978-0077



Sailboat "Saban"

Ichimarine

Visitors ride in a traditional wooden sailboat in Itoman, the "uminchu (fisherman)" village. This experience builds a cooperative spirit as everyone works together to row the boat together.

Capacity 20 - 100 people	Required Time 2 hours 30 min.	Accepts Visitors Excluding July to September
		Languages Conversations possible in Chinese
		Wheelchair Access Confirmation required

Address / 101 Palace Yuuna 1-37-2 Nishizaki, Itoman City, Okinawa ☎+81-98-994-1419



Traditional Culture Experience

Ishigaki Yaima Village

This theme park is a re-creation of old Yaeyama. In addition to having a chance to wear Ryukyu traditional outfit and painting shisa pottery, visitors can see more than 50 squirrel monkeys.

Capacity For traditional culture experiences, if divided into groups, reservations are possible for over 50	Required Time 60 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese)
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 967-1 Nagura, Ishigaki City, Okinawa ☎+81-980-82-8798



Experience

Industry



Experience Okinawa's unique industry
that supports people's lives

41



Farming

NPO Corporation Ogimi Marugoto Tourism Association

There are half-day and full-day programs so that students can learn about the joys and difficulties of farming by helping out farmers in Ogimi Village.

Capacity 10 - 180 people (4-5 people per house)	Required Time 3 hours or 6 hours	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese)
		Wheelchair Access Not available

Address / 1357-18 Taminato, Ogimi Village, Okinawa ☎+81-980-44-1960

42



Okinawan Brown Sugar Making

Okinawa-Kokuto

Visitors can try their hand at making sweet and delicious unrefined brown sugar (fee required). During the visit, a tour is provided of the sugar plant to describe the entire process through which the brown sugar is made from sugarcane.

Capacity 40 people	Required Time 60 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese), Korean
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 2822-3 Zakimi, Yomitan Village, Okinawa ☎+81-98-958-4005

43



Minsa Weaving

Mineya Kobou

The Mineya Weaving Center explains the production process based on the history of traditional Yaeyama hand-weaving. Visitors can actually experience weaving Yaeyama minsa and Kusagi dyeing.

Capacity Weaving 15 people, Kusagi dyeing experience 40 people	Required Time Weaving 20 min. Kusagi dyeing experience 60 min.	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English, Chinese (Traditional Chinese), Korean
		Wheelchair Access Available

Address / 1129-2 Wakugawahara, Arakawa, Ishigaki City, Okinawa ☎+81-980-83-0039

44



Fishing

Yomitan Village Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Association

Students can experience the fishing industry at the largest stationary net in Okinawa Prefecture. They have the chance to see up close how fishermen arrange the nets, haul up fish and process them.

Capacity Up to 24 people	Required Time 2 hours	Accepts Visitors All Year Round
		Languages English
		Wheelchair Access Not available

Address / 33 Toya, Yomitan Village, Nakagami District, Okinawa

COLUMN

Asian Countries and the Ryukyus were Connected by Trade Ties



Exchanges Begin with East Asia Trade

Although the exact timing is unclear, it is believed that the Kingdom of the Ryukyus began to trade and exchange with the nations of Southeast Asia in the latter half of the 14th century. China's Ming dynasty had banned trade in those years with those countries with which it had no diplomatic relations. Owing to its friendly ties with the dynasty, the Ryukyus was able to take on much of Ming's foreign commerce. Chinese goods were much in demand at the time. Ryukyuan traders sold those goods in Japan and around Southeast Asia, and conversely delivered those items they obtained in those places to the Chinese Emperor. It was thus in this form of intermediary trade that the Ryukyus began their exchanges with Southeast Asia.

Ryukyuan Ships Voyaging to "Manaban"

Ryukyuan ships made the voyage to ports across Southeast Asia to carry out trade. The Kingdom of Siam (Thailand) topped the list of these ships' destinations, with other trade partners that included Malacca (Malaysia), Pattani (Thailand and Malaysia), Java (Indonesia), Palembang (Indonesia), Sumatra (Indonesia), Sunda (Indonesia), Annam (Vietnam) and so on. Malacca and some other regions also served as a gateway for the voyagers to trade with India, Arabia, and Europe. The Ryukyans referred to these Southeast Asian regions collectively as "Manaban," and they worked to deepen their exchanges with them.

<Annotation>

*Each region's names are cited from the document below.

Ryukyu Trade Routes



The Fruits of the Southeast Asia Trade for the Ryukyus

The Ryukyus' primary imports from Southeast Asia were pepper and other spices, and sappanwood, which was used as an ingredient in dyes and Chinese herbal medicines. These would often then be shipped to Ming China as tribute to the court or sold to mainland Japan and Korea. Ceramics produced in Ming China and Southeast Asia were also important trade goods.



Representative works of pottery made in Thailand and Vietnam.
(The picture is provided by Okinawa Prefectural Buried Cultural Property Center)

An Enthusiasm for International Exchange was Cultivated by Trade with Southeast Asia

With a history different from that of Japan, the Ryukyus prospered economically owing to these sorts of connections they forged with Southeast Asia. The islands flourished for a time as a center for intermediary trade in the region. They lost this advantage in the latter half of the 16th century, and moreover with the coming of the Age of Exploration their trade with Southeast Asia went into decline. Nonetheless, the interactions had gifted the Ryukyus with many things. Above all, the great interest in international exchange cultivated in that area still seems to be alive in the hearts and minds of Okinawans of today.

Reference: TAKARA Kurayoshi and DANA Masayuki, eds.,
Zusetsu: Ryukyu okoku [The Kingdom of the Ryukyus—Illustrated.]



Study, Feel, and Experience the Natural Environment and Culture of Okinawa

Okinawa Educational Travel Recommended Courses

Whether your interest is in history, culture, nature, peace studies, or industry, Okinawa offers a variety of potential subjects optimal for educational travel. Here, you can put together travel plans that incorporate experiences impossible to have anywhere else around Japan.

Main Island 4-day, 3-night plan

This plan allows you to visit not only the sites and facilities where you can come into contact with Okinawa's history, culture, and natural environment, but also venues associated with cutting edge science and technology institutions as GODAC, OIST, and JAXA. The offerings focus on allowing students to enjoy themselves on their own through firsthand study and other experiences including homestays and school exchange programs, creating memories they will never forget.



Day 1

Experience History and Culture in the Southern Area of the Main Island



1 A set of caverns in which the Former Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters was located during the Battle of Okinawa. The site also features a museum and resource center.



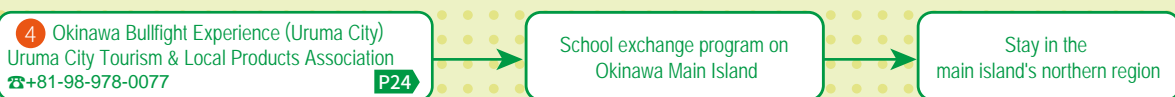
2 The immense power of the Eisa dance makes it a must-see. Also take in a *habu* (Ryukyu pit viper) show and explore underground caverns.



3 Shurijo Castle was the palace for the king of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Numerous ruins of historic sites also remain in the vicinity.

Day 2

Exciting Okinawa-style Bullfights and Interschool Exchanges



4 An example of traditional culture with roots in farmers' entertainments. Split up into teams and cheer your bull on!



A chance to deepen mutual understanding through presentations and classes.

Day 3

Study and Experience Firsthand the Ecology of the Seas



5 The enormous tanks where visitors can take in a panoramic view of fish from the Kuroshio Sea and coral being raised on a tremendous scale are spectacular.



6 Facility allowing free field trips where visitors can get a better understanding of ocean chemistry technologies.



7 Get a taste of private life in Okinawa through cultural experiences at fisheries and in the home.

Day 4

Visit a Graduate University that Performs the World's Most Cutting Edge Research



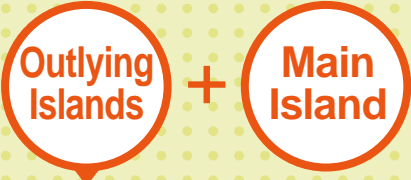
8 This research facility with its views of the East China Sea has a cafe open to the public.



9 Students can learn here about the roles of manmade artificial and parabolic antennae, as well as space development.



Okinawa Educational Travel
Recommended Courses



5-day, 4-night plan

This program focuses on getting to know what makes Okinawa special firsthand, including a nature experience at the Keramashoto National Park and a homestay at a village where traditional culture remains vibrant. The plan offers abundant other opportunities for learning, including a peace studies program, a field trip to Churaumi Aquarium, and an enjoyable stroll around the city.



Day 1
A Day for Thinking About Peace and Interacting with Okinawan Students



1 A program focused on testimonies from locals to convey the tragedy of the Battle of Okinawa and the pricelessness of peace



Getting to know other kids the same age from other countries who were raised in different backgrounds can be exciting!

Day 2
Learn About History and Nature at Kerama Shoto National Park



*Lodging facilities also available on Tokashiki Island



2 Enjoy marine sports to your heart's content in one of the world's most beautiful seas (Activity also available at Tokashiki Island)



Day 3
Homestay Experience to Learn About Farming Community Culture and Lifestyles



3 Learn firsthand about a wide variety of folk arts, and even take in a training hall for Okinawa-style karate



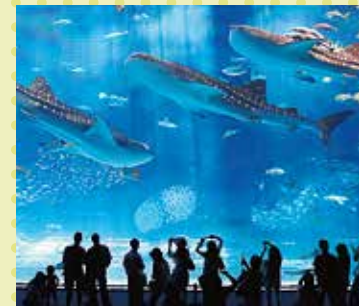
4 Encounter the soul of the culture and people of Okinawa through a homestay program focused on experiencing daily life



Day 4
Learn About the Latest Technology and the Beautiful World of the Ocean



5 An educational facility engaged in teaching and research on world-class science and technology. Visitors can view cutting-edge technologies

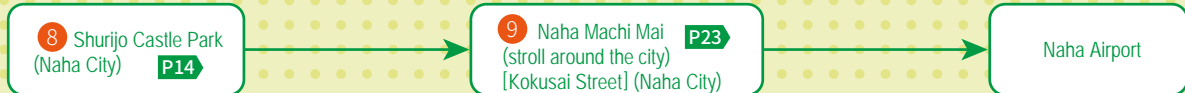


6 Go on a field trip here to take in the sight of enormous whale sharks and the diverse marine life of Okinawan waters



7 Have fun learning about the deep seas and coral reefs through videos and experiments

Day 5
History and Local Lifestyles on View in Central Naha



8 Added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2000 for the outstanding value of its unique architectural styles and rock arrangement techniques



9 Okinawa's busiest shopping district is packed with shops selling local products, eating and drinking establishments, and other businesses along a 1.6-kilometer stretch



Information about Okinawa Educational Travel ①

Access

Access to Okinawa from Asia

Airports	IATA code	Flight time
●To Naha		
Bangkok	MM	About 4 h 15 min.
Seoul (Incheon)	OZ, LJ, 7C, TW, MM, ZE, KE	About 2 h 25 min.
Busan	OZ, LJ, 7C	About 2 h.
Beijing	CA	About 3 h 10 min.
Shanghai (Pudong)	MU, HO	About 2 h.
Tianjin	CA	About 3 h 30 min.
Hangzhou	JD, MU	About 2 h 25 min.
Nanjing	HO	About 2 h 50 min.
Taipei (Taoyuan)	CI, MM, BR, IT, JW	About 1 h 30 min.
Taichung	AE	About 1 h 40 min.
Kaohsiung	CI	About 1 h 45 min.
Hong Kong	HX, KA, MM	About 2 h 30 min.
●To Ishigaki		
Taipei (Taoyuan)	CI, UO	About 50 min.
Hong Kong	UO	About 2 h 20 min.

Access from Okinawa to cities in Japan

Airports	IATA code	Flight time
●From Naha		
Sapporo	NH	About 3 h 15 min.
Sendai	NH	About 2 h 35 min.
Shizuoka	NH	About 2 h 15 min.
Komatsu	NU	About 2 h 10 min.
Ibaraki	BC	About 2 h 30 min.
Tokyo International (Haneda)	NH, JL, NU, BC	About 2 h 20 min.
Narita	NH, GK, JW, MM	About 2 h 35 min.
Osaka International (Itami)	NH, JL, NU	About 1 h 55 min.
Kobe	BC, LQ	About 2 h.
Kansai International	NH, NU, MM, GK	About 1 h 50 min.
Chubu International	NH, NU, BC, GK	About 2 h 10 min.
Okayama	NU	About 1 h 50 min.
Takamatsu	NH	About 1 h 50 min.
Hiroshima	NH	About 1 h 45 min.
Matsuyama	NH	About 1 h 45 min.
Fukuoka	NH, NU, BC, MM	About 1 h 40 min.
Kumamoto	NH	About 1 h 25 min.
Nagasaki	NH	About 1 h 25 min.
Miyazaki	LQ, ANA codeshare	About 1 h 20 min.
Kagoshima	LQ, ANA codeshare	About 1 h 15 min.
Amami-Oshima	NU	About 1 h 5 min.
Yoron	NU	About 40 min.
●From Ishigaki		
Tokyo International (Haneda)	NU, NH	About 3 h 15 min.
Kansai International	NU, NH, MM	About 2 h 20 min.
Chubu International	NH	About 2 h 45 min.
Fukuoka	NH	About 2 h 10 min.
●From Miyako		
Tokyo International (Haneda)	NU	About 2 h 55 min.
Kansai International	NH	About 2 h 40 min.

*The IATA code for both JTA and RAC is NU.
*Please check the airline's IATA code on the right.
*Flight times are approximate and vary depending on weather conditions.
*Flight schedules are subject to change. For more specific information, please inquire with the airline you intend on flying with.

IATA airline designation

Airline	IATA code
Asiana Airlines	OZ
Jin Air	LJ
Jeju Airlines	7C
T'way Airlines	TW
Eastar Jet	ZE
Korean Air	KE
Air China	CA
China Eastern Airlines	MU
Juneyao Airlines	HO
Beijing Capital Airlines	JD

Airline	IATA code
Japan Airlines / JAL	JL
Japan Transocean Air / JTA	NU
Ryukyu Air Commuter / RAC	NU
Jetstar Japan / JJP	GK
All Nippon Airways / ANA	NH
Vanilla Air / VNL	JW
Skymark Airlines / SKY	BC
Solaseed Air / SNA	LQ
Peach Aviation / APJ	MM

Airline	IATA code
China Airlines	CI
EVA Air	BR
Peach Aviation	MM
Tigerair	IT
Mandarin Airlines	AE
Hong Kong Airlines	HX
Cathay Dragon	KA
HK Express	UO

from Bangkok
2017.2.19 ~

*As of November 1, 2016

+α Plan

Save on Travel Between Okinawa and Other Cities in Japan

JAL & ANA Offers a Special Fare

Overseas visitors may fly JAL and ANA domestic routes for a flat rate of ¥10,800 (tax incl.) one way.

Either airline is OK



Okinawa



All over Japan
(Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, etc.)



Either airline is OK

All over Japan
(Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, etc.)



Okinawa

Fly JAL or ANA to anywhere in Japan for
¥10,800 (tax incl.)

*Fare for one sector. Sectors may be added for an additional ¥10,800 per sector (please check the map on the left for destinations).
*It doesn't matter which airline you fly between your country and Okinawa!!

- JAL Japan Explorer Pass
https://www.world.jal.com/world/en/japan_explorer_pass/ar/
- ANA Experience JAPAN Fare
<https://www.ana-cooljapan.com/ejf>

*To take advantage of this discount offer, purchase your ticket 72 hours in advance on either the JAL or ANA website above.

Access to Outlying Islands (Air & Sea)

Access by Air

Airline	IATA designation	Flight time
●From Naha		
Kumejima	NU	About 30 min.
Miyako	NU, NH	About 45 min.
Ishigaki	NU, NH	About 1 h.
Kita daito	NU	About 1 h 10 min.
Minami daito	NU	About 1 h 10 min.
Yonaguni	NU	About 1 h 30 min.
●From Miyako		
Ishigaki	NU, NH	About 30 min.
Tarama	NU	About 25 min.
●From Ishigaki		
Miyako	NU, NH	About 30 min.
Yonaguni	NU	About 35 min.
●Minami daito-Kita daito		
Minami daito-Kita daito	NU	About 15 min.

*Same day return may not be available for some islands.
Please inquire with the airline for more information.
*The IATA code for both JTA and RAC is NU.

Access by Sea

Route	Flight time
Ishigaki - Taketomi	About 10 min.
Ishigaki - Kohama	About 25 min.
Ishigaki - Kuroshima	About 30 min.
Ishigaki - Iriomote (Ohara port)	About 35 to 45 min.
Ishigaki - Iriomote (Uehara port)	About 40 min.
Ishigaki - Hatoma	About 40 to 55 min.
Ishigaki - Hateruma	About 1 h.
Ishigaki - Yonaguni	About 4 h.
Miyako - Tarama	About 2 h.
Unten port - Iheya	About 1 h 20 min.
Unten port - Izena	About 55 min.
Toguchi port - Minna	About 15 min.
Motobu port - Ie	About 30 min.
Heshikiya port - Tsuken	About 30 min.
Tomari port - Aguni	About 2 h 10 min.
Tomari port - Kumejima	About 3 h to 4 h.
Tomari port - Tonaki	About 1 h 45 min. to 2 h 15 min.
Tomari port - Zamami	About 50 min to 2 h.
Tomari port - Tokashiki	About 35 min to 1 h 10 min.
Tomari port - Minami and Kita daito	About 15 h.
Azama port - Kudaka	About 15 to 20 min.

Information about transportation in Okinawa is available on the following website.

http://en.okinawastory.jp/access/transportation_in_okinawa/

Information about Okinawa Educational Travel ②

Please check the following website for more information about animals and plants prohibited from being brought in or taken out of Okinawa, dangerous sea creatures, and what to do if disaster strikes (typhoons, earthquakes, tsunami, etc.)

<http://en.okinawastory.jp/about/important/>



Precautions for Aquatic Activities

Five Precautions for Snorkeling

1 It looks easy, but practice is essential!

Learn how to use the snorkel, mask and fins.



2 Floating is difficult!

Wear a life jacket or wetsuit and make sure you're buoyant.



3 The sea is beautiful, but full of danger!

Check where you're going to swim, make sure of the weather and sea conditions, and avoid any risks that could cause danger to yourself or others.

4 Poor health can be deadly in the water!

If you're not feeling up to it, then stop and get out of the water.



5 You can't call for help by yourself when you're in the water!

Always go into the water in groups of two or more, and don't stay for longer than one hour each time. You won't be able to get back to shore once you're tired.



Watch out for jellyfish!

Many jellyfish will appear in the waters between May and October. Caution is necessary as jellyfish are difficult to identify because they are clear and almost see-through. Touching one brings intense pain and welts may form. If you are stung, get out of the water and call for help.



Accidents happen!

Learn from an instructor or someone who is experienced. First practice in a pool or shallow area where you can stand.

If you see or are involved in an accident or incident at sea, call 118 right away!

What to do During a Disaster (earthquake, tsunami or typhoon)

If an earthquake strikes



- 1 If you feel tremors at your lodging, secure an evacuation route, wait for the earthquake to subside, then evacuate following any instructions given by the accommodation staff.
- 2 If you're outdoors, move away from concrete block walls, cliffs, rivers and out of alleyways.
- 3 There is a risk of a tsunami, so keep away from the seashore and evacuate to high ground or solidly-constructed high buildings.

If a typhoon comes



- 1 Strong winds may cause objects flying and overturn them, so avoid going outside and stay inside at your lodging.
- 2 Keep on guard even if the storm has calmed down, and be sure to check the weather information before doing anything.
- 3 Buses, airplane and other means of transportation will be affected, so get more information before heading out.

When there is a typhoon, check the travel and tourism website "Be. Okinawa" for information about typhoon conditions as well as airline and ferry service.

<http://en.okinawastory.jp/>



See the Okinawa disaster prevention information portal.

<http://www.bousai.okinawa.jp/eng/>



Watch out for Habu Snakes

Dangerous and poisonous snakes

The habu is a poisonous snake found in Okinawa Prefecture. It is most active between April and November, but is also awake throughout the year. The young will hatch around September and begin to move around looking for food. During the day, they hide in stonewalls, caves and thick brush, but will come out at night.



Habu Bite First Aid

- 1 Stay calm, try not to move around, and call someone close by for help
- 2 Seek medical attention at a clinic or hospital right away. As a first-aid measure, use a venom extractor to repeatedly draw out poison from the wound.
- 3 If it's going to take time to get to a hospital, then wrap a cloth loosely, enough for one finger to be inserted, around an area between the bite and heart.

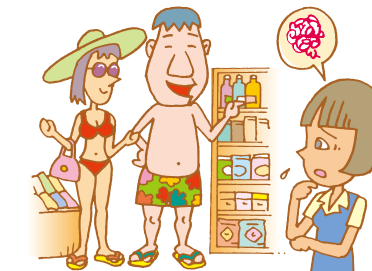
Remember Your Manners

Table manners



Tables in shops are for the establishment's beverage and meal service, so please refrain from bringing your own drinks or food. Also, banana peels, orange peels and other scraps as well as fish bones are not thrown on the floor, but left on plates.

Everyday manners



In Okinawa, people will not like it if you walk around in your bathing suit in places other than the beach. If you're leaving the beach area, it's best to put on a T-shirt and shorts over your swimsuit.

Hotel manners



Remember to remove your shoes in your hotel room. Also, change into the room slippers or toilet if they are provided.

Not suitable for souvenirs



Quarantine restrictions have been placed on sweet potatoes and citrus plants. These items may not be taken from Okinawa to other regions of Japan, as well as overseas.



In Japan, there is no custom of tipping at hotels, restaurants, taxis or when shopping. Instead, a nice "arigato" will make everyone's day better.

Restroom manners



The restrooms at commercial establishments may be used for free, but you will leave a good impression if you buy something small as a token of appreciation.

Free Wi-Fi is Available

Locations displaying the sticker "Be.Okinawa Free Wi-Fi" have Wi-Fi available free of charge. See below for details on hot spots and how to connect.

<http://be.okinawa.free.wifi.okinawaclip.com/?lang=en>



Multilingual Contact Center

- This is a public service for foreign visitors provided by Okinawa prefecture.
- Tourist information, interpreter services, emergency response support and other multilingual services are available by telephone, Skype or email.

*Service is free of charge. Only telephone dialing charges apply.

<Office Hours> 9:00~21:00 (JST)

Phone



0570-077201
+81-98-851-7286

Free Service. Only phone charges apply.

Skype



Free of charge

ID : call-center-en01
ID : call-center-en02



Okinawa Story

Search

<http://en.okinawastory.jp/>



[E-mail] visitokinawa@ocvb.or.jp

