A guide to the captivating isolated islands of Okinawa/Yaeyama Islands

Okinawan Remote Islands

八重山諸島

Ishigaki Island


Be. Okinawa

Okinawa Prefecture

Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau

http://www.visitokinawa.jp
Ishigaki Island and many other unique islands are the source of pride!

Explore the islands southwest from Naha! Yaeyama Islands can be reached in about an hour by airplane. They include the gateway island of Ishigaki, Taketomi Island where the beautiful and traditional townscapes are accentuated with red tile-roofed homes and white sandy paths, and Iriomote Island, which is covered by a virgin forest and called the Galapagos of the East. Enjoy touring the attractive island archipelago composed of 11 inhabited and numerous uninhabited islands, each with its own distinct character. Visit Hateruma Island, which is the southernmost inhabited island in Japan, Yonaguni Island, the westernmost island which is the last place in Japan to view sunset, and Kohama Island located in the middle of Yaeyama, which offers your fill of abundant nature and first-rate resorts.
A journey into Yaeyama Islands

Enjoy touring the islands with family and have a great time at the beach with good friends. Fully experience all season in Yaeyama Islands under the brightly shining sun!
Visit Hateruma Island where family memories and the Southern Cross dazzle!

Visiting Yaeyama Islands in the spring?
How about touring the beautiful waters and notable sites of Ishigaki Island, then crossing over to Hateruma Island for a dazzling experience under a twinkling starry sky?!

Note:
Please do not catch or take home fireflies. To view fireflies, participate in a local guided tour or accompany an individual knowledgeable about the best areas where yellow-eyed fireflies and other aquatic creatures are found. Visit locations with poor visibility, such as beaches and plains, after dark. Use flashlights, torch lights, and headlights, but avoid using electronic devices like cameras, cell phones, and flashlights that may disturb the fireflies or affect the viewing experience.

Yaeyama fireflies
(Yaeyamahimebuta) around mid-March to late May

*Local tours, night, and packages will take you to viewing places.

Day 1
Ishigaki Island

Ishigaki Island

Ishigaki Airport

Kabira Bay

Ishigaki Port

Ishigaki Island

Hirakubozaki

Ishigaki Park

Day 2
Hateruma Island

Hateruma Island

Hateruma Island

Ishigaki Island

Ishigaki Island

Ishigaki Island

Ishigaki Island

Hateruma Island

Day 3
Ishigaki Island

Hateruma Island

Takanazaki Monument marking the southernmost point in Japan

Located in southern Hateruma Island.
Delight in the spring season

on the sun-filled southern islands!

Be captivated by the dazzling fresh green season and the sweet fragrance of beautifully blooming flowers. Spring in Yaeyama islands is warm and pleasant, and a time to enjoy a variety of sports, music, and nature-themed events, including the Ishigaki Triathlon and Irinomote Music Festival.

Swimming season at the southernmost beaches in Japan

Swimming season at beaches in Yaeyama Islands begins as early as March. Around the time spring is in full swing in the Japanese archipelago, the earliest summer in Japan starts on the southern islands. Be the first to have a wonderful time on the southern beaches!

Irinomote Island

Irinomote Music Festival

A magnificent music festival is held around the time the sugarcane harvest is over. Visitors enjoy impressive performances by a variety of artists and bands every year (around mid-April every year).

Seishika flowers

The name written in Japanese uses the characters for "Hibiscus" and "flower," The impetuous name is appropriate for these beautiful flowers, which are called phantom flowers because they bloom in isolated places, such as along mountain streams.

Ishigaki Island

Tamatorizaki Observatory Deck

This superb spot gives a view overlooking the Pacific Ocean and East China Sea. The breezy observation deck is surrounded by a myriad of blooming hibiscus.

Barringtonia

Irinomote Island

These ephemeral flowers bloom in the evening and by morning have fallen from the trees. These are seen bays by canoe that allow visitors to view them falling onto the water's surface. The beautiful sight is a must see.

Hibiscus

Ishigaki Island

Takasago Island

A relative of the bird of paradise flower (Strelitzia reginae), these impressive flowers are available here resembling the crown of a white bird. Their crown is about 5 meter high.

Strelitzia

Kuro Island Cow Festival

Enter the drawing to win a cow! This festival is held every year on Kuro Island, which has a population of cows approximately 10 times greater than the human population. Buy a ticket for the Cow Festival games with a ticket for boat trip and a lottery ticket for the cow drawing and join the Yaeyama Kanako Farm (Kuro Island) to join them.

Yaeyama palm grove

Iwakusaka cicada (Mogannia minuta)

This Yaeyama palm grove is found in the Nabara District on Ishigaki Island. It is a very unusual lightning-strike point.

Bird of Paradise Tree

Iwakusaka cicada (Mogannia minuta)

This is the smallest cicada in Japan, growing to 1.5 cm-2 cm in length. Found on the beans of plants such as pampas grass and sugarcane, their cry signals the arrival of summer.
Blue ocean waters, starry skies, and the flowers of the southern isles.

Enjoy the excitement of Yaeyama Islands to your heart’s content!

Swimming season begins around mid-March on Yaeyama Islands, the southernmost point in Japan!
On clear, sunny days the temperature rapidly rises.
Spring is gone and in an instant you can enjoy your first swim of the summer at Yaeyama Islands!
Visitors can fully enjoy the allure of the great outdoors,
including coral reef spawning and the Southern Cross lighting up the night sky.

Diving

There are plenty of diving spots that can be readily enjoyed even by novice divers. In the clear blue coral reef waters where schools of colorful tropical fish swim, you may even encounter creatures such as marine rays, sea turtles, and giant squid.

Coral spawning

From May to September, the coral reefs extending along the sea bottom spawn at night around the phase of the full moon. Why not dive under the water at night to experience this magical world enveloped in the mystery of the sea?

The Southern Cross

Of the 88 constellations, the Southern Cross can be seen in the night sky above Yaeyama, which is called the most beautiful sky in Japan. Visitors never forget the beauty they saw when they see the Southern Cross, which can only be viewed this clearly in the southern hemisphere from December to June.

Ryukyu Ruddy Kingfisher

This red-bird carries the southwest islands in early summer. It is distinctive for its bright-red plumage, brilliant scarlet body, violet feathers on its back, and its striped wing.

Hama Island

This pristine island of white sand is between Koluma Island and Taketomi Island, and only appears at low tide. Even children can enjoy the beach in safety on this sandbank.

Monument marking the westernmost point in Japan

This hill is the very last place in Japan to view the setting sun, below the hill is a beautiful bird formation, and further in lies the legendary Kubo’s Hike.

Island sweets

Yaeyama pineapples are carefully grown under the gentle rain of the southern islands. The ripe pineapples have a high sugar content and an excellent balance of sweet and sour. Enjoy the sweet, juicy southern island panel in this abundant of seasonal pineapple, the king of tropical fruit.

Ishigaki beef

This high-grade beef is a specialty of Ishigaki Island. The meat is tender, rich, and juicy. A dish filled with this beef has a sumptuous flavor.
High summer in Yaeyama Islands is alive with coral reef waters. Visitors can take trips to Kabira Bay on Ishigaki Island and the waters off of Hatoma Island and Barasu Island. The diving experience at Yonaguni Island is also amazing!

**Day 1**
- Ishigaki Island
- Ishigaki Airport
- Ishigaki Bay glass-bottomed boat ride

**Day 2**
- Ishigaki Island
- Diving
- Ishigaki Port

**Day 3**
- To Barasu Island
- Resort island

**Other highlights**
- Angama has been passed down through the generations in the Ishigaki region. On the night of the Bon Festival celebrated according to the lunar calendar, Utsumai (an old man) and Umi (an old woman) messengers from the other world play the sanbin, drums, and flute, and sing and dance while chanting Buddhist prayers.
Experience all that the blue ocean, star-filled sky, and island attractions have to offer!

**Ishigaki Island: Kabira Bay**

This dive site was selected as one of the 100 best scenic spots in Japan and is a must-see in Yaeyama Islands. You'll be astounded by the beauty of the ocean, which is said to change into all the colors of the rainbow.

**Hibiscus**

The islands are alive with blooming semihibiscus flowers, such as the crimson hibiscus turned against the blue sky. The southern island landscape is captivating!

**Yonaguni Island: Yonaguni horses**

In summer, visitors can have fun at the beach riding a Yonaguni horse.

**Yonaguni Island: Rabbit**

Known as Rabbit Island, wild rabbits inhabit every corner of this island. Visitors find island and soothe by the adorable rabbits. This popular site offers recreational outdoor activities in the summer such as beaching.

**Yonaguni Island: The last place in Japan that the sun sets**

Yonaguni Island is the westernmost place in Japan and bounded near Taiwan. Visitors can enjoy being the last in Japan to view the magnificent sight of the sun setting over the western sea.

**Maehama Beach**

There are plenty of beautiful beaches on the small island of Maehama. Relax and enjoy Maehama Beach, which is right outside the community near the port.

**Hateruma Island: Star gazing guides**

Take advantage of star gazing guides and individual observation with a telescope under a star-studded sky visible from a shelter that offers a view of a forest tree of homes and streetlights.

**Okinawa Yaeyama Islands Area**

Known as Rabbit Island, wild rabbits inhabit every corner of this island. Visitors find island and soothe by the adorable rabbits. This popular site offers recreational outdoor activities in the summer such as beaching.

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**Maehama Beach**

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Come to the paradise islands and experience impressive nature and stunning surroundings!

Make the most of the summer at Yaeyama Islands. Play, eat, and soak up the tropical aura! Immerse yourself in the gorgeous tropical holiday of your dreams. Take advantage of various beach activities in the endless cobalt-blue ocean waters, a boat barbecue, and a nighttime cruise.

**Hateruma Island Nishi Beach**

Spending "Hateruma blue" waters that mesmerize and pure white sands—the world's most beautiful beach is known as the best in Yaeyama Islands.

**Iriomote Island Barasu Island tour**

Why not view the star-filled sky on Barasu Island, a tiny island covered by a fragrant scent of coral reef dusting on the ocean waters? Both the Milky Way and shooting stars can be seen.

**Kohama Island Night time tour**

Looking up at the night sky in the silent darkness, you'll see countless stars. The tropical region offers a different experience from daytime.

**Hateruma Island Mushama**

The largest festival in Hateruma takes place during the festival calendar. A variety of events are held and parties are made for a prosperous year. There are many interesting sights to see, including a lantern parade led by the famous gardener, donkey, and the local art of brightening.

**Yubu Island Water buffalo-drawn cart**

Take a ride on a water buffalo-drawn cart to get to Yubu Island! The water buffaloes take a leisurely walk at water buffalo pond on the island.

**Yenaguni Island Ocean floor topography**

Are the strange geographical features and fruits found on the ocean floor off Yenaguni Island marble or natural? The beach has been the subject of much debate.

**Iriomote Island Semitropical jungle Urauchi River star night tour**

View the last sunset and a sky filled with stars from Urauchi River, the longest river in Okinawa Prefecture! Experience a tranquility that makes you feel as if you are lost in the middle of the night.

**Island fruits**

Summer in the southern islands offers an array of delicious fruits. Taste the seasonal tropical fruits, including the small but very sweet island bananas, juicy sweet-and-sour pineapples, and mango that is so sweet it's almost as if it melts in your mouth, and the impressive looking dragon fruit that has a slightly sour, refreshing flavor.
Okinawa Yaeyama Islands Area

Relax with beautiful Mother Nature and island beauty treatments

Dive into the ocean off Ishigaki Island and enjoy the allure of beauty treatments and handicrafts. Women will love traveling to Irinome Island to appreciate the subtropical forest and river, and revel in all that Yaeyama Islands has to offer in the fall.

Other highlights
Places to view manta rays
Kabira Ishigaki in the northern part of Ishigaki Island is also called Mantra Scramble and is a popular diving spot. Get a close look at the manta rays that glide through the water as if flying in the sky.

Day 1
Ishigaki Island
Nozaki, 20 min.
Ishigaki Island
3 View manta ray
Popular with divers. You can see manta rays with the naked eye in Ishigaki Island.

Day 2
Ishigaki Island
Kabira Bay
Nozaki, 20 min.
Ishigaki Island
6 Snorkelling
Experience the glistening underwater world of coral reefs.

Day 3
Ishigaki Island
Kabira Bay
Nozaki, 20 min.
Ishigaki Island
11 Food: Yaeyama sweets
You’ll love this southern island sweets made from local ingredients.

Ishigaki Island
12 Sawa trekking (river walking), canyoning (descending into ravines), and canoeing
Eat, play, relax, and experience festivals...Feel refreshed by the island delights found only here!

Fall in Yaeyama Islands is full of relaxation and fun!
The spa beauty treatments available in the southern islands will benefit body and mind with therapies that utilize local natural ingredients.
Don't miss the exhilarating nature activities, such as canyoning in the subtropical jungle!

Kohama Island - Spas
Visitors can take full advantage of the spa in the best settings at resort hotels. Rejuvenate the body through a relaxing experience that utilizes the blessing of Okinawa rain, such as fascia, brown sugar, oolong, aloe vera, and marine clay called Ryukyu kaoru.

Fishing
On the islands of Yaeyama, you too can become one of the much talked about “fishing gurus.” Try your hand at a fishing experience that gives you close to an abundance of subtropical fish, including the plethora of fish of Okinawa, the gourmand’s paradise.

Torodo Island - Star Sand Beach
It is said that your skin will become fair if made on this remote star-shaped sand. Enjoy searching for lucky star sand at this natural beach while gazing at the emerald green ocean.

Triemote Island - Pool and spa
Triemote Island is full of the greenery of a virgin forest, but visitors can also have a good time at the resort facilities including swimming pool and spa. Enjoy the ultimate in relaxation surrounded by nature with a Thai massage or aromatherapy body treatment.

Triemote Island - Canyoning
Canyoning is an exciting activity that makes the most of the natural force of water, UIG, slides, and jump off. You’ll be taken to out-of-the-way spots only known to your guide.

Shipaki Island - Mineral therapy
Visitors should not miss out on the spa and beauty treatments only available here. They use natural sea salt and water full of minerals from the beautiful ocean waters of Yaeyama Islands. Take advantage of soothing mud baths and benefit from a healthy, soothing effect.

Yonaguni Island - Yonaguni horses
These horses are native to Yonaguni Island. They are strong but small, splendid animals that grow to be 110cm - 120cm tall. Ride on these delightful horses and take a stroll through the island.

Triemote Island - Sundari Tree
The tallest mangrove in the Yaeyama Islands, The Sundari is a natural monument on Yaeyama Island. Its lush foliage creates an awe-inspiring atmosphere. It symbolizes a sense of the eternal flow of time and replenishment with the power of nature.
Canoeing and women mountain enthusiasts

Don’t miss one love unique to Yaeyama Islands that offers leisurely enjoyment of an abundance of nature through activities that include canoeing and bird watching. There are fulfilling trekking experiences for women mountain enthusiasts on Iriomote Island, which has the highest mountain in Okinawa.

Marine sports

When you think of the hero of island life, a beautiful ocean breeze comes to mind first. Experience diving and snorkeling, and become an avid ocean lover. Perfect-world experiences are available that turn your wish into a reality.

Yonaguni Island marathon

On this border island located at the southeastern tip of Okinawa, participants can run amid superb scenery as they take a loop around the island, as well as enjoy interacting with the island residents. Two courses are available: 24 km and 10 km.

Iriomote Island Activities

Iriomote Island has loads of activities that allow visitors to get close to nature, including trekking, canoeing, and snorkeling. Called the Selfie Paradise of the East, Iriomote Island is a great place for active women-only groups that are looking to experience the power of the forest.

Iriomote Island Caving

Iriomote’s incredible natural caves and limestone caves through the popular activity, caving. You’ll encounter an underground world you didn’t know existed! There are many caving tours to choose from!

Kohama Island Spas

This island is full of nature that soothes the spirit. There are also facilities where you can relax to the sound of the breeze and ocean waves while lounging in dry or indoor baths, receiving massage therapy, or enjoying natural beauty experiences, and rest beauty experiences that utilize Okinawan herbs, traditionals, and fruits.

Actively experience the seasonal power of Yaeyama through the ocean, sky, nature, and island ingredients!

Be awed by a sweeping view of the coral reef ocean from the vast skies while paragliding! Actively revel in the ocean, sky, and forests by canoeing in a river surrounded by a mangrove forest, and explore natural caverns! Get your fill of delicious seasonal flavors by trying sweets and dishes made with the bounty of the southern islands.
Come to the islands in winter for a warm, leisurely journey!

Ishigaki Island has numerous picturesque nature spots and historic sites. From Ishigaki Island, cross over the ocean by water buffalo-drawn cart to Yubu Island, and take things slow on Taketomi Island, soaking up the atmosphere on “island time.”

**Tour Highlight:**
3 Days 2 nights: Ishigaki Island, Iriomote Island, Yubu Island, Taketomi Island

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**Day 1**
- Ishigaki Island
- Ishigaki Airport: Approx. 15 mins.
- Kabira Bay (glass-bottomed boat): Approx. 60 mins.
- Toguchin Grave

**Day 2**
- Ishigaki Island
- Ishigaki Island Limestone Caves: Approx. 60 mins.
- Ishigaki Airport: Approx. 15 mins.
- Hoho Terminal

**Day 3**
- Iriniome Island
- Yubu Island
- Taketomi Island
- Ishigaki Island

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**Winter Cherry Trees**

The cherry blossoms season lasts in Okinawa from January to February. The Okinawan cherry blossom, the karazakura, differs from the kind found on the mainland and is notable for its dark petals. Flowers resembling plum blossoms that bloom facing down.
Discover a wealth of traditional culture and mystical nature, including subtropical scenery and creatures.

While northerly winds blow in a cold winter, at Yaeyama Islands the cherry blossoms are in full bloom! Enchanted by the warm sun’s rays that herald an early spring, visitors come to see and experience the nature, lifestyles, and traditional crafts unique to this island. Be sure to gaze at the beautiful Southern Cross that lights up the night sky.

**Ishigaki Island**
Ishigaki Island limestone caves

These limestone caves were created from coral reefs and extend up to 3.2 km in length. Approximately 300 m are open to the public. Experience the fantastic world of rare wildlife habitats and rich biodiversity.

**Crafting a shisa**

By making the traditional Okinawan guardian deity, the shisa, on your trips to Yaeyama, staff provide thorough instructions, so even visitors making the effort for the first time will enjoy the experience.

**Iriomote Island**
Mariyudu Waterfall

The beautiful, three-tiered waterfall located in the middle of a lush green forest was selected as one of the 100 best waterfalls in Japan. The water flows into the pool at the bottom of the waterfall, creating a mystical aura. Mariyudu means “Iridescence” in the local dialect.

**The earliest blooming cherry tree blossoms in Japan**

In January, cherry tree blossoms in Okinawa are the first to bloom in Japan! The mixture of cherry blossom and warm beauty is a joy. Visitors will thoroughly enjoy spring by early cherry blossom viewing parties in Yaeyama Islands.

**Boat sightseeing tours**

Ride on a magnificient boat and enjoy the greens of the mangrove forest with bread making your way through, taking in the rich nature of the southern island.

**Yonaguni Island**
Yonaguni horses

These horses are native to Yonaguni Island. They are strong and small, shaped animals that grow to be 135 cm tall. Ride on these delightful horses and take a stroll through the island.

**Taketomi Island**
Trekking

Full your dreams for adventure by joining a trekking tour to meet with wild flowers in the jungle and being immersed in a forest surrounded by sub-tropical flora.

**Glass-bottomed boats**

Gaze at the pretty coral reefs and admire the colorful tropical fish swimming in the clear waters of Yaeyama Islands. Fins and flaps if you’re swimming along with the fish in the blue water!

**Yubu Island**

Located by water buffalo-drawn cart from Iriomote Island, this entire island is a botanical garden. Sub-tropical flowers and trees flourish in the small island, creating a picturesque setting well with a tranquility.
Kohama Island Golf

Enjoy resort golf from a course that overlooks the ocean and experience the power of nature by trekking in a majestic forest. Then, experience the flavors of winter found only in Yaeyama Islands, including swordfish from the waters of Yonaguni Island and wild boar from Iriomote Island. There are endless pleasures to be had!

Iriomote Island Jungle trekking

A deep green forest, a turtle-dwelling pond, and the power of nature demonstrated in the force of the waterfall flowing into the waterfall pool—come to Iriomote Island for an experience of enjoying nature that you will never forget!

Iriomote Island Mountain climbing

There are many mountains where visitors can enjoy mountain climbing, including the tallest mountain In Okinawa, Mt. Yomitan. Climbing up the mountain is a truly refreshing experience that takes your breath away.

Iriomote Island Kayaking

Paddle your way through the middle of the jungle river, surrounded by mountains. Be amazed by the scenery as you glide on the water.
Be. Okinawa

Okinawa Tourism Risk Management Information Site
http://okinawa-crisis-mgt.info

The following information is available on disasters in Okinawa Prefecture.
The information can be viewed on the internet browser of a computer or smartphone, or with a special app.

- Evacuation
- Earthquake
- Typhoon
- Record Rainfall
- Tsunami
- Landslide Warning
- Weather
  (heavy rain warnings, flood warnings, storm warnings)

Information on the smartphone app
Disaster information is provided for individuals in the tourism industry and tourists to ensure the safety of tourists through prompt evacuation guidance in times of major natural disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis. In Okinawa Prefecture,
Category: Travel (App Store) Travel & Local (Google Play) Price: Free
These notes that expenses related to communications such as packet transmission and data transmission fees will be the responsibility of the user.

Airplane

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Ferry

- Ferry service to remote islands in Yaeyama Islands
  - Ishigaki - Taketomi/Kohama/Hatoma/Iriomote
  - Anel Travel, Ishigaki Reservation Center TEL0980-83-0055
  - Ishigaki Island Dream Travel TEL0980-84-3178
  - Yaeyama Island Sightseeing Ferry TEL0980-82-5010
  - Ishigaki - Hateruma
  - Anel Travel Ishigaki Reservation Center TEL0980-83-0055
  - Ishigaki - Yamaguni
  - Fukuyama Kain TEL0980-82-4962

Ishigaki City Tourism Exchange Association
TEL: 0980-82-2809

Taketomi Town Tourist Association
TEL: 0980-82-5445

Yonaguni Town Tourism Association
TEL: 0980-87-2402

Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau
1381-1 Oroku, Naha City, Okinawa
(Okinawa Industrial Support Center 2F)
TEL: 098-859-6123 (main switchboard)

Naha Airport Visitor Information Center
150 Kagamizu, Naha City, Okinawa
(Domestic Line Passenger Terminal 1F)
TEL: 098-857-8884 (main switchboard)
open year-round 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.

Naha Airport International Terminal Bidg. Visitor Information Center
174 Kagamizu, Naha City, Okinawa
TEL: 098-859-0742 (main switchboard)
open year-round 10:30 a.m.—7:30 p.m.

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