Okinawa Prefecture, which is situated at the southernmost point of Japan, is one of the country’s most popular resort areas.

Okinawa’s world-class beauty can be seen from its magnificent beaches and numerous diving spots. Moreover, the Ryukyu Kingdom culture, which has been handed down since ancient times is treasured and preserved. This culture developed independently with influences from the cultures of mainland Japan and China, and can only be found here in Okinawa.

We at Okinawa Prefecture and Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau are working to tell people of other countries about the charm and appeal of Okinawa and to encourage everyone to visit Okinawa. We have been cooperating with businesses in Okinawa so that Muslim travelers may feel safe and enjoy their stay comfortably. These efforts have steadily increased the number of Muslim support restaurants and hotels around in Okinawa.

We sincerely hope that people of Islamic faith will be able to see the appeal and attraction of Okinawa in this Guidebook, and come to see and experience what Okinawa can offer.

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Acknowledgement: We hereby acknowledge the local Muslims in and out of Okinawa for their contributions and support to this guidebook.
Food
Enjoy delicious Halal food!

When you come to Okinawa, be sure to try

Goya Champuru
Goya Champuru is a very popular Okinawan cuisine. "Goya" is a word from the Okinawan dialect meaning "to combine a variety of ingredients in a stir-fry.

One theory says that the word comes from the Indonesian and Malaysian word "goyau" which means "to mix." Okinawan culture, which is a mishmash of cultures from Southeast Asia, Japan, China and other areas, is also known as "Goya Culture".

Okinawa Soba
This is the soul food of the Okinawan people. There is also non-pork and non-alcohol Okinawa Soba!

Ramen made with local Okinawan noodles!
Original ramen with Yamaya saba noodle is a delicious and Muslim supported dish.

There are plenty of Muslim support Japanese restaurants too!

Okinawa is the island of "fresh maguro (tuna). It is one of the places in Japan known for catching a large number of tuna. Furthermore, all four species of tuna in Japan are caught in Okinawa. You can find conveyor belt sushi restaurants around in Okinawa that mainly serve tuna. Be sure to try Okinawa "Churashima Maguro" (beautiful island tuna)

TEPPAN-YAKI
The chef's performance is fun to watch as well! Even our side dishes may be prepared Muslim supported.

SHABU-SHABU
Fresh seafood caught in clear waters is exquisite! You may even enjoy fresh seafood that are swimming in the tank inside our shop. It's great eaten raw, or as a Shabu-Shabu. Savor these foods to your heart's content.

Halal Steak on Rice
Naha Airport International Passenger Terminal Building has a Muslim support restaurant, serving Halal Steak on Rice and Seared Chirashi Rice.

Recipe Contest
Halal recipe contest and other such events are held in Okinawa. The winner in the non-pork and non-alcohol division is the "Muslim-Friendly Course Meal Featuring Fresh Okinawan Vegetables." The winner in the Vegetarian Division is the "Okinawa Genki Vegetables Rolled in Nori Seaweed and Colorful Salad" which is served at Yumiko Ueno in Urasoe City.

In recent years, the number of Muslim support restaurants has been on the rise. The above menus are local foods, so be sure to give them a try and enjoy.
Tourism & Experiences
Amazing and enjoyable experiences await you!

Try making the Okinawan sweet mochi (rice cake) while mingling with the locals.
Brown sugar and beni-miso (purple yam) mochi are wrapped in aromatic sakura (cherry blossom) leaves. There are also many other things to try besides making mochi.

Impressive Enormous Aquarium for You to Enjoy
About 2.7 million people visit this aquarium each year. It’s the number one spot that Japanese travelers visit when in Okinawa as well. This is one aquarium that you will not want to miss! The aquarium is home to 21,000 fish and other marine life numbering 740 species. It is a magnificent recreation of the ocean world around Okinawa. The giant water tank, “Kuroshio Sea”, which is one of the world’s largest extending 170m deep, 35m wide and 27m back, offers visitors the chance to see three whale sharks and schools of mantas rays swimming around. Located outside of the aquarium, “The Okinawan Trex” is also very popular destination where visitors can catch a glimpse of dolphins’ spectacular athletic ability.

Sugar cane Harvest Experience
Sugar cane grows to heights of 3 meters. How about using an actual stick to try your hand at harvesting sugar cane? A picture of you cutting down sugar cane stalks would make a great souvenir of your trip to Okinawa. There is a kitchen where you can also boil it down to make brown sugar. The freshly made steaming hot brown sugar is incredibly delicious! Take some home as a souvenir.

Southern Island Natural Hot Spring
Enjoy this hot spring that sources water rising up from underground. There is a relaxing large communal bath as well as private rooms available.

Cycling Experience
How about borrowing a bicycle and ride along a pure white coral road? You can enjoy a leisurely stroll through the hamlets where the old townscapes are still intact or head to the beach to look for star sand.

Shisa Craft Class
Make your own original Shisa (lion-eggs) that doesn’t look like any other anywhere in the world. The instructor will kindly show you how to make it, have fun!

Loom Weaving Class
Experience traditional weaving uniquely and freely. Okinawa has a very rich culture of traditional textile.

Check it out!!
There are many activities to experience here! In Okinawa, a unique culture, not found anywhere else in Japan, has been passed down over the ages. In addition to the other experiences presented, throughout the year, you can easily enjoy a traditional Lisa show, performance of traditional sanshin instruments, craft Ryukyu glass works under the instruction of a master, have your picture taken wearing a brilliantly colored Okinawa style “Bingata” (dyed kimono), or enjoy countless other fun experiences. Be sure to go out to some of the many spots for amazing and enjoyable experiences.
Feel the Colors, Rhythms and Forms of Okinawa

There are many wonderful spots for photographs! Why not visit a few with your friends to take pictures? There are also many beautiful beaches in Okinawa with their own unique charm.

Okinawa’s Cherry Blossoms

In Okinawa Prefecture, the cherry blossoms come into bloom earlier than anywhere else in Japan. The Nakinli Castle ruins, which is another World Heritage Site, is also a famous place for viewing the cherry blossoms. Cherry blossoms are only in bloom for a short time during the year, and the view is even more beautiful when lit up at night. Try to make it there to get a feel of Okinawa’s history!

Nine World Heritage Sites

In Okinawa, the sites of castles and parks that played a significant role during the ancient Ryukyu Kingdom have been designated as World Heritage Sites. Make sure that your visit includes a trip to see the Shuri Castle, which was beautifully designed in Ryukyu style, incorporating aspects of Japan’s architectural culture, in the image of Okinawa’s Forbidden City.

Okinawa’s Main Street – Kokusai Dori Street

The street is lined with eateries, souvenir shops and sundry shops. It is one of the main tourist spots for shopping and walking around. There’s even a shopping arcade for you to enjoy on rainy days.

Blue Seal Ice Cream

Born in America, raised in Okinawa, Blue Seal Ice Cream is the local’s favorite and is popular among visitors. Select your own flavor using the Instagram store.

Beni Imo Tart

Very popular souvenir prepared with the delicious taste of beni imo yams made into sweets.

Umincho T-shirts and Okinawan Sandals

T-shirts printed with motifs and words particular to Okinawa, and Okinawan sandals infused with your favorite words or design. You can create an original design to be the only one in the world!

Okinawan Cosmetics

Okinawa has many cosmetics derived from natural plants.

Check it out!!

Aside from Mihama American Village, Okinawa has many places to shop such as AEON MALL Okinawa Rycom, public markets and shopping districts. Prayer rooms are provided in some shopping malls and other areas. How about enjoying a leisurely shopping trip?
Spring
In April, the beaches open! You can enjoy swimming at the beach. "Ryukyu Kanto" which is the earliest fireworks festival in all Japan, is also held in April. It is a fusion of Japan’s traditional fireworks with Okinawa’s nature and culture.

Summer
In May, there is the “Hai" boat race, in which teams compete to see who can row the fastest. This traditional event, which has been continued since the days of the Ryukyu Kingdom, is an event to offer prayers for a bountiful catch and safety at sea. Summer is also the time to enjoy the beach and marine activities in Okinawa! The Okinawa Zenzu Elsa Matsuri is the largest event for traditional performances of Elda dances in Okinawa. Along with the sound of drums, teams from different communities around the island dressed in their distinctive colors perform dances one after another. It is a dazzling spectacle for both the eyes and ears.

Autumn
Even in early autumn, you can enjoy swimming and marine activities. The showcase event in October when the temperature is milder is "The Great Tug of War". This contest has continued since the 16th century as a prayer for health and peace. The rope has a full-length of 250m east to west. "The Great Tug of War" is a major event in which some 15,000 people compete in pulling the rope for their team. At Shuri Castle, the "Mid-autumn Celebration" is held, during which the ceremony to welcome envoys from the Chinese Emperor is reenacted, and traditional dances are performed.

Winter
Winter in Okinawa is full of blooming flowers. The most popular flower in Japan is the cherry blossom. Around the end of January in an area in the northern part of the Okinawa main island known as "Yanbaru", the cherry blossoms come into bloom the earliest anywhere in Japan. This type of cherry blossom is the Formosa Cherry Tree, and visitors can enjoy a variety of colors from a light peach to a brilliant pink. At Yae in Naha Town, a festival to celebrate the earliest cherry blossoms in Japan is held. Whale watching is also a special attraction during winter and many people enjoy the chance to see whales breaching and gliding along the surface.

Four Seasons in Okinawa

Guide to Okinawa Weather Year Round
Okinawa’s climate offers many warm days throughout the year as it is located in a subtropical region of Japan.

January  | February  | March  | April  | May
---|---|---|---|---
average 17.6°C  | average 18.8°C  | average 19.4°C  | average 20.9°C  | average 23.8°C
average 23.5°C  | average 18.6°C  | average 17.9°C  | average 18.4°C  | average 12.0°C
Rainy season | April | May

June  | July  | August  | September  | October  | November  | December
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
average 26.9°C  | average 29.3°C  | average 28.3°C  | average 33.3°C  | average 33.3°C  | average 25.0°C  | average 32.0°C
average 24.6°C  | average 23.9°C  | average 23.9°C  | average 23.9°C  | average 23.9°C  | average 20.7°C  | average 19.4°C
Rainy season  | Typhoon season  | Beach season  | Beach season  | Beach season  | Beach season  | Beach season