Travel Guide Book
BEST OF
Okinawa
JAPAN
日本
冲縄県
OCVB
Welcome to Okinawa!
5 Minutes Guide to OKINAWA
Resort Accommodations for the Adventurous Traveler

Northern Area
The area north of Naha City is called Yomitan, and is known for its beautiful stretch of coastline and expansive green mountains. You will find rare animals such as the azalea-loving Okinawa Rail and Okinawa Woodpecker in the evergreen, broad-leaved forests. The Mihama Peninsula is also home to the world-famous Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium.

Central Area
Due to the U.S. military base stationed here, the central area on the main island has been Americanized in various ways, and you’ll find many signs written in English. Located in Chatan, American Village was redeveloped on former base land, incorporating new styles. The area is always bustling with shoppers and tourists. The west coast is lined with resort hotels and offers a diverse range of marine and leisure activities.

Southern Area
The southern part of Okinawa is a pastoral region known for expansive sugarcane fields. The area is full of historical significance. Legend has it that the Ryukyu god of creation descended onto this land. As such, the area is home to the most sacred sites of the Ryukyu Kingdom. However, the region was also the site of vicious battles during WWII, and many citizens caught up in the struggle lost their lives here. Today, the battlefields have been converted into the Peace Memorial Park and many people come to the site to pray for peace.

Outer Islands Area
Aside from the main island, people also inhabit 37 other islands, each has its own distinct culture and environment. Every island is uniquely beautiful, offering diverse charms.

Location of Okinawa Islands
Okinawa Prefecture is located on the southern half of the Ryukyu Islands, which run from Kyushu to Taiwan. The prefecture comprises around 160 small islands spread across an area of seven thousand square kilometers, 1,000 by 600 kilometers, 66 of the islands are populated.

Japan’s Only Subtropical Region
Okinawa Prefecture is the only subtropical region in all of Japan. With a marine climate, the winds generally blow from the southeast in summers and from the northeast in winters. Hailing up from the Philippines, the warm Kuroshio current goes northwards towards Taiwan, providing Okinawa with warm winters. Annual temperatures average 23.1°C (73.8°F), with average lows of 20.8°C (69.4°F). While there is rarely any snow or frost, Okinawa sees typhoons between summer and fall.

Day 1
On the first day, go sightseeing in Naha City. After trying Okinawan food at the airport, take the Ho-kai to the Okinawa Aquarium, where you can see live fish swimming. Then visit Shuri Castle to learn about Ryukyu history. After that, go to Motobu Ocean Park. From there you can visit Kuina Street, Matsui Public Market, Hara Street, and Tsubasa Yachinmart Street. The entire area is walkable. To end your day, enjoy food and drinks at a delicious barbecue (takoyaki) in town.

Day 2
On day two, head to the northern part of the island. As you go further north, the resort hotels lining the coast begin to disappear. Look out across the ocean from Urasoe Marine Park, then drive to Kaui Island via the breathtaking Kouri Bridge. Upon returning back on the main island, head to Miyako Town. At the town of Shuri, you can visit the nearby Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium to view subaquatic sea creatures. Enjoy dinner in Naha City.

Day 3
The final day. Though you’ll be heading to Naha Airport after leaving the hotel, you’ll first need to make a stop in central Okinawa. Okinawa City and the Chatan area are full of stunning tourist spots. Don’t forget to buy souvenirs. Stop at Okinawa Outlet Mall Kutaniya nearby the airport to enjoy some shopping. This is a good place to buy yourself some souvenirs. Be sure to leave time to return your rental car before the flight.

2 Days, 3 Nights Course on Okinawa’s Main Island
This course is recommended for first-time travelers to Okinawa!

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A Mysterious Ocean with Diverse Living Creatures

Multicolored coral reefs stretch out below the beautiful clear water. Considered one of the island’s natural miracles, Okinawa’s oceans are thriving with life. You’ll surely be impressed by what awaits.

Subtropical Old-Growth Forests

Starting with Yanbaru National Park on the northside of the island, Okinawa is covered in subtropical old-growth forest. With an abundance of vegetation and water, the old-growth forests are a treasure trove of rare animals and plants. Whether trekking, animal viewing, or canoeing, you’re sure to have a truly memorable experience.

Rivers Run from the Green Forests to the Blue Ocean

Rainfall in the subtropical forest forms rivers that flow out to the ocean. The clear streams in the mangrove forests thrive with extremely rare felidoms. Paddle through these channels in a kayak to discover mysterious and rare creatures distinct from those found in the mountains and ocean.

A Thousand Years of Okinawan History

Groups began forming across the islands around the 10th century based around ethnic and familial ties. The three kingdoms vied for supremacy in the region: the northern Ishigaki kingdom, the central Chiran Kingdom, and the southern Nanzan kingdom. The three kingdoms unified in 1429, marking the beginning of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The Ryukyu Kingdom maintained close ties with China. Envoys known as Sapposhi were periodically dispatched on behalf of the Chinese emperor in order to certify the succession of royal power.

The Ryukyu Kingdom enjoyed prosperity through trade with mainland Japan and Southeast Asia. At the start of the 17th century, the Satsuma clan of southern Kyushu invaded and conquered the kingdom. While the kingdom maintained ties with China, the Satsuma clan strengthened their rule over the area.

By 1879, the Meiji Restoration put an end to the Ryukyu Kingdom’s 450-year history and Okinawa Prefecture was born. Towards the end of WWII, Okinawa was the site of Japan’s sole domestic ground battle. After the war, the region was governed by the U.S. military for 27 years before it was finally returned to Japan in 1972. In recent years the area has grown increasingly popular as a tourist destination, with the number of visitors from Japan and abroad continuing to grow.

World Heritage Sites

Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu

Nakijin Castle Site
Katsuren Castle Site
Zakimi Castle Site
Nakagusuku Castle Site
Sefa Utaki
Shuri Castle Site
Tamaudun
Sonaihara-utsuki Stone Gate
Shikinaen Garden
Traditional Performing Arts and Art Crafts

Okinawa has been shaped by the unique history of the Ryukyu Kingdom. As an independent nation, it developed a culture distinct from Japan. This culture is now beginning to blossom as a source of pride throughout the world.

Kumi Odori (Stage Dance)
Designated as a national Important Intangible Cultural Property, Kumi odori is Okinawa’s most famous traditional performing art. The practice is said to have originated during the time of the Ryukyu dynasty to impress the sappoish envoys from China. Based on Japanese and Chinese techniques, the dance was created by an okinu (Magistrate of Dance) named Tsumakusuku Chukun.

Sanshin
The sanshin is an essential instrument in Okinawan music, and is believed to originate from China’s three-stringed samisen. The body is typically made from imported python skin or artificial leather.

Ceramics and Lacquerware
Culled yachan, Okinawan ceramics are known for their warm color and texture. Yachi man production is associated with the Takesa area of Naha City, and the village of Yomitan. Artisans make baskets, dishes, bowls, and statues of the deity Shisa to protect one’s home. Lacquerware is another craft associated with the Ryukyu Islands. The wares were presented as gifts to the Chinese emperor and the Japanese shogun during the Edo period. Each piece is considered a highly valued piece of art.

Ryukyu Glass
Ryukyu glass originated at the end of the 19th century. After WWII, locals used empty bottles discarded by the U.S. military to create authentic glassware. White glass is typically considered best without any air bubbles. Ryukyu glass artisans intentionally mix air bubbles into the glass, creating a uniquely beautiful appearance. Ryukyu glass items make for a popular household product or souvenir.

Dyed and Woven Textiles
Okinawa’s dyed and woven textiles developed through trade with Southeast Asia and China during the reign of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Unique patterns have been created that correspond with Okinawa’s culture and climate. Various dyers and weaving techniques have been passed on through various regions within the prefecture. Typical textiles include ihoaka, shuri, ryukyu kasuri, yomitan hanii, ihoaka, kuma, hanii, haku, ryukyu kasuri, and yomitan kasuri.

Japanese, Western, Chinese, Korean, and Local Okinawan Cuisine
Okinawa is home to numerous restaurants, allowing you to enjoy a diverse range of cuisine. Okinawan cuisine is particularly good as a source of health and longevity. The cuisine is largely divided into two categories: the court dishes that developed as food for the king and his court during the reign of the Ryukyu Kingdom, and affordable, reasonable dishes that developed through the practical wisdom of the communities. While influenced by China and Japan, both styles have developed into unique culinary cultures. During your stay, be sure to try this Okinawan cuisine alongside the local.

Enjoy your meal with Okinawan wares, eating from yachaman ceramics and pouring awamori sake into Ryukyu glass.

Minyo Izakaya (Folk Song Tavern)
Okinawa’s folk songs are known as minyo, and you can enjoy watching live performances of these songs while drinking and eating in izakaya bars and restaurants. Along with enjoying the lively atmosphere, everyone is welcome to take part in the song and dance.
Fun Year-Round Activities on Land and Sea

Even in the middle of winter, Okinawa’s subtropical climate ensures a Year-round 17°C to 25°C, allowing for full outdoor activities throughout the year.

**Scuba Diving**
With beautiful coral reefs and pleasant weather year-round, Okinawa is a diving mecca. Beginners just learning how to scuba dive are encouraged to start with beach entry diving. Boat entry diving and various other options are available for advanced divers.

**Fishing**
Okinawa is most known for its big-game fishing. From the boat, you will be able to see tuna, marlin, common dolphinfish, and other species swimming along in the Kuroshio Current. You’ll be surprised how many bites you get, and how strong the fish can pull.

**Sea Kayaking**
Enjoy a relaxing ride over the ocean. The sea looks different when viewed from a kayak, so enjoy the unique perspective. You’ll definitely feel refreshed.

**SUP**
SUP is a marine sport in which you stand atop a large surfboard, using a paddle to ride the waves and glide across the water. The view over the ocean is incredible, and after a day, you can also see picturesque seascapes through the crystal-clear water.

**Parasailing**
Being pulled in a parachute by a boat almost feels like flying. Enjoy the feeling of floating between the ocean and the sky.

**Cycling**
Okinawa is also a perfect place for cycling. Take a relaxing ride, bathing in the breeze as you enjoy the beautiful coastal views. We also recommend taking a relaxing ride on the exotic streets and tranquil countryside roads that look out across expansive sugar cane fields. You can comfortably cycle in the winter as well due to the warm weather.

**Golf**
Enjoy a game of golf throughout the year. Feel a comfortable game in the summer, back in the ocean breeze and avoid the intense sunshine. Winter is the best season for playing, as weather is pleasant and the greens maintain their green color. You can easily play two rounds in a single day.

**Tranquility in the Subtropical Forest**
The northern part of the island is known as ‘tranquility. The mountains in this region are surrounded by subtropical forests. Recent years have seen a rise in eco-tourism. The undisturbed natural environment of the northern forest is home to rare plants and animals, and tours to observe these species have grown increasingly popular. In the village of Hiraga, you can paddle a canoe upstream to view the mangrove forest. Meanwhile, the village of Kinigami is a great spot for stargazing. Remote islands such as Higashihahajima are a last frontier.22.7 km off the coast of Okinawa,3 are also popular destinations for eco-tours.

Hiraga Village Tourism Promotion Council
471-24 Taiga, Hiraga Village
Kinigami Tourism Association 1901-7 Kinigami Village, Ama Town Yonofu/Monabino Mori

Mangrove Kayaking
EXPERIENCE OKINAWA

The Birthplace of Karate: Experience Authentic Traditional Karate in Okinawa

Karate is an Okinawan fighting technique based around punches and kicks. Influenced by Chinese martial arts, the techniques developed into a unique form, which was subsequently popularized throughout the world. The ancient martial art Aikido, which uses weapons like nunchucks, swords, and a development alongside karate, is recognized as an official event in the 2020 Summer Olympics (Tokyo). Awareness of the sport is continuing to grow. The Okinawa Karate Kagran opened in March 2017 in Nago-cho as a center to study karate and promote its culture. In addition, the Okinawa Traditional Karate Kodokan International Training Center (Nakamura-Mura) teaches and promotes the martial art in domestic and international contexts, and also offers introductory classes. [Reservations required]

Okinawa Karate Kagran
854-1 Tenzogasaki, Tensugawa City
TEL:098-971-7025 Closed Wednesday

Okinawa Traditional Karate Kodokan International Training Center (Nakamura-Mura) 1120-1 Takashima, Yomitan Village
TEL:098-854-1211 Closed Sunday

Craftmaking

Alongside performing arts, crafts are one of the fruits of Ryukyuan culture. These include a wide range of genres, from yamchum ceramics to Ryukyu glass, woven textiles, dyes, and lacquerware. Consider trying your hand at craftmaking to experience the essence of the culture.

Play the Sanshin

Most sanshin ensembles in Okinawa offer lessons where you can learn how to play.

Okinawan Ryukyu Kimono Rental and Dressing

This popular activity allows you to wear traditional clothing from the Ryukyu Kingdom period. Men's clothing is also available.

How to enjoy Okinawa’s four seasons

SPRING

嚏

SUMMER

AUTUMN

WINTER

Okinawa is the only prefecture in Japan which belongs to the subtropical zone, with the annual average temperatures remaining mild around 23.1°C in Naha. The main city. That said, the region does have four seasons, and each season marks the seasonal highlights throughout the year.
**Touches of a vibrant capital city and old castle town**

Naha is the political, economic and cultural center of Okinawa. Shuri once prospered as the castle town of the Ryukyu Kingdom and even today, you can see subtle signs of the prosperity of old Okinawa, including the cobblestone streets, and red tile roofs.

1. **Naminoue Shrine**
   - A 5-minute walk from Naminoue Beach station on bus numbers 6, 7, 10, 11, 20, 30, 25, 22, 32, 23, 27, 28, 29, 36
   - This shrine is a traditional Japanese shrine being renovated by the local Okinawa people. It stands on a high hill overlooking the beautiful sea of Okinawa and is visited by a large number of worshipers. Legend says that the shrine was built in the 15th Century and is said to be a view of the eight shrines of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Why not visit the shrine to pray for health and happiness?

2. **Fukushin Garden**
   - 10-minute walk from Naminoue Shrine
   - 10-minute walk from Fuchukin produce on bus numbers 6, 7, 10, 25, 28
   - Fukushin Garden is a traditional Okinawan garden renovated in 1984. It is a must-visit for anyone visiting Okinawa. Inside the garden, visitors can experience the beauty of Okinawan culture and nature.

3. **Kokusui Street**
   - 18-minute walk from Fuchukin produce
   - 18-minute walk from Kokusui station on bus numbers 6, 7, 10, 25, 28
   - Kokusui Street is a main street in Naha and is the area where you can feel the lively atmosphere of the street. It is filled with shops, restaurants, and traditional crafts.

4. **Shuri Castle Park**
   - 15-minute walk from Shuri Castle
   - 15-minute walk from Shurijo castle on bus numbers 6, 7, 10, 25, 28
   - Shuri Castle is the former capital of the Ryukyu Kingdom and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is located near the downtown area of Naha.

5. **Shinkanen Garden**
   - 20-minute walk from Shurijo castle
   - 20-minute walk from Shinkanen station on bus numbers 6, 7, 10, 25, 28
   - Shinkanen Garden is a beautiful garden with a variety of plants and flowers. It is a great place to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature.

6. **Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum**
   - 10-minute walk from Shurijo castle
   - 10-minute walk from Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum on bus numbers 6, 7, 10, 25, 28
   - The museum and art museum are located in the same building and offer an excellent overview of the history, culture, and art of Okinawa.

7. **Omoromachi (Shinkin Area)**
   - 10-minute walk from Shurijo castle
   - 10-minute walk from Omoromachi station on bus numbers 6, 7, 10, 25, 28
   - Omoromachi is a popular area for shopping and dining with many traditional shops and restaurants.

8. **Beach Spot**
   - 10-minute walk from Omoromachi station
   - 10-minute walk from Omoromachi beach on bus numbers 6, 7, 10, 25, 28
   - Naminoue Beach is a beautiful beach with clear waters and white sand. It is a great place to relax and enjoy the beach.

**Directions**
- Take a walk around Okinawa’s best shopping district.
- Naha Airport → 10 minutes on bus
- Naminoue Shrine
- 10 minutes on bus
- Fukushin Garden
- 10 minutes on bus
- Kokusui Street
- 10 minutes on bus
- Shurijo Castle Park
- 15 minutes on bus
- Shinkanen Garden
- 20 minutes on bus
- Omoromachi (Shinkin Area)
- 10 minutes on bus
- Beach Spot
- 10 minutes on bus
Land of prayer enshrined in greenery and tranquility.

The southern part of Okinawa is home to the Okinawa Senseki Quasi-National Park and a large number of other sites with historical significance.

1. **Chinen Misaki Park**
   - 5 min walk from Seta shark bus stop in bus #39
   - An open space park with spectacular views of the magnificent Pacific Ocean and surrounding islands.

2. **Seta Utaki**
   - 7 min walk from Seta shark bus stop on bus #90
   - Seta Utaki is regarded as the most sacred site during the reign of the Ryukyu Kingdom, and one of several sacred sites that appeared in Shintō mythology from the Ryukyu era. At the time, this was the location where Utaki ritual is held, the highest-ranking shrine among the Ryukyu religious, performed at imperial national ritual. The story of the Utaki ritual was also maintained in Okinawa, Japan.

3. **Niralakan Bridge**
   - 15 min walk from Seta shark bus stop on bus #67 or 34 min walk from Chinen misaki shark bus stop on bus #39
   - A wooden footbridge comprising the Hiki and Hina bridges, offering spectacular panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean. The view in the offer as you stroll down toward the waves are exhilarating.

4. **Valley of Gangala**
   - 2 min walk from Gangala shark bus stop on bus #57, 64, 81, 82
   - The Valley of Gangala is a forest created hundreds of thousands of years ago when the Kugyo volcano erupted and was believed to have been destroyed by an ancient fire. In a peaceful area.

5. **Okinawa World**
   - 5 min walk from Gangala shark bus stop on bus #57, 81, 82, 86
   - Okinawa World is a theme park offering a range of fun attractions. It is additionally a stunning limestone cave, known as Gangala Cave. Okinawa World also offers a wide variety of products and services and is considered as the gateway to Okinawa's Underwater World undersea.

6. **Tower of Himeyuri / Himeyuri Peace Museum**
   - 10 min walk from Himeyuri shark bus stop on bus #82, 107, 108
   - Tower of Himeyuri was built in memory of the female schoolchildren and teachers who perished after being collected and named the Imperial Japanese Army on Okinawa during the Second World War. Tower Himeyuri Peace Museum displays the exhibits from the survivors, explaining the event, and a museum containing the hospital to which the girls were brought in 1945 and later recorded by the US forces, etc.

7. **Peace Memorial Park**
   - 10 min walk from Peace Memorial shark bus stop on bus #82
   - Peace Memorial Park distributes various memorials and exhibits from various countries around the world.

8. **Ohkura Karate Kaikan**
   - 15 min walk from Ohkura Karate Kaikan shark bus stop on bus #57, 58, 60, 68, 80, 85
   - ASHIBINAA is the first public museum in Okinawa and boasts approximately 700 items with a focus on international sports. The first floor is taken up with stalls, providing a range of products that can be purchased at savings of 30% to 50% of the general retail price. The second floor is comprised of food and beverages where you can enjoy a light snack and a coffee in a relaxed setting.

9. **Okinawa Outlet Mall ASHIBINAA**
   - 10 min walk from Okinawa outlet mall shark bus stop on bus #45, 58, 68, 80
   - ASHIBINAA is the first public museum in Okinawa and boasts approximately 700 items with a focus on international sports. The first floor is taken up with stalls, providing a range of products that can be purchased at savings of 30% to 50% of the general retail price. The second floor is comprised of food and beverages where you can enjoy a light snack and a coffee in a relaxed setting.

10. **Umikaji Terrace Senagajima**
    - 10 min walk from Umikaji Terrace Senagajima shark bus stop on bus #105, 106, 446
    - Umikaji Terrace Senagajima is a popular spot for watching the sunset and is known for its beautiful scenery. The view from the terrace offers a stunning view of the surrounding islands.

11. **Toppogashi Chura Sun Beach**
    - 5 min walk from Chura Sun Beach shark bus stop on bus # 11, 111, 103
    - Toppogashi Chura Sun Beach is a popular spot for sunbathing and swimming. It is also known for its beautiful coral reef and sandy beach.

12. **In Okinawa with a view / Tenmabashi Beach**
    - 15 min walk from In Okinawa with a view shark bus stop on bus #55, 88, 90
    - Tenmabashi Beach is a popular spot for windsurfing and kiteboarding. It is located in a secluded area and offers a beautiful view of the surrounding islands.

13. **Alaxama Banshu Beach (Ishigaki Ch.)**
    - 5 min walk from Alaxama Banshu shark bus stop on bus #14, 103
    - Alaxama Banshu Beach is a popular spot for swimming and snorkeling. It is located in the southern part of Okinawa and offers a beautiful view of the surrounding islands.
Central Okinawa is packed full of places to see, from theme parks to World Heritage listed sites. The central area of mainland Okinawa is home to a number of theme parks showcasing the history, culture and natural environment of Okinawa. Not only can you enjoy the views of beautiful shallow waters surrounded by coral reefs, but also swimming, windsurfing and fishing.

**Ryukyu Mura**
- 1 min walk from Ryukyu Mura bus stop on bus 82, 133

Ryukyu Mura is a recreation of a village from the time of the Ryukyu Kingdom, complete with traditional residences with thatched roofs. One of the main attractions is the Isu performance. A generation of Isu dancers makes their way around the park playing a traditional 12-stringed instrument, the shakuhachi. You can enjoy your meal and a drink of traditional sake and coffee, including a taste of your own Isu rice wine, wearing traditional clothing, and staying in your own tsubo-in (Okinawan cottage).

**Zakimi Castle Site**
- 11 min walk from Zakimi Castle site bus stop on bus 79, 82 (via King)

Zakimi Castle was constructed by ravaged castles in the Japanese islands. Among the most famous castles is Nakijin Castle, constructed in 1465. One of the main attractions is the Isu performance. A generation of Isu dancers makes their way around the park playing a traditional 12-stringed instrument, the shakuhachi. You can enjoy your meal and a drink of traditional sake and coffee, including a taste of your own Isu rice wine, wearing traditional clothing, and staying in your own tsubo-in (Okinawan cottage).

**Yonitan Pottery Village**
- 11 min walk from Yonitan Pottery Village bus stop on bus 82, 133

Yonitan Pottery Village is one of the most popular for tourists. Visitors can see pottery being made by local craftsmen and also buy the products in the souvenir shop. There are also many traditional Japanese rides available such as the Roppo, a traditional wooden horse used in the past for transportation. In the souvenir shop, you can buy traditional pottery and souvenirs made by local artisans.

**Kaichi-doro Drive**
- 4 min walk from Kaichi-doro drive (Kaiji Beach) on bus 79, 82

Kaichi-doro Drive is a scenic drive along the coast of Higashi. The drive takes you to the beautiful beach of Higashi, a popular spot for swimming and surfing. The drive also takes you to the scenic Kaichi-doro, a unique rock formation that resembles a dog’s head. The drive is about 4 km long and takes about 20 minutes to complete. The drive is suitable for those who want to enjoy the beauty of nature and the tranquility of the beach.

**AEON Mall Okinawa Rycom**
- 7 min walk from AEON Mall Okinawa Rycom bus stop on bus 79, 82

AEON Mall Okinawa Rycom is a popular shopping mall located in the heart of Okinawa City. The mall is home to a variety of stores, including clothing, electronics, and beauty products. AEON is a popular Japanese department store chain, and Rycom is a chain of discount department stores. The mall is a great place to shop for souvenirs, gifts, and everyday items.

**Eisa Museum**
- 5 min walk from Eisa Museum on bus 79, 82

Eisa Museum is a museum dedicated to the traditional Okinawan dance, Eisa. The museum is located in the heart of Okinawa City and is a great place to learn about the history and culture of Eisa. The museum has a collection of Eisa costumes, instruments, and other artifacts related to the dance. Visitors can also watch a performance of Eisa being danced by local performers.

**Terme VILLA Chula-U**
- 5 min walk from Terme VILLA Chula-U on bus 82

Terme VILLA Chula-U is a modern European-style hot springs resort located in the heart of Okinawa City. The resort is known for its beautiful gardens and relaxing atmosphere. Visitors can enjoy a variety of hot spring baths, including mineral hot springs and steam baths. The resort also has a restaurant and a bar, making it a perfect place to relax and unwind.

**Mihama American Village**
- 5 min walk from Mihama American Village bus stop on bus 82

Mihama American Village is a popular shopping and dining destination located in the heart of Okinawa City. The village is home to a variety of stores, including clothing, electronics, and beauty products. Mihama American Village is also home to the popular American GIs Shopping Mall, which features a variety of stores and restaurants. The village is a great place to shop for souvenirs, gifts, and everyday items.
Encounter a range of rare and diverse forms of life

The northern part of mainland Okinawa is covered in mountains ranging between 300-500 meters above sea level and is known by the locals as Yanbaru. The surrounding forests are home to some endangered animal species, including the Okinawa rail and Okinawa woodpecker.

Ocean Expo Park and Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium

- 1 min walk from Kouri bus stop. Take bus #45, 60, 70, 117, Yomitan Express Bus, Okinawa Airport Shuttle, Airport Limousine Bus #520.

Nakijin Castle Site

- 20 min walk from Kouri bus stop. Take bus #45, 60, 70, 117, Yomitan Express Bus, Okinawa Airport Shuttle, Airport Limousine Bus #520.

Bise-Fukugi Tree Road

- 15 min walk from Kouri bus stop. Take bus #45, 60, 70, 117, Yomitan Express Bus, Okinawa Airport Shuttle, Airport Limousine Bus #520.

Kouri Ohashi Bridge

- 20 min walk from Kouri bus stop. Take bus #45, 60, 70, 117, Yomitan Express Bus, Okinawa Airport Shuttle, Airport Limousine Bus #520.
The “ocean the world has fallen in love with” is a paradise for the coral and fish that make their home in this beautiful ocean landscape, formed by the blue, crystal clear waters, known as Kerama blue, and rich concentration of coral reefs defines Kerama Shoto National Park. Sea turtles can be seen swimming in the shallow waters together with schools of tropical fish, making it the perfect location for diving or snorkeling. All of Kerama Islands have been designated a national park.

**Kerama Shoto National Park Area**

Tokashiki Island
- Area: 100 sq km
- Rice fields and coral reefs are seen from the southern coast.

Zamami Island
- Area: 14 sq km
- Footpath by dory (sailboat) to Turtle Beach

Aka Island / Geruma Island
- Area: 1 sq km
- Walk to the southern coast

Aguni Island
- Area: 26 sq km
- Walk to the southern coast

Tonaki Island
- Area: 0.5 sq km
- Walk to the southern coast

**Kume Island Area**

Enjoy the stunning beaches and age-old remnants of the Ryukyu Dynasty on Kume Island.

Kume Island
- Located approximately 90 km west of Naha, Kume Island boasts an abundant natural environment and a large number of historic sites. Of Beach and “Hale no Hama,” a coral sand cay located on the eastern side are popular spots on the island.

Kumejima Tsunagi (silk pongee), a traditional form of woven silk cloth, is believed to be the birthplace of pongee in Japan.

**Area Guide**

View from Uegusuku Castle Site
- 40 min walk from Uegusuku Castle bus stop for Kumejima Town bus

Japanese tiger prawn
- These prawns are farmed in the deep sea water off the coast of Kume Island.

Hale no Hama
- 40 min walk from Uegusuku Castle bus stop for Kumejima Town bus

**Kume Island Recommended Route**

1. Five Branch Pine
   - 15 min from Kumejima Airport by car

2. Tateiwa
   - 25 min from Kumejima Airport by car

3. Uegusuku Castle Site
   - 25 min from Kumejima Airport by car

4. Kumejima Tsunagi Uemuri Hall
   - 30 min from Kumejima Airport by car

5. Tateiwa
   - 10 min from Kumejima Airport by car

6. Kumejima Tsunagi Yomuri Hall
   - 1 min from Kumejima Airport by car

7. Bade House Kume Island
   - 15 min by bus from Kumejima Airport by bus stop for Kumejima Town bus

8. Bade House Kume Island
   - 15 min by car from Kumejima Airport by car

*Recreation facilities are available on the southern coast.*
An island blessed with refreshing sea breezes and pristine waters

Located in the heart of the Miyako Islands, Miyako Island is flat with no natural rivers and because there is no soil running into the waters surrounding the island they are known for their transparency and beauty. As a result, it is a popular spot for marine sports and golf overlooking the ocean. You can also enjoy the sight of the sugarcane leaves dancing in the ocean breezes.

**Yonaha Maehama Beach**
- 15 min by boat from Haha Port, 15 min by car from Miyako Airport
- 15 min from the island’s main road

**Irabo Ohashi Bridge**
- 14 min walk from the Miyako Juso bus stop
- The bridge connects Miyako Island to Irabo Island and offers panoramic views of the ocean

**Sawada-no-hama Beach**
- 10 min walk from the Miyako Juso bus stop
- One of Japan’s top 100 beaches

**Tarama Island**
- Located 2 km off the main island of Miyako Island
- Can be reached by a 10-minute boat ride

**Sunayama Beach**
- 30 min walk from the Sunayama Hanyo bus stop
- One of Miyako Island’s most scenic beaches

**Mango**
- snack available from a nearby shop

**Tatara Island**
- 15 min by boat from Haha Port

**Cape Higashi-henna**
- 15 min walk from the Cape Higashi-henna bus stop
- Offers panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and is known as a popular spot for sea sports

**Ikema Ohashi Bridge**
- 15 min walk from the Miyako Juso bus stop

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With the pure white sand and the sound of the waves, this is said to be the most beautiful beach in the East. The white sand looks like fine sand and is a popular spot for sea sports. Take a walk along the coast and you will find the sea calm, the sky clear, and the beauty of the ocean is a feast for the eyes.
Enjoy the natural environment and culture of the Yaeyama Islands

Composed of 11 inhabited islands and a large number of uninhabited ones, the Yaeyama Islands offer a diverse range of attractions. Approximately 1h by air from mainland Okinawa, start your island adventure from Ishigaki Island, the gateway to the Yaeyama Islands.

**Ishigaki Island**
- Accessible by high-speed boat from Ishigaki Port, 1.5 hours
- Ishigaki Island forms the gateway to the highly unique Yaeyama Islands. On the island, you can take in nature in the form of Yaeyama Rocks or the brilliant statue of a sea lion. Enjoy the fascinating world of the island, as it shares its unique tortoise "Yaeyama Iriomote" and the coral reefs.

**Iriomote Island**
- Accessible by high-speed boat from Ishigaki Port to Iriomote Port, 12 minutes
- Iriomote is a natural treasure trove, with over 80% of the island covered in untouched nature. Enjoy the diverse flora and fauna of the area, including the unique Yaeyama Wildlife Conservation Center. The island is also famous for "Iriomote Beach" where the gravel of sand and pebbles blends into the sea.

**Hatoma Island**
- Accessible by high-speed boat from Ishigaki Port to Hatoma Port, 22 minutes
- Hatoma Island is known for its stunning views of the surrounding islands. The island offers a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

**Yonaguni Island**
- Located 1h by high-speed boat from Ishigaki Port
- Yonaguni Island is the westernmost island of Japan. The island is famous for its beautiful beaches, including the world-famous "Kumamaki Beach". It is also home to a unique species of coral known as "Yonaguni Coral".

**Kohama Island**
- Accessible by high-speed boat from Ishigaki Port, 30 minutes
- Kohama Island is a tranquil haven with a white sand beach and crystal-clear waters.

**Kuro Island**
- Accessible by high-speed boat from Ishigaki Port, 30 minutes
- Kuro Island is also known as "Black Island" named from its black sand beach, but it is known for its vast number of caves and boots.

**Yuhi Island**
- Accessible by 4WD from Ishigaki Port, 30 minutes
- Yuhi Island is a remote island with lush greenery and stunning views of the surrounding islands.

While on a popular resort island, Kohama Island is a tranquil Haven that still shows signs of the Okinawan culture. With a "Yaeyama Beach" and a massive coral reef, it is a paradise for scuba divers and snorkelers alike. The village is surrounded by beautiful beaches and clear waters, making it a popular destination for those seeking relaxation and adventure.
Unique islands to capture the heart

Surrounding the main island of Okinawa are a number of remote islands accessible by air or ferry services. These islands are blessed with rich natural environments and have the simple folk on the islands live reveals a sense of charm that you will not experience in a resort.

**Ie Island**
- Distance: 20 km by high-speed boat from Naha Port
- Access: 40 min by ferry
- Attractions: Known as the ‘Island of the Blue Sea’

**Minna Island**
- Distance: 35 km by high-speed boat from Naha Port
- Access: 55 min by ferry
- Attractions: Known as the ‘Island of the Blue Sea’

**Kita-Daito Island**
- Distance: 75 km by flight from Naha Airport
- Access: 9 hr from Naha Port
- Attractions: One of the largest islands in Okinawa

**Izena Island**
- Distance: 20 km by ferry from Naha Port
- Access: 1 hr by ferry
- Attractions: Known as the ‘Island of the Blue Sea’

**Kudaka Island**
- Distance: 20 km by ferry from Naha Port
- Access: 1.5 hr by ferry
- Attractions: Known as the ‘Island of the Blue Sea’

**Taura Island**
- Distance: 20 km by ferry from Naha Port
- Access: 1.5 hr by ferry
- Attractions: Known as the ‘Island of the Blue Sea’

**Minami-Daito Island**
- Distance: 75 km by flight from Naha Airport
- Access: 9 hr from Naha Port
- Attractions: One of the largest islands in Okinawa

**Okinawa Multilingual Tourist Information Website**

**VISIT OKINAWA JAPAN**

**Discover Okinawa**

**Okinawa Handbook**

**Contents**
- Okinawan culture and customs
- Be careful at Okinawa’s climate
- Let’s enjoy ‘Little Okinawa’ at convenience stores and supermarkets.
- Enjoy Okinawan food called "Island of Longevity."
- How to enjoy Okinawan soba
- How to enjoy seaweed
- Everyday manners
- Table manners
- Hotel manners
- How to use the toilet
- Public Transportation
- Using the Monorail
- Sightseeing taxi
- Bus and Monorail
- Day Ticket
- Taking a taxi
- Renting a car
- Emergency manners
- Okinawa’s roads and transport
- Animal and plant quarantine
- Tax Exemption Procedures
- Caution when Departing Naha Airport
- Safety Guide for Visitors to Okinawa
- Additional Guide for Muslim Visitors

**Okinawa Welcome Guide**

**Safety Guide for Visitors to Okinawa**

How to stay safe in the sea and rivers, emergency actions, etc. for your enjoyable and safe Okinawa trip.

**Restrictions on carry-on luggage**

Make sure again whether the contents that you brought can be taken on a plane!

**Location List of Currency Exchange Machines**

You can check the list of the places for currency exchange.

**Typoon Preparedness Manual for Disasters**

For early information gathering and proper judgments during typhoons, please check follow contact information in advance!

**Simple Communication Sheet for Disasters**

Get help with the handy phrasebook-page please cost at an unexpected emergency such as an earthquake.