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"Shurei no kokoro" are Okinawa's spiritual words of wisdom meaning

"Embrace all visitors who come to Okinawa and

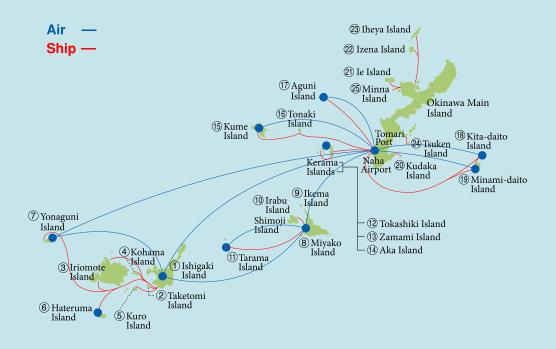
treat them with the utmost of courtesy."

Peace-loving Okinawa proudly welcomes you with its warm hospitality.

Menso-re: Welcome to Okinawa

Copy Editor: Helen Betts (Okinawa Index)

## Access to the Outer Islands



Yaeyama Islands				
① Ishigaki Is.	1 hour from Naha by plane 30 min. from Miyako Island, plane			
2 Taketomi Is.	10-20 min. from Ishigaki Port, speed craft/ferry			
③ Iriomote Is.	35-50 min. from Ishigaki Port, speed craft/ferry			
4 Kohama Is.	25-45 min. from Ishigaki Port, speed craft/ferry			
⑤ Kuro Is.	30-40 min. from Ishigaki Port, speed craft/ferry			
6 Hateruma Is.	60-120 min. from Ishigaki Port, speed craft/ferry			
7 Yonaguni Is.	30 min. from Ishigaki Island, plane/4 hrs, ferry 95 min. from Naha, plane			

Miyako Isiands				
8 Miyako Is.	45 min1hour from Naha, plane 30 min. from Ishigaki Island, plane			
9 Ikema Is.	30 min. from Miyako Island, car			
10 Irabu Is.	15-25 min. from Taira Port, speed craft/ferry			
11) Tarama Is.	20 min. from Miyako Island, plane/120 min., ferry			

Kerama Isiands/Outer Islands					
12 Tokashiki Is.	35-70 min. from Tomari Port, speed craft/ferry				
3 Zamami Is.	50-120 min. from Tomari Port, speed craft/ferry				
14 Aka Is.	50-90 min. from Tomari Port, speed craft/ferry				
15 Kume Is.	30 min. from Naha, plane/180 min.from Tomari Port, ferry				
16 Tonaki Is.	120 min. from Tomari Port, ferry				
17) Aguni Is.	25 min. from Naha, plane 150 min. from Tomari Port, ferry				
18 Kita-daito Is.	70 min. from Naha, plane/14-16 hr. from Tomari Port, ferry				
19 Minami-daito Is.	65 min. from Naha, plane/14-16 hr. from Tomari Port, ferry				
20 Kudaka Is.	15-25 min. from Azama Port, speed craft/ferry				
② le ls.	30 min. from Motobu Port, ferry				
② Izena Is.	55 min. from Unten Port, ferry				
23 Iheya Is.	80 min. from Unten Port, ferry				
② Tsuken Is.	12-30 min. from Heshikiya Port, speed craft/ferry				
25 Minna Is.	15 min. from Toguchi Port, ferry				
<u>eg</u> 141111111 101	To this total togues is one, tony				

<sup>17 \*</sup> irregular service

2,000km Sea of Japan **JAPAN** Seoul Kometsu (Kanazawa) 1,500km KOREA 1,000km **CHINA** Shangha 500km Pacific Ocean Fukushu OKINAWA **Hong Kong** PHILIPPINES

## Outline of Okinawa

Okinawa Prefecture consists of 160 islands stretching 400 kilometers north to south and 1,000 kilometers east to west between the Pacific Ocean and the East China Sea, of which about 50 are inhabited. The chain is known as the Ryukyu Islands.

\*See page 35 for travel details.

#### Climate

Okinawa belongs to a subtropical climatic region and has an annual average temperature of 22.7°C, with warmer overall average temperatures than mainland Japan. A seasonal wind blows from the south in summer and from the north in winter.

Capital: Naha City Number of inhabited islands: 49

**Population:** 1,379,338 (as of Dec. 1, 2008) Number of foreign tourists: 230,300 (Total in 2009)

Area: 2,274.59 square kilometers Number of mainland Japan tourists: 5,420,500 (Total in 2009)

03

## The Attraction of Okinawa:

# Where Old and New Become One

Okinawa has a colorful and unique culture, history and philosophy of life. Outstanding Okinawan cultural events, completely different from those of mainland Japan, are treasured and have become an object of interest in mainland Japan as well as in the rest of the world. An imperial court culture developed in the Ryukyu Kingdom under the influence of China, Japan and other East Asian countries. The people

of Okinawa have faced numerous hardships in the past; however, they always kept the Okinawan spirit of "Life is a Treasure" in their hearts. Rather than a sword in their family alcove like the residents of mainland Japan, they displayed a sanshin, and they wrote songs about happiness and sadness and expressed these feelings through dance. Okinawa is the island of singing and dancing.

#### History of Okinawa

Okinawa has gone through several major changes since the Ryukyu Kingdom era. The island's illustrious history began with the Gusuku Period, from the 12th to 15th centuries. The governmental and economic foundations of the Ryukyu Kingdom were solidified at the end of the Classical Ryukyu Period. The Ryukyu Kingdom remained independent and engaged in trade with Southeast Asian countries in the Modern Ryukyu Period. After the Ryukyu Kingdom collapsed and became part of Japan, Okinawa endured the Battle of

Okinawa, one of the few Japanese ground battles of World War II during which more than 200,000 people died. Okinawa was administered by the United States until the reversion of Okinawa to Japan in 1972. The Okinawan culture and philosophy of life, passed down through the island's extraordinary history, is still a part of everyday living. After World War II, a large number of Okinawans emigrated to South America, Hawaii and elsewhere, making Okinawan emigration a significant part of Okinawa's history.



#### **Traditional Performing Arts**

# Feel the Energy of Okinawa

The philosophy of Niraikanai, the belief in a paradise where the gods reside that exists in a far-off sea, and seasonal communication with the gods are always part of people's lives, celebrated through song and dance. Okinawa is a treasure trove of performing arts, with each inhabited island boasting its own unique version.

#### Dragon Boat Races-Haarii

The Haarii has its origins in Southeast Asia, where groups of fishermen raced against each other in a ritual intended to ensure a good catch during the fishing season.

#### Tug-of-War

Tugs-of-war used to be held to pray for rain and the yield of a bountiful harvest but have grown into festivals full of dancing, music and various traditional performances.

#### Eisa

Eisa is an Okinawan folk dance originally performed by young people to entertain the spirits of the ancestors, who are believed to visit their families during the Obon season.

#### Ryukyu dance

Dance in Okinawa is as much a part of the culture as are its people. Derived from hand gestures and ritual prayer, Ryukyu dance is often symbolized by large red lotus hats.

#### Major Festivals

Naha Great Tug-of-War: No.1 in 'Guinness World Records'

This traditional tug-of-war, a key feature of Okinawa's autumn season, is held to help pray for a good harvest. Thousands of people compete on east and west teams and pull a giant rope (186 meters in length, 1.5 meters in diameter).

#### Flower Festivals

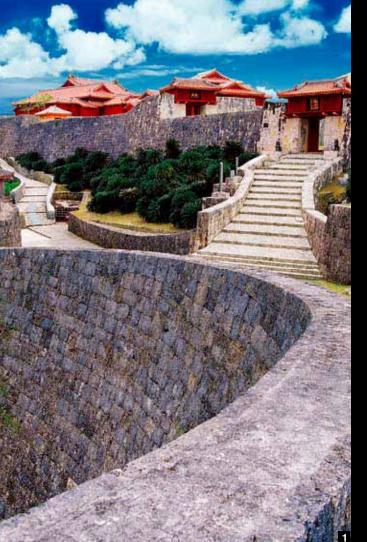
Flowers are always in bloom in subtropical Okinawa and can be appreciated year round. Whether it's January and the middle of winter at Yaedake with its cherry blossoms, early February at the Okinawa International Orchid Show, March's Higashi Village Azalea Festival or April and May's Ie Island Lily Festival, Okinawa is a virtual botanical garden.

#### Shurijo Castle Festival

This festival takes place over a three-day period from the end of October to the beginning of November at Shurijo Castle and in various other parts of Naha City.



- A: Dragon Boat Races-Haarii / B: Eisa / C: Ryukyu dance
- **D:** Naha Great Tug-of-War: No.1 in 'Guinness World Records'
- E: Shurijo Castle Festival / F: le Island Lily Festival



Location Map



#### Shurijo Site

laha City

While the actual construction date of Shurijo Castle is unknown, it is believed to have been built between the 13th and 14th centuries for the use of King Satto of Urasoe Castle. After the unification of the Ryukyus under King Sho Hashi, Shurijo Castle became the kingdom's political and ceremonial center, with government officials and artisans residing in the surrounding area. It remained the center of government until 1879, when the Meiji emperor annexed the Ryukyu Kingdom, naming it Okinawa Prefecture. During the Battle of Okinawa the castle was destroyed but was rebuilt in 1992 and became a national park. Visitors can tour the grounds for free except for the main compound and the Tamaudun Royal Mausoleum, where many Ryukyu kings were

# The World Heritage

Treasures of the Earth and Mankind

Ryukyu castles were built between the 14th and 18th centuries at a time when the Ryukyu Kingdom was united and actively trading with Asian countries. They took on even greater importance after nine castle sites were designated part of The World Heritage by UNESCO in December 2000. These historic remains are essential for understanding the history of Okinawa.



#### Nakijin Castle Site

Nakijin Vi

Located in Nago, Nakijin Castle is believed to have been built in the 13th century as a place of worship. Recognized as a National Historic Remains Site in 1972, the grounds' 14 acres feature numerous religious objects such as prayer nooks and artifacts of past Ryukyuan and Chinese trade.



#### Nakagusuku Castle Site

Kita-Nakagusuku Village

Built by the architect and feudal warlord Gosamaru of Chuzan between the years of 1454 and 1460, Nakagusuku Castle escaped damage during the Battle of Okinawa, leaving it the best preserved of all Okinawan citadels. The castle's vantage point offers a breathtaking view of its surrounding area.



#### Zakimi Castle Site

Yomitan Vill

Built in the early 1400s by architect and feudal warlord Gosamaru of Chuzan, this site was used by the Japanese army as a missile base during World War II. Recognized as a National Treasure in 1972, the castle's double wall and Okinawa's oldest arch-shaped stone gate still stand today.



#### Stone Gate of Sonohyan

Naha Ci

Designed by the master craftsman Nishito, who erected the walls of Shurijo Castle, Sonohyan was commissioned by King Shoushin in 1519. The stone gate, known as "utaki," was built as a portal for the gods and as a symbol of sanctuary for the community and neighboring villages.



#### Katsuren Castle Site

Hruma City

Once ruled by Lord Amawari, Katsuren Castle is believed to be the oldest castle in Okinawa and was prosperous in agriculture and trade throughout Asia between the 14th and 15th centuries. Both Katsuren Castle and its inhabitants were destroyed during the unification of the Ryukyus.



Tamaudun Royal Mausoleum

In 1501, King Shoushin had Tamaudun built as the royal family's mausoleum, moving the remains of his father, King Shoen, and mother from Miagemuiudun. The remains of the king and queen were laid to rest in the East Room, while other family members were interred in the West Room.



#### Sefa-Utaki/sacred site

Nanjo City

Thought to be the most sacred location in Okinawa, this site was originally exclusive to women. Each year the kings would visit the site and pray for a bountiful and rich harvest. The triangular cavern, formed naturally by gigantic rocks, was designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO in December 2000.



#### Shikinaen Royal Garden

 $\boldsymbol{n}$ 

Originally built as a summer residence for the Ryukyuan royal family in 1799 and restored in 1995, Shikinaen was used to welcome visiting Chinese envoys during the heyday of trade between the Ryukyu Kingdom and Asia, playing an important role in many of the diplomatic meetings with foreign envoys. Featuring a Chinese-style hexagonal pavilion and arched bridges, the garden's trees and plants are arranged in such a way that blossoms can be enjoyed year round.



## <u>Pottery</u>

The technique employed in the Ryukyus' Yachimun pottery was imported from China around the middle of the 14th century and was later influenced by Japanese and Korean ceramics. Ryukyu pottery can be found at Tsuboya in Naha City and at Yachimun no Sato in Yomitan Village.





## Textiles

Okinawan textiles have always been inspired by natural phenomena such as sun, wind, vegetation and soil. One of Okinawa's most famous textiles, Bingata, is representative of Okinawan dyed work. There is also a wide variety of hand-woven textiles influenced by Southeast Asia, China and Japan such as Bashofu, Yuntanza-hanaori, Shuri-ori, Ryukyukasuri, Kumejima-tsumugi, Miyakojofu, Yaeyama-jofu, Yaeyama-minsa and Yonaguni-ori. The rich variety and technique of Okinawan textiles are beyond compare, even with those produced in mainland Japan.



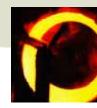
# Arts crafts



The art of lacquerware possesses a unique beauty and a proud history in Okinawa that was greatly influenced by China. Ryukyu lacquerware is produced through the use of sophisticated techniques, is highly valued and was once used as a premium object of commerce. The key to the lacquer is the urushi tree, which flourishes throughout Okinawa, and the 80% humidity and over 20°C temperatures required to produce it. To add to the lacquerware's attractiveness, turban shells powdered into thin sheets and mother-of-pearl are often set into the lacquer.



Ryukyu glassware, popular with locals and tourists alike, was created from discarded soft drink bottles after World War II. The glassware is continually evolving through intensive research and development, with expanded usage and the introduction of new materials to create unique designs and colors.







# Food and Culture

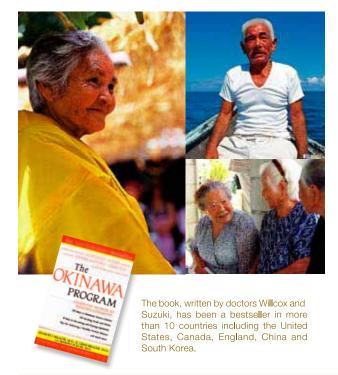
A Marketplace Bursting with the Energetic Okinawan Spirit





he Makishi Kousetsu Ichiba, Naha City's central produce, meat, fish and general merchandise market, is an excellent place for visitors to learn about everyday life in Okinawa. On the first floor you can buy every conceivable kind of Okinawan foodstuff, from pork -- including pig's face, feet and stomach -- to many types of colorful fish and shellfish and unique vegetables fresh from the farm. To whet your appetite, the small alleys around the market feature stand-up-style shops selling delicacies such as fresh tempura, sweet saataa andagii and goya juice. Following the end of World War II, this area was home to a black market where people bought and sold contraband obtained from the U.S. military. A visit to the market will allow you to experience firsthand the history and culture of Okinawa.

# Experience a Healthy Lifestyle in Okinawa, the Island of Longevity



here's no such place as Shangri-La, but Okinawa comes pretty close to being that mythical land of perpetual youth. Okinawans are the world's longest-lived people and are among the least likely to suffer from the chronic diseases of aging such as heart disease, cancer, stroke and dementia. How they do it -- and how you can duplicate it -is the focus of "The Okinawa Program: How the World's Longest-Living People Achieve Everlasting Health - And How You Can Too," a book based on 25 years of research into the Okinawa longevity phenomenon. The good news from researchers is that lifestyle, not genetics, seems to be the key to a healthy and active old age. If you want to live long and well, eat healthy foods used for Okinawan dishes, exercise effectively, slow down to Okinawa time and get the "yuimaru spirit" by weaving a supportive web of friends and family. If you follow this advice, you should be well on your way to everlasting health. It certainly seems to work for the Okinawans.

#### Okinawan Nuchi Gusui Herbs and Vegetables.

Okinawa, the island of longevity, has a saying, "nuchi gusui," meaning that food is medicine. Okinawa's representative vegetable, goya, is of sugar in the blood and urine. Ucchin contains curcumin, which has been shown to have an antioxidant effect, and it has been used in a traditional Indian health care method called Avurveda, Okinawa's deep-sea water is rich in minerals and good for the health, possessing a mineral balance similar to that of human blood, body fluid and amniotic fluid. Okinawa has many more healthy foods, including acerola and shikuwasa (Okinawan lime), which are loaded with vitamin C, and mineral-rich brown sugar produced from Okinawan sugar cane.



Mozuku - Seaweed



Goya – Bittermelon



Ucchin - Turmeric



Kokutou - Brown sugar

# **Healthy Foods** from Remarkable Ingredients in Ckinawa



Goya champuru is the best known among several champuru dishes. Goya, Okinawa's distinctive summer vegetable, is rich in vitamins and minerals and is consumed to ward off the suffering brought on by the summer heat.



from 100 percent white flour, unlike mainland soba. It is served in a bowl of broth with bonito and pork and is topped with thick slices of soki (spareribs) or sanmainiku (three-layered pork), a fish paste called kamaboko and various spices.

## This typical Okinawan dish is made

easy to eat.

#### Tebichi

Tebichi, or boiled pig's feet, is a delicacy peculiar to Okinawa. The pig's feet are simmered for several hours on low heat, which makes them soft, glutinous and

#### Rafute

An icon of Okinawa's "champuru," or mixed, culture, taco rice was derived from the Mexican

tacos introduced by the American military. Tacos

as they were didn't take off with Okinawans,

giving birth to taco rice, all the taco fillings on steamed rice, in essence the best of both worlds.

> Rafute, pork ribs simmered for hours in fish broth and awamori, used to be a typical dish for the royal family of the Ryukyu Kingdom.



Chinsuko, an Okinawan cookie made from flour, lard and sugar, is one of the most popular tourist souvenirs.



#### Orion Beer

Orion Beer is Okinawa's representative local brew. The Annual Orion Beer Fest is one of the biggest festivals in Japan, enjoyed by more than 200,000 visitors each year.

#### Tofu Champuru

Tofu champuru, a typical Okinawan home-style dish, is a stir-fry of tofu, vegetables and meat. Shima tofu, having a firmer texture and stronger flavor than normal tofu, is used in the dish. Champuru means "to mix together" in the Okinawan dialect.

#### Tundabun

An appetizer sampler called tundabun is traditionally served in a hexagonal footed tray with a cinnabar varnish at celebratory gatherings. You can also try it at well-established Ryukyu

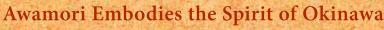
#### Ikasumi Shiru

Cuttlefish and pork are put into a bonito-based broth and finished off with cuttlefish ink. It has a flavor that is both light and rich at the same time.



#### Saataa Andagii

This is a traditional Okinawan doughnut that is shaped like a tulip. Flour, sugar and eggs are its main ingredients.

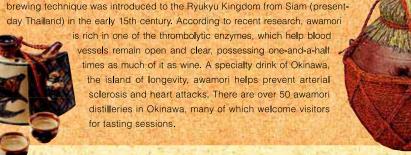


Taco Rice

Awamori, Japan's oldest distilled liquor, is made from Thai rice and rice malt. The brewing technique was introduced to the Ryukyu Kingdom from Siam (present-









## World-class Diving Spots

The Okinawan ocean, home to one of the largest colonies of coral reef in the world, offers numerous world-class diving spots. A large number of diving shops are open all over the island and are ready to respond to all customer needs. Fathoms Diving Shop, located in the Sunabe area of Chatan Town, is well known for serving customers in both English and Japanese. Welcome to the Okinawan ocean!

#### Major Diving Spots

**Sunabe Point** - Popular among divers from beginners to professionals, Sunabe Point is accessible from Sunabe Beach. Night diving is also possible here.

**Maeda Point** - Divers at all levels can enjoy this spot throughout the year. Entry to the point is possible via the steep stairs at Cape Maeda. **Onna Point** - This is a hidden diving spot located between Cape Manza and Manza Beach. Onna Point is also known as Toilet Seat Point due to the shape of the coast.

**Seragaki Point** - Seragaki Point is known as a great snorkeling spot and is accessible through a fee-based campground that is a good location for family camping.



Left photo

## Swimming with Whale Sharks

Divers can swim with friendly whale sharks at Yomitan Port.

Right photo

#### **Mystery Diving**

An ancient manmade structure has been found in the waters of Yonaguni Island. Numerous divers visit the spot to experience its dynamic and mysterious power.



# Naha Area

Lively City Reflecting Both Local and Kingdom Culture



aha City is the prefectural capital as well as the political and economic hub of Okinawa. Kokusai Street, running for approximately 1,600 meters in the heart of the city, is lined with numerous souvenir shops, restaurants, hotels and department stores. Shurijo Castle, Tsuboya (pottery town), Naminoue Beach (Naha City's only beach), Makishi Kousetsu Ichiba (Naha's central marketplace), Shintoshin (Okinawa's newest area) and the Okinawa monorail/Yui Rail (Okinawa's newest transportation system) attract tourists and locals alike.



# Shuri, Full of the Atmosphere of the Ryukyu Kingdom

The original Shurijo Castle, believed to have been constructed between the 13th and 14th centuries, was the royal residence of King Satto of Urasoe before the unification of the Ryukyus. King Sho Hashi later used the castle as the center of government and the Ryukyu Kingdom. Featuring a mixture of Chinese, Japanese and Okinawan architectural styles with its inner court (Unaa), Shuri is accessible through the Kangei and Zuisen gates and the Main, South and North Halls surrounding it. Also in the neighborhood, Kinjo-cho's stone-paved path is located just down the hill from Shurei Gate. This path is one of the prefecture's notable historic sites where traditional houses with red-tile roofs and stone walls are preserved.











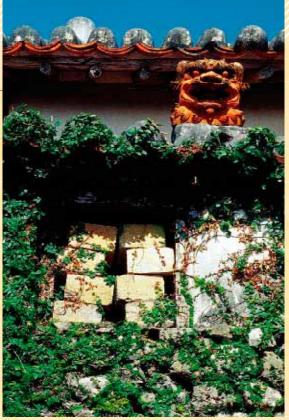
# Naha Area

Tsuboya

# Tsuboya, an Esplanade of Ceramics

Developed about 400 years ago, Tsuboya is known for pottery, or "yachimun" in the Okinawan dialect, which was imported from China and later influenced by Japanese and Korean ceramics to create Okinawa's unique earthenware. Yachimun Street, located near Kokusai Street, measures approximately 400 meters, stretching from Heiwa Street to Himeyuri Street with galleries, cafes and pottery stores ranging from factory outlets to select shops.









#### Washita Shop

This Okinawan specialty goods shop features arts and crafts, awamori, Okinawan soba noodles, traditional snacks like brown-sugar candies and even the liquor-marinated tofu product known as tofu-yo. Washita Shop stocks the nationally popular Okinawan mineral water, salts and a large variety of healthy foods. You can even find your own souvenir quardian shisa lion-dog.

#### Okinawa Urban Monorail-Yui Rail

Okinawa Urban Monorail-Yui Rail began service on Aug. 10, 2003. The system connects Naha Airport and Shuri, passing through the Kokusai Street shopping area and stopping at 15 stations. The system conveniently serves various tourist spots in Naha City such as the Shintoshin area, Shurijo Castle and major shopping centers. Running eight to 20 meters (25 to 65 feet) above ground, the monorail affords sensational views, especially in the Shuri area, which is located 1,000 meters (330 feet) above sea level, giving a clear shot not only of Naha City but also all the way up to Urasoe City.



#### Kokusai Street

# Kokusai Street, also known as "The Miracle Mile"

Anyone who has been there knows Kokusai Street is to Naha as Broadway is to New York. This 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) area of Naha is the place to go whether you're looking for traditional or international dining, department store shopping or that little shisa souvenir for your friends back home. Just a few minutes' walk from either Kenchomae or Makishi (closest to the Heiwa Street arcade) monorail stations, some of the must-see places along this strip include the Tsuboya pottery shops and galleries, the Makishi Public Market and the Naminoue Beach area.



#### Fukushuen Garden

A symbol of the close relationship between China and Okinawa during the Ryukyu Kingdom, Fukushuen Garden was built in 1992 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Naha City and China's Fuzhou City's bond of friendship. The garden was constructed using materials and techniques unique to Fuzhou City, adding to the garden's authenticity. Along with the garden's tranquil pond and pavilion-topped waterfall, some of the garden's important aspects are the attention to detail used on its pillars and tower and its breathtaking scenery.



Located on Naha's Kokusai Street on the second floor of Tenbusu Naha is the Traditional Crafts Center, where you can witness the creation of many traditional Okinawan items. It is also an excellent place to find traditional Okinawan souvenirs.





# Southern Area

Remnants of Culture, Traces of History

The beautiful coastline of ■ Okinawa's southern area has cafés and restaurants from which customers can enjoy the ocean view. The peaceful natural environment as well as sites from the Battle of Okinawa make this part of the island popular with tourists.



#### Ryukyu Glass Village

Okinawa's largest glassworks, Ryukyu Glass Village is located in Itoman City and features a shop, gallery, hands-on working kiln and restaurant.



#### Okinawa World

The main attraction of Okinawa World is a five-kilometer-long underground cavern formed 300,000 years ago, of which 890 meters is open to the public. Old Okinawan houses have been reproduced for the theme park, and eisa and other traditional folk dances are performed. Visitors can also learn to make traditional Okinawan arts and crafts.



#### **Traditional Arts and Crafts** Experience

You can experience traditional Okinawan arts and crafts such as shisa (an Okinawan talisman), bingata textiles, lacquerware and glassware at several theme parks such as Ryukyu Mura and Murasaki Mura, which offer various hands-on attractions and restaurants where you can truly experience Okinawa.



#### Ryukyu Lacquerware

This facility is well known for the exhibition and sale of Ryukyu lacquerware. A large selection of lacquerware, from traditional to modern, is stocked at all times.

## **Historic Spots**



#### Okinawa Peace Prayer Park and Memorial Museum

Okinawa Peace Prayer Park in Itoman City is the site where the Battle of Okinawa ended. Stone blocks are inscribed with the names of 237,779 individuals



#### Himeyuri Peace Prayer Memorial Hall

Okinawa was one of the few places in Japan where ground fighting took place, towards the end of WWII, suffering some of the bloodiest battles of the war. Guides escort visitors while relating their actual accounts of these experiences.



#### Japanese Navy **Underground Headquarters**

This is the final resting place of many Japanese sailors towards the end of WWII who, after their situation had grown hopeless, chose to take their own lives rather than surrender to the enemy.



#### Himeyuri Monument

This monument was erected in memory of the young girls and teachers who were ordered by the Japanese Army to join the Haebaru Army Field Hospital unit as nurses and who subsequently died during the Battle of Okinawa.



#### Kudaka: Home to an Ancient Shaman

Kudaka Island, located about five kilometers east of Nanjo City, is a small island measuring four kilometers in diameter. According to legend, the first Ryukyuan, Amamikiyo, descended from heaven to the island, and thus Kudaka is known as the "island of the gods." Many clean, beautiful beaches ring the island, which visitors can reach by ferry from Azama Port in Nanjo City.

# Central Area

International City with Champuru Spirit



# Okinawa City The Diversified Heart of Okinawa

Located on the Pacific Ocean side of Okinawa's main island, Okinawa City is second in size to Naha City and acts as the administrative and commercial hub of central Okinawa. True to Okinawa's champuru culture and spirit, many of the housing, shopping and service areas have been built with international visitors in mind while remaining true to the traditional Okinawan arts of eisa and minyou. Many of the local stores and restaurants accept US currency and have Englishspeaking staff.







#### Gate 2 Street Okinawa's International Crossroad

Located between Kadena Air Base's Gate 2 and Okinawa City's Goya intersection, Gate 2 Street is known as the place to go for imported clothing and everything else, from custom-made dresses and suits to the latest in hip-hop, R&B and reggae to Latin fashions. Visitors can enjoy Gate 2 Street's surrounding

areas, such as BC Street, where various clubs, bars and restaurants can be found. Many of Gate 2 Street's clubs and bars are run and owned by Americans and offer the best in Okinawan rock and live houses, making the Gate 2 Street area popular among Americans and locals alike.











Chatan Town
Okinawa's California

One of the newer areas of Okinawa, Chatan is an ideal place to visit and is popular with both tourists and locals. In Chatan's Hamby area, visitors can relax and appreciate the sunset view of the ocean at any of the numerous restaurants lining the shore. At Sunabe's Miyagi coast you can enjoy fishing, diving and even surfing, after which you can sit by the seawall and take in the setting sun. Chatan's best-known area, however, is Mihama American Village, where an American-style movie theater, shops, restaurants and cafes seem to have been picked up and placed there. Some of the town's famous landmarks are its giant Ferris wheel and the Beach Tower Hotel on Sunset Beach.

#### Ginowan City

Bordered by Chatan Town, Okinawa City and Urasoe City, Ginowan is well-known for its Tropical Beach, where young foreigners and locals can be found every day. Visible from Tropical Beach, the Ginowan Marina is home to numerous yachts and is adjacent to the Ginowan Convention Center, host to both national and international conferences.



# Central Area

Yuntanzan-hanaori





Yomitan Village

#### Village of Traditional Art and Beauty

Yomitan, known for its rich nature and traditional artisans, has some of Okinawa's most beautiful sunsets, which can be viewed from places like Cape Zampa and Nirai Beach. Crafts such as "yachimun," or pottery, "hanaori" textiles and Ryukyu glass are but a few of the handmade items Yomitan has to offer. While you are there be sure to try some of Yomitan's beni imo (purple sweet potato) treats and ice cream.





#### Yachimun no Sato

Yachimun no Sato, located in a beautiful natural setting in Yomitan Village, has numerous pottery workshops. High-quality ceramics can be purchased for a reasonable price at direct-sales stores.









Gala: Blue Ocean

At Yomitan's Gala you can experience the conversion of ocean water into sea salt.



#### Bios on the Hill

This is a nature park designed through the use of geomancy handed down from ancient Okinawa.



Southeast Botanical Gardens

Japan's largest tropical garden with over 2,000 varieties of flowers and plants.



#### Murasaki Mura

The Naha cityscape of the Ryukyu Kingdom era has been re-created in this theme park.



#### Ryukyu Mura

Old Okinawan design and traditional lifestyle are replicated in this theme park.



The emerald-green ocean gracing the Renaissance Resort suddenly appears alongside Highway 58 right after entering Onna Village. Starting from this point, a series of resort hotels lines the west coastal road, a popular driving route. While the setting and facilities of these resorts have always attracted honeymooners, they have recently become popular wedding venues as well.









# Natural blessings for your well-being **Esthetic Salons and Spas**

Esthetic services at resort hotels have recently been enhanced and are popular among tourists and locals alike. Resorts like Ginoza Village's Kanna Thalasso Okinawa offer seawater pools and Jacuzzis with optional seaweed and sea clay courses. Various hotels offer esthetic menus using an abundance of natural and raw materials like Ishikawa City's Coco Garden Resort Okinawa, which uses sea salts and ucchin (turmeric) in their esthetic courses. Goya (bittermelon), deep-sea water, hibiscus and brown sugar esthetic facilities can also be found at Onna Village hotels, Ishikawa City's Coco Garden Resort Okinawa and Nago City's Kanucha Bay Hotel & Villas. When it comes to top-quality esthetic services in Okinawa, your choices are endless.

# Northern Area

Rich in Okinawa's Natural Beauty



#### Okinawa Ocean Expo Park and Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium

Whale sharks and manta rays swim with ease in a huge, world class acrylic tank at a height of 8.2 meters, a width of 22.5 meters and a thickness of 60 centimeters. You can also see the habitat of exotic tropical fish in the tank, which reproduces the environment of coral reefs living 20 meters below the water's surface. In addition, visitors can enjoy exciting shows performed by dolphins and manatees.





#### Bankoku Shinryokan

Surrounded by the emerald green East China Sea, Bankoku Shinryokan has been the site of numerous international conferences including the 2000 G-8 Summit.



#### Busena Underwater Observatory

This underwater observatory is located at the tip of a pier near the Bankoku Shinryokan in Nago City, where the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit was held in 2000. Visitors can observe the marine environment from the underwater site, situated five to seven meters below the surface of the water.







#### Manza-mo

A spectacular view of the East China Sea can be observed from the top of the cliffs at Manza-mo, where the vegetation alone has been designated a Prefectural Natural Treasure.



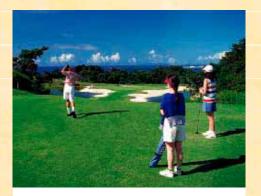
#### Ocean-view Cafés

Located in old Ryukyu-style houses, the cafés in Motobu and Nakijin are charming. Take a leisurely drive to each café for distinctive architecture and spectacular ocean vistas. The above photo captures the view from Kajinhou in Motobu.



#### Onna Village

Onna Village is the perfect place for sightseeing, camping and overall rest and relaxation. Onna has several beaches such as Inbu and Seragaki, where you can dive, snorkel and even enjoy sports like jet skiing. Onna's Cape Maeda is said to have the best snorkeling and diving on island, while Cape Manzamo's serene view is calming and inspiring.



#### Okinawa Year-round Golf Resorts

Okinawa offers full and short courses, courses with magnificent ocean views, courses situated in subtropical forests and even courses with the fairway crossing through the ocean. Okinawa's bountiful natural terrain and elaborately designed courses like the Atta Terrace Golf Resort in Onna Village, the Kise Country Club and the Kanucha golf course in Nago City eagerly await your visit.

Okinawa is the birthplace of karate. Developed in the former Ryukyu Kingdom, it spread from Okinawa to Japan and then to the rest of the world and today has 50 million fans in more than 150 countries.

It all started in the 13th century, when the indigenous martial art blended with Chinese kung fu. Karate was strengthened following a policy banning weapons declared in the early 1500s and developed mainly in today's Naha City. In Shuri there was Shuri-te, today's Shorin-ryu. In Naha it was Naha-te, which later became Goju-ryu. Tomari had Tomari-te. Other styles such as Uechi-ryu and Ryuei-ryu also emerged. Kobudo, or weaponry, was also developed through the use of various everyday tools. Among these are the staff, the nunchaku and the



Around 1920, karate was introduced to mainland Japan by Okinawan masters, and after WWII it spread around the world to become the popular sport of today.

Karate is an inexhaustive art of selfdefense. With its main principle being "there is no first attack in karate," its ultimate goal is the perfection of character through training to the height of human potential of mind, body and spirit. This is reached through the practice of kata, or form and physical conditioning, and the use of tools derived from utensils of daily life such as the water jug.

Okinawa is proud of its karate tradition, which comes alive in the dragon boat races and the Naha Festival every fall. Karate movements also influenced eisa drums and Ryukyuan dances.

As the birthplace of karate, Okinawa has many monuments dedicated to the masters and more than 400 dojo, or gyms, where karate is passed down from generation to generation.

KARATE



#### Experience karate:

desire to fight.

If you want to experience karate, contact the Okinawa Traditional Karatedo Kobudo International Studying Center. Located in Yomitan Village in Murasaki Mura Park, it offers karate courses for all. 098-921-1080 / www.okinawakarate.jp

sickle. In the early 1900s the Chinese characters for

the art were changed to today's characters meaning

"empty hand," as in having neither a weapon nor a

#### Your one-stop service center:

The Okinawa Karatedo Kobudo Support Center is your one-stop service when it comes to karate and kobudo. Locating a dojo or accessing the latest Okinawa karate news are just two of the many services we offer. 098-864-5628 / www.okinawa-karate.jp

#### See karate:

Naha City Bunka Tenbusu Kan offers two shows on Tuesday, starting 19:00 and 20:00, combining karate, kobudo and Okinawan dance. www.tenbusu.jp. Discover the world of martial arts by visiting the Okinawa Prefectural Hall of Martial Arts (closed every Tuesday). Get the latest karate news by contacting the Okinawa Karatedo Kobudo Support Center, www.okinawa-karate.jp

#### Karate goods:

Shureido Shop in Tomari, Naha, offers traditional karate and kobudo equipment. 098-861-5621

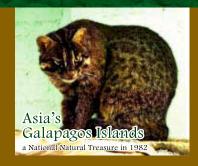


# Okinawan

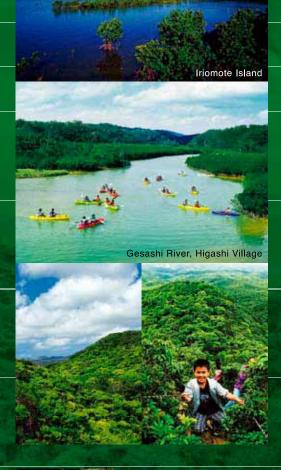
Okinawa's attraction lies not only in it being a subtropical resort island, but in its pristine surroundings and unique wildlife.

Visitors seeking tourism oriented around nature find they are able to appreciate Okinawa's nature while enjoying canoeing, kayaking,

snorkeling, scuba diving, fishing, trekking and a wealth of other activities limited only by one's imagination. The region made up of Kunigami Village, Ogimi Village and Higashi Village, known as Yanbaru, boasts a vast wilderness area and rare species such as the Yanbaru kuina (Okinawan rail). Visitors can enjoy Tanagaa Gumui on the Fuku River and Gesashi Port's mangroves. The beauty of Yanbaru has spurred a movement to have Yanbaru declared a World Heritage site.



Within the subtropical islands of Okinawa, Iriomote stands out as the Galapagos of Asia. Many rare plants and animals have survived and evolved on Okinawa's Iriomote Island. Insects like the Iriomote firefly, which emits a yellow florescent light, and animals such as the Iriomote wildcat, which was designated a national natural treasure in 1982, can only be found here.





#### Hiji Falls

The Hiji Falls are the largest falls in Okinawa Prefecture and are a 30 to 40-minute hike from the Hiji Falls administrative office. The exotically lush area has benches overlooking the falls and is excellent for relaxing, barbeques and picnics. Gates are open from 8:00 a.m. to sunset (3:30 p.m. in winter).

#### Kerama Islands

慶 良 間

The Kerama Islands, 30 kilometers west of Naha City, consist of approximately 20 islands of various sizes and feature world-class diving spots. Whales migrate to the islands every spring during their breeding season, when visitors can experience exciting whale watching.





#### Zamami Island

The main attraction of this island is its magnificent ocean. It is said that divers always eventually return to this water, which is 20°C or above, even in the winter. Approximately 60,000 divers visit the island annually.

access 90 to 120 minutes by ferry from Tomari Port in Naha City (via Aka Island); 20 minutes by air from Naha Airport.



#### Tokashiki Island

Tokashiki Island, the largest of the Keramas, is 32 kilometers west of Naha City. Tokashiki's waters are full of coral reefs

and are so clear that divers can see for 50 meters. Several white sand beaches ring the island.

access 35 minutes by express ferry from Tomari Port in Naha City.

#### The Other Islands

#### Aguni Island

Nationally known Aguni salt comes from this island, where the atmosphere of old Okinawa still exists.

#### Geruma Island

Old Okinawan houses, designated important cultural assets, remain in serenity on the island.

#### Tonaki Island

The island, with an area of 3.5 square kilometers, has been designated a National Important Traditional Structure preservation area.

#### Aka Island

This island is popular for its beautiful diving spots.

#### Miyako Island

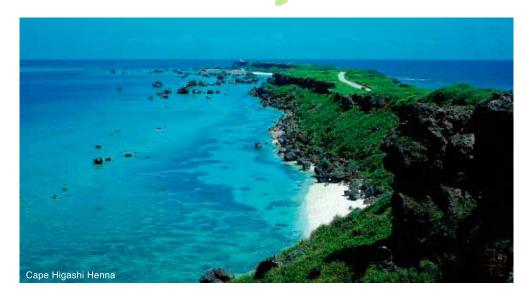
宮古島

Miyako Island, 400 kilometers west of the main island of Okinawa, is the third largest and the most densely populated area of Okinawa's outer islands. Among other things Miyako Island is famous for the Annual Miyako Triathlon, its beautiful white sandy beaches and the Yaebishi coral reef.



access 45 minutes by air from Naha Airport.

Tarama Island



#### The Other Islands

#### Irabu Island

This island is located next to Shimoii Island and is well known for its single-rod bonito fishing.

#### Shimoji Island

Known as an excellent diving spot, Shimoji Island is also Japan's only training area for commercial airline pilots.

#### Ikema Island

Ikema Island is located north of Miyako Island, to which it is connected by the Ikema Bridge.

#### Tarama Island

Tarama is located in between Ishigaki and Miyako



#### Kume Island

久 米 島

100 kilometers west of Naha City and home to the white-sand beach of Eef, Kume Island escaped damage from the Battle of Okinawa and still has a large number of monuments and cultural artifacts from the Ryukyu Kingdom.



access 1 hour, 45 minutes by express ferry from Tomari Port in Naha City; 30 minutes by air from Naha Airport.

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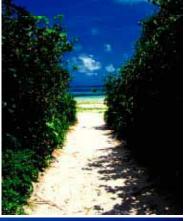
## Yaeyama Islands

八 重 山

The Yaeyama Islands, located 500 kilometers west of the main island of Okinawa, consist of 10 inhabited islands including Ishigaki, Taketomi, Kohama, Iriomote, Hateruma, Yonaguni, Kuro and Yufu islands.









#### Ishigaki Island

Eighty percent of the Yaeyamas' population lives on Ishigaki Island. Numerous ferries serving neighboring islands operate from Ishigaki Port. World-class Shiraho Beach and Kabira Bay's natural wonders attract many visitors.





Club Med, located on an extremely beautiful beach.







#### Iriomote Island

Iriomote is the largest of the Yaeyama Islands. Rainforest vegetation and rare animals such as the Iriomote wildcat are found on this island, known for the high humidity caused by abundant rainfall.

access 40 minutes by ferry from Ishigaki Island.

#### Taketomi Island

Visitors can ride in water buffalo carts traveling slowly among the traditional red-tile-roof houses and stone walls while experiencing the old Okinawan atmosphere.

access 10 minutes by ferry from Ishigaki Island.





A peaceful atmosphere with white beaches, red-tile-roof houses, buffalo carts and the soft sounds of minyo.

#### Yonaguni Island

Japan's westernmost island, Yonaguni offers views on sunny days of Taiwan, which is located only 111 kilometers away.

4 hours by ferry from Ishigaki Island; 30 minutes by air from Ishigaki Airport.

#### Kohama Island

This tiny island, only 16.6 kilometers in circumference, became famous as the setting for NHK's popular TV drama "Churasan."

access 25 minutes by ferry from Ishigaki Island.

# **Transportation**

#### Bus \* Route number indicates route traveled by buses. **Buses on Regular Routes**

Buses with an identical route number travel on the same route regardless of company. Route numbers 1-17 (excluding 15) 18 and 19 operate within Naha City. Numbers 15, 20 and greater are for suburban lines.

#### • Route Numbers 1-3, 5-12, 17 (Naha City Lines)

All buses with circled route numbers are destined for the Miegusuku Bus Terminal and are boarded from the front door and exited via the rear. The buses on these routes are air-conditioned and one-man controlled. Except for the ¥150 one-way route number 8 buses from Shurijo Shitamachi, all bus fares are ¥220 regardless of where you get on or off within the city. \* The fare for route number 10 buses is ¥100 within the Shintoshin area.

#### • Route Numbers 15, 20+ (Suburban Lines)

Get on the bus through the front door, but don't forget to take a numbered ticket. Pay the fare for your stop as shown on the ticket before exiting from the front. All buses on these routes are air-conditioned and one-man controlled and bound for the Naha Bus Terminal.

#### **Bus Stops**

In some places, the city line bus stop is separate from the suburban line stop. Make sure you are getting on the right bus, especially on Kokusai Street.

Bill changer insertion guide How to Pay Bus Fare Coin changer slot

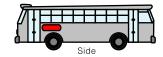


Put exact fare only into this opening.

Put exact fare only into the fare box. Bills (¥1,000 only) should be changed using the bill changer. ¥500, ¥100 and ¥50 coins can be changed by the coin changer. On city route buses, however, you will automatically receive change.

#### Destination





#### Examples of Destination Signs

Suburban Line Bus

City Line Bus



#### **Bus Tours**

Offered with audio commentary in English, tours on various sightseeing spots on the island are conducted by Naha Bus and Okinawa Bus, including scenic and battle sites and the Churaumi Aquarium Visit www. jtb-sunrisetours.jp/ for the details.

#### Flight Information

While flights shuttle daily between Naha Airport and Japan's major cities such as Tokyo (Haneda), Osaka (Itami, Kansai), Nagoya and Fukuoka, flights are also available to and from other major Asian cities including Seoul, Taipei, Shanghai and Manila.

#### Direct Asian Fliahts to Naha

#### Seoul via Asiana Airlines

Once a day (Wed. & Fri.) / 2 hours. 15 min. http://ip.flvasiana.com/Global/JP/en/index

1-888-437-7718

#### Taipei via China Airlines

Twice a day (usually every day) / 1 hours, 20 min. http://www.china-airlines.com/en/index.htm

#### Shanghai via China Eastern Airlines

Once a day (Thu. & Sun.) / 2 hours http://www.ce-air.com/cea2/en US/homepage

+1626 5831500 (Los Angeles)

#### Hong Kong via Hong Kong Express Airways

Once a day (usually every day) / 2 hours http://www.hongkongairlines.com/web/eng/

#### Fliaht Times from Major Mainland Cities to Naha Airport

Tokyo (Haneda) to Naha	2 hours, 35 minutes		
Osaka (Itami) to Naha	2 hours, 5 minutes		
Osaka (Kansai) to Naha	2 hours		
Nagoya to Naha	2 hours, 15 minutes		
Fukuoka to Naha	1 hour, 35 minutes		

#### Flight Times from Naha Airport to Outer Islands

Kume Island	35 minutes		
Kerama Islands	20 minutes		
Aguni Island	25 minutes		
Miyako Island	45 minutes		
Ishigaki Island	1 hour		
Yonaguni Island	1 hour, 35 minutes		
	As of May 1, 2006		

■Japan Airlines (JAL) 0570-025-071 / 098-863-8522 http://www.jal.co.jp/en/ (English)

**All Nippon Airways (ANA) 0570-029-222 / 098-861-8800** http://www.ana.co.jp/eng/index.html (English)

# Information

#### Weather

Avg. (C/F)	Avg. Tem	g. Temperature Avg. High Av		Avg. High		g. Low	
JANUARY	16.6	61.9	19.1	66.4	14.3	57.7	
FEBRUARY	16.6	61.9	19.2	66.6	14.3	57.7	
MARCH	18.6	65.5	21.3	70.3	16.2	61.2	
APRIL	21.3	70.3	24.0	75.2	18.9	66.0	
MAY	23.8	74.8	26.4	79.5	21.5	70.7	
JUNE	26.6	79.9	29.2	84.6	24.6	76.3	
JULY	28.5	83.3	31.3	88.3	26.4	79.5	
AUGUST	28.2	82.8	30.9	87.6	26.1	79.0	
SEPTEMBER	27.2	81.0	29.9	85.8	25.1	77.1	
OCTOBER	24.9	76.8	27.5	81.5	22.7	72.9	
NOVEMBER	21.7	71.0	24.2	75.6	19.5	67.1	
DECEMBER	18.4	65.1	20.9	69.6	16.1	61.0	

Normal mean temperature 1971-2000

098-876-4211

#### **Temperature**

Celsius = (Fahrenheit - 32) / 1.8 Fahrenheit = (Celsius x 1.8) + 32

#### Consulates (in Okinawa)

U.S. Consulate General

2-1-1 Toyama, Urasoe City

Honorary Consulate of the Rep. of Bolivia 1985-1-1F Gusukuma, Urasoe City 098-877-0021

Honorary Consulate of the Fed, Rep. of Brazil 1-15-5-1F Izumizaki, Naha City 098-867-3304

**Honorary Consulate of the Philippines** 098-892-5486 2-35-1-2F Aragusuku, Ginowan City

China-Ryukyu Culture and Economic Association 3-15-9-6F Kumoji, Naha City 098-862-7008

#### **Immigration Offices**

**Tokyo Immigration Office** 5-5-30 Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 03-5796-7111/2 Osaka Immigration Office

1-29-53 Nankokita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka City 06-4703-2100 **Fukuoka Immigration Office** 

778-1 Shimosui, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka City 092-626-5100

 Naha Branch 1-15-15-7F Higawa, Naha City 098-831-5497

 Kadena Branch 098-975-5252 290-9 Rotary Kadena Bldg.#1, Kadena, Kadena Town

#### **Tourism Information**

**Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau** http://www.visitokinawa.ip

**Okinawa Prefecture** 

http://www.pref.okinawa.ip/

#### For information on sightseeing in Okingwa. please contact:

#### Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau

Okinawa Industry Support Center,

1831-1 Oroku, Naha, Okinawa 901-0152 098-859-6123

#### Naha Airport International Terminal **Visitor Information Center**

174 Kagamizu, Naha, Okinawa 900-0142 098-859-0742

**Naha Airport Visitor Information Center** 

150 Kagamizu, Naha, Okinawa 901-0142 098-857-6884 Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau

### Taipei Branch Office

Room E. 4F., No. 148. Songjiang Rd., Zhongshan District, Taipei City 104, Taiwan (R.O.C) 886-2-2541-6306

#### Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau **Korea Branch Office**

10F, Korea Tourism Organization BLDG, 40, +822-318-6330 Cheonggyecheonno, Jung-gu, Seoul 100-180, Korea

#### Okinawa Prefectural Government **Tourism Promotion Division**

1-2-2 Izumizaki, Naha, Okinawa 900-0021 098-866-2764

#### Okinawa Prefectural Government Hong Kong Representive Office

C/O Into Suites 3704-05, 37F Dorset House,

Taikoac Place Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, China +852-2968-1006 Okinawa Prefectural Government Industry

**Promotion Public Corporation Shanghai Office** 2604 Guang Ming Mansion 2 Jinling Road(E) Shanghai, China +862-1-6321-4835

Okinawa Prefectural Government Industry **Promotion Public Corporation Fuzou Office** No.97 Kalin Road, Fuzou, Fujian Sheng, China +86-591-7810493

#### **Currency Exchange Information**

Currency exchange is offered at banks (9:00-15:00, weekdays) and hotels (fee). An ATM (US dollars to ven) is available at three branches of JUSCO (Chatan 10:00-22:00; Gushikawa 9:00-23:00; Nago 9:00-21:00). San-A branches also provide dollar-to-yen exchange machines (Hamby 9:00-21:00; Naha Main Place 9:00-23:00). TISCO Japan's currency exchange service desks can be found at the Washita Shop on Kokusai Street (14:00-19:00) and at Naha Airport (9:00-18:00), where 18 currencies are exchanged, includeing the US dollar, New Taiwan dollar, Hong Kong dollar, Korean won, Chinese vuan, Euros, and etc. (sell/buv available) Edova naha branch Exchange service desk at Okinawa Mitsukoshi 1F can exchange 33 currencies. (sell/buy available)

#### FOREIGN CURRENCY AND TRAVELER'S CHECK SERVICES

Various post offices throughout Japan and Okinawa offer foreign currency exchange and traveler's check services for U.S. dollars and euros. Contact the nearest post office in your area for locations.

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