

# 25/25 Okinawa Japan

Shiny skyscrapers, heaving rush hour trains and grey-faced salarymen are few and far between on the tropical necklace of islands known as Okinawa. Instead, Japan's most southerly region is home to unspoilt coral reefs, sandy beaches, mangrove jungles and subtropical rainforests.

## Essentials

- 01 Bicycle rental is available at almost every hotel.
- 02 Explore. Jump on a boat or plane and hop among the 150 islands scattered across a 560km expanse of sea.
- 03 Eat a pineapple. Okinawa is home to hundreds of farms dedicated to the art of producing the perfect pineapple.
- 04 Become a black belt. The islands are the birthplace of *te*, a traditional martial art that evolved into karate.
- 05 Dip beneath the surface. Parrotfish, barracudas and mantarays can be found in its clear blue waters, not to mention the odd Second World War shipwreck.

## Guide/Info

### Hotels

#### Independent and easy

Minshuku Izumiya  
Taketomi-cho, Taketomi  
Jima, Yaeyama Islands  
+81 98 85 2250

#### Dependable chain

ANA InterContinental  
Ishigaki Resort,  
354-1 Maesato, Ishigaki  
+81 98 0887 111

#### Premium

Busena Terrace  
1808 Kise, Nago City  
+81 98 0511 333  
[terrace.co.jp](http://terrace.co.jp)

### Dining

#### Fast breakfast

Sata Andagii  
Okinawan doughnuts –  
freshly made in Makishi  
market.

2-10-1 Matsuo, Naha City  
Boulangerie Couques  
1817-5 Namihira,  
Yomitanson,  
Nakagami-gun  
+81 98 9580 172

#### Ice cream pit stop

Blue Seal  
1-3-63 Makishi, Naha City  
+81 98 8672 290

#### Healthy organic lunch

Bio Smile Café  
Furugen 852-1, Yomitanso,  
Nakagami-gun  
+81 98 9564 000  
[seiryusha.com/cafe](http://seiryusha.com/cafe)

#### Lunch with a sea view

Café Curcuma  
1190 Chinen, Chinen-Son,  
Shimajiri-gun  
+81 98 9491 189

#### Afternoon tea

Chadokoro Makabe  
223 Makabe, Itoman  
+81 98 9973 207  
Ayamon  
3-25-13 Kumoji,  
Naha City  
+81 98 8617 741

### Rooftop cocktails

Club Cielo  
6F Matsuo, Naha City  
+81 98 8619 955

### Big dinner with friends

Akatafu  
1-37 Shuri Akata,  
Naha City  
+81 98 8845 543

### Late bite

Kijimunaa  
2F, 2-3-1 Tomari,  
Naha City  
+81 98 8615 383

### Drink after dinner

Mafali Café  
2F, 1-1-3 Kokusai  
+81 98 894 4031  
[mafalicafe.com](http://mafalicafe.com)

### Late drinks

Bekkan Celluloid  
2F, 3-8-25 Makishi,  
Naha City  
+81 98 8624 969

### Reading

#### Books and magazines

Tsutaya  
4-2-8 Omoromachi,  
Naha City  
+81 98 8601 316  
[tsutaya-ltd.co.jp/english](http://tsutaya-ltd.co.jp/english)

### Essentials

Nakaoji Pharmacy  
1-3-21 Izumisaki, Naha  
+81 98 8616 402

### Shopping

#### Lost luggage – where to buy shirts, socks and underwear

Okinawa Mitsukoshi  
2-2-30 Makishi,  
Naha City  
+81 98 8625 111

#### Something you can't get anywhere else

Wander beneath an old-fashioned shopping arcade in the main market on Ishigaki, one of the Yaeyama islands, for tropical omiyagi souvenirs ranging from sugared fruits, sea salt and shells to herb teas, pearls and traditional island textiles.

#### Something for someone you love

Handmade silver jewellery from Kanzeeku Matayoshi  
2-23-1 Shuri Ishiminecho,  
Naha City  
+81 98 8847 301

#### Something for yourself

Traditional “bingata” textiles – and try coral dyeing some fabrics yourself – at Shuri-Ryusen  
1-54 Shuri Yamakawacho,  
Naha  
+81 98 886 1131  
[shuri-ryusen.com](http://shuri-ryusen.com)

### Two-hour tour

Okinawa Prefectural Art Museum  
The airy white space of this new museum offers a comprehensive guide to Okinawa's art world.  
3-1-1 Omoromachi,  
Naha City  
+81 98 941 8200  
[museums.pref.okinawa.jp](http://museums.pref.okinawa.jp)

### Limousine/car

#### Car Rental

ToCoo!  
Cars can be collected at several locations in Okinawa, including Naha Airport.  
[www2.tocoo.jp](http://www2.tocoo.jp)

### Transport

Japan Transocean Air and its subsidiary, Ryukyu Air Commuter, operate flights between islands from Naha and Ishigaki. The Churashima ticket gives you five flights for ¥35,000 (€220). Alternatively, charter a plane or helicopter. Ferries run regularly from Naha to the islands.  
[islandlink.jp](http://islandlink.jp)

### Fitness

#### Karate

Head to the Okinawan Prefectural Budukan, three floors of martial arts training rooms set in a park that are open to visitors.  
52 Okutakeyama,  
Onoyama Koen,  
Naha  
+81 988 582 700  
+81 980 882 434

