

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

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

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

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

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

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

Limousine/car

Car Rental

ToCoo!
Cars can be collected at several locations in Okinawa, including Naha Airport.
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

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



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