



OKINAWA AT A GLANCE

Founded: The main island of Okinawa lived an independent existence until it became a Japanese prefecture in 1879.

Region: Surrounded by the East China Sea, Okinawa is the largest island in the Ryukyu Islands, located 400 miles south from the rest of Japan.

Population: 1,385 million (2009)

Climate: Sometimes referred to as the “Hawaii of Japan,” Okinawa’s subtropical weather means mild winters and hot summers with pleasant year ‘round temperatures averaging 68°F.

Language: Japanese

Hello..... Konnichi wa

Yes..... Hai

No..... Iie (ee-YUH)

Please..... Dozo

Thank you..... Arigato gozaimasu

Excuse me..... Sumi masen

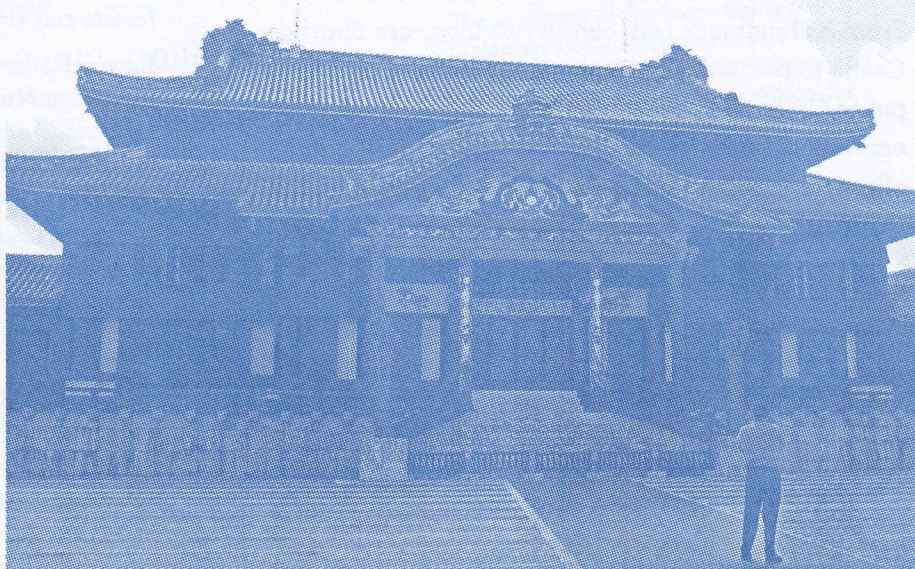
Good morning..... Ohayou Gozaimasu

Good afternoon..... Konnichi wa

“Please take me back to the port”

(in local language): “Naha-ko Wakasa Ba-a-su ni tsurete itte kudasai”

Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)



Shuri Castle

THE BEST OF OKINAWA

Don’t miss out on the top Points of Interest in this port —
 Book a Princess Excursion and experience them for yourself!

① SHURIJO CASTLE

Built in the 1300s, this vermilion-colored landmark was the palace of Ryukyu kings and is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the castle’s interior, now a museum, and take in panoramic views.

② OKINAWA MUSEUM

Dedicated to preserving Okinawan art and history, this modern museum showcases 85,000 artifacts pertaining to folklore, crafts and archaeology in its collection ranging from the 12th century to the present.

③ JAPANESE NAVY UNDERGROUND HEADQUARTERS

Descend 101 steps into a complex dug by hand that served as the Japanese Navy’s headquarters during World War II. A recorded audio feed enhances your tour through the underground tunnels.

④ PEACE MEMORIAL PARK

Peace Park and Okinawa Peace Memorial Museum serve as the main memorial to the Battle of Okinawa. Stroll the grounds and learn about the events leading up to this devastating period in Okinawan history.

⑤ SHIKINAEN GARDENS

Constructed in the 18th century as a second home to the Ryukyu kings, the property’s landscaped gardens, quaint wooden palace buildings and a tranquil pond can all be viewed by strolling a picturesque circular path.

⑥ RYUKYU MURA

Traditional culture comes to life in this charming re-creation of an ancient Okinawan village. “Living exhibits” showcase festivals, cuisine and crafts. A parade and dance performances add merriment.

⑦ SEIFA UTAKI

Okinawa’s most important, outdoor sacred place at the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Discover ceremonial altars created from natural stone and caves nestled within a rocky seascape.

⑧ CHURAUMI AQUARIUM

A kaleidoscope of marine life is on display in over 80 tanks, including the massive Kuroshio Tank, holding 2 million gallons of seawater. See sharks, mantas, colorful coral, and a dolphin show.

Explore Okinawa with a Princess Shore Excursion. Visit the Tour Office for more information.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 SHURIJO CASTLE
- 2 OKINAWA MUSEUM
- 3 JAPANESE NAVY UNDERGROUND HEADQUARTERS
- 4 PEACE MEMORIAL PARK
- 5 SHIKINAEN GARDENS
- 6 RYUKYU MURA
- 7 SEIFA UTAKI
- 8 CHURAUMI AQUARIUM



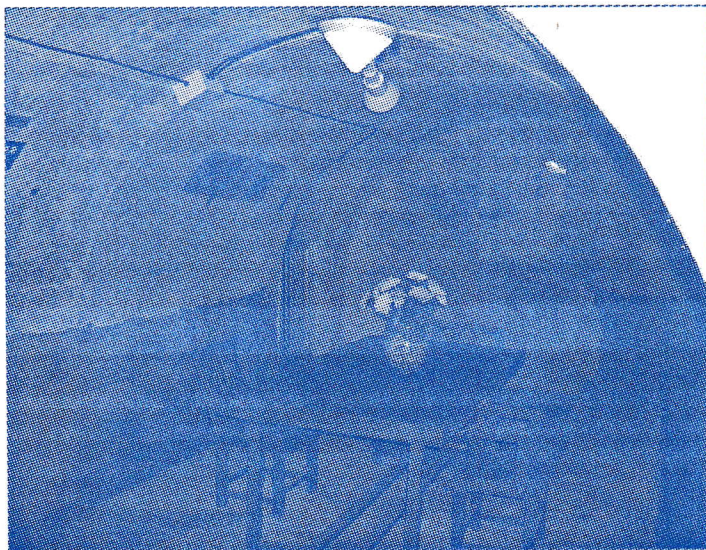
OKINAWA

A CITY OF CONTRASTS

You can't help but admire the dual personality of Okinawa as you make your way around the main island. From its landmark 14th century Ryukyu-era Shuri Castle to the 20th century memorials dedicated to peace Okinawa strives to build a bustling future while embracing its revered past. It's this fascinating mix of reverence and energy that makes Okinawa such an unforgettable experience.

A LIVING HISTORY

Okinawa's early history has been lost to time until the 15th century when the Ryukyu kingdom, then under the power of China, ruled over the islands. Okinawa then flourished as a great trading center with China, Korea and Southeast Asia. Reminders of the Ryukyu's exalted past is carefully being restored in Naha City, the seat of power during the Ryukyu's 500-year-reign.



Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters

For a glimpse into the original splendor that surrounded the Ryukyu kings, take a step back in time with a tour of the magnificent Shuri Castle. Outside, the picturesque Shureimon Gate shimmers in red and gold lacquer. Inside, the main hall is decorated in a lavish décor and a striking red color that is unique to Shuri Castle. Originally built in the late 1300s, Shuri was destroyed and rebuilt numerous times over the centuries and was ultimately destroyed in the battle of Okinawa in 1945. Reconstructed on the original location using photos, official records and memory, it reopened in 1992 and is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The peaceful and delightful 18th century Shikinaen Garden was also built for royalty. Here, you'll find simple wooden buildings and pavilions with tile roofs artfully situated among

traditionally landscaped grounds, connected by manicured paths that meander over graceful stone bridges, through small forests and around a central pond.

Experience what ordinary Ryukyu lives were like with a journey to Ryukyu Mura, a charming reproduction of an ancient Okinawan village. Original architecture from all over the region is on display, and Okinawan cuisine is featured in food stands and restaurants. Visit "living exhibits" showcasing traditional festivals, cuisine and crafts and watch villagers create traditional bingata stencil-dyed fabrics. You can even try your hand at activities like indigo dyeing, pottery, painting and playing the sanshin guitar.

LANDMARKS DEDICATED TO PEACE

Military history enthusiasts will appreciate an intimate look at the Battle of Okinawa with a tour of three sites commemorating the event. Today, poignant memorials are spread across the island and serve as thought-provoking and sober reminders of the human cost of war.

The former Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters is noted as the last stand of the Japanese Navy. Pause at the entrance, where a raised platform provides a stunning and meditative view of the surrounding area. Then, descend the 101 steps down into a system of underground tunnels that stretch 1,476 feet into the hillside. It was here, in the waning days of the war, Rear Admiral Ota, and many of his men fought and died.

The Himeyuri Peace Museum and the adjacent Himeyuri Monument commemorates the lives of female high school students who worked as nurse assistants in army field hospitals. The Peace Museum displays photos and personal effects and testimonies from the surviving members of the group serve as a moving memorial and reminder of the miseries of war, the importance of peace, and the preciousness of life.

Nearby, you'll find the lovely Peace Park and Okinawa Peace Memorial Museum. Built on the site of the last battles for control of Okinawa, the museum offers an overview of the historical events leading up to the battle, the battle itself, and the aftermath and reconstruction. The park's "Cornerstone of Peace" is dedicated to those who lost their lives; the name of every soldier, marine, coast guardsman, sailor or airman - both Allied as well as Japanese - are engraved on elegant granite walls.

But these are just a few of the must-see sights Okinawa has to offer. Whether you prefer to be transported back in time, to meditate over its lush scenery and swaying palm trees or to contemplate the preciousness of life, your visit will always be memorable.



DID YOU KNOW?

LOCAL CUISINE

The Okinawan diet has been touted for its health benefits. Low-fat, low-salt foods, fish, tofu, and seaweed are common ingredients at every meal such as champuru, a stir-fried dish made with tofu, bitter melon and vegetables. But you may be surprised to learn that pork is one of the Okinawans favorite meats—but it's used primarily in soups. Try this island favorite: Okinawa soba, which is a noodle soup made with pork broth and wavy noodles topped with pork, leeks and sliced red ginger.

HOME SWEET HOME

Many new homes around the island are made with red roofs that display a statue resembling a lion or dragon, called a shisa, which is said to protect the home from danger.

FULL OF FAMILY FUN

Okinawa World is a one-of-a-kind theme park that's home to the enormous natural Gyokusendo Cave, the second largest in the country, formed more than 300,000 years ago.

WATER PLAY

The Churaumi Aquarium, considered the best in Japan, houses 77 tanks on four floors. Fresh salt water is pumped in from the sea 24 hours a day. The largest and most dramatic habitat

here is the massive Kuroshio Tank, which holds nearly two million gallons of water, making it one of the largest saltwater tanks in the world!

SLURPING ETIQUETTE

It's ok if you slurp while eating noodles such as soba, udon, and ramen; in fact, it's not even considered rude.

LOCATION

Okinawa sits 400 miles south of the rest of Japan, about halfway between Tokyo and Taiwan.

SWEET TREATS

Okinawa is a major producer of sugar cane, pineapple, papaya and other tropical fruit.

HISTORY ON DISPLAY

To learn more about the history and culture of the Ryukyus, it's worth a visit to the Okinawa Museum.

SACRED WORSHIP

The Ryukyuan religion, generally characterized by ancestor worship, and the respecting of relationships between the living, the dead, and the gods and spirits of the

natural world, is still practiced throughout the islands.

OKINAWA'S OFFICIAL SYMBOLS

The red flower of the deego tree is the prefecture's official flower. *Pinus luchuensis*, a species of conifer abundant throughout the Ryukyu Islands, is the tree symbol for Okinawa.

LIVE LONG AND PROSPER

Individuals live longer on this Japanese island than anywhere else in the world. Five times as many Okinawans live to be 100 as in the rest of Japan, and the Japanese are the longest-lived nationality in the world.

TOURS WITH SPIRIT

Tour the Orion beer factory, the only full-sized brewery on the island, and learn how the most popular beer in Okinawa is made. At the end of your tour, sit down and taste this refreshing drink for yourself. There is also a gift shop where you can purchase souvenirs.

Awamori is a spirit unique to Okinawa. Made from rice and distilled, rather than brewed like sake, Awamori is enjoyed straight, over ice, or diluted with water. Take a factory tour and learn about the process and enjoy a delicious tasting.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Shore Excursions: Passengers will meet at a specific location for each shore excursion departure. Please refer to your tour ticket and the Princess Patter for the correct place and time. Your Shore Excursion staff will be at that location to assist you.

Proper Attire: During the spring, summer, and fall, dressing in layers is the key to being comfortable. A light shirt, short or long sleeved, makes an excellent first layer. Over that, a sweatshirt, sweater, or fleece pullover will provide warmth. The ideal outer layer is a light waterproof jacket. Layers should be easy to remove depending on weather changes and your activity.

Docking: Your Princess ship will dock at Naha New Port, approximately five miles from downtown.

Transportation: Taxis are available at the pier and throughout Naha City. Taxi drivers may have limited English speaking abilities and usually will only accept local currency for fares. There are no trains in Okinawa

and Naha can be very crowded with cars especially at rush hour.

Shopping: Okinawa is well known for its beautiful and delicate traditional arts and crafts that include weaving, dyeing, lacquerware, fabrics and ceramics. Kokusai Dori (International Street) is the main retail street in Naha, located five miles from the pier. Kokusai Dori is roughly a 1.5-mile strip bustling with souvenir stores, bars, cafes, clothing stores, hotels and restaurants. Midway along Kokusai Dori at the intersection of Okiei and Ichiba Chuo Streets are the covered market alleyways (shotengai) of the Makishi public market, including Heiwa Dori and Mutsumi Dori. Close to here is the Tsuboya Pottery Museum with displays of historical Okinawan ceramics. Stores are generally open from 9:00am to 8:00pm, seven days a week.

Tippling: If you wish to include a tip, you may consider placing the gratuity inside a small envelope and hand it to the recipient.

Banks: The nearest bank is located at Kencho-mae (Okinawa Pref.). Generally open weekdays from 8:30am to 3:30pm, and closed on weekends and national holidays.

Post Office: The nearest post office is located at Kencho-mae (Okinawa Pref.). Generally open weekdays from 9:00am to 5:00pm, and closed on weekends and national holidays.

Emergency Numbers:

Police - 110

Ambulance, Fire - 119

Tourist Information Office:

Tembusu Naha

1F 3-2-10 Makishi, Naha City, Okinawa
900-0013

Princess Cruises Port Agent: In case of emergency while you are ashore, please contact:

Okinawa Ship's Agency Corp.

2F Naha Port Terminal

2-1, Tondou-cho

Naha City, Okinawa

Tel: +81-98-866-7890

Fax: +81-98-866-7096