

Japan's Tropical Side



OKINAWA

Welcome Guide For Muslim Visitors





Photo of Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium

Japan's Tropical Side

OKINAWA

Welcome Guide For Muslim Visitors

Okinawa Prefecture, which is situated at the southernmost point of Japan, is one of the country's most popular resort areas.

Okinawa's world-class beauty can be seen from its magnificent beaches and numerous diving spots. Moreover, the Ryukyu Kingdom culture, which has been handed down since ancient times is treasured and preserved. This culture developed independently with influences from the cultures of mainland Japan and China, and can only be found here in Okinawa.

We at Okinawa Prefecture and Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau are working to tell people of other countries about the charm and appeal of Okinawa and to encourage everyone to visit Okinawa.

We have been cooperating with businesses in Okinawa so that Muslim travelers may feel safe and enjoy their stay comfortably. These efforts have steadily increased the number of Muslim support restaurants and hotels around in Okinawa. We sincerely hope that people of Islamic faith will be able to see the appeal and attraction of Okinawa in this Guidebook, and come to see and experience what Okinawa can offer.

Contents

P.1 – P.2	Food	P.6	Shopping
P.3 – P.4	Tourism & Experiences	P.7 – P.8	Four Seasons in Okinawa
P.5	Nature		

Acknowledgement: We hereby acknowledge the local Muslims in and out of Okinawa for their contributions and support to this guidebook.



Food

Enjoy delicious Halal food!



When you come to Okinawa, be sure to try

Goya Champuru

Goya Champuru is a very popular original Okinawan cuisine. "Champuru" is a word from the Okinawan dialect meaning "to combine a variety of ingredients in a stir-fry".

One theory says that the word comes from the Indonesian and Malaysian word "campur" which means "to mix". Okinawan culture, which is a mishmash of cultures from Southeast Asia, Japan, China and other areas, is also known as "Champuru Culture".



Okinawa Soba

This is the soul food of the Okinawan people! There is also non-pork and non-alcohol Okinawa Soba!!



Ramen made with local Okinawan noodles!

Original ramen with Yaeyama soba noodle is a delicious and Muslim supported dish.



There are plenty of Muslim support Japanese restaurants too!

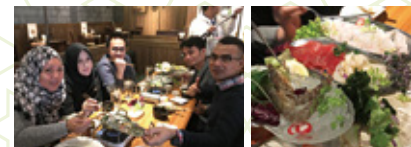
Okinawa is the island of "fresh maguro (tuna)". It is one of the places in Japan known for catching a large number of tuna. Furthermore, all four species of tuna in Japan are caught in Okinawa. You can find conveyor-belt sushi restaurants around in Okinawa that mainly serve tuna. Be sure to try Okinawa "Churashima Maguro" (beautiful island tuna)!

TEPPAN-YAKI



The chef's performance is fun to watch as well! Even our side dishes may be prepared Muslim supported.

SHABU-SHABU



Fresh seafood caught in local waters is exquisite! You may even enjoy fresh seafood that are swimming in the tank inside our shop. It's great eaten raw, or as a Shabu-Shabu. Savor these foods to your heart's content.



Taco rice, which is very popular with travelers, also comes in a delicious vegetarian alternative, "Vegetarian Taco Rice". You can even prepare these yourselves and enjoy it for lunch!



Halal Steak on Rice
Naha Airport International Passenger Terminal Building has a Muslim support restaurant, serving Halal Steak on Rice and Seafood Chirashi Rice.



Recipe Contest

Halal recipe contests and other such events are held in Okinawa. The winner in the non-pork and non-alcohol division is the "Muslim-Friendly Course Meal Featuring Fresh Okinawan Vegetables". The winner in the Vegetarian Division is the "Okinawan Genki Vegetables Rolled in Nori Seaweed and Colorful Salad" which is served at Vambo Luga in Urasoe City.



Check it out !!

In recent years, the number of Muslim support restaurants has been on the rise. The above menus are local foods, so be sure to give them a try and enjoy.



Tourism & Experiences

Amazing and enjoyable experiences await you!



Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium



Try making the Okinawan sweet mochi (rice cake) while mingling with the locals.

Brown sugar and beni-imo (purple yam) mochi are wrapped in aromatic sannin (shell flower) leaves. There are also many other things to try besides making mochi.



Dessert Making Workshop

Try your hand at making halal-style "Zenzai", a local Okinawan food! The cooking classes offer a variety of menus, so you can experience cooking up something you'd really like to try. A meal that you've prepared yourself is all the more delicious.



Shisa Craft Class

Make your own original Shisa (lion-dogs) that doesn't look like any other anywhere in the world. The instructor will kindly show you how to make it, have fun!



Loom Weaving Class

Experience traditional weaving leisurely and freely. Okinawa has a very rich culture of traditional textile.

Impressive Enormous Aquarium for You to Enjoy

About 2.7 million people visit this aquarium each year. It's the number one spot that Japanese travelers visit when in Okinawa as well.

This is one aquarium that you will not want to miss! The aquarium is home to 21,000 fish and other marine life numbering

740 species. It is a magnificent recreation of the ocean world around Okinawa. The giant water tank "Kuroshio Sea", which is one of the world's largest extending 10m deep, 35m wide and 27m back, offers visitors the chance to see three whale sharks and schools of manta rays swimming around. Located outside of the aquarium, "The Okichan Theater" is also very popular destination where visitors can catch a glimpse of dolphins' spectacular athletic ability.



Sugarcane Harvest Experience

Sugarcane grows to heights of 3 meters. How about using an actual sickle to try your hand at harvesting sugarcane? A picture of you cutting down sugarcane stalks would make a great souvenir of your trip to Okinawa. There is a kitchen where you can also boil it down to make brown sugar.

The freshly made steaming hot brown sugar is incredibly delicious! Take some home as a souvenir.



Southern Island Natural Hot Spring

Enjoy this hot spring that sources water welling up from underground! There is a relaxing large communal bath as well as private rooms available.



Cycling Experience

How about borrowing a bicycle and riding along a pure white coral road? You can enjoy a leisurely stroll through hamlets where the old townscape is still intact or head to the beach to look for star sand.



Check it out !!

There are many activities to experience here! In Okinawa, a unique culture, not found anywhere else in Japan, has been passed down over the ages. In addition to the other experiences presented, throughout the year, you can easily enjoy a traditional Eisa show, performance of traditional sanshin instruments, craft Ryukyu glass works under the instruction of a master, have your picture taken wearing a brilliantly colored Okinawa style "Bingata" (dye kimono), or enjoy countless other fun experiences. Be sure to get out to some of the many spots for amazing and enjoyable experiences.



Nature

Lots of activities and great spots to see!



Wow! Okinawa is filled with nature!

Feel the Colors, Rhythms and Forms of Okinawa

There are many wonderful spots for photographs! Why not visit a few with your friends to take pictures? There are also many beautiful beaches in Okinawa with it.



Okinawa's Cherry Blossoms



In Okinawa Prefecture, the cherry blossoms come into bloom earlier than anywhere else in Japan. The Nakijin Castle ruins, which is another World Heritage Site, is also a famous place for viewing the cherry blossoms. Cherry blossoms are only in bloom for a short time during the year, and the view is even more beautiful when lit up at night! Try to make it there to get a feel of Okinawa's history!

Check it out !!

What comes to mind at the mention of Okinawa is the world-class beautiful sea. There are beaches that may be reserved. While in Okinawa, enjoy a beach barbecue, swim in Muslim swimwear, and enjoy the Okinawan sea to your heart's desire.



Nine World Heritage Sites

In Okinawa, the sites of castles and parks that played a significant role during the ancient Ryukyu Kingdom have been designated as World Heritage Sites. Make sure that your visit includes a trip to see the Seiden at Shurijo Castle, which was beautifully designed in Ryukyuu style, incorporating aspects of Japan's architectural culture, in the image of China's Forbidden City.



Shopping

Don't forget souvenirs for family and friends!



Okinawa's Main Street - Kokusai Dori Street

The street is lined with eateries, souvenir shops and sundry shops. It is one of the main tourist spots for shopping and walking around. There's even a shopping arcade for you to enjoy on rainy days.



Blue Seal Ice Cream

Born in America, raised in Okinawa, Blue Seal Ice Cream is the local's favorite and is popular among visitors. Select your own flavor using the pictogram in store.



Beni Imo Tart

Very popular souvenir prepared with the delicious taste of beni imo yams made into sweets.



Uminchu T-shirts and Okinawan Sandals

T-shirts printed with motifs and words particular to Okinawa, and Okinawan sandals inscribed with your favorite words or design. You can create an original design to be the only one in the world!



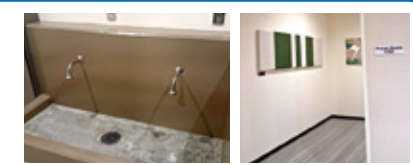
Okinawan Cosmetics

Okinawa has many cosmetics derived from natural plants.



Check it out !!

Aside from Mihama American Village, Okinawa has many places to shop such as AEON MALL Okinawa Rycom, public markets and shopping districts. Prayer rooms are provided in some shopping malls and other areas. How about enjoying a leisurely shopping trip?





Spring In April, the beaches open! You can enjoy swimming at the beach. "Ryukyu Kaiensai" which is the earliest fireworks festival in all Japan, is also held in April. It is a fusion of Japan's traditional fireworks with Okinawa's nature and culture.



Autumn Even in early autumn, you can enjoy swimming and marine activities. The showcase event in October when the temperature is milder is "The Great Tug-of-War". This contest has continued since the 15th century as a prayer for health and peace. The rope has a full-length of 200m east to west. "The Great Tug-of-War" is a major event in which some 15,000 people compete in pulling the rope for their team. At Shurijo Castle, the "Mid-autumn Celebration" is held, during which the ceremony to welcome envoys from the Chinese Emperor is reenacted, and traditional dances are performed.



Four Seasons in Okinawa



Summer In May, there is the "Hari" boat race, in which teams compete to see who can row the fastest. This traditional event, which has been continued since the days of the Ryukyu Kingdom, is an event to offer prayers for a bountiful catch and safety at sea. Summer is also the time to enjoy the beach and marine activities in Okinawa! "The Okinawa Zento Eisa Matsuri" is the largest event for traditional performances of Eisa dances in Okinawa. Along with the sound of drums, teams from different communities around the island dressed in their distinctive colors perform dances one after another. It is a dazzling spectacle for both the eyes and ears.



Winter Winter in Okinawa is full of blooming flowers. The most popular flower in Japan is the cherry blossom. Around the end of January in an area in the northern part of the Okinawa main island known as "Yanbaru", the cherry blossoms come into bloom the earliest anywhere in Japan. This type of cherry blossom is the Formosan Cherry Tree, and visitors can enjoy a variety of colors from a light peach to a brilliant pink. At Yae in Motobu Town, a festival to celebrate the earliest cherry blossoms in Japan is held. Whale watching is also a special attraction during winter and many people enjoy the chance to see whales breaching and gliding along the surface.



Guide to Okinawa Weather Year Round

Okinawa's climate offers many warm days throughout the year as it is located in a subtropical region of Japan.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
☀️07:18 🌅18:03 average 16.8°C ▲23.5°C ▼10.6°C	☀️07:02 🌅18:25 average 17.9°C ▲24.1°C ▼11.7°C	☀️06:33 🌅18:41 average 18.4°C ▲26.1°C ▼12.0°C	☀️06:01 🌅18:56 average 20.9°C ▲27.2°C ▼14.0°C	☀️05:40 🌅19:12 average 23.6°C ▲30.1°C ▼17.3°C	☀️05:37 🌅19:24 average 26.9°C ▲32.5°C ▼20.4°C	☀️05:49 🌅19:22 average 29.3°C ▲33.9°C ▼23.8°C	☀️06:04 🌅19:01 average 28.7°C ▲33.1°C ▼23.9°C	☀️06:17 🌅18:28 average 28.8°C ▲33.3°C ▼25.0°C	☀️06:31 🌅17:57 average 25.4°C ▲32.0°C ▼20.7°C	☀️06:51 🌅17:38 average 22.6°C ▲28.4°C ▼17.4°C	☀️07:12 🌅17:42 average 17.6°C ▲24.6°C ▼12.0°C
	cherry blossom		beach opening	rainy season	rainy season			typhoon season	beach closing		



<http://visitokinawa.jp>

  @visitokinawajapan
#Beokinawa #visitokinawa



Okinawa Prefecture



Month of Issue: Mar.2018