

Explore Tedako!

Cultural Facilities



Urasoe Art Museum (Urasoe Bijutsu-kan 浦添市美術館)

Address: 1-9-2 Nakama, Urasoe, Okinawa 901- 2103

Telephone: (098) 879-3219

Hours: 9:30 ~ 17:00, Fridays until 19:00
(admission until 30 minutes to closing)
(Closed Mondays and holidays)

WEB: <http://museum.city.urasoe.lg.jp/>

The Urasoe Art Museum was built in 1990 to showcase the beautiful lacquerware of the Ryukyu Kingdom and was the first public museum in Okinawa, and the first museum in Japan to specialize in lacquerware. The museum also hosts visiting exhibitions several times throughout the year.



Tedako Hall

Address: 1-9-3 Nakama, Urasoe, Okinawa 901- 2103

Telephone: (098) 942-4360

Hours: 9:00 ~ 22:00 (Reception until 17:00)
(Closed every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month)

WEB: <http://www.tedakohall.jp>

Tedako Hall is the new multi-purpose civic auditorium. It is the largest auditorium in Okinawa, and famous for its excellent acoustics. Local, national, and international groups perform at Tedako Hall all year round. Please visit the auditorium's website for upcoming events.



National Theatre Okinawa

(Kokuritsu Geki-jō Okinawa 国立劇場おきなわ)

Address: 4-14-1 Jitchaku, Urasoe, Okinawa 901-2122

Telephone: (098) 871-3311

WEB: <http://www.nt-okinawa.or.jp/en>

The National Theatre in Okinawa was built for the preservation and promotion of traditional Okinawan performing arts, particularly kumi-odori, a refined variety of Ryukyuan dance that has come to be recognized as an "important intangible cultural asset." It hosts theatrical and musical performances throughout the year. Please see the theatre's website for information on upcoming events.



Urasoe City Public Library

(Urasoe Shiritsu Toshokan 浦添市立図書館)

Address: 2-2-1 Ahacha, Urasoe, Okinawa 901-2114

Telephone: (098) 876-4946

Hours: Tuesday ~ Sunday 10:00 ~ 19:00
(Closed Mondays and holidays)

WEB: <http://library.city.urasoe.lg.jp/>

The Urasoe City Public Library is a free library that lends to anyone who lives or works in Urasoe. Non-residents are welcome to visit and read books in the library without checking them out. The library has a large children's section, in addition to the usual fiction, non-fiction and reference books. There are also CDs and videos as well as manga available for rental.



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Yui no Machi

Address: 4-13-1 Jicchaku, Urasoe, Okinawa 901-2122

Hours: 9:00 ~ 22:00

WEB: <http://yuinomachi.jp/>

The Urasoe City Industrial Promotion Center, Yui no Machi (meaning "The City of Friendly Ties"), was completed in 2004, directly across from the National Theatre. Its first floor features an interesting exhibit on the history of Urasoe's economy, with a particular emphasis on interaction with Americans.



Urasoe City Central Community Center

(Chūou Kōmin-kan 中央公民館)

Address: 1-1-2 Ahacha, Urasoe, Okinawa 901-2114

Telephone: (098) 879-5503

Hours: 9:00 ~ 21:00

The Community Center is used by many local groups for activities such as calligraphy, painting and crafts, Okinawan language, dance, tai-chi, cooking, and music. If you want to cultivate an existing hobby or start a new one, this is a good place to go.



Urasoe Harmony Center

Address: 2-3-5 Ahacha, Urasoe, Okinawa 901-2114

Telephone: (098) 874-5711

Hours: 9:00 ~ 10:00, Sundays 9:00 ~ 17:00

(Closed on holidays)

The Harmony Center is home to many Urasoe City clubs and groups. Its facilities are used by the Urasoe choral group, guitar ensemble, eisa groups, local bands, flower arranging and tea ceremony clubs, and many others, with the goal of promoting equality and equal social participation between men and women. The Harmony Center consists of a small auditorium and stage, semi-soundproofed band practice rooms, meeting rooms, a lounge and kitchenette and even a tea house.



JICA Okinawa Center

Address: 1143-1 Maeda, Urasoe, Okinawa 901-2552

Telephone: (098) 876-6000

WEB: <https://www.jica.go.jp/okinawa/>

The JICA Okinawa Center was established by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to develop human resources in developing countries and to promote international cooperation. The center hosts many trainees from around the world and provides an opportunity for the people of Urasoe to meet wonderful people from other countries. JICA Okinawa Center hosts various lectures and events, including five Friendship Seminars (Fureai Kōza) and the annual JICA Festival each year.



Urasoe International Relations Association (UIRA)

Address: 2-3-5 Ahacha, Urasoe, Okinawa 901-2114

Telephone: (098) 879-3010

WEB: <https://okinawauira.wixsite.com/uira>

The Urasoe International Relations Association is housed in the Urasoe Harmony Center. UIRA plans many activities and events for all residents of Okinawa to learn about new cultures such as cooking workshops and international exchange workshops.



Athletics & Outdoor Recreation



ANA SPORTS PARK Urasoe

Address: 1-13-1 Nakama, Urasoe, Okinawa 〒 901-2103

ANA SPORTS PARK consists of the following facilities:

1. ANA FIELD Urasoe (field and track, soccer, ground golf, gateball, Frisbee)
2. ANA ARENA Urasoe (handball, badminton, basketball, volleyball, martial arts room, training room) * Clean indoor shoes required.
3. ANA BALL PARK Urasoe (baseball; used by local teams and Tokyo Yakult Swallows for spring training)
4. ANA SPORTS HALL Urasoe (futsal, dodgeball, tennis, baseball training, gateball, ground golf, etc.)
5. ANA DOSUKOI PARK (sumo)
6. ANA MAJUNLAND Urasoe (pools, sauna, training room, etc.) * Admission is a little cheaper for Urasoe residents.
7. Tennis Courts (Address : 1-37-1 Makiminato, Urasoe; reservations made at ANA ARENA)



Urasoe Park

This is the giant park encompassing the Urasoe Castle Site and the massive children's playground with the giant slide. The Maeda Escarpment or "Hacksaw Ridge" can also be seen from this park. At the southern end of the Urasoe Park is the Urasoe Castle & Yodore Museum and the South Entrance Management Office, both of which have various exhibitions about the Urasoe Castle Site.



Beaches

Although most of the west coast of Urasoe is occupied by a military base and therefore inaccessible, there are several beaches near Urasoe. The closest is Tropical Beach, a manmade beach that is by the Okinawa Convention Center in Ginowan, just north of Urasoe. The next closest is Nami-no-Ue Beach in Naha. The east coasts of Nago and Higashi also have lovely spots that are visited by surprisingly few people. To see Okinawa's most pristine and spectacular beaches, check out the outer islands!



Explore Tedakoi



Annual Events

January



New Year Party

@ Tedako Hall

Mingle with the locals and other foreigners in this intercultural New Year Party. There are performances, mochi pounding, and more!

February



Tokyo Yakult Swallows Camp

@ ANA BALL PARK Urasoe

A chance to see the professional baseball team, the Yakult Swallows, up close in action for practice and pre-season games!



Tedako Walk

@ ANA SPORTS PARK Urasoe

A two-day walk with various courses taking the walkers around Urasoe and beyond. One course even passes through Camp Kinser!

March



The Okiten Exhibition

@ ANA ARENA Urasoe

The largest art exhibition to be held in the prefecture featuring various arts, photography, graphic designs, crafts, and more!



Lion Dance

@ Jicchaku, Nakanishi, & Uchima

Lion dances performed for Bon Festivals according to the lunar calendar.

August



Nishihara Otsunahiki

@ Umai Street, Nishihara

Giant tug of war event with eisa, etc.

September



Urasoe Youth Festival

@ ANA FIELD Urasoe

Various Youth Associations gather together to hold an energetic festival with eisa, fireworks, and kachashi.



Tedako Festival

@ ANA SPORTS PARK Urasoe

The largest festival in Urasoe featuring eisa, lion dance, martial arts, performances, concerts, and fireworks!

October



Gusukuma Otsunahiki

@ Sun Park Street, Gusukuma

Giant tug of war event with eisa, etc.

November



Okinawa Global Festa

@ JICA Okinawa Center

An intercultural festival featuring the JICA program participants from all over the world!

Iso Otsunahiki

@ Suzuran Park, Iso

Giant tug of war event with eisa, etc.

December



Kyozuka Illumination

@ Kyozuka Yuimaru Center area

Christmas lights decorate the area and extend nearly 400 meters along the street.



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Sightseeing



Urasoe Castle Site

This was the royal castle for the Chuzan principality, thought to have been built around the 13th century. It is believed to have been the king's residence for a span of 220 years during the Shunten Eiso, and Satto dynasties. The castle was left abandoned after Sho Hashi (1372 ~ 1439), the first king of the Ryukyu Kingdom, overthrew it in 1405 and moved the capital to Shuri in 1406. Although the site became the residence for Urasoe Aji chieftains during the 16th century, it was burned and destroyed by the invading Satsuma army in 1609.



Iso Castle Site

This is said to be the castle where Eiso Yononushi, the father of King Eiso (1229 ~ 1299) resided. King Eiso is also known as the "child of the sun" thanks to an intriguing legend; he is said to have been born after his mother dreamed that the sun was entering her bosom. Inside the castle ruins, one can distinguish ramparts and stone steps. The Kerama Islands are visible to the west, and Makiminato and Yomitan can be seen to the north.



Urasoe Yodore

This tomb was built by King Eiso (1229 ~ 1299) in the 13th century. It saw constant repairs thereafter and was rebuilt by King Sho Nei (1564 ~ 1620) in 1620. Both King Eiso and King Sho Nei are entombed here. Although the tomb was destroyed during the Battle of Okinawa, it was restored in 2005. Yodore means "evening calm."



Wakariji

Also called "Hanariji," Wakariji is a massive rock that stands a short distance from the Eastern edge of Urasoe Hill. This behemoth of a rock can even be seen from southern and central areas of Okinawa, and it has become a landmark of Urasoe. At the base of Wakariji lies a place of worship which is still frequented by pilgrims today.



Ahacha Bridge

This is part of the Nakagamiho Seikaido, a roadway that extends from Shuri to the Yomitan area. The king crossed this bridge to visit Futenma Shrine. It is believed that the section of cobblestone road which includes Ahacha Bridge was built under the command of King Sho Nei in 1597, when the roadway between Urasoe Gusuku and Shuri was constructed. Two stone bridges were built across the kowan River, the north bridge and the south bridge. Although the south bridge was destroyed during the Battle of Okinawa, it was reconstructed in 2006.



Toyama Stone Road

This is part of the Futenma Roadway that connected Shuri and the central region of the main island starting from Maeda and continuing to the north. During the era of the Ryukyu Dynasty, the King made a pilgrimage from Shuri to Futenma Shrine via this road. While only a 200 meter portion of the road remains to this day, it was said that this area was known as the "Horse Toppler" as the slope was so steep that horses had difficulty keeping their balance.





Kamiji

Kamiji is a very large swelling of limestone located off the northernmost point in Minatogawa's Sakibaru. The name "Kamiji" (Turtle Island) is derived from its turtle-like appearance. A coral reef lagoon, also known as Inoh, stretches along Kamiji and is a great place to see fish and play during the day, and then watch the beautiful sunset in the evening.



Minatogawa Stateside Town

Formally a housing area for the US military, this area was returned to Okinawa. Houses lined along the streets taking on the names of American states have been changed into homes, stores, cafes, etc.



Urasoe Udon Tomb

It is believed that this tomb was built around the 18th century. This is the largest kamekobaka, or "turtle shell grave" in Urasoe City. It is the tomb of the Urasoe family, whose ancestor was Shoto (Urasoe Cho-o, 1762 ~ 1797), son of King Shoboku (1739 ~ 1794). Several important politicians and intellectuals from the modern Ryukyu era (1609 ~ 1879) were members of the Urasoe family.



Nakama Spring

Nakama Spring is one of the city's largest wells. It used to be a public well providing water for drinking and other daily uses. It still produces abundant water, and it is revered by the community as a local divinity. Urasoe designated it a cultural asset on March 1, 2002. From olden times, clean water from a wellspring was said to have a special spiritual power that fosters human health. An incense burner is placed next to the trough of the Nakama Spring (well) and it is still visited by many people as a place of worship today. The spring is the site of worship by the village council during seasonal festivals in May, June, and December of the lunar calendar. In the past, before water was piped to each household, when a child was born, spring water was used at the birth, and at New Year, fresh water was placed before the Buddhism altar of the house.



Urasoe City Guide Book

The Sightseeing Promotion Section has produced a guide book detailing various places and shops in Urasoe City. The guide book is available for free online as a PDF file in Japanese, English, and Traditional Chinese languages.



Urasoe Navi

The Sightseeing Promotion Section also manages an application listing recent shops and events in Urasoe City in Japanese, English, Traditional Chinese, and Korean.

<https://www.urasoenavi.jp/tokushu/2017082900010/>



Shopping

The Shintoshin area of Naha is the shopping district closest to Urasoe. Shintoshin has clothing, toy, and sports stores, food shopping, restaurants, playgrounds, a skate park, and a movie theater. To get there from Urasoe, drive south on Pipeline Dōri. Shopping districts inside Urasoe include SAN-A Kyojuka City, SAN-A Machinato City, Urasoe Shopping Center, P's Town, Barclays Court, and SAN-A Parco City.

Home Improvement & DIY

Makeman

Makeman is a large 2-story home improvement and DIY center located on Route 58 not too far from Camp Kinser and the Urasoe Shopping Center. They have everything ranging from furniture, tools, futons and bedding, and other materials required for building things.

Thrift Stores

2nd Street

Address: 248 Minatogawa, Urasoe (Along Route 58)

Manga Sōko

Address: 2689 Gusukuma, Urasoe (Along Route 58)

Food

The main supermarket chains in Urasoe are Max Value, San-A, Kanehide, Union, and Ryubo. There are also numerous small vegetable stands where you can buy locally grown produce. Several options are available if you are shopping for food on a budget. The aforementioned vegetable stands often sell fruit and vegetables at slightly lower prices, round off prices to give you a deal, or throw something in for free when you buy several other items (this depends on the establishment). Supermarkets discount their wares when the expiration date is near, so keep a look out for the characteristic brightly-colored discount stickers which pop up around the supermarket in the evening.

Organic and Vegetarian Foods

For those interested in ordering organic, natural foods, there is a delivery service provided by Tengu Natural Foods (located in Saitama Prefecture near Tokyo). Basic shipping charges to Okinawa Prefecture start from ¥ 1,000.

Tengu Natural Foods

URL : <https://store.alishan.jp/en>

TEL : (042)982-4811

It is somewhat difficult for a vegan or vegetarian to eat out in Okinawa because of the preponderance of pork and fish products used in bento, prepared foods, and restaurant cooking. Fried and battered things contain egg, and almost all bread (with the exception of baguettes) contains dairy. Do the best you can, and don't be discouraged. If you are eating at a restaurant, or in someone's home, make sure to let your host know as soon as possible what you can and cannot eat. If you have an actual food allergy, simply say " _____ wa arerugi desu" (I'm allergic to _____).

Here are a couple of useful phrases:

"Oniku ga haitte imasu ka?" (Is there any meat in this?)

" _____-nuki ni shite kudasai" (Please make it without _____.)

