



Historic Promenade in Urasoe

A stroll through Urasoe

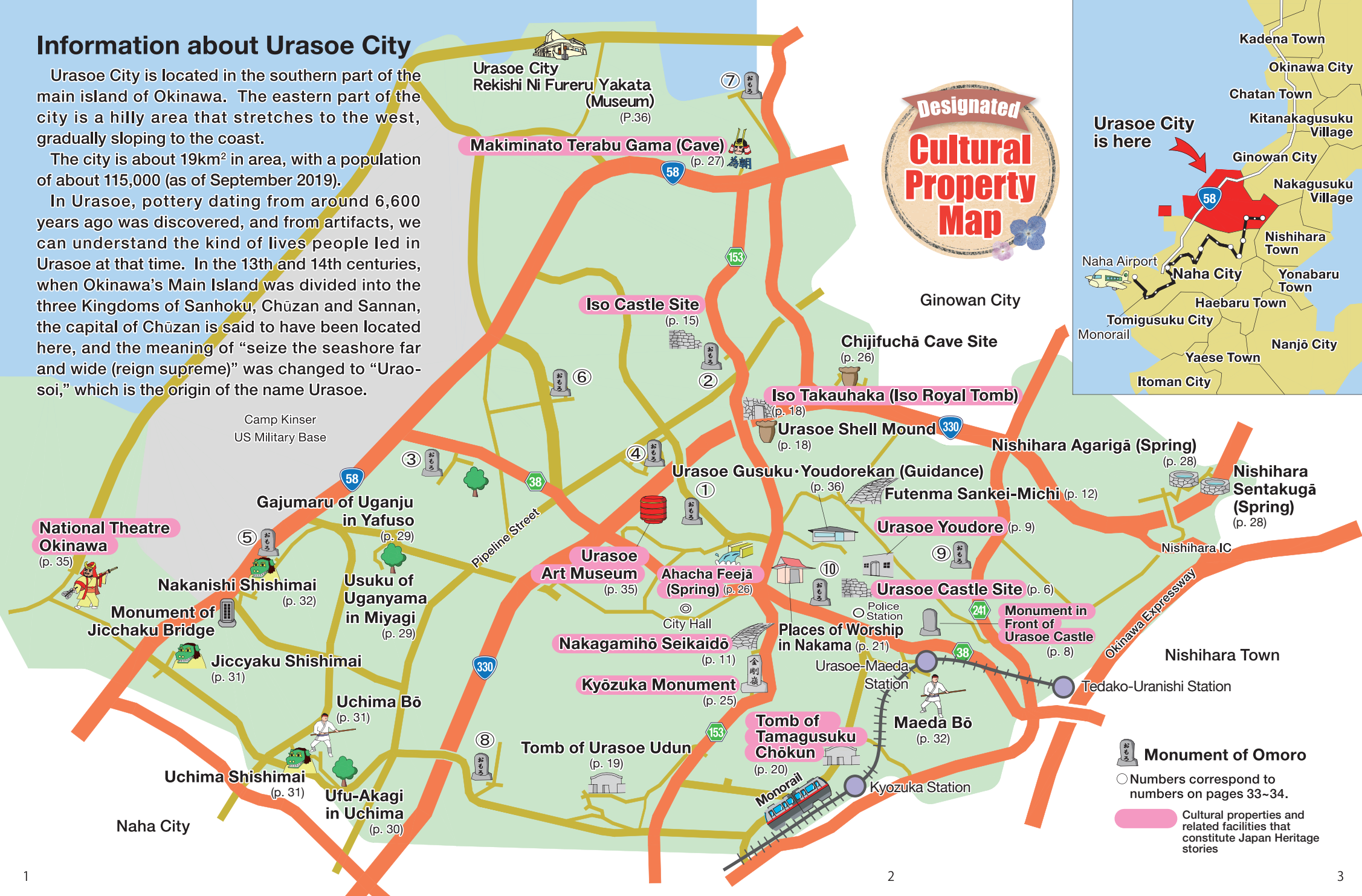


Information about Urasoe City

Urasoe City is located in the southern part of the main island of Okinawa. The eastern part of the city is a hilly area that stretches to the west, gradually sloping to the coast.

The city is about 19km² in area, with a population of about 115,000 (as of September 2019).

In Urasoe, pottery dating from around 6,600 years ago was discovered, and from artifacts, we can understand the kind of lives people led in Urasoe at that time. In the 13th and 14th centuries, when Okinawa's Main Island was divided into the three Kingdoms of Sanhoku, Chūzan and Sannan, the capital of Chūzan is said to have been located here, and the meaning of “seize the seashore far and wide (reign supreme)” was changed to “Urao-soi,” which is the origin of the name Urasoe.





Ryūkyū Kōekikōzu Byōbu, 19th century, Urasoe Art Museum, City Designated Culturel assets

Urasoe City and Japan Heritage

On May 20, 2019, Story of Okinawa Prefecture (Naha City/Urasoe City), **Ryukyu Cuisine, Awamori, and Performing Arts: Okinawan Traditions Passed Down from the Age of the Ryukyu Kingdom** have been designated as Japan Heritage by the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

Urasoe is a historical area where the foundation of the Ryukyu Kingdom is said to have been laid. Located here are many historical heritage sites such as the remains of Urasoe Castle. In addition, Ryukyuan lacquerware items from the kingdom era are on display at the Urasoe Art Museum, and performances of the Ryūkyūan dance and Kumiodori are staged at the National Theater Okinawa, indicating that activities are being conducted to promote their dissemination, succession, preservation, and research. In Urasoe City, you can find various tangible and intangible cultural, historical and artistic assets.

There are 10 cultural properties in Urasoe City, 14 in Naha City, and 5 that are common to both cities that constitute Japan Heritage stories (as of October 2019).

For the locations of Japan Heritage cultural properties in Urasoe City, please view the “Cultural Property Map” on the previous page and related pages before visiting.

For more information on Japan Heritage, please [visit the Japan Heritage Portal Site](#) of the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the [Urasoe City website](#).

Cultural properties that constitute the Story

Urasoe City

Iso Castle Site/Iso Takauhaka (Iso Royal Tomb)/Urasoe Castle Site/Makiminato Terabu Gama (cave)/
Urasoe Youdore/
Monument in Front of Urasoe Castle/Nakagamihō Seikaidō (Path of King ShōNei)/
Tomb of Tamagusuku Chōkun (Tomb of the Hentona Family)/
Ryūkyū Kōekikōzu Byōbu/
Tu'unda-bun tray with design of figures and landscape in haku-e and 43 items (Ryukyu lacquerware)

Naha City

The Bell of the Shurijo Castle Seiden (The Bridge of Nations Bell) /Shurijo Castle Site/Sho-in, Sasunoma and the Garden of Shuri Castle/Shurijo Zenikura Ruins/Shikinaen Royal Garden/Site of Uchayaudun/Historic and historical sites around Kume Village/Historical sites around Naha Port/Stone Gate of the Kamitenpi-gu Shrine Site/Kumemura 600-year Memorial/Tenshikan Remains/Ukanshin Cuisine/Ryūkyū Awamori/Kippan (Ryūkyū sweets)

Urasoe City/Naha City

Shīmī Festival/Usanmi (offering)/Tofu-yo/Ryukyu Traditional Dance/Kumi Odori

National Historic Site

Urasoe Castle Site



This was a castle (gusuku) built at the end of the 13th century, and is considered to have been the base of the ruler who controlled Chūzan (central part of the Okinawa Main Island). The castle was expanded in size and stature from the late 14th century to the beginning of the 15th century. After the political base was moved to Shuri Castle in the 16th century, Shōlkō, the eldest son of King ShōShin, who was the third king of the Second Shō Dynasty, lived in Urasoe Castle and thereafter, his descendants are considered to have taken up residence there. However, the castle was burned to the ground when the Satsuma Clan invaded in 1609.

During the Battle of Okinawa in 1945, the hill where the castle was located was called Maeda Kochi (Known to U.S. Army as Hacksaw Ridge), but as it was used as a Japanese army fortification, fierce battles were fought and the remaining stone castle walls were lost.

Restored stone walls



The King's Tomb / Urasoe Youdore and the Gusuku Stroll Route

This is a walking route where you can see the Urasoe Youdore, a king's tomb of the Chūzan from its earliest period and the restored castle walls of the National Historic Site, Urasoe Gusuku.

It is also recommended to walk through the route from the opposite side or by combining it with the route through Nakama Village (p. 23~24).



Deeg Gama (Cave)

The origin of the name comes from a cave (gama) where deigo (variegated) trees stood. It is considered to be Utaki (a sacred site), called "Tokashiki-taki" as described in the "Ryūkyūkoku Yuraiki" (Historic Record of the Ryūkyū Kingdom).



Monument in Front of Urasoe Castle

This is a monument commemorating the completion of the road connecting Shuri and Urasoe Castle in 1597 by King ShōNei.



Prefectural Urasoe Park South Entrance Administration Office

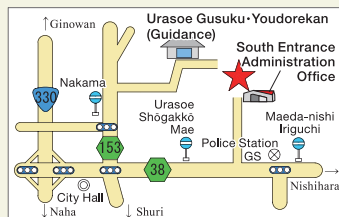
This is a facility of Prefectural Park located at the south entrance of Urasoe Castle. In the multipurpose room of the facility, there is an exhibition corner featuring introduction panels about Urasoe Castle and a model of the castle. Admission is free.

- **Address:** 2-53 Nakama
- **Open:** From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Closed:** Mondays (open on a holiday)
Year-end and New Year's Holidays



Tomb of Iha Fuyū

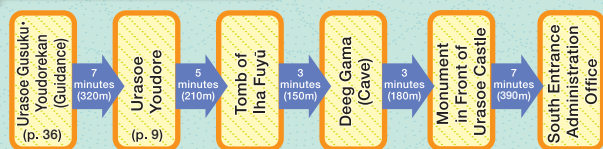
Iha Fuyū is called the father of Okinawagaku (Okinawan Studies) and he gives an account in an essay, "Urasoe-kō" that Urasoe was the base of the ruler before Shuri.



Location: Nakama, Maeda, Tōyama

Access: Bus Route No. 55, get off at "Nakama," 9 minute walk
Bus Route No. 56, get off at "Urasoe Shōgakkō Mae" or "Maedanishi Iriguchi," 8 minute walk
10 minute walk from Monorail "Urasoe-Maeda Station"

Time Required for Each Point



START!

If you walk the entire course, it will take about 50 to 60 minutes (about 1.2km).

FINISH!

*The time required is only an estimate on foot and it may differ depending on the individual.

Urasoe Youdore



This is the tomb of a king located inside the Urasoe Castle Site and is also known as, “Gokurakuryō.” Built in the 13th century, it is said to be the tomb of King Eiso (Reign: 1260~1299), and was refurbished by King ShōNei (Reign: 1589~1620) in 1620.

This is a tomb in which crypts were made by closing the two side holes of a cliff with stone masonry, and is further surrounded by another stone masonry wall. The west crypt (to the right when facing it) is said to be the tomb of King Eiso, and in the east crypt, King ShōNei and his family are entombed. In the crypts, Ishi-Zushi (stone coffin) (P. 10), which are urns used to house skeletal remains, are enshrined.

“Youdore” is a Ryūkyūan word, meaning “yūnagi”(evening calm) and it is said that it’s calm and gentle image led to it taking on the meaning of tomb.

The inside of the tomb is not open to the public, but a replication of the interior of the west crypt can be seen in “Urasoe Gusuku・Youdorekan (Guidance)” (p. 36).



Prefecture Designated Cultural Property (Sculpture)

Urasoe Youdore Ishi-Zushi (Stone Coffin)



There are a total of 10 zushi (coffin), which are square cinerary urns that house cleansed skeletal remains in both the east and west crypts. Out of which, three from the west crypt and one from the east crypt are designated as Prefectural Cultural Properties.

These four zushi are assumed to have been made from a stone called diabase produced in Fujian Province, China. Locals replicated tile roofed houses, and Buddhist statues, lotuses, tree peonies, lions playing with balls, horses and deer all carved by relief. As relates to the Ishi-Zushi made of diabase, these take on an old form, and in particular, the Buddhist statues are some of the oldest existing statues in Okinawa.

Ishi-Zushi are not open to the public, but exquisite replicas (models) can be seen in the “Urasoe Gusuku・Youdorekan (Guidance)” (p. 36).

Nakagamihō Seikaidō

Nakagamihō Seikaidō

This is a main road called, “shukumichi” (road with rest stops), which was used for conveying the orders of Shuri Palace and for the payment of taxes to the King of the Ryūkyū Kingdom, and is also called “kūjimichi” (public affairs road).

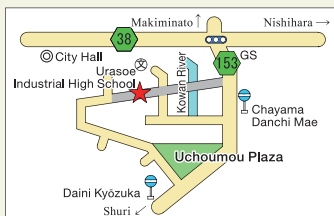
Nakagamihō Seikaidō is a route starting from Shuri Castle to Yomitan via Urasoe and was the main road that connected to the Onna and Kunigami regions further north.

According to the “Monument in Front of Urasoe Castle,” which was built in 1597, we can understand that a national large scale civil engineering project was conducted on orders of King ShōNei, in which the road connecting Shuri Taira and Urasoe Castle was expanded, and the wooden Taira Bridge was replaced with a stone bridge and the road was paved with stone.

The stone paved road remains today at the Ahacha Bridge and the surrounding area. At the downstream side of the bridge, there is the Akazaragā (red bowl spring), from which water was said to have been drawn with a red bowl to be presented to the King.



Ahacha Bridge is an arch bridge made of stone and there is a South Bridge over the Kowan River and a North Bridge over the Abuchi River, which is a branch of the Kowan River.



Location: Ahacha, Kyōzuka

Access: Bus Route No.191, get off at “Chayama Danchi Mae,” 2 minute walk
15 minute walk from Monorail “Urasoe-Maeda Station”

and Futenma Sankei-Michi

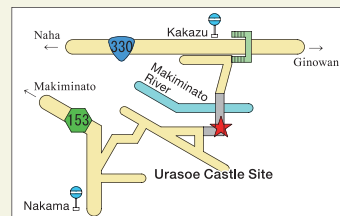
Futenma Sankei-Michi (Futenma Pilgrimage Route)



This is a road that branches off from Nakagamihō Seikaidō and reaches Kin via Ginowan Magiri, which is considered to have undergone improvements in the latter half of the 17th century, when Ginowan Magiri was newly constructed.

Each year, during his reign, the King made a pilgrimage to Futenmagū Shrine via this road.

In the valley where the Makiminato River flows, an approximately 200m long and 3m wide stone paved road remains. The road in this area was called, “umakoro-bashi” or “umadūkērashi” as the slope was so steep that horses often collapsed from exhaustion. The Bridge over the river was rebuilt in the Taisho and Shōwa Periods.



Location: Tōyama

Access: Bus Route No. 55, get off at “Nakama,” 12 minute walk
Bus Route No. 21, 88, 90 and 98, get off at “Kakazu,” 9 minute walk

Tracing the Path of King ShōNei Historic Road Stroll Route

This is the walking route through the road from the Ryūkyū Kingdom, that connected to Urasoe and Shuri, and was improved by King ShōNei about 400 years ago.

This route includes the Nakagamihō Seikaidō, a National Historic Site, and you can see many cultural properties that remain along the road.



At the south slope of Urasoe Gusuku, the stone paved road was restored and improved.



Landmarks are paved in stone at some parts of the roads and side-walks.

Tomb of Urasoe Udon
(p. 19)

An open area where Kings rested during their travels.

The steps were repaved with stone!

Nishinuhira (Northern Slope)

Fēnühira (Southern Slope)



If you walk the entire course, it takes about 80 to 90 minutes (about 2.9km).

*The time required is only an estimate on foot and it may differ depending on the individual.

National Historic Site

Prefecture Designated Historic Site

Iso Castle Site



The ruins of Iso Castle (Iso Gusuku) served as the residence of King Eiso's lineage, which prospered in the early days of Ryukyu. The site is referred to as "Iju Gusuku" by local residents. In some parts of the northeastern section of the hilly area, there are

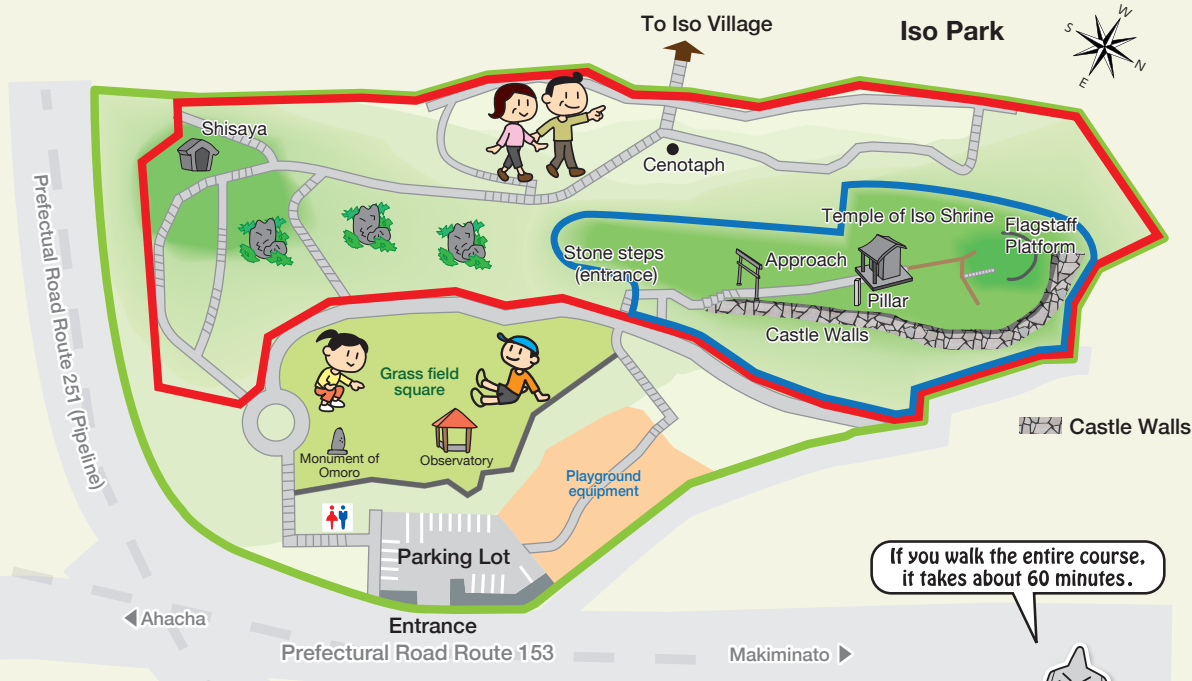
remains of castle walls that were built using two types of masonry techniques: ashlar masonry (cut or worked stones are used) and nozura-zumi (natural stones are used).

As research excavation has not been conducted, the details are still unknown, however potteries of gusuku age and Chinese ceramics were discovered.

National Historic Site Amamiku-nu-mui, Iso Gusuku

"Amamiku," also known as "Amamikiyo," is a deity appearing in Ryukyuan creation mythology who is said to have created the Ryukyu Islands. In the mythology, it is said that Amamiku, who descended from the heavens, created 12 utaki (sacred places of worship), and this legend was passed on to be considered as the origin of the land of Ryukyu.

Amamiku-nu-mui is a generic name for these utaki, and by 2019, eight utaki were designated as national places of scenic beauty. These are the Nakijin Gusuku and Kuba-no-Utaki in Nakijin Village, Kudaka-no-Fubo Utaki, Sefa Utaki, and Tamagusuku Gusuku in Nanjo City, Bin-nu-Utaki in Naha City, Goeku Gusuku in Okinawa City, and Iso Gusuku in Urasoe City. More utaki are to be added sequentially in the future.





Flagstaff Platform

It is said that before World War II, there was a rock from where a panoramic view of the coast can be seen and on which a flagpole could be raised. The landscape spreading out below reminds us of the etymology of the word Urasoe, which stems from the word ura-osoi that takes the meaning from the phrase "ura-ura wo osameru" = to rule throughout the realm.

Temple of Iso Shrine (Eiso no Miya)

It is said that through loans provided by the local community during the early Showa period, 10 utaki that existed within the gusuku until then were merged into a single utaki.

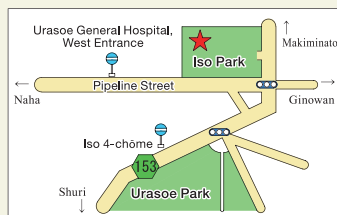


Castle Walls

On the north side below the approach to the shrine, there are remains of stacked stone masonry used to build the castle walls. It is said that there are two types of masonry techniques used here; nozura-zumi and kiri-ishi-zumi and visitors can see a part of gusuku castle-building technology.

Shīsā-ya (Shīsā house)

This is a place of worship located at the southern end of the hilly area. Inside the small shrine are two shisa (guardian lions) that protect the village. Local residents in the Iso area call it "Shisa-ya."



Location: 3-48 Iso (In Iso Park)

Access: Bus Route No. 55, get off at "Iso 4-chōme," 8 minute walk
Bus Route No. 99, get off at "Urasoe General Hospital, West Entrance," 10 minute walk

Prefecture Designated Cultural Property (Structure)

Iso Takauhaka (Iso Royal Tomb)



This tomb was made from a cave in the middle of a cliff and the front of which was sealed with stone masonry. The entrance to the tomb is large and of an old style, and it is said that Esonoyononushi, the father of King Eiso and three Aji (local rulers) are entombed here. Urasoe Shell Mound is near the tomb and it is believed that this cave was used as a dwelling in ancient times.

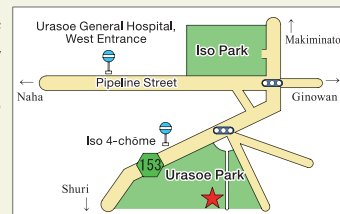
Refer "Urasoe Shell Mound" for Location and Access

Prefecture Designated Historic Site

Urasoe Shell Mound



These are sites from the latter part to the end of the Jōmon Period, and pottery and stoneware dating to about 4,000 years ago have been excavated from here. In addition to the excavation of many kinds of pottery frequently found in the Amami Islands, Ichiki-type pottery, which was mainly discovered in southern Kyūshū, was also discovered, showing a scene of exchange between Okinawa and Kyūshū.



Location: Iso 5-chōme (In Urasoe Park)

Access: Bus Route No. 55, get off at "Iso 4-chōme," 5 minute walk.
Bus Route No. 99, get off at "Urasoe General Hospital, West Entrance," 10 minute walk.

Tomb of Urasoe Udun

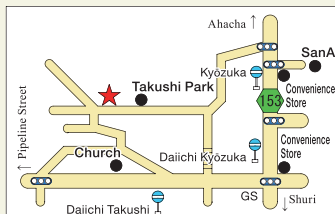
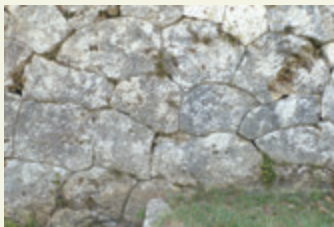


Urasoe Udun was the family that originated from the Urasoe Ōji Chōō, the second son of King ShōBoku (Reign: 1752~1794), who was the 14th King of the 2nd Shō Dynasty. This was a prestigious family that turned out many politicians and cultural figures during the early modern Ryūkyū period. This tomb, one of the largest tombs in the city, is considered to have been built at the end of the 18th century and the sophisticated masonry and huge stones used in front of the tomb tell the glory of Urasoe Udun.

Location: Takushi (Next to Takushi Park)

Access: Bus Route No. 191, get off at "Kyōzuka," 15 minute walk

Bus Route No. 87, get off at "Daiichi Takushi," 7 minute walk.



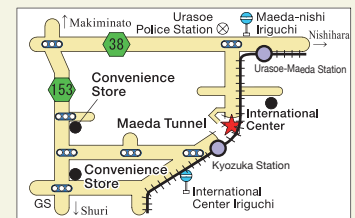
Tomb of Tamagusuku Chōkun (Tomb of the Hentona Family)



A scene of "Shūshin Kaneiri," a kumiodori created by Chōkun. Together with "Nidoutekiuchi" "Mekarushi" "Onnamonogurui" and "Kōkō-no-maki," these kumiodori created by Chōkun are called the "Five Dances of Chōkun," and are held in high regard.

Tamagusuku Chōkun (1684~1734) was the founder of "Kumiodori," traditional songs and dance performances unique to the Ryūkyū Kingdom. Chōkun was appointed as Odori Bugyō (The Dance Magistrate) and created the Kumiodori in order to entertain the Sappōshi (Emperor's Envoy) from China.

The curved masonry of the garden is the distinguishing feature of the tomb, which is estimated to have been built from the latter half of the 17th century to the first half of the 18th century, when Kamekōbaka (Turtleback Tomb) began taking shape.



Location: Maeda (Above Maeda Tunnel)

Access: Bus Route No. 87, get off at "International Center Iriguchi," 9 minute walk

Bus Route No. 56, get off at "Maeda-nishi Iriguchi," 14 minute walk

5 minute walk from Monorail "Kyozuka Station"

Places of Worship in Nakama

There are 12 places of worship in Nakama and these are located throughout the village and the Urasoe Castle Site. Among these, four places of worship designated as cultural properties are located in the village and serve as the center of life and religious belief for the people of Nakama.



Nakama Feejā (Spring)

Beginning as a place from which daily drinking water was obtained, the water was also used for bathing babies, and was drawn as the first water of the New Year. In the “Ryūkyūkoku Kyūki” (edited in 1731), it is described that watershoots were already installed. In 1935, large scale repairs were conducted and a water tank was installed. Water from the tank flowed to “Uma-amishi,” where farming tools and horses were washed, via “Hiraba” where clothing was typically washed.

Nakama Hinukan

This is said to be the “jitō hinukan” (local lord’s god of fire) of Nakama Village in the early modern period. The jitō were warriors who ruled Magiri and villages in the Ryūkyū Kingdom Period, and they prayed to jitō hinukan when they were appointed to or resigned from the jitō.



Kubasānu Utaki

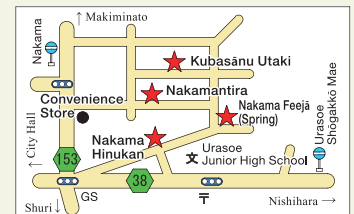
This is said to be the origin of Nakama Village. In the “Ryūkyūkoku Yuraiki” (edited in 1713), it is described as “Kobashita Taki” with Kobashita meaning under the kuba trees.

This area was also known as Uganguayama, and before the war, the area was dense with large trees. It is said that there was a tomb of a god which was sealed by stones in Kubasānu Utaki.



Nakamantira

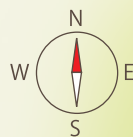
It is believed that the “Nagadou-no-taki” described in the “Ryūkyūkoku Yuraiki” (edited in 1713) refers to Nakamantira. Most of the places of worship, called “tira” or “tera” are caves and it is thought that the god of the village is enshrined within. Small shrines appear to have been made with stone masonry walls and red tile roofing before the war, but they were lost in the Battle of Okinawa.



Location: Nakama 2-chōme

Access: Bus Route No. 55, get off at “Nakama,” 5 minute walk

Bus Route No. 56, get off at “Urasoe Shōgakkō Mae,” 5 minute walk
15 minute walk from Monorail “Urasoe-Maeda Station”



Walking the Castle Town Nakama Village Stroll Route

This route through Nakama Village takes you on a path adjacent to Urasoe Gusuku, the domain of the Royal Family before Shuri Castle.

You can visit designated cultural properties in Urasoe, such as places of worship and wells.

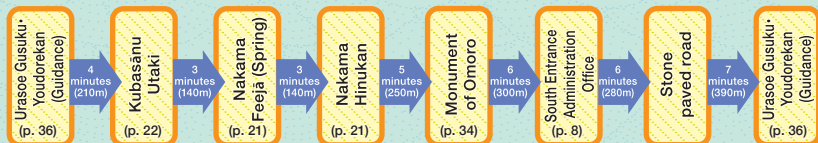


Site from the Gusuku Period (Nakama Kushibaru Site) are buried under the parking lot that serves as the starting point.



In Nakama Village, there are explanation boards for many cultural properties, such as the Monument of Omoro, so you can deepen your understanding of history as you walk.

Time Required for Each Point



START!

If you walk the entire course, it takes about 60 to 70 minutes (about 1.7km).

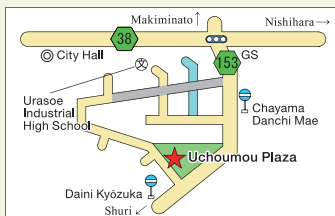
FINISH!

Kyōzuka Monument



Long ago, spirits that haunted the area tricked and cheated people walking along the road.

Legend has it that at the beginning of the 16th century, a holy priest, Nissshū Shōnin, buried a small stone with Kongōkyō, a sutra, written on it and built a stone monument on top of it with the word “Kongōrei” carved on it to calm the spirits. It is also said that this area never shook during strong earthquakes and people came to believe that earthquakes are averted when they chant the words “chouchikachika” or “chouchika, chouchika” (chouchika = kyōzuka).



Location: 1-2 Kyōzuka
(In Uchoumou Plaza)

Access: Bus Route No. 191, get off at “Daini Kyōzuka,” 3 minute walk

Ahacha Feejā (Spring)



As “Ahacha Feejā (Spring)” is described in “Ryūkyūku Kyūki” (Historic Record of the Ryūkyū Kingdom) (edited in 1731), it is thought to have already existed by the middle of the 18th century. The watershoot made of Ryūkyū limestone remains as it was.



Location: 2-5 Ahacha

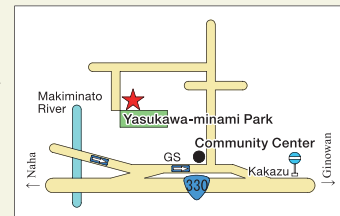
Access: Bus Route No. 55, get off at “Nakama,” 6 minute walk

Bus Route No. 55, 56 and 191, get off at “Ahacha,” 6 minute walk

Chijifuchā Cave Site



This is a stalactite cave, with a total length of about 110m. Pottery and shells from 1,500 to 800 years ago were excavated and it appears to have been used as a dwelling for people of ancient times. During the Battle of Okinawa, it was used as an evacuation cave.



Location: 3-36 Makiminato

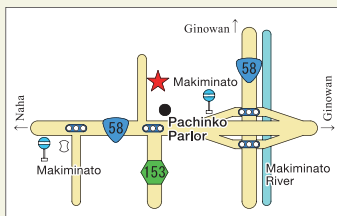
Access: Bus Route No. 21, 88, 90 and 98, get off at “Kakazu,” 9 minute walk

Makiminato Terabu Gama (Cave)



This is a natural cave of Ryūkyū limestone and is called “Tiran-gama” in the region. Inside is a place of worship and the front yard outside of the cave is thought to be the Tun (shrine room) of Makiminato.

Legend tells us that Minamotono Tametomo, who came to the Ryūkyū Kingdom in the late 12th century, married a sister of Ōzato Aji and had a son. Later, Tametomo returned to Japan on a ship from Urasoe port, and it is said that the wife and son he left behind anxiously awaited his return. Since then, this place had been called “Machinato” (the waiting port), which then became “Makiminato.” Tametomo’s son was named Sonton and would later become the King, Shunten.



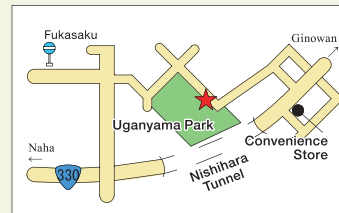
Location: 5-7 Makiminato

Access: Bus Route No. 20, 23, 55, 99 and 223, get off at “Makiminato,” 3 minute walk

Nishihara Agarigā (Spring)



It is said that this is a well which has existed since about 600 years ago, and that the present masonry was reconstructed 300 years ago. Aside from being used for drinking water, the water is also used as bathing water for babies, is the first water drawn on New Year’s Day, and is a place of worship.



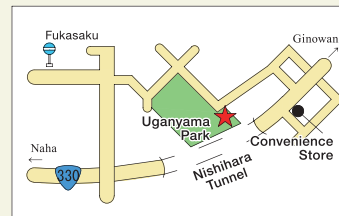
Location: 4-36 Nishihara

Access: Bus Route No. 56, get off at “Fukasaku,” 5 minute walk

Nishihara Sentakugā (Spring)



This well was newly built in 1927, and was used for washing clothes, farming tools, vegetables, and bathing.



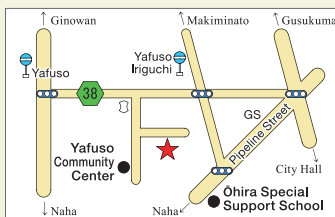
Location: 4-36 Nishihara

Access: Bus Route No. 56, get off at “Fukasaku,” 5 minute walk

Gajumaru of Uganju in Yafuso



Gajumaru (Banyan Tree) are evergreen trees of the Moraceae genus, which spread from the Ryūkyū Islands to the south. As the trees grew at Yafuso-no-Tun (a shrine), they became known as “Tun-nu-Gajumaru” before the war. These trees are more than 100 years old.



Location: 2-25 Yafuso

Access: Bus Route No. 55 and 56, get off at “Yafuso Iriguchi,” 6 minute walk
Bus Route No. 20, 23, 26, 77, 120 and 223, get off at “Yafuso,” 8 minute walk

Ufu-Akagi in Uchima



Akagi (Bishop Tree) are tropical trees belonging to the Phyllanthaceae genus, which spread widely throughout Southeast Asia, Polynesia and Okinawa, and other tropical and sub-tropical South-east Asian Pacific areas.

It is thought that Ufu-Akagi (Huge Bishop tree) in Uchima is about 400 years old and it is said that it has not changed in size since the Meiji Period.



Location: 3-28 Uchima

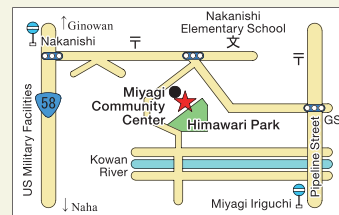
Access: Bus Route No. 87, get off at
“Uchima Kōminkan Mae” or “Urasoe Kōkō Mae,” 2 minute walk

Usuku of Ugan yama in Miyagi



Usuku (Akou in Japanese) are semi-evergreen trees of the Moraceae genus, which spread to the northern limit of the Kii Peninsula and throughout the Ryūkyū Islands and Southeast Asia.

The area where Miyagi Community Center is located used to be a sanctuary, called Ugan-yama and this usuku is the only reminder of the Uganyama of old that remains. It is thought to be more than 100 years old.



Location: Miyagi Community Center 2-22-3 Miyagi

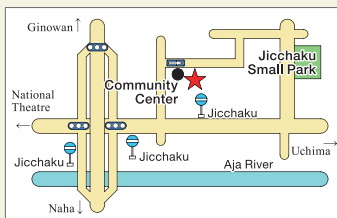
Access: Bus Route No. 55, 56 and 99, get off at “Miyagi Iriguchi,” 13 minute walk
Bus Route No. 20, 23, 26, 77, 120 and 223, get off at “Nakanishi,” 10 minute walk

National Selected Cultural Property (Intangible Folk Culture)

City Designated Cultural Property (Intangible Folk Culture)

Jiccyaku Shishimai

This is the shishimai (lion dance) passed down by “Kō-rē Gushiken” and it features an extremely intricate performance with large, courageous steps. It showcases 11 richly varied dances, which are generally classified into ritualistic “Janmē” and the playful “Mō-yā” genres. The performance is held on August 15 of the old calendar.



Location: Jicchaku Community Center 2-19-20 Jicchaku
Access: Bus Route No. 20, 23, 28, 87, 99, 120 and 223, etc.,
get off at “Jicchaku,” 5 minute walk

City Designated Cultural Property (Intangible Folk Culture)

Uchima Bō

City Designated Cultural Property (Intangible Folk Culture)

Uchima Shishimai

It is said that shishimai (lion dance) were passed down by Chanuchi Nuchimaru about 400 years ago and it is said that the origin of the Rod came about at nearly the same time. A shishi is a male lion and its performance is intricate and courageous. The Bō (rod) is also called hand rod, and also portrays a brave and vigorous performance. Both are performed on August 15 of the old calendar, praying to expel evil spirits, ensure an abundant harvest and request health and prosperity for descendants.

Location: 3-15-1 Uchima, Uchima Community Center
Access: Bus Route No. 87, get off at “Uchima Kōminkan Mae,” 1 minute walk



City Designated Cultural Property (Intangible Folk Culture)

Nakanishi Shishimai

Legend has it that this was performed as a village event on July 15 and August 15 of the old calendar every year from about 500 years ago. It is performed in order to expel evil spirits, ensure a rich harvest and pray for the prosperity of descendants. The male lion features a large head, a grim expression and a robust dance.



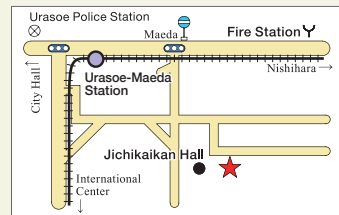
Location: Nakanishi Community Center 1-3-11 Nakanishi
Access: Bus Route No. 20, 23, 28, 120 and 223, get off at “Daichi Nakanishi,”
10 minute walk

City Designated Cultural Property (Intangible Folk Culture)

Maeda Bō

This is performed as a prayer for the development of the village, the prosperity of descendants and for a year of a full rice harvest. Until the war, the Bō (rod) was performed in the daytime and the village play was performed from the evening till night as village-wide events every two years.

This is performed with the brave, vigorous and unique striking of a gong.



Location: Maeda Jichikaikan-Hall 1-28-7 Maeda
Access: Bus Route No. 56, get off at “Maeda,” 5 minute walk
5 minute walk from Monorail “Urasoe-Maeda Station”



Monument of Omoro

"Omoro" is believed to contain songs offered to the gods.

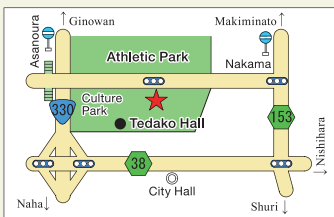
The Royal Government recorded Omoro from 1531 to 1623 and compiled these songs as "Omoro Sōshi" In the Shōwa and Heisei Periods, monuments of Omoro were built on the related lands linked to Urasoe.

① Rich Urasoe where Miki (sacred sake) is abundant and flows

Monument opposite the Athletic Park Main Gate

Access: Bus Route No. 55, get off at "Nakama," 10 minute walk

Bus Route No. 21, 88, 90, 98 and 112, get off at "Asanoura," 10 minute walk

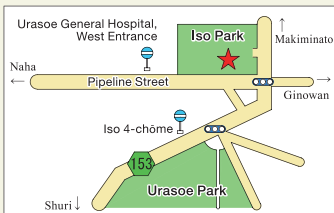


② King Eiso pours Sacred wine in summer and Sake in winter

Monument of Iso Park

Access: Bus Route No. 55, get off at "Iso 4-chōme," 7 minute walk

Bus Route No. 99, get off at "Urasoe General Hospital, West Entrance," 7 minute walk



③ Ufuyaku of Oyafuso offers tributes

Yafuso Community Center Monument

Access: Bus Route No. 55 and 56, get off at "Yafuso Iriguchi," 6 minute walk

Bus Route No. 20, 23, 26, 28, 120 and 223, get off at "Yafuso," 8 minute walk



④ Iso Gusuku built by Amamikiyo

Aza-Iso Asayara Park Monument

Access: Bus Route No. 99, get off at "Iso 2-chōme," 5 minute walk

Bus Route No. 21, 90 and 98, get off at "Asanoura," 7 minute walk



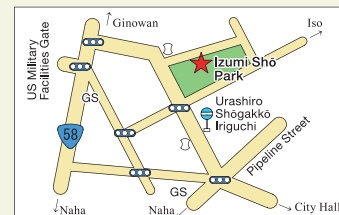
⑤ Excellent Mahito of Nakanishi Nakanishi Community Center Monument

Access: Bus Route No. 20, 23, 26, 28, 120 and 223, get off at "Daichi Nakanishi," 10 minute walk



⑥ The Elder of Gusukuma with Priestesses Aza-Gusukuma Izumi Shō Park Monument

Access: Bus Route No. 55 and 56, get off at "Urashiro Shōgakkō Iriguchi," 2 minute walk



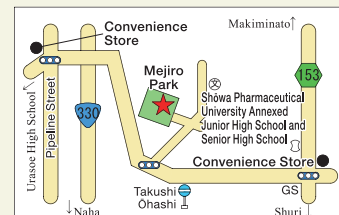
⑦ King Satto, the one who opened the door of Treasury Makiminato Fishing Port Monument

Access: Bus Route No. 20, 23, 26, 28, 55, 99, 120 and 223, get off at "Makiminato," 13 minute walk



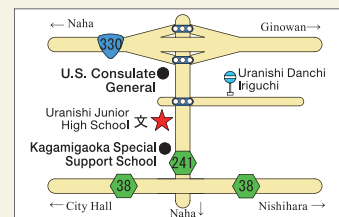
⑧ Takushi Tarō Nazuke reverberating all over the country Aza-Takushi / Mejiro Park Monument

Access: Bus Route No. 87, get off at "Takushi Ohashi," 6 minute walk



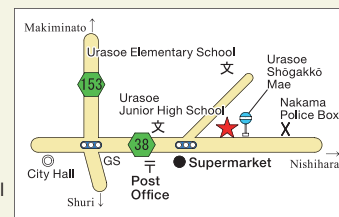
⑨ Glorify the King of Urasoe Gusuku Monument in Front of Uranishi Junior High School Main Gate

Access: Bus Route No. 56, get off at "Uranishi Danchi Iriguchi," 5 minute walk



⑩ Urasoe, Nekuni (center of the country), where Gold is Gathered Monument in Front of Nakama Police Box

Access: Bus Route No. 56, get off at "Urasoe Shōgakkō Mae," very close 5 minute walk from Monorail "Urasoe-Mada Station"



Urasoe Art Museum

Prefecture Designated Cultural Property (Art and craft)

5 Pieces of Ryūkyūan Lacquerware

City Designated Cultural Property (Art and craft)

39 Pieces of Ryūkyūan Lacquerware

City Designated Cultural Property (Painting)

Ryūkyū Kōekikōzu Byōbu (folding screen) and other 4 paintings

This art museum specializes in lacquer works, housing lacquerware of Japan and neighboring countries, with a main focus on Ryūkyūan lacquerware collections from the 16th century to the present day. The Museum holds feature exhibitions of various themes and content in addition to its permanent exhibitions.



Permanent Exhibition Admission Fee:

General: 200 yen, Age 65 and over: 160 yen

College Students: 130 yen, High school students and younger: Free

Location: 1-9-2 Nakama TEL: 098-879-3219

Open: 9:30am to 5pm (7pm on Fri)(Last admission is 30 min before close)

Closed: Mondays, Year-end and New Year's Holidays

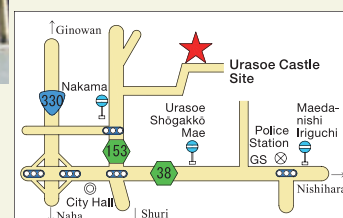
Access: Bus Route No. 55, 56 and 191, get off at "Bijutsukan Mae," 10 minute walk

Bus Route No. 21, 88, 90, 98 and 112, get off at "Ōhira," 12 minute walk



Urasoe Gusuku・Youdorekan (Guidance)

This is the guidance facility for the "Urasoe Castle Site," a Designated National Historic Site. Excavated artifacts discovered during research excavations of Urasoe Gusuku and Urasoe Youdore and pre-war panels are exhibited. A full scale reproduction of the interior of the West Crypt of Urasoe Youdore (Tomb of King Eiso) and also a replica (model) of "Urasoe Youdore Ishi-Zushi (Stone Coffin)" (P. 10) are exhibited.



Location: 2-53-1 Nakama

TEL: 098-874-9345

Open: From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed: Mondays (open when a holiday)

Year-end and New Year's Holidays

Admission Fee: Adults (high school students and above): ¥100,

Children (elementary and junior high school students): ¥50

Access: 15 minute walk from Monorail "Urasoe-Maeda Station"

National Theatre Okinawa

National Important Intangible Cultural Property (Performing Art)

Kumiodori

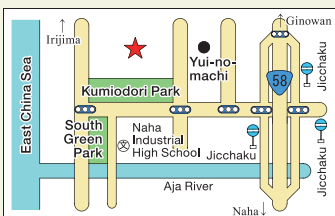
The National Theatre serves as the base where Okinawan performing arts are performed, successors are trained, and research and studies are conducted. Guests can not only enjoy performances, but can also visit the Material Exhibition Room (free of charge) and access books and recorded images (a fee is required for images).



Location: 4-14-1 Jicchaku

TEL: 098-871-3311

Access: Bus Route No. 20, 23, 87, 99, 120 and 223, etc., get off at "Jicchaku," 10 minute walk

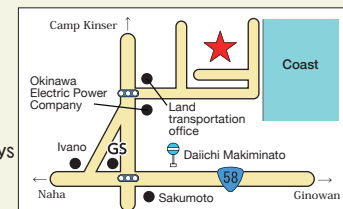


Urasoe City Rekishi Ni Fureru Yakata (Museum)

This is the facility for storing up relics are discovered by research excavation and articles of everyday use are contributed.

It's possible to see relics in the wide period from Shell mound age to Modern times in the exhibition room.

Further, the part of the shed can be also seen.



Location: 512-11 Minatogawa

TEL: 098-874-9601

Open: From 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(Entry permitted until 4:30 p.m.)

Closed: Suterdays, Sundays and Holidays

Year-end and New Year's Holidays

Okinawa Memorial Day

Admission Fee: Free

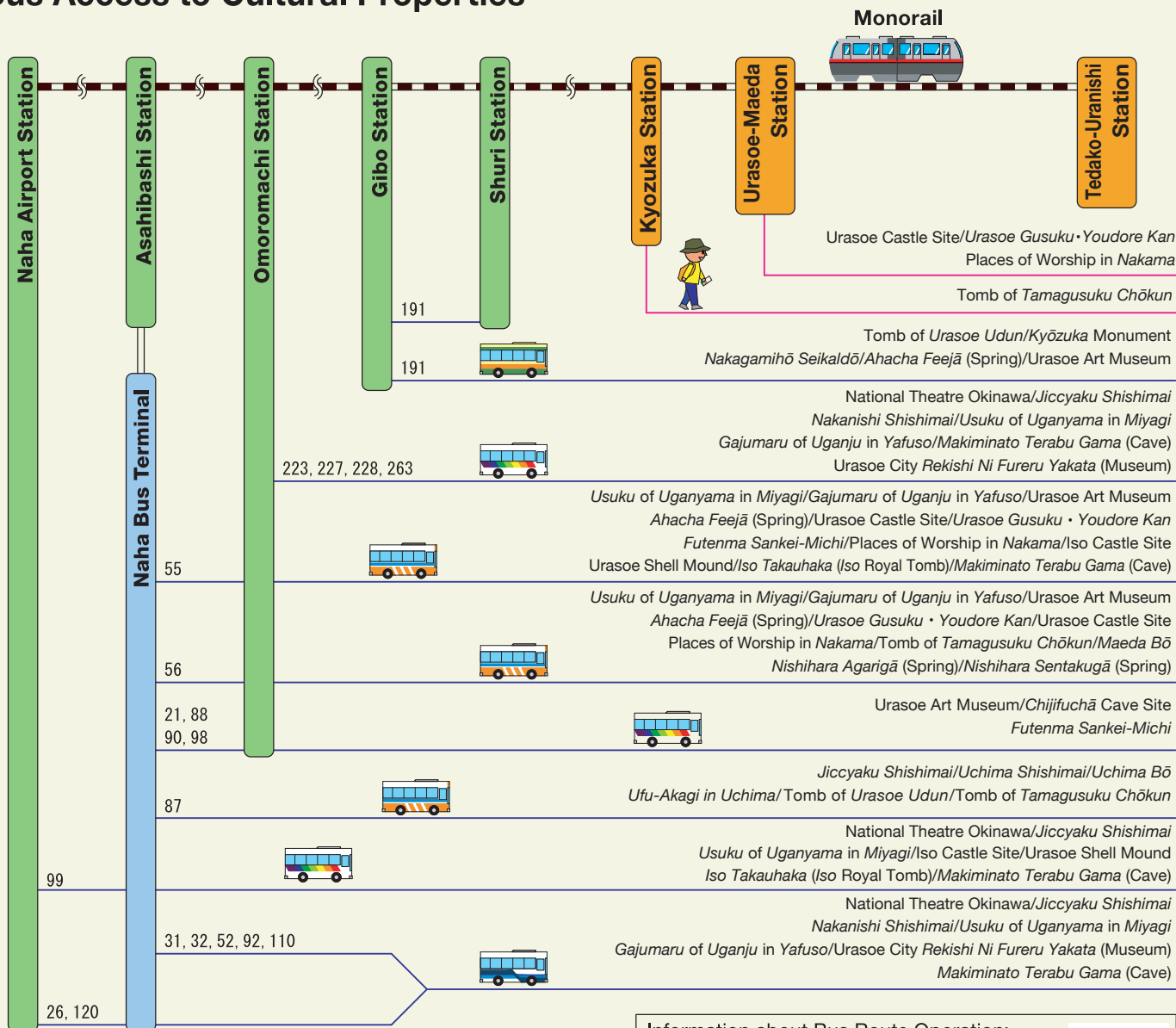
Access: Bus Route No.20,23,24,28,get off "Daichi Makiminato" 15 minute walk.

History of Urasoe

Period		Events / Site	
JAPAN			
Jōmon Period		[Chijifuchā Cave Site] [Urasoe Shell Mound]	
Yayoi	Yayoi ~ Heian Concurrent Period		[Kajō Shell Mound]
Kofun (Mound) ~ Heian			[Chijifuchā Cave Site]
Kamakura Period	Gusuku Period / Old Ryūkyū	Latter half of the 12th century	[Makiminato Terabu Gama (Cave)]
		Beginning of the 13th century	[Iso Takauhaka (Iso Royal Tomb)] was most likely built around this time
		1229	Eiso was born at Iso Gusuku [Iso Castle Site]
		End of the 13th century ~ Beginning of the 14th century	Urasoe Gusuku was built [Urasoe Castle Site]
Latter half of the 13th century		[Urasoe Youdore] was built Gokurakuji Temple was built to the west of Urasoe Gusuku	
Muromachi Period		End of the 14th century ~ First half of the 15th century	Urasoe Gusuku was enlarged
		1372	Chūzanou Satto sent tributes to China
		1429	ShōHashi unified the three domains
		Beginning of the 16th century	[Kyōzuka Monument] was built Shōlkō lived in Urasoe Gusuku
Azuchi-Momoyama Period		1531	Compilation of “Omoro Sōshi” started (~1623)
		1589	ShōNei from Urasoe was crowned King
		1597	Road between Shuri and Urasoe was improved and the Completion Commemorating Monument was built in Urasoe Gusuku [Nakagamihō Seikaidō] [Monument in Front of Urasoe Castle]
Edo Period	Early Modern Ryūkyū	1609	Satsuma Clan invaded and Urasoe Gusuku and Ryūfukuji Temple were burned to the ground
		1620	Urasoe Youdore was refurbished and ShōNei died

Edo Period	Early Modern Ryūkyū	1644	Pilgrimage to Futenma Shrine by the King begins [Futenma Sankei-Michi (Futenma Pilgrimage Route)]
		1671	The original shape of the present Urasoe City region was formed by the reorganization of the Magiri
		1713	[Kubasānu Utaki] and [Nakamantira] are recorded in the “Ryūkyūkoku Yuraiki”
		1731	[Nakama Feejā (Spring)] [Ahacha Feejā (Spring)] [Nishihara Agarigā (Spring)] are recorded in the “Ryūkyūkoku Kyūki”
Meiji Period	End of the 18th century	1734	Tamagusuku Chōkun died and was entombed in Hitotsubaka in Ishimine [Tomb of Urasoe Udun] built
		1805	Skeletal remains of Tamagusuku Chōkun were washed and reburied in the tomb in Maeda [Tomb of Tamagusuku Chōkun]
		1872	Ryūkyū Domain established
		1879	Okinawa Prefecture established
Shōwa		1908	From Urasoe Magiri to Urasoe Village
		1927	[Nishihara Sentakugā (Spring)] was built
		1945	Urasoe Youdore and other structures destroyed during the Battle of Okinawa
Heisei		1970	Urasoe Village changes to Urasoe City
		1989	Urasoe Castle Site designated as a National Historic Site
		2012	Nakagamihō Seikaidō and Futenma Sankei-Michi Route were designated as National Historic Sites
Reiwa		2018	Iso Gusuku designated as a national place of scenic beauty under the title “Amamiku-nu-mui”
		2019	Story of Okinawa Prefecture (Naha City, Urasoe City): “Ryukyu Cuisine, Awamori, and Performing Arts: Okinawan Traditions Passed Down from the Age of the Ryukyu Kingdom” designated as Japan Heritage. Cultural properties that constitute the story (14 in Naha City, 10 in Urasoe City, and 5 that are common to both cities)

Bus Access to Cultural Properties



Information about Bus Route Operation:

Okinawa Prefecture Bus Association:

TEL. 098-867-7386

Website “Bus Navi Okinawa”

For PC <http://www.busnavi-okinawa.com/>

For Mobile <http://www.busnavi-okinawa.com/mobile/>



*Numbers are bus route numbers (regardless of bus company).
For details on how to access each cultural property, refer to
each page of this Guide.

NPO Corporation: Uraosoi History Guide Friends Society

Why not explore the cultural properties of Urasoe with the guidance and explanations of the “Uraosoi History Guide Friends Society”?

Inquiries

Time: 9:00~17:00 (Closed: Mondays, Year-end and New Year's Holidays)

TEL: 098-874-9345 (Urasoe Gusuku・Youdorekan (Guidance))

Fees (Estimate): Urasoe Castle Site, etc., and the surrounding Historic Site Guide Course (1~5 persons):

¥1,500/hour, ¥3,000/2 hours

*Please inquire in advance about fees, the number of participants and course details.



Historic Promenade in Urasoe

A stroll through Urasoe

Published in October 2020 (English version 3)

Edited/Issued by Urasoe City Board of Education

901-2501 1-1-1 Ahacha, Urasoe City, Okinawa

TEL. 098-876-1234

Upper left: Urasoe Castle Site

Upper right: The King's Tomb "Urasoe Youdore" "Nāka Ujyo"
(Restoration)

Middle left: Kumiodori "Nido Tekiuchi" Provided by National Theatre
Okinawa

Middle right: Tu'unda-bun tray with design of figures and landscape
in haku-e (Urasoe Art Museum Collection)

Lower left: Iso Castle Site Provided by: Okinawa Prefectural Board of
Education

Lower right: Stone paved road on Nakagamihō seikaidō Route

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