# Shurijo Castle Rervival
## — Ryukyu's Beauty, Restored by Master Craftsmen.

Through the hopes of the community, the skills of master craftspeople and new research, the Seiden is being restored to reflect the splendor of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The restoration of Shurijo Castle continues into the future.

### Craftsmanship Passed Down Through Generations

#### Timberwork



**The Art of Traditional Carpentry**
Traditional carpenters carefully select, shape and assemble timber to recreate the Seiden's historic architecture.



#### Red Roof Tiles

**A Living Tradition**
Around 60,000 red roof tiles adorn the Seiden. Fragments of tiles damaged in the fire have been incorporated into new tiles, carrying memories of the castle forward.

#### Lacquerwork



**Beauty in Layers**
Meticulous layers of lacquer, applied through 27 stages, give the Seiden its rich, lustrous finish. [VERIFY: number of stages]

### New Discoveries, Renewed Splendor



#### Bengara

**Restoring Ryukyu Red**
New research led to the use of Kushi-magiri bengara pigment, restoring a deep, rich shade of red.

#### "Chu Zan Sei Do" Plaque:

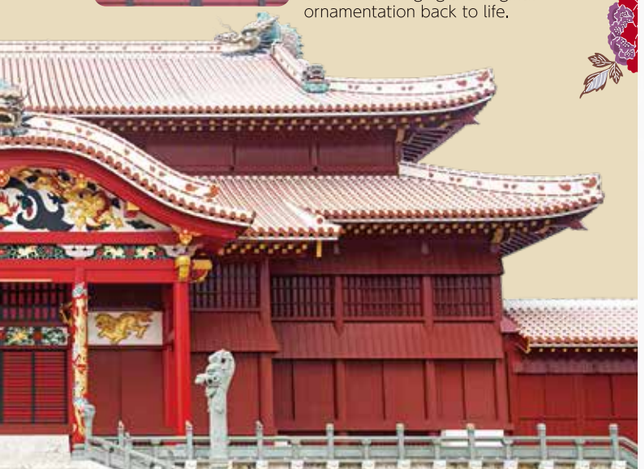



**Recreating the Historic Design**
New research informed the recreation of the historic design, changing the background from red to yellow.



#### Shisa(guardian lions) and Peonies

**Ornate Carvings Reborn**
Analysis of historic photographs revealed a pair of Shisa and three peony blossoms, bringing the original ornamentation back to life.



## Access & Transportation

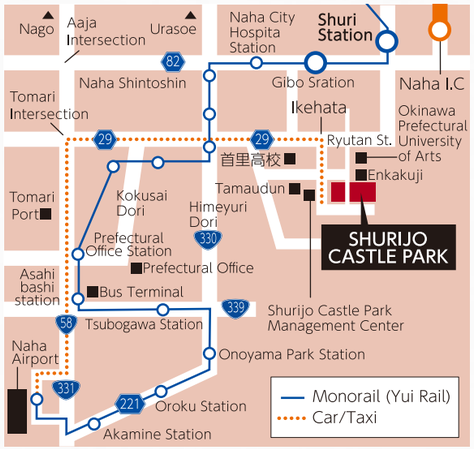
**Monorail (Yui Rail):**
Get off at Shuri Station or Gibo Station; approx. 15-minute walk to Shureimon Gate.

**Tour Bus / Car / Taxi:**
Approx. 10 km from Naha Airport (40–50 min).
Underground parking available at Suimuikan.

**Local Bus (City & Suburban Routes):**
City Routes #1, #14, #17, Intercity Route

**Local Bus (Shuri Castle Town Routes):**
Shuri Castle Town Routes #7, #8: Get off at "Shurijo-mae" bus stop; approx. 1-minute walk to Shureimon Gate.

**Local Bus (Main Routes):**
City Routes #9, #13, Intercity Routes #25, #97, #125: Get off at "Yamakawa" bus stop; approx. 15-minute walk to Shureimon Gate.




### Parking Rates (Suimuikan Underground Parking)

| | |
|---|---|
| Standard Vehicles | ¥500 for first 60 min (+¥250 per additional 30 min / Daily Maximum: ¥1,000) |
| Buses & Large Vehicles | ¥700 for first 30 min (Daily Maximum: ¥2,800) |

●*Note: Advance reservation required for minibuses and large buses via the official website.

| Admission Fees (Paid Area) *Children under 6: Free* | Adults | High School Students | Elem. & Jr. High |
|---|---|---|---|
| Group (20+ persons) | ¥800 | ¥610 | ¥300 |
| Annual Pass (General) | ¥2,000 | ¥1,520 | ¥740 |
| Annual Pass (Okinawa Residents) | ¥1,500 | ¥1,140 | ¥550 |

●No advance reservation is needed to enter the Paid Area without viewing the Seiden interior.
●Advance reservations for a specific date and time are required to view the Seiden interior.
●Group rates apply to school field trips regardless of group size (advance application required).
●Free entry for visitors with disabilities and one assistant (please present Physical Disability Certificate, Mental Disability Certificate, Rehabilitation Certificate, or Mirairo ID at the ticket counter).

**Seiden (Main Hall) visits require advance reservations.**
Scan the QR code to book.

### Operating Hours

| | Apr – Nov | Dec – Mar |
|---|---|---|
| Free Area | 8:00–19:30 | 8:00–18:30 |
| Paid Area | 8:30–19:00 (Ticket sales close at 18:30) | 8:30–18:00 (Ticket sales close at 17:30) |
| Parking | 8:30–19:30 | 8:30–18:30 |

●*Note: Castle wall lighting display can be viewed after sunset.

**Shurijo Castle Park Management Center**
1-2 Shuri Kinjo-cho, Naha City, Okinawa 903-0815, Japan
TEL: +81-98-886-2020
https://oki-park.jp/shurijo/

Shurijo Castle Park Official Website

Please take our survey

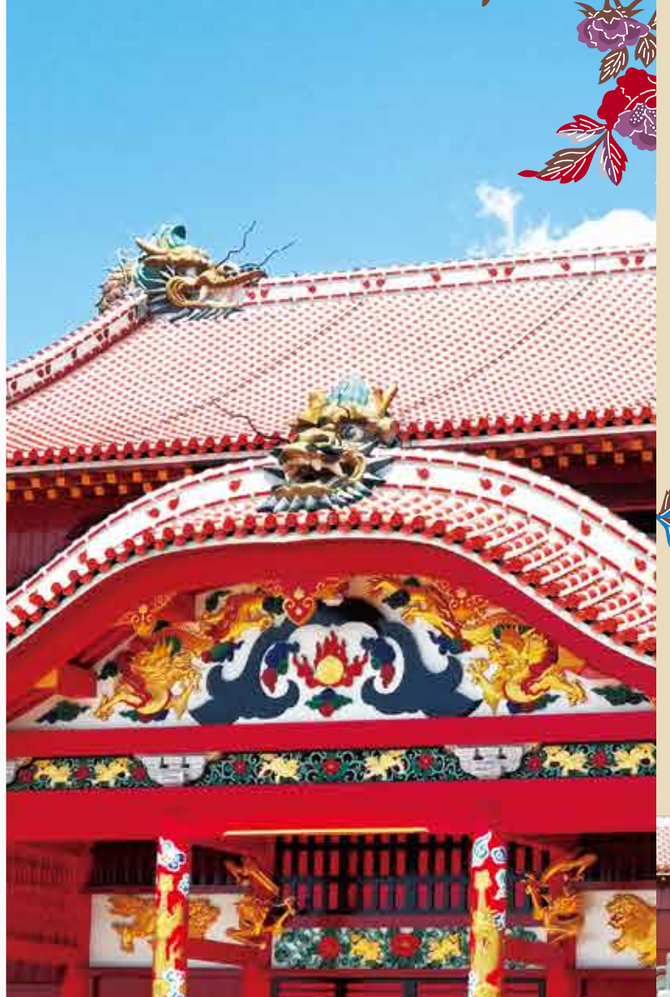
Photo credits
Okinawa Commemorative National Government Park Office
Okinawa Prefecture

2026.11.23

World Heritage Site

# 首里城公園
# SHURIJO CASTLE PARK

## Shurijo Castle Today: The Beauty and Craftsmanship of the Ryukyu Kingdom



## Shurijo Castle: A Legacy of History and Culture of the Ryukyu Kingdom



"Map of Shurijo Castle and Surroundings"
(Collection: Okinawa Churashima Foundation)

Shurijo Castle symbolizes the 450-year history and culture of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Founded in 1429 following Sho Hashi's unification of the three kingdoms, the kingdom prospered through trade with China, Japan and Southeast Asia, developing its own unique culture.
Shurijo Castle was the royal residence and a center of government, diplomacy and royal ceremonies. It also flourished as a center of performing arts, fine arts and traditional crafts.
The castle's role as a royal palace ended in 1879 with the abolition of the Ryukyu Kingdom. It was destroyed during the WWII in 1945. After the war, the University of the Ryukyus opened on the site. Following its relocation, the Seiden and other buildings were reconstructed in 1992. In 2000, the "Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu" was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
The Seiden and other buildings were lost again in the 2019 fire. Drawing on traditional craftsmanship and the dedication of many people, the restored Seiden is scheduled to open to the public on November 23, 2026. Its completion marks a major milestone, while the restoration of Shurijo Castle continues.



## Enjoy the Views from Scenic Lookouts



### Ⓗ Agari-no-azana Paid Area

Located on the eastern edge of the inner wall at an elevation of approx. 140 m. Offers a grand panorama extending from the surrounding cityscape to the Ouchibara behind the Seiden. On clear days, Kudaka Island is visible.

### Ⓓ Iri-no-azana

Located on the western side at an elevation of approx. 130 m. Provides sweeping views of Naha City and Naha Port, stretching to the Kerama Islands on clear days. (Wheelchair accessible)



## Take a Break at Shurijo Castle Teahouse



### Ⓒ Keizuza / Youmotsuza (Shurijo Teahouse)

Enjoy traditional sweets of Ryukyu accompanied by fragrant Sanpin (jasmine) tea in a relaxing setting.



## The Seiden: A Giant Work of Ryukyuan Lacquer Art

The Seiden Main Hall is often described as a "giant piece of Ryukyu lacquerware." Its vivid red walls, golden ornaments, and intricate motifs of dragons and shisa embody the aesthetic elegance and craftsmanship of the Ryukyu Kingdom.



Golden Dragon



Ornate Karahafu Gable



Shisa, Peonies and Arabesque Patterns

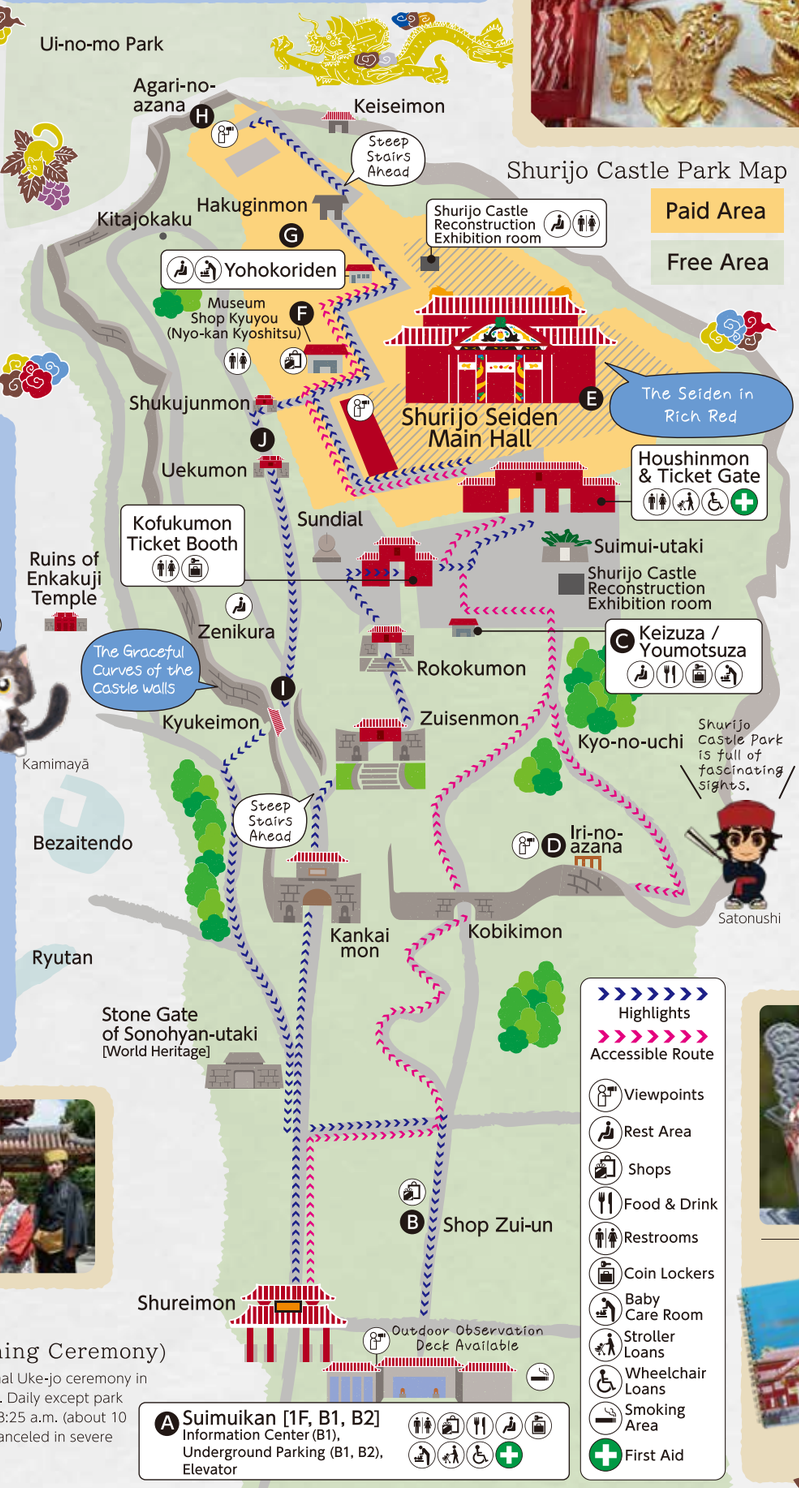


Dragon Ridge Ornaments and Decorative Roof Tiles

## Shurijo Castle Park Map

Paid Area

Free Area




## Discover Shurijo Castle's Historic Gates



Shureimon

Shurijo Castle features a series of distinctive gates, each with unique historical roles. Stroll through the park while admiring the elegant masonry and grand gateways that reflect the rich heritage of the Ryukyu Kingdom.

A Gateway for Prayers to God




Stone Gate of Sonohyan-utaki



Kankaimon



Zuisenmon



Houshinmon

## 60-Minute Guided Tour

Join an official castle guide on a fascinating 60-minute walking tour filled with new discoveries. Experience the history, culture, and restoration highlights firsthand.

Scan QR code to reserve



## 首里城アプリ Shurijo Castle Web App



Your smartphone becomes your personal guide. This free multilingual web app needs no download and includes GPS navigation.



## Uke-jo (Gate-Opening Ceremony)

Watch the traditional Uke-jo ceremony in front of Hoshinmon. Daily except park closure days, from 8:25 a.m. (about 10 minutes). May be canceled in severe weather.

## World Heritage Within Shurijo Castle Park



In 2000, nine sites reflecting the unique history and culture of the Ryukyu Kingdom were inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites under "Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu." The Shurijo Castle Site includes original stone wall structures, foundations, and ramparts that survived WWII. Discover the hidden World Heritage treasures inside the park!

Ⓔ Shurijo Seiden Main Hall [Viewing Area]




Ⓘ Historic Castle Ramparts



Ⓙ Ancient World Heritage Stonework at the base of Uekimon



Ⓖ Kanegura (Treasury) Ruins

## Shopping & Dining



Ⓐ Dining: Restaurant Suimui & Cafe Ryuhi (Suimuikan 1F)

Enjoy traditional flavors of Ryukyu at the restaurant, or take a relaxing break with ice cream and drinks at the café.



Ⓐ Shop Bingata (Suimuikan 1F) / SUI COCO (Suimuikan B1F)

Ⓑ Shop Zui-un (Lawn Plaza)

Ⓕ Museum Shop Kyuyou Paid Area (Nyo-kan Kyoshitsu)

Find exclusive Shurijo Castle Park gifts, traditional crafts and souvenirs to remember your visit.