

OMORO BOTANICAL GARDEN

This exhibition features 22 plant species that appear in "Omorosaushi," Okinawa's oldest song anthology dating from the 12th to the early 17th century. The word "omoro," formerly known as "umui," means "thought." Omoro, it is said, is not so much an internal thought as a magical word to express one's feelings and "thoughts" to God, wishing for the peace and prosperity of the village community. You can feel from each plant the relationship between people and nature from the distant "Omoro Era".



The "sacred tree" in the park

They are sacred trees that grow in sanctuaries such as Utaki in Okinawa. They are called "Kuba Utaki" or "Kupohnu Utaki". The leaves have long been used for daily commodities, such as buckets for drawing water, round fans, and made into the "Kuba hats (woven hats)" that are worn by fishermen.

The Kuba tree (*Livistona chinensis*) is mentioned in the *Kojiki* (Records of Ancient Matters, Japan's oldest historical record) as the tree of "Ajimasa" and it is said that the tree of Ajimasa in Awa Province and Awaji-shima Island became a gift to the court.

Chinese Fan Palm
(*Livistona chinensis*)
Family: Arecaceae
Dialect name: Kuba



Plants that appear in "Omorosaushi," the oldest songbook in Okinawa.



As a sacred tree, mulberry branches are used to make bows during the annual "Ufuyumi" ceremony to pray for a good harvest, as it is said to ward off evil spirits. The mulberry tree is also associated with the sun god, and in the event of a thunderstorm, Okinawans say, "Kwahgi nu shita (or shicha) dehibiru (I am under a mulberry tree so please don't strike)."

Mulberry
(*Morus australis*)
Family: Moraceae
Dialect name: Kwahghi, Kwah, Kongi, Nandehsih.

Let's go have fun seeing even "more" of Native Okinawa Village!



Stage Performances
Traditional local performing arts are performed on the stage adjacent to the "Rest Place".
(Photo: "Shochikubai Tsurukame," designated as an Intangible Folk Cultural Asset by Motobu Town)

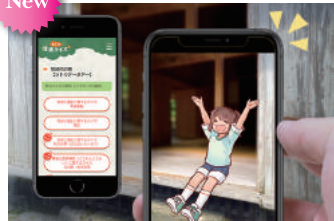
New

Video Program "Ties of Life"

The Rest Place and Jinbun BOX will show animated films and Okinawan traditional customs.



New

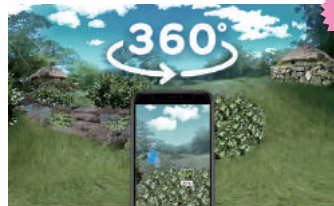


Native Okinawa Village Exploration Quiz

Take a quiz while exploring the Native Okinawa Village using your smartphone.



Click here for quiz questions



New

Jinbun BOX VR

At the Jinbun BOX adjacent to Omoro Botanical Garden you can see a virtual reality (VR) image of a poem from "Omorosaushi," Okinawa's oldest song anthology, using your smartphone.

Hours of operation

Period	8:00	8:30	17:30	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30
Normal period (Oct - Feb)	Ocean Expo Park								
	Native Okinawa Village								
Summer period (Mar - Sep)	Ocean Expo Park								
	Native Okinawa Village								

*Opening hours of Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium and surrounding facilities change between the off-season and peak season (spring vacation, Golden Week, summer vacation, and winter vacation).

Closed on the 1st Wednesday of December and the following day

For inquiries

Ocean Expo Park Management Center

424 Aza-Ishikawa, Motobu-cho,
Kunigami-gun, Okinawa 905-0206, Japan

TEL: 0980-48-2741 FAX: 0980-48-3339

English HP: <http://oki-park.jp/kaiyohaku/en/>

NATIVE OKINAWA VILLAGE

OMORO BOTANICAL GARDEN



海洋博公園
OCEAN EXPO PARK

NATIVE OKINAWA VILLAGE

Native Okinawa Village recreates a village in the Ryukyu Kingdom period. Visitors can see and imagine people's lives in the past, worship places such as Utaki (Sacred Grove) and Kami-asagi, which were places where people felt at peace, private houses, Noro's House, Jitude's House, raised granaries, Sataya (Sugar production place), and so forth.



Native Okinawan species (22 different species) in "Omorosaushi"

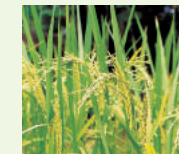


Sea Almond
(*Terminalia catappa*)
Family: Combretaceae
Dialect name: Kfadihsah
Kbadehsah Nmahgih

Information on all the 22 different species is available on the Botanical Garden Exploration Map.



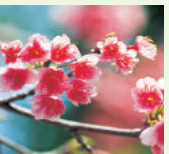
<https://oki-park.jp/sp/kaiyohaku/en/inst/72>



Rice
(*Oryza sativa*)
Family: Poaceae
Dialect name: Nni



Citrus
(*Citrus depressa*)
Family: Rutaceae
Dialect name: Kuganih
Shikwahshah



Taiwan Cherry
(*Prunus campanulata*)
Family: Rosaceae
Dialect name: Sakura



Ramie
(*Boehmeria nivea*)
Family: Urticaceae
Dialect name: Mahwuh-pu



Ryukyu Pine
(*Pinus luchuensis*)
Family: Pinaceae
Dialect name: Mahchi,
Machi



Ryukyu Bamboo
(*Pleioblastus linearis*)
Family: Poaceae
Dialect name: Yambarudaki,
Yamadaki

New



Uminchu Path (Stepped Water Fountain)

This garden is based on a dry landscape motif with Ryukyu limestone rocks and cycads. This is a great new photo spot overlooking the East China Sea.



Home of Family Patriarch

The main house is the head family of the village, and is also the residence and ritual site of the nichu (or nigami), who preside over the rituals of the village's kinship groups.



Jitude's House (Manor lords)

The Jitude (manor lord) was the official of each municipality from 1611 to 1897. The local government was administered by the manor lord (local government head), who was an influential peasant in the area. The manor lord was responsible for managing the distribution of arable land, protecting forests and fields, collecting and paying various taxes, and other administrative matters.

Ugamigah (Sacred spring)

Ancestral wellsprings, reservoirs, and other water features are called "Ugamigah (Sacred springs)," where the god of water is enshrined. They were places of worship and relaxation essential to daily life.



Ancient times are quietly reborn. Travel in time back to the Ryukyu Kingdom era of Okinawa.



Noro's House (District priestess)

"Noro" is the priestess who presides over the village rituals to pray for the villagers' health and good harvest and give thanks for the good harvest.



Private House in Motobu Province

This house is modeled after an early Showa period farmhouse that existed near the park, and is the oldest example of the anaya style. It consists of two buildings, the main house and the kitchen (Tungwa), and the roof is thatched with small logs.

New



Jinbun BOX (learn while taking a rest)

Visitors can learn about the worldview of the time period depicted in "Omorosashi" through the relationship between the Okinawan people and plants, all while having fun.

New



Riding Ground (Playground)

A 50-meter-long athletic playground. Try your hand at bouldering, suspension bridges, and many other athletic activities!



Park Information Center (Haisai Plaza)



Fountain Plaza



Ocean Culture Museum



New



Main Entrance Gate

At the entrance to the Native Okinawa Village stands 8 meter tall gate poles with "Hatagashira" flags motif. The motif is based on the Polaris(North Star) and the Impatiens balsamina flower from the lyrics of the song "Tinsagunu Hana".

New



Rest Place and Stage

The first space to welcome visitors who have entered the Ryukyu Kingdom period area. It has a rest area, information about Native Okinawa Village, and a green room.

Private House in recent years

In Okinawa, former restrictions on building houses were abolished in 1889 (Meiji 22), and since then red-tile roofs have been used on houses throughout Okinawa. The main house and kitchen are built as a single structure, with an amahaji (Japanese-style awning) to prevent strong sunlight and rain from entering.



Raised Okinawan Granaries

These granaries were built on stilts to improve ventilation and keep out moisture and humidity. The model is based on the existing ones in Kijoka, Ogimi Village and Gabusoka, Nago City.



Private House of Amami

Private house of Amami are generally characterized by two buildings consisting of a main house and a kitchen (Tohgura). The basic layout of the main house is two rooms lined up next to each other, the front room, "omote," and the back room, "uchi (ura)." This one was modeled after a private house in Naon, Yamato Village, Oshima County, Kagoshima Prefecture.

- Information
- Escalator
- Toilet (Wheelchair Accessible Toilet)
- For Ostomates
- Baby Care Room
- First-Aid Station
- Rental Stroller and Wheelchair
- Electric Park Trolley Stop
- Coffee Shop
- Shop
- Coin Locker
- Observation Deck
- Waiting Room
- Vending Machine
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED)



See the local village exploration map for information on other houses and facilities.