

# Convenient Info

# Basic Knowledge of Okinawa

## Gathering Information in Okinawa

Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Naha Airport Tourist Information Office TEL.098-857-6884  
Travel Agent Counter TEL. 098-857-6742  
Rent a Car Information Office TEL. 098-852-0727  
Naha City Tourist Information Office TEL. 098-868-4887

## Food

You can drink tap water as is, but it is hard water and some people mind the smell of chlorine. Water served at restaurants is free of charge and you may ask for extra servings.  
You can choose whatever you like from Japanese, Chinese or Western foods. Ryukyuan dishes developed with the influence of Japanese and Chinese foods and has two origins: court cuisine and commoners' home cooking.

## Convenience Store

You can always find convenience stores along main roads. They are open 24 hours, and sell various goods such as drinks, sweets, box lunches, rice balls, sandwiches, convenience goods, magazines and what not. They are convenient for travelers, too. Three chain stores like Lawson, Family Mart, Coco Mart are available in Okinawa.

## Currency

Currency in Japan is Yen. There are four types of notes: 1000-yen, 2000-yen, 5000-yen and 10000-yen, and six kinds of coins: 1-yen, 5-yen, 10-yen, 50-yen, 100-yen, 500-yen. On the 2000-yen note, an illustration of Shureino-mon gate in shuri castle in Okinawa is printed.

## Currency Exchange

Currency exchange is offered at designated post offices (9:00-16:00), banks (9:00 - 15:00, weekdays), and hotels (fee). ATMS (US dollars to yen) are available at three branches of JUSCO (Chatan 10:00-22:00 ; Gushikawa 9:00-23:00 ; Nago 9:00-21:00). San-A branches also provide dollar-to-yen exchange machines (Hamby 9:00-21:00; Naha Main Place 9:00-23:00). TISCO Japan's currency exchange service desk can be found at the Washita Shop on Kokusai Street (14:00-19:00) and at Naha Airport(9:00-18:00), where 18 currencies are exchanged , including the US dollar, New Taiwan dollar, Hong Kong dollar, Korean won, Chinese yuan, Euros, and etc. (sell/buy available) Edoya naha brach Exchange service desk at Okinawa Mitsukoshi 1F can exchange 33 currencies. (sell/buy available)

## International ATM Service (cash withdrawals)

Foreign credit and cash cards can be used at Post Office ATM throughout Okinawa . Cards from the VISA , VISA/ELECTRON, PLUS, MasterCard, Maestro, Cirrus, American Express, Diners Club, JCB, China Unionpay and DISCOVER can be used. Service hours change with ATM. There is a case where ATM cannot deal with the card of use.

## Currency Exchange

Currency exchange from American dollars to Japanese yen is dealt at all of the branches of The Bank of Okinawa, Ltd., and the Bank of The Ryukyus

## Attire

You can get by with summer clothing such as short sleeve shirts and short pants from around May to October in Okinawa with its subtropical climate, but it's better to have long sleeve shirts for sunburn protection on sunny days. It is very warm and humid, especially in summer. Even the nights are muggy. Temperature goes down below 10℃ from January to February, so sweaters and light coats are necessary. From March to April and from November to December, long sleeve shirts and light jackets or cardigans will do.

## Customs and Manners

In Okinawa(Japan), there is no custom of tipping.  
Please be careful not to reveal your body outside of beaches. It is strictly prohibited, especially in the countryside and neighbor islands where the people are quite religious.  
Smoking is banned in many restaurants, hotels and other public facilities, so smokers should keep this in mind.

## Language

Most of the citizenry cannot speak any other language other than Japanese. If you are lucky, you might meet someone who can understand English.  
It is said that Okinawan dialects are very close to old Japanese used around the 7~8th century (ancient Manyo language). Sentence structure is the same as today's Japanese, but the words are quite different. It is difficult to understand, even for Japanese from other prefectures.

## Consumption Tax

A 5% consumption tax is added to all the goods you pay for. Prices on goods are consumption tax inclusive. Some items such as books are indicated as 'the book proper-separate charge for tax'.

## Voltage

Voltage in Okinawa is 100 volts/60 Hz. Please confirm with an instruction manual if you want to use electric appliances which you brought in.

## Toilets

Indication of toilets are “化粧室”, “お手洗い”, or often with illustrations of a man or a woman. Most of them are western style, but Japanese-style lavatories are placed side by side at some places.  
In downtown, toilets in department stores, shopping centers or convenience stores are available.

Financial Institutions		Bank of The Ryukyus Main Branch				The Bank of Okinawa, Ltd., Main Branch				Kaihou Bank Main Branch				Mizuho Bank Naha Branch				Naha Chuou Post Office				TISCO JAPAN				Edoya Exchange Center					
		(Tellers 9:00-16:00) 1-11-1 Kumoji, Naha 098-866-1212				(Tellers 9:00-15:00) 3-10-1 Kumoji, Naha 098-867-2141				(Tellers 9:00-15:00) 2-9-12 Kumoji, Naha 098-867-2318				(Tellers 9:00-15:00) 3-1-1 Kumoji, Naha 098-866-0079				(Tellers 9:00-18:00) 3-3-8 Tsubogawa, Naha 098-853-4567				(Tellers 9:30-18:30) 150 Kagamizu, Naha 098-891-8880				Naha Exchange Center First floor of Okinawa Mitsukoshi Department Store 2-2-30 Makishi, Naha City Tel:098-987-5280(Mihama Shop)					
		BC uA yS H	SC eA IS 1H	BT u/ yC	ST e/ IC 1	BC uA yS H	SC eA IS 1H	BT u/ yC	ST e/ IC 1	BC uA yS H	SC eA IS 1H	BT u/ yC	ST e/ IC 1	BC uA yS H	SC eA IS 1H	BT u/ yC	ST e/ IC 1	BC uA yS H	SC eA IS 1H	BT u/ yC	ST e/ IC 1	BC uA yS H	SC eA IS 1H	BT u/ yC	ST e/ IC 1	BC uA yS H	SC eA IS 1H	BT u/ yC	ST e/ IC 1		
Currencies		Closed on Sat. Sun. Holiday																				Open year round				Holiday: January 1 (same day as Mitsukoshi's)					
Japan en		JP¥	—	—	—	◎#2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
U.S. Dollars		US\$	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	
British Pound		STG.£	◎	—	◎	—	◎	—	◎	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎#1	◎#1	—	—
Euro		EUR	◎	◎#1	—	◎	◎#1	—	◎	◎#2	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—
Canadian Dollars		C.\$	◎	—	◎	—	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	
Swiss Franc		SFR	◎	—	◎	—	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎#1	◎#1	—	—	
Swedish Kroner		SKR	—	—	◎	—	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎#1	◎#1	—	—	
Danish Kroner		DKR	◎	—	◎	—	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎#1	◎#1	—	—	
Norwegian Kroner		NKR	—	—	◎	—	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎#1	◎#1	—	—	
Australian Dollars		A.\$	◎	—	◎	—	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎#1	◎#1	—	—	
Hong Kong Dollars		HKS	◎	—	◎	—	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	
New Zealand Dollars		NZ\$	◎	—	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	◎#1	◎#1	—	—	
Singapore Dollars		S.\$	◎	—	◎	—	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	◎#1	◎#1	—	—	
Thai Baht		THB	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎#1	◎#1	—	—	
South Korean Won		KRW	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	
New Taiwan Dollars		NT\$	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	
Chinese Yuan		CNY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	
Malaysian Ringgit		RM	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	◎#1	◎#1	—	—	
Russian Ruble		RUB	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	◎	◎	—	—	—	◎#1	◎#1	—	—	
Other Institutions	Bank of The Ryukyus	Naha Airport (Dep.)・Koza Branch・Nago Branch ※1 Main Branch・Koza Branch ※2 Main Branch ○→ Contact by phone ☆ Buy and sell U.S. Dollars: 57 branches																													
	The Bank of Okinawa	All branches ※1 Only at the main branch ※2 Main Branch・Makiminato・Koza・Nago・Miyako・Yaseyama																													
	Kaihou Bank	Matsuo Branch / Aja Branch / Tomishiro Branch / Haeburu Branch / Itoman Branch / Nishizaki Branch / Yonabaru Branch / Urasoe Branch / Ojana Branch / Futenma Branch / Moromi Branch / Koza Branch / Nishihara Branch / Agena Branch / Ishikawa Branch / Kadena Branch / Yomitani Branch / Nago Branch / Motobu Branch / Miyako Branch / Yaeyama Branch																													
	Post Office	Naha Higashi / Yuchō Bank Naha Branch/ Shuri / Urasoe/ Gushikawa / Ginowan / Miyako / Yaeyama / Okinawa / Kadena / Nishihara / Okinawa Misato (9:00 - 16:00) Exchange only the U.S.dollars/except Naha chuou post office . (Stock available in other currencies) ☆ Not handled at the post office located inside the Naha airport																													
	TISCO JAPAN	Washita Shop Main Branch(Tellers 14:00-19:00) 3-2-22 Kumoji,Naha 098-860-8848 Open year round BigDip Makiminato Branch(Tellers 14:00-19:00) 5-5-6 Makiminato,Urasoe 098-891-8880 Open year round / 3 branches are same services.																													
	Edoya Exchange Center	Mihama Shop 1-3-4 Mihama, Chatan-cho Holidays: year end and new year Koza Shop 1-22-18 Chuō, Okinawa City ※1 Available only at Naha Exchange Center																													
Naha Airport Domestic Terminal Building 1F																															
・Bank of The Ryukyus Naha Airport Branch Tel.098-857-6869 Currency Exchange : Same Main Branch(No buying Euros)Open 9:00 - 16:00(Weekdays) Saturday ,Sunday and Holidays Closed ・Naha Airport Building General Information Counter Tel.098-840-1179 Currency Exchange : U.S. Dollars only Open 7:30 - 9:00 16:00 - 23:30(Weekdays) 7:30 - 23:30(Saturday ,Sunday and Holidays)																															
Naha Airport International Terminal Building 1F																															
・TISCO JAPAN Tel.098-891-8880 Open 9:30 - 18:30 ・Naha Airport Building General Information Counter Currency Exchange : U.S. Dollars only Corresponds to the last flight (May be changed without prior notice)																															

## Internet

Computer terminals for internet use are set up at three places in Naha Airport Domestic Lines Passenger Terminal Building. (toll). Outside of Naha city, you can find internet cafes among many parts of the island. (See page 26)

## How to place international calls

Numbers for International Telephone Companies

Country Numbers		Area code (Delete "0", the first number)	Other party's TEL no.
001 (Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co., Ltd.)	America, Canada		
0041 (Nippon Telecom)	England	44	
0033 (NTT Communications)	Australia	61	
	Philippines	63	

When you make international telephone calls from public phones, please use 100 yen coins or IC phone cards with 10 call units or more or use magnetic phone cards. The charges are calculated in 100 yen unit.