

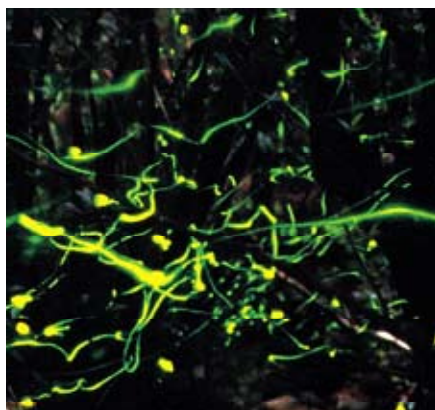
# Kume Island



Unwind, and spend a  
relaxing time on an island  
that feels like home.







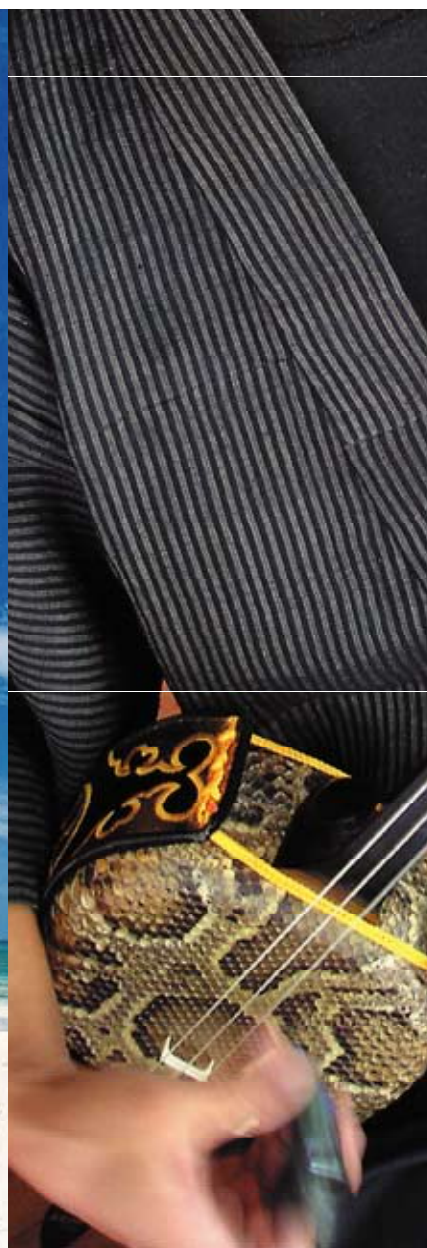
The wisdom that colors the island



Source of technique



The refreshing sea breeze.



Heartwarming sounds.

Okinawa  
Kume Island

# Relaxed Rythm on a Leisurely Land

A mere 25 minute flight from Naha.

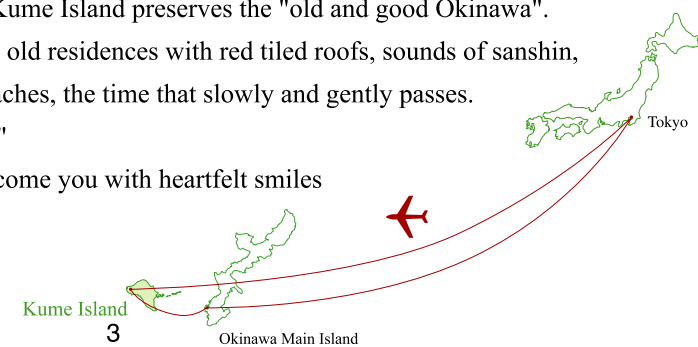
There are direct flights from Haneda, between June and September.

Afloat on the East China Sea, Kume Island preserves the "old and good Okinawa".

Streets lined with Fukugi trees, old residences with red tiled roofs, sounds of sanshin, the pure white sands on the beaches, the time that slowly and gently passes.

"Just take it easy on the island,"

Natural and kind islanders welcome you with heartfelt smiles







**Chura-fukugi**  
Fukugi in the Maja area were also planted as windbreakers to protect the residences. Listening to stories told by the islanders, the charm of Kume Island will entice you even more.



Former Nakazato Magiri Kuramoto Stone Wall

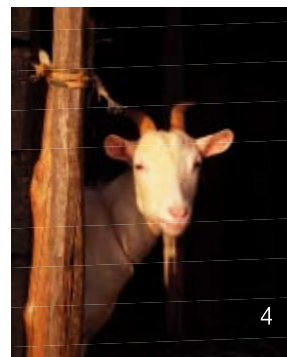
## Tour of Old Residences

# Come home, to the land of quaint residences.

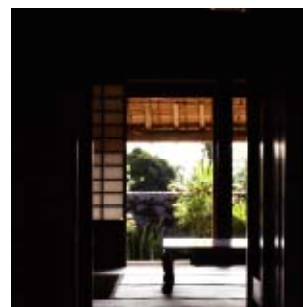
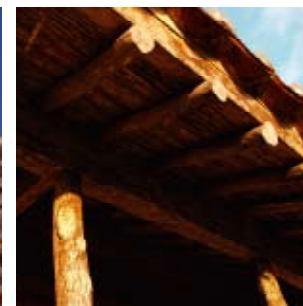
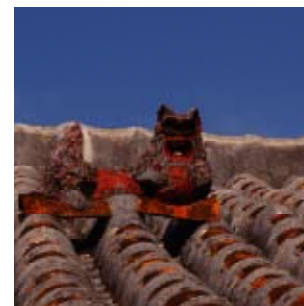
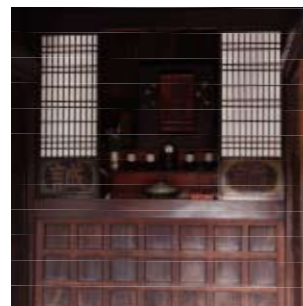
Traditional residences, dotted around the island. Some of the older homes among them were built over a century ago. And to this day, the lives of the islanders are still deep-rooted there.

On the eastside of the island, is the Maja District. This is a historical area with a lively past, once being the hub of activity during the period of the Ryukyu Kingdom; the King of Shuri placed an administration branch called "Kuramoto", which helped the surrounding villages to flourish. One step off the main Prefectural Road, into the lanes lined with fukugi (garcinia) trees, the charming, quaint homes with red-tiled roofs tastefully complete the picturesque site. Said to be the root of Japanese pongee, the Kumejima pongee making is still opulent, and the rhythmic sounds of weaving echo in the lanes.

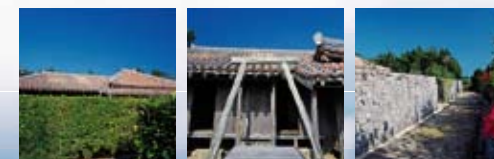
The "oba", or the old ladies, immersed in their lively chatter on the wooden verandahs, the children that shyly respond to your greetings, the flowing sounds of sanshin carried by the wind at sundown. The leisurely passing of time, and the gentle smiles of the local people bring a sense of nostalgia; these every day scenes gently engulf anyone who comes here. Come home-the island of quaint homes will always warmly welcome you, and take you in.



There, the time flows leisurely.



On Kume Island, where the Battle of Okinawa left comparatively less damage, old wooden homes constructed before the war, still stand and remain throughout the island. Kume Island is highly humid, and continuously assaulted by typhoons, but these wooden homes have managed to survive in such a climate due to the "cha-gi" or the Japanese yew that were used to construct the homes. This particular building material is known to be solid and can withstand the humidity, and also strong against termites and other insects.



**Uezu Residence**  
In the western part of the island stands the proud Uezu residence, once housing a very powerful clan in the region. The house depicts the aristocracy of its former residents with its tiled roof, which was then forbidden unless a part of the samurai class, a framed portrait that decorates the interior which was bestowed by the King of Ryukyu, and its tastefully attractive garden. It is said that its construction was around 1726, and the structure also served as a guesthouse, hosting government official of the time. Old fukugi and Japanese yew trees grow in the garden of the estate, surrounded by a wall of neatly stacked Ryukyu limestone.







Try your hand at clay work and create your original "sea-sar".



Sanshin classes are held in the quaint homes with red-tile roofs. You're a full-fledged sanshin player once you learn to play by reading the "kun-kun-shi" (music sheet for the sanshin).



The nature on the island, is deeply intertwined with the development of the island.



Take a peek through a box spectacle, and Kume Island's ocean will show you its many wonders.

## Island Experience Mingle with the Islanders. Experience the Island.

On Kume Island, there are unique programs that offer you first-hand experience to immerse you in its nature, culture, and industry, through engaging, visiting, and exchanging. It's called "Shimanogakko@Kumejima". And of course, the islanders ("shiman-chu") are your guides.

The program can be largely categorized into three branches: natural, cultural, and industrial.

In the "Natural Program", enjoy trekking, sea kayaking, and observing the lagoons, and learn how native species like the highly endangered Kikuzato's brook snakes and Kumejima fireflies are very much linked to the growth and development of the island, the people, and the culture.

In Kume Island, the legacy of the Ryukyu Kingdom is still ever-present, not just in the sites around town, but also in the people that take pride in their cultural heritage, with various forms of traditional culture still being passed down today. The performing arts, closely knitted in the lives of the people, the cuisine, cultivated from the natural resources of the island and the wisdom of the ancestors, are all still deeply rooted and haven't been lost.

Experience traditional dishes, sanshin, pottery and more, in the "Cultural Program".

In the "Industrial Program", try weaving the Kumejima Tsumugi (pongee), said to be the root of the Japanese Pongee, or vegetable dyeing, using local vegetation. You'll achieve a deep understanding of the hardships of the predecessors of this handcraft and marvel at the artistry of those who passionately embraced the history of the people that brought the idea of this pongee, those who developed it, and those who have carried on this technique.

The "shima-kutuba" (dialect) of the "shiman-chu" (islanders) as they guide you through the island, will fascinate you and give a glimpse of Kume Island's genuine intrigue.

Even the most intricate shorelines can be easy to maneuver around in a sea kayak. See a side of the rich ocean that perhaps you hadn't seen before.



You can also try weaving the Kumejima Tsumugi (pongee), said to be the root of the Japanese Pongee.



Shimanogakkou @ Kumejima

### Program

Inquiries: Shimanogakkou @ Kumejima  
098-985-3551  
www.shimanogakko.com

#### Nature Experience

- Sea kayaking  
Time necessary: 3 Hours
- Observing a pond reef (Ino)  
Time necessary: 2 Hours
- Trekking  
Exploring Nibuchi Forest  
Enjoying natural coastal walks (Tachiyami)  
Time necessary: 3 Hours

#### Culture Experience

- Baking Okinawan-sweets  
Time necessary: 1.5 Hours
- Enjoying Sanshin music  
Time necessary: 2 Hours
- Weaving Pongee fabric (Tsumugi-Ori)  
Time necessary: 2.5 Hours

#### Crafts Making Experience

- Natural Crafts - making Ukidama glass sphere  
Time necessary: 2 Hours
- Woods Crafts-making wooden turtles  
Time necessary: 2.5 Hours
- Marine Crafts-making own design from shells  
Time necessary: 2 Hours
- Yachimun =Okinawan Pottery (making clay Shisa dogs)  
Time necessary: 2 Hours

### The comfortable rhythm of the Island.



The island's nature, culture, industry, and history. All are meshed into the lives of the islanders. Thus, of course, they know so much more than any guidebook: of the rich ocean, the unusual creatures on the island, living in the old homes, playing sanshin, weaving pongee. Learn and experience more of the island. You'll fall in love with this island, the more you learn and experience what it has to offer.

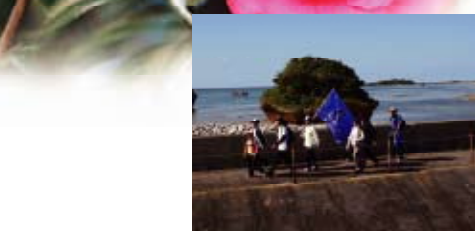




# Kume Island Events Seasonal Traditions

The various festivals and events that liven up the year on the island, the traditional occasions, and the seasonal events. The life of the islanders continues through this enjoyment of fun events.

Island Festivals, Events, Seasonal Traditions and Info.



**1** Jan. to early-Feb. - Blooming of Kanhi Sakura Ahla Woodland Path • The Darumayama Park  
■ Kumejima Slow Walking Contest  
■ Jan. to Mar. - Whale Watching  
■ Mid-Jan. to early Feb. Okinawa Flower Carnival  
■ Muchi [ Dec. 8 in lunar calendar]  
Average Temperature 16.5°C

**2** 6 - Kumejima Tsumugi (Pongee) Day  
■ 16 - Jyurokunichi Festival (Graveyard Visiting) [Jan. 16 in lunar calendar]  
Average Temperature 16.6°C

**3** 4 - All Sanshin Performing Contest  
■ Blooming of Kumeno-sakura (cherry blossoms)  
Average Temperature 18.6°C



**4** Beach Opening (the first Sunday)  
■ Mid-Apr. to early-May - Emergence of Kumejima-Firefly from pupa stage  
■ Mid-Apr. to early-May - Blooming of Easter Lilies  
Average Temperature 21.4°C

**5** Hari (The Dragon Boat) Race [May 4 in lunar calendar]  
■ Inaho Festival (Gogatsu Umachii) [May 16 in lunar calendar]  
■ Ginowan-Kumejima Yacht Race (the 3rd Saturday and Sunday)  
Average Temperature 23.8°C

**6** 12 - The Day of Kumejima Deep-Sea Water  
■ Inaho Festival (Rokugatsu Umachii) [June 25 in lunar calendar]  
Average Temperature 26.7°C

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER

**7** Okinawa Sumo [late-May in lunar calendar]  
Average Temperature 28.2°C



Maja Rice Festival-Sumo Tournament

**8** Early Aug. - Kumejima Festival  
■ Obon • Eisa dancing [July 13 to 15 in lunar calendar]  
Average Temperature 28.2°C



Kumejima Festival

**9** Mid-Sep. - Blooming of Shokizuisen (Golden Spider Lilies)  
Average Temperature 27.0°C



Kanegusuku Lion Dance

**10** Shishi-Mai(Performing of The Lions) [Aug. 15 in lunar calendar]  
■ Okinawa Sumo [late-Sep. in lunar calendar]  
■ Kumejima Marathon (the 4th Sunday of Oct.)  
Average Temperature 24.8°C



Kume Island Marathon

**11** Average Temperature 21.8°C

**12** Kumejima Town Industrial Festival  
Average Temperature 18.4°C



The Industry Festival

※Dates of festivals and events mentioned above may differ, according to the lunar calendar. Please check the dates prior to your visit.



## The First 100% Deep-ocean water bath facility. Bade Haus Kume-Island

The Bade Haus Kume-Island is the only bathing facility of its kind, that uses 100% deep-ocean water for a bathing facility. The marine water in Kume Island is obtained 612 meters deep in the ocean, which is the deepest in Japan and it has excellent eutrophication, purification, maturity, and mineral qualities. It is complete with a Bade Pool, which raises the effectiveness of massaging and stretching by using water pressure, a Finnish Sauna, an outdoor spa, a treatment room, and the Aqua Program, a program that is only offered in very few places around the world, that keeps track of your personal health data. By making use of marine water to the fullest, this facility relaxes both your body and soul.

Address: 170-1 Ou, Kumejima Town  
Tel: 098-985-8600



## Island Info. SHIMA NO ZATSUGAKU



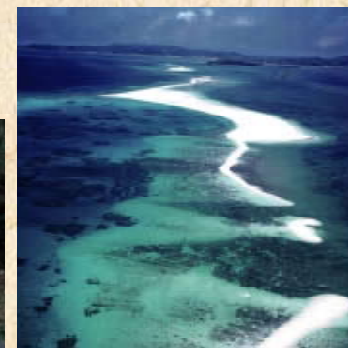
This is the only place in the world that it exists:  
**Kumejima Fireflies**

The Kumejima Fireflies, which were discovered in 1993, as is the case with the Genji Fireflies, and Heika Fireflies, are aquatic in the larva stage, and live only on Kume Island. The Genji Fireflies in mainland Japan have different light emission patterns in the east and western regions but the Kumejima Fireflies seem to carry the traits of both. Therefore it is believed that ancestors of the Genji Fireflies are from Kume Island and that they distributed to different regions when they migrated north, and the original Kumejima fireflies were left behind.



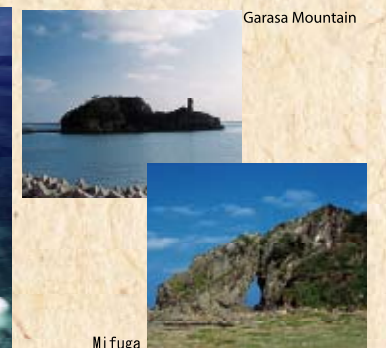
A mysterious  
**Ghost hill**

If you enter the farm road heading towards the mountainside from the Prefectural road, you will get to the "ghost hill". There are no houses nearby, and cars pass by only now and then. And when night comes... it doesn't mean that the ghosts will come out. If you stop your car on a hill and let go of the breaks, it appears as though you are going down hill, but what do you know? The car is moving in the opposite direction! Actually this happens to be an optical illusion. But no matter how you look at, the hill is sloping downwards.



White beach floating in the sea  
**Hate Beach**

Hate Beach is composed of white sandbars which appear to float close to the east shore of Kume Island. It is, strictly speaking, a collective term for the 3 sandbars which make Me-nu Beach, Nakano Beach and Hate Beach, and the overall lengths range from 7km to 11km. You can reach the sandbars by boat in about 20 minutes. You can enjoy various marine sports like jetskiing, snorkeling etc. You can also enjoy diving while watching tropical fish in several diving spots. 'Hate Beach Tour' is always available and you only have to request the tour at the reception of the hotel or Minsyuku (Travelers Lodging).



Mifuga and Mt. Garasa  
an interesting relationship

It is said that if a woman who was not blessed with children, prayed here on the rocks at the shoreline of Mifuga, it would bring her some luck. At the same time, on a small island known as "Garasa Mountain" which floats on the shoreline of the Kaneshiro Port, there is a stone pillar, which is thought of as a male symbol. The fact that there are rocks that symbolize both males and females may be symbolic of the open outlook the people have in a southern land. On a side note, "Garasa" refers to "karasu", the Japanese word for crow, because there once a large number of crows that lived here.



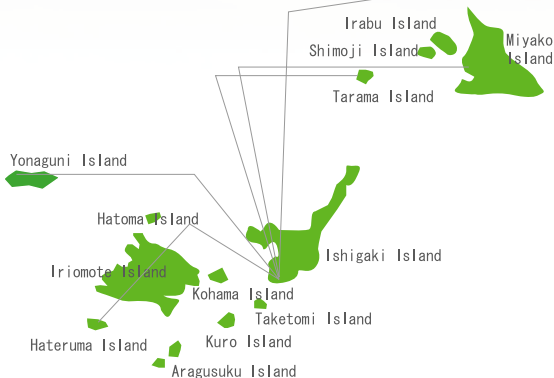


Guide to the cultural properties,  
places of interest, historic sites, etc,  
of Kume Island

**KUMEJIMAP**

# Kume Island Map

Kume Island is located at a distance of about 25 minutes by air from Naha,  
and with direct flights from Tokyo (limited summer months between June-September).  
Kick back, spoil yourself, and feel the time that flows in a relaxing pace.  
How about a stroll through the resort grounds,  
or perhaps to one of the historic sites or tourist attractions?  
By the shores, delight in the magnificent contrast of the white beach and the azure skies.



## Summary of Kume Island

Kume Island, with its magnificent nature is appointed as a Prefectural Nature Park, and is located on the East China Sea approximately 100km west of Naha. During the age of the Ryukyu Kingdom, it flourished as a port of call for transit trade and along with other various products, pongee weaves were conveyed. Recently, a facility for deep-ocean water research has been constructed, and the island is also playing vital roles in various industrial fields of marine, agricultural and health products.

By air: Naha Airport—Kumejima Airport  
Haneda Airport—Kumejima Airport (Limited time: Jun-Sept)  
By sea: Dep. Naha Port—Kumejima Kanagusuku Port (Via Tonaki Port)

※For details and inquiries, please contact the airline and shipping agencies listed on the back cover.



**Gushikawa Castle Site:**  
Designated as a National Historic Site  
It is said that this castle was built around the early 15th century. The castle is surrounded by the ocean from three directions, and at the south side, with its steep slopes, is where the castle gate is. A special type of castle wall called "nomenzumi" still remains today.



**Uegusuku Castle Site:**  
Designated as a National Historic Site  
This castle ruin is on Kume Island's highest point. Not only do you have a 360° view of the island, but you can see Tonaki Island, Aguni Island, the Kerama Archipelago, and on sunny days, the main island of Okinawa.



**Utinda Ishi (Appointed Historical Landmark of the Prefecture)**  
It is said that this stone has been at this spot for about 500 years. It was used to determine the timing for fishing and farming, before there were calendars.



**Tachijami**  
"Tachijami" means 'standing god'. It is located on the northern coast of the island, with an approximate height of 40m, 70m in width, and 5m thick, shaped like a folding screen.



**Hiyajo Banta**  
"Banta" means "cliff" and here is an observation deck on the cliff at the top of the steep slope. If you look below you will see the corals in the sea and in the distance you can hope for a glimpse of the distant isles of Aguni, Tonaki and the Kerama Archipelago.



**Yuima-ru Pavilion**  
The Kumejima Tsumugi archive and educational facility, a cultural heritage prized by its people. You can observe the making process, or participate in the dyeing, weaving and the thread spinning process.



**Former Nakazato Magiri Kuramoto's Stone Wall (Appointed National Cultural Treasure)**  
Site where the Nakazato Magiri Administration Branch stood during the Ryukyu Kingdom Era. The stonewall stands virtually undamaged, with its perfectly arranged stones.



**Chura Fukugi (Protected Prefectural Natural Monument)**  
"Chura" means "beautiful, and true to its name, these gorgeous fukugi are planted along the roads.



**Sea Turtle Museum of Kumejima**  
A facility built to conduct research of protecting sea turtles and their habitat. You can learn the present situation and the ecology of these endangered species. There's also a section with a display of Kume Island's seashells.



**Tatami Ishi (Protected Prefectural Natural Monument)**  
Flat rocks with about 1-2m in diameter, were formed in columnar joints in pentagonal and hexagonal shapes like a turtle shell, during a unique phenomenon when volcanic lava cooled and hardened to create this wonder.



**Hate no Hama**  
Said to be the whitest sandbar in Asia, Hate no Hama is located 7km off shore from the eastern part of Kume Island.



**Eef Beach**  
A 2km stretch of beautiful, sandy beach, it is chosen as one of the One Hundred Best Beaches in Japan. The sea with its gentle waves, attracts many visitors in the summer, becoming a mecca for marine leisure activities.



**Uezu Residence (Appointed National Cultural Treasure)**  
A Ryukyu Pine recorded in the history books to have been planted in 1839. "Go-eda" meaning "Five branches" grows not skywards but almost parallel to the ground, with impressive shapely branches.



**Go-eda no Matsu (Protected National Monument)**  
A Ryukyu Pine recorded in the history books to have been planted in 1839. "Go-eda" meaning "Five branches" grows not skywards but almost parallel to the ground, with impressive shapely branches.



**Kumejima Firefly Pavilion**  
A facility, made with the objective for conservation and observation of the Kumejima Fireflies. To learn more about these fireflies and their habitat, they also breed insects, fish, frogs and shrimp that are found in its natural habitat.



**Kumejima Firefly Pavilion**  
A facility, made with the objective for conservation and observation of the Kumejima Fireflies. To learn more about these fireflies and their habitat, they also breed insects, fish, frogs and shrimp that are found in its natural habitat.



Awamori

Umi Budou

Mozuku Seaweed

Prawns

Miso Products

Moromi Vinegar

Tofu

# Special products of Kumejima

Take home your memories

Kume Island Tsumugi (Textiles)

Kariyushi Wear

Kaiyou-shinsou-sui  
(Deep-ocean water)

Kume Island Pottery

Cosmetics

Nigari, Salts

## Flights:



Routes	Number of flights per day	Airline
Tokyo-Kume Island	1(Summer time only)	JTA
Naha-Kume Island	4~7	JTA, RAC

Inquiries **JTA RAC**

Tokyo Tel.03-5460-0522 Naha Tel.098-863-8522

## Bus/Taxi



- Bus
  - Kume-jima Koutsu (sightseeing) TEL 098-985-8137
  - Chou-ei Bus (municipal routes) TEL 098-985-8260
- Taxi
  - Kume-jima Sougo Taxi TEL 098-985-2095
  - Kyoei Taxi TEL 098-985-2634

## By Boat:



- Ferry Naha, New Kumshima  
Naha Tomari Port to Kume Island : 2flights per day  
[Only 1 flight on Mondays]

### Inquiries

- Kume Shousen Tel.098-868-2686

Services by sea and/or air may change without notice. Please check before your visit.

**Kumejima Tourist Association** <http://www.kanko-kumejima.com/> TEL 098-985-7115

### ●Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau

1831-1 Oroku, Naha-city, Okinawa, Japan 901-0152  
(2nd Floor, Okinawa Industrial Support Center)  
TEL 098-859-6123(Main Line)

### ●Naha Airport Tourist Information

150 Kagamizu, Naha-city, Okinawa, 901-0142  
(Naha Domestic Airport New Passenger's Terminal Building 1F)  
TEL 098-857-6884 (Main Line) Open Year Round

### ●Naha International Airport Tourist Information

174 Kagamizu, Naha-city, Okinawa, Japan 901-0142  
TEL 098-859-0742(Main Line)

### ●Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau Tokyo Office

2-10-1 Yuraku-chou, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0006  
(3rd Floor, Tokyo Kotsu Kaikan)  
TEL 03-5220-5311

### ●Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau Osaka Office

1-1-3-2100 Umeda, Kita-ku, Osaka-city, Osaka 530-0001  
(21st Floor, Osaka Eki-mae Dai 3 Building)  
TEL 06-6344-6829

### ●Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau Fukuoka Office

2-14-13 Tenjin, Chuou-ku, Fukuoka-city, Fukuoka 810-0001  
(2nd Floor, Tenjin Mitsui Building)  
TEL 092-752-0777

Any duplication in part or whole of this material is strictly prohibited.  
Printed in Japan, 2010.3.



This publication is printed with environmentally friendly "Soy Ink."