

Miyako Islands

The Southern Islands



Won't you come
and take a deep breath.



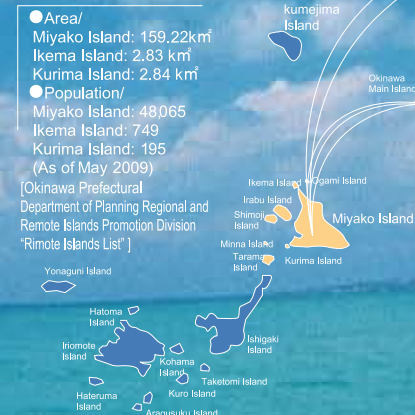
Won't you come and take a deep breath.

Deep inhalation by the turquoise-blue ocean is refreshing like the scent of peppermint, awakening and livening every cell in your body.

Your journey through the Miyako Archipelago starts with such a breath.



Deep Breathing of Miyako Islands



The south shore, known for the fantastic sea kayaking spots, boasts a dynamic shoreline of cliffs, curving all the way to Cape Higashihenna. There are secret beaches that can't be reached by land, over the cliffs, and stalactite caves that are only accessible during the ebb of flood tides, adding to the popularity of the area as an adventurous course, the ebb of flood tides, adding to the popularity of the area as an adventurous course.

Miyako's ocean is exciting, even with just a snorkel. You can acquaint yourself to tropical fish like the butterfly fish and the damselfish, just by lazily floating on the shallow waters.

Refresh Miyako



Dive! Glide! Fish! Make Miyako's ocean, your playing field.

Over the reefs expand the azure, open ocean. Like the island "uminchu" (fisherman), boldly fish out big, colorful catches like parrotfish and coral groupers.

In the clear ocean of the Miyako Archipelago, beautiful colors of the coral reefs decorate the ocean floor.

The powerful charm of scuba diving in Miyako's surrounding waters is the complex topography and the rich coral reefs. The mystical world in the depth of the ocean spread across Tori-ike off Shimoji Island are the rarely explored points named "Maou-no-Kyuden" (meaning Devil's Palace) and "Antonio Gowdy", and also the great expanse of the Yabiji coral reefs gives you an underwater experience unlike any other.

Beautiful shades of blue gradation.

We're sure you'll achieve the utmost feeling of refreshment after working up a sweat in your favorite marine sport, and diving into the water.

The Miyako Island's breathtaking ocean is a harmonious symphony of the sun reflecting off the white beaches, melting with the sapphire ocean, creating a mystical turquoise blue.

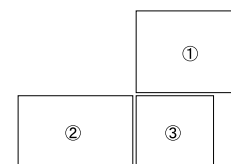
Relish the sights scuba diving, or by snorkeling in the shallow waters in the richness of Yabiji, Japan's largest coral reef, with schools of tropical fish and coral in various areas of habitation surrounding the islands.

For a different experience, go out to sea on a sea kayak, gliding atop the clear ocean surface. Along the south shore, with the beautifully dynamic features of the cliffs, there are "secret" beaches and stalactite caves that only show themselves during low tide. With reassuring guidance and support from the local staff, you can challenge yourself with friends and family without worry, to dramatic discoveries and adventurous, fulfilling activities on the water.

① You can enjoy marine leisure activities like wake boarding, parasailing, and jet skiing, to your heart's content.

② There are still many beaches off the beaten track. Have the locals whisper a secret spot, and add it to your list of secluded beaches.

③ After drying off for the day, head right back to the beach before sundown. Take in the romantic sunsets at Maehama Beach or Nagamahama of Kurima Island.



Less than 30 minutes out from town, spreads fields of sugarcane. The sea breeze blowing from the horizon sways the tall leaves, orchestrating a symphony of gentle whispers. In November, the sugarcane stalks that have grown to about 2 meters tall, undulate their heads in the breeze.

After an active day of marine sports or a round of golf, enjoy a relaxing massage session, basking in the gentle sea breeze. Synergic effects of the aroma oils will lighten your body and soul. The islands are increasingly offering more and more luxurious spas and massages.

The rich colors of the southern islands. Recharge your energy in the nutritious, vitamin colors of the land.

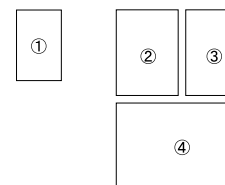


There are various species of butterflies inhabiting the islands, and dancing among them are the mangrove tree nymphs, known to be the largest species of butterflies in Japan.

Your body and soul will be gently stimulated in this southern paradise, painted in dynamic hues of nature, all year round.

One of the symbolic sites of Miyako Islands are the vast sugarcane fields, spread like magnificent green carpets on the level surface of the land. Around November, sugarcane stalks topped with white ears, sway in the breeze like white waves. Strolling around the island, you'll encounter such picturesque beauty, and more. The colorful flora of the southern islands bloom throughout the year, the ocean peeking through the leaves of the beach heliotropes, the sunsets that seem to instantly paint the island topaz. The therapeutic and glorious surrounding nature will gently stimulate your soul.

For a taste of first-rate relaxation, take advantage of the hotel's esthetic treatments, aromatherapy massages, Miyako produced herbs and tropical fruits, horse riding activities and more. On nights with a full moon, experience the enchanting atmosphere created in moonlight-illuminated limestone caverns.



①② The three major herbs, long treasured by the locals for their medicinal remedies, are the turmeric, guava, and kumsukuchin. Wild herbs are abundant around the island, including the recently popular kumsukuchin, as well as roselles. Blend it with some lemon grass, and enjoy a cup of herbal tea.

③ Gaze out to the swaying horizon of the sugarcane fields on horseback. It's a wonder how the gentle eyes of a horse can be so calming.

④ The beaches of fine sand is also another relaxation material. Walk around barefooted, with the glorious blue background.



Enjoy the fine taste of aged Awamori (Okinawan liquor) as moonlight illuminates these mysterious limestone caverns.

The setting sun at Yonaha Bay. Finding your own private "sunset spot" is one of the joys in exploring around the Miyako Islands.



learning by experience 

Experience the traditional arts, and touch the heart of the Islands.



Rather than unraveling the culture and history of the islands from a book, see and soak in the islands by spinning the threads, kneading the clay, and singing along with the people.

Miyako jo-fu, one of the four greatest textiles of Japan, and appointed as an Intangible National Cultural Treasure, is woven from thin, hand-spun threads of ramie, a perennial plant of the nettle family, into a light, cool cloth, which are as delicate as the wings of the cicadas. These exquisite textiles were woven during the Ryukyu Dynasty Era, as dues for the brutal poll taxes. These callous taxes were imposed on the islanders without taking into account, the payment abilities of the individuals, and the women on the islands worked night and day to meet these tax demands, as they were only able to weave about 20 centimeters a day. During these cruel times, how was it that such tedious handcraft didn't come to a halt? When asked this question, a weaver replied, without stopping her task, "One longs to see more beautiful things..."

Continued with such simple indifference in the past, the handcraft has become a traditional industrial art, which teaches us some facts that can't be told through written records. Get close to the deep passions of the islands by kneading the clay, spinning the threads, and at times, singing and drinking together with the locals. It's for certain that you'll find yourself drawn to them and the land itself.



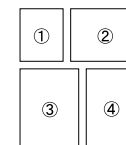
The history of the dark blue Miyako jo-fu dates back to the Taisho Period (1912-1926), and before that, these textiles are said to have been very colorful, dyed by plants such as garcinias and Formosa acacias. The source of the threads, perennial herbs called ramie, are grown in the yards of homes, or cultivated in plots of co-op fields. They are said to produce excellent thin fibers, and are harvested when the "urizun" winds begin to blow in the early summer.



They sang as they worked in fields, and also when creating beautiful art crafts. Music and folksongs are deeply rooted in the lives of the island people, with many songs singing of the history and the lives of the people that lived long ago, with touching, melancholy lyrics. Listening carefully to these folksongs will bring various discoveries. Participate and practice with the locals in their sanshin classes, and within two hours, even beginners can make good progress. The session may turn into a lively sing along party.



In the shell museum, there are displays of myriad, colorful shells collected from all over the world in a span of 26 years. At the craft corner, they sell accessories and tableware created with shells. Take home memorable moments by making your own key holders or accessories with these shells and beads.



①② With a large number of green house cultivations on the island, the "goya", or bitter melons, are shipped out all year round. At a goya farm, you can partake in and experience harvesting and pollination tasks. If you're planning on staying for a few weeks during the summer months, pollination to harvesting is only two weeks, so experience the whole duration of rewarding cultivation.

③ The aloe vera production on the islands is heeded as a new industry. Used in cosmetics and health foods for its superior effects on promoting regular metabolism, and its detoxifying and sterilizing agents, they are drawing a lot of attention. In the aloe vera harvest experience, you'll learn how to cultivate and harvest the crops, and also, recipes for savory ways to eat them.

④⑤ There are a number of potters and ceramists on the Miyako Islands, producing creations matching the climate and natural features of the islands. Among them, some artists insist on strictly sticking to the natural resources of the land, starting with the making of the clay itself, bringing the unique qualities and features of the islands to their artwork. Enjoy your hands-on pottery experience, while learning of such diversities and more.



Resort Wedding

The sky and the ocean sets your stage.



Blessings from mother nature of Miyako Islands to you both.

Among many outstanding resort facilities throughout Okinawa, the breathtaking locations of those in Miyako are drawing attention to the resort weddings celebrated here.

The clubhouse at the golf course that boasts a dynamic view on its seaside fields, the romantic pool side of the hotel that draws lovers at sunsets, the magnificent scenery at Cape Henna: boldly utilizing the locations throughout the islands, painted by the splendid colors of Miyako's nature, adds to the popularity of these original weddings.

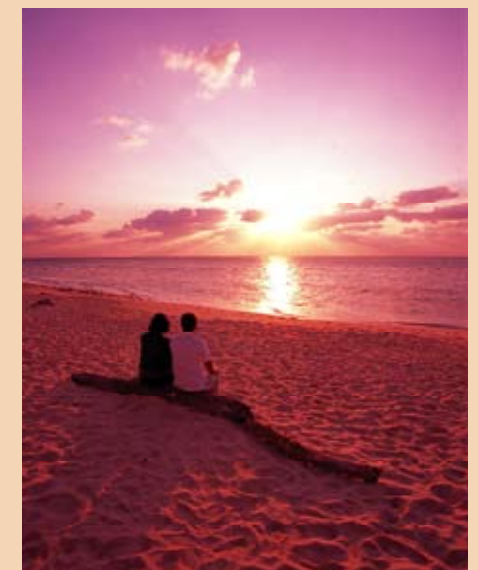
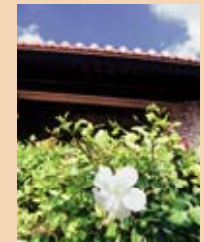
It would be wonderful to hold a reception at a favorite location filled with happy memories where the two of you shared special moments together. Your wishes will be supported by local wedding planners and flower coordinators, working with the location, the dress, and tropical flowers accordingly, to bring together a fantastic wedding for the happy couple.



An original bouquet with cymbidiums and oncidiums, happy yellow crotons, accented with island red peppers. Entrust your overflowing joys and bundle it into a symbolic bouquet of tropical flora.

Miyako Anniversary

Sketch a collection of lifelong memories in Miyako.



- ① Walk down the aisle on a bright red carpet decorated with anthuriums, on a bright, sunny beach at Maehama in Yonaha. Exchange your vows with the gentle sounds of the waves in the background as your hymn.
- ② The clubhouse of the resort golf course facing Cape Higashihenna can also host your wedding reception, decorated pure white, with Easter lilies.
- ③ Make a romantic wedding wish come true, with the replica of the ancient castle of Marksburg from the Middle Ages of Germany as a backdrop, at the Ueno German Culture Village.
- ④ The pool side, splashed with colors of the bougainvillea, creates an attractive garden wedding venue under the glorious sunshine.
- ⑤ Casual, party-style wedding at the poolside, just in time for the sunset.

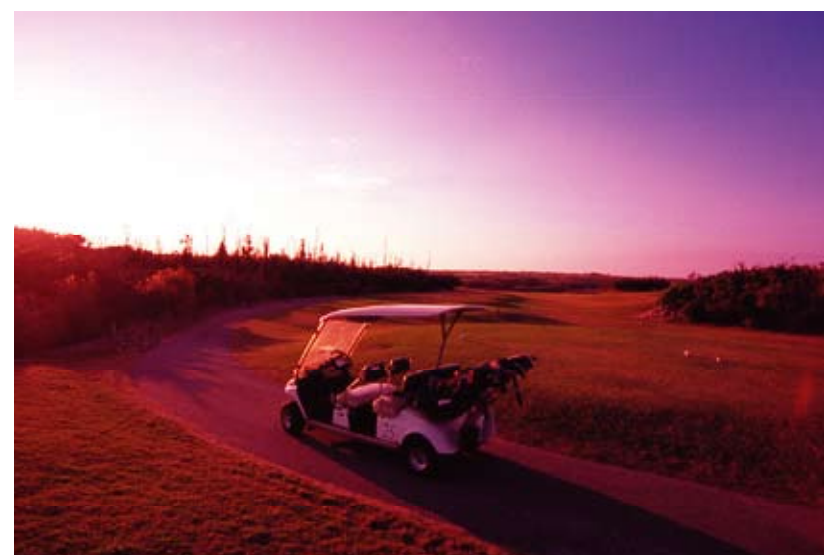
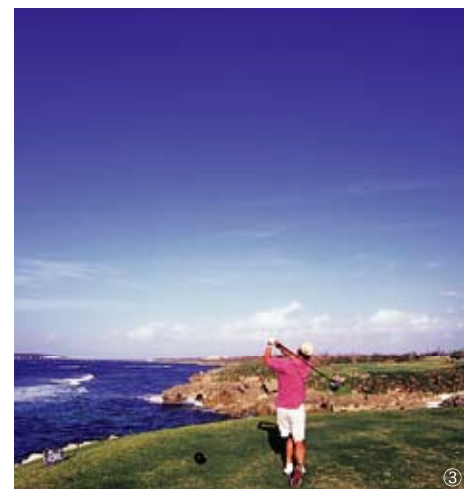


Inquiries: Miyako Island Resort Wedding Association
TEL.0980-73-9825

Birthdays, wedding anniversaries, silver wedding anniversaries...throughout your life, there's number of special anniversaries. With each of these milestones, confirm and feel the strength of your ties with your loved ones, and draw up a future, overflowing with hope. Come celebrate such anniversaries in your life, in Miyako. Open up a bottle of champagne in celebration at your favorite sunset spot with significant people in your life—a beloved partner, family or close friends. Or perhaps plant a tropical fruit like a mango tree, and visit the island yearly to relish the ripened fruits. Come make and develop many Miyako Anniversaries in your life.

Resort Golf

Desirable golf resort
of the coral blue Island.



① A course along the scenic shoreline will captivate any golfer. Laid out beautifully with the natural beauty of Cape Higashihenna, one of the One Hundred Scenic Urban Landscapes of Japan, just strolling on the grounds surrounded by the blue of the sea and the sky gives a reviving sense of freedom.

② The tropical flora that color the courses. The harmony of the wind, the greenery, and the blue of the ocean fill the players with content.

③ One of the most beautiful beaches in Asia, the golf course located beside Maehama Beach requires dynamic, over-the-water plays. Enjoy dramatic plays, rich with strategy and storyline, on the stage set in the great outdoors.



Miyako Golf Association
TEL.0980-77-8900

On the grass that's green all year round, play and enjoy to your heart's content.

Were you aware that Miyako Island offers golf courses at nature-rich locations that are unsurpassed by Hawaii's golf resorts?

The five golf courses, varying in size, are laid out in the vast nature of the tropical setting, and all are staged for you to take in and enjoy the distinctive cobalt blue of the ocean that surrounds the island, as you play. The breathtaking drama that's set to unfold at the golf resorts in Miyako, include an out course along the water with a magnificent view of Cape Higashihenna, located at the eastern-most point of the island, and appointed as one of the One Hundred Scenic Landscapes of Japan., and also a course that demands bold plays from a knoll that juts out over the ocean.

Delight yourself on these golf courses on the island, with the dark green grass all year round, and comparatively inexpensive rates. Whether you're a novice or an advanced player, leisurely enjoy playing in the impressive scenery created by nature.



Jr.Golf Island

Together with our beautiful,
splendid nature, we support our
junior golfers.



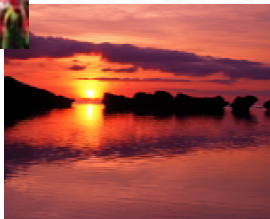
With great performances by the young golf players from Okinawa, the world of golf is expanding its fan base among young women and also children.

Starting with the Triathlon, Miyako is known as a prominent sports-tourism island; the golf courses boasting its grand locations, hosted the 1st National Junior Golf Championship in March of 2005. Selected top golfers from throughout Japan, gathered to meet at this event, and the competition was focused with great deal of attention by various branches of media, to discover and develop, new, talented professional golfers.

On the stage set with the azure of the sea and sky, and the beautiful green of the fields, we can't take our eyes off these junior golfers, and the exciting drama that's unfolding right before our eyes.

宮古

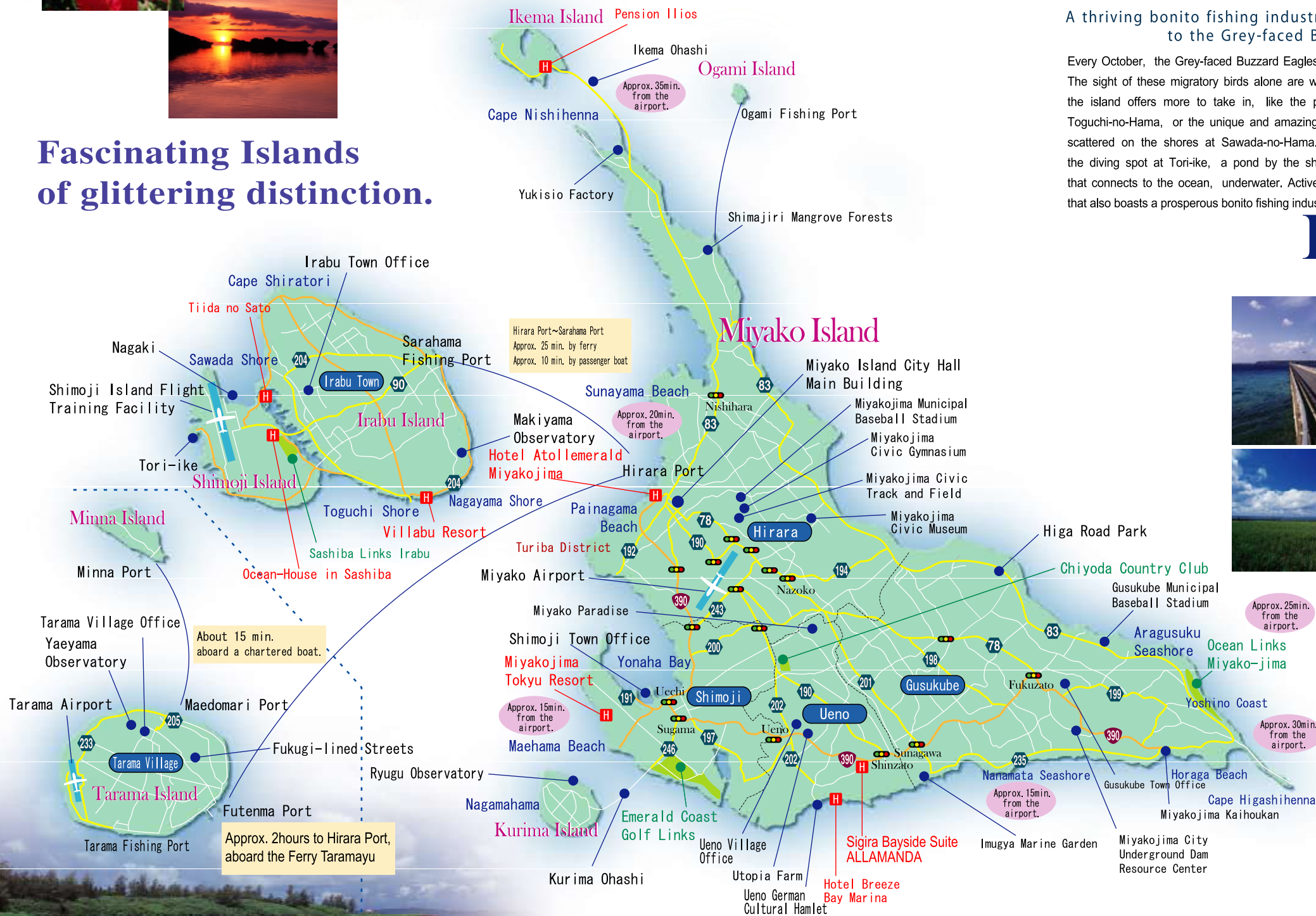
Miyako Islands



The attractive Islands of paradise, afloat on the south- western sea.

The Miyako Islands, floating 300km south-west of the main island of Okinawa, consists of eight islands, each with their own distinctive and treasured cultures, still being handed down, today. These islands are: Miyako Island, Irabu Island, Shimoji Island, Tarama Island, Minna Island, Ikema Island, Kurima Island, and Ogami Island. At the heart of the economic core is Miyako Island, which proudly is the largest of these islands. Shaped like a great manta ray with its wings spread wide, the island is full of spectacular sites of majestic nature; the beach in Maehama, Yonaha, with its fine, white sand, is said to be the most beautiful beach in Asia, and also Higashihenna Peninsula, selected as one of Japan's One Hundred Scenic Urban Landscapes.

Fascinating Islands of glittering distinction.



The whole island is your driving course.

With a circumference of 10km, Ikema Island is connected to Miyako Island by the Ikema Ohashi, with a length of 1425m. Bonito fishing is prosperous, so why not pick up some dried bonito as you enter the island, a specialty of the island. Take a drive around the whole island. Immerse yourself in the sights of secluded beaches that aren't written in the guidebooks, or the quaint scenery of the port and the homes that line the streets.

Ikema Island

A thriving bonito fishing industry, and a home to the Grey-faced Buzzard Eagles.

Every October, the Grey-faced Buzzard Eagles fly over to the island. The sight of these migratory birds alone are well worth the trip, but the island offers more to take in, like the powder white sand at Toguchi-no-Hama, or the unique and amazing sight of the boulders scattered on the shores at Sawada-no-Hama. Another attraction is the diving spot at Tori-ike, a pond by the shore on Shimoji Island that connects to the ocean, underwater. Actively enjoy these islands that also boasts a prosperous bonito fishing industry.



Irabu Island

Kurima Island

A paradise of beautiful sunsets.

This peaceful island, with sweeping fields of sugarcane and tobacco, is located about 1.6km south of Miyako Island, with an approximate circumference of 9km. with Maehama Beach across its shores and the adjacent Ryugu Observatory overlooking the Kurima Ohashi, it has developed into a popular tourist attraction with stylish restaurants. Nagahama offers breathtaking sunsets, highly recommended by the locals; a picturesque beach in untouched natural surroundings.



Come get acquainted with the rich greenery and the coral reefs.

Tarama Island and Minna Island are located 67km west of Miyako Island, and takes pride in the beautiful coral reefs that still abundantly remain there, within the Okinawa Prefecture. With many scenic landscapes of sugarcane fields and roaming cattle, there are well-maintained farmlands throughout the island. Another grand sight for your pleasure, are the garcinias (fukugi) that serve as windbreakers, lining the shoreline and village paths. An impressive 650m stretch of fukugi-lined road, leads to the Shu-ga Utaki, and is appointed and protected as a Natural Monument of the Prefecture. For a bird's eye view of the whole island, head up to the Yaeyama Observation Deck.

Tarama Island





Festivals and Events —Year Round Schedule—

January

Average temperature: 17.7°C

- Miyako Island 100km Wido-marathon Race
- National Junior Golf Championship in Miyako

February

Average temperature: 17.8°C

- Orix Buffaloes Spring Camp
- Romantic Sea Road • Irabu Island Marathon

March

Average temperature: 19.7°C

- Sanitsu (Hamaori) (March 3 in lunar calendar)

April

Average temperature: 22.3°C

- Yabiji Tour
- Miyako Island Beach Opening Festival ; Let's gather and play in coral paradise
- All Japan Triathlon Miyako Island Competiton

May

Average temperature: 24.6°C

- Japan's earliest Sunflower Festival
- Ueno German Culture Village Koinobori Fest
- Miyako Island Beach Volley-Ball Tournament
- Music Convention



▲ Miyako Island 100km Wido-man-rathon Race



▶ Miyakoa Island Summer Festival

June

Average temperature: 27.1°C

- Sutsupunaka
- Miyako Island Rock Festival
- Sanitsu Hama Carnival • Kaijinsai (Hari)

July

Average temperature: 28.5°C

- Miyako Island Summer Festival
- Orion Beer Festival
- Ueno German Cultural Village Danke Festival

August

Average temperature: 28.1°C

- Great Tug-of-War in Miyaguni (Obon period in lunar calendar)

September

Average temperature: 27.1°C

- Harvest Festival (Yukui)
- Irabu Togani Festival
- Hachigatsu-Odori (August dance-performance) in Tarama (Designated as an important national cultural treasure)

October

Average temperature: 25.1°C

- Turtle Marathon in Higashi-Henna Cape
- Shimajiri Pantu

November

Average temperature: 22.3°C

- Tarama Marathon
- Miyako Industrial Festival
- Nanbu Chuhei Cup Ground Golf Tournament

December

Average temperature: 19.4°C

- Ueno German Cultural Village Illumination Festival

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



▲ Sunflower Festival

▶ August Dance of Tarama

◀ All Japan Triathlon Miyakojima



Flights :

Routes	No. of flights per day	Airline
Tokyo-Miyako	1	JTA
※Osaka-Miyako	1	JTA
Naha-Miyako	13	JTA ANA
Ishigaki-Miyako	3	JTA
Tarama-Miyako	2	RAC

※ Miyako→Osaka flight only

Inquiries

JAL JTA RAC

ANA

Tokyo TEL03-5460-0522

Naha TEL098-861-8800

Osaka TEL06-6344-2355

Naha TEL098-863-8522

Boat :

Boats and ferries to each island of the Miyako Archipelago

● Miyako Island~Irabu Island

• Miyako Ferry
TEL0980-72-3263

• Hayate Kaiun
TEL0980-78-3081,3337

● Miyako Island~Ogami Island
• Ogami Kaiun
TEL0980-72-5477

● Miyako Island~Tarama Island

• Tarama Kaiun (**Suspended on Sunday**)
TEL0980-72-9209

● Miyako Island~Minna Island
(Charters) TEL0980-72-2773

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

Miyakojima Tourist Association

Miyako Island City Hall

Tarama Village Office

<http://www.miyako-guide.net/>

<http://www.city.miyakojima.lg.jp>

<http://www.vill.tarama.okinawa.jp/>

TEL0980-73-1881

TEL0980-72-3751

TEL0980-79-2011

● Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau

1831-1 Orku, 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