

English



World Heritage Site Zakimi Castle Ruins Yuntanza Museum



Original Zakimi Castle
Ruins merchandise
on sale!

Product contents
are subject to change.



●Admission Fees

Permanent Exhibit	Village Residents		Visitors (non-residents)	
	Individual	Group	Individual	Group
Infants & small children	Free	Free	Free	Free
Elementary & Junior high school students	Free	Free	300 yen	240 yen
High school students & older	200 yen	160 yen	500 yen	400 yen
Age 65 & over	160 yen	160 yen	400 yen	400 yen

*Group rates are available for groups of 20 or more.

*Admission is free for visitors who show a physical disability certificate, rehabilitation certificate, or mental disability certificate, as well as one accompanying caregiver.

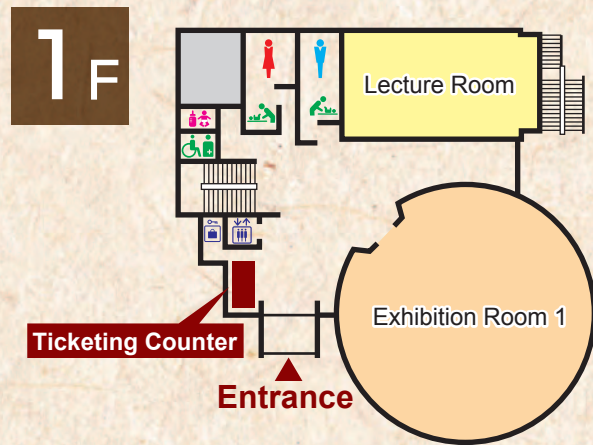
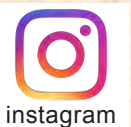
●Open Hours

9:00am - 6:00pm (last admission: 5:30pm)

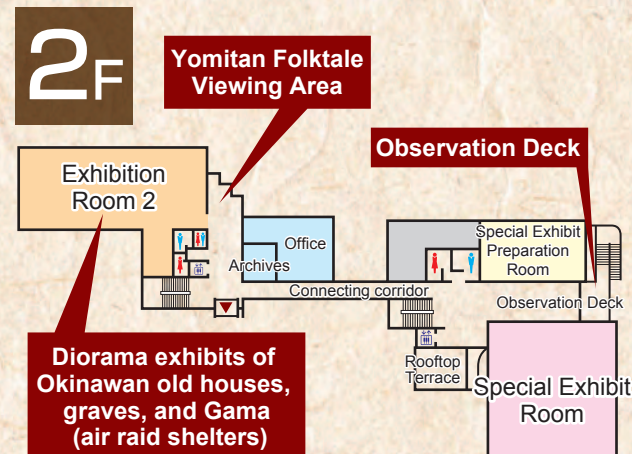
●Closed

- Wednesdays, New Year holiday period (December 28 - January 4)
- When a national holiday or Okinawa Memorial Day (June 23) falls on a Wednesday, the museum is open that day and will instead close the following day.
- Temporary closures for exhibition changes, fumigation, etc.

●Parking Available (free)



You can learn about the history of Ryukyu and Yomitan, the history and structure of Zakimi Castle Ruins, which have been registered as a World Heritage Site, and also the ruins, culture, and nature of Yomitan through the materials such as photos, videos, models, replicas, and even stuffed animals.



Here you can learn in detail about the nature, history, culture, and pre- and post-war life of Yomitan. There is also a diorama exhibit that recreates *Chibichiri-gama*, an air-raid shelter used during the Battle of Okinawa in World War II, based on the accounts of survivors.



This exhibition focuses on paintings, sculptures, and crafts by artists from Yomitan and other parts of Okinawa. Additionally, the exhibition area for the Living National Treasure KINJO Jiro, known for his "Ryukyu ceramic" works, contains pieces from his early days when he worked as a jar maker to the time after his relocation to Yomitan.

2F Observation Deck



Located on a hillside at an elevation of over 120 meters, its highest point offers views of the southern part of Yomitan Village and even Shurijo Castle in Naha City on a clear day.

2F Rest Area & Yomitan Folktales



You can watch Yomitan folktales narrated in *Shimakutuba* (Okinawan language). There are also subtitles in standard Japanese to allow people who do not understand *Shimakutuba* to enjoy the stories as well.

2F Yuntanza Life

See the inside of a grave!



Exhibition Room 2 features a diorama of a turtleback tomb, which allows visitors to see inside. Even the locals don't have the opportunity to go inside the tombs, so take a look!



Multipurpose restroom (wheelchair & ostomate accessible)



Nursing room



World Heritage Site Zakimi Castle Ruins
Yuntanza Museum

708-6 Zakimi, Yomitan Village,
Nakagami-gun, Okinawa 904-0301
TEL.098-958-3141

<http://www.yuntanza-museum.jp>

English

座喜味城跡

Zakimi Castle Ruins

World Heritage Site
Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu



Ichinokaku (1st Enclosure)

Ninokaku (2nd Enclosure)

Zakimi Castle Ruins, a World Heritage Site, selected as one of the “100 Greatest Castles of Japan” for its advanced construction techniques and beautiful curves, built by renowned castle builder Gosamaru.

読谷山按司護佐丸

Yuntanza Aji, Gosamaru

*The illustration is a sample image.

Zakimi Castle is said to have been built in the early 15th century, when the Ryukyu Kingdom flourished through trade with Japan, China, and various Southeast Asian countries, by master castle builder Yuntanza Aji, Gosamaru. Located on a hillside at an elevation of over 120 meters, its highest point offers a view of nearly the entire area of Yomitan Village.

From a birds-eye view, the walls of the Zakimi Castle Ruins appear to be made up of a series of curved lines. This curved design resembles the structure of a modern-day arch dam such as Kurobe Dam, which is indicative of the advanced construction technology used at the time. The gates of the castle are characterized by their stone arches made by placing a wedge stone between two interlocking stones in the center of the arch, a design feature not seen in any other *Gusuku* (castle). Additionally, the stones are Ryukyu limestone, which is not found in the hills here, and the walls are built primarily using the *Nunozumi* method. However, there are other sections of wall that use the *Aikatazumi* and *Nozurazumi* methods, which means that you can see all of the main masonry techniques used in the *Gusuku* of Okinawa.

Zakimi Castle Ruins were used as an anti-aircraft gun position by the Japanese Army during the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. After the war, a US military radar base was established there, but the area of the castle was designated as an Important Cultural Property by the Ryukyu government in 1956, and in 1972, when Okinawa returned to Japan, it was designated as a National Historic Site. Excavation and restoration work on the castle ruins was conducted from 1973 to 1985, and has continued to the present day. In the year 2000, the castle ruins were registered as a World Heritage Site as one of the nine locations collectively known as “Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu”.

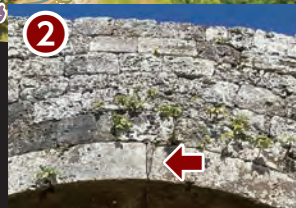


Two Stone Arch Gates

① The arch gate to *Ichinokaku* (background of photo) has been restored, while ② the gate to *Ninokaku* (foreground of photo) has nearly been repaired to close to its original state.

Curved Castle Walls

The walls of Zakimi Castle Ruins resemble the flat arch structure seen in modern-day dams, a design that makes them sturdy even on fragile ground. The nodes connecting each arch were used to monitor enemies outside the castle.



Wedge Stones

The gate entrance to *Ninokaku*, said to be the oldest stone arch gate in Okinawa Prefecture, is inlaid with triangular wedge stones, while the gate to *Ichinokaku* uses rectangular wedge stones.



Uganju (Worship Places)

There were four *Uganju*, places where deities are enshrined and worshipped, in the Zakimi Castle Ruins: *Nigozen*, *Jonai Kajin*, *Jonai Azanaishi Goibe*, and *Mt. Yomitan Jonainodono*. They have since been relocated to in front of the stone arch at the entrance to *Ninokaku*.



Kishin Lantern

This lantern was erected in the *Uganju* worship area on the castle grounds by *Zakimi Wekata Seifu*, a descendant of Gosamaru, after his return from his visit to Edo in 1843 as a congratulatory envoy to the newly ascended Shogun Tokugawa Ieyoshi.



Cornerstone Building Ruins

In *Ichinokaku*, the ruins of a building 16 meters wide and 14 meters long was discovered. Since no roof tiles have been excavated from the site, it is believed that the building had either a thatched or shingle roof.

The Stone Wall Construction of Zakimi Castle Ruins

The stone walls of Zakimi Castle Ruins are primarily constructed using the *Nunozumi* method, though other sections of wall use the *Aikatazumi* and *Nozurazumi* methods, which means that you can see the main masonry techniques used in the *Gusuku* (castles) of Okinawa.



Nunozumi



Aikatazumi



Nozurazumi

Takakura

This *Takakura* (storehouse) was originally located on Okinoerabu Island and was relocated to its current location in 1976 as a historical building. As it is a storehouse for grain, it features a raised subfloor to improve ventilation and keep out moisture.



Sataguruma (Sugar Wheel)

This is a tool (press) for pressing sugar cane. Sugar wheels were first made of wood, then stone, and then iron. The ones on display here are made of iron.



Zushigame

This is a funerary urn made of stone or ceramic that holds the bones of a cremated person after they have been washed. In terms of age, the stone urns are older and were typically made of coral stone. *Zushigame* urns are called “Jiishigaami” in Okinawan language.

YUNTAN NAVI App Free Download



●Search for “YUNTAN NAVI” in the App Store or Google Play to download it.
●Communication charges are to be borne by the user.
●Compatible devices: iPhone or iPad with iOS 11 or higher installed; smartphone or tablet with Android 5 or higher installed (must have camera, GPS, and Bluetooth functions)
●Functionality issues may arise due to the user’s usage situation even when using a compatible device.

AR Zakimi Castle Ruins
View the Zakimi Castle Ruins through an AR camera experience what it was like in the days of the Ryukyu Kingdom.
Yuntanza Museum Guide
An audio guide for the museum’s exhibits!
Stamp Rally
Visit various locations in Yomitan Village and collect all the stamps!

