

A sampling of trails around Urasoe Castle

Walk! Discover! Urasoe City!

1 Ahacha Bridge and Paved Stone Path (a nationally designated historic site)

MAP



During the Kingdom Era, the Paved Stone Path was the main road that connected Shuri all of the way to Northern Okinawa. Only the portion of the path around Ahacha Bridge has been restored of the original path connecting Urasoe Castle to Shuritaira, constructed by the Ryukyu Kingdom in 1597.



2 Urasoe Castle Site (Nationally designated historic site) Urasoe Gusuku/Youdorekan

3 Paved Stone Path of Touyama (Alternate name: Horse Trip Cobblestone Path)

MAP



A part of the "Futenma Thoroughfare," this path connects Shuri to Central Okinawa. During the Ryukyu Kingdom era, it was used as the pilgrimage route to the Futenma Shrine for the king. It was dubbed the "horse-tripper route" because it had many steep hilly inclines that was known as a difficult road to pass.



4 Urasoe Park (Fureai Square Playground Slides)

MAP



Bustling with families every weekend, the park has plenty of playground equipment other than roller slides. Rubber tiling is laid to provide a safety cushioning for kids who may fall. Parents can comfortably let their small children play in the park.



5 Ishigufu Urasoe Park Shop

MAP



Interestingly, there is a shop located on the the 1st floor of the park observatory. It's a small eatery with nice views. There are two counters and table seating. A great place, especially during clear weather.



Guided history tours are available. ※See the inside page for details.

Urasoe Gusuku/ Youdorekan



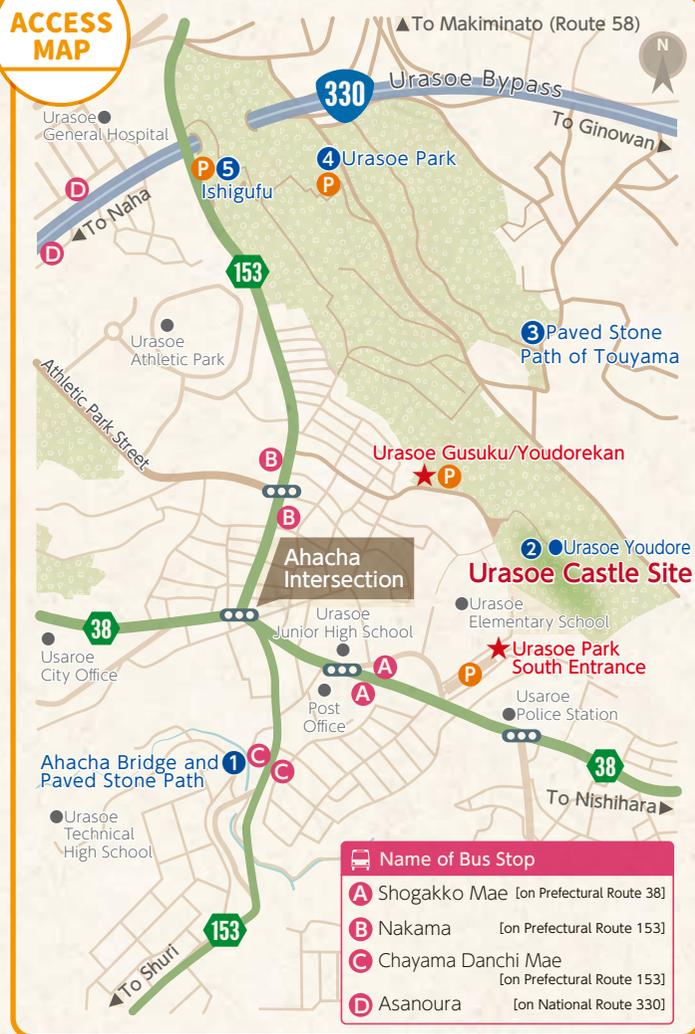
MAP

From old photographs and panels displaying excavations results, as well as from excavated relics, you can readily learn about the history of Urasoe Gusuku and Urasoe Youdore. The actual-sized replica of the west chamber (King Eiso's tomb) of Urasoe Youdore is a must see!

[Hours] 9:00 am to 5:00 pm [Admission fee] • Adults (high school students and older) ¥100 • Children (elementary and junior high school students) ¥50 [Closed] Mondays (Open in case it falls on a public holiday) December 28 through January 3 [TEL] 098-874-9345 [Parking] 25 cars

★Estimated time for access
10-minute walk to Urasoe Castle Site and Urasoe Youdore

ACCESS MAP



For information in and around Urasoe Gusuku

Visit Urasoe NAVI!

There's information ranging from tourist attractions, shopping, dining, lodging, to little-known activity programs.



<http://www.urasoenavi.jp/>

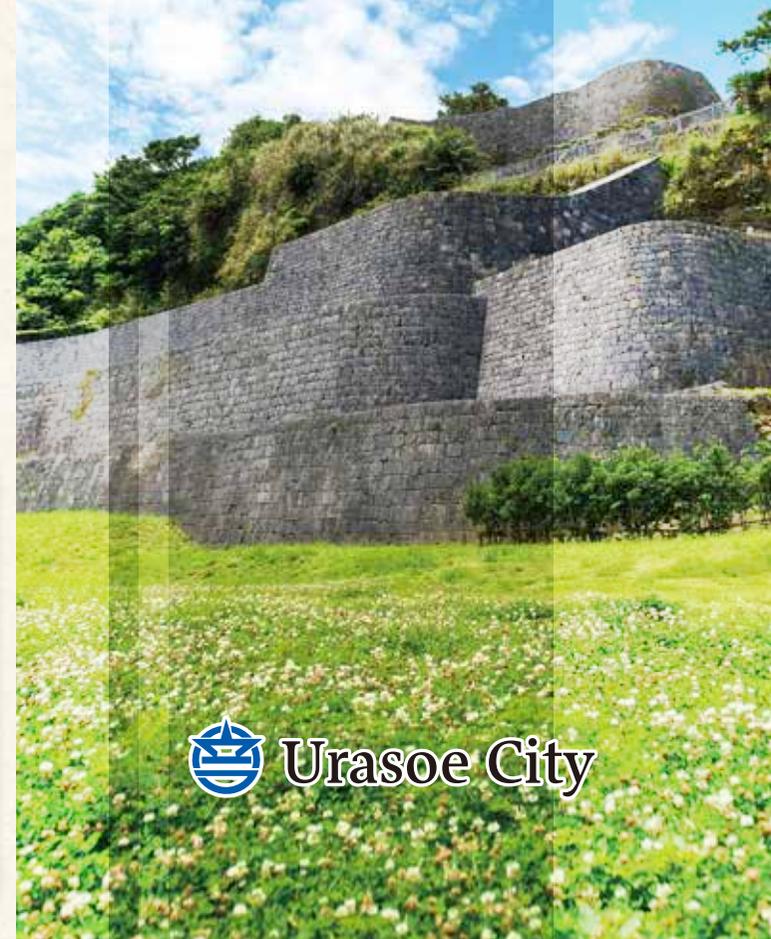
The feature includes "Tour around Urasoe" which offers information on various topics with a wealth of knowledge on Urasoe City. Check out the "Urasoe NAVI" on the web.

Nationally designated historic site

浦添城跡

Urasoe Castle Site

Royal Castle prior to Shuri



Urasoe City

Nationally designated historic site

Urasoe Castle Site

Urasoe Gusoku (castle) was constructed in the 13th century. It was expanded in the 14th century with a piled stone wall erected around a seiden (main hall) with Goryeo (Koryo) style tile-roofing. A royal tomb, temple, large pond, residences, and communities were built in the surrounding area. This formation apparently served as a model for Shuri, the royal capital, that came into existence later. After the royal palace was relocated to Shuri, Sho Iko, the eldest son of King Sho Shin, started living in Urasoe Gusoku (Urasoe family). In 1609, Urasoe Gusoku was burned down during the invasion of the Ryukyus by the Satsuma clan.

Maeda escarpment took center stage in a Hollywood movie

The escarpments around Urasoe Castle used to be known as the Maeda Ridge, which is the site where the U.S. and Japanese armies fought in a fierce battle. Maeda Ridge was depicted in "Hacksaw Ridge," a movie that was nominated for the 89th Academy Awards, as the main stage where the story unfolded. After the movie was released in the United States in 2016, many people developed an interest in the battle that took place here. More and more people, including the Japanese as well as foreigners, are visiting this site.



Urasoe Gusoku/Youdorekan

Guided tour of history of Urasoe Apply at the reception desk

Paid guided tour of historical sites and spots in Urasoe City including Urasoe Gusoku. Arrangements can be made for group guided tours, tour courses, time, etc. Please feel free to contact us. Fee per guide (for up to 20 people)
 ●1-hour course: ¥1,500 ●2-hour course: ¥3,000 Apply at: Urasoe Gusoku/Youdorekan ☎098-874-9345



1 Urasoe Youdore
 This tomb is said to have been built in the 13th century. The west chamber, which is located to the right, is said to be the tomb of King Eiso. Renovated in 1620, the east chamber, which is located to the left, is where King Sho Nei and his family have been entombed. The west chamber has been replicated in actual size at Urasoe Gusoku / Youdorekan.



2 Deeg Gama (Cave)
 This utaki, where local residents come to pray, exists in a natural depression that was formed when a cave collapsed. The name comes from a cave (gama) where a large Deigo tree used to stand. Residents used this as a shelter during the Battle of Okinawa.



3 Pinewoods area
 Stone pavements, stone columns, and other remains, as well as Ming style roof tiles (tiles made using Chinese technology) were excavated here. It may be the site of a bansho (guard station) that is said to have existed inside Urasoe Gusoku.



4 Monument in Front of Urasoe Castle/Stone Paved Road
 King Sho Nei, who was born in Urasoe, built a stone-paved road connecting Shuri and Urasoe Gusoku in 1597. This is a monument called "Urasoe Gusoku no Mae no Hi." It was built to commemorate the completion of that road. A writing in the Ryukyuan language engraved in hiragana appears on the front side of the monument, while the same writing engraved in Chinese characters can be seen on the back. It is indicated that stones were piled to erect bridges and rocks were carved out to build the road.



5 Wakarijee
 This is a place of worship (utaki) where a limestone formation protrudes high into the sky at the eastern end of Urasoe Castle Site. The top of Wakarijee is the highest elevation in Urasoe City, and it has become a landmark for Urasoe.

Learning from the 1/700 scale model of Urasoe Gusoku

Urasoe Park South Entrance Administration Office Exhibition Corner



Valuable materials related to Urasoe Gusoku are available here, including a 1/700 scale model of Urasoe Gusoku and a 3200 mm x 1400 mm size chronological table of the history of Urasoe City. A guide is available to show you around the displayed historical materials, so please feel free to ask for a mini tour.



MAP

[Hours] 9:00 am to 5:00 pm [Admission fee] Free [Closed] Mondays (Open in case it falls on a public holiday) December 28 through January 3 [TEL] 098-876-3555 [Parking] 30 cars

★Estimated time for access
 9-minute walk to the cave
 15-minute walk to Urasoe Castle Site
 25-minute walk to Urasoe Youdore

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Ahacha Intersection