

1 Urasoe Castle Site 浦添城跡

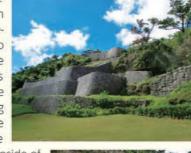


the royal castle of Chuzan (the middle region of the Ryukyu Kingdom) before Shurijo Castle existed and it is said that the castle was

1260 by King Eiso. The focal point of the castle was the main temple, with its roof of Korean tile, while the fortress itself was surrounded by a great stone wall. Urasoe Castle eventually became the archetype for Shurijo Castle. The "Three Royal Kings", Shunten, Eiso and Satto reigned at Urasoe Castle for 220 years. Though the fortress was sieged 3 times in those years, the three kings used Urasoe Castle to establish a political and economic foundation in Ryukyu, and clear the way for a great era of international

2 Urasoe Youdore 浦添ようどれ

To the north of the Castle site, underneath a cliff, there lies the imperial mausoleum. Dug into the shade of the cliff are two grave rooms. It is said that King Eiso's grave is on the right while King Shonei's grave is on the left. Additionally, the



stone Zushi enshrined inside of the mausoleum is designated as Prefectural Cultural Property. In old Okinawan, "Youdore" means "evening calm". It is likely that this word refers to the graves, because it evokes a sense of



things subsiding. After the Battle of Okinawa and the guarry work that took place after the war, Yodore was almost completely destroyed. However, due to restoration efforts, it has been returned to its original form.

3 Wakarijee ワカリジー



Also called "Hanarijee", Wakarijee is a massive rock that stands a short distance from the Eastern edge of Urasoe Hill. This behenoth of a rock can even be seen from southern and central areas of Okinawa, and it has become a landmark of Urasoe. At the base of Wakarijee lies a place of worship which is still frequented by pilgrims today.

4 The Toyama Cobblestone Road



This road was frequently used for every day travel purposes but in 1671, the road was outfitted to serve as a central noroughfare. Located within the oyama Cobblestone Road (which is also a part of the pilgrimage/homage to utenma Shrine) is a part of the Makimi-

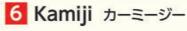
nato River, flowing in an S-shaped valley that is 200m long and approximately 3m wide. Crossing the Toyama Bridge involved climbing hill after hill, and was even too dangerous to climb on horseback. Because of this danger in particular, the road was often called by the special name "Mma-Dukerashi" meaning, "Horse Toppler"

5 Iso Castle Site 伊祖城跡



In the hymn "Omoro", it is sung that Amamikyo, the founding God of the Ryukyu Kingdom is the one who created Iso Castle. It is said to have been the residence of King Eiso's descendants, Eiso being the legendary "Child of the Sun". The unworked quarry stone visible in the ruins gives off the old charm of this castle.

Kamiji is a very large swelling of limestone located off the northernmost point in Minatogawa's Sakibaru. It goes its name, "Turtle Island", from its turtle-like appearance. A coral reef lagoon, also known as Inoh, stretches along Kamiji and is a great place to see fish and play during the day, and then watch the beautiful



sunset in the evening.



emphasize and preserve "Kumiodori" which is

Banquet in 1719. It is believed that his

grave was built between the late 17th

century and the early 18th century. On

the inside, the ceiling is supported by

stone pillars, a relatively rare support



registered nationally as an intangible cultural asset. The structure was built by utilizing and drawing inspiration from special characteristics of Okinawan geography and history.



center for silk goods and the silkworm industry. Their goals include, "people building", "town building and manufacturing", and establishing a new "regional brand" for Jrasoe.



Shonei, Ahacha Bridge was overhauled from Urasoe to Shuri. It was probably during this time that the bridge was outfitted with stone. On the side of the north bridge is the so-called "Red Plate".

It is said that it got its name because, in the middle of a journey, the King stopped to drink water from this area with a red cup.

The Urasoe Art Museum is one of the few museums in Japan

that specializes in the collection of Urushi lacquerware. Free audio guide devices (Japanese/English) are available for the visitors to the permanent exhibition. Explore the rich history of lacquer art and experience the history of Ryukyu Kingdom.