Okinawa Prefecture is the southernmost prefecture of Japan. The Ryukyu Islands is a chain of hundreds of islands over 1,000 kilometers (620 mi) long and extends southwest from Kyushu (the southwesternmost of Japan's four main islands) to Taiwan. Okinawa Prefecture encompasses the southern two thirds of that chain. Okinawa’s main appeal for travelers is its two dozen islands ringed with crystal-blue tropical water and white sand beaches. Naha, Okinawa’s capital, is located in the southern part of Okinawa Island.

Tour Package Includes

- International Flight from HONOLULU
- R/T Airfare to Ishigaki Island
- Deluxe Hotel Accommodations
- Admissions and 22 Meals as Stated
- 5 Islands – Okinawa, Ishigaki, Iriomote, Yubu & Taketomi
- Ocean Expo Park & Peace Memorial Museum
- Ferry Rides & Water Buffalo Cart Rides
- Gyokusendo Cave at Okinawa World
- Awamori Liquor Tasting
- Gratuity for Tour Guides & Drivers
Day 1 ** Jan.9 Honolulu → Taipei
We begin our journey by boarding an international flight to Taiwan. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.

Day 2 ** Jan.10 Taipei → Naha – Yomitan
Upon arrival to Taipei Airport, we will take a short flight to Naha, Okinawa Island. Okinawa, known as Ryukyu historically, is situated between Taiwan and Kyushu. This popular vacation destination is famous for its natural beauty, including its blue skies, sunshine, ocean, an endless coastline, red hibiscus blossoms and a unique landscape that is a fascinating combination of Chinese and Japanese cultures. Upon arrival, an Air & Sea Travel representative will greet us and escort us to our hotel in Yomitan.

Day 3 ** Jan.11 Yomitan (B, L, D)
Today, an excursion is set to Churaumi Aquarium (Okinawa Churaumi Suizokukan), located within the Ocean Expo Park. It is one of the world's largest aquariums that will dazzle you with the exotic tropical fish, manta rays, sharks, and whale sharks. The park also offers dolphin shows at the outdoor Okichan Theater. Today we will enjoy a Lunch Buffet with the animals at Ocean Expo Park. After a whole day visit at the aquarium, we will return to our hotel.

Day 4 ** Jan.12 Yomitan (B, L, D)
After breakfast, we will visit Ryukyu Mura, an authentic re-creation of an ancient Okinawan village. Old Ryukyuan homes were brought from all over the islands and reassembled here to preserve the heritage of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The park was created in the hope that this unique heritage could be shared by all who visit. Some of the staff wears traditional Okinawan folk costumes, providing the perfect photo opportunity. Inside the village we will find examples of Okinawan crafts on display and for sale, including bingata, pottery and sugarcane products. These are all made using traditional methods, handed down from generation to generation. We can join the Michijune (Parade) for dancing “Kachashi”, a form of festive Ryukyuan folk dance and enjoy the simple Okinawan style Tea. We will have Handmade Okinawan Soba for lunch. The noodles are different from buckwheat noodles (also known as soba) made in the rest of Japan. The thick wheat noodles resemble udon, while the soup is more similar to ramen. It is served in a broth flavored with kombu (edible seaweed), katsuobushi flakes and pork. Then, we will stop at Michi-no Eki, just outside the base of Kadena Air Base (KAB), the hub of American airpower in the Pacific, and home to the US Air Force's largest combat wing – the 18th Wing. Nearly 18,000 Americans and more than 4,000 Japanese employees and contractors make up Team Kadena. This is a four story building with shopping venues, a picture museum, and an observatory deck. From the observatory deck, we can see many kinds of Military Aircraft, including reconnaissance and surveillance planes. After that, we will return to our hotel.

Day 5 ** Jan.13 Yomitan – Naha → Ishigaki Island (B, D)
One of Okinawa’s most famous products is its Hard Liquor, Awamori. It is distilled from rice, considerably more potent and less sweet than sake; not found on the mainland and only brewed here. Some varieties made offshore of Okinawa Main Island have the highest alcoholic content. Awamori has a venerable history going back 500 years, when the Ryukyu Kingdom had extensive trade with Southeast Asia. It was first introduced to the islands from Thailand. Awamori is still made from Thai rice because its long grains give a higher alcoholic yield and it is not as sticky as Japanese rice. We will sample some Awamori at Masahiro Awamori Factory. The devastating effects of the war had a profound impact on the Okinawans, and there are a number of monuments and museums relating to that period throughout Okinawa Island. Then, we will board a short flight.
to Ishigaki Island that lies west of Okinawa Island and the second largest island of the Yaeyama Island group. The island functions as the business and transport center of the archipelago. Tonight, we will try the Ishigaki Beef. Not many people know about Ishigaki beef, which is a Wagyu Brand. The most important characteristic of Wagyu is its marbling of fat throughout the meat. It is said the Ishigaki Beef is tender and juicy and has a pure flavor.

**Day 6 ** Jan.14 Ishigaki Island – Iriomote Island – Yubu Island – Ishigaki Island (B, L, D)
Today’s highlight is to visit Iriomote Island, the largest island of the Yaeyama Island group. 90% of the island is covered by dense jungle and mangrove swamps, which are either part of state lands or National Park area. In the morning we will take a 40-minute Ferry Ride to Ohara Port. Upon arrival, we will ride a sightseeing boat on Nakama River. This area is considered to be the Amazon Jungle of Japan. The river cuts a path through mangrove forests, large sakishima-suö trees, and thick jungle plants. There is also a wide variety of creatures that call this area home such as Mud Crabs, Shirenashijimi, Barred Mud Skippers and of course the famous Iriomote Wild Cat. We will make a short stop and walk to see the largest and oldest mangrove tree. You can look for the Iriomote Wild Cat, an endangered native cat living on this island. There are only 100 cats remaining in the wild. A visit to the Yamaneko Museum will offer an opportunity to learn about the cats and view a video to observe this rare breed. Next, we will ride a Water Buffalo Cart to Yubu-jima (Yubu Island) where we will have a Yubu Style Teishoku lunch. The water that divides Yubu Island from its larger neighbor is so shallow that it can be crossed on foot. Occasionally cars and trucks can be seen driving through the water as well. After that, we will return to Ishigaki and take a bus back to the hotel or shopping at the arcade.

**Day 7 ** Jan.15 Ishigaki Island – Taketomi Island – Ishigaki Island (B, L, D)
This morning we will take a 10-minute Ferry Ride to Taketomi-jima, about 2.5 miles southwest of Ishigaki Island. On this small island, traditional Okinawan life still flourishes with red tile roofed houses surrounded by handmade stonewalls. There are two Spectacular Beaches on the southern coast of Taketomi: Hoshizuna-no-hama, a beach covered with Star-Shaped Sand Crystals, and Kondoi Beach, a beautiful beach with shallow water. After returning to Ishigaki, we will visit the Emerald Blue Kabira Bay, Ishigaki Island's most scenic view. Ishigaki and Iriomote are the only two cultivation sites of black pearls in Japan. Coral reefs provide great snorkeling and diving sports, but we can see beautiful colorful tropical fish and coral reefs without getting wet by taking a Glass Bottom Boat Ride.

**Day 8 ** Jan.16 Ishigaki Island ➔ Naha (B, L, D)
Today, we will fly back to Naha, the capital city of Okinawa Prefecture. Upon arrival, we will go to Naminoue Shrine, literally “Above the Waves Shrine”, the primary Shinto shrine in Okinawa Prefecture. Our next stop is Fukushuen (Fuzhou Garden), completed in 1992 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the sister city relationship between Naha and Fuzhou in China. The Kume neighborhood where the garden is located, previously known as Kumemura (Kume Village), was the center of Chinese culture and learning in the Ryūkyū Kingdom for centuries, and a symbol of the significant role of Chinese cultural influence in Okinawan history. Most of the building materials were imported from Fuzhou. After lunch, we will visit the Peace Memorial Park. Its main attraction is the Peace Memorial Museum, which gives an overview of the battle and the reconstruction of the island. Other notable sites include the Clock Tower, the Path to Peace Hill, and the Cornerstone of Peace. Tonight, enjoy the “all you can eat” Yakiniku Dinner, a Japanese style of cooking bite-sized meat (usually beef, pork & chicken) and vegetables on griddles over-gas/electric grills.
Day 9 ** Jan.17                  Naha                                           (B, L, D)

Today’s highlight is **Okinawa World Park**. The primary **Gyokusendo Cave** was discovered in 1967 and it is one of the largest underground stalactite caves in the Far East. Besides being one of the most popular tourist destinations in Okinawa, it has also been used as a film location for various movies. The best known movie internationally is the 1974 monster classic **Godzilla vs Mecha Godzilla**. Within the park, there is a snake museum, Sanshin making, and glass blowing. The main attraction is the dynamic and colorful **Eisa Dance (Traditional Okinawan Taiko Dance)** in the outdoor auditorium. Tonight’s **Farewell Dinner** features **Okinawan Palace Cuisine**. During the reign of the Ryukyu monarchs, when the kingdom flourished through trade with surrounding Asian countries, elaborate feasts were hosted nightly for visiting envoys. Carefully selected ingredients are painstakingly prepared, with the resulting fare as delightful to the eye as it is to the palate.

Day 10 ** Jan.18                   Naha                                   (B)

Full day at leisure. “Shop till you drop; eat till you overflow!” Enjoy this free day opportunity to shop around the city and eat whatever looks interesting.

Day 11 ** Jan.19                             Naha                              Taipei                              Honolulu                                               (B)

After breakfast, we will transfer to the airport for our return flight to Honolulu via Taiwan. This will end our fantastic trip to Okinawa.

© We wish you a safe journey and have many wonderful memories to share with family and friends! ☺

**Remarks:**

1. Fares are per person; USD based on double occupancy and includes all airline taxes and fees.
2. Escorted tour with a minimum of 20 passengers
3. Business class is available, please call your agent for price
4. Local English speaking tour guide service
5. All transfers and sightseeing by air conditioned coach
6. Refer to “General Condition of Air & Sea”
7. We reserve the right to modify the itinerary to ensure smooth operation
8. Gratuity for Tour Guides and Drivers is included
9. Tour price is subject to change according to any airfare increase, increase in government taxes, additional fuel charges and fluctuation of the rate of exchange between U.S. and foreign currency
10. Tour price is based on the current exchange rate of 1 USD = 105 JPY.
11. Tour price includes fuel surcharge & government taxes and fees. The tour price shown is current at time of listing and pricing on Jun.17, 2020
12. It is mandatory to inform Air and Sea Travel of any existing conditions that may require medical attention or accommodations during the trip. You need to provide this information in writing in the Tour Supplemental Information section of the application. If you do not have a travel companion who can help you with your special needs, you need to talk to your agent to determine if this is an appropriate tour for you. Some tours may be too strenuous depending on your condition. Air and Sea Travel reserves the right to reject or cancel your booking. You are responsible for any cancellation penalty that this may incur.
**Payment Policy:**

CHECK OR CASH PAYMENT ONLY. A deposit of $350 per person is required at the time of application. The balance of payment is due **70 days prior to departure**. In case balance of payment is not made within the required time period, Air and Sea Travel Center reserves the right to cancel reservations and charge a cancellation fee.

**Cancellation Policy:**

Written notice is required for any cancellation. Within 70 days before departure, the cancellation fee will be as follow:
** 69-31 days prior to departure, **50%** of total price plus any other service fee caused from the cancellation;  
** 30 days prior to departure or withdrawing during the tour shall be regarded as willingly giving up all rights concerned, **100%** of total price, and request for other services as a substitute shall not be accepted.

** We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance when you make a reservation **