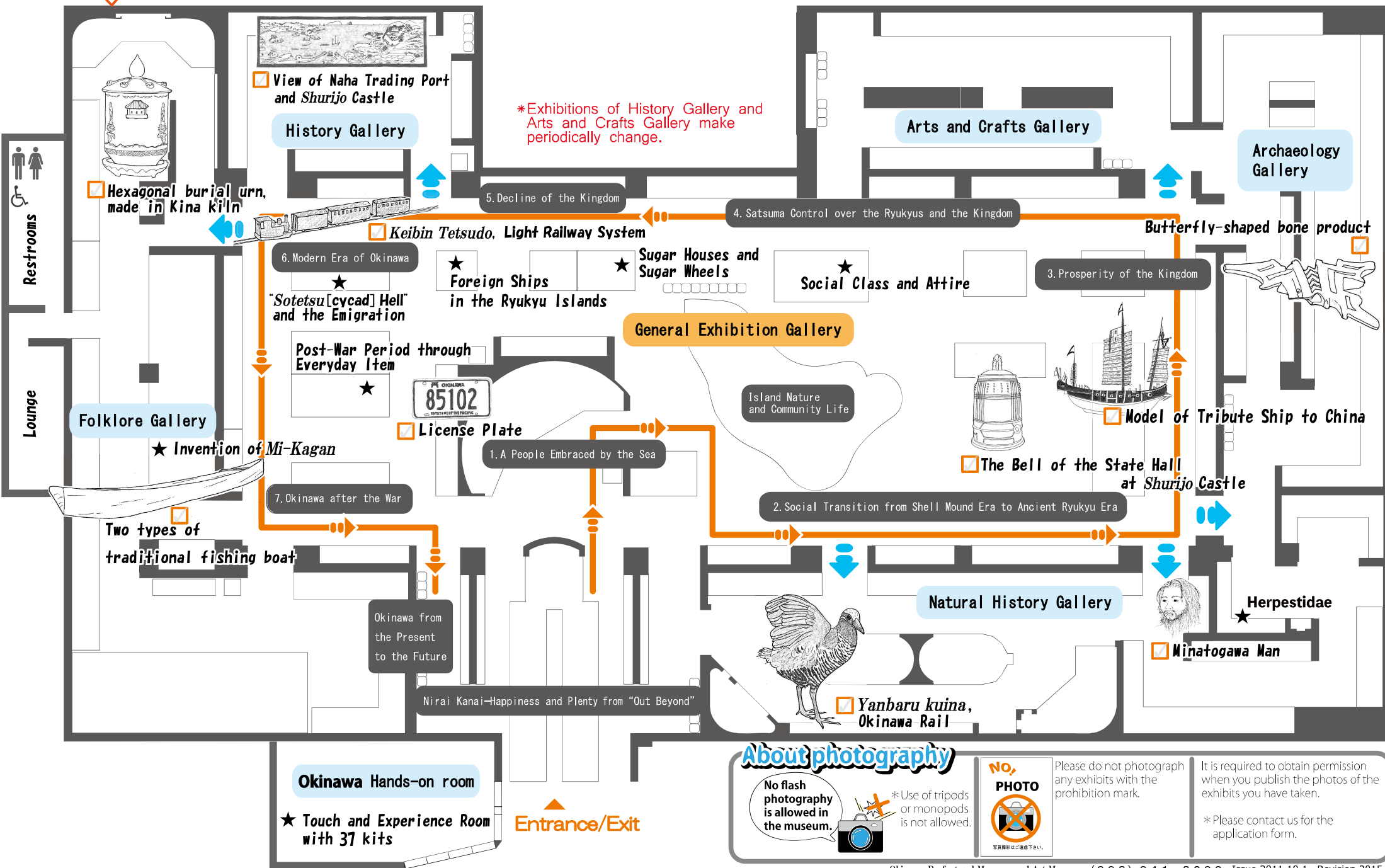




# Overview of Museum Exhibition

# A must-see!



## General Exhibition

General Exhibition is displayed under ten themes. In the order of the number, you will see the exhibition chronologically.

- Nirai Kanai-Happiness and Plenty from "Out Beyond"
- The Life and Nature of the Islands
  1. A People Embraced by the Sea
  2. Social Transition from Shell Mound Era to Ancient Ryukyu Era
  3. Prosperity of the Kingdom
  4. Satsuma Control over the Ryukyus and the Kingdom
  5. Decline of the Kingdom
  6. Modern Era of Okinawa
  7. Okinawa after the War
- Okinawa from the Present to the Future



Model of Tribute Ship to China

After WW II, Okinawa was separated politically from Japan and placed under control of the United States. The vehicle license plates that belonged to the U.S. citizens in Okinawa reads: "Keystone of the Pacific."



License Plate

### ★ "Sotetsu [cycad] Hell" and the Emigration

During the Great Depression in the 1930s, many Okinawans suffered economic hardship and a severe food shortage, which drove some people to eat the poisonous cycad. As a result, many Okinawans emigrated to other countries.

### ★ Sugarhouses and Sugarwheels

"Black Sugar" produced from sugarcane has been a special product of Okinawa since the Ryukyu Kingdom Era.

### ★ Post-War Period through Everyday Items

After the war, Okinawans made tools, kitchen items and clothes from any materials locally available.

### ★ Foreign Ships visited the Ryukyu Islands

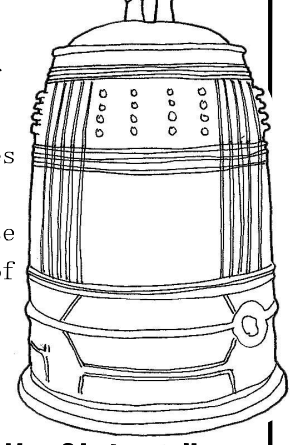
At the end of the *Edo* Era, William M. Perry came to Okinawa on the way to Uraga. He wrote about this in his "Narrative of the Expedition of an American Squadron to the China Seas and Japan, etc."

### ★ Social Class and Attire

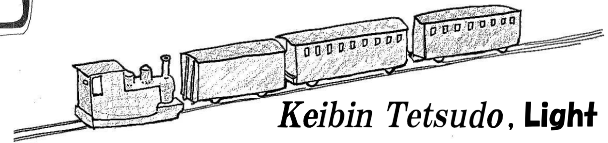
Officials of the Ryukyu Kingdom Era wore attire and Hachimachi (head wear) relevant to their status difference.

This bell was cast in 1458 and also called the "Bell of Bridging Nations." The inscription reads: "Treasures from other countries abound in the Ryukyu Kingdom because the Kingdom became the hub of the trading nations."

[National cultural property]



The Bell of the State Hall at Shurijo Castle



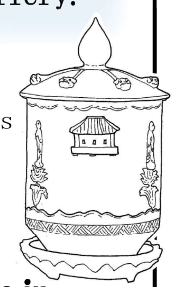
Keibin Tetsudo, Light Railway System

Before WW II, light railway system opened its services on Okinawa Island from Naha to Yonabaru (1914), Kadena (1923), and Itoman (1924).

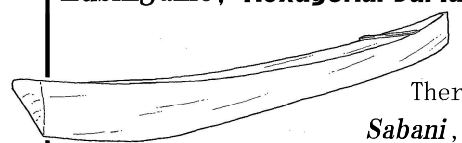
## Folklore Gallery

Traditional customs and pre-WW II folkcrafts from various areas of Okinawa are exhibited in this gallery.

*Zushigame* is a ceramic burial urn in which the washed and cleaned human bones of the deceased were placed. They come in various shapes and materials such as woods, stones and ceramics.



*Zushigame*, Hexagonal burial urn made in Kina Kiln



There are two types of *Sabani*, *Kui-buni* (dugout boat) and *Ashi-buni* (plank-built boat). Fishermen went in the offing and fished in these kinds of boats.

### ★ *Mi-kagan*, swimming goggles

*Mi-kagan*, which is considered a prototype of the present-day goggles, was invented in 1884 by Yasutaro Tamaki from Itoman.

## Arts and Crafts Gallery

Okinawan beauty, which has been nurtured by the Ryukyu Kingdom, is shown through the Okinawa pottery, dyed and woven textile, and lacquerware.

Exhibitions of Arts and Crafts Gallery make periodically change.

## Archaeology Gallery

Original materials of Okinawa such as earthenware from *Jomon* period and other excavations related to WW II are on display.

These accessories were made from jaw and rib bones of dugongs.

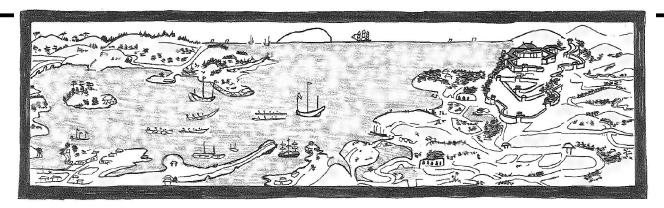


Butterfly-shaped bone products

## History Gallery

Descriptions of the Ryukyu Kingdom Era in folding screens and maps will aid you in learning what it was like at that time.

Exhibitions of History Gallery make periodically change.

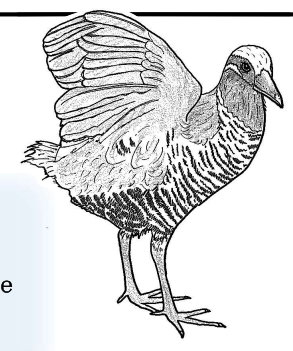


View of Naha Trading Port and Shurijo Castle

This is a description of "*Shurijo* Castle" and "Naha Port," both of which are the symbols of the Ryukyu Islands. You can see the castle on the right and the port at the foot of the castle. In this portrayal, you can see some tributary ships and those who enjoy dragon-boat racing.

## Natural History Gallery

You can learn through dioramas and specimens how the Okinawan islands were formed and how the creatures on the islands have evolved in its unique way.



Yanbaru kuina, Okinawa Rail

Okinawa rails, flightless birds, live only in the northern part of Okinawa Island. They were discovered in 1981. The rail's beak and feet are red with black and white stripes from the neck down to the abdomen.

[National natural monument]



**Minatogawa Man** Four adult Paleolithic human fossils, the best preserved human fossils in East Asia, were found from the 20,000-year-old layer of the Minatogawa Fissure Site at the southern part of Okinawa Island.

### ★ *Herpestes javanicus*

This mongoose was brought into Okinawa for the extermination of *habu*, Okinawan poisonous snake. However, they have extended their distribution range to the Kunigami area in northern Okinawa, eating native small animals and birds. Recently, the fences and traps are set for preventing their intrusion to the northern Okinawa.

## Okinawa Hands-on room

We have 27 hands-on kits. You can also wear traditional Okinawan garments.

Entrance Fee: Free of charge