

## Traversing Okinawa: A Tapestry of Island Dreams and Cultural Reveries

20<sup>th</sup>, January ,2025,I traveled to Okinawa,Japan with my family.Hearing that Okinawa has different culture with the main island Japan,I was caught by its unique culture combined by Ryukyu culture and native Japanese culture.Finally,I got this chance to explore this mysterious land.

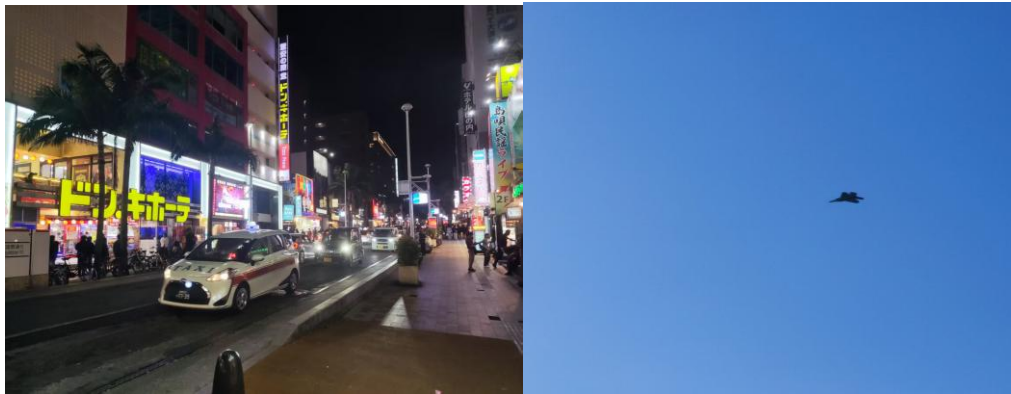
Okinawa's unique culture emerged from the Ryukyu Kingdom's trade with China, Japan, etc., blending diverse elements. After WWII, U.S. occupation added new traits like English, fast food, and rock music, enriching its cultural tapestry.We dug this culture treasure while traveling in Okinawa.The more we explored,the more we were amazed.



The first station was Naha city-the capital of Okinawa Prefecture.As we left the airport,The roar of American fighter jets could be heard in the sky-it was my first time to hear such noisy sound!We took the Okinawa monorail to Kokusai Street.A diverse array of shops which sells all kinds of Japanese goods extended in a line along the street.A kind of local

hand made glass caught my eyes--it seems that they were created according to the blue of Okinawa's sea,how interesting it

is!

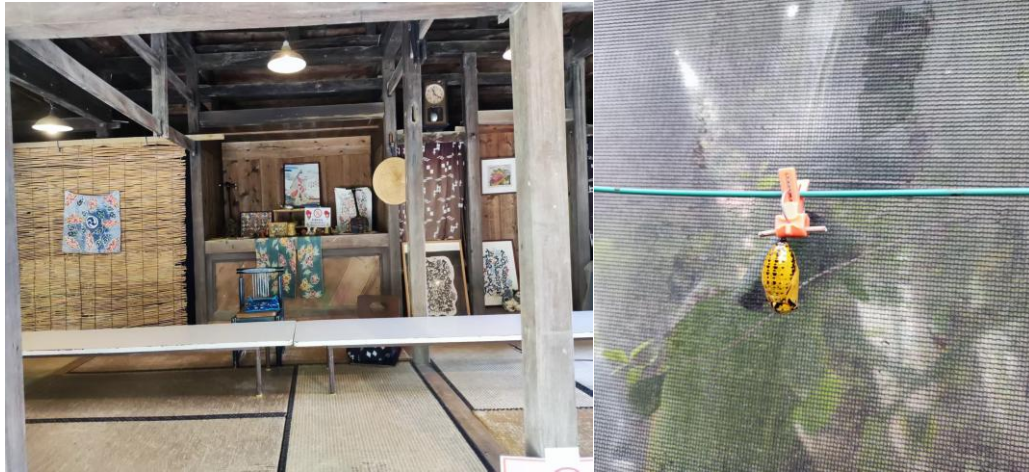


When we visit a region,we can't miss the local food there.Obviously,we tried many kinds of local food.What impressed me most is Okinawan local pork hotpot.Because of the inference of Nipponese diet,the pork hotpot had the taste of sour and umami,which made me have a

unstoppable intention to eat more. We also tried Wagyu beef when we visited American village, I think the beef is too greasy for me



Because of rule of Japanese for centuries, there not many Ryukyu culture left. The buildings here are almost in Japanese style. We went to the Ryukyu village to experience the culture there, well, it is too boring! The only thing which was worth to the ticket here is that there is a butterfly cage with Nippon's biggest butterfly. Then, we visited Shuri Castle-the palace of Ryukyu kingdom. However, the main building was destroyed by fire in 2019, we could only see the reconstruction project. What a pity!



Two experiences impressed me most. The first is that we attended whale watching on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The guides spoke Japanese all the time, but they were patient to point out whale locations in their Japanese style English. What's more, we did meet the whales. The second one is that when we chartered a car to the seaside, the driver had a performance playing shamisen for us. It really shocked us when he told us that he is the inheritor of the local Shamisen performance. I followed him on Youtube, how lucky we are! From this trip, I felt the warm heart of Japanese and their pride in their culture.



This cultural tour was full of joy and surprise. The culture, food, and people there made me want to make a second visit. Having an amazing trip in Okinawa, I set my sights on the next region—Tokyo and Osaka. Only when

you fling open the doors of your heart to wholeheartedly embrace the world, will it unfurl a magnificent panorama, a symphony of hues and wonders, where every moment is a brushstroke on the canvas of a life



exquisitely lived.



