# tota o kinawa can katakinawa Hanami or Hana-You?

Let the Okinawa flower gardens invigorate your senses!



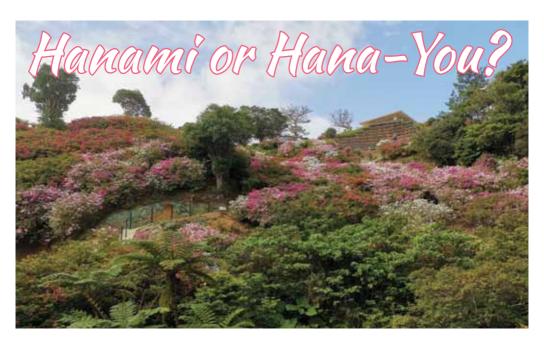


## totalokinawa

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# このマガジンはオンラインでも見ることができます: www.totalokinawa.jp



#### by Chris Enriquez

come from the land down under! ...is what comes to mind when I think of Crocodile bar and seafood restaurant. Although the food and drinks are a topic in itself, Crocodile is a restaurant and bar that is better known for its ability to cater to almost any bar activity as if it was designed by a child with ADHD - In a positive way of course.

Beginning your adventure at the entrance, you are seemingly greeted by a giant crab as you enter through a half-pipe. Upon entering, there is a tiki-hut bar dead centre where you order your drinks as you go sit and lounge at either the patio next to a fenced enclosure (which I swear looks like it could have an alligator inside), the pool table on the wooden deck, or indoor to the sofa hookah lounge with the dart board. Now you understand what I mean about the ADHD design? Let's not forget about the adult size Jenga blocks and the kick scooter that you can ride around while waiting for your food.

As for the food, they primarily serve finger foods as one would expect but with some interesting dishes with a twist. How do you feel about trying one of the spiciest ramen on island? I'm talking about "punishment" spicy! All it took was a couple of strands of noodles for me to start sweating from areas I didn't even know existed. As for the featured dish, delicious crispy crocodile fritters topped with some Pico de Gallo. Absolutely scrumptious to the last chomp. They also have some whole dishes such as the steak-don (beef bowl rice topping) and Hawaiian BBQ pork but honestly, I think most people just go there for the drinks as I didn't see much of the other customers ordering food. For the damage to your wallet, sadly there wasn't any all you can drink option anymore so you will have to dish out about 400-600 yen per drink (I know, yikes!). I suppose you can make some of it back on the pool table as it is free to play.

All and all, Crocodile is definitely a good option for a rest and relaxing chill-eekend spot. Also, and I cannot emphasize this enough, I recommend this place for singles (if you know what I mean). When I was there, I noticed a lot of good looking people (myself excluded) just hanging out and having fun. To get there, head towards Chatan AEON mall. In front of the Chatan AEON is a huge parking lot that is used by people who are going to the Mihama Seven Plex. Crocodile is across the street from the east side exit of this parking.



Google Map & Directions:



https://goo.gl/maps/vdz7rEJWjUKi8jcel

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# クロコダイル

今回ご紹介するのは、北谷にあるバー&シーフードレストラン「クロコダイル」。食事や飲み物もさることながら、まるで落ち着きのない子供が設計したかのような面白い店構えで、バーといえば!という定番の楽しみ方を全て叶えてくれると評判のレストラン&バーです。

まず入口では巨大なカニが出迎えてくれ、土管を通って中に入るというユニークなつくり。中に入ると中央にバーカウンターがあり、ドリンクを頼んだらフェンスに囲まれたエリア(中にほんとにワニがいるみたい)のすぐ横にあるパティオ、ウッドデッキのビリヤードテーブル、または室内のダーツボード近くのソファーに座ってくつろぐことができるようになっています。エントランスからラウンジエリアまで、「落ち着きのない子供」と言った理由をわかっていただけましたか?他にも大人サイズのジェンガや、料理を待っている間に乗り回せるキックスクーターもあります。

食事はフィンガーフードが中心ですが、ちょっとひねりの効いた面白い料理もあります。沖縄で一番辛いと言われるラーメンにチャレンジもできます! どれだけ辛いって、まさに罰ゲームのような辛さ。麺を2、3本食べただけで、今まで汗腺があったことも知らなかった場所から汗が吹き出てきます(笑)。他には、サクサクのワニのフリッター(サルサ乗せ)をオーダー。最後の一口まで美味しくいただきました。ステーキ丼やハワイアンBBQポークなどのお食事メニューもありますが、ほとんどの人はお酒を飲みに行くだけなのでフードメニューを注文している人はあまりいません。価格的には、残念ながら飲み放題がなくなってしまったので(苦笑)、1杯400円~600円くらい。ビリヤード台は無料で遊べるので、それで取り返すしかないかも!?

クロコダイルは、週末にのんびりリラックスできるスポットとして間違いなく最高の場所。また、私が行ったとき、たくさんのイケメン(私は除く)がブラブラしてたので、実はシングルの方にもお勧め!行き方は、北谷イオンモールを目指してください。店舗前には映画館を利用する人たちが利用している大きな駐車場があり、クロコダイルはこの駐車場の東側出口から道路を挟んだ向かい側にあります。

支払方法:現金、電子マネー、クレジットカード

営業時間:午後5時~午前1時(日~木)、午後5時~午前3時(金~土)、火曜定休







## by Elizabeth Stoney

Tucked away amongst the busy streets behind Shuri Castle, the bustling Daruma Temple is one of the best examples of a traditional Buddhist Temple in Okinawa. Like many Buddhist temples

in Japan it coexists alongside the local Shinto Shrine. Let's digress for a minute - the two major religions in Japan are Buddhism and Shinto. Buddhism came to Japan from China and worships Buddha at a Temple whereas Shinto is indigenous to Japan and is the worship of nature at Shrines. The two religions share various features and as many people in Japan belong to both it is common for Temples and Shrines to be built together.

The Daruma Temple in Naha has all of the features you might expect from a Temple visit in Japan - incense burners, impressive Buddha statue, ema (those small wooden plaques) and the Shrine is dominated by an impressive walkway of red torii gates leading to an alter at the end. Throughout the Temple/Shrine complex there are colourful daruma dolls which can be purchased from the shop within the Temple main hall. Another feature of such places seems to be the presence of friendly cats lazing around in the sun, always a highlight of my son's day.



The atmosphere at the Daruma Temple is peaceful despite it being busy and at times noisy. The locals were welcoming towards us and we felt comfortable to light some incense and watch the smoke circle around us, it really does create a calm and tranquil moment. The shop inside sells an array of daruma plus omamori amulets, ema and Inari fox statues; all have their own significance or of course you can just choose what you like the look of. There are plenty of unique things to see here, every nook is packed full of unique details and the atmosphere and feel of the place are a defining characteristic of traditional Japan. It's a wonderful addition to a solo or family day adventure in Naha.



Google Map & Directions



https://goo.gl/maps/QdG9PpbiYihnrM7f9

ttps://www.naha-contentsdb.jp/spot/675

098-884-1077

Open 7.00am - 6.00pm, free entry

# 達磨寺

首里城裏の賑やかな通りの間に隠れるように存在する達磨寺は、沖縄県内にある伝統的な仏教寺の中でも紹介するのにいちばんいい例だと言えるでしょう。この場所は、日本の多くの仏教寺院と同じように神社と一緒に建てられています。ちょっと話が脱線しますが、日本の二大宗教は仏教と神道であり、仏教は中国から伝来し寺院でブッダを崇拝するのに対し、神道は日本固有のもので神社で自然を崇拝すると言われています。この2つの宗教にはさまざまな共通点があり、日本では多くの人が両方を信仰しているため、寺院と神社が一緒に建てられることがよくあるのです。那覇の達磨寺には、香炉、印象的な仏像、絵馬など、日本のお寺と言えば、という定番のものもあったり、神社には、赤い鳥居が印象的な通路がありその先にある祭壇へと続いています。寺院と神社の敷地内至る所に名称の由来となっている色とりどりのだるまがあり、寺院本堂の中にある売店で購入することもできます。また、人懐っこい猫が日なたで昼寝しているところに出会うこともあり、私の息子はいつもそれを楽しみに訪れているようです。

達磨寺はにぎやかで騒がしい時もありますが、雰囲気は基本的に穏やかです。地元の人たちもいつもあたたかく歓迎してくれ、お香をたいて煙に包まれているのも心地よく、本当に静かで落ち着く時間を過ごすことができました。店内には、だるまやお守り、絵馬、稲荷の狐の像などがあり、それぞれに意味があるのでそれに基づいて購入することもできますし、単純に見た目が好きなものを選ぶのもよいでしょう。敷地のどこを見ても細かな工夫がなされ、場所の雰囲気や感じは日本の伝統的な雰囲気も感じられます。那覇での一人旅や家族でのお出かけに、いつもと違う素晴らしい時間を与えてくれると思います。

https://goo.gl/maps/QdG9PpbiYihnrM7f9 〒903-0813 沖縄県那覇市首里赤田町1-5-1 098-884-1077 https://www.naha-contentsdb.jp/spot/675 拝観時間 午前7時~午後6時 入場無料 無料駐車場あり(約10台)





# Hanami Or Let the Okinawa flower gard

It's that time of the year again to step out of your hibernation cave and inhale Okinawa's nature at its finest. That's right, spring time is here! As much as I loathe welcoming back the return of all the insects and bugs, one good thing to look forward to is all the lovely flowers that are beginning to blossom. Okinawa is home to some great flower gardens and festivals that are definitely worth your time. Here are some of the best one's on island.

## Tropical Dream Center

I think appropriately named due to the fact that being inside this world-class greenhouse is seemingly like a dream – a tropical dream. The Tropical Dream Center certainly does not disappoint and is by far the biggest flower exhibit that can be enjoyed on island. It has an impressive magnitude of orchids and mind-blowing amount of different flower

displays. Additionally, there are lively trees and greenery all around which will just melt your stress away. The pond (Yep, a pond! Crazy right?), has a lily pad large enough to support a small child. As you make your way deeper in to this 'Alice Wonderland' rabbit hole, the finale that awaits you is a gigantic brick stone spiral castle which gives a spectacular view of le Island and the surrounding ocean from the top. For more information on Tropical Dream Center, check out their website at https://oki-park.jp/kaiyohaku/en/inst/38.



## Southeast Botanical Garden

If you suffer from the occasional Kafunsho (Hay fever) like me and would like to enjoy spring time without having a sneeze-a-palooza, I offer to you the Southeast Botanical Gardens. More heavy on the tree and plant exhibits rather than flowers, the Southeast Botanical Gardens offer much more variety in terms of entertainment. Aside from all the different type of trees, they have interesting exhibits such as a unique animal petting zoo (The billy goat's name is actually Billy!) and a bird performance show which I was expecting to bomb but turned out to be very enjoyable. Did I forget to mention the in-park lunch buffet restaurant? Good choice if you are looking for that semi-healthy and refreshing brunch with a spectacular view of the park. Best part: park entrance is free if you dine at the restaurant. Just walk extra slowly and take the "far route" when existing the park after you dine. Check out what else they have and the restaurant menu at: https://www.southeast-botanical.jp/en/

# Hana-You?

## ens invigorate your senses!

by Chris Enriquez

## Sunflower Fields in Kitanakagusuku

Say yellow to my little friends. There is just something about sunflowers that infects me with joy and happiness and always lifts my spirits. Maybe it has something to do with that bright yellow colour that resembles the sun or the fact that their seeds are just so darn addictive (Am I right?!). Whatever it is, this is my go-to field for some mood elevators on a bad day. The fact that it's free and I am INCOMPREHENSIBLY cheap has absolutely nothing to do with it! Okay, maybe just a little... Beside the point, still highly recommended. You might want to avoid if you are allergic to bees, don't like butterflies, or small bugs. Also, the fields may be a bit hard to find as it is not fully commercialized and the road leading to the fields get narrower as you approach. However, Google it and you should find it just fine.

## Lily Festival in le Island

What better way to welcome the new life of nature than with a festival of the flowers that symbolizes purity and rebirth? Even though it's already called a festival, believe it or not, I think this is still an understatement. The plethora of lily flowers that spreads as far as the eye can see in this festival is just surreal. Date-wise, starting a little bit later that the rest, the lily festival only takes place a few days in the year usually around the golden week season so definitely requires a little bit of planning. Probably goes without saying but the lily festival is located on le Island so you will also have to ride the Motobu ferry to get there. I know it seems like a bit of an effort comparing to the rest but believe me it'll be worth it.

## Azalea Festival in Higashi Village

For those individuals who just needs that pinkish hue when viewing flowers, I recommend the Azalea festival in Higashi Village. More like a trail than a garden, here you can enjoy site seeing of Azaleas in different colours of pink, white, red, and magenta depending on the season of viewing. Personally, I think this is a perfect alternative to cherry blossom viewing especially if you've grown jaded and tiresome of walking up the same mountain looking at the same tree year after year. It's a nice little change to have with a similar but different type of Hanami (Flower Viewing) experience. Peak viewing of the Azaleas are around 1st half of March but viewing can last all the way up to May. Still, the earlier the better.

Whether you select one or select them all, you will most certainly have an enlivening experience. I do not know who would not enjoy looking and smelling at such beauty but one thing for sure is that spring has definitely arrived. With just a few blinks, it'll be summer again already so better enjoy it while it lasts. To the cicadas however, for the love of God, please stay dormant just a little bit longer!







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## by Chris Enriquez

If you have been on island for longer than a day, you may be familiar with shokudos which are very known as a place where you can get cheap, delicious, and fast Japanese food. However, with the abundance of shokudos on island, it is very competitive and difficult to really stick out among the rest. At Mihama Shokudo, its popularity has managed to reach even the folks in mainland Japan as its location is superb situated between Camp Foster and Kadena Air Base making it an extremely convenient place to grab a quick lunch before heading back to work.

As would be expected in a typical shokudo, Mihama Shokudo offers all the traditional classics such as the tonkatsu, sobas, and champurus. Their signature dish - the bone soup - is a beef bone broth served with a giant piece of bone with some meat on it and vegetables. Its popularity is credited to its thick and rich savory broth. Although the meat on the bone is rather scarce, the reason why the beef bone is enough as the protein of the dish is because you don't actually need it anymore as the soup in itself can serve as a superb entre to pair with rice. Also, do not be afraid to suckle on that bone. It's really the only way to truly enjoy bone soup.

They also have curry rice and fried foods such as karaage and tempura which are all very appetizing and really just depends on what you're in the mood for that day. For the price, as I mentioned earlier, is one of the major benefits of a shokudo. The full set will only cost you about 500-1000 yen. This comes as a set to include the main dish, a bowl of rice, and some small side.

Ultimately, I recommend Mihama Shokudo for a quick and cheap lunch or even for dining solo when you're hankering for some hot soup on a cold day. To get there, from Camp Foster head towards the sunset beach baseball stadium using the bypass road along route 58. At about 400m from the stadium, Mihama Shokudo will be on the left. Look out for the bright orange sign board. Goes without saying but brace yourself for the lunch rush!



Google Map & Directions.



https://goo.gl/maps/crhRaWQwd1SBfkQK6

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# みはま食堂

安くておいしい定食を手早く食べたい時は食堂が便利ですが、ここ沖縄にも昔ながらの食堂が多くあります。たくさんの食堂があるため競争も激しくなかなか他と差をつけるのは難しい中、今回紹介するみはま食堂は、キャンプ・フォスターと嘉手納基地の間に位置しており、本土の人たちにも人気があるほどなんです。

みはま食堂には、とんかつ、そば、チャンプルーなど、いわゆる食堂の代表メニューが揃っていますが、看板メニューは何といっても骨汁。牛骨スープの中に巨大な骨付き肉と野菜が入っていて、濃厚でコクのあるスープが人気の理由です。肉の量は少ないですが、このスープ自体がご飯に合う絶品のメインディッシュになるんです。また、食べる時には周りのことは気にせず骨にしゃぶりついて味わってください!これが骨汁の本当の楽しみ方です。

みはま食堂には他にもカレーライスや唐揚げ、天ぷらなどの揚げ物もあり、どれも食欲をそそるものばかりで、その日の気分で選ぶことができま

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電話番号:098-936-8032

支払方法:現金のみ

営業時間:

午前10時30分~午後5時

(毎日営業)



## by Chris Enriquez

Anyone who knows me knows that I'm always Go-za for some Gyouza! It's about time we show some respect for one of the most underappreciated side dishes out there; the gyouza. At Osaka Ohsho, they highlight properly the great wonders that is the steamed and then pan fried dumpling. Lets me show you what I mean below.

Osaka Ohsho is a Chinese cuisine franchise restaurant scattered all over Japan, recently opening a few of them here on Okinawa. Although their main dishes are ramen, fried rice, and other typical Chinese dishes, the gyouza is what really makes them glow. So popular in fact that you can actually order them by the box! I mean think about it; How delicious must your gyouza be if you have a system in place that sells them by the case?! I must say though that they do this rightfully so.

On occasion I find myself having a box of 20 of these gyouzas chomping them away like they are popcorn. Half the time I forget to even dip them in to soy sauce. The gyouzas can be prepared fresh or even sold frozen with instructions on how to prepare them at home. I've tried to cook the frozen one at home and due to the clear instructions provided, I think I managed to replicate the fresh hot ones just fine. Before I forget, they also have some pretty awesome sweet and sour pork dishes in which they use black vinegar (whatever that means) giving it that extra sour kick. An absolute must try! Make sure to save some room for that classical buchi ball dessert too.

I would recommend Osaka Ohsho for casual family dinners, movie night, or even for lunch if you have some time to wait for the prep. The other dishes may take awhile to prepare as they cook everything to order. There are about 9 or so locations here in Okinawa but I think the best one with the nicest view is the one located in the San-A Parco City mall located in Urasoe. Speaking of which, I think I might as well just head over there now for a quick 10 portion snack!



Google Map & Directions:



https://goo.gl/maps/feVFjXggqVVcDAWJ8

10:30am-10:00pm (Everyday)

098-871-1127

https://www.osaka-ohsho.com/

## 大阪王将

私の友人の間では私の「餃子愛」を知らない人はいません。餃子ってあんなに美味しいのに脇役扱いの時があって、ちゃんと評価されてないと思いませんか?蒸して、焼いて、手間もかかっているこの素晴らしい料理をきちんと評価してくれているのが大阪王将です。



大阪王将は全国に展開する中華料理のフランチャイズ店で、最近はここ沖縄でも数店舗がオープンしました。ラーメンやチャーハン、中華料理の代表的なメニューがメインですが、中でも王将を王将たらしめるのはまさに餃子です。人気がありすぎて箱買いできるほど! (ちょっと待って、よく考えたら箱買いってどんだけ美味しいん。。。) ほんとに、そうなってもおかしくないくらい美味しいん

です。

たまに気がついたら餃子を20個くらい持って、タレにつけるのも忘れてポップコーンかと思うほどバリバリ食べていることがあります(笑)。自宅で調理する時は冷蔵でも冷凍でもOK。一度自宅で冷凍餃子の調理にトライしたことがありましたが、分かりやすい説明のおかげでお店のできたて熱々の味を自宅で再現できました!また、黒酢を使った酢豚やゴマ団子も絶品。ぜひ試してみてください。

大阪王将は、家族での夕食や映画鑑賞などのお出かけにお勧め。オーダーしてから調理を始めるので時間がかかるため、時間に余裕がある時ならランチにも。沖縄には9店舗ほどありますが、浦添のサンエー・パルコシティの中にある店舗が一番眺めがよくていいと思います。餃子の記事書いてたら食べたくなってきた。。。ちょっと箱買いしてきます!(笑)

Googleマップ:https://goo.gl/maps/feVFiXgggVVcDAWJ8

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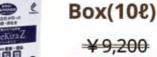












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