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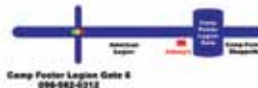
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Keep On Food Truckin'



Okinawa's guide to the best meals on wheels

Do you ever simply not have the time to dine and wished that your food would be ready right out of a truck? My thoughts exactly!

Start your engines as we explore some of the best food trucks this island has to offer!

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このマガジンはオンラインでも見るができます:

www.totalokinawa.jp



Ajisai Noodles

by Chris Enriquez

I must confess that although I've eaten in Ajisai Noodles more times than I can count with both hands, I have never tried their noodles. How is this possible you ask as if this is some kind of weird foodie riddle? All will be apparent as I describe the restaurant below.

As the name suggests, Ajisai Noodles is a small ramen restaurant located inside Chatan Aeon mall. They have an abundant menu of noodles to choose from such as salt, white miso, buttered corn, and although I haven't tried them, from what I can tell looks to be very promising. During every visit I have made to Ajisai Noodles, my mind is telling me no, but my body, my body is... Well, you know the rest. Once again, I get the fried rice (and justly so).

Their fried rice is really something I have yet to see in Okinawa or anywhere else. Simply put, it's out of this world. Their showcase – the chashu fried rice – is a braised and grilled pork, chopped up, and mixed with mayonnaise (in a similar fashion of tuna or chicken salad) and topped on to a bowl of shrimp or pork fried rice. I don't know what it is about it that I just can't stop. Receiving the glances of judgement, I order my 2nd bowl without hesitation. Frankly, it's that good that you just stop caring anymore. Pairing with some of their signature karaage works wonders too. They also have some other items such as gyoza, pork buns, and some alcoholic drinks. Cost-wise, each ramen will set you back about 800+ yen with the mouth-watering chashu fried rice being about 650 yen (and worth every single penny).

Ajisai Noodles is perfect for that quick lunch. Since it has a wide selection of alcohol as well, I'd say it works for that weekend after swim recuperation meal as well. To get to Ajisai Noodles, head over to the Aeon mall at Chatan. Ajisai Noodles is on the 1st floor across from the grocery section. Remember, eat the chashu fried rice responsibly!



Google Map & Directions:



<https://goo.gl/maps/WvLn3r5NxJKwFTx1A>

11:00am-9:30pm (Everyday)

098-926-1600

<http://ajisai.tv>

あじさいヌードル



今回紹介する「あじさい」には何度も足を運んでいるのですが、実はラーメンは食べたことがないんです。「ラーメン屋なのに?!」と思われるかもしれませんが、この店のことを説明すればわかってもらえるかと思います。

あじさいは、北谷イオンモールの中にある小さなラーメン屋さんです。塩、白味噌、バターコーンなど豊富なメニューがあり、私はまだ食べていませんが、とても美味しいそうです。あじさいへ行くたびに、私の心は「ダメ」と言うのですが、私の体は...そう。今回もチャーハンをいただきました(当然ですが笑)。

この店のチャーハンは、沖縄でも他の地域でも、まだ見たことがないものです。簡単に言うと、この世のものとは思えないほどです。チャーシューチャーハンは、煮込んで焼いたそれだけでも美味しいチャーシューを刻み、マヨネーズと混ぜて(ツナやチキンサラダのようなもの)、エビチャーハンや豚チャーハンにトッピングしたものです。なんだろう、やめられない止まらない。という視線を受けながら、迷わず2杯目を注文する。正直なところ、もうどうでもよくなるくらい美味しい。自慢のから揚げと一緒に食べると最高です。その他、餃子や豚まん、アルコール類もあります。価格帯としては、ラーメンは800円強、絶対食べてほしいお勧めのチャーシューチャーハンは650円(安すぎる)。

あじさいは、手軽なランチに最適です。アルコール類も充実しているので、週末の水泳後の腹ごしらえにも最適です。アクセスは、北谷のイオンモールに向かいます。1階の食料品売りの向かいにあります。チャーシューチャーハンのご注文は自己責任で!

Googleマップ:<https://goo.gl/maps/WvLn3r5NxJKwfTx1A>

電話番号:098-926-1600

ウェブサイト:<http://ajisai.tv>

支払方法:現金のみ

営業時間:午前11時~午後9時30分(毎日営業)





Patisserie Akahiro

by Paulini

I have been driving by this place “Patisserie Akahiro” for the past 5 years, looking for a patisserie for my occasional cake cravings. The last time I searched for a patisserie Google maps took me to a closed shop somewhere in the countryside. It was a complete fail.

A week ago I was scrolling through Instagram and stumbled upon this spot. This place is just on the outskirts of Naha close to both a McDonald's and Starbucks. Patisserie Akahiro is a French-Okinawan delight. The owner is from Okinawa and opened shop back in 2017. The patisserie is located on the first floor of a two-story building. There are several parking spots at their storefront, and “Patisserie Akahiro Okinawa” is written on a bright green sign above the parking.

As you walk in, you are greeted with adorable displays of gift items from cookie baskets to adorably wrapped cakes, to a range of gift boxes filled with cookies and pastries from, blues boxes with musical notes, floral wrapped, and even karyushi shirt gift boxes.

Further inside there are different types of cakes, fruit tarts, choux cream, and various flavors of macarons. There is pistachio, lemon, praline, vanilla, cacao, and the occasional flavor pop-up sale. Our favorites are the lemon, pistachio, and praline-flavored macarons. They have apple and cinnamon crumble and galette café marron which translates from French to brown coffee cake. There is a variety of fruit tarts from mango rare cheese tarts, American cherry tarts, citrus tarts, strawberry tarts and so much more.

Patisserie Akahiro delves into different flavors and tasty pastries with the occasional pop-up pastry sale to tease your taste buds. If you follow their Instagram page you will find all their delicious delicacies. You can also be notified of pastries, cakes, tarts, and more that are the bake sale of the day.

There is so much cake to taste and flavors to try at this adventure-filled patisserie. So go ahead and follow their page, visit their little patisserie store and tell them which new flavors you like by liking their posts. We assure you that, you won't be disappointed.



Google Map & Directions:



<https://goo.gl/maps/QbhLhUB3ywN5r5HP6>

11 am - 6 pm Closed Wednesday

098-894-6866

www.patisserie-akahiro.com

パティスリー アカヒロ

この「パティスリー・アカヒロ」、5年前から時々ケーキが食べたくなってパティスリーを探していた時に何度も車で通りがかったのです。前回、Googleマップでパティスリーを検索したときは、どこかの田舎の閉店した店に連れて行かれ完全に失敗に終わりました。一週間前、Instagramをスクロールしていたら、このスポットを偶然見つけました。那覇の郊外にあり、マクドナルドやスターバックスの近くに 있습니다。パティスリー・アカヒロは、沖縄とフランスが融合したスイーツ店です。オーナーは地元沖縄出身で、2017年にお店をオープンしました。2階建てのビル1階にあります。店頭には数台の駐車場があり、駐車場の上には鮮やかなグリーン看板に「Patisserie Akahiro Okinawa」と書かれています。

店内に入ると、クッキーのバスケットや可愛くラッピングされたケーキ、クッキーやお菓子を詰めたギフトボックス、鮮やかな水色に音符のマークがあしらわれたギフトバッグ、フラワーラッピング、かりゆしシャツのギフトボックスまで、ギフトアイテムが可愛くディスプレイされています。

さらに中に入ると、さまざまな種類のケーキ、フルーツタルト、シュークリーム、そしてさまざまなフレーバーのマカロンが並んでいます。ピスタチオ、レモン、プラリネ、バニラ、カカオがあり、時々フレーバーのポップアップセールもあります。私たちのお気に入り、レモン、ピスタチオ、プラリネ風味のマカロンです。リンゴとシナモンのクランブル、フランス語で茶色のコーヒケーキと訳されるガレット・カフェ・マロンもあります。マンゴーのレアチーズタルト、アメリカンチェリーのタルト、シトラスタルト、ストロベリータルトなど、フルーツタルトの種類も豊富です。

パティスリー・アカヒロは、様々なフレーバーと美味しいお菓子を掘り下げ、時折ポップアップのパティスリーセールを行い、あなたの味覚を楽しませてくれます。Instagramをフォローすれば、その美味しさを知ることができます。また、その日のベークセールであるペストリー、ケーキ、タルトなどをお知らせすることもできます。

この冒険心あふれるパティスリーには、味わいたいケーキやフレーバーがたくさんあるので、このパティスリーのページをフォローし、お店を訪れ、どのフレーバーが好きか、「いいね!」で教えてあげてください。きっとがっかりすることはないはずですよ。

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A small inset image shows a map of the location near Route 50 and Kaituma Air Base Gate 1.

Keep On Food Truckin'

Okinawa's guide to the best meals on wheels

Do you ever simply not have the time to dine and wished that your food would be ready right out of a truck? My thoughts exactly! The popularity for food trucks are finally on the rise with some of the most intriguing styles while surpassing their dine-in counterpart in terms of flavour. Impressive considering that all they have to work with is that little kitchen in the back of the truck. So without further ado, start your engines as we explore some of the best food trucks this island has to offer!

BBQ Lighthouse



This might not be the most popular of the list but it is certainly MY favourite and therefore, I will mention it first. BBQ lighthouse is one of the most unique food trucks on island as by some miracle, it is able to serve delicious Texas style smoked BBQ meat right off the truck! How they do it I do not know and frankly, I do not care. Bottom line is that it is happiness served on a plate. With their multiple options such as pulled pork, baby back

ribs, and Cajun curry, they pair it well with the absolute must side dishes such as the coleslaw and turmeric rice. As if the food truck wasn't mobile enough, they also offer delivery and catering for a certain amount orders. Check out their Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/bbq.lighthouse/>

Kouri Shrimp

Honestly, I think this truck (or wagon) is half the reason why people drive all the way to Kouri Island. Amazing how in such a tiny island where seemingly there is nothing around, lies a little shrimp wagon that is so well-known that even folks visiting the island on vacation know about it. Although it started off as a simple food truck, they have established well enough that they went as far as to provide some tables and shade to make it almost like a restaurant to allow people to dine-in in peace. The menu is pretty much set at just Hawaiian style garlic buttered shrimp but honestly were you really expecting something else? If not for the shrimp, why bother? Just shrimp out my dudes!

You can find their location at <https://www.instagram.com/kourishrimp/>

Old Spices

Nothing is sexier than watching the Kebab man slice thinly the aromatic chicken to bite size pieces and then packing them into a snug cabbage-filled pita bread and then finally drizzling with delicious yogurt tzatziki sauce. Step aside Salt Bae, there is a new Turk in town! In my opinion, food truck or not, Old Spices probably has the best doner kebab on island. They have choices of sauces ranging from mild to super spicy and whichever you choose, you can't really go wrong as each offers a special umami experience in its own way. Salivated yet? I know I have! Usually parked on base at Camp Hansen, Kadena, or Camp Foster, you can catch this red truck full of spices in the Chatan area and most frequently on events and festivals. For location schedule, check out <https://www.facebook.com/OldSpicesOkinawa/>

Pizza In

Pizza from a food truck? Surely, I must be joking. Yep, you read that right! - and don't call me Shirley. Pizza In is a restaurant located in Chatan but are so caring for their customers that they decided to go mobile for those who are unable to reach them. Usually located near the Okinawa city hall, they are parked next to the Okinawa city Koza Junior High school to cater to those hungry-hungry young students just finishing up their baseball or soccer practice. Aside from pizza, they also have burgers, hotdogs, and fried chicken which is amazing considering the size of the truck. Almost like a magic trick! Piece of advice: If you are going to go, make sure to avoid the after school rush or else you might not be able to order anything.



Pasta De Coco

Coco Ichibanya known for its infamous level 10 curry has decided to expand their horizons even further by producing a food truck that can be deployed in remote areas and festivals. Initially starting because the Chatan Kokudou branch needed to undergo renovation, they had to find some way to cater to their regulars and hence, the

Coco Ichibanya food truck was born. Now that the renovation has been completed, they decided to continue on with the food truck but utilizing their subsidiary Pasta De Coco restaurant menu which is a Nagoya Ankake (Sauced) Spaghetti. Pasta sauces available are garlic tomato, meat sauce, and plain garlic. What? No curry?! A little bit of a curve ball not having the curry sauce but they have the same toppings and it's delicious nonetheless. Absolutely recommended for trying something new. You can find more info at <https://www.ichibanya.co.jp/pasta/index.html>

Personally, I feel popularity for food trucks have been long overdue for such an ideal location as Okinawa. Getting some quick food while eating it as you lean on the side of your car while watching the Aراها beach sunset is honestly just straight out of a movie scene. Just make sure that if you are going with the spicy Kebab, bring plenty of water!

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Southeast Botanical Gardens

by Elizabeth Stoney

Turn off route 329 in the centre of Okinawa City, drive past the junk yards and you'll discover Japan's largest outdoor botanical gardens - the Southeast Botanical Gardens. In fact, this place was recently voted Japan's top attraction in TripAdvisor 2022 Traveler's Choice Awards 'Best of the Best Tour Activity' and fourteenth in the whole of Asia.

With more than 30,000 plants and animals including capybaras, squirrel monkeys, guinea pigs and the recently added meerkats there is plenty to see for plant and animal lovers alike. Some of the popular spots are the insta-famous Alexander Palm Avenue and the beautiful lotus pond which blooms at the beginning of summer. We also love the large open grassy area where the kids can run about and climb up into the tree house. The whole place is big - spread over a hundred acres, so comfortable shoes are definitely recommended. There are also wheelchairs and strollers available to use free of charge. Other notable facilities include the fishing pond, craft area, buffet-style Restaurant Peace and a nursing room.

For those who want to visit the Southeast Botanical Gardens more than once a year, I would recommend purchasing the annual passport for about one and a half times the cost of a single ticket. This can also be used to enter the annual Tropical Illuminations display which runs from October to May and is one of the most popular events over the winter holidays for both tourists and local families.

This place definitely lives up to its Japanese name - Shokubutsu Rakuen which means Botanical Paradise.

Admission - Adults 1540 Yen; 13-17 years 1050 Yen; 4-12 years 600 Yen

Payment options - Cash (Yen), Credit/Debit card, OKI Pay, Apple Pay, PayPay, au Pay
Free parking available



Google Map & Directions:



<https://g.page/southeast-botanical-jp?share>

www.southeast-botanical.jp

098-939-2555

Mon-Fri 0930-1800, Sat-Sun 0700-1800

東南植物楽園



沖縄市の中心部で国道329号線を下り、ジャンクヤードを通り過ぎると、日本最大の屋外植物園である東南植物楽園が見えてきます。実はここ、最近トリップアドバイザー2022トラベラーズチョイスアワードの「ベストオブザベストツアーアクティビティ」で日本一に、アジア全体で14位に選ばれた場所なのです。

カピバラ、リスザル、モルモット、そして最近加わったミーアキャットなど、3万匹以上の植物や動物が飼育されており、植物好きにも動物好きにも見どころがいっぱいです。人気のスポットは、インスタ映えするアレキサンダーパーム通りや、初夏に咲く美しいハスの池です。また、子供たちが走り回ったり、ツリーハウスに登ったりできる広い芝生のエリアも気に入っています。100エーカーの広大な敷地にあるので、歩きやすい靴がおすすめです。また、車いすやベビーカーも無料で利用できます。その他、釣り堀、クラフトエリア、ビュッフェスタイルのレストラン「ピース」、授乳室などがあります。

東南植物楽園を年に何度も訪れたい人は、1回券の約1.5倍の値段の年間パスポートの購入をお勧めします。10月から5月にかけて開催されるトロピカルイルミネーションは、冬休みの恒例行事として観光客や地元の家族連れで賑わうが、その入場券としても利用できる。まさに「植物楽園」の名にふさわしい場所である。

営業時間：月～金 0930～1800、土・日 0700～1800

入場料 - 大人1540円、13-17歳1050円、4-12歳600円

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無料駐車場あり



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Todoroki Falls

by Elizabeth Stoney

If you're heading up North on highway 58, Todoroki Falls is well worth a stop. It's just south of Nago in the quiet village of Sukuta and is signposted all the way from the 58 to the large parking area. A small admission fee paid into the ticket machine at the entrance helps to maintain the park, which features barrier-free walkways, immaculate bathrooms and clean and shaded picnic areas.

The 30-meter-high waterfall really is beautiful and can be viewed and photographed from various locations around the park. Waterfall enthusiasts might prefer to go during the Okinawan rainy season when the falls are at their fullest, loudest and most impressive. Though if you have kids that want to play in the stream at the bottom, it might be better to wait until the summer when the water levels have gone down a bit. The park itself is surrounded by typical Okinawan greenery and is home to many species of wildlife notably dragonflies, beetles and newts. There are a number of information boards around the park displaying what species of plants and animals can be found there. Another interesting feature of Todoroki is the monolithic rock face just next to the falls which is the tallest monolith in Okinawa and came into existence about 15 million years ago as magma from underground cooled and solidified.



Todoroki Falls clearly has a long history in the area as a scenic spot and a place where families come together to enjoy time in nature. My family and I think it's a lovely place, and often stop by to marvel, relax and recharge.

Admission - General 200 Yen, Children (elementary-high school) 100 Yen (Yen only)
Free parking available (approx. 40 cars)



Google Map & Directions:



<https://goo.gl/maps/eDvvwDFEp7TiuSNZ9>

Open 7 days 0900-1800

098-0439-299

sukatodoroki2.wixsite.com/sukatodoroki

轟の滝

高速道路58号線を北上しているのなら、轟の滝は立ち寄る価値があります。名護のすぐ南、静かな須久田村にあり、58号線から大きな駐車場までずっと標識が立っています。入り口の券売機で支払う少額の入場料は、バリアフリーの歩道、清潔なトイレ、清潔で日陰のあるピクニックエリアなどの公園を維持するために役立っています。



高さ30mの滝は本当に美しく、公園内の様々な場所から眺めたり、写真を撮ったりすることができます。滝好きな人は、滝が最大に、大きく、印象的になる沖縄の梅雨の時期に行くのがいいかもしれません。しかし、滝の下にある小川で遊びたいお子さんがいる場合は、水位が少し下がる夏まで待ったほうがいいかもしれません。公園は沖縄らしい緑に囲まれ、トンボやカブトムシ、イモリなど多くの野生動物が生息しています。公園内には、どんな動

植物が生息しているのかを示す案内板が設置されています。この岩は沖縄で最も高い一枚岩で、約1500万年前に地下のマグマが冷却されて固まったものです。

轟の滝は、この地域では景勝地として、また家族連れが自然の中で時間を楽しむ場所として、明らかに長い歴史を持っています。私たち家族も素敵な場所だと思っていて、よく立ち寄っては感嘆し、リラックスし、充電しています。

開館時間：年中無休 09:00～18:00

入場料 一般200円、小人（小学生～高校生）100円（円のみ）

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