

totalokinawa

totalokinawa.com / totalokinawa.jp
April - June 2024

A lion is lying down in a grassy enclosure, looking towards the camera. Behind it is a large, weathered log structure that serves as a climbing or resting area. The enclosure is surrounded by a metal fence. The background shows some greenery and a clear sky.

TOP 5 KIDS ACTIVITIES
IN OKI!

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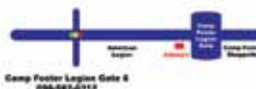
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TOP 5 KIDS ACTIVITIES IN OKINAWA!



Tired of sand & beaches? Alternative activities for kids in Oki!

Okinawa is not all just beach beach beach, whether it's bad weather or you're tired of finding sand two weeks later other kids activities are needed. Our review of the top 5 kids activities is here

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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



Zhyvago Coffee

by Total Okinawa

If you've walked around American Village recently you probably can't have missed the bright yellow coffee cups that come from local coffee brand, Zhyvago.

Zhyvago coffee has two branches in American village. The main location, complete with roastery, just across from the parking lot of the Hilton hotel with another smaller location on the boardwalk that runs behind Depot Island in American Village. Their style is aimed at industrial west coast America mixed with Okinawa and they have been around since 2015.

It's quite a unique space with an ice cream/donut shop, mixed with a grill and also a bicycle shop. It definitely has a funky vibe and makes a change from the cookie cutter coffee shop chains.

On the menu there's the standard fare of lattes, americanos and espressos but also some original espresso frozen shakes named "mad shakes" coming in a chocolate and caramel version. There's also a seriously tempting selection of fresh pastries and cakes, some of the best we've seen in a coffee shop on island.



The coffee was good and had a stronger flavor than a lot of places, prices are a bit higher than chains, but you're getting a better experience from local friendly staff. Also did we mention the cakes! These you aren't getting in your international coffee chains!



Google Map & Directions:



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/aPdDf2scu3hLgMjw5>

098-988-7833

7am - 10pm (7 Days)

<https://shop.zhyvagocoffeeorastery.coffee/>

Zhyvago Coffee Works



最近アメリカンビレッジを歩いた人なら、地元のコーヒーブランド、Zhyvagoの鮮やかな黄色のコーヒーカップを一度は目にしたことがあるでしょう。

Zhyvago coffeeはアメリカンビレッジに2店舗あり、ヒルトンホテル駐車場向かいにあるロースタリー本店と、アメリカンビレッジのデポアイランド裏を通る遊歩道にある小さな店舗があります。インダストリアルなアメリカ西海岸と沖縄をミックスしたスタイルで、2015年から営業しています。

アイスクリーム/ドーナツショップ、グリルバー、自転車ショップが混在するユニークなスペース。ファンキーな雰囲気があり、型にはまったコーヒーショップ・チェーンとは一線を画しています。

メニューにはラテ、アメリカーノ、エスプレッソといった定番のものだけでなく、"マッド・シェイク"と名付けられたオリジナルのエスプレッソ・フロズン・シェイクもあり、チョコレートとキャラメルバージョンがあります。新鮮なパストリーやケーキのセレクションも魅力的で、沖縄のコーヒーショップで見た中では最高でした。

コーヒーは美味しく、他の店より味わいが深い。お値段はチェーン店より少し高いけど、地元のフレンドリーなスタッフからあたたかいサービスも受けられます。ケーキもお忘れなく！

098-988-7833

午前7時～午後10時(毎日営業)

<https://shop.zhyvagocoffeeroastery.coffee/>

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/aPdDf2scu3hLgMjw5>



Fukugiya Café

by Total Okinawa

Nestled on the opposite side of the canal from the cinema in American Village, Fukugiya stands as a beacon of European café charm. With its expansive sliding glass doors and inviting café tables outside, this specialty coffee shop offers a delightful fusion of European café style and Okinawan flavors.

What makes Fukugiya stand out is its intriguing origin story. Founded by a baumkuchen shop in Okinawa, this café takes pride in crafting all its bread by hand, elevating them to star status on the menu. The French-style croque madame steals the show, presenting diners with a tempting choice of white sauce chicken and bacon, chili meat tomato and bacon, or egg tartar sauce and asparagus.

Beyond the tempting croque madame, Fukugiya boasts a diverse menu featuring freshly made pizza toast, sandwiches, and generously sized salads with options like roasted pork, chicken, and beef. Everything is fresh and well made.

A highlight of Fukugiya's offerings is the baumkuchen, a must-try delicacy that propelled them into business. Infused with Okinawan flavors such as Okinawa brown sugar and Ben-imo (purple sweet potato), these delectable treats add a unique twist to the café's culinary repertoire. For those with a sweet tooth, the soft-serve ice cream puffs beckon as a delightful option. Although I didn't indulge during my visit, they are firmly on my radar for the next trip.

During my visit, I opted for the Okinawa brown sugar baumkuchen, which although appearing quite simple was utterly delicious. Accompanied by a dollop of cream, the baumkuchen showcased a sugary crust that perfectly complemented the pleasantly surprising iced coffee. Unlike some bland or overly bitter coffees, Fukugiya's iced coffee struck a delightful balance, providing a pleasant kick. As I enjoyed my treat, I couldn't help but appreciate Fukugiya as more than just a café; it's a place to relax and watch the world go by on a pleasant day. With its charming ambiance, handcrafted delights, and unique fusion of European and Okinawan flavors, Fukugiya is undoubtedly a gem in the heart of American Village, inviting locals and visitors alike to savor a one-of-a-kind culinary experience.



Google Map & Directions:



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FynBwBtCkXGwSWgZ7>

<https://fukugiya.com/>

098-936-8838

11.30am - 7pm seven days a week

Fukugiya Café



アメリカンビレッジの映画館から運河を挟んで反対側に位置するふくぎやは、魅力あふれるヨーロピアンスタイルのカフェ。広々としたガラスの引き戸と、テラスエリアのカフェテーブルが印象的なこのスペシャルティコーヒーショップは、ヨーロッパのカフェスタイルと沖縄の味を見事に融合させています。

ふくぎやは、沖縄のバームクーヘン屋さんが創業したという興味深いストーリーがあり、すべてのパンを手作業で作っているため、パンはメニューの主役と言ってもいいほど。フランス風のクロック・マダムが特にお勧めで、ホワイトソースのチキンとベーコン、チリミートマトとベーコン、卵のタルタルソースとアスパラガスから選ぶことができます。

魅力的なクロック・マダム以外にも、作りたてのピザトーストやサンドイッチ、ローストしたポーク・チキン・ビーフが選べるボリュームたっぷりのサラダなど、多彩なメニューが自慢で、すべてのメニューがフレッシュで美味しい!

そして、何と言ってもふくぎやと言えばバームクーヘン。この商品のために創業されたのですから、一度は絶対食べるべき。バームクーヘンには沖縄の黒糖や紅芋など、沖縄の味がふんだんに使われていて、カフェの料理のレパートリーに独自性を持たせています。甘いものが好きな人には、ソフトクリームのシュークリームがおすすめ。今回は食べられませんでした。次回こそは是非!

今回私が選んだのは、沖縄の黒糖バームクーヘン。見た目はシンプルでしたが、とても美味しかった。バウムクーヘンの外側は砂糖でコーティングされサクサクしており、アイスコーヒーのおいしさを引き立てています。ふくぎやのアイスコーヒーは、味気なかったり苦すぎたりする他のコーヒーと違って、心地よいパンチがあり、絶妙なバランス。

ゆっくりとティータイムを楽しみながら、ふくぎやがただのカフェではないことを実感しました。ここはまさに、心地よい一日に、ゆったりとくつろぎながら時間が流れていくのを眺められる場所。魅力的な雰囲気、手作りのおいしさ、そしてヨーロッパと沖縄の味を融合させたユニークなふくぎやは、ここでしか味わえない食の体験をするため観光客だけでなく地元客も惹きつける、間違いなくアメリカンビレッジの中心にある名店と言えるでしょう。

11:30~19:00 (年中無休)

098-936-8838

<https://fukugiya.com/>

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FynBwBtCkXGwSWgZ7>

TOP 5 KIDS ACTIVITIES IN OKINAWA!

Okinawa is not all just beach beach beach, though we have to admit with the selection of beach activities on the island it is tempting to plot a course from sand castle to sand pit. Sometimes though whether it's weather or you're tired of finding sand two weeks later other kids activities are needed. Total Okinawa is here with our top 5 kids activities and places to visit on island.



CHURAUMI AQUARIUM

No guide to places to go with children in Okinawa is complete without mentioning THE aquarium. If you haven't been yet, why not? Hands down it's the #1 place to enjoy both as a parent and child this spring and summer. The main draw is the Kuroshio sea tank, one of the largest in the world with a

view of a giant whale shark and massive manta rays. Book a table at the cafe on the side of the tank for a "wow" experience for your little ones as they watch the sealife go by while they eat. Apart from the main tank, the aquarium features a wide variety of sea creatures showcasing much that can be found in the waters around Okinawa.

After you've finished with the indoor aquarium then you're not done yet! Outside you can find dolphin shows showcasing their amazing intelligence and agility as well as turtle and manatee tanks with underwater viewing, there's even a baby manatee that has recently been born. It's also not all about the sea life with the "Tropical Dream Center" nearby which features over 2000 orchids and tropical plants offering a blast of color which children will love and will educate them on tropical biodiversity and preserving these ecosystems.

PINEAPPLE PARK

Close to the aquarium the Pineapple Park is another hit to keep the little ones entertained. There's a short tour around the small pineapple fields and then you follow a route through tropical walkways with a buggy ride through the park. This is definitely the highlight if you have small children as they can pretend to drive the car. There's raised walkways with tropical plants, orchids and



a nice area with butterflies. If your kids love dinosaurs then there's a somewhat strange addition of a dinosaur exhibit at the end. It's probably worth about a half day of your time unless it's peak season as there's extensive pineapple themed shopping and a distillery and probably not something you'll spend much time and money on with children at the end.

TEAM LAB FUTURE PARK



We struggled how to describe this one, it's an amazing indoor space. Part educational, part play and part stunning visuals. It's a permanent installation at DFS in Omoromachi and has some amazing activities for kids.

There's a long indoor interactive slide which changes the animation as you collide with bouncing fruit, yep we know it sounds weird, the website has some great videos. One of the best features which our children loved was the ability to draw their favorite sea creature on paper, pass it to the staff and then watch as it comes to life and swims across the wall instantly! Very cool, this is magical even for adults.

The whole installation is filled with interactive colors, lights and images which are quite wonderful especially for young children. Tickets in advance are required and

we recommend looking at the website here for photos & videos of what to expect: <https://www.teamlab.art/e/futurepark-okinawa/>

OKINAWA ZOO & MUSEUM

The Okinawa Zoo & Museum in Okinawa City is something of a hidden gem. How often have you driven past the sign and never been in? It's a very well design and landscaped park with a huge variety of animals for Okinawa, over 150 species and also a kids interactive museum. Read our full review on page 13.

ROUND 1

Round 1 in Ginowan is the perfect indoor activity for rainy days or just to escape the Okinawa summer heat. There's a lot on offer here including karaoke and arcade machines but the main draw are the 90 minutes, 3 hour or unlimited activity times.

Activities include play as much as you like arcade games (shoot em ups, beat em ups, racing games, dance stages, ball games, kids games, etc.), dart boards, mini bowling (a lot of fun with children and groups), roller skating rink, tennis, basketball, karaoke, billiards, rodeo bull (I know!) and a small kids ball pit and play area. There's also food and drinks available, simply use yen to purchase a food/drinks ticket from the machine and show the staff at the food counter. Read our full review along with map and photos here: <https://www.totalokinawa.com/round-1/>

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Frankey Tavern

by Total Okinawa

Inside the same building as Zhyvago Coffee you can find Frankey Tavern. After a long coffee meeting brought us towards lunch we checked out what was on offer. The restaurant has an industrial tavern theme with a wide open bar and plenty of seating; there's a bike shop at the far end of the restaurant/building adding to the factory vibe.

Their USP is "American cuisine cooked over a wood fire". What this means in practice is a bit of a mashup of Mexican & American food with tacos on offer and even Okinawan taco rice as well as American favorites like burgers, club sandwiches and wings. We didn't drink but there's a variety of beers on tap including some West Coast IPAs worth trying as well as a varied cocktail menu making this a great spot for pre or post dinner drinks.



We settled on some chips with salsa to start, a blue cheese burger with an accompanying salad and drink set and a half pound rib eye steak. The chips and salsa were interesting, the chips were warm and possibly freshly made with some accompanying freshly made salsa. Definitely full points for making these in house but they were both lacking in flavor with no seasoning on the chips and zero spice to the salsa.

The steak was nicely presented with a piece of garlic butter and fries, but was slightly overdone to our liking. The blue cheese burger was also good but felt it was slightly highly priced as it didn't come with any fries at all unless you paid for an additional combo at 390 yen for a medium drink and fries, not the end of the world but for a 1520 yen burger we'd expect at least a few fries.

Overall a very decent choice in American village though we felt you're paying a premium for the location though on the plus side you do have those delicious Zhyvago cakes in the same building!



Google Map & Directions:



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Tt6MPNUHcVxo3Vv77>

Credit Cards & E-Money

11am to 11pm Daily

[facebook.com/frankeytavern/](https://www.facebook.com/frankeytavern/)



Zhyvago Coffeeでの長いコーヒー・ミーティングを終えた私たちは、同じ建物の中にあるFrankey Tavernというレストランへ。広く開放的なバーがあり席数も十分。一番奥には自転車コーナーがあり、倉庫や工場にも似た店内の独特な雰囲気の一役買っています。



この店の売りは何と言っても「薪火で調理するアメリカ料理」。タコスやハンバーガー、クラブ・サンドイッチ、チキンウィングといったメキシコやアメリカの人気メニューのほか、沖縄のタコライスもあります。西海岸のIPAを含む様々なビールや、カクテルメニューも豊富で、ディナー前後のバー利用としても最適です。

私たちは、チップスとサルサ、ブルーチーズバーガーにサラダとドリンクのセット、そしてハーフパウンドのリブアイステーキを注文しました。作りたてなのかチップスは温かく、サルサもオーダーが入ってから作られたものようでした。自家製という点では間違いなく満点なのですが、チップスには味付けがなくサルサにもスパイスがあまり感じられず、私たちにはどちらも少し味気なく感じました。

ステーキは、少し焼きすぎかなと思いましたが、ガーリックバターとフライドポテトが添えられていて美味。ブルーチーズバーガーも非常に美味しかった！ミディアムドリンクとフライドポテトのコンボ(390円)を追加しないとフライドポテトが付いてこないで、少々値段が高いかも。大したことはないかもしれませんが、1,520円のバーガーを注文したらフライドポテトがついてくると嬉しい！



立地のためか少し割高感はあるものの、アメリカンビレッジの中ではお勧めできるレストラン。同建物内にZhyvago cakesがあるのもプラスポイント！

支払方法: クレジットカードと電子マネー

営業時間: 毎日午前11時から午後11時まで

ウェブサイト: [facebook.com/frankeytavern/](https://www.facebook.com/frankeytavern/)

地図: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Tt6MPNUHcVxo3Vv77>



Okinawa Zoo & Museum

by Total Okinawa

We have a confession to make. Despite living in Okinawa over 15 years we've never got around to visiting the Okinawa Zoo & Museum, even though it's practically on our doorstep. Why? Probably because of a mistaken impression being smack bang in the center of Okinawa City, how good could it be? Great zoos and museums are not in the middle of an island and usually in a capital city. Wrong.

If you've got little ones they are going to love this place. We went in off-season so it was almost deserted but the place is actually pretty massive even if busy. After entering you descend an open air escalator to a wide open park and lake with swings for the children by the lakeside, then you can make your way around the zoo and park. There's a fair amount of hills and walking involved as the whole park has been set into the existing landscape.

In terms of animals, there is a tremendous variety. We were surprised to see lions in a brand new enclosure that had multiple viewing angles and platforms as well as an indoor glass window for perfect photos! The highlight for little ones had to be feeding time for the bears, which produced howls of laughter. There's chimpanzees, hippos, leopards, crocodiles and many more, in fact over 150 species. The zoo has been renewing, improving and expanding their facilities and this showed in the quality of the enclosures with most offering multiple viewing angles and overhead walkways as well as better facilities for the animals. There's also some interactive animal adventures which your children will love, such as feeding the guinea pigs and even pony rides! There's a feeding schedule for most of the animals and we recommend checking this when you enter so you can catch your favorite animals.

Apart from the zoo and park there's an amazing indoor interactive kids museum, called "Wonder Museum" with a variety of hands on exhibits and workshops in three categories of science, philosophy & art. For 500 yen for adults and 100-200 yen for children Okinawa Zoo & Museum is an unbeatable value day out!



Google Map & Directions:



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FeLRvACKAUNV6RZ7>

9.30am - 5.30pm Closed Tuesdays

098-933-4190

<https://www.okzm.jp/>

Okinawa Zoo & Museum



皆さんにお伝えしなければならないことがあります…。実は、もう沖縄に15年以上住んでいるのに、沖縄こどもの国に行ったことがなかったんです。なぜって?たぶん、沖縄市のご真ん中にそんな素敵な施設があるはずがない、と思い込んでいたんでしょう。本来、そういう目玉となる施設は県庁所在地にあるはずなのに、と。でも、私は間違っていました。



沖縄こどもの国は、小さなお子さんにはまさにパラダイス。私たちが行ったのはオフシーズンだったのでほとんど人がいなかったんですが、施設はかなり広い。入場後、屋外にあるエスカレーターを降りると広々とした公園と湖があり、湖畔には子供用のブランコも準備されています。もともとの地形を活かして施設が作られているので、かなりのアップダウンがあり体力が必要かも。

また、動物の種類はとても豊富。驚いたのは、新しく作られたように見える柵の中にライオンがいたのですが、いろんな角度からライオンが見られるだけでなく、ガラス窓があり完璧な写真が撮れる!そして子供たちの目玉は、クマへの餌やりの時間。最高に楽しくて爆笑の渦でした。その他、チンパンジー、カバ、ヒョウ、ワニなどなど、実に150種以上の動物がいます。沖縄こどもの国は、施設の更新、改善、拡張を続けていて、動物がいる柵の多くはいろんな角度から動物を見ることができたり、上からも見られるように通路があったりと工夫が凝らされています。そして何より、動物にとってより良い施設であることがわかります。また、モルモットに餌をやったり、ポニーに乗ったりと、子供たちが喜ぶインタラクティブな動物アドベンチャーも!ほとんどの動物に餌やりのスケジュールが組まれているので、入場時にチェックして、お気に入りの動物を見逃さないようにしましょう。

また、沖縄こどもの国には「ワンダーミュージアム」と呼ばれる、科学、哲学、アートの3つのカテゴリーに分かれた様々な体験型展示やワークショップがある、素晴らしい屋内体験型キッズ・ミュージアムもあります。入園料は大人500円、子供100~200円。破格の値段で一日楽しめます!

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FelRvACKAUNVvk6RZ7>

10~3月:9時30分~17時30分 4月~9月:9時30分~18時。火曜日休園

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