

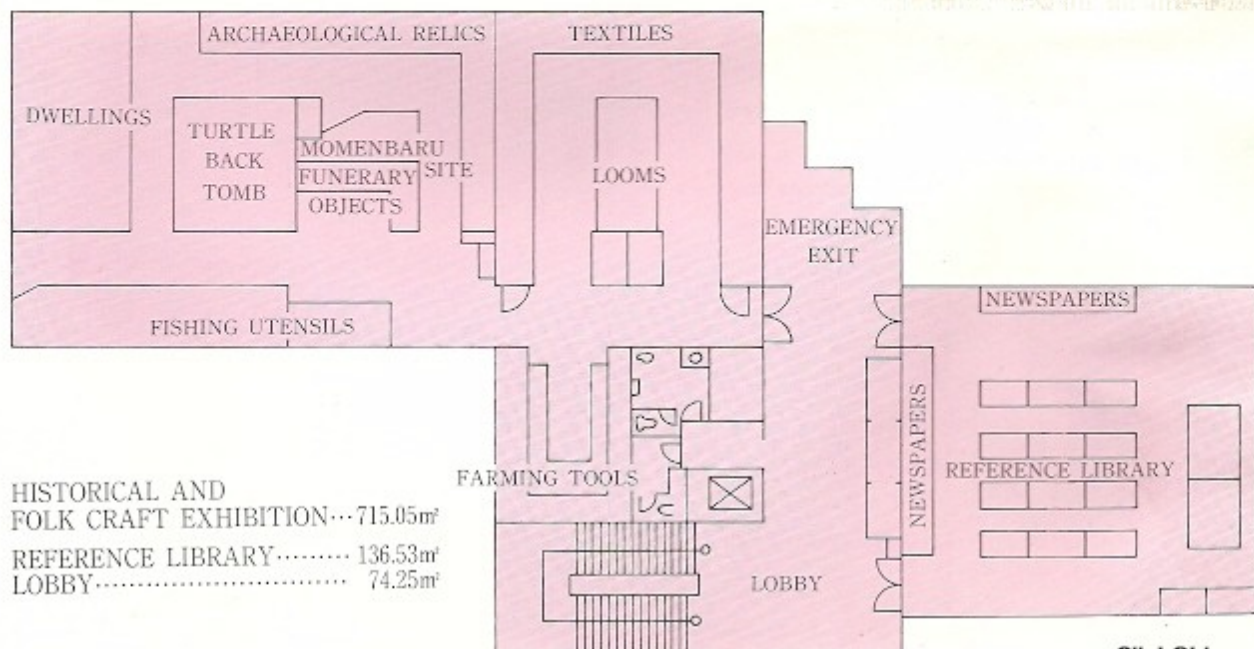
# YOMITAN HISTORICAL & FOLK CRAFT MUSEUM EXHIBITION GUIDE



Commemorating the reversion of Okinawa to Japan, the property surrounding the ruins of Zakimi Castle was developed into a public park through support of the national government. In 1971, a folk art museum concept was added to the park plan and construction began in August 1974.

The museum was opened in May 18, 1975. In Okinawa, it received much attention and

40,000 items were collected during 14 years. Because exhibition and storage space was limited, further expansion was required and in 1988, construction of the new building was begun. By the end of March 1989, it was completed. The adjoining new three story reinforced concrete structure (1,959,795 square meters) effectively presents the history and folklore of Yomitan village.





## 1. Yomitan textiles

From the late Meiji period to 1945, from fiber to finished garment, clothing for individual use was made entirely by hand. Every home grew banana plants from which the fiber was woven into cloth for summer wear or "basajin" (bashofu kimono). Winter wear "muminjin" (cotton kimono) was also woven in each household. Those summer and winter textiles are displayed in this area. Yomitan "hanaori" (Yuntanzan hanau), which was introduced in the early 15th century from Southeast Asia, is featured with the "uchaki" vest and "rubuku" worn in Ryukyuan dance and drama.



## 3. Dwellings

Before the war, only thatched and red tile roofed houses existed in Yomitan. In 1944, there were 1,845 thatched roofed houses and 1,282 red tile roofed houses in the village, most of which were destroyed during the battle of Okinawa. Post war reconstruction consisted of thatched, cement tile, or red ceramic tile roofs. But in the last 20 years, since concrete houses have become more prevalent, thatched roofs have all disappeared and red tile roofs are diminishing. Each house has a slightly different layout, but, basically consists of the first and second rooms, back room and kitchen. In the first room, there is usually an ancestral altar and an alcove. The back room near the kitchen has a open hearth.



## 2. Archaeological relics

Thirty-seven historical sites in Yomitan dating to prehistoric times have been identified. Among them, Toguchi-Agaribaru site is one of the oldest dating from the early Jomon period (7,000 years ago) where nail marked pottery and sobata type pottery have been excavated. Momenbaru, where the Hakoshiki stone casket was excavated, is an important historical site.

Deep in the pine grove north of the museum, the remains of Zakimi castle, which was designated as a national historical site, brings to mind the mountain castles of the early fifteenth century. In the archaeological section, excavated items from each site are displayed according to period.





## 4. Funerary objects

The Okinawan turtle back tomb has been influenced by south China (Canaan). The oldest one, built in 1687, is in Naha and belongs to the Ie family. It became popular in the rural areas during the Meiji and Taisho periods. It is said that the shape resembles the womb and that people return to the womb after death.



A replica of the turtle back tomb with the interior shelf, the "gan", which was used to transport the deceased to the tomb, and many kinds of "zushigame" or funerary urns can be viewed. The urns, made of stone or ceramic, are cylindrical or house shaped.



## 5. Fishing implements

Yomitan fishing villages are Nagahama, Uza, Toya, Toguchi, etc. Fish which can be found in these waters include "taman" sea bream, "gurukun" fusilier, and "mibai" grouper.

The "sabani" or traditional fishing boat is displayed with implements such as wooden oars, diving goggles, bamboo traps and nets.



## 6. Farming utensils

Implements for cultivating, sowing, threshing and weeding as well as paddy farming tools are displayed. In addition, a rope sling used for carrying leaves and grass and a loom for weaving mats are exhibited. Different types of carpenters' tools such as saws and planes may be seen.





## 7. War memorabilia

On display in this area are military uniforms, helmets, pouches, and backpacks. After the war, among the ruins, people found material such as airplane aluminum to make tools for their daily living.



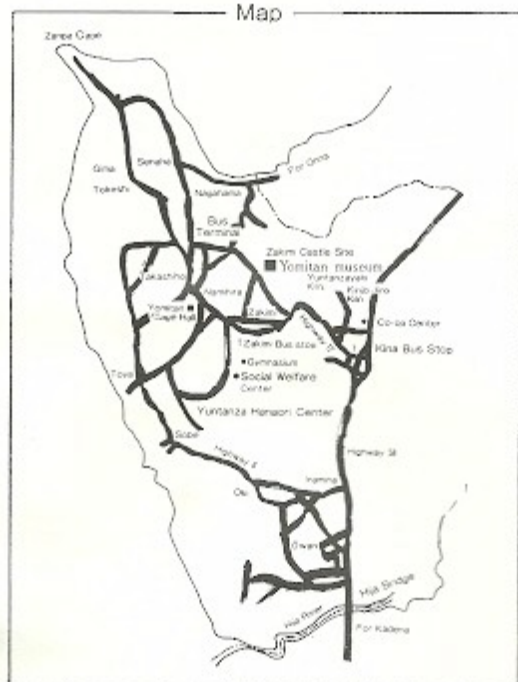
## 8. Reference library

The library is 136.53 square meters and there are 9,800 books of historical folklore and other kinds of reference about Okinawa. There are 513 volumes of The Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo bound monthly since May 1968. All of the books are classified and available for reference use.



## Information

Map



Schedule

### Open

9:00~17:00 (admission until 16:30)

### Closed

Mondays December 29 through January 3  
Japanese Holidays

### Admission Fee

adults	50 yen
elementary middle and high school students	30 yen

Stamp Please

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# Map

Zanpa Cape

