

# 亜熱帯コレクション

## OKINAWA'S NATURE COLLECTION

海で、川で、森で、様々な表情を見せる沖縄の自然。亜熱帯の陽射しは、その彩りを際立たせ、時は優しく、時に厳しく、またある時には力強く、私たちの心に刻み込んでゆくのです。

The ecosystem of Okinawa is expressed in a variety of ways, in the sea, the rivers, and the forests. This natural brilliance is further highlighted by the subtropical sunlight. Gentle and calm, or at times harsh and powerful, it leaves an indelible impression on the hearts of observers.

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沖縄島から西へ30kmの洋上に浮かぶ慶良間諸島は、4つの有人島と10余の無人島からなります。サンゴ礁が発達する海は、世界で最も美しい海の一つといわれ、一年を通じて多くのダイバーが訪れています。また冬季(1月~3月)には、ザトウクジラが回遊してきます。写真は、座間味島(上中央)、安慶名敷島(下右)、嘉比島(下左)。

The Kerama Islands lie 30 kilometers to the west of Okinawa Island, and consist of four inhabited islands and more than 10 uninhabited islands. Interspersed with living coral reefs, the sea is one of the most beautiful in the world. As a result, many divers visit here year-round. During winter (January to March), humpback whales arrive to raise their calves.

# 海 The Sea



**キノコ岩**  
Mushroom-shaped Rock

海岸の隆起石灰岩は波の力によって削られくぼみができますが、岸から離れた岩は、根元の周りが削られるためキノコのような形になります。

The limestone protrusions near the seacoast have been carved out by the waves, and thus resemble mushrooms.

**はての浜(久米島)**  
Hatenohama (Kumejima Island)



久米島の東の海上にある砂だけの島。真っ白な砂浜が長さ7kmにわたって細長く続いています。Here is an island consisting entirely of sand in the sea east of Kumejima Island. The long and narrow white sand beach stretches for seven kilometers.



**サンニヌ台(与那国島)**  
Sanninu-dai (Yonaguni Island)

与那国島東南海岸にある観光名所。頁岩層からなる岩がゆるやかに傾斜して海に接し、周囲には波の浸食を受けて海中にそそりたつ軍艦岩や立神岩などの奇岩が見られます。

This is a noted scenic attraction on the south-east coast of Yonaguni Island. An unusual shale rock formation, inclined at a slight angle, adjoins the sea. In the vicinity are also the Gunkan (warship) Rock and Tachigami (standing god) Rock. These rocks, shaped by the action of the waves, tower just off the shore.



**万座毛**  
Manzamo

恩納村にある沖縄県内有数の景勝地。琉球石灰岩の切り立った崖と芝生の広場が沖縄特有の海岸風景をつくりだしています。琉球王国時代の1726年、ここを訪れた尚敬王が「万人を座らせるに足る」とほめたたえたことから、万座毛と名づけられました。沖縄県海岸国定公園に指定され、また一帯の植生は万座毛石灰岩植物群落として県の天然記念物に指定されています。

Situated in Onna Village, this is one of the finest sites for scenery in all of Okinawa. The cliffs carved out of Ryukyu limestone and the broad expanses of turf create the distinctive Okinawan seacoast scenery. In 1726, during the era of the Ryukyu Kingdom, King Shokei visited here and praised the site as a place that could seat 10,000 people. This became the origin for the name Manzamo. This site has been designated as the Okinawa Kaigan Quasi-National Park. Also, the rich expanse of vegetation has been designated an Okinawa Prefecture Natural Protected Vegetation as the Manzamo Limestone Plant Community.



**ビーチ**  
Beaches

沖縄の砂浜が白くまぶしいのは、サンゴや貝殻などのかけらだから。白い砂浜もサンゴ礁がつくりだしたもののなです。

The sparkling whiteness of the Okinawan beaches is caused by coral and shell fragments. The white beaches are also a product of the coral reefs.



**鳩間島**  
Hatoma Island

周りを白い砂浜がとりまく島は、洋上に浮かぶ宝石。サンゴ礁の浅い海はコバルトブルーやエメラルドグリーンに輝き、外側の海の深い紺碧と美しいコントラストを描いています。

Ringed by white sand beaches, Hatoma Island looks like a jewel floating upon the sea. The shallow sea laced with coral reefs shines a brilliant cobalt blue and emerald green. The dark blue of the deeper outlying seas present a beautiful contrast.

**東平安名岬(宮古島)**  
Cape Higashihenna (Miyako Island)

宮古島の南東部に長さ2kmにわたって突き出した岬。幅は50～100mで、高さ10～20mの崖が続いており、海岸にはいくつもの岩が転がっています。雄大な眺めが楽しめる宮古島の景勝地の一つです。

Cape Higashihenna protrudes for two kilometers from the south-eastern flank of Miyako Island. The rocky cliffs are 50 to 100 meters wide and 10 to 20 meters above the sea. Several large rocks have tumbled onto the seacoast. This is one of the magnificent views one can enjoy on Miyako Island, noted for its scenery.



# 川 The River

## 仲間川(西表島) Nakama River (Iriomote Island)

亜熱帯のジャングルを曲がりくねって流れる仲間川。下流域は広大なマングローブ林におおわれ、ほとんど手つかずの自然が残っています。この仲間川をふくめた西表国立公園は陸域12,506ha、海域32,100haで、西表島のほか、黒島、竹富島、小浜島などの島々と周辺海域を含む沖縄で唯一の国立公園です。

The Nakama River twists and turns through the subtropical jungle. The downstream areas are covered with a large mangrove forest. This is nature largely untouched by human hands. The Iriomote National Park includes the Nakama River and has a land area of 12,506 hectares and a sea area of 32,100 hectares. The only national park in Okinawa, it includes Kuroshima Island, Taketomi Island and Kohama Island, in addition to Iriomote Island and the surrounding sea.



## 漫湖の干潟 The Man-ko Wetland

干潟は、シギ類やチドリ類の渡り鳥たちの越冬地や中継地として大切な役割を果たしています。那覇市と豊見城村にまたがる漫湖は、貴重な干潟として国際的にも認められ、1999年、ラムサール条約に登録されました。

These wetlands play an important role as the wintering area or transit point for such migratory birds as the snipe and the plover. Man-ko, which straddles Naha City and Tomigusuku Village, has been recognized internationally as an important wetland area and has been registered with the Ramsar Convention since 1999.

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## やんばるの溪流 The Mountain Streams of Yambaru

水辺にはさまざまな生き物が生息し、集まってきます。沖縄島北部のやんばるの溪流はカエルたちの楽園です。ここにはイシカワガエル、ナミエガエル、ホルストガエルといった珍しいカエルが生息しています。

A variety of creatures live and gather at the water's edge. The mountain streams of Yambaru on the northern part of Okinawa are playgrounds for the frogs. Many rare species of frog inhabit the area, including the Ishikawa's frog (*Rana ishikawae*), Namie's frog (*Rana namiei*), and Holst's frog (*Rana holsti*).



## マングローブ林 Mangrove Forest

海水と淡水が混じりあう河口付近には、熱帯や亜熱帯地方に特有のマングローブ林が発達しています。厳しい環境に育つマングローブはまた、多くの稚魚やカニ類、貝類などを育てる豊かな環境をつくりだしています。

A mangrove forest characteristic of tropical and subtropical regions is thriving near the mouth of the river where seawater and freshwater mix. The mangrove, which grows in a harsh environment, in turn creates a bountiful environment for many young fish, crabs, and shellfish.

## カンピレーの滝(西表島) Kampire Waterfall (Iriomote Island)

西表島西部の浦内川にある滝です。むかし、西表島の神々が集まり、島づくりの話し合いをした聖地として伝えられています。カンピレーとは「神が座す」という意味です。

This waterfall is located in the upstream portion of the Urauchi River in the western part of Iriomote Island. According to legend, this is a holy ground where the gods of Iriomote Island once met to discuss the creation of an island. In the local dialect, the name Kampire means "the place where the gods sit".

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# 森 The Forest



ヤエヤマヤシの群落  
The Yaeyama Palm Community

石垣島と西表島固有のヤシ科の高木で、高さは25m、葉の長さは5mに達します。自生地である石垣島の米原、西表島のウブンドル、千立御嶽の群落は天然記念物に指定されています。

The indigenous palms of Ishigaki and Iriomote Islands are tall trees that reach 25 meters in height with fronds five meters in length. The palm communities of Yonehara on Ishigaki Island, and Ubundururu and Hoshidate Utaki on Iriomote, where the palms grow wild, have been designated a Natural Protected Vegetation of Japan.



ヒカゲヘゴの群落  
The Hikage-hego (*Cyathea lepifera*) Plant Community

山の斜面の比較的明るい場所に育つ木生シダで、高さ10m、葉の長さは3mに達し、太古の中生代の森を想像させます。

This is a tree fern that grows in relatively bright areas on the slopes of mountains. It grows to ten meters high with leaves three meters in length. They call to mind images of Mesozoic Era forests.



新緑の山々  
New Greenery on the Mountains

3月の中旬から下旬にかけて、やんばるの山々は新緑に彩られます。四季の変化に乏しい沖縄において、2~3週間という限られた期間だけに見られる鮮やかな風景です。

The mountains of Yambaru are covered with new greenery from mid to late March. There is little seasonal variety in Okinawa, but for a limited period of two to three weeks, the scenery becomes bright and vivid.

# 人と自然 People and Nature



ヒカンザクラ並木  
Hikan Cherries

沖縄が最も寒い季節(1月末~2月)に、ヒカンザクラ(緋寒桜)は紅色~淡い桃色の花を咲かせます。本部町の八重岳や名護城跡、今帰仁城跡などがサクラ名所として有名で、開花期には多くの花見客が訪れます。  
During January and February, the coldest season in Okinawa, the Hikan cherry (*Prunus campanulata*) blooms in dark red and pale peach-colored blossoms. Nangusuku in Nago, Mt. Yae in Motobu Town and the ruins of Nakijin Castle are noted for their cherry trees, and many visitors come to view them when they are in full bloom.



フクギの防風林(本部町備瀬)  
The Fukugi Trees Windbreak (Bise, Motobu Town)

台風の被害の多い沖縄では昔から、防風林として屋敷の周囲にフクギを植えてきました。最近ではコンクリート住宅など風に強い住宅が普及し、都市部では防風林もみられませんが、地方にはまだ昔からの防風林が残っています。  
Okinawa frequently suffers damage from typhoons. For many years, the Okinawan people have planted Fukugi trees (*Garcinia subelliptica*) as windbreak around their homes. With the spread in recent years of concrete housing, which is more wind-resistant, these windbreaks have all but disappeared from urban areas. In rural areas, however, some of these windbreaks still remain.



デイゴ並木  
Deigo Trees (*Erythrina variegata* var. *orientalis*)

沖縄県の県花。マメ科の落葉高木で、高さは15mに達し、3月から5月に、真っ赤な花をつけます。幹は加工しやすく、琉球漆器の生地に使われています。  
This is the Prefecture's flower of Okinawa. Deigo are tall, deciduous legumes which grow to 15 meters in height. Bright red flowers bloom from March to May. The wood is highly adaptable for woodworking, and used as the basic material for Ryukyu lacquerware.



ブーゲンビレア  
Bougainvillea

熱帯・亜熱帯を象徴する代表的な花。ハイビスカスは、沖縄では古くから植栽され観賞用や生垣に、ブーゲンビレアは日陰棚や門柱アーチなどに広く利用されています。  
These flowers are typical of subtropical and tropical areas. The hibiscus has been cultivated for many years in Okinawa for its beauty and for its use as hedges. The bougainvillea is widely used for the overhead latticework in arbors or for arches over the gate of houses.



ハイビスカス  
Hibiscus



浜下り  
Hamauri

沖縄には、旧暦3月3日に海辺で健康を祈願して、女性が楽しく遊ぶ「浜下り」という古くからの行事があります。周りを海に囲まれた沖縄らしい伝統行事です。  
In Okinawa, there is an old ceremony called Hamauri in which people frolic at the seashore and pray for good health. The date of this ceremony is the third day of the third month of the lunar calendar. This traditional ceremony is typical of Okinawa, an island surrounded by the sea.