



Haeburu Town's Character

はえろん



Town flower: Bougainvillea

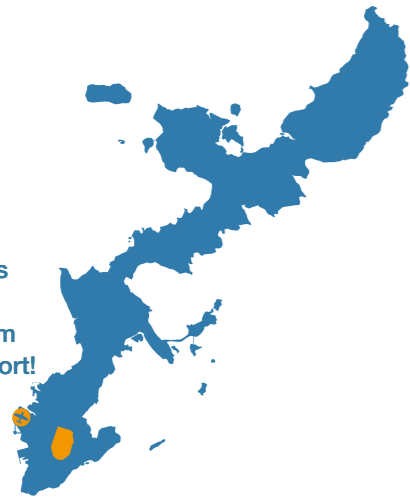
A tropical vine-like plant having modified leaves that look like flowers, turns into various colors such as red, orange, or white.
(Proclaimed as of December 12, 1982)



Town tree: the Ryukyu ebony tree (kokutan).

The Ryukyu ebony tree is a mid-sized evergreen that is often planted roadsides and in gardens. It is used to make the sanshin, a banjo-like musical instrument.
(Proclaimed as of December 12, 1982)

Haeburu is 25 min. by car from Naha Airport!



Haeburu Search

<http://www.haeburu-kankou.jp>

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HAEBARU, the lone landlocked Okinawan town

HAEBARU TOWN, OKINAWA

Haeburu sits near the middle of the southern Okinawa Island, boarded on all sides by Naha, Tomigusuku, Nanjo, Yaese, Nishihara, and Yonabaru. Endowed with soothing greenery, Haeburu has flourished as a transportation hub and has developed its own distinctive history and culture.

HAEBARU-Profile



Tradition

伝統

Haeburu is blessed with numerous traditional arts that have been passed from generation to generation. Some of the contemporary performances begun as communal purification or exorcism rites, while dances and comic dramas have long been enjoyed by villagers to convey lessons and culture from the past.

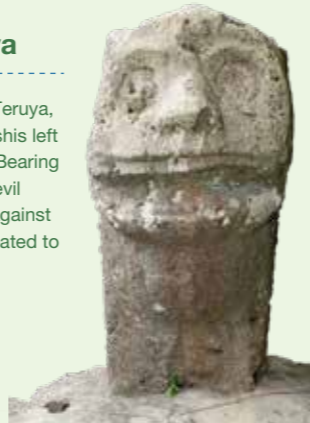
Culture

文化

Haeburu is endowed in historical and cultural heritage. Much of the artifacts and customs that are cultural treasures have withstood time from the Ryukyu Kingdom era and have survived the war to convey their valued messages for future generations.

Ishi-jishi in Teruya

Along with the Ishi-jishi in Teruya, there are three other Ishi-jishis left in Kaneshiro and Motobu. Bearing fierce features to ward off evil (Buchigeshi) or to protect against fire (Higeshi), they were created to fend off disaster.



Intangible Cultural Heritage

Shishi-mai

Shishi-mai, or the lion dance, is performed in all sections of Miyahira, Kyan, and Motobu of Haeburu to purify and exorcise evil; each is performed in a unique style.



Kashikake in Miyahira

Kashikake is a classical female dance that had begun to be performed with two songs after World War II. Originally, it was danced with three songs in three parts. It is still performed today in Miyahira in the traditional style.



Mekata-boh

Mekata-boh is a traditional stick dance performed to stave off disaster and to cast away evil spirits. This dance is revered in regions such as Miyagi, Kaneshiro, Kyan, Teruya, Tsukazan, and Kamizato.

Annual Event in Haeburu Town



New Year's Marathon (Jan.)



Tobi Asato Kite-Flying Contest (Jan.)



Haeburu Products Fair (Feb.)



Summer Festival Kids Park (Mar.)



Haeburu Tug of War Tour (26th of June on lunar calendar)



Hometown Haeburu Expo (Nov. of every other year)



Haeburu Youth Festival (Nov. of every other year)

The Haeburu Calendar of Events is packed with things to do! Visit Haeburu!★

鮮やかな歴史と文化息づく
実り豊かな黄金南風原の平和郷

沖縄県 南風原町

HAEBARU TOWN OKINAWA



I am Haerun of Haeburu Town

沖縄唯一、海のない町。

The only landlocked town in Okinawa

Continuation of rich history and culture
A placid town blissfully rich in agriculture

HAEBARU TOWN

Haeburu is 25 min. by car from Naha Airport!

Haeburu is a place of scenic beauty and is comprised of 12 small communities. Each region has its own history and culture inherited from past generations. Along with historical sites and cultural artifacts, the traditional performing arts are still very much part of the charm and of the people's daily lives. The following is an introduction to the attractions of Haeburu, from its active agriculture grown in rich farmlands to its high-quality art crafts.



Brochures for each area are also available.



Haeburu is made up of 12 communities, each with its own festivals and cultures.

6 Yonaha

It is said that the sea was nearer in earlier times in Yonaha. At the site of Usandaki, there is a structure that is believed to be a grave of Usanshi who is the main character of Urashima legend, an old fairy tale. It is said that Usandaki used to be a beautiful hilly area sloped like Mt. Fuji.



1 Arakawa

At Yonabaru road, there is an old bridge over Nagera river, which is considered as a splendid masonry work of the Ryukyu. It was used by pilgrims as a Agari-umai route and also Kikoe-okimi (the highest priestess) on for the inauguration rituals called (Uara-uri).



4 Kanegusuku

In the late 14th century, Uchimi Gusuku Aji led his family and established the Gusuku (castle) at Intunchimo. After the war, the castle ruin was demolished and only the remains of Mafe-no-Utaki (sacred place), which was placed at the entrance of Gusuku, can be seen.



8 Tsukazan

The ritual of tug of war was believed to have been brought from China in 14th century during the time of King Satto. The locals still observe the Uganjina event yearly on June 26th in Chinese lunar calendar and the Unna event once in ten years.

5 Miyahira

Nakandakari Chiku Bechin, a person considered as a pioneer in education, had established a school for local children. Miyahira is considered to be the starting point of education and its value has been passed on to the present generation.



11 Yamakawa

Yamakawa is an area of active agriculture and one of the largest growers of vegetable. With a stable supply of agricultural water and a strong communal bond, Yamakawa was selected as one of the 100 best hometowns in Japan in 2009.



12 Kamizato

The "Shishi" lion figure in Kamizato has a crescent-shaped mark on its forehead and was deemed as the female in a pair with the male Shisa in Motobu. This is very rare type of Shisa. On an occasion of Jugoya, the Shisa parades through the community and stops at the houses of the community's head families to perform rituals that protects against bad luck or disasters.



9 Teruya

Located on the southern, hilly side of an area called Demui, Teruya was used as fire beacon and lookout platform during the Ryukyu Kingdom era. On the hilltop, there are Shisa and Utaki which are considered sacred and visited by local worshippers.



7 Motobu

The areas of Motobu, a renowned producer of Kasuri, Teruya and Kyan are connected with Kasuri road. This road was dotted by a number of Kasuri textile workshops and a Kasuri hall, accompanied by soothing sounds of the weaving loom.



10 Kyan

The "Jugoya (night of the full moon) Ashibi" event, resumed after the war and has given opportunities for "Mekata-boh" and "Shishi-mai" performing arts to take place. "Choja-no-Ufunushi" is the only Kumiodori play that performed in Haeburu. This event is registered as an intangible local cultural asset of the town.



Kasuri no Michi

Kasuri Road

Constructed in 1989, the artistic road stretches over the Motobu, Teruya, and Kyan areas. Soothing sounds from weaving looms emanate from the workshops that line both sides of the path, which is inlaid with tiles and brick.



Handiwork colored by history and tradition.



Kasuri

Kasuri originated in India and spread through Southeast Asia on its way to reaching Okinawa during the Ryukyu Kingdom era. It has developed into a distinctive style that matches the natural features and climate of Okinawa. Its traditions steadily passed on to Haeburu, which has garnered the moniker, "the town of Kasuri."

3 Miyagusuku

Miyagi is well-regarded as an area of plentiful natural water and of an old well called Usukuga. From it originated the folklore of the hairpin left by a heavenly maiden.

Diligently Cultivated Haeburu Pumpkins



Haeburu boasts of being the largest pumpkin producer of Okinawa. Nurtured under sunny Okinawan skies, Haeburu pumpkins are soft and fleshy, and are very popular in the Japanese market. 90% of the produced are shipped to mainland Japan.

2 Oona

Oona is the area established within three communities when the former warrior class officials retreated during the time of abolition of feudal domains and establishment of prefectures during Meiji era. Here stands a sacred structure dedicated to Sho Hiroki, the founding father of the Mabuni family. This structure was given by kingdom government of Ryukyu to commemorate his deeds and is designated as the only tangible cultural asset of the prefecture.

Distinctive tropical hued flowers Strelitzia, the bird of paradise flower

Yielding as much as 20,000 flowers annually, Haeburu is the largest producer of strelitzias. The fiber from its flowers and stalks have begun to be used to make Washi, traditional Japanese paper.



Indispensable popular Okinawan Summer vegetables

Hechima (luffa gourd)



Along with the goya, hechimas are a popular summer vegetable. Haeburu accounts for 30% of hechima cultivation within Okinawa, and is the largest producer in Japan.